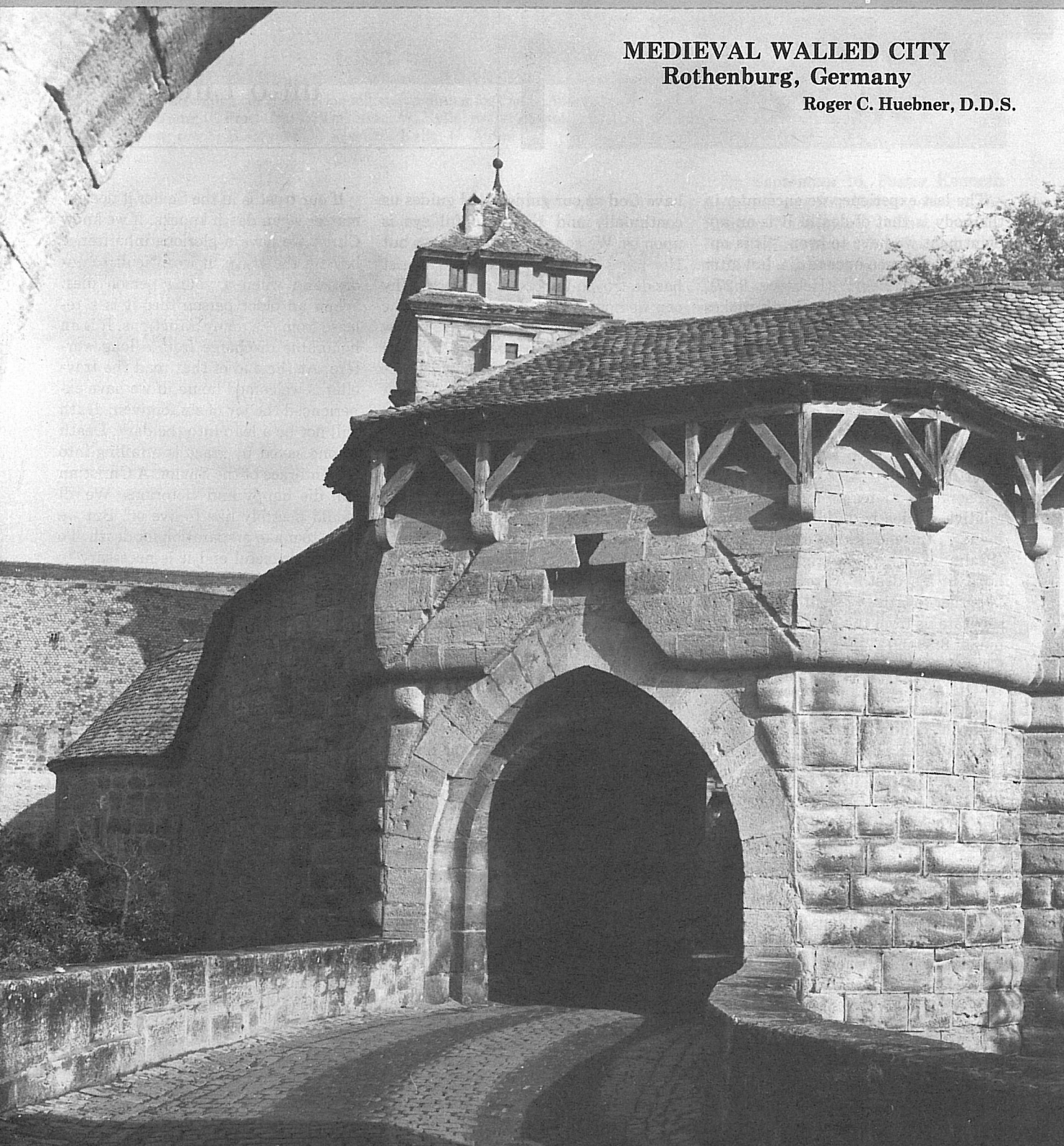


October 2, 1979

The Lutheran Ambassador

MEDIEVAL WALLED CITY
Rothenburg, Germany

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.



MEDITATION MOMENTS

From Death unto Life

The last experience we encounter in the body is that of death. It is an appointment we have to keep. "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). Birth makes us mortal. Death makes us immortal. It has been said that as soon as a man is born he begins to die. If the Lord should come in our lifetime, Christians will not have to taste of death. Like Enoch and Elijah we, too, will escape the grave. Otherwise death is a certainty both saint and sinner must face.

There are many promises we have relative to death. "Mark the perfect man . . . the end of that man is peace" (Psalm 37:37). "The righteous hath hope in his death" (Proverbs 14:32). "Neither death . . . shall be able to separate us from the love of God" (Romans 8:38-39). "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21).

Death is no respecter of persons. Infants die, children die, young adults, as well as older people, die. Death is a step we have to take at any given moment. Isn't it a privilege and joy to

have God as our guide? God guides us continually and His watchful eye is upon us. We go through the valleys but His rod and staff comfort us. Christ has destroyed the power of death. Why can we not let Him deliver us from the dread and fear of death? We allow death to hold us in bondage. We are afraid. We cannot talk of death. Those without Christ seem to fear death. But if we are in Christ we need not be afraid.

Psalm 116:15 says, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Why is the death of saints so precious? Because they are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. Like Simeon of old the saints can depart in peace for their eyes have seen Christ.

We cannot deny that death has a certain sting about it. That sting can only vanish when Christ returns. We watch that loved one die. Those remains that are buried produce a heart sting. Friendships are broken. It is a great promise that we have in the Word when it tells us that the dead in Christ shall rise first. It will be great to be joined together with our loved ones for eternity.

If our trust is in the Savior it doesn't matter when death knocks. If we know Christ we have a glorious inheritance beyond the grave. It is difficult to understand when a young person dies. When an older person dies it is a release from the many afflictions. It is an honorable discharge from a long warfare. At the end of that road the traveller is welcomed home. If we have experienced the joy of sin forgiven, death will not be a leap into the dark. Death to one saved by grace is a falling into the embrace of the Savior. A Christian can die happy and victorious. We all would possibly like to live on. But we need to make preparation for death. To have a peaceful end it is necessary to have Christ as our peace while we journey on in life. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." If we go home by the way of the grave, may our end be a triumphal departure. Death to a Christian is a transition from earth to heaven. May each one who reads this look forward to a victorious death.

D. L. Moody said, "Earth is receding, Heaven is approaching, God is calling." God may be calling you soon. Are you trusting in Him?

—Leslie Galland

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by Rev. Kenneth Pentti, AFLC
Evangelist-Youth Worker

TEXT: "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon" (Is. 55:6, 7).

