

*"Unto thee, O God,  
do we give thanks, . . . for that  
thy name is near thy wondrous works declare."  
Psalm 75:1*

# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

November 10, 1981

God, bless America. We think of all the favors which have come from His good hand. We have been given so much. We think of the material blessings. There have also been the spiritual opportunities, the freedom to hear and propagate the Gospel of Jesus Christ. May the Lord continue to look on us with mercy, not because we are so good, but because we need that mercy. And let us use our time well for God may not always stay His hand against the hypocrisies and wasted opportunities of our land.

The Lord has made available many open doors of evangelism and the opportunity of ministering to believers within our churches this past year, and they certainly continue to be open.

Rev. Kenneth Pentti



**CHURCH AT BRANDON  
CELEBRATED ITS 100TH  
ANNIVERSARY**

*The Lutheran Ambassador* joins in tribute to Pastor Amos Dyrud, who has now stepped down as dean of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary after 12 years of service, ten of them as dean.

*New Home Mission  
congregations  
have been started in  
Burnsville, Escanaba,  
Stanley, Tucson.*

**AFLC Schools  
have increased  
enrollment**

**"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord. . . ."**

**Psalm 92:1**

With thanksgiving to the Lord for all His mercies in the past, I would like to bring before the AFLC the mission work in India, Mexico, and Brazil this past year.

*The Knapps hope to leave for Paraguay at the end of January. They will be our first resident missionaries there.*

#### **The Luther League Convention**

The Lord surely blessed us with a wonderful week. The convention was held at the Association Retreat Center in Wisconsin. It was a beautiful place for a convention.

Under the theme "To God Be the Glory," Bethany Lutheran congregation of rural Abercrombie, North Dakota, celebrated its 100th anniversary.

The giving within our AFLC continues to be a source of amazement and joy. We closed out the fiscal year at 99% of our budget goal. At the end of October we were only at 49%. The challenge seemed almost insurmountable. Added to the \$574,010.73 received for the budget goals, an additional amount of around \$50,000 was received for Church Extension and other special causes not on the budget. Thus giving in the AFLC last year was well over \$600,000. We praise God for this and express our deepest appreciation to all our faithful people.

The AFLC has experienced blessing with numerical growth this past year. Our fellowship has been enriched by 3 congregations coming into the AFLC and one new Home Mission congregation being organized.

# AT THE MASTER'S FEET

by Pastor Harvey Carlson



## Redemption draws near

"When you see all these things, know that He is near, even at the doors" (Matt. 24:33).

When we looked at this very important statement of Jesus last time, we put our emphasis on the word "know." Jesus said that it is possible to *know*—not guess, or hope, or wonder, or surmise, but *know* when His coming is near. If this sounds new or strange to us, and contrary to what we have believed, let's remember that all that really matters is what the Word of God says.

We also noted Jesus' explanation of what He meant by "near." "This (or, the same) generation will not pass away, until all these things take place" (Matt. 24:34). He is saying "a period of time, a generation, is coming, in which there will be a series of events which will include My coming in glory. There will be some people who will be on

earth during that whole series of events, because they will all happen in one, or the 'the same,' generation."

To help us accept this tremendous revelation, He goes on to say, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away" (v. 35). We rightly apply this statement to anything the Bible says, but, in its context, it specifically applies to what Jesus says about knowing within a generation when He will return. We should take any statement of Scripture in its context.

And then, to keep us from specific date-setting, Jesus adds: "But of that day and hour no one knows" (v. 36). We must interpret this statement in its setting or we are guilty of twisting the Scriptures. Jesus' teaching is: "You can know the season or period, but you cannot know the exact day and hour."

### Use Your Eyes

Now we want to put our emphasis on the word "see." When you *see* all these things."

Jesus is telling us that we should be looking for certain things to happen. But, it is perfectly obvious that we are not going to "see" anything if our minds and hearts are closed to the thought that there will be some significant developments that will indicate that His coming is near.

Something else that is clear is that we are not going to "see" anything, unless we know what to look for! What does Jesus have in mind? His teaching on this point is clear, as in all matters.

### The Beginning

Let's go back to Luke's account of the Olivet Discourse. There v. 28 says,

"When these things *begin* to take place, straighten up . . . because your redemption is drawing near." Jesus says there is a definite point of *beginning* for the series of events that will lead to His return and the completion of redemption for believers ("redemption of our body"—Rom. 8:23).

What is that beginning? In verses 8 and 9 Jesus tells of things that are *not* significant—Messianic claims, someone declaring that the time is near, wars and other disturbances. The beginning is not here. Verses 12 through 24 are eliminated because they were all fulfilled in the first century. They have nothing to do with Jesus' return. And, what Jesus talks about in vs. 24-26 leads immediately to His coming (v. 27). This is not the "beginning," but the end.

This leaves only verses 10 and 11. And here indeed is "the beginning"! What is it? A combination of certain happenings! (Five are mentioned). That this is the right interpretation is verified in Matt. 24:7-8. The combination of events is listed, and then Jesus said, "All these things *are the beginning!*" How clear!

I submit that we have seen that combination of happenings in the decade from 1914-1923. (1) A great war. Something new. World War I. "Nation against nation, kingdom against kingdom." (2) Great earthquakes. In China in 1920—180,000 killed. In Japan in 1923—140,000 killed. (3) Plagues, pestilence. The world-wide flu epidemic of 1918 killed 21 million. (4) Famines. There were very severe famines in China and Russia in 1920-21. (5) Terrors from heaven. Planes used for bombing.

More about all of this next time.

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## It continues for a lifetime



by Pastor Robert  
Lewis  
Abercrombie, N. Dak.

One of the things I am personally looking forward to, the day I step on heaven's shore, is meeting the Apostle Paul.

In studying and reading the Pauline Epistles a person really gets a picture of what it means to live the Christ-filled life. Paul told the Philippians: "For to me to live is Christ. . . ." In addressing the Galatians Paul said: "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. . . ."

Paul's salvation by grace stretched across every aspect of his life. He never saw his life as divided between what was secular and what was spiritual. Likewise for us as God's people, to live means to live the Christ-filled life.

At the heart of a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus is the need to have and maintain a spirit of thankfulness. Is it not out of thankfulness that we respond to God's conviction? Salvation is running to God through His son Jesus, rejoicing in the fact that we are no longer under condemnation, but are forgiven and free by grace through faith.

In I Thessalonians 5:18, the Apostle Paul admonishes us, ". . . in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Paul was a man who possessed very few of this world's goods. He was a man who suffered greatly and was deprived physically; yet here was a man, an apostle, a missionary, who had a thankful spirit. In writing to the Philippians, he said, "I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am."

Content in a damp stinking prison? Content at the end of the persecutor's whip? Content while floundering in icy sea water? Content while being hunted? Yes, content, content with thanksgiving.

## THANKSGIVING IS THANKS- LIVING

Paul was convinced, as we should be, that we express our love to God, not only by keeping in touch through the word and prayer, but by having a thankful spirit as well.

As we are thankful despite the circumstances, our love for the Lord grows. Through this growing love relationship, we are empowered to love to the point of caring more for others than for ourselves. Paul was thankful for his great salvation. Paul loved the Lord. Paul loved those who needed to know Christ. This kind of love which developed through thankful obedience drove Paul all over the world to share the news of salvation by grace through faith.

