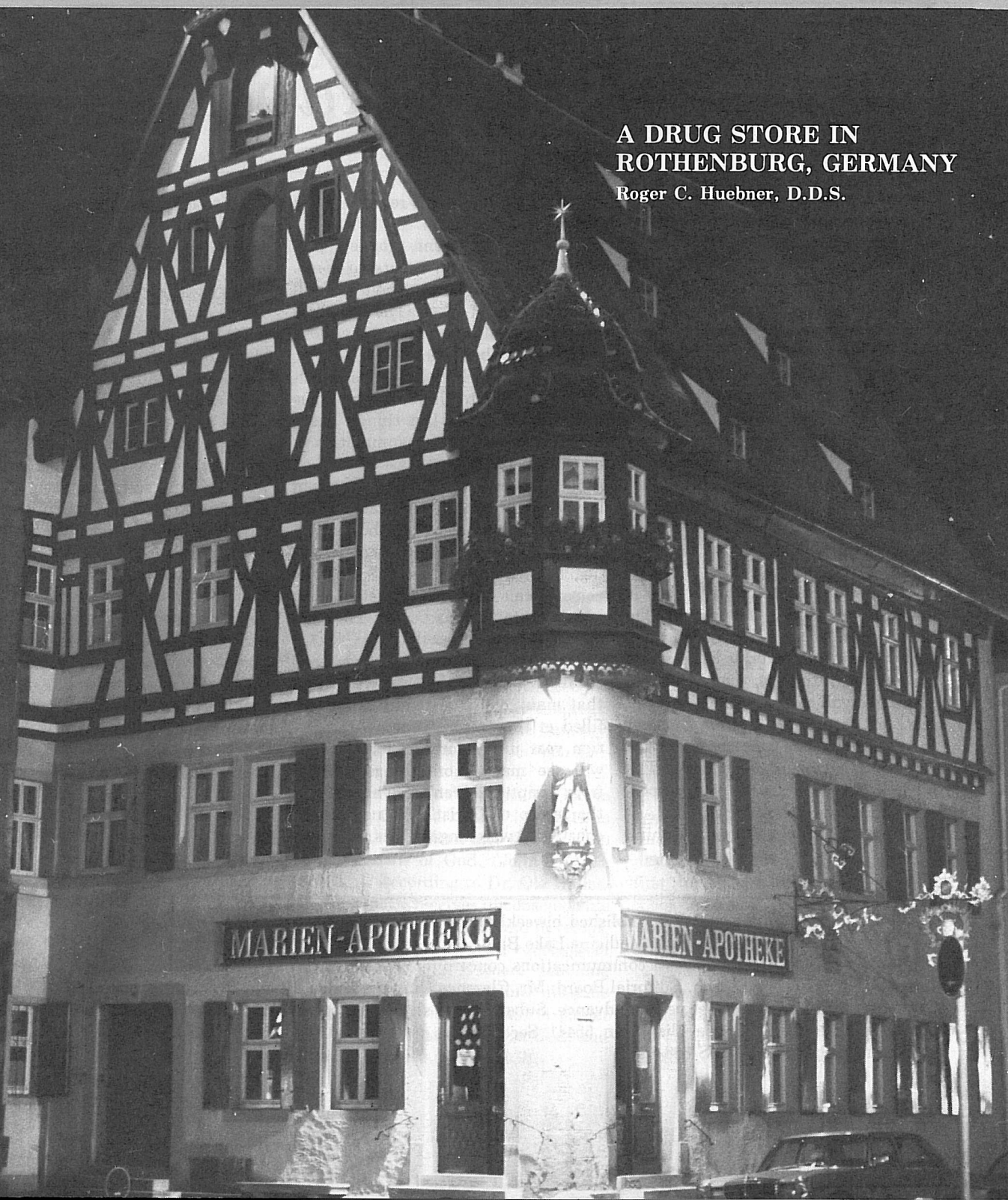


November 27, 1979

The Lutheran Ambassador

A DRUG STORE IN
ROTHENBURG, GERMANY

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.



MEDITATION MOMENTS

Advent 1979

Matthew 24:37-44

A circle of an Advent Wreath is without beginning and ending. It stands for the eternity of our Lord. A purple ribbon stands for repentance. The evergreens stand for life and growth. The wreath emphasizes the constant love of God for all of us. The candles are a symbol of Jesus who is "the Light of the world." In our congregation I will gather all the young children around the Advent Wreath during the worship services for the lighting of each candle and a sharing of Scripture. Use an Advent Wreath or Advent Calendar in your home, reading the Bible and praying as the candles are lit.

The Advent season is a special time for believers. Each Scripture that is used will stress important events in the life of Jesus. There will be the Old and New Testaments texts. It is a time to prepare for Christmas, the birthday of Jesus. We will celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus. Pray that each one of us might not get so concerned with the gifts and eating of Christmas. The birth of our Savior is far more important than these other things. The Advent season is a time when we think

especially of our Lord's return, in His timing.

The Old Testament prophets predicted the beautiful events to come. They stressed to their people the will and purpose of God. The prophets looked to the future when the various events would be fulfilled.

The text from Matthew stresses Advent as a time to think deeply of the last times and the last things. Jesus taught much on the consummation of all things. The disciples asked, "When shall these things be?" Jesus' words in the last verse sum up the teachings by saying, "So you also must be ready." Are you ready for Jesus' second coming, His triumphant return? The key verse of this text is, "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come (NIV)."

The great tribulation of which Jesus speaks is a sign of the end. We believe that many of the signs are being fulfilled at the present time. With election year just before us, I believe we will see many more things fulfilled from Scripture. Aren't you anxious for the return of Christ? We need to be constantly watching for His return.

There is no theme that can console our hearts like that of Christ's return. All earth's sorrows are to vanish when Jesus comes. Yet it is sad to think that multitudes are not ready to meet Jesus.

Titus 2:13 is a beautiful promise, "Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and Saviour Jesus Christ." What a day Christ's return will be! He may come when we are immersed in our ordinary business. He may come on a day of weakness and suffering, then what relief will be ours from the burden. This day, let us live as though today would be the day our Lord comes. Let us be watchful and active. Let us be awake to our responsibilities. Let us be looking, longing and praying for His returning. Both death and the return of Christ are uncertain, so we must watch. We need to be living a life of sanctification. Let us serve God to the best of our ability and capacity.

Let us be ready for the Second Advent of Christ, whether soon or delayed.

Leslie Galland

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the CHRIST of CHRISTMAS

by Mrs. Jennie M. Helland, McVille,
N. Dak.

Everybody takes time for Christmas, no matter how busy they are, but how many take time for the Christ of Christmas?

When most people think of Christmas, they think of the birth of the infant Jesus and that is as much as Christmas means to them spiritually, even though everyone should know that the infant Jesus cannot be separated from the Son of God who died on the cross to save the world from its sins and who rose again on Easter morning. When we celebrate the birth of Christ we should realize who He really was—not just a helpless little Babe, but God Himself.