"There is sweet music here that softer falls

Than petals from blown roses on the grass,

Or night-dews on still waters between walls

Of shadowy granite, in a gleaming pass;

Music that gentler on the spirit lies,
Than tir'd eyelids upon tir'd eyes;

Music that brings sweet sleep down from the blissful skies,

Here are cool mosses deep,

And through the moss the ivies creep,
And in the stream the long-leaved

flowers weep,

And from the craggy ledge the poppy hangs in sleep."

(Choric Song of "The Lotos-Eaters"
—Tennyson)

In this portion of "The Lotos-Eaters," Alfred Lord Tennyson depicts the apathetic influence of the lotos plant upon the moral discernment of the sailors who chewed it. They soon forgot the responsibility of their job and their duties at home. When the dulling effect of the plant had done its work, they lost all their sense of urgency to return home.

Vast numbers of men and women today have become lulled into an attitude of lethargy toward their spiritual condition. They are drugged with the lotos plants of moral laxity, spiritual indifference and blind obsession for the approval of men. Having itching ears, they have been sung to sleep by false teachers. They are in a spiritual stupor and have lost all sense of the urgency of repentance. Repentance of sins is not an option—it is an urgent necessity!

THE URGENCY of REPENTANCE

I. The Urgency of Repentance Arises from the Availability of God (Is. 55:6).

Which is promised today. Isaiah urges men to repent and seek the Lord because He may yet be found and He is yet near. The fact that today, this very minute, Christ is so available is all the more reason to come to Him now. God is available to those who call on Him—to those who are concerned enough to turn to Him. "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him" (Ps. 145:18a). Since Christ is a courteous God He will not force His way into any life. But He does stand at the door and knock. And whenever you invite Him in ("call upon Him") He will enter your life because He knows that He is welcome. God is available to those who sincerely want Him. A person does not reluctantly or inadvertently become a Christian. You must be in earnest if you are to find Christ as your Savior. "Ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart" (Jer. 29:13). But God is available right now to all who are sincere about coming to Him!

Which is not promised tomorrow. Surely this is the clear implication of Isaiah. "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near" (Is. 55:6). The prophet seems to be saying, "There is a time when God may not be found; there is a time when He will not be near."

There are two reasons why the availability of God is not, indeed, cannot, be promised tomorrow. You can say, "No!" to the voice of God so often that in time you fail to hear His call or see His hand extended in forgiveness or feel His touch. "Exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (Heb. 3:13).

A second reason God does not promise to be available is because of the depletion of God's patience. Man was

"A person does not reluctantly or inadvertently become a Christian."

Repentance . . .

given fair and early warning that there is an end to God's patience. We read about this in Genesis 6:3a, "And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man."

The statement, "He will always say, 'I forgive,'" may be nice lyrics for a once popular song but it is bad theology. A clear example of the depletion of God's patience is recorded in Numbers 16. After being warned again and again that God's patience was wearing thin and after being called to repentance, scores of times God drew a divine line of demarcation and said, "To stop beyond this line is to deplete My patience." Three times this warning was ignored before Israel finally got the message. Dathan and Abiram were swallowed up in an earthquake, 250 leaders were consumed by fire and 14,700 died of a plague. Finally they learned that to deplete the patience of God is a dangerous thing.

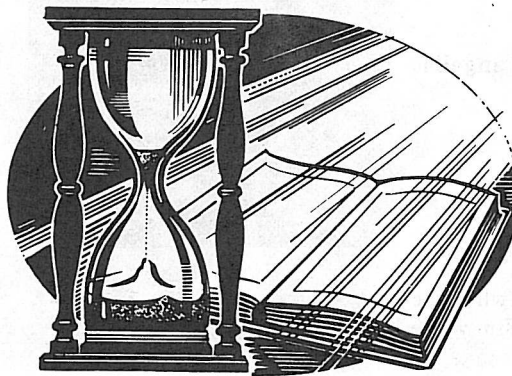
"There is a time, we know not when,
A place, we know not where;
That marks the destiny of men
To glory or despair.
To cross that limit is to die,
To die as if by stealth,
It does not quench the gleaming eye
Or pale the glow of health."

II. The Urgency of Repentance Arises from the Gravity of Sin (Is. 55:7).

Which is taken seriously by God's Word. We may laugh and joke about sin but this is no laughing matter in God's Word. The Bible classifies us as "wicked" and as "unrighteous" (Is. 55:7a). The same Word of God clarifies the penalty of sin. "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23a).

Which grows out of its offensiveness to God. That which makes sin so serious is not that you have broken the law of man or that you have injured another, but rather that you have violated God's law—you have offended Him. The Prodigal Son realized this, because he said, "I have sinned against heaven, and before thee" (Lk. 15:18b). Yet we ask, "Is there a way out? Is there a solution?" The answer is yes!

Which is solved only by repentance (Is. 55:7). But, what is repentance? This verse defines it beautifully. In repentance a person turns from sin ("for-



sake", he turns to God ("return unto the Lord") and he receives forgiveness ("and He will abundantly pardon").

III. The Urgency of Repentance Arises from the Brevity of Life. "Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not" (Job 14:1, 2).

In 1936 an insurance company operating in Oklahoma turned down 80,000 applicants. It turned down some because of hereditary diseases. It turned down others because of age or occupational hazards or personal health problems. Nevertheless, 8,700 of those whom the company did insure died within the first twelve months of coverage. Just because an actuary's table says you should live many years does not guarantee that you will live to pay the second premium on your policy. Simply because a cardiograph says your heart is in perfect condition does not mean you will live to walk out the doctor's door to your car. Cardiographs only record history, they do not predict the future.

The brevity of life may catch you unprepared because of a preoccupation with other things, as it did the rich fool. Or, the brevity of life may catch you unprepared because of your refusal to face the fact of death.

This brief life is the only chance afforded. After a man dies comes the judgment—not a second chance. Actually, God does not owe you a second chance since you have sufficient opportunities to repent in this life.

This brief life infinitesimal compared with eternity. Peter says, "One day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (II Pet. 3:8b). All will live in eternity. The question is not whether one

lives after death or not but rather where one lives after death (Jn. 5:28, 29).

IV. The Urgency of Repentance Arises from the Imminency of Christ's Return. "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only" (Matt. 24:36).

The Bible teaches that Christ may and can come any moment. This fact adds to the urgency of repentance.

Christ's return will be unexpected. "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night" (I Thess. 5:2).

