

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

September 16, 1980



Bavaria, Germany

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

Living Under Grace p. 3

AT THE MASTER'S FEET

Pastor Ralph M. Rokke



Longsuffering

One of the things that I shall never forget about the service at which I was ordained into the ministry was one of the songs sung that day. Mr. Rodvold, who is the director of our Bible School choir, sang a song based on the words of Revelation 2:10: "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

As I sat listening to that song, tears filled my eyes. I thought to myself, "Who is sufficient for these things?" I thought of the fact that perhaps 40 or 50 years of service to the Lord lay ahead of me. There would be problems. There would be temptations and perhaps even dangers. Maybe I would be faced with the choice of betraying the Lord or of being martyred. How could I endure such a long and difficult journey?

I turned for consolation that day to the thought that is summarized in Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." God calls His people to do great and difficult things. He requires us to be obedient to His will, but He has also promised to give us the needed strength when we look to Him for it.

In Galatians 5:22, we are told, "... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, *longsuffering*..." This characteristic of the fruit of the Spirit is a call to do great and difficult things for God. To be longsuffering means to endure suffering and hardship as we pursue goals that God has set before us. It is a call to disciplined Christian living. It is a call to cross-bearing, an aspect of Christianity which is not very popular in our day.

What are the goals to which God calls us? I think of Christlikeness itself as the greatest and most difficult goal to which we are called.

Think of how Christ lived! He never sinned. He never sought revenge against His enemies. He lived completely for the well-being of others. He loved us sinners so much that He laid down His life for us.

Are you like that? Do you live that unselfishly? In honesty, we all must answer, "Of course not." We all sin. We all fail. Yet God's command comes in 1 Peter 1:15, "But as He which hath called you is holy, *so be ye holy*..."

Praise God for the cross! Praise God that through faith in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven, and praise God that through faith in Jesus we become as righteous in the eyes of God as is Jesus Himself! Praise God for His Holy Spirit who then begins to produce Christlikeness within us even as we still live

in this sinful world!

There is an old Chinese proverb that says, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." It means that great things are not accomplished immediately and without hardship. Rather they must be pursued faithfully, consistently and often with patient endurance of hardships in the process.

The sanctification of a Christian is like that. It is not accomplished overnight. In becoming Christlike there are struggles to go through and battles to be fought. Nevertheless the goal is so great that we gladly endure them. We "suffer long" because his promise is that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Longsuffering is a mark of Christlikeness. Recently I was standing in a check-out line at a large store. A young mother behind me was having quite a time with a couple of energetic boys. One of them in particular did not want to stand by her or leave things alone. Yet she did not scream at him or use bad language toward him as I have so often heard parents do in such situations. Instead she was patient and gracious, and I could not help thinking to myself, "This must be a Christian."

There are plenty of irritations in life for all of us. There are machinery breakdowns, spilled glasses of milk, and traffic jams, but let us remember that each time we can respond to one of these situations without anger and without bitterness we have gained a victory. May these incidents not be stumbling blocks in our lives but milestones of progress toward Christlikeness. Amen.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

is published biweekly (except the second issue in August) by the Association Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

All communications concerning contents of this magazine should be addressed to: Rev. Raynard Huglen, Editor, Newfolden, Minn. 56738.

Layout design: Solveig Larson.
Editorial Board: Mr. Sheldon Mortrud, Rev. Francis Monseth, Rev. Robert Lee.

Send annual \$5.00 subscription to THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn.

Volume 18, Number 18
USPS 588-620

“Man needs the authority and wisdom of a holy, sinless God to show him where good stops and evil begins.”

Introduction

The question is not whether we ought to do good or evil. Most everyone (except the criminally-minded) agrees that it is better to do good. But there is much disagreement as to what is good and what is evil. God has given us His Law (His Word) that we might know good from evil. But the world has its opinion, often contrary to what God says. And many of the world, who have some respect for God, claim God's Word is saying something else in order to make it conform to the world's way of thinking.

Neither man nor the world is a good authority on what is good and what is evil, because man is sinful and his de-

sire to sin often blurs his vision so he cannot see the harmful effects of sin. Man needs the authority and wisdom of a holy, sinless God to show him where good stops and evil begins.

But this is not all. God's Word tells us that man by nature is not even capable of doing any good even if he should *know* what is good (Is. 64:6, Rom. 7:15-20).

Man, in his foolishness, may try to better himself or do good in one of two ways. Either he will make his own laws (set his own standards), partly or altogether ignoring God's law, and he will do this in such a way that he will be able to keep that law and it will not interfere with those sins which he loves dearly, or man will respect God's law

but only keep that which he has the ability to keep, believing that God will honor his good intent.