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In the Holy Word of God we read the first four words of Genesis thus: “In the beginning, God” and in the Gospel of John, we read in the first chapter, the first verse: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Turning back to Genesis 1:2b, we read that the Spirit of God was also there and moved upon the face of the waters. All this was in the beginning, and beginning here means before time was, and there were three present: God, the Word, and the Spirit. So the Holy Trinity was there from the beginning, even before the heavens and the earth were created.

This reminds me of something which I read a short time ago. An Orthodox Jew said to a Christian, “We believe in one God, but you believe in three.” The Christian answered, “We believe in three persons in one Godhead.” The Jew asked, “How can three be one?” The Christian answered, “Let us take you, for example. You are the son of your parents, the husband of your wife, the father of your child. You are a son, husband, and father, each different; still you are one man.” I think that is a pretty good explanation of the Trinity.

But in the beginning, where was Christ? He was the Word, for we read in John 1:14a, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.” In John 1:2 we read, “The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made.” So Christ was the creator of heaven and earth, for God spoke and the Word was Christ.

In Genesis 3:15, He was promised as the Savior of mankind, after Adam and Eve had fallen into the sin of disobedience through the temptation of the serpent, who was more subtle than any beast of the field. I wonder just what the serpent was like at that time, for he was compared to the cattle and beasts; in Genesis 3:14, we read that he was cursed above all cattle and beasts of the field: “upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life,” was the curse that was put upon him.

The promise of a Savior was not only given to Adam and Eve, but it runs as a red thread through the whole Old Testament. The promise was given to

Abraham that in his seed should all the nations of the earth be blessed. We are again reminded of Christ when Abraham was told by God to sacrifice his son Isaac, a sacrifice Abraham was willing to make because he had faith in God who had given the promise. But when God saw his faith, he had him sacrifice a ram which was again a symbol of Christ. The Lord visited him again at different times.

He also showed himself to Moses in the burning bush and followed Israel when the people fled from Egypt through the wilderness, in a pillar of cloud through the day and a pillar of fire through the night.

He was the rock that we read about in Numbers 20:8. When the Israelites did not have water to drink, God told Moses to speak to the rock, and water would gush forth to quench their thirst. Instead of speaking to the rock as God had told him, he struck it with his rod twice and water gushed forth. It displeased the Lord that he struck the rock instead of speaking to it. The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Because ye believed Me not, to sanctify Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.” We read in 1 Corinthians 10:4, that “they drank of the spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.” We are reminded of this Rock in many songs: “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me,” “O Safe to the Rock That Is Higher Than I,” and many others.

In the wilderness, we again read about serpents, this time fiery serpents which the Lord sent among the people

because of their sins. They bit the people and many people died (Numbers 21:6). The people repented and the Lord told Moses to make a fiery serpent and put it on a pole, and everyone who was bitten, when he looked upon it, should live (21:8). This was again a symbol of Christ and He refers to it in John 3:14-15: "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Many of the holy men of God prophesied about Him. Isaiah says, in chapter 7, verse 14, that "The Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel." He devotes the whole of Chapter 53 to foretell about Christ's life, suffering and death in detail. In Micah 5:2, we are given the place of His birth: "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." This means the days of eternity. There are many other wonderful prophecies about Him, but we cannot give them all. I have mentioned these to show what an important place He had all through the Old Testament. In the fullness of time all this took place. Christ was born of a virgin in a miraculous way when Cyrenius was governor of Syria and Herod was king of Judea.

He was born in Bethlehem, the city of David, as foretold by the prophets, for Christ was of the seed of David, humanly speaking, and David had been given the promise that of his kingdom there would be no end. Which, of course, means the spiritual Kingdom of Christ.

His birth was proclaimed by angels to the poor shepherds in the field who were told that they would find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. Wise men from the East came to worship Him.

We read about how angels came to Him at various times, for instance, when He was tempted in the wilderness, Matthew 4:11; in Gethsemane, Luke 22:43; at the tomb, John 20:12. God protected Him, even as a Babe, when He told Joseph in a dream to flee

the WORD was made flesh



to Egypt with the young Babe and His mother and to stay there until all danger to His life was past.

We do not know much about Him as a child, except when He went up to Jerusalem with His parents who lost Him and found Him again in the temple where He was asking and answering questions of the learned doctors. He knew then, at the age of twelve, that God was His Father, and that He had come into the world to do His Father's will. "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man" (Luke 2:52).

He stayed with Mary and Joseph and was obedient to them until He was 30 years of age. Then He came to John at the Jordan to be baptized of him, for He knew that He was the sin-bearer of the world. "And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased'" (Matthew 3:16-17).

He went to the wilderness to be tempted by the devil and won the victory over him. Then He returned and for three years He proclaimed that the Kingdom of God was at hand among

men. He was full of compassion. He healed the sick, opened the eyes of the blind, made the lame to walk, and even raised some from the dead, but, above all, He preached that He was the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and that none could come to the Father except through Him. At last He gave His life on the cross to redeem us all from our sins. He died and was buried, but rose again and ascended into heaven where He is our living Savior, and will come again some day to bring home His own, and to judge the quick and the dead.

I am sure that most, if not all of you, know this about Jesus Christ, but it is good to be reminded of it again and again because, as the saying goes, "repetition is the secret of retention." And I pray that we all may be more conscious of what a wonderful Savior was born on Christmas Day. May ours be a living faith so we can love and serve Him all the days of our lives, with the blessed assurance that He is also our Savior, that we are saved by grace. It is a free gift, "not of works, lest any man should boast."

So when we read the Christmas story, may we give all honor and praise to our Lord of lords and King of kings, who was, is, and ever will be, world without end. Amen.

"... but, above all, He preached that He was the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and that none could come to the Father except through Him."

GOD'S BEST

by Pastor Allen Monson,
Tioga, N. Dak.

Most parents who love their children want the best for them. The story of parental love is as old as parenthood. However, not all parents agree on just what the best is. To some, the best may be to provide them with fine clothes, many toys, a formal education, a new car and, finally, a big inheritance. If you were to ask a hundred different parents what they consider to be the very best they could give their children, you would receive a hundred different answers. But what is God's Best for the children? Jesus said, "But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, 'Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these'" (Mark 10:14). This is God's Best for the children. Jesus also said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world" (Matthew 28:19, 20).

Jesus Christ commanded two important things in Matthew 28:19, 20: Baptize and Teach. When parents bring their children to God in Baptism they are asked two questions. First, "Do you parents desire that this child shall be baptized into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit?" This is the first command of Matthew 28:19, 20. Through Baptism the child is grafted into a living connection with Christ and receives forgiveness of sins, sonship and the new life through the Holy Spirit.

The second question asked is, "Do you promise to instruct this child in the Word of God, and to nurture it in the chastening and admonition of the Lord?" This is the second command of Matthew 28:19, 20, to teach "them to observe all that I have commanded you." This is God's Best for the children and is the great privilege and responsibility of each parent.