As we sit at our Thanksgiving tables this year, are we truly thankful? Are we thankful for who we are in Christ, or are we thankful only because we find ourselves in "good" circumstances? All too often our thanks comes because the turkey is on the table, the house is clean, everyone for the moment is happy, and we live in relative prosperity.

What then constitutes real thanksgiving? Perhaps the earliest Biblical account of thanksgiving can be seen in

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the sacrifices that Cain and Abel brought to the Lord. The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia states that "Cain's offering was cereal and is called minnah, a 'Gift' or 'Presentation.' The same term is applied to Abel's. There is no hint that the bloody sacrifice was in itself better than the unbloody one, but it is shown that sacrifice without a right attitude of heart is not acceptable to God." Likewise we may say that thanksgiving without the right attitude of heart is no thanksgiving.

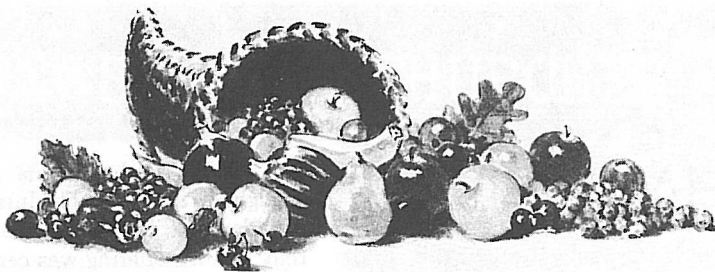
The thanksgiving theme of heaven (Revelation 1:11, 12) is one that comes not out of material blessing, but out of who we are in Christ.

We have much to be thankful for, materially speaking, but the key to all thankfulness lies in a living relationship with the Lord of the universe and realizing what He has done for us through His Son.

It is interesting to note that one of the earliest Thanksgiving celebrations observed in America was not the result of a bountiful harvest, but was entirely religious and was celebrated out of a thankfulness for religious liberty. The



World Book Encyclopedia states, "On December 4, 1619, 39 English settlers arrived at Berkeley Plantation, on the James River near what is now Charles City, Virginia. The group's charter required that the day of arrival be observed yearly as a day of thanksgiving."



## THANKS-LIVING . . .

Here were people who were thankful for the blessing of a newly found religious freedom. It is safe to assume, based on later accounts of Atlantic crossings, that their voyage was not an easy one. Their expression upon arrival in this new land was not so much one of relief, but one of thanks, thanksgiving for the opportunity to worship.

During the last 20 years a perplexing type of thanksgiving has become popular among the "evangelical" community. What was expressed was the need to praise God in all things. While this in itself is Biblical and was the desire that St. Paul expressed, it nonetheless degenerated into a self-motivated gimmick that people used to get what they wanted or get themselves out of a particular situation. The term "Praise the Lord anyway" was coined to cover every situation from an automobile that would not function, to a serious illness. This type of thanks was coercive, an attempt to gain that which was desired.

Mrs. Hannah Chalmers, in her devotional booklet, *My Daily Devotions*, has caught the spirit of true thanksgiving when she comments on Psalm 118:1 and I Thessalonians 5:18. Says Mrs. Chalmers, "The heart that sings praises is happy, unselfish, kind and appreciative."

True thankfulness carries no ulterior motivation, but is synonymous with the unselfish, kind, appreciative love

that was exemplified in the person of the Lord Jesus. In real thanks-giving we tell God that we love Him, that we are thankful for salvation, and that apart from an eternal relationship with Him, we expect nothing in return.

This love-motivated thanks must extend over a lifetime. It is not enough to rely on a one time "thank you" to keep the relationship going. Someone has related the story about an old Scandinavian woman who, after 45 years of marriage, asked her husband why he never told her that he loved her. His humorous, yet sad, reply was, "I told you 45 years ago on our wedding day that I loved you. If anything changes, you'll be the first to know." How short-changed that relationship might have been because of that husband's unwillingness to express thankfulness to his wife.

We in North America have much to be thankful for, but the base of our thanks must be a living relationship with Christ. In addressing the 1973 Urbana conference, Paul Little gave this paraphrase of Romans 8:32: "The God that loved you and me enough to die for us when we did not care that much for Him is not about to short-change us when we give Him our lives." Quoting Dr. Oswald Hoffman, Little went on to say, "Having given us the package, will God now deny us the ribbon?"

For Thanksgiving 1981, let us genuinely thank God, first for the package (salvation) and then for the ribbon (abundant life).✠

*"The term 'Praise the Lord anyway' was coined to cover every situation from an automobile that would not function, to a serious illness."*



**Chaplain Timothy K. Skramstad**  
Ft. George Meade, Md. 20755

Life as an Army chaplain is a unique and exciting experience. In many ways, the work of a chaplain is similar to that of a parish pastor. We visit our people, make hospital, home, and jail calls, preach, teach, counsel, plus a whole lot more.

The main job which I have is that of chaplain in the 10th Combat Support Hospital and 85th Medical Battalion. In a very real sense, I am the pastor to over 400 men and women and their families. Many hours are spent each week in dealing with marriage problems, alcohol and drug addiction, financial difficulties, personality conflicts, loneliness, grief counseling, and pre-marital counseling.

A very small percentage of the battalion would claim to know Jesus Christ as their Savior and at times I feel like a missionary. Many of those to whom I witness (and I freely tell of the

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**"Many of those to whom I witness . . . have never heard of the Gospel."**

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saving power of Christ to several every day) have never heard of the Gospel. Some are Buddhist, others are hostile to any religion, and many others had attended church as children, but currently have no interest in spiritual things.

Army regulations specify that a chaplain is a representative of his denomination and as such cannot be asked to do anything contrary to the teaching or practises of his church or of his own conscience. This particular regulation is a real blessing as it enables me to freely serve the Lord and not be pressured into things displeasing to Him.

Those individuals who belong to another religion are assisted in the sense that I can provide counseling, information about the location of their worship services, and transportation to their



# Serving God in the military

services if necessary. By accepting these individuals and not tearing down their faith, I have had many long discussions with them about what I believe. Many have also happily received English, Spanish, Chinese, or Korean Bibles or literature.

The work day usually begins at 7:00 a.m., except for Wednesdays, when we have a "Battalion Run" at 6:00 a.m. On those days, the entire battalion runs between two and five miles in formation. The normal workday ends at 4:00 p.m., unless there are unfinished meetings, office work or counseling sessions. Several evenings each week are also taken with meetings, counseling, Bible studies or classes.

My office is located in the 10th Combat Support Hospital barracks building. It is the only office in the dayroom area. This particular location is ideal in that everyone in the battalion knows where the office is located and has easy access to it. There is a problem, however, in that the noise from the television, pinball machines, and pool table can become disturbing when I am trying to prepare sermons.

Specialist 4th Class Fred Williams serves as my assistant. He helps with typing, office work, driving, running errands and, in case of war, would be my bodyguard. The Chapel Activity Specialist can be a great help in many ways to the chaplain by doing various time-consuming tasks and thus allowing the chaplain to do the work of ministry.

Chaplains are not commanders. In other words, it is not my job to go around giving orders. The chaplain is a staff officer and is required to attend battalion staff meetings and many training classes. Soldiers may come directly to me without going through

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their chain of command. Whatever the soldiers say to me in counseling sessions is privileged communication and is not given out unless I have their permission. Chaplains are able to go directly to the various commanding officers on Post. We often do this to solicit the help of the commanders for the benefit of the soldiers.