But God is displeased and will not honor either one of these efforts to do good. God's law condemns such practices, as we see in Matt. 5:19, 48 and Rom. 8:3.

However, there is hope. Even though God's Word condemns us because we do not and cannot keep God's Law, it also gives us the good news of the Gospel which tells us that Jesus forgives and saves sinners (Jn. 3:16).

To give proper place, according to God's directing, to both the Law and Gospel is to *live under grace*. To ignore the Gospel in its power to do good in our life is to *live under the Law*.



by Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom,
Osceola, Wis.

Of what use is the Law when under Grace?

Some conclude that since the Law can only condemn and cannot save it must be evil and it opposes the Gospel and, therefore, as Christians it becomes our duty and privilege to disregard the Law. They believe that the Law is only a hindrance and a stumbling block for the Christian in attaining heaven. But to so disregard the Law of God is to continue on in condemnation and on the road to hell.

The Law, when rightly understood, does not oppose the Gospel, but opens the way and assists the Gospel in doing its saving work. The Gospel is dependent on the Law in accomplishing its goal. They each play a separate part in the life of every Christian as he travels the narrow road to heaven. The Law is to the Christian what a road map and a car (with a steering wheel and brakes)

are to the traveler. And the Gospel is to the Christian what gas is to a car. It gives power to move forward. The gas needs to be continuously replaced. In the same way the Christian needs to continuously learn of Jesus (God's Word) as he journeys on toward heaven.

The Law alone, without the Gospel, will never move us toward heaven any more than a car without gas will travel. But neither will the Gospel without the Law get us to heaven any more than just gas without a car will take us where we want to go.

Man needs the Law of God's Word as a guide in knowing good from evil, and he needs the Gospel of God's Word (Jesus) as the power to enable him to do what is good or to make him perfect in the eyes of God (Matt. 5:48, 17-19). To accept both God's Law and Gospel (Jesus) in this way is to *live under grace*.

It is fatal for man to attempt to keep God's Law in a way pleasing to God in his own strength and ability. But it is

also fatal to look solely to Jesus for salvation and have little or no respect for God's Law. Jesus will never recognize such a look.

Even when under grace, the Law of God plays a very important part in taking us heavenward. Neither is it our privilege ever to adjust or change that Law in any way.

The Law shows us what is good and what is evil, and what we should be and what we should not be. It tells us what is pleasing to God and what is not pleasing to God. But it has no power within itself to take us to heaven or to the perfection it points us to.

To be under the Law and not under Grace is like pushing our own car along the road we are traveling instead of using the power of the Gospel. Few people have the strength to push their own car. In a spiritual sense no one is capable of doing this.

In a stricter sense, Jesus is both Law and Gospel. We think of God as a God of mercy and as a God of wrath. As God, Jesus is the giver and interpreter

LIVING UNDER GRACE

GRACE . . .

of the Law, which condemns us if we do not obey it to the letter. As a Savior He forgives sin. And this is the Gospel. But if we are Christians, Jesus is Lord in our life and gives us the needed power to do what He demands. This is *living under grace*.

does "living under grace" mean that I have attained?

This raises another question: When you are living under grace, are you now all good? The answer is no! You are only a little good. There is good in you, but Jesus has not yet completed the good He has started and hopes to complete in your life. You are on the way but have not arrived (Heb. 6:1, II Cor. 13:9). You are attaining but you have not attained. When you get to the end of your earthly walk and pass through the valley of death to reach heaven, you will be perfect and Jesus will have completed His work in you.

While on earth, though Christians, we are still sinners. We now have two natures—a nature to sin, and a nature to do good in a way that is pleasing to God. We have made a start toward the perfection God wills to see in us (Matt. 5:48), but at the same time we still have much imperfection in us. We have made a start on the narrow road to heaven but we have not yet come to heaven.

And for this reason we are still in need of the Law. We still need a map to show us the rest of the way and a car with a steering wheel and brakes to keep us on the narrow way. And we still need the Gospel to empower us along that way.

is there ever any power in the Law to do good?

There is always the danger of relying again on our own goodness, strength and ability in becoming good after once being under grace or making a start with Jesus. This is like turning off the switch while traveling in your car and attempting to push your car the rest of the way, hoping thereby to get there faster or to do more for Jesus. But the car is too heavy. It won't ease for-

ward by our strength. We sometimes call this getting ahead of God. But we do not really get ahead. We only lag behind and hinder God's will from being accomplished. The Law has no power to help us to carry on and grow as Christians. Our own effort apart from Christ is futile. The Law is as powerless to help us to attain as Christians, as it is powerless to save our souls.