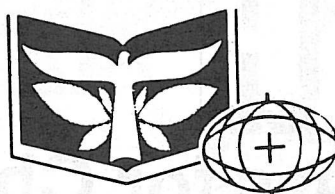
Christ's return seals forever your decision. Christ came the first time as Savior, He is present now as Savior, but when He comes again it is in an entirely different role, for He will come as judge. He will judge you on the basis of what you did with Him—on your decision to accept or reject Him.

Paul says, "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom" (II Tim. 4:1).

Many years ago in a small midwestern town a young lawyer was on his way to work early one morning. The quietness of the hour was shattered by the clatter of horse hoofs and the rumble of wagon wheels. As the lawyer looked down the street he saw a team of runaway horses pulling a wagon. The rider was desperately trying to stop the team, but to no avail.

"The question is not whether one lives after death or not,

"Seek ye the Lord while He may be found . . ."



Brazilians on the Go

My Mother Prayed

The lawyer knew that at the end of the street was a flimsy barricade beyond which was a deep ravine. If the horses were not turned they would surely pull the man to his death. At the risk of his own life, the lawyer rushed out into the path of the horses, grabbed the reins, turned the wagon and saved the man's life. The wagon turned over but the man was not seriously hurt. He dusted himself off and thanked the lawyer.

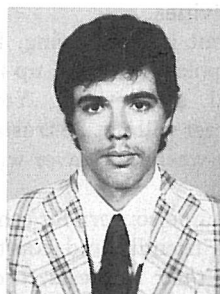
The scene has changed. More than 20 years have passed and the little town has grown into quite a city. The lawyer is now a respected judge. The place is the judge's courtroom. A man has been tried for murder and convicted. Prior to formal sentencing the judge asks the accused if he has anything to say. He indicates that he does. He comes close to the judge's bench and says, "Judge, don't you remember me?" The judge replies, "No, I don't remember having met you prior to this trial." "But, Judge," the man answers, "don't you remember saving a man's life by turning a team of runaway horses 20 or 25 years ago?" "I remember that as though it were yesterday," replies the judge.

"Judge, I am that man," the accused states, "you were my savior then, can't you be my savior now?"

The Christian judge dropped his head and, when he had regained his composure, he said, "Yesterday I was your savior, but today I *must* be your judge."

When Christ comes again, how will you meet Him—as Savior or only as Judge?

but rather where one lives after death."



"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations" Matt. 28:20

by Oseias Camara

First I would like to say that it is a great pleasure to belong to the large international AFLC family and may God continue blessing all of us in the future as He has in the past.

I was born August 4, 1954, in the state of Paraná. I'm the youngest in the family of seven born to Sr. Paulo and Alcina A Camara. I was raised in a Christian home and went to church and Sunday school because of the special love and concern of my mother.

In 1964 I studied in a Christian academy and it was there that the Word of God was implanted in me as it was taught in the classroom.

My mother always firmly believed in Matt. 7:7-8: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh receiveth and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." It is because of her firm faith in the Word and her prayers that Christ called me and I accepted Him as my personal Savior. It has been 17 years now since I made that decision and Christ has graciously kept me until today even though I've passed through many temptations which all young people encounter today. He is able to keep and guard. I also give thanks for the faithful prayers

of my mother which have helped me through the spiritual difficulties.

How did it all happen? It was in 1971 that the Lord called me at an AFLC Bible camp out of Campo Mourão. I felt a real peace fill my heart that day as I gave myself to Him. Soon thereafter I entered the AFLC Bible Institute in Campo Mourão. The following year I was drafted by the Army and when I returned I started working in a local bank. I worked there several years, with good promotions. Last year I quit as the Lord was calling me back to study at the Bible Institute. Many people were surprised that I gave up such a good job in order to dedicate my life to the Lord. They could not understand why I gave up the chance to make money and accumulate material wealth. But all that leads to destruction if I should lose my soul. As far as I'm concerned, I'm much happier doing the Lord's will than to spend my life on a job with no eternal goal.

Backtracking a bit; I'd like to say that I've had the privilege of working these past years in Central Church in Campo Mourão holding various offices on the church council and working with the youth.

This year I returned to the Bible Institute to finish the course of study and then enter the Seminary. Besides working in the church and being dean of men and phy ed teacher, I've taken over the Lutheran Bible Bookstore here in Campo. We are the only religious bookstore in an area that includes over 200,000 souls. We feel it's essential to continue on with it. We all know what effect the Word has had on world history in all ages. Therefore, we need to distribute the most powerful word ever written; the Bible, the Word of God. For this reason I'll continue on in this line of work, with the help of God. I would like to thank each one

YOUTH

How can I witness for Christ at school?

There are very few Christian kids in my school. How can I be a witness for Christ there?

It is good that you see a need and desire to witness of what Jesus means to you. Here are a few "pointers" to help you witness effectively.

1) No one who is starving can feed someone else. Be sure your own spiritual life is well nourished. You will have to spend additional time in God's Word so you can have Scriptural

answers to questions you may be asked. Pray each day that God would lead you and give you courage to witness. To help your spiritual growth, attend church activities.

2) Be consistent in your living. Be ready without apology to stand up for your Scriptural convictions. Your Christian character will not be trusted if you are wishy-washy or waver with the wind.

3) Show a genuine concern for other people by being friendly and courteous. Ask about *their* interests, *their* needs, *themselves*.

4) Any "jerk" can show disrespect for authority. Come to class with an open mind, not an open mouth. Show respect for teachers, administrators, janitors, etc.

5) Be as good a student as you are capable of being. Be prepared for class or at least honestly admit that you're not. Don't give lame excuses for late work.

God bless you as you share Him with others.

—The Parish Newsletter
Winger, Minn.

Brazil . . .

who has had a part in the bookstore work: Pastor George Knapp, Miss Priscilla Wold and the WMF of the U.S.A., for their financial help and prayer support.

In looking ahead I'm planning to continue in the seminary and graduate from the AFLC Seminary and serve a church, plus continuing on with the Christian literature ministry, being led by the Lord to do His will.

It is with this desire that we continue the good fight while it is still day, doing the work of our Heavenly Father. It is with this that I ask you to continue praying for me that God's perfect will will be completed in my life.

Send correspondence to:

Oseias Camara

C.P. 44

87.300 Campo Mourão, Paraná
Brazil

Note: There will be a series of articles on "Brazilians on the Go" these are nationals who are dedicating their lives for the Lord's work and are helping the AFLC missionaries in Brazil. We ask you to remember them in your prayers daily as each article arrives. Just a suggestion: cut out their pictures and pin them on your bulletin board as a reminder to pray for them daily.

PRAY EACH DAY THAT GOD WOULD LEAD YOU AND GIVE YOU COURAGE TO WITNESS.



Men at the Bible Institute. Oseias, athletic director, is on the left end of the front row.