Quite separate from my battalion is my other job as associate pastor of the Main Post Chapel. This beautiful brick chapel has stained glass windows, a pipe organ, grand piano, and everything one would expect in a civilian church except a formal membership list. Attendance at the chapel is usually from 170 to 300 people per Sunday. Many retirees, general officers, and other senior officers as well as enlisted personnel comprise the congregation. Our services cannot last longer than our allotted time as the Roman Catholic congregation conducts services immediately after ours is over.

There have been several changes in the staff at the Post Chapel during the past few months. I began working with a senior pastor who was Methodist, who was replaced by an Episcopalian, and now replaced by another Methodist. Because of the serious health problems of the current senior pastor, I have had full responsibility for the chapel activities for over a month.

I normally have responsibility for the Youth Group and the Adult Sunday School class at the Chapel. The youth have two adult couples who assist as sponsors. They do much of the "leg work" by supervising activities, lining up trips and retreats, having lunch prepared, etc. This allows me to concentrate on the Bible study or other lesson for the young people. The youth here are as fun-loving as any of our AFLC young people. We normally have about 25 out for each meeting. Many of the teens know little of basic Bible truths. None of them have had confirmation classes and too many do not know how to look up something as ba-

sic as John 3:16. There is, however, a willingness to learn, so please pray that these precious youth might give their hearts to Christ.

Our adult class is currently studying the book of James. We rejoice in having 20 to 30 adults come to our class each week. Evonne, my wife, is teaching a class of 3rd and 4th graders who are very interested in learning about God's Word, but who also have had little or no previous Bible training.

If this article sounds like a job description, you are correct! By giving a very abbreviated account of some of my work at Ft. Meade, I would hope that each member and friend of our AFLC would have more of an idea of the ministry to which we have been called. As we represent the AFLC in the military, we are keenly aware of our own inadequacy. It is only as God supplies the strength and wisdom and as His people stand with us in prayer, that this ministry will count for eternity.

Please join us in thanking God for the many opportunities to present His Word in the military. Please uphold us daily in your prayers for God's wonderful message of salvation to be presented in such a way that many would be added to the Kingdom.✠

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# WHAT IS CHRISTIAN LOVE?

by Lay Pastor  
Emerson Anderson,  
Cleveland, Ohio



In John 14:15-31, we find Jesus in the Upper Room with His disciples on the night before His crucifixion. These men are to be the leaders in the infant church. That same night in that same place they had had a dispute over which of them would be greatest in the Kingdom of heaven. And now in our text Jesus begins talking to them about love. Ten times He uses the word "love." By this we are impressed with how important love is to the welfare of the church and how much it has to do with the church's ministry in the world. That this is true we also learn from other portions of God's Word. In I Corinthians 12 it is called "a more excellent way" than all the gifts of the Holy Spirit to individual believers, and in I Corinthians 13:13 it is placed at the head of the list when it is considered along with faith and hope. No matter

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*"The greatest of these . . ."*

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how we look at it we come face to face with love as being the most important grace which God can give to a sinner apart from forgiveness and justification.

Jonathan Edwards wrote a book on I Corinthians 13 titled *Charity And Its Fruits*. The title of the first chapter is "All True Grace In The Heart Summed Up In Charity, Or Love." Here he is simply saying that Christian love has within it the seed of every good thing that God may put into the heart of people like you and me. In stating this Edwards is in harmony with Scripture. If God's people have hearts large in the love which Scripture speaks of, then they will have all things needful for truly Christian living.

Our problem is in defining this "love." We are more apt to speak of the fruits of love than of love itself, if we are asked to define it. Who of us is ready to stand on a moment's notice and define "love"? We may be able to define peace, or joy, but love is different. We live in a world which has so distorted the meaning of love that we find it hard to define without bringing in some of the world's view.

Hollywood has its definition of love. It is a feeling. It is a good feeling. It is a passionate feeling. It is a feeling tied to the lust of our corrupt flesh and therefore it is a corrupt love.

We can say that love is something within us that determines what is important to us. When Jesus spoke of love He made it clear that it was an inward matter. He said the great commandment was "You shall love . . . with your heart, and soul, and mind." Love exists beneath your skin and mine. It is in no way outward except in its response to that which is outside of us. Corrupt love responds corruptly to that which is outside the person. Uncorrupted love responds in an uncorrupt manner. Thus with their love which is in the heart, and soul, and mind, men may love God, or pleasure, or ease, or the world, or money, or their neighbor, or their enemy, or the upper seat in the synagogue, or the praise of men, or numerous other things. One thing is sure; men cannot serve two masters. They will love the one and hate the other. Here we see that love is that within a man that determines what a man will delight in. Now we are ready to define

pure Christian love.

Pure Christian love is that inward attitude which delights in the Lord, and in His ways. It loves God and the ways of God. It loves God and all that is dear to God. In our modern world, for the sake of what we call freedom, we tend to separate God from His ways. We tend to separate God from His law. We say we love God, but we do not wish to hear His law. We say God is gracious and merciful but His ways are

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*"We say we love God, but we do not wish to hear His law."*

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legal and hard and unbearable. This is the same as a man saying he delights in His wife but he hates the way she bosses him around. Such an approach is to separate the person of God from the revealed expression of what God is like in His holiness and righteousness. No, dear friend, if we truly love God we will delight in His person, and we will delight in His ways. Joseph delighted in God and His ways and when Potiphar's wife tried to persuade him to commit sin, saying, "Lie with me," Joseph fled, saying, "How could I do this great evil and sin against God?" Joseph delighted in the Lord and he delighted in what the Lord delighted in; therefore, he could not defraud Potiphar. Nor could Joseph gratify himself at the expense of Potiphar's wife because she, too, was precious to God. Joseph loved God; therefore, he could not easily set aside God's desires in this matter.

This matter of delighting in God's ways as well as in the person of God is a point easily missed; therefore, we pursue it further. Jonathan Edwards wrote, "Love to God will dispose a man to honor Him, worship Him, adore Him, heartily acknowledge His greatness and glory and dominion, and so it will dispose to all acts of obedience to God." Again Edwards wrote, "A due consideration of the nature of love will show that it disposes a man to all duties toward his neighbor." We may say that love of God also always includes a

[Continued on page 8]



### Sheldon Jackson

*Pathfinder and Prospector in the Rocky Mountains and Apostle to Alaska (1858-1909)*

*(Continued from last time)*

Work among the Indians, in Indian Territory, was the first that offered after the seminary course at Princeton was finished, and the young minister was ordained. On his twenty-fourth birthday he was married, and, on the wedding journey, the bridal pair met the rest of the Jackson family at Niagara Falls, on their way to Galesburg, Illinois, a new college town that had grown up on the prairie, and was then "just twenty-one."

The work among the Choctaws, and the representatives of other tribes, was very arduous, and Mrs. Jackson, besides helping in many ways, substituting for teachers, keeping the house, and so on, found her hands full and her time too, with "keeping the little Indians in repair."

Serious illnesses, and other circumstances, convinced Mr. Jackson that he should undertake more varied work, and in due time he was commissioned to a parish 13,000 miles square, being given oversight, as a home missionary, of Minnesota, and Wisconsin almost wholly, with 19 preaching places in Minnesota alone, a hundred miles apart. A salary of three hundred dollars was his recompense for all this labor, "in journeyings oft," averaging for one quarter, thirteen and one-half miles a day, horseback or afoot. His escapes from freezing, in fierce blizzards and huge snow-drifts, would make a chapter by themselves at this time. But he did not freeze—save fingers and toes, or perhaps his nose, and he thawed out, and went on with this pioneer work.