The second question and command is so important for the children. Dr. Martin Luther says that to withhold this knowledge and salvation from our children is to earn damnation for ourselves by neglecting the Christian training of our children. While making every effort to give the best in life to our children, we tend to overlook God's Best as being insignificant. Just think of the kind of education we desire for our children. In our public schools we want qualified teachers. We want a full range of subjects with which to equip our children for life. In high school we want a curriculum of studies that will be needed for future education either in a university or vocation school. Now, how does our desire for spiritual training stack up by comparison? It may be one hour a week in Sunday School, and even then, how often does a parent show direct personal interest in what his child is learning; or how often does a parent express his wishes or desires concerning his child's greatest need—to know and to love his Savior?

The United Nations has proclaimed this to be "The Year of the Child." Every year, as fathers and mothers, we have a great responsibility before God with regard to the children He has given to us. It is to train them for this life and the life to come. It is to teach them *now* to walk with Jesus, so that they may live with Him forever. Parents have not fulfilled their whole duty in having their child baptized into Christ. The child is indeed in a covenant relationship with Christ, but let us be care-

"Through Baptism the child is grafted into a living connection with Christ and receives forgiveness of sins, sonship and the new life through the Holy Spirit."



Jesus commanded us to teach the baptized

ful to bear in mind and keep before us that we claim for the child only the birth of a new life. It has been born of water and the Spirit. A birth is but a feeble beginning of life. The result of a birth is not a full-grown person, but a weak and helpless baby. The baby needs the most tender, watchful and intelligent care.

So it is in the kingdom of God. The divine life is there, but it is life in its first beginnings. The seeds and germs of the new life are present. This new spiritual life also needs tender, watchful and intelligent care. While the seed of the new life is there, we must not forget that roots of sin are also still there. The guilt and dominion of sin are taken away in Baptism, but not the

“In teaching the Catechism at home, parents will have an opportunity to speak and explain what sin is, what faith is, what prayer is, and what the sacraments are.”

root of sin. Unfortunately for the child, these roots of sin will grow of their own accord, like weeds in our gardens. They need no care. Not so with the seeds of the new life. They, like the most precious plants of the garden must be watered and guarded continually. Proverbs 29:15 says, “A child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.”

The Christian parent, therefore, must begin very early to teach the child. Form the seeds will grow the beautiful plant of child-trust and love towards God. In order that this may be realized, it is necessary that there be the proper surroundings. In the words of Luthardt, “Religion must first approach the child in the form of life, and afterward in the form of instruction. Let it be the atmosphere by which the child is surrounded, the air which it breathes. The whole spirit of the home, its order, its practice—that world in which the child finds himself as soon as he knows himself—this it is which must make religion appear to him a thing natural and self-evident.” Let the child learn, with the first dawns of self-consciousness, that Jesus is

known and loved and honored in the home.

The child must also be instructed. By the grace of God, every parent may begin very early to teach his children. Let them learn to pray as soon as they can speak. Pray with your children. Children learn how to pray by listening to their parents pray. Also pray *for* your children.

Children must be taught the truth of God’s Word. They also need to be sanctified “through the truth.” Children need the “milk of the Word.” Begin by showing children Bible pictures. Then connect the pictures with the stories of the Bible. It will be easy for them to connect the teachings of the Bible with these pictures and stories. This will help them to begin to distinguish right from wrong, to know and hate sin, and to be drawn ever nearer to Jesus. As they grow older and are able to study, to think and to comprehend, they should begin to use the Catechism. Here the more important teachings of the Bible are summarized for us. Most parents flatter themselves by thinking that if they have sent their children to

confirmation class, they have performed their whole duty. Most parents do not realize that Martin Luther wrote his Small Catechism for the family to use. The pastor is to *help* the parents, and not to do it all for them. In teaching the Catechism at home, parents will have an opportunity to speak of and explain what sin is, what faith is, what prayer is, and what the Sacraments are.

The Apostles frequently spoke of the “Church that is in the house.” By this they mean a home where Jesus Christ permeates the whole atmosphere, where the Word of God dwells richly, where prayer is spoken to the heavenly Father, a home where Jesus is a daily, well-known guest, where the children baptized into Christ are nourished with the milk of the Word, so that they may grow up into Christ and receive God’s Best. In such a home the Church is in the house. With gross understatement, this is not easy, as any parent knows! Nobody has said it would be easy! But it can never be done at all, in a manner pleasing to God, if we do not first desire for our children the very Best, who is Jesus Christ!

JESUS IS COMING

Jesus is coming, coming *soon*,
Coming in glory and power,
Coming to gather home His own,
Are you awaiting that hour?
He comes to meet and claim His bride
With Him to be and there abide;
Are you prepared to go with Him?

Jesus is coming, coming *sure*,
Coming for those who are waiting,
And who by grace in faith endure,
Looking with joy for this meeting,
And those who died in Christ shall rise,
Meet their Redeemer in the skies
With all who look for His coming.

Jesus is coming, are you glad,
Knowing that He will accept you?

Or does this message make you sad,
Knowing that He must reject you?
If He should come for you today,
Would you be called a cast-a-way,
Having rejected salvation?

Jesus is coming! O, repent!
Open your heart and believe Him!
Now He is here on mercy bent;
Open your heart to receive Him!
He is your Savior and your Friend
Serve Him in love to the end,
Looking in faith for His Coming!

(May be sung to “Built on the Rock,
the Church Doth Stand”)

C. K. Solberg



Happy Acres



UP IN THE TREE HOUSE

Mark and Ann scrambled up the old tree house they had built from lumber scraps Dad had given them. Once inside the tree house, Mark quickly spied the pile of comic books in one corner. "Say," he exclaimed, "comic books! Where did you get them? You know Mom says we aren't to buy any unless she—"

"Oh, I know," countered Ann, smugly. "I didn't buy them at all. The Schramm twins gave them all to me."

For the next minutes, neither Ann nor Mark said much as they busily scanned the brightly colored covers of the books. "Boy, talk about exciting," said Mark after he had settled down with one, "why here it tells how these crooks stole a car that was locked—it has pictures to show just how they got inside that locked car. Why, I could get into a locked car that way!"

"But you wouldn't want to steal a car!"

"Of course not."

"Lookit here, Mark. Here's this girl. She's wearing—well, it looks like some sort of bathing suit. But she's riding a horse, mind you. She is supposed to be way out in some wild mountains. Kind of silly, don't you think, a girl like that, out trailing outlaws?"

"Yes, silly," agreed Mark. Then he riffled through the pile to see what else there might be of special interest. For about an hour, brother and sister read quietly until they heard Mom calling them to the noon meal.

That evening as the Johnsons gathered in the living room, Mark and Ann were very surprised to see a collection of their comic books lying on the end table besides Dad's chair. Ann put her hand to her mouth. She had not intended that the comic books should

ever get into the house. Those comic books were certainly not the kind that Mom and Dad would ever buy for them!

No one said anything about the comic books. But Mark and Ann blushed as each settled down with a Bible. Twice, Ann had to be prompted on which verse it was her turn to read because all she could think of was, "How did those comics get in here? What will Mom and Dad say now?"

When the family had finished with the Bible chapter, Dad said, without looking at anyone in particular, "Melissa found these comic books up in the tree house. She brought them to Mother and wanted Mother to read them to her. Mother decided we'd wait with the comic book reading until our family hour and see if there were others in the family who would like to have her read to them from these comic books."