A PAGE FOR CHILDREN

Happy Acres



ANN BRINGS A NEW IDEA

After a week's visit at the Nichols home in Woodbridge, Ann had much to tell. "It was fun to live in town. We went to the grocery store at least once every day because whenever Mrs. Nichols needed something she'd just send Janie and me to get it. It's not like the way we do it—all our shopping in one trip each week. We went to the post office to get the mail instead of running down to the mail box." Thus, on and on, Ann reported her exciting week in the little town of Woodbridge.

"I'm glad you had such a nice time," said Mom. "Sometime when Janie invites you again, you may go for another visit. And we'll want Janie to come out here for a week."

"You know," remarked Ann, "Janie's family had something, oh, sort of nice and special in their house—something that maybe we could fix up, too."

"What was that?"

"They called it their 'worship center.' It sort of reminded you of an altar. It was really just a table with a Bible lying on it, and a big picture of Christ hanging over it. They had two big candles in copper holders on either side of the Bible. After they had read from their Bible in the evening, they would light the candles while they talked about what they had read. Then they would pray, and they would sit there and sing a few hymns in the candlelight. Seemed almost like being in church."

"Would you like to have a worship center like that in our house?" Mom asked.

"Oh, yes," said Ann. Melissa, too, nodded her head in agreement.

That evening as the Johnson family gathered in the living room, Dad and the boys were surprised at what they saw. Above the small walnut bookcase there now hung the family's favorite picture of Christ. Dad's big Bible lay open on top of the bookcase, and behind it stood the wooden cross that Grandfather Johnson had carved for the little sodhouse church that had stood many years before where the white frame Pleasant Valley Church now stood. On either side of the Bible and the cross there gleamed tall white candles set in Grandmother Johnson's brass candlesticks.

So, after they had read together from their Bibles, Ann and Melissa each lit a candle after turning out all the lights. Then in the glow of the candles, the Johnsons said their Bible verses together, talked and prayed and sang together, and when they had finished, Paul whispered happily, "It's like we have a church in our house!"

"Yes," said Dad, "the candles burning beside the cross do remind us of an altar, but of course, it isn't the candles or the cross that makes the 'church in

our house' (Rom. 16:5; I Cor. 16:19; Philem. 2)—it is the presence of Christ here with us, for He promised that 'where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them' " (Matt. 18:20).

FAMILY DISCUSSION

1. What is the church? (Romans 12:5; I Corinthians 12:27)
2. Must we have an altar or a place for worship in order to be able to worship God? Where did Jacob, Abraham, and Moses worship? Where did the shepherds worship the baby Jesus?
3. While it is possible to worship God though we have no church building, do you think we would worship God as regularly if we did not have a church to which to go each Sunday? (Psalm 122:1; Hebrews 10:25)
4. Did Jesus have the church-going habit? (Matthew 12:9; Mark 1:21; Luke 4:16)

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Memory verse

For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I in the midst of them.

Matthew 18:20 (RSV)

Evangelism Today

Sixth in a Series

More on committee preparation

THE YOUTH

The Parish Education Board is often in charge of the youth in many churches. Every congregation should have men and women who are earnestly interested in the youth and willing to spend time with them as youth advisors. Encouragement is needed to get the teens as well as young married couples with children out to the services each evening. Confirmation classes can be required to attend each session and take notes on the messages. Schedule the youth choirs to sing, have a youth fellowship supper before one service and perhaps designate one evening as youth night. Involve the youth as much as possible.

FINANCES

It is a good idea to set a budget for the evangelism crusade. The Board of Trustees often takes care of this. The budget should include the amount of money you plan to spend on advertising, literature, music, the evangelist's travel expense plus his meals, lodging and honorarium.

ARRANGEMENTS

This committee is responsible for making all of the arrangements for the evangelist during his stay in the community. That includes housing, meals, transportation (plane, bus, or mileage to come and to return home), etc. Sometimes it may be an aid to the evangelist to stay in a motel in order to

give him ample time for rest, meditation and prayer. It's also a blessing to the people of a congregation to have fellowship with the evangelist in their homes. It is best not to arrange two large meals a day for the speaker.

This committee could also be responsible to have the ladies serve lunch one of the nights (preferably not the last night), arrange for a nursery for children each night, and provide transportation for those who cannot drive.

MUSIC

It may be helpful to set up a music committee to plan the special music for the meetings. Involve your own members as much as possible. Use choirs often in order to allow more people to participate. Congregational singing is also important and can be an effective tool to prepare the hearts of the people to hear the Word. A good song leader is a real asset and an uplifting theme song can be an added blessing.

However, the preliminaries before the message should last no longer than half an hour and should be such that it will set the tone for the preaching. The evangelist should be given ample time for sharing the Word. The services should last no longer than one hour and 14 minutes, if at all possible. When you keep the service moving, you will also keep the worshippers in a state of expectancy. Dragging out the service can hinder the work of the Holy Spirit in hearts.

USHERING

Billy Graham shares the following about the importance of these men: "The effectiveness of a sermon and worshipful seating of a service is strengthened by consecrated ushers. Their work is more than merely finding a seat for the worshippers and receiving an offering. They are actually hosts in the house of God. Whether ushers serve in a gymnasium or a church, it is they who make the first impression upon people. The friendly handclasp and contagious smile of an usher can help pave the way for the evangelist who proclaims the Word of the Lord. An usher's thoughtful attention to the mother with small children, to the blind, the deaf, the aged, the stranger, the timid heart, can help make these hearts receptive to the Gospel. An unfriendly or cold usher can dampen the spirit and cause people to lose the message. So we should call out from our churches men who have compassionate hearts and can quickly detect the hidden hurt of the multitudes."

* * *

REMEMBER . . .

It is not meetings that we need in our churches, but a meeting with God! Evangelism is the church's task, not one week a year but continually. We want all services to be "times of refreshing in the presence of the Lord." May He bless your ongoing evangelistic outreach. May Christ be lifted up, for then He will draw all men unto Himself.

Pastor Herbert L. Franz

editorials

THE FIELD AT HOME

Chilling statistics can be given about the need for world evangelization in our time. The other day we came across this bit of information from W. Stanley Mooneyham. Some years ago the ratio of pagans to Christian disciples was 13 to one. By the year 2000 it will be 50 to one.

No doubt projections vary. But there is nothing to give cause for complacency when one looks at the world scene in reference to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No wonder our world mission leaders and missionaries speak with the sense of urgency whenever they promote their vision.