We can't follow this active man step by step, but shall have to take flying leaps. We next find him engaged in a larger field, and more general work. It began in Iowa, and, before it was fully planned, came the Hilltop Prayer

meeting, which ought to be remembered as a companion to the Haystack Prayer meeting long before. Mr. Jackson and two minister-friends went up to the top of a very high bluff called Prospect Hill, on the edge of Sioux City, Iowa, there to look over the land. Part of Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Minnesota were visible. Beyond, stretched nine territories, for California was then the only state west of the Missouri River, and farther on was Alaska. It was a field of 1,768,659 square miles, almost half the United States, with tens of thousands of Indians, with demon-worshipping Eskimos, with pagan or half pagan races beyond count.

The hearts of the three on the hilltop were moved to cry out to God to lead those who had power, to send out missionaries to this great field. Soon after this sacred hour, Mr. Jackson was appointed Superintendent of Missions for Western Iowa, Nebraska, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Utah, and as far beyond as the jurisdiction of the presbytery of Iowa might extend.

Now began the million-mile journey of the pathfinder. "He went, on horseback or afoot, over unspeakable roads, bumping along in ox carts, by buckboard, stage, with mule team, by bronco, reindeer sledge, lumber wagon, ambulance, by freight or construction train, by dugout, launch, steamer, canoe, revenue-cutter or cattle-ship."

"Five times the stage was robbed just before he passed over the route; once there was only the motion of a finger between him and death, as a half dozen revolvers were pointed at him; once he escaped scalping by the Apaches by a few hours; again he went unharmed, when his steamer was fired into by hostile Indians; again a fanatical papal mob threatened his life, and once he was imprisoned for the Gospel's sake, and set free by the President."

Under the trees, under the stars, in log huts, in miners' camps, in dugouts

and sod houses, the missionary went preaching and visiting, and organizing churches.

A good part of the time he collected the money needed. What he called "The Raven Fund," for supply of pressing needs, mounted into thousands. Nothing discouraged the dauntless soul. Where he heard the call of need he went, with fearless faith and indomitable courage. Railways and stage lines gave him free transportation for long journeys, thinking it a good investment. For a long time his family lived in Denver, and he made 16 round trips to and from his home in five years.

And now the call came to far Alaska. The exploring tour, with unimaginable dangers and terrifying difficulties was made, in spite of discouraging views of the majority, who thought there was no use in it, and no hope in it. But Dr. Jackson knew better, and was neither dismayed nor delayed by what people thought. He opened mission stations; he took Mrs. M'Farland from Portland to be the first woman in that strange field. He even went to Point Barrow, the northernmost place, where Siberia could be seen in the distance, and founded a mission there, where there are 24 days of night, and the mail comes (came) once a year.

Government made him General Superintendent of Education in Alaska.

And now listen to the story of the reindeer. In pity for the poor Eskimos, and with a wise thought for their help, Dr. Jackson, after great efforts and

### OUR MEMORY VERSE

**"He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it." Matt. 10:39 RSV**

## LOVE . . .

love for God's law. Scripture says, "Love is the fulfilling of the law." John wrote in the sixth verse of his Second Letter, "This is love, that we walk according to His commandments." Jesus said to those men in the upper room, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments" (John 14:15). Here Jesus is not pressing an imperative on these men, but expressing what is sure to happen if they love Him. The Greek verb form makes this clear. Love for God and His ways go together. This same truth is seen over and over again in the Old Testament, yet we pass it off as some sort of a bragging on the part of the person bearing testimony. Consider the 119th Psalm. Here are some examples. The psalmist says, "I shall delight in Thy statutes." "I shall run in the ways of Thy commandments." "Behold I long for Thy precepts." "I shall delight in Thy commandments which I love." "Thy statutes are my song." "The law of Thy mouth is better to me than gold and silver pieces." "Oh, how I love Thy law, it is my meditation day and night." "How sweet are Thy words to my taste, yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth."

Let us make no mistake about Christian love. The love that God puts into the heart of a regenerated man delights not only in the person of God, but also in His will and way. Abraham loved God and that love led him to do God's will and way. Abraham loved God and that love led him to do God's will in offering up Isaac. Paul loved the Lord

and he gladly sat in jail as a bond-slave of Jesus Christ. He said, "I rejoice in my sufferings" (Colossians 1:24). Christian love is the inward attitude which delights itself in God and His ways.

We need to say something more about love. That is, Christian love. Christian love in the heart of a person is worked there by God. It is the work of

which we must consider. A true and living and saving faith creates in us, or brings with it into our innermost being, a great delight in the person of our Lord and of His ways and delights. Do you have such a faith? Can you honestly say that your greatest life-ruling delight is in the Lord? If not, there is need for a change. There is need for true repentance. Without repentance a per-

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*"... true Christian love . . . is  
a cheerful delighting of ourselves  
in the object which is loved."*

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the Spirit of God to plant that attitude in the human heart. Scripture says that "the love of God is shed abroad in our heart by the Holy Spirit." We love because God first loves us. It is true that we must will to love God if we are to love Him at all, but it is also true that our willingness to love God is not through the gritting of our teeth and making ourselves love Him. No, true Christian love, whether toward God or man, is a cheerful delighting of ourselves in the object which is loved. The spirit of God puts that cheerful delight in our inward being.

Jesus said that the love of a sinner increases as the realization of the greatness of forgiveness increases (Luke 7:47). Now we know the means by which the Holy Spirit makes us delight in the Lord and in His ways and desires. The right understanding and appreciation of the gospel of forgiveness produces that love attitude within. A true and living and growing faith in the greatness of God's forgiveness toward you will do it. Edwards wrote on this, saying, "Love is always continued in a true and living faith . . . it is the true and proper life and soul, without which faith is as dead as the body without the soul, and it is that which especially distinguishes a living faith from every other faith." Again he wrote, "Love is no ingredient in a merely speculative faith, but it is the life and soul of a practical faith . . . a speculative faith consists only in assent of the understanding; but in saving faith there is also the consent of the heart."

That leaves us with one more matter

son is sure to perish. Also, consider that it is possible for a person to have had Christian love and to have lost it. The messenger of the church in Ephesus lost it, and Jesus exhorted that he repent and do his first works (Revelation 2:4-5). There was a young missionary who travelled with Paul, who lost Christian love, too. Corrupted love so took over Demas' life that Paul had to tell Timothy the bad news, "Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica" (II Timothy 4:10). If you and I could have searched the streets of Thessalonica we no doubt would have found Demas delighting in that which was dear to his heart, and soul, and mind.

What is dear to you? In what do you delight your soul? Will you remember that we are considering the most important matter in all the world for your own well-being? And will you also consider that no Christian, nor any Christian congregation, can properly function if it lacks the love that delights itself in the Lord. If you do not find within a delight for the Lord and the things that are dear to Him, consider it a great sin. Go to Jesus and confess your true condition and seek His forgiveness. He will receive you and He will forgive you; and then the Holy Spirit will shed the love of God abroad in your heart, too. You will be a new person with a new love and you will find that Christian love is the best love of all. Then you will be prepared to serve God and you will be a great asset to your congregation as it attempts to serve God in your community.

(From a sermon preached in  
Word of Life Lutheran Church.