Dad handed the comic books to Mom. Slowly, Mom held each comic book up for all to see.

Silence filled the room as Dad and Mom waited for one of the children to select a comic book for Mom to read. Ann and Mark blushed furiously.

"Well," said Mom, at last, "I guess nobody here wants me to read these comic books. And that suits me fine because I wouldn't enjoy any of these myself."

"No," observed Dad, "somehow comic books just don't seem to fit for family reading." Then he looked at Mark and Ann kindly. "There are all sorts of comic books. Some we might say are perfectly harmless. Some tell excellent stories. But we know, too, that hundreds of them are poor reading for children. The police records show that many boys and girls have gotten

into trouble because they tried to do what they had read about how to do in comic books. There are many children in reform schools today, and grownups serving prison terms, because they learned how to do wrong from comic books.

"Now, I can readily see why you might like a comic book. All of us like to look at pictures. For that reason there are many picture magazines published. It is easier to look at pictures than to read. The pictures in comic books are like the pictures in the Funny Papers, but it is hard on our eyes to look at that kind of poorly printed and badly colored pictures, and to read the kind of print that goes with such pictures.

"I know that some of the best stories in our literature have been put in comic books, but these picture stories in comic books can never tell the story as well as they were told the way the master writer first wrote them.

"Some of these comic books have stories about stealing and murdering. Our Bible has stories in it about stealing and murdering, too. But when you read about killing and stealing in the Bible, it is always made plain to you that killing and stealing are sins, and not something you'd want to try yourself.

"Mother and I want you children to enjoy reading, and we are glad that you like to read. But we want you to enjoy the kind of books you are not ashamed to read right in our living room with the rest of us."

Then Dad opened his Bible to Philippians 4:8 and he read to his family:

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there

FELLOWSHIP CORNER

A LETTER SHARED

(A letter from Arne Knudson, Oslo, Norway, to the Lars Stalsbroten, translated from Norwegian by Pastor Stalsbroten.)

A hearty thanks for letter received October 10. It was waiting for us when we came back from a trip to Sarpsborg and Tønsberg where we had meetings for the Gideons.

While in Sarpsborg we visited Lagertha Olsen, who is staying at a very good old people's home by the name of Al-ders Hvile (Old Age Rest). It is just a little distance from the Lutheran Free Church (Lutheran Brethren) where Lagertha has so many friends. We told her about our contact with you and also about the last news about Oliver (Stalsbroten). She was thrilled to hear this and asked us to greet you so much. It was amazing how mentally alert she was yet and we had a real blessed fellowship together. She lost her husband a few years ago. He was an elder in the church but had resigned because of his old age. One Sunday morning as he was asked to open the service with Scripture reading and prayer, he, all of a sudden, dropped on the floor. He was rushed to the hospital. As we had our devotion with Lagertha I read the 23rd Psalm. Then she told us that the last time she visited with her husband at the hospital he asked her to read the

23rd Psalm, and while she read he suddenly passed away to dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

We are glad that the biography of Dr. Ole Hallesby finally arrived. We asked Lutherstiftelsens Bokhandel (a publishing company) in Oslo to send you a copy but they evidently sent it by regular book rate and then it takes so long.

The book about Sven Foldøen that you have just read is a very fascinating life story. It is marvellous what God can do through a lay preacher who in the power of the Holy Spirit preaches the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ. Literally thousands were saved. It was a striking confirmation of what you wrote about in *The Lutheran Ambassador* ("When the Holy Spirit Moves"). Thank you for that article.

Sven Foldøen and my wife were good friends. Some days before he died he called my wife and said, "Will you please pray for me that I may pray for a sinner who wants to get saved before I die." She answered, "Yes, Sven, I certainly will do that." A few days later the telephone rang again. It was Sven. He said, "Your prayer has been answered. A man came from far off, walking. He said he wanted to see me. He said, 'Sven, Will you pray for me; I am a great sinner I need to get saved.' I

prayed with him and pointed him to the Lamb of God. He believed, got saved, and went home rejoicing." A short time after that Sven was out in his fishing boat and while he was fishing the Lord came and took him home.

Glorious homegoing!

It was *good* the day that Jesus found me;

Better for each day he keeps me;

Best the day he takes me home.

Christ-centered Christmas

You of the faith, who know Christ and can testify that every word I have spoken concerning His mercy is the eternal truth, must help prepare others to meet Jesus. God give us a radiant, Christ-centered Christmas this year! What is an earthly Christmas gift you can offer in comparison with Christ's blood-sealed redemption, which you can bring to others? Resolve that, knowing the grace of the Lord Jesus, you will gladly testify to others of the Christ-child and His blessed coming."

Walter A. Maier, Sr.

HAPPY ACRES . . .

be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Mom nodded her head, "Yes, let's think of that verse when we choose our books for reading. The kind of books we read help make us the kind of men and women we become."

Later, as they prayed and sang together in the candlelight, Ann felt better. She knew that in the morning, she would clean house up in the tree house, and the rest of those comic books would be tossed into the trash burner.

FAMILY DISCUSSION

1. Let each one in the family who is old enough to read tell about his or her favorite book. Why is it a favorite book?
2. What makes a good book?
3. Think of some of the books that may have been written long ago, and have been enjoyed by young and old people ever since. (Read such books together, as a family, and you can develop a reading taste not tempted by comic books.)

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MEMORY VERSE

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Matt. 5:8

editorials

WASTE OF EXPERTISE

It has occurred to us lately, and perhaps some time ago to some of you, that the Association is wasteful of accumulated experience in regard to at least one area of the common work. Specifically we refer to membership on the Schools Corporation, although the same potential exists for the Missions Corporation.

The situation is this. A person may have served on the Board of Trustees of our Schools. He may be unceremoniously dropped from the Board in mid-term if he is not re-elected to the Corporation when his term expires there. This has happened. Or a person who has completed a term or two on the Board, investing much personal time and effort, may subsequently be dropped from Corporation membership.

The point is this. Wouldn't it be good if every person who has held membership on the Board of Trustees could be assured of life membership on the Corporation, save for gross misconduct or incapacity? It seems to us that it is a waste of expertise and interest when persons who have served on the Board of Trustees can't continue to be somewhat closely involved in the operation of the Schools through membership on the Corporation. If anyone is on the Corporation it ought to be these people.

There are at least two cases where men who have served as *chairmen* of the Board, one for considerable time, are not on the Corporation now. It hardly seems right or fair.

There isn't any conspiracy in this. The Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the Schools Corporation don't provide for what we have set forth here. It just seems a shame that no provision is made for continuing membership on the Corporation for people we have honored by asking them to serve on the Board of Trustees.

HAUNTS OF WRETCHEDNESS

In one of our *Concordia* hymns we sing:

"In haunts of wretchedness and need,
On shadowed thresholds dark with fears,
From paths where hide the lures of greed,
We catch the vision of Thy tears."

The term "haunts of wretchedness and need" takes on new meaning and intensity this year as we are aware of the Vietnamese boat people and the refugees in Cambodia.

Few of us have the stomach to look for long at the pictures we see of starving, emaciated people. If starvation comes because of natural calamity such as drouth, that is one thing. When it comes through the devilish design of men, it is all the more tragic.