But it is about the home mission field that we are to write today. Statistics set before delegates to last summer's biennial convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, St. Louis, Mo., reveal the following percentages of unchurched population in the States where the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations holds membership:

Arizona	58.6
Illinois	44.9
Iowa	37.8
Massachusetts	36.8
Michigan	54.4
Minnesota	33.8
Montana	56.6
Nebraska	39.8
North Dakota	23.9
Ohio	52.9
Oregon	69.7
South Dakota	31.4
Washington	69.4
Wisconsin	32.8

Over half of the states have an unchurched population in excess of 50 percent. Another fourth of the states register an unchurched population of 40 percent or more.

It can be assumed that among those called the "churched" in the U.S. are hundreds of thousands, if not millions, who have the loosest of connections with some church, and multitudes who, while active to a degree in a church have no personal faith in Jesus Christ. They may also be in a congregation which does not emphasize the necessity or importance of such.

So the immensity of the field in our own country, and in Canada, is awesome, too. AFLC congregations are situated in states where, with three exceptions (the Dakotas and Wisconsin), at least one out of three persons is unchurched. Let's just stay with that category now. In the vicinity of our congregations, do we know who these people are? It is our responsibility to find them out. And if they are known, what can be done to show them that we are interested in them and concerned?

That's where we are to begin. We aren't doing enough by being a haven for people who leave some other Lutheran Church for conscience' sake. There must be a reaching out to others who have been left out or have opted out for some reason or other. Even to approach some of them may be difficult, but the contact must be made.

We're not saying there are easy answers, but as Christian congregations we have to be concerned about statistics like those given above. Who knows, your congregation might be uniquely able to reach out in a hitherto unexpected way for the sake of Jesus. Be on the alert to see if such an opportunity is before you.

And after we have made honest and earnest efforts to evangelize in our neighborhoods, there will be ways to extend the loving concern further and further out.

Pray about these things.

ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

BUDGET RECEIPTS

Feb. 1 - Aug. 31

Fund	Total Budget	Current Budget	Received in July	Received to Date	% of Current	% of Total
General Fund	\$ 90,775.00	\$ 52,952.06	\$ 4,817.28	\$ 37,157.14	70%	41%
Schools	150,105.00	87,561.25	6,167.94	55,993.57	64	37
Home Missions	85,000.00	49,583.31	3,275.14	31,386.90*	63	37
World Missions	128,755.00	75,107.13	5,341.69	49,128.21	65	38
Praise Fund	27,000.00	15,750.00	1,701.56	14,680.98	93	54
TOTAL	\$481,635.00	\$280,953.75	\$21,303.61	\$188,346.80	67%	39%
1977-78	\$445,332.00	\$259,777.00	\$22,377.48	\$165,005.79	63.5%	37%

*Past reports include amount of subsidies not included as budget 1979-80.

They stood before the altar, holding hands. Their faces were the picture of happiness. It was their day—their wedding day. They were seemingly oblivious to the billions of people in the world. They concentrated on each other. In their world there were only two. Their future looked bright. They were beginning their life together.

Then the pastor began the wedding meditation. Though it happened more than eight years ago, I still remember it vividly.

The pastor had chosen Colossians 3:12-15 for his text:

“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.”

He then developed his mediation something like this:

LOVE IS—your family together today, here in the Lord’s house. Though some of your family cannot be here today, they just telephoned the church and they send their greetings and their love. The father of the bride is in the hospital today, and cannot be here. But he gives you his love. He shares with you your hopes and dreams for a bright future. Love is your family sharing with you both the happiness of this moment. It would not be complete without their presence here.

LOVE IS—fragile. As I lit the candles on the altar today, the one on the west side did not burn very long. It went out. Then I held a match to it for as long as I could in order to help encourage the flame. Love is like that. It is something that can be encouraged—or it can be snuffed out.

LOVE IS—like a butterfly. It can soar, or it can be crushed—killed. Once it has been crushed, it can be straightened out again, but it is never the same. Scars remain. Tend your love very carefully. It is fragile.

TO BE MINE

LOVE IS—the right kind of goals. Yesterday I sat with a young couple for an hour or more, trying to work out their marriage problems. They indicated they had two nice cars, a good home, three fine sons, and last year he took in \$17,000. In short, they had everything a couple could want. But happiness had somehow eluded them.

What was wrong? They had left the Lord out of their plans. They had missed the strength and assurance that can be found every Sunday morning at worship in their church. They had not helped their children learn to pray. Somehow their goals centered on “things” that can rust and fade. But true goals in marriage must center on the Lord. They had more money than they needed. But I feel sorry for the family which has so much money that they don’t need to count on the Lord to provide every day. Only the living God can create and sustain true love and a happy home.

Saint Paul spoke of seven ingredients that make for happiness. Here they are:

1. COMPASSION:

Compassion is feeling deeply the troubles and sufferings of another. You have experienced this in your own family these past two years while your father has been in the hospital. Your father experienced it with each of you children, along with your mother. They watched each child leave the nest. They hurt more deeply than you will ever know when they were aware of troubles in your lives. They still care, and they still hurt.

“Love is like that. It is something that can be encouraged—or it can be snuffed out.”

2. KINDNESS:

This ingredient is able to sustain true love through mighty stormy seas. Kindness means being friendly, gentle, tender-hearted. It’s like the little extra help that was needed to get the candle burning on our altar today.

3. LOWLINESS:

Put away pride. When arguments get hot, be able to say, “Honey, I’m wrong” (and mean it). Be able to say, “Honey, I’m sorry.” My sympathies to the husband or wife who must always win family arguments. Lowliness means being able to do the hundred and one insignificant tasks in a day that keep a home beautiful and keep love alive. It means doing the laundry week after week, even when the whole family forgets to say, “Thank you for clean shirts.”

4. MEEKNESS:

This includes not being inclined to anger or resentment. If you wanted to be mad about something, you could find grounds for it every day in a normal marriage relationship. But what a mess you would make of your life—and your marriage.

5. PATIENCE:

Patience means keeping at it, finishing a job. It also means being able to wait graciously while your wife gets ready, even if it makes you late for an urgent appointment. It would be easy to snap at your wife for being late again. But just a bit of patience will keep your wife happy—and bring you a mountain of love and contentment.

6. FORGIVING:

Forgive each other for things that have gone wrong. If you would be happy, overlook the many little irritations that make your partner less than the ideal you see in him or her today. And never let the sun go down before you have forgiven each other and asked the Lord to forgive you and make you whole again.

FOREVER

7. THANKSGIVING:

Be thankful. Happy is the man whose wife expressed genuine appreciation for a fixed sink today. Happy is the wife whose husband said, "Thank you," as he got up from the table this noon. And may you always be grateful for each other. May the day never come when the wife shall say, "Where is my husband tonight?" Or the husband shall anxiously wonder, "Where is my wife tonight?"