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## MISSIONARY . . .

prodigious discouragements, finally imported reindeer from Siberia, with native herders, and after proving that it could be done, received government aid. Now these animals, that find their own food in the moss under the snow, and can travel where dogs cannot, and can furnish food and skin-clothing also, have proved such a boon to Alaska that Dr. Jackson would be remembered had he done nothing else. His heroic life ended in 1909.

—Julia H. Johnston, *Fifty  
Missionary Heroes Every Boy  
and Girl Should Know*,  
Fleming H. Revell Company.



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# editorials

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## THANKSGIVING

The Pilgrim Fathers believed it meet and good to give thanks to the Lord God for their safe arrival in a new land and for the provision of their needs. Their American experience wasn't without suffering and loss, but they could still see the Divine providence in their lives.

In the intervening centuries Americans have continued to find good reason for having a Thanksgiving Day. Ours has been a land of plenty. There have been economic depressions, recessions, times of inflation, parents have sent their children to a half dozen wars, but in all the majority of the people have thrived. Talk about material goods and we have done well in comparison to other nations.

Then ours has been a land of freedoms. We have a free press, the right of assembly and free speech, the opportunity to vote in elections offering more than one choice, the right to worship God as we choose. Just think, more people in this world are without these rights than have them. God grant that they will continue to be ours.

Christians look even more deeply as they count their blessings. We see salvation through Jesus Christ, the presence of the Holy Bible, the existence of our churches, a holy calling to evangelize the world and opportunities to work at that.

Yes, there are many reasons to say, "Thank You, Lord," and to remember all His benefits. May we have a worthy Thanksgiving.

## SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY

We were recently given the assignment of writing a three-page history of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations for the pictorial directory which will be published in 1982 as a sort of 20th anniversary project.

It was an extremely interesting task, going back over dates and records and miscellaneous items from those days preceding and following the formation of the AFLC. What memories came back as memory was jogged by this paper or that notation.

Perhaps there will be opportunity to reminisce further as the anniversary of the Thief River Falls Conference comes (October, 1982) and we re-live the early days of our fellowship, but right now let us focus on just three things that come to mind as one rummages through the trunks of the past, as they pertain to our church.

The first which we shall mention is the people. And today we are thinking of those who have gone on to their heavenly reward. There is a temptation to give some names, but we forbear. There is a deep sense of affection and respect for these brothers and sisters. Some played major roles in the development of our fellowship, others seemed to have minor parts, but how important each was. Some were able to enunciate their convictions in meetings, others could only show

their support and interest by being along. And all could pray.

They are gone from among us now. Some of them departed this life very soon after the beginning of the AFLC. They caught only a glimpse of what was to be. Others were able to see even some years of development and progress and to rejoice in that. In all, it will be good some day, by God's grace, to greet these brothers and sisters again in the land that is fairer than day.

Then there are the names of people in the early history which don't appear later on even though they are still living. Yes, there were those who played even key roles in getting the Association started who later dropped out. Sometimes there were doctrinal reasons for that or dissatisfaction with the direction things were going, from their point of view. Yet again, it may have been due to a personality conflict with one or more persons. Even though things worked out as they did, we can still remember these people with affection and respect, too, and trust that they have found happiness and fulfillment also in the paths they took.

In the second place, we mention places. We don't even know all the places which deserve enumeration in the formation of the AFLC. But here are some: Thief River Falls, Minneapolis, Pelican Rapids, Willmar, Fergus Falls, McVile, Fargo. Places where meetings were held to discuss the future and to pray. Two names stand above others. One is Thief River Falls, where the organizational conference was held. It is too bad that the registration list for that conference is missing. It surely would be interesting to have it. Perhaps a fairly accurate list of people could still be reconstructed if the original can't be found.

But the place that stands out next to Thief River is Fargo, specifically the Powers Hotel there. It became quite a center for planning sessions and for post-organization meetings. The hotel provided both lodging and meals, as well as space for both small and larger group sessions. A lot of crucial decisions were made at the Powers. It will always have a special place in the hearts of we who took part in those events. (The Powers is going to be changed into a residence for senior citizens in the future.)

Lastly, in rummaging through menabilia pertaining to the beginning of the AFLC and her early history, one is conscious that things have worked out even better than we dared hope in those early days. And that speaks of the help and enablement of the Lord. Give Him the glory.

The question was, what can some 50 congregations, mostly small, do in the way of having a program for carrying on God's work beyond congregational borders? And we give credit to our heritage and bringing up that we knew that we had to be involved in something bigger than local congregations if we were to survive or to have reason for being. And what provision could be made for maintaining a supply of pastors? Most of the original group of pastors were not young men when all of this happened.

# CAMPUS NEWS

## Homecoming XV

Only 22 short hours before AFLBS's 15th homecoming banquet, Reuben Quanbeck was the most sought-after man on campus.

People wanted that man.

No. They didn't want him for a date—he is married.

They wanted tickets. Mr. Quanbeck, as a member of the homecoming registration committee, had just announced that he had only four of them left. Due to an unexpectedly high attendance—the largest ever at an AFLBS homecoming—the committee was forced to turn away many students and alumni

who had hopes of attending the affair.

Never before had a homecoming banquet drawn over 250 guests. This year, however, more than 300 wanted tickets. But there was no more room to be found at Saint Paul Bible College, the site for the banquet. So it was recorded that only 290 were allowed to attend the 1981 version of an AFLBS homecoming banquet. Along with guest speaker, Rev. John Strand, the banquet featured a male quartet made up of 1971 graduates Randy Hall, Jim Fugleberg, Lyle Forde and Tim Jones. Psalm 149:4 provoked the theme: "The Lord Delighteth in His People."

Nevertheless, those who didn't get the tickets they desired, were appeased by various other activities held during the October 9-11 weekend.

The honored classes of '71 and '76 led in the opening service of "Fellowship and Praise." Thus began the invasion.

Many people. Alumni. More than 220 registered for the weekend. Said the Alumni's executive director, Cindy Schlenk, "It was the largest group we've ever had for the Friday evening service. People were anxious to get there right away and fellowship."

Following the opening service, the AFLBS faculty sponsored an ice cream social, which reintroduced a duo of hopefully-never-ready-for-prime-time-players, AFLC President Rev. Richard Snipstead and AFLBS Music Director Don Rodvold. The combination starred in "Trosan and Tillie," a stirring and

## EDITORIALS . . .

Those on the outside said, "What can *they* do?" And those of us who were involved wondered, "*What* can we do?" And the only thing to do was to pray and to try something. And to compress things terribly, leadership emerged, it was possible to get involved in world mission work, it was possible to begin a training school for pastors and a Bible school for all ages, it was possible to start new congregations in our country, it was possible to publish a church magazine, it was possible to have a program of hospitalization insurance and retirement for pastors and other church workers. And the list could go on. From the early questions in the minds of all of us, the answer has come, "Yes, these things are all possible." And we see the hand of the Lord active in all of this and we see faithful people. Let it be recognized, too, that as time passed others entered into the work. It wasn't all done by the first congregations and pastors, but they got it going.

Now to get back to the history we mentioned at the beginning. A three-page history can't say everything. In fact, it can't say very much. So one has to make choices about what to include and what to leave out. No two people would write exactly the same account. But that's the way it is in life.

God willing, sometime next year, we hope by Annual Conference time, you will be able to purchase the fine pictorial directory of the AFLC. We trust that this is something you will want to have in your home.