There is a sense of frustration. The victims are far away from us. It is easy enough to shrug off responsibility. What does our aid amount to? Can we be assured it will get to those who need it and that it won't be siphoned off on the black market? Why are we so helpless before this crushing need? Why can't the world through the United Nations say, "Enough!" and bring order and decency to trouble-plagued Southeast Asia? A few years ago guilt was belatedly being laid at the doorstep of those thought responsible for doing nothing, or little, when millions of Jews lost their lives in the Holocaust of Nazi Germany. Today the world is aware of another unbelievable cruelty and what will be done about it?

We are glad that at least one AFLC congregation has made some inquiry about helping a refugee family. May there be more interest in this possibility. And otherwise, remember to share in world relief through the World Relief Commission or some other agency in which you have assured confidence.

There are many worthy causes which we may give some encouragement and assistance to in this Christmas season. It is a plea we've made often in the past and are glad to make again this year: share with the needy and unfortunate at this Christmas-time. Don't think only of yourself and your loved ones. Include in your concern those in real need of a friend's help, here in our country and around the world. Doing something for others, out of Christ's love and compassion, will warm their hearts, to say nothing of yours.

Jesus would want you to do that.



It's coming

—A fascinating collection of Christmas remembrances from a childhood in China—A mother in Norway prayed, and her son was delivered from a storm at sea on Christmas Eve—The transformation which took place in a Jewish peddler's heart on a Christmas Eve in Germany—What a young pas-

tor learned from a child's homemade snowflakes—The message of Christ's birth by one of our pastors—Poems for the season—Beautiful pictures—These and much more, in our 1979 special Christmas issue of 24 pages, due on December 11. Watch for it.

In Memoriam

MINNESOTA

Middle River

Brady Green, 8, Sept. 21, Emmanuel Newfolden

Raymond Chapman, 63, Oct. 10, Westaker



The three graduates and Mrs. Thompson.

Three graduate in Grand Forks ceremony

"Let the children come to Me, do not hinder them; for to such belong the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14).

The WMF of Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, N. Dak., held its first Cradle Roll party on Oct. 21. Our new members this year are Raymond Larson, who was unable to attend, and Jennifer Miller. We had three little children who graduated into the nursery class in Sunday School. They are Brandon Kleinwert, Johnny Miller and Amy Greene.

Lyndell Johnson and Bonnie Bailey assisted in the preparations.

We are eagerly awaiting our 1980 Cradle Roll party.

LaRae Thompson
Cradle Roll Secretary

WOMEN for CHRIST



Bottom row, left to right, Kristi Johnson, Brandon Kleinwert, Amy Greene and Johnny Miller; middle row, Kristin Kleinwert, Nikole Jenzen, Karina Greene, Bobby Thompson,

Kristopher Koranda, Connie Kleinwert and LaRae Thompson; and, top row, Bonnie Bailey, Hazel Carlson, Eileen Koranda, Kathryn Greene, Pat Janzen, Lyndell Johnson, JoAnn and Jennifer Miller.

Portland church hosted WMF rally

The Eastern North Dakota District Women's Missionary Federation held its fall rally at Valley Lutheran Church, Portland, On Tues., Oct. 16, with 138 registered. The theme of the rally was "Chosen to Bear Fruit" (John 15:16, 17).

The morning session opened with a hymn sing led by Mrs. Henry Hanson, accompanied by Mrs. Bernard Nelson at the organ. The theme song, "Hail to the Brightness," was sung several times during the day. Mrs. Hanson, local president, welcomed the group with Psalm 100 and Mrs. Paul Bjornson, district president, responded. Mrs. John Presteng presented a vocal solo, "The Cross of Calvary."

The morning Bible study leader was Pastor Herbert Franz, Cloquet, Minn., chairman of the Board of Home Missions. He stressed that we have been chosen by God and that we, too, must

make a choice whether we will accept Christ or reject Him. And it is through the Holy Spirit that we can come to the Lord. Then, God has chosen the poor and humble to bear fruit. When we rest in Jesus the fruit will be unto God. He also emphasized the necessity of living a disciplined life, abiding in the Word and being completely yielded to Jesus.

Mrs. Presteng favored us with a violin solo, "I Give Thee Back the Life I Owe," and this was followed by the business meeting. It was decided to give our offering to Home Missions (two thirds) and My Missionary for a Day. Mrs. Wesley Langaas was elected vice-president, Mrs. Vernon Russum, secretary, and Mrs. Dale Finstrom, Cradle Roll secretary. Pastor Franz sang "Under His Wings" and Mrs. Rodney Stueland, wife of the host pastor, closed the session with prayer.

A singspiration opened the afternoon

and devotions were given by Mrs. Agnes Nelson. Pastor Franz sang "Trusting Jesus" and then gave his message on "A Woman's Role in Home Missions." He showed that we must possess the fruits of the Spirit in order to serve Jesus. We must be a blessing in our homes and churches, consecrated to the task God has given us to do and led by the Spirit. After the message a trio composed of Mrs. Bernard Nelson, Mrs. Thomas Amb and Mrs. Hanson sang "Do What You Can Where You Are."

Mrs. Donald Welker read the report of the resolutions committee. The offering was \$817.05. Pastor Stuleand installed the new officers and closed the rally with prayer and the benediction. Lunch was served before we left for our homes.

Mrs. Vernon Russum
Secretary

Northern Minnesota rallies held at Roseau and Maple Bay

Roseau

"The Greatest of These is Love" was the theme for the Women's Missionary Federation fall rally of the Northern Minnesota District which met at Roseau Lutheran Church on October 9.

Mrs. Ingvald Rokke presided over the day's program. Forenoon Bible study leader was Mrs. Gustav Nordvall, who spoke on the 13th chapter of I Corinthians. Appropriate songs of God's love were sung in the singspiration led by Mrs. Charles Jenson; and by a ladies trio consisting of Mrs. Burton Rygh, Mrs. Bruce Gunderson and Mrs. Charles Jenson, by Pastor and Mrs. Nordvall, by Mrs. Cliff Elgin, and by Mrs. Jerome Nikunen and Mrs. David Nikunen.

The afternoon Bible message was brought by Pastor Forrest Swenson of Fergus Falls, Minn. He continued in the theme of God's love. He showed us from the Word of God, in James 4:7-12, that true love is the fulfillment of

God's commandments and that sometimes trials and testings are God's way of pruning us for His service.

The offerings for the day were designated for the AFLC Bible School and for Galilee Bible Camp, Lake Bronson, Minn. A total of 97 were registered. The president of the Roseau WMF is Mrs. Jack Gross and the pastor is Jerome Nikunen. The spring rally will be at Our Saviour's Church in Thief River Falls.

Mrs. Paul Flaten
Secretary

Maple Bay

The fall rally of the North Central Minnesota District was held at Maple Bay Lutheran Church, Winger, Minn., on October 13.

Mrs. Marvel Thompson, district president, greeted us with our theme, "Sow for a harvest we will reap throughout all eternity," taken from II Cor. 9:6.

Devotions was given by Mrs. Anita Chase from Bagley. Ona Broden, the local WMF president, welcomed the women.