Having made a start as a Christian and to then switch from grace to Law is to come to a standstill in our endeavor to reach heaven. And if we never again turn on the power of the Gospel, allowing Jesus to empower us in keeping God's Law or doing His will, nothing will have been gained, and we will drift toward hell, not climb toward heaven.

Some try to coast along on the grace received in the past or what they received from their Christian mothers or Sunday School as a child, neglecting as adults to feed regularly on God's Word. They try to live honest, good lives in their own strength, but they have severed their connection with Jesus who empowers the life to do good. Their effort to do good is in vain. They are again living under the Law. The way to heaven is uphill. If we try to coast uphill we only roll backwards.

The grace we received yesterday is not sufficient for today, any more than gas which has once passed through the carburetor and exploded in the pistons will give us new power for the present. We cannot travel on an empty gas tank no matter how much gas might have once been in that tank. We are ever dependent on new grace to keep our faith alive and growing. We need to continuously draw from God's Word, feeding our souls as a car engine continuously draws fuel from the gas tank to be able to move the car forward.

what are the demands when under grace?

When I live under grace the goal and requirements are still the same as when I lived under the Law. Heaven is the goal, and the fulfilling of the Law is the requirement. And my aim is to become pleasing to God in order that I might be a fit vessel in His heaven.

Part II

THE OFFICIAL HIGHWAY

by Missionary Connely J. Dyrud

We got to Manoel's by noon and enjoyed a good pork roast dinner with them. He showed us his coffee trees and how well they were doing, plus the hand-cranked seed and grain cleaner he had invented. This man is ingenious and loves the Lord, too. He had suffered much in his life with drinking and loose living; now he is thankful to be a child of the King. He asked if he could go along with us to visit our church in Alvorada. "Sure," there was room for one more. So he got ready and piled in with us, but he wanted to help with the gas by giving us a big grain sack full of avocados.

"The Law is to the Christian what a road map and a car are to the traveler."

The Law has not changed or become something less to me when living under grace. The big difference is that under grace I have a power available to help me to achieve what is demanded of me. The Law does not supply this.

When under the Law a little sin condemned me. And since my very nature was to sin, I was condemned. Under grace, I also sin. But there is this difference: I have now lost my desire and love for sin. I hate the sin that is in me and long to be delivered from it. And grace provides a covering for my sin which the Law never does. Grace neutralizes the sin I now hate so that it no longer has a condemning effect upon me (Rom. 8:1).

Jesus has the authority and power not only to forgive all my past sins when I become a Christian—but now,

We rolled into Iretama and there we dropped off three of our students to visit and lead meetings in our church there until we got back from Alvorada. But before we left we had to have tea and fresh corn with one of the leaders of our church.

It was now three in the afternoon and the clouds were forming. A nice shower would surely be nice to cut some of this red dust, I thought. This official highway gets dusty without a shower or two a week. I then remembered Miss Judith Wold (executive secretary of the WMF) who had been on the first AFLC tour to Brazil. She had left Campo Mourao with her beautiful white hair and satin white skin. She returned with a deep auburn tint and the complexion of an Indian. A person who travels on this highway never returns the same. The road was reasonably good but the heavy road machinery that is in the process of asphaltting it makes it dustier and more cut up than usual.

After a few more kilometers we left the highway and took a smaller road to get to Alvorada. These small roads can be rough, rolling and curvy. We came to a sunken intersection with high

grass and weeds and didn't see well as I steered the van out and turned a sharp left. Just before my eyes was a huge Mercedes Benz dump truck speeding down the hill in a cloud of dust. Manoel turned white as he whispered afterward, "We were centimeters away from death just now, but God takes care of His own." I thought to myself, "The Lord takes care of children and fools alright. I should have been more awake that time."

The students started singing choruses again as we rolled up and down the steep hills. Just as we were coming down one we saw two women riding horses. They saw our cloud of dust so they steered their horses to the left side of the road. Out of the corner of my eye I noticed their dog trotting behind them. He had not noticed that the two riders had crossed to the other side of the road because he was too busy watching for small game running along the road. But soon he noticed his mistresses on the other side and so he, unaware of us, darted out in front of our van. "Crazy mutt," I shouted as his head hit the bumper and we passed

[Continued on page 6]



Bible Institute student Neuza and one of Manoel's roses.