The Board of Publications and Parish Education, the moving force behind this project, will be informing us at an appropriate time as to how this book may be ordered.

### THE FISCAL YEAR

Another fiscal year moves irresistibly on. It will end, the calendar tells us, on January 31 coming.

How many times have we written of a fiscal year that it is one of special meaning, that a new challenge faces us? And, of course, that's the way it is. The goal each year is larger than the one before. That will likely continue to be the pattern. No way can our objectives in carrying out the Lord's work be cut back, in the total picture. Certain programs might be re-evaluated, but the total need will always be a growing one. (How much growth there can be from year to year is debatable and is dictated to a certain extent by existing economic conditions).

Our minimum goals this year bring us over the \$800,000 mark for the first time ever. The increase in goals from last year is marked. Some question whether the goals can be met. The annual conference last summer voted a large increase in goals for next year. What we do this year will be prelude to what is done then.

Reports from our business office indicate that our giving is up significantly from last year. We need that. But the total goal is so much larger that we're only about at the same place in percent of goal reached as last year at the same time. And that doesn't look so good when we think of how far we have to go.

One thing we have learned over the years is not to sell our people short when it comes to reaching the minimum goals. Time after time we have done this, either attaining them or getting very close. May that be true this year also. A considerable number of other people help us in this, too. Thank God for them.

The money to reach our goals is there, out among the people. You, as an individual, may not think so, but it is there. If we fall short it won't be because the resources weren't available. It will be for other reasons.

Let us not fall short, but press on to reach the goals set before us. That would be pleasing to God.



tragic melodrama concerning two newly-married Norwegian immigrants arrived in Minneapolis.

Other homecoming events included an Alumni business meeting, the annual student/alumni flag-football game, a communion service, and a concert by AFLBS' choir of '71. The choir was the first of two AFLBS choirs to tour Norway and their concert concluded the weekend . . . the best attended homecoming in the school's history.

It ended as a weekend of testimony of how God has continued to use the education received at Bible School in so many people's lives.

Profitable education. Education that continues . . . year after year. And that kind of testimony Mrs. Schlenk finds encouragingly helpful.

"It was great to come back and see and hear how Bible School has influenced so many people's lives," she stated.

And with AFLBS' continuing dedication to changing people's lives through the power of God's Word, the one on campus to be most sought-after will remain Jesus Christ.

James Lyell Johnson



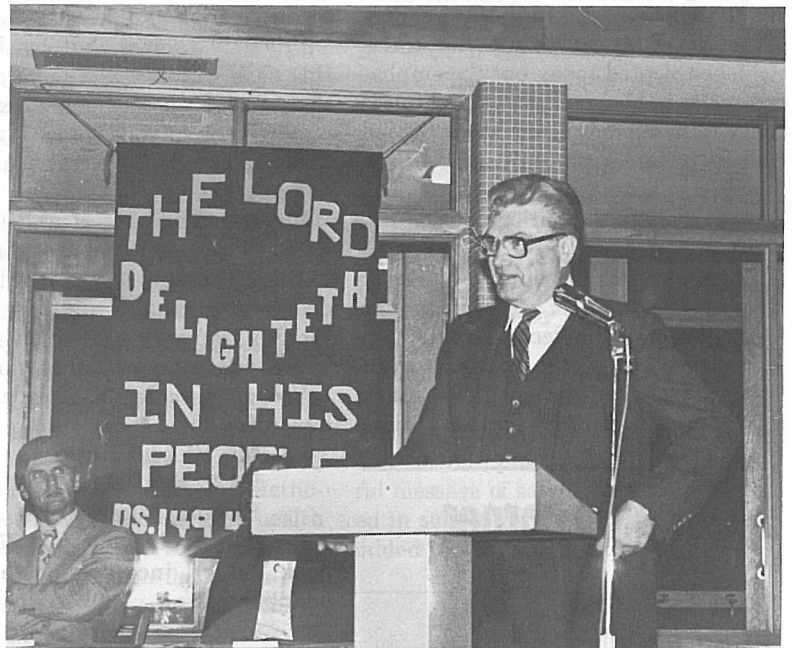
Quarterback Jim Johnson attempted to pass for yardage

Photo by J. Oscarson



The 1971 quartet.

Photo by B. Rice



Pastor John Strand at the Homecoming banquet.

## CHRISTMAS ISSUE COMING

Due December 8 is our annual enlarged special Christmas issue of the *Ambassador*.

Here are some of the features you will find in this year's special: Memories of Christmas by our beloved Dr. Iver Olson . . . Christmas in India . . . an account of a trip to China by an

AFLC member . . . a Christmas message by one of our pastors . . . a story about something which happened at Christmastime . . . poetry for the season . . . the experiences of a pastor in travelling in North Dakota in 1886 . . . an unforgettable Christmas

dinner . . . beautiful pictures . . . and more

Use the enclosed blank to order copies of this issue for your friends. Only 35¢ per copy or three for \$1.00. Order now.

**ORDER NOW!**

## BOOK REVIEWS

They

William Kurelek, the author of *A Prairie Boy's Winter*, tells his story of a Canadian prairie winter both in words and in colorful illustrations.

Boys and girls can get many ideas of what young folks did in the 1930s during the cold winters on the prairie. Read the book and you will learn how Willam dated the first sign of spring.

*Two from Galilee* by Marjorie Holmes is her first major novel about the love between two people chosen by God.

"The purpose of this novel," in the author's words, is to "breathe some life into the participants of this great drama."

Read the book and see how well the author, after doing much research work in Israel, has carried out her aim.

*Angels—God's Secret Agents* by Billy Graham makes interesting reading because the idea of the supernatural is widely accepted today but the emphasis seems to be on the occult and forces of evil; therefore it is refreshing to read about the forces of good angelic beings so often referred to in the Bible. To be exact, the Bible mentions angels 300 times.

Read and learn about the stories of modern day forces of good, the angelic activities of God's Secret Agents.

Reviewed by Mrs. Arthur Miller for Zion Church Library, Dalton, Minn.

*Heaven and Earth*, Vincent Raaen, a book of beautiful photography and Scripture, 8½ by 11, 80 pages, soft cover, \$6.75 plus \$1.00 for mailing.

It is exciting to see the publication ventures which Association people have entered into in these recent years. There are no doubt some of which this writer is not aware, too.

A really fine book with little text, and what there is only Scripture quotations, is *Heaven and Earth*, a book of beautiful pictures, mostly in color, interspersed with those Bible verses, and produced by Mr. Vincent Raaen, Erskine, Minn.

Some books are for reading. At other times one only feels like looking at pictures and the "1,000-word" stories or sermons they give. Here is such a book, one you can pick up again and again for inspiration and relaxation.

Privately printed, but by Josten's, this book will give you more pleasure than many another more expensive picture book in your home. It will also make an excellent Christmas or birthday gift.

Mr. Raaen's pastor, Rev. Bruce Dalgner, in his foreword to the book, writes, "The serious reader will gain a deeper appreciation and love for the Word of God as he sees it so well illustrated. In it all may God be glorified."

You may secure this excellent book by writing to:

Mr. Vincent Raaen  
Rt. 2, Box, 99  
Erskine, Minn. 56535

Be sure to include the \$7.75 per book, which includes postage and handling costs.

—Raynard Huglen

## fellowship corner

### Just a glimpse of an angel

(Sandy and Dwayne Shafer had hoped to adopt this little girl, but were unable to keep her. Sandy wrote the following poem out of that experience.)