Music was provided by Maybelle Holt and Velda Bodahl, Calvary, Foss-ton.

Bible study was given by Mrs. Dawn O'Neil, Shevlin, speaking on the Parable of the Sower.

The afternoon session began with a singspiration led by Mrs. Ray Persson, Bemidji. Prayer time was led by Mrs. Ed Mathison, Bagley. Ardelle Lewis and Kathy Callagan, Wilton, and a ladies chorus from Maple Bay, furnished the afternoon music.

Mrs. Emil Hass, national WMF treasurer, Valley City, N. Dak., shared from II Cor. 8:1-15. She also explained the WMF projects, which gave us a better understanding of this important aspect of our WMF program.

Mrs. M. Jerome Voxland
Secretary

South Dakota WMF met at Wallace

"No Power Shortage For Christmas," based on Acts 1:8, was the theme of the South Dakota District WMF rally at Calvary Lutheran Church in Wallace on Oct. 12. "There's Power in the Blood" was the theme song for the rally. Mrs. Edwin Swanson from Pukwana, district vice-president, presided. Mrs. Kenneth Hogstad, local president, welcomed the 84 guests. It was a pleasure to welcome representatives from the newly organized Grace Lutheran Church in Aberdeen.

Devotions were given by Pastors William Moberg and Ernest Langness. Special music was presented by trios from the Ortley and Buffalo Lake churches. Pastor Philip Featherstone from Pukwana presented the morning Bible study, based on the theme verse. He pointed out that the power of the blood is mentioned throughout the Bible. Our power lies in faith. It changes our lives and assures us of salvation if we surrender all and allow that blood to be applied individually. Mrs. Burdette Wibeto led the afternoon singspiration. Priscilla Wold was the guest speaker, relating her experi-

ences on the Brazilian mission field.

Mrs. Arlo Kneeland gave an interesting WMF project report and Mrs. Philip Featherstone told of the WMF activities at the annual conference in Montana last June. Newly elected officers are: president, Mrs. Arthur Wasland; vice-president, Mrs. Harley Gulbraa; secretary-treasurer, Emma Sakariason; and Cradle Roll secretary, Mrs. Sherman McCarlson. The offering was sent to Church Extension and Cradle Roll-Junior Missions.

Mrs. Orlyn Tarabetz
Secretary



Morgan Avenue woman honored at rally

"Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her works praise her in the gates" (Proverbs 31:31) was one of the verses quoted when an Honorary Membership pin was presented to Mrs. Eldon Kinnunen at the Minneapolis District fall rally of the WMF. The presentation was made by Mrs. Roy Johnson, president of the Ruth Mission Guild at Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church, where the rally was held on Saturday, October 13.

Many of the women in the district have heard the challenging "Pillow Talk" which Mrs. Kinnunen presents and also cited was her involvement with Sunday School and women's activities. She also collects various items that she packages and ships to our missionaries for use in their work.

After receiving the certificate and pin Mrs. Kinnunen expressed that her endeavors are "to the honor and glory of God."

CAMPUS NEWS

Being a tool in God's hands

by Arlin Aasness

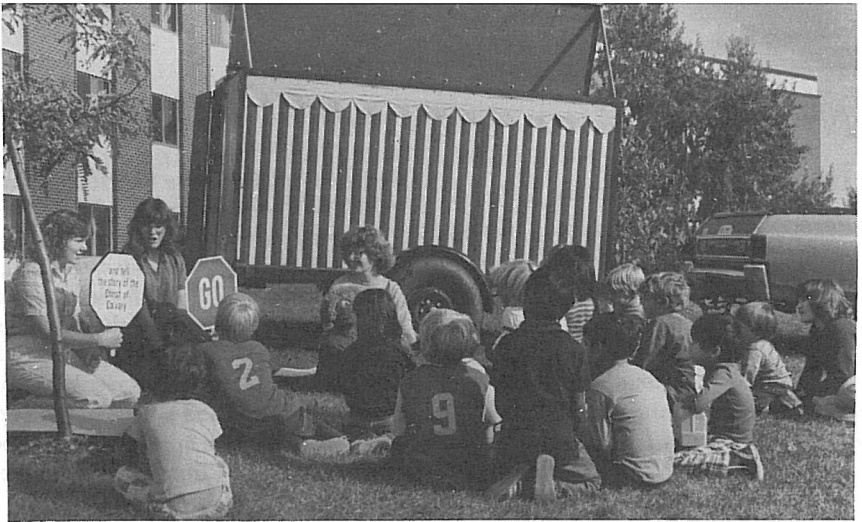
As students at AFLBS, we find that we spend much of our time receiving the many blessings which God has for us in the Scriptures. Ofttimes we need the chance to extend those blessings to others. Through various outreaches, such as nursing home visitations, children's missions work, Gospel team outings, and many others, that need is fulfilled. A favorite of many students is singing and sharing in a Gospel team and, already this fall, a few have had the opportunity to be a part of that ministry.

A team made up of seniors Christie Dietsche, Barbara Elmquist, Keith Kinneberg and I, and juniors Karla Kneeland and Anders Macy traveled to Faith Lutheran of Running Valley outside of Colfax, Wis. Saturday evening, October 13, was filled with the sweet fellowship of Christians during a delicious meal at Pastor H. DeBoer's home before the program by the team at the church.

If I didn't know it before, I know now that God can take what little we have and make it into exactly what He wants it to be. Still early in the school year, we found ourselves short of practice and patience with ourselves. But prayer changes things. That proved to be true on this occasion. Oh, we had our share of mistakes. But we were humbled to where God could use us. What a joy to know it is God alone who works and blesses.

The weekend was a lesson for our team. We should not look for things that we can do for God but instead see what God can do for others using us as His tools. To be as clay in the Potter's hands is to be in the will of God.

Outreach ministries of the Bible School can be used to give experiences in which God forms us into vessels for His purposes.



Fall weather allowed a backyard Bible Club to meet on the campus lawn. The puppet wagon was well used as children gathered to hear the Gospel. Mary Johnson, Chatham, Mich., Joyce Strand, Abercrombie, N. Dak., and Jean Kjorstad, Williston, N. Dak., are pictured above.

Photo by Gene Vukonich

Dates to Note

Dec. 15—Youth Rally, Film "Christianity"
Dec. 16—Christmas Concert, 4:00 p.m.
Dec. 21-Jan. 6—Christmas Vacation

FLY FREE
LUTHERAN
YOUTH

WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED

1. Youth 18 or older to go to BRAZIL.
2. People to pray for this ministry.

Interested?

No later than

December 31, 1979

Contact: Kevin Spading

10447 N.E. 110

Kirkland, WA

98033

leaving June '80

Life on the Edge of Town



Early Winter

The "most unusual" has happened here in northern Minnesota. Winter has come early for the third year in a row and this year earlier than the other two. But that's one thing about weather, it's always a little different, at least up this way.

It was raining on Tues., Oct. 30. By the 31st it turned to snow and presented some problems for the little ones as they came around for their treats on Hallowe'en. The last car into our place that evening just barely got out again. By morning our driveway was blocked with wet, slushy snow.