Karen Ellertson by the vegetable "kiabo" on Sr. Manoel's farm.

as a Christian, He also forgives me each time I sin. This is the great advantage of being *under grace*.

We are weak and continue to stumble and fall into sin even as Christians, ever failing to do and be all that God wills of us. And this does hold up our progress as we journey on toward heaven, but it doesn't completely stop us and it doesn't cause us to have to start over every time we sin, not if we continue living under grace. Progress is made, nevertheless.

God accepts our stumbling and falling when living under grace. It is like driving a car with loose steering and poor brakes. We are not able (even under grace, because of our ever present old nature) to drive straight down the narrow road. But this is the best we can hope to do in this life. Because of our old nature we wobble and stagger from side to side along the narrow way. And we don't always stop soon enough to avoid all ruts and ditches.

Because of this we travel slowly. However, we do make progress as long

as the power of the Gospel is still moving us forward in the right direction. We grow in grace and holiness very slowly, but if truly Christians (under grace) we do grow. We grow because Jesus is doing a work in our life.

And it is because of Jesus' ever continuing, forgiving power that we are able to again straighten out our driving and free ourselves from the ruts and ditches we run into. We learn by our staggering, stumbling and falling. And we should learn not to continuously stumble over the same old ruts.

But each time we stumble, stagger or fall, Jesus picks us up where we are and helps us to continue on.

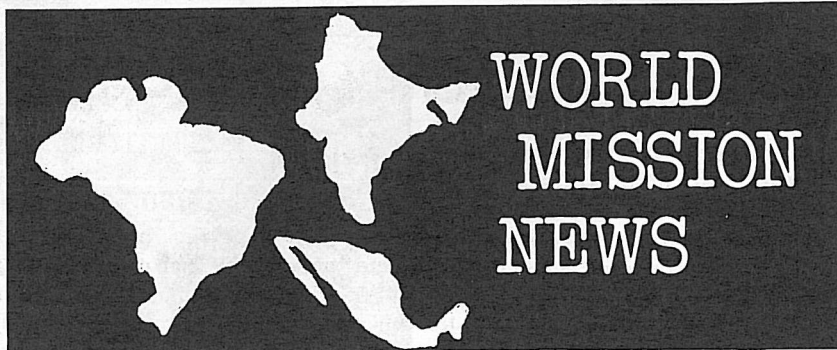
When living under grace, sin doesn't condemn us. It only temporarily stops us or slows us up. However, there does need to be a growing in grace (a moving forward) if we hope to ever reach heaven. There needs to be at least a gradual, continuing fulfilling of God's Law in our life. Our sins must be sins of weakness and not deliberate. We need to ever become more pleasing to God and

more Christlike in character. Both the knowledge of God's Word and Law (His will for us) and the power of Jesus to forgive and mold character makes this possible.

***which demands most—
living under the Law
or under grace?***

Some believe that to live under grace is a way much easier on the part of man and less demanding on the part of God, than living under the Law. This is not true! The one great advantage in being under grace is that it is the only sure way that will get us to heaven.

But the demands of being under grace are greater than when living under the Law. Grace not only demands that we keep or fulfill the Law as much as the Law does, but it also demands that we do so willingly and have no other desire. Grace not only requires that we obey God but that we also love



HIGHWAY . . .

over him. But looking out of the rear view mirror, I saw him being flushed out in a cloud of dust and, lo and behold, he was up on his feet again running as fast as he could to catch up to the horses. "Yes," I thought, "the Lord takes care of children and fools, plus dogs now and then."

Finally we got to Alvorada and had another good pork roast meal that made two in one day. That's quite unusual as chicken is the meat most common among the small farmers. That evening we had a very good service in Alvorada. It was well attended and we showed a filmstrip on the "Water of Life," who is Christ.

It was good to visit with families in the congregation as it had been two months since we'd been there. That night Pedro, Manoel and I stayed in the parsonage, which is reserved for us on the weekends. Before retiring I read Psalm 139:1-10, which shows the Lord's ever-seeing eye and His loving providence and care for us: "Thou compassed my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways." After talking about the day's events and having prayer, we were all sleeping like logs.

. . . Then I heard, "Pastor, where are you?" It was Pedro calling me back to reality. "Look, there are the lights of Campo Mourao. We're near there now." The wind was now rustling through the dry grass along the sunken highway and the lightning was flashing more often than before. It was now 12:30 a.m., by my watch as I caught a glimpse during a flash of lightning. There was now a dull aching in my legs. They felt spongy and my stockings were soggy in my shoes and, boy, do those little lumps and stones feel like knife pricks in one's feet.