Conclusion:

One day when one of you will lay the other into the arms of the eternal God, may it be after a life lived in fellowship with Him, who is true love. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord give you peace.



Dr. Olson writes of church anniversary in Canada

The Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Hawarden, Saskatchewan, erstwhile member of the Lutheran Free Church, observed its 70th Anniversary on July 28 and 29. Since this was a neighbor congregation of the Skudesnes Church in which I grew to adulthood, I deemed it a pleasure and a privilege to be present for the occasion.

During the years of 1903 to 1918 over three hundred congregational units of the Norwegian Lutheran Church were established in the province of Saskatchewan. Sometimes these were actual congregations; at other times they were

merely worship units, pending the arrival of additional settlers before congregations would be formed. Whenever a Norwegian Lutheran pastor happened to be present in these areas, a worship service was held in the pioneer homes.

These units were perforce limited to strictly local areas. While oxen were rarely used for transportation to church services in Canada, distance was often also a prohibitive factor when horses were used. Prospect of better roads and motor transportation accelerated the organization of congregations. Then it was common for two or more worship units to unite in forming a congregation and building a church in a central location of a larger area. Distance had begun to be annihilated by 1914.

Rev. William Hagen of the Elbow parish had conducted services in the farm home of Gustav and Hannah Tastad. After one such service in the home of John Carlson, preliminary

steps were taken to organize a congregation in 1908. But it was not until May 23 of the following year that actual organization took place. Twelve names appear as charter members; Christ Himself began His work with twelve disciples. Of the twelve charter members, one—Hannah Tastad—is still living, and she was present at the anniversary observance.

The church was built in 1914. It is unusually large for being a rural priarie church, but at this anniversary observance it proved to be far too small for the number of people who had come from far and near to help the members celebrate.

The observance began with a picnic at the attractive farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Olson on Saturday afternoon. The Ladies Aid was in charge; it was their annual Ladies Aid sale, but we missed the ringing voice of auctioneer Severson of some 50 years ago.

continued . . .

Women For Christ

Faith women honor four members

Faith Lutheran Women's Missionary Society of Minneapolis, Minn., honored four of its members at a Mother and Daughter banquet earlier this year. Miss Jennie Kleven (right on picture), Mrs. Alice Kvamme, Miss Anna Lee, (left) and Miss Sophie Lee were presented Honorary WMF Memberships and pins by Mrs. Anne Miller, president. They were thanked for many years of faithful service.

Mrs. Arnold Stone was the speaker. She gave an interesting message about wedding costumes from various countries, showing God's influence. She had dolls dressed in authentic costumes to illustrate.

—Corr.

Pastor Franz to speak at Portland, N. Dak., rally

The Eastern North Dakota District of the Women's Missionary Federation of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will hold their fall rally at Valley Lutheran Church, Portland, N. Dak., on Tuesday, October 16th. Registration at 9:30 a.m. Pastor Her-

bert Franz from Cloquet, Minn., chairman of the Home Mission Board, will be the guest speaker and Bible study leader for the day. All ladies are urged to attend and bring a friend.

Mrs. Vernon Russum
Secretary

Three receive honorary membership at Granite Falls



A special program was given in honor of three ladies of the Faith Lutheran WMF, Granite Falls, Minn., on August 1, 1979. Mrs. Melvin Barnaal, Mrs. Reuben Wee and Mrs. Marvin Sunvold were presented with Honorary Membership certificates and pins and corsages.



Special Prayer Request

Pastor David and Janet Abel are nearing completion of the papers to receive permanent visas. Pray that this important step may be completed as God wills.

THINKING YOU'LL NEED A LIFT IN FEBRUARY? PLAN FOR MID-WINTER CONFERENCE, WMF DAY.

Anniversary . . .

A refreshing supper, cafeteria style, was served to bring a pleasant day to a close.

These have served as pastors of the congregation over the past years: William Hagen, H. G. Storebo, R. H. Hofstad, Peter Overlid, Sigurd Berg, Sylvester Rue, Carl Ostby, John Lokken, Merle Erickson, Marius Haakenstad, Vernon Roste, Sigmund Bue and Arne Berstad. Two of the sons of the

congregation have entered the ministry: Palmer Ringdal and Oscar Johnson. Several others have answered the call to enter foreign missions.

Rev. Arne Berstad officiated at the festive service on Sunday morning, assisted by former pastors, as well as the pastor-sons of the congregation; Gene Sundby, son-in-law of the congregation, also took part in the morning service. Vernon Roste preached the anniversary sermon.

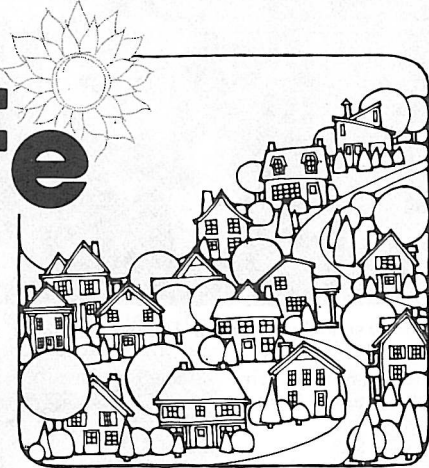
In the afternoon a dedication service

was held for items of church furnishings not previously dedicated. Rev. Oscar Johnson was in charge, and former pastor John Lokken preached the sermon. Several members of the congregation took part in Scripture reading for the act of dedication.

The church is to be congratulated upon its talented group of singers—with thanks to God for all blessings.

Dr. Iver Olson

Life on the Edge of Town



Autumn Days

By the time you read this, many of us will have had the first hard frost of the season. For some of us it can be a possibility from the last days of August and on. It's always nice when we escape those early threats and are given some days or weeks more in which to enjoy the flowers and tree leaves and in which vegetables and fruit grow and ripen.

Eventually a killing frost comes in these northern climes and we are resigned to the death and suspension of plant life. Then, often after a morning frost we have some of our finest days, with pleasant warmth. Then it is time to gather in the last of the garden stuff, although some things, like carrots, can be left in the ground to the very last. There are storm windows to be put on, snow fences to be put in place, wood to be sawed and chopped and piled, and all sorts of "before winter" chores.

Some things can be done to the broadcast of a Saturday football game or World Series game over the radio. Then work becomes lighter.

In the churches, fall is a time for evangelistic meetings, harvest festivals and suppers. It has often been the time of year when stewardship has been emphasized. Probably because it is the time of harvest and harvest means income and income is to be shared with the Lord.