On Friday and Saturday that week I dug up our four rows of carrots in the garden, clearing away the snow first. Of course, the carrots weren't harmed at all, but up to a few days before they could have been dug under ideal conditions.

One thing that worked out well was that on the 30th, before it began raining, I had spread out a load of sheep manure on the garden. So that should stand the garden in good stead next spring.

For the second year in three I put the snow fence up after the snow had come. But with the ground wet and not yet frozen the work went well.

For the farmers with sunflowers unharvested it has been a much more serious matter. Most of that crop around here wasn't in when the rain and snow came. The greatest acreage of sunflowers in history was planted this

year. The weather from August and on was not as generally warm as the crop should have and therefore it was late in drying. If the snow goes, as we hope it will, and the ground dries, or if the ground freezes and no more snow comes soon, the crop could be gathered in. But right now a lot of farmers are wondering about the sunflowers in their future.

A casualty of sorts in our early arrival of winter was the series of meetings featuring the Windahl Brothers (Arnold and William) at Bethania Church west of town that last week in October. The snow caused cancellation of the Wednesday night service and the Thursday night one (Nov. 1) was moved to Westaker in town and attendance was below what it would have been.

The Windahls were raised near Newfolden. They are gifted in music and Pastor Arnold preaches the clear and simple Gospel. They have been much used of the Lord. Two sisters joined them in a couple songs at the Thursday meeting.

The Unsung

I don't know when I first met Arne Aanestad of Fargo, N. Dak. Likely I had heard his name before I found out who he was. But it was particularly after the AFLC came into being that we became acquainted.

Arne, who passed away in October, will always represent the unsung among us. Go back to the family camp

days at Alexandria, for instance. While some were on the platform sharing talents as speakers and singers, or giving testimonies, Arne was at the rear, seeing that his crew of boys was ready to serve as ushers for the offering. That was one of the gifts he had.

He was a man who reached out to help boys. He would often see to it that boys would get to Bible School for Promotion Days or to a Luther League convention or some event where they would be under the preaching of the Word.

Arne was a great booster of Oak Grove Lutheran High School in Fargo. I understand that he was recognized for that at the Homecoming there this fall. He once told me how in earlier days he used to drive one of the cars when the choir went on annual tour.

He was a friend of our world mission program. The Lord alone knows what all he did in the way of promotion and what he himself gave to the work of missions, including his lake cottage near Battle Lake.

Arne lived at the Powers Hotel mostly these last several years. He was a favorite of the young waitresses in the restaurant because of his good humor and friendliness. I stopped at the Powers that year that I took care of the services at our church in Fargo. So I would see him regularly and now and then he picked up the tab for a meal for me. One Saturday night we drove to Valley City for the Winter Show rodeo and I was his guest as was the Pastor Bob Lee family. It was an event he enjoyed immensely and he liked to share it with friends.

Another of our original fellowship is gone and those of us who knew Arne will miss him. He was one of the unsung among us and so I wanted to share these remembrances of him.

—Raynard Huglen

The following material is gathered from InterVarsity, a Christian organization ministering on college campuses of the U.S.

YOUTH

How to lead a Bible Study

Method

There are at least two basic approaches to studying the Bible as a group:

1. Lecture method: The teacher instructs the group sharing what he has found in his own study. This may or may not include opportunity for questions and discussion.

2. Group discussion method: The leader guides the group members directly into the text through intriguing questions. Discoveries and further questions are shared among the group members. These findings are clarified, challenged, amplified and applied through group discussion. The leader's responsibility is not to lecture but rather to ask good questions and guide discussion in order that participants will *discover for themselves* what the text says and means. This method has advantages for the leader. He does not have to do all the talking, perhaps slightly more than the average participant. Also, he isn't expected to know all the answers. As the coordinator, his responsibility is to help the group decide how to resolve a question or problem through further study, resource people, etc.

Personal Qualifications and Preparation of the Leader

1. A leader must have a personal desire to *learn* from God through the Scriptures as well as a willingness to be a *servant* of the group helping them to get together at a certain time and place, helping them get into the Scriptures. He leads with honesty about his own needs and looks forward to God working in his own life. He leads with expectancy. He is a *participant* as well as a leader. Leading a group is an art learned through some training and lots of experience. Prayer is an essential part (Psalms 119:18).

2. Read passage through at least twice. Then take a closer look. *Observe, interpret, and apply.* (See 3A below). Use 8 1/2 by 11 sheet of paper and

divide into three columns, and label columns Observations, Interpretation and Application. Begin in the first column by recording all the references to God, the Lord, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit. (The main point of Bible study is to get better acquainted with *who* God is.) Continue observing by noting any other persons or groups of people, along with descriptive data. Then look for key words, either nouns, action words or descriptive words. Often repeated words are key. . . . Sit back and meditate on your findings. What do your findings mean? You may need to define some words (use the dictionary). Record these conclusions in your column. The last column—very important is your personal application. Write out specific applications the passage has to your life. . . . Summarize your thinking of the passage and perhaps a key verse or statement. Record this across the bottom of your worksheet.

3. Question formation. You must now convert your discoveries into questions which will stimulate group members to also discover from the Scriptures. There are two kinds of questions:

A. *Planned questions.* Write out 4-6 understandable, intriguing questions (at least one full day before the discussion so you can review them for clarity). Use all the following types of questions:

1. WHAT DOES IT SAY (Observation) . . . This type of question seeks facts and uses who, what, when, where.
2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN (Interpretation) . . . This type often uses the words explain, how and why.
3. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME? (Application) . . . Beware! Application is neglected or discussed first before adequate study of the passage.

IMPORTANT! Double check questions. Are they understandable? Stimulating?

B. *Spontaneous questions.* In order to develop an informal, vital discussion be ready to ask spontaneous questions in response to comments members make.

1. Definition—Ask member(s) to define in their own words any term such as salvation, blessing, etc., which is full of meaning but vague to the group.
2. Clarification—"What did you mean by that . . . tell us more." "How did that come to mind?" "Did you find that idea in the passage?"
3. Comparison—"How does your idea compare with George's?"
4. Involvement—"What do the rest of you think?" (Always give the others full opportunity to share before you state your idea.)

Leading the Discussion

1. Usually begin with prayer. Make a few comments about the passage and its context, its cultural setting, etc., and perhaps a few words of review if it's part of a series. Arouse curiosity! Be brief. Get them into the text as soon as possible.

2. Read the passage. Ask the group to read silently or invite someone to read aloud.

3. After you ask a question, do not be afraid of silence. Never, never, answer your own question. If necessary, repeat or rephrase. Give them time to think. You needed time to make the discovery . . . remember? If still no response, come back to it later.

4. Don't be satisfied with the first answer or fill in the rest yourself. Ask a spontaneous question.

5. Be grateful for any contribution and encourage everyone to speak up. If an answer appears questionable invite discussion by "What do the rest of you think?"

Grafton hosts Luther League rally

The Annual Eastern North Dakota District fall rally was held in Grafton at Bethel Lutheran Church on Oct. 20-21.