God sent an angel  
To our home one day.  
He only let her visit—  
He didn't let her stay.

A little black girl,  
So pretty and so sweet;  
One of His special creations  
He allowed us to meet.

We loved her laugh  
And her precious smile;  
Why did He only let her visit  
For such a little while?

We know He had a purpose  
For her passing through our life,  
And today we can thank Him for  
giving us  
Just a glimpse of an angel.

Sandy Shafer  
Everett, Wash.

"Jai Bhagwan Babubali-ki-Jai" echoed and reechoed from the surrounding hills, The chant was evoking the blessings of the lord who stood in absolute tranquility atop the Indragiri hills in the Hassan district of India. With rousing cheers and deep emotion the crowd numbering into the hundreds of thousands, gathered for nine hours on the hills and in the valleys for the great purification ceremony of Gomateshwara of Shravanabelagula. These national and international followers of Jain were massing for the ritual bathing of the colossal stat-

### Light on the way

### Bring a

"The tender grass springeth up out of the earth by clear shining after rain" (II Sam. 23:4).

Many people grow up and live the greater part of their lives under unfavorable circumstances, in an atmosphere of cold and indifference. Little or no sunshine enters their lives. Instead of meeting with kindness and friendliness in those about them they are continually rebuffed and abused.

But such an environment develops the base and low in human nature. Potential possibilities for good are diminished. The eye grows evil and the smile turns into a frown.

Many such unfortunates go hungering for a look of love; they yearn for a pleasant smile and a kind word. But many of them have so long been disappointed in their yearning for love and kindness, have been so often rebuffed, that they have lost all hope of ever finding sunshine on earth.

Oh, let a little sunshine in to such as these. Show them a little consideration and love, and perhaps the latent good in them will blossom forth.

A little girl's grandmother lay very ill in a dark room where the sun's rays never entered. Oh, how she missed the sunshine! "I'll carry it in to you, Grandmother," said the little girl, and she ran out on the steps holding her apron up to gather in the golden rays.



# followed Jain and found Jesus

ue of lord Babulbali with holy waters from 14 rivers plus 15 elements including milk, honey, sandalwood paste, flowers, gold, etc.

A total of 1,008 holy pitchers had been circulated throughout India and Jain devotees had filled them liberally with 4,500,000 rupees (US\$504,000) to be used for charitable purposes. The pitchers were then collected and auctioned off to those present for the privilege of using them to help anoint the statue. By the time the festivities were over, more than 1.5 million people had participated.

## Little Sunshine

But before she reached her grandmother's bedside the sunshine had all vanished from her apron. She tried again and again to carry the sunshine in, until the futility of her efforts brought her to tears. But the grandmother was happy, for to her the room was full of sunshine now. The child had brought the light of love into that dark room.

Oh, bring a little sunshine to those who need it. First of all into your own home. Be kind and thoughtful to father and mother while you have them with you. Oh, light up at home, not only by speaking of love, but by showing love and consideration in the little affairs of everyday life. "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and truth" (1 John 3:18).

If you are a Christian you are expected to be the light of the world. But that is not attained by words only, but by showing your love, so that your life bears witness that Christ dwells in you. Then the sunshine which you scattered here on earth will be reflected into heaven, and it will cast a golden glow upon your crown, because Jesus can say: "All this thou hast done for Me."

Lord Jesus, let my life be consecrated to Thee, since Thou hast purchased me at such a great price!

—Søren Dahl  
(Courtesy, Tract Mission)

This occasion presented an opportunity The Bible Society of India could not ignore. Thirty volunteers were enlisted from all over India to launch a Scripture distribution campaign during the entire celebration. These young people were housed about 30 miles away from the festival site due to the high cost of accommodations and living in the area immediately surrounding the focal point of the activities. One church graciously provided its hall for use by the volunteers and the Women's Fellowship prepared the meals.

These dedicated volunteers spent hours in the dusty hot sun and on dusty roads to reach the visitors with the Word of God. In spite of some discouraging responses and angry protests, even in the newspapers, they carried on. Each day they would renew their spirit with the power of the Holy Spirit and the prayer chain with which they began the campaign gave them support throughout the two-week period.

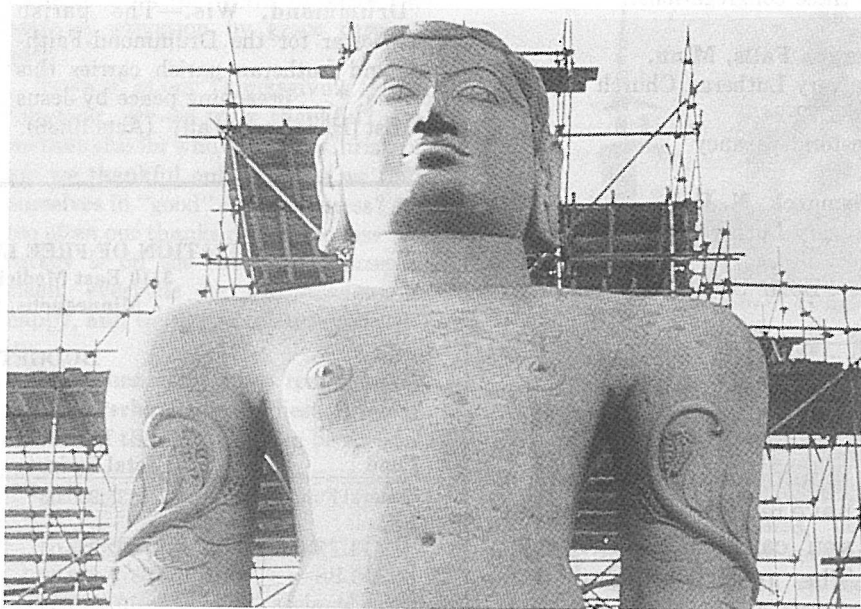
Although there were strict rules against Scripture distribution inside the shrine itself, teams of volunteers

were able to cover most of the surrounding areas, bazaars and villages. They also met the various challenges as they arose. Sometimes during the early hours of the morning and late at night they would keep vigil at the railroad stations and bus depots where special trains and buses served the thousands of pilgrims.

The 57-foot figure of lord Babubali has now been cleaned and purified. And hundreds of thousands of pilgrims have returned home with new knowledge of the "Guru of Golgotha," the Son of the living God who in His great love, gave His life as a sacrifice for the salvation of the whole world.

As in similar distribution campaigns, God alone knows how many souls were touched by His enlightening Word, but we know that vast numbers of the followers of Jain have now been introduced for the first time to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is with abiding faith in the power of the Word of God that The Bible Society of India with your prayers and support shares the Gospel of Christ with those who have not heard.

—American Bible Society Record



The top of the statute with scaffold for cleaning.

# NEWS OF THE CHURCHES

## Worship services beginning in Tucson

Rev. L. C. Dynneson announces that he is conducting regular Sunday worship services in Tucson, Arizona, at a rented Methodist Church at 7th Street and Veterans' Avenue. This is in the south part of Tucson. The service begins at 11 o'clock.

On Thursday evening each week a prayer meeting is held, after an afternoon of visitation by Pastor and Mrs. Dynneson of Nogales, Arizona.

All persons travelling through Tucson or wintering there are encouraged to visit these AFLC services, which it is hoped, will be the beginning of an AFLC congregation there.