Winter came early the last two years, before mid-November. We can be glad that it won't come that early this year, for three early winters in a row would be most unusual.

We have now had our first district pastoral fellowship of the season. It was at Greenbush, Minn., with the Burton Ryghs as hosts. Our last one in the spring is unforgettable to me. Then we were at Gustav Nordvalls (Badger Creek and Oiland Churches) near the Canadian border. After dinner Jerry Nikunen, Roseau, Joe Jacobson (who serves our Poplar Grove Church, Strathcona), Gust and I took a walk to the international boundary and back through wooded trails. I could have thought I was back in Upper Michigan as we walked among the evergreens, including cedars. Spring was in the air and our couple mile hike was a great tonic to our spirits. The Lord has given us a beautiful world.

Hawarden

It was good to get Dr. Olsons' story on the 70th anniversary of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hawarden, Sask. It is a church which I saw for the first time as a boy and saw again ten years ago while on a trip up that way. Then I took a picture of it as we approached it and it is a fine representative of the prairie churches.

At one time we thought that Bethlehem and several other Saskatchewan congregations would join us in the Association, but that was not to be. I hope they won't mind it that I say that now.

Gene Sundby was mentioned by Dr. Olson. Have read in the Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp Association newsletter that he has conducted a few church services this past summer. That is good to hear and we thank the Lord for this improvement in his health. He is one of our lay pastors and served our parishes at Newfolden, Minn., Culbertson, Mont., and Greenbush, Minn. After struggling against some illness which sapped his strength, he was forced to leave parish work some years ago. Still a young man, it would be wonderful if the Lord should see fit to restore him to the work full-time. Remember him, his wife (a daughter of Bethlehem cong.) and family in prayer. They live at Outlook, Sask.

Gospel Team

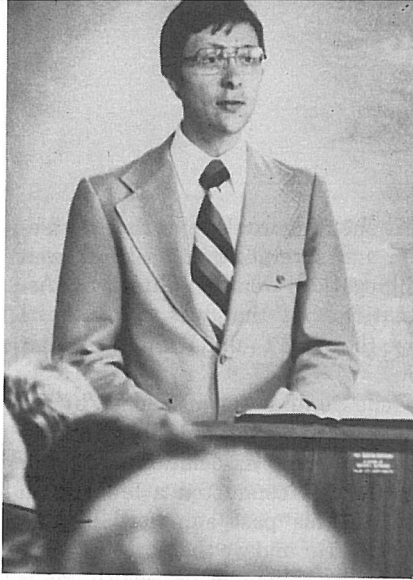
What a fine impression the Gospel Team from our Bible School made as they visited the congregation where I preach on Sundays, Telemarken, east of Thief River Falls, Minn.

Their program was of high order, well selected and simply and positively presented, no attempt at staging. This approach to programming is the one that will wear best throughout our church. When the time came for a spoken sermonette, one of the two young men in the group brought a warm-hearted, challenging talk.

The women of Telemarken served a delicious dinner to the large group assembled. This was the first occasion of this type that we've had since I began serving the church last November and it was good for people to have the opportunity to sit and visit together.

In the evening I went to Our Saviour's in Thief River to hear the Gospel Team in their final or "home" concert of the summer. They were chaperoned by Candi Weinkauff, who was the assistant dean of girls at school last year, for the last part of their tour.

—Raynard Huglen



Sept. 9 at 4 p.m. the '79-'80 school year began. Parents, students, and friends gathered for the service and supper. The Wall family from Comfrey, Minn. (left), brought their daughter Rebecca to the campus (center).

Pastor Robert Lee joins schools' faculty

New full-time member of the faculty of the Association Schools this fall is Pastor Robert L. Lee. He has a special interest in Church History, but will teach a general selection of subjects in the Bible School and Seminary.

Mr. Lee has recently completed seven years as pastor of Grace and Zion Lutheran Churches, Valley City, N. Dak. While in Valley City he had the opportunity to teach courses in Christianity to students of the State College there.

Previous pastoral experience was at Tioga, N. Dak., and various other places as a college and seminary student: Newfolden, Bagley and Fosston, Minn., Ferndale, Wash., and Hatton, Portland, Buxton and Grand Forks, N. Dak.

A native of Escanaba, Mich., he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Augsburg College, Minneapolis, Minn. His junior year was spent at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. He is a 1968 graduate (B. Th.) of Free Lutheran Seminary and has taken some graduate work at Wheaton in Illinois.

Pastor Lee attended the organizational conference of the AFLC in Thief River Falls, Minn., in October, 1962, as a college student and gave the devotions at the Saturday night youth service of the conference.

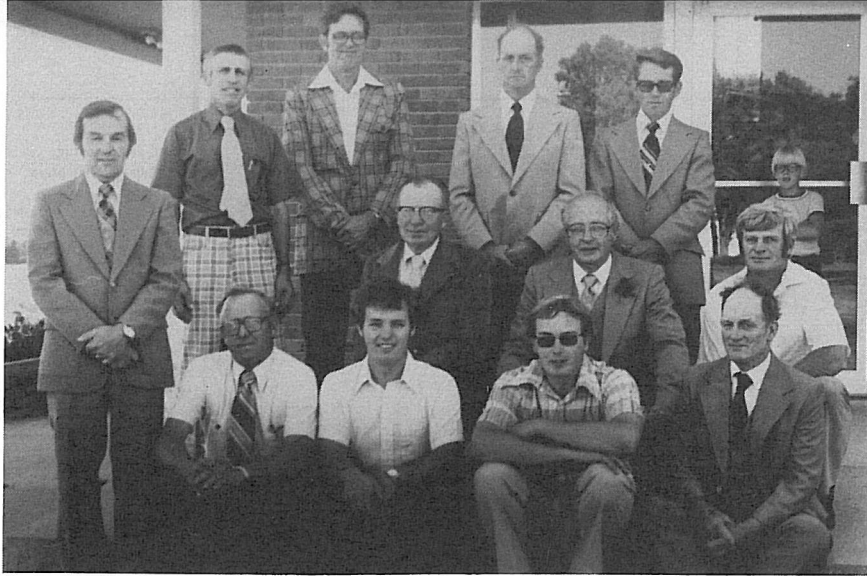
He is married to the former Gloria James of Minneapolis and they have a son, Adam, and a daughter, Amy. The family is residing at 8408 32nd Ave. No., Minneapolis (New Hope), about a mile east of the campus.

AFLBS Begins Fall Quarter

John Benson, Minn., Todd Gerholt, Ia., Lisa Eckrem, Wash., and Brad Sorenson, Wash., are among the forty-five juniors adjusting to AFLBS life.