It opened with registration at 3:00, with recreation following. The AFLBS Gospel Team, "Song of Joy," sang at the banquet following and at the Sunday service. A hayride followed and was enjoyed by all.

Sunday morning was started off with a lesson taught by Mrs. Dorothy Presteng on Numbers 11-21. Following was the service by Rev. Rodger Olson of Grafton on Luke 13:10-17.

A potluck dinner was served by the Luther League mothers.

President Dave Hass of Valley City conducted the business meeting, with election of officers. They are president, Roger Quanbeck, McVile; vice-president, Rodney Quanbeck, McVile; secretary, Cheri Russum, Grafton; and treasurer, Marlys Quanbeck, McVile.

The rally was concluded with the film "Deceived," which was made up of testimonies given by people who were members or otherwise affected by the cult led by Jim Jones.

Luther League rallies are always an enjoyable time, with good Christian fellowship and a chance to meet new friends. I think I speak for all when I say it was a "fun" and exciting weekend.

Cheri Russum
Secretary

Ortley church burns mortgage

A service of mortgage-burning was held on Sun., Oct. 14, at Ortley Lutheran Church, Ortley, S. Dak., at the morning worship.

The paid-up mortgage had covered congregational debt on the parsonage, garage and church addition. The latter was completed in 1976.

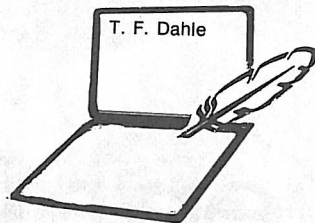
The sermon was preached by Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn., a neighboring pastor, who was present when the church was organized in 1971. He spoke on the subject of the



Left to right, Pastor Moberg, Pastor Huglen, Mrs. Alvin Hamman, Mr. Arlo Kneeland, Mr. Ed Griep and Mrs. Robert Rudebusch.

church and what it means that a congregation is "free and living."

He was assisted in the mortgage-burning by the local pastor, Rev. Wm. Moberg, who read the Scripture; Mr. Arlo Kneeland, president of the congregation, who presented the mortgage for burning; Mrs. Alvin Hamman, treasurer; and members of the church council.



Thoughts from Tryg

6. Keep the discussion on the track, close to the passage. If discussion becomes simply a bull session, many will get bored and lose interest.

7. Summarize periodically and move along, but be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading. Take all the time you need if a good discussion clicks in the area of application. If you have a commitment to the clock (most have to and find 45-50 minutes satisfactory for Bible study alone), work hard to keep that trust but allow time for conversational prayer.

8. Remember, you are not the final authority. Be prepared to learn from the group. Be free of forcing your conclusions on the group. Trust the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit at this point. While on details there may be some disagreement, the Holy Spirit will make the main theme of each passage clear.

Submitted by Pastor Richard
Anderson
Lake Stevens, Wash.

DIVISIONS AMONG BELIEVERS

If we are Christians it is because we are born into the Kingdom of God. If so, we are one with God and one with one another, the body of Christ. How can there be divisions in the Body of Christ? I have served many congregations in these 56 years in the ministry. In many of them, there have been divisions.

When a baby is brought to God in Baptism, God works the New Birth in his heart, he is born into the kingdom of God, born of God. (John 1:11-13, and 3:5). According to Dr. Ole Hallesby, that baby receives unconscious life in God. But as he grows and develops, he sooner or later becomes conscious of sin in his life. That is where "teaching them" comes in. The child must be taught that he is by nature a sinner and must confess his sin to God, and God will forgive (I John 1:9).

This going over from unconscious to conscious life in God can often be a real conversion experience, which some people call "born again." However, one cannot be born more than once spiritually anymore than he can be born more than once physically. A Christian child, as he lives and grows, will have many conversion experiences, more or less convulsive, but these are "renewals" of the covenant God made with us in Baptism. As Rev. Spurgeon (one of London's greatest preachers) said, "I find it very convenient to come, every day, to Christ as a sinner, as I did the first time. The word that drew my soul, 'Look unto Me!' still rings in my ears. There I found conversion and there I always find *renewal*."

We do not believe in "eternal security," as some do, but the covenant God made with us in Baptism holds from His side, when a person returns to Him in true repentance. If we are the chil-

dren of God, we must have the love of God. How can there be an unforgiving spirit in us, not willing to forgive? Jesus said, if your brother hath aught against you, go to your brother and be reconciled (Matt. 5:23-24).

It is impossible to continue as a Christian and continue to carry a grudge against anyone. We read in Eph. 4:26, "Let not the sun go down upon your wrath." Get over it the day you are offended. Don't carry a grudge. The best tool the devil has to destroy peace is a little wedge between man and wife or between neighbors or between members of the congregation. One clique against another clique and both sides confessing Christians. All go to the Lord's table. According to God's Word they are eating and drinking God's judgment upon themselves.

Dear friends, swallow your pride and in deep humility get right with your

enemy, "that your prayers are not hindered." Let it be said of every member of the AFLC, "See how they love one another." Then God can send a revival into our church and we can be lights shining in this dark world. "Let the

beauty of Jesus be seen in me, all His wondrous compassion and purity—oh, Thou, Spirit divine, all my nature refine till the beauty of Jesus be seen in me."

Trygve F. Dahle

Perhaps I was dreaming

An Advent Dream

I was dreaming an Advent dream the other day and praising God in my heart, when suddenly a tall Hindu stood before me.

"I have read of your Western world," he said abruptly, "your anxious, feverish struggle, your toiling millions, your immense fear of death."

His dark eyes were unfathomable, and he looked at me as if I were responsible for all that he had found amiss. There was lofty disdain and tender pity in his look.

"Why are you gathered in struggling throngs," he continued, "battening on the fat things of the world, flying from death, feverishly seeking sensation, filling your hearts and thoughts with excitement?"

I shrank from his searching look. I did not dare to reply.

"Because," he went on, "you have forgotten the soul. You have no vision of real life, of the great wide reaches of spiritual power and light and life that encompass you. Life for most of you in the Western lands is a bewilderment and a fever. Your mirages fill your eyes, and you hurry on through the fretful unrest you call life. It is not life. It is a nightmare of fear and wild desires, while all about you are the great luminous spaces of divine peace, of which you know nothing.

You prate about Jesus, but you do not know Him; neither do you follow Him. You celebrate His birthday, and dedicate it to Santa Clause and turn it into an orgy of commercialism. You boast of your enlightenment, and fumble in spiritual darkness. Will you ever be humble enough to learn?"

And with a stately sweep of the hand, as if to dismiss us from his mind, he vanished as suddenly as he had appeared.

Had I been dreaming? Had he really stood before me, or was it only a fancy? It matters not. Those words rang in my ears like a booming bell, and I knew that they were true. O Lord, we do fumble in darkness, even in the midst of our little sputtering, man-made lights.

But I thank Thee tonight, that Thy Star still twinkles through the shadows. And I praise Thee for the youthful, upturned faces, here and there, upon whom the light of that Star is falling, making them glad as they realize that Thy Word is the Star, and that it still can guide the truly wise to the newborn King. Oh, bless them, Father, and protect them as they journey through darkness and danger.

—C. A. Wendell