## Bagley-Fosston host conference

Grace Lutheran Church, Bagley, Minn., and Calvary Lutheran Church, Fosston, Minn., participated in an area Christian Life and Growth Week, Oct. 25-29, together with Elim Lutheran Church (LB), in Clearbrook, Minn.

Guest speaker at Grace was Rev. Carl A. Jensen and at Calvary, Rev. Arnold M. Stone. Both men are on the staff of the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement.

Each weekday morning there was a Bible study and fellowship luncheon in the three churches.

Rev. Mauritz Lundeen is the pastor at Grace Lutheran and Rev. Jay Eberth is at Calvary Lutheran.

## Personalities

The new address of **Chaplain Timothy K. Skramstad**, who wrote the article in this issue, "Serving God in the Military," is 8115 A Lawson Loop, Ft. George G. Meade, Md. 20755.

**Rev. John Rieth**, Williston, N. Dak., was the guest speaker at meetings at Beaver Creek Lutheran Church, rural Ray, N. Dak., Oct. 18-21. Rev. Gilbert Schroeder is the pastor at Beaver Creek.

At special meetings in the Roseau, Minn., parish, Oct. 25-29, **Rev. Herbert L. Franz**, Cloquet, Minn., was guest missionary. Rev. Larry V. Severson is the local pastor.

## from here and there

**Astoria, Ore.**—The annual Fall Festival at Bethany Lutheran Church was held on Sunday, Oct. 18, sponsored by the ladies of the church. A time of blessing and good fellowship was experienced.

**Minnewaukan, N. Dak.**—Men from the parish took part in the District Men's Retreat at Red Willow Bible Camp, Binford, Oct. 30-31.

**Drummond, Wis.**—The parish newsletter for the Drummond-Faith-Moland Lutheran parish carries this theme: "... preaching peace by Jesus Christ [He is Lord of all]" (Acts 10:36).

## Preaching missions

**Newfolden, Minn.**

Westaker Lutheran Church

Pastoral vacancy

Nov. 21-24

Missionary Connely J. Dyrud, speaker

## In Memoriam

Key: The name of the town is the address of the deceased. Following that is listed the name of the deceased, age, date of death and the church in which he or she held membership.

**MINNESOTA**

Roseau

**Mr. Hans Kveum**, 92, Sept. 14, Spruce

## With our evangelist-youth worker

As the year draws to a close, Pastor Kenneth Pentti, our evangelist, announces these two appointments. Pray for him as he breaks the Bread of Life in these congregations.

**Fergus Falls, Minn.**

Calvary Lutheran Church

Nov. 22-24

Pastoral vacancy

**Bismarck, N. Dak.**

Calvary Lutheran Church

Nov. 29-Dec. 3

Rev. Einar Unseth, pastor

## BE THANKFUL

It is obligatory that we should be thankful. You have received so much that you cannot be otherwise. The peace of God can never dwell in an unthankful heart.

—Doran's Ministers Manual

## ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

## BUDGET RECEIPTS

Feb. 1 - Sept. 30

Fund	Total Budget	Total Received to Date	% of Total (Ideal 58%)
General Fund	\$135,980.00	\$ 66,529.10	49%
Schools			
AFLTS	82,834.00	34,064.46	41
AFLBS	143,312.00	63,145.66	44
Home Missions	197,200.00	89,482.58	45
World Missions	218,880.00	72,132.13	33
Praise Fund	31,000.00	14,909.50	48
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$809,206.00</b>	<b>\$340,263.43</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>1980-81</b>	<b>\$582,237.00</b>	<b>\$244,437.40</b>	<b>42%</b>



## *To Thee, O Lord, Our Hearts We Raise*

*To Thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise  
In hymns of adoration,  
To Thee bring sacrifice of praise,  
With shouts of exultation.  
Bright robes of gold the fields adorn,  
The hills with joy are ringing,  
The valleys stand so thick with corn  
That even they are singing.*

*And now, on this our festal day,  
Thy bounteous hand confessing,  
Before Thee thankfully we lay  
The first-fruits of Thy blessing.  
By Thee the souls of men are fed  
With gifts of grace supernal;  
Thou who dost give us earthly bread,  
Give us the Bread eternal.*

*We bear the toil of the day,  
And often the toil seems dreary;  
But labour ends with sunset ray,  
And rest comes for the weary.  
May we, the angel-reaping o'er,  
Stand at the last accepted,  
Christ's golden sheaves, for ever more  
To garners bright elected.*

*O blessed is that land of God  
Where saints abide forever,  
Where golden fields spread far and broad,  
Where flows the crystal river.  
The strains of all its holy throng  
With our today are blending;  
Thrice blessed is that harvest song  
Which never hath an ending.*

*William Charterton Dix  
(From The Church Hymnary)*

# Swedish government prints Bible translation

Stockholm, Sweden (LC) — "Government publications No SOU 1981:56" is also the Bible.

Sweden, believed to be the only country in the world which authorizes and pays for a Bible translation, is currently printing 500,000 copies of the new translation of the New Testament in Swedish. More than 80 persons have worked on the translation for the last eight years.

The translations will cost the government \$1.25 million, and will be sold for about \$12.00 per copy.

"The Swedes are being properly informed about the new translation. Churches and Christian organizations have been offered to sell (it) to their members and in many churches readings from proofs made available to the leaders have been used to acquaint people with the new translation," according to a Church of Sweden spokesman.

"Most churches will highlight the arrival of the new translation with a special service. One church in Stockholm will hand out the ordered copies to members of the congregation from the altar, and each member will then

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR  
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Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Second-class postage  
paid at Minneapolis, Minn.

read one or more verses from the new translation," the spokesman said.

The serial number of the New Testament-government document, No SOU 1981:56, means that it is the 56th government document printed this year. Members of Parliament and government officials will receive the first

4,000 copies, which are the only ones to be printed with government document numbers. Earlier translations of the Bible were authorized by Swedish King Gustavus Vasa in 1526, Karl XIII in 1709 and Gustav V in 1917. The Bibles are expected to be distributed this fall.

## Thy Kingdom Come GIVE HOW MUCH?

"This poor widow cast in more than they all: for all these did of their superfluity cast in unto the gifts: but she of her want did cast in all the living that she had" (Luke 21:3, 4).

The temple was God's house in the old covenant, and is a picture of God's people in the new covenant. The temple treasury and the gifts that were put in are also a picture of what we ought to give to God. By this offering we shall build God's house, and be God's dwelling in the spirit. It was surely for the purpose of teaching His disciples the right generosity that He bade them stop at the temple treasury and watch those who gave of their superfluity, and

her who gave all, even what she needed to support her life.

Well, how much shall a Christian give God in the offering?

He shall give all he owns and all he is. But does this mean that a Christian may not own anything? Must he literally always do as this widow did? Give away, too, what he needs for the support of body and life? No, that is not what God teaches. But he must plan as a servant, not as an owner. He must manage and use everything that he owns as one who is responsible to God, to the advantage of himself and others, and to the glory of the Lord.

He who is manager is not owner.

A Christian is appointed to be a steward of the manifold grace of God, and he must give account of all that he receives from God. He must answer for both natural talents and gifts of grace, earthly property, and his position in society. Happy is he who gives the Lord all.

How can I, Lord, withhold life's brightest hour

From Thee; or gathered gold, or any power?

Why should I keep one precious thing from Thee,

When Thou hast given Thine own dear self for me?

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