The Finstrom family from Buxton, N. Dak., helped Lori move in to join 44 other seniors.





Church officers attending the installation fellowship dinner for Pastor Anderson were: (1-r) J. Nelson; D. Broin; G. Froehlich; D. Torkelson; W. Kylo; row 2: A. Stolee; Pastor Anderson; A. Boyum; row 3: B. Boyum; V. Rixe; M. Kylo; G. Anfinson.



Pastor Anderson installed at Hauge, Emmanuel churches

On September 16, Pastor Kenneth Anderson was installed as pastor of the Kenyon-Wanamingo, Minn., parish. Rev. Francis Monseth officiated.

Pastor Anderson moved to Kenyon last summer from the McVille-Binford, N. Dak., parish.

News of the Churches

Thief River Falls, Minn.—Mr. Paul Abel is suspending his studies at Free Lutheran Seminary this year to work as youth pastor in Our Saviour's Parish with Pastor Eugene Enderlein. Paul's wife Becky is teaching in the elementary school in Middle River, Minn.

Don Balmer and David Grothe are conducting a ministry at the Law Enforcement Center each Sunday morning. (Both are former students at AFLBS.)

Bagley, Minn.—Rally Day for Grace and Rice Churches was on September 9.

Each church will have a Family Night this year. The one for Rice will be on the third Sunday of the month, the one for Grace on the first Sunday evening.

Stacy, Minn.—AFLBS is conducting an extension class at Sunnyside Lutheran again this fall. Presently in session is a five week course in "Principles of Congregational Life," taught by Pastor Francis Monseth. Held on Wednesday nights, each class is two hours and may be taken for credit or audit.

Sunnyside and Hope Churches will present the Sunday night Family Night program at Amery Lutheran, Amery, Wis., on Sunday (Oct. 7). A potluck supper will be served first.

Minneapolis, Minn.—Kay Anderson and Karen Jackson of Lutheran Refugee Service made a presentation at Medicine Lake Lutheran recently. The film "Room for a Stranger" was also shown. The congregation is investigating the possibility of becoming a sponsor for a refugee family from Vietnam.

Mr. Jim Erickson, son of Pastor and Mrs. J. G. Erickson, has been student pastor in the congregation this past summer. He returned to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., where he is a student.

Fall River, Mass.—"We have had an interesting summer, as Rodman Street (in front of the church building) has been completely reconstructed. This meant removal of asphalt, street-car tracks, 'cobblestones,' crosote railroad ties and supporting rocky fill before hitting the soil. At one point our curbstone at the church was three and one-half to four feet above the temporary road bed. Although the street has been repaired and a first coat of asphalt laid, I was prevented from getting to the church this morning (Aug. 21) by the Water Department, whose workers are trying to right askew manholes.

The church members have been sparked by all this public zeal and have re-built our chancel platform.

The second floor study and parish room will be paneled this summer. Our church, built in 1895, is laid out in the 'alternate New England plan,' chapel on the first floor and classrooms—offices on the second. It is said this was done because the practice was to place the wood stoves as far away from the chimney as possible and let the stove pipe radiate heat to both floors instead of through the roof. We presently heat with gas on both floors. . . . It is a challenge to be the only Lutheran congregation (St. Paul's) in a metro area of 150,000 people!—G. D. Blais.

Strandquist, Minn.—Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom, Noagles, Ariz., was guest speaker at a preaching mission in Hegland Lutheran Church, Sept. 16-20. He is the author of the book *Purged*, the story of his experiences in a mental illness.

Roseau, Minn.—Lay Pastor Gustav Nordvall of Roseau spoke at special meetings in Moe Lutheran Church, Roseau, ALC, Sept. 30-Oct. 3.

Preaching Mission

Stacy, Minn.

Sunnyside Lutheran Church

Wendell Johnson, pastor

Oct. 13-17

Ev. Kenneth Pentti, speaker

Salol, Minn. —

Norland Lutheran Church

Jerome Nikunen, pastor

Oct. 21-25

Rev. Merle Knutson, Newfolden, Minn., speaker

Ortley, Roslyn and Wallace, S. Dak.

(Local Announcements)

Pastors Moberg, Kjos and Jackson

Oct. 21-25

Ev. Kenneth Pentti, speaker

Greenbush, Minn.

United Lutheran Church

Burton Rygh, lay pastor

Oct. 28-Nov. 1

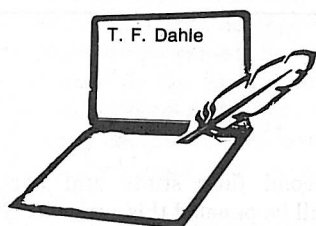
Rev. Wesley Langaas, Hampden, N. Dak., speaker

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Thoughts
from Tryg

BEATITUDES AND ARITHMETIC

The Layman's Beatitudes

1. Blessed is the man whose calendar contains prayer meeting nights. 2. Blessed is the man who can stay more than an hour in a church service. 3. Blessed is the man who does not stay away from church because it drizzles. 4. Blessed is the man who loves the Lord's work with his checkbook as well as with his heart. 5. Blessed is the man whose watch keeps church time as well as business time. 6. Blessed is the man that leaves the back pews for latecomers. 7. Blessed is the man that does not have a summer "layoff" from his religion. 8. Blessed is the man whose eyesight will stand as much reading of the Bible as of the Sunday newspaper.

Bible Arithmetic

Addition: II Pet. 1:5-7: "Yea, and for this very cause *adding* on your part all diligence, in your faith supply virtue;

and in your virtue knowledge; and in your knowledge self-control; and in your self-control patience; and in your patience godliness; and in your godliness brotherly kindness; and in your brotherly kindness love."

Subtraction: I Pet. 2:1-2: "Putting away therefore all wickedness and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, long for the spiritual milk which is without guile, that ye may grow thereby unto salvation."

Multiplication: II Pet. 1:2: "Grace to you and peace be multiplied in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord." And II Cor. 9:10: "And He that supplieth seed to the sower and bread for food, shall supply and multiply your seed for sowing, and increase the fruits of your righteousness."

Division: II Cor. 6:14-18: "Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers: for what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity? or what communion hath

light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what portion hath a believer with an unbeliever? and what agreement hath a temple of God with idols? for we are a temple of the living God; even as God said, 'I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.' Wherefore 'Come ye out from among them, and be ye separate,' saith the Lord, 'and touch no unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be to you a Father, and ye shall be to me sons and daughters,' saith the Lord the Almighty." (This arithmetic is for Christians.) "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, in the power of the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 15:13). Praise the Lord, who is able to supply our every need "according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19).

Trygve F. Dahle