"Pedro," I shouted, "slow down or you're going to do me in." Pedro roared with laughter and stopped, waiting for me to catch up. Then he said, "Look, if it starts raining we're sunk. Our time will be cut in half and already we're doing poorly." I looked toward Camp Mourao and watched it sink beneath the next hill as we descended. We must be at least 15 klms. or more away, I figured. Those lights can be deceiving. I turned to see if there were any cars coming. Not a one on this lonely high-

Brazilians on the go

Introducing Missionary Casturina

My name is Casturina Aparecida de Sanza. I am 20 years old. I was born in Sao Vincente, Parana, a city near Campo Mourao.

I met Christ when I was 14 years old at a youth Bible camp in Campo Mourao. After I accepted Jesus Christ, my life was different and still is. II Cor. 5:17: "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

Until I was 16 I stayed at home with my parents. Then I moved "far away" (one block) to our Free Lutheran Bible Institute. I studied there for three marvelous years—these years helped me grow much closer to God. I first completed the Christian Workers' course and then the Missionary course from which I was graduated just last December.

Now I am living in the Territory of Rondonia to exercise my profession as a Brazilian home missionary. I know that it is difficult for me to leave my state of Parana and my parents. However, I am happy because this is God's will for me and I don't want to flee



Casturina de Sanza standing in front of the George Knapp house in which she and Priscilla Wold are living.

from His plan for my life.

Here in this territory we have three churches: Ariquemes, Colorado and Vilhena. I live in Vilhena and work with the church there, especially with the children and young people. We also travel to Colorado once a month to continue the work there.

This year I'm in the second year of high school. I study during the afternoon shift (2:30-6:30). I live and work with Priscilla Wold and we work together for our Lord Jesus and His glory.

GRACE . . .

God and His Law as well. Grace also works this love for God and His Law in our hearts, whereas living under the Law requires that we obey God's Law whether we like it or not. The Law does not say we have to like it.

Many who live under the Law also become enslaved to many man-made rules, religious rites and customs, assuming such to be God's Law, which it is not. At the same time they may be ignorant of much of God's Law and therefore completely disregard that part of God's Law which they do not know.

Grace demands our willing cooperation as we give ourselves to Jesus in preparing us and leading us to heaven. We could never make it were it not for the power of the Gospel. ☩

JESUS ONLY

All our righteousness is "as filthy rags" unless it is the blazing holiness of Jesus in us uniting us with Him until we see nothing but Jesus first, Jesus second, Jesus third.

Oswald Chambers

way. Pedro then shouted, "Hurry up, Pastor, or I'll leave you behind." Now, I thought, that's a fine thing to do, so I shouted, "You know you're a real nice guy. What happens if I get a heart attack and die on this highway?" "Heart attack, nothing," said Pedro, "you're too young to die, but if you do I'll just have to leave you on the side of the road because you're too heavy to carry."

Then I thought back to the funeral I had conducted on Monday. The man had been robbed and left on the highway out of town and had been hit by a car and killed. He had been put in the police morgue and was there for close to five days until his body was claimed. By that time his body had been frozen solid as the dead are not embalmed. So the day of the funeral he was put into a sealed coffin with just a window for viewing his face. By then his body was thawing out and his face was all frosted and body fluids were oozing out through the pores. "O Lord," I prayed, "is this how it's going to be? Sure, I know it's better to be home in heaven rejoicing with You, but it's the family and loved ones left behind who would suffer." "Pedro," I shouted, "I've never felt better in my life. Let's move or we'll never make it to Campo by day-break." Pedro laughingly said, "That's better; glad to hear a renewed spirit in you."

I forgot about how really bad my legs ached and I got into cadence with Pedro and we trotted on together. †

(To be continued)

Granite Falls to host rally

The fall rally of the Women's Missionary Federation of the Southwest Central District of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will convene at Faith Lutheran Church, Granite Falls, Minnesota, on Tuesday, October 7, 1980.

Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. The morning session will open at 10:00. Rev. and Mrs. George Knapp, missionaries home on furlough from Brazil, will be the speakers for the day.

a page for CHILDREN

Missionary heroes

Robert Morrison

the founder of Protestant Missions in China (1807-1834)

Would you like to make the acquaintance of a little Scottish lad of long ago? There is good reason for it, you may be sure, for he turned out to be one of our heroes, brave, persevering, and still unforgettable. This son of Scotch parents was not born in Scotland, but in England, and his people were humble folk, of the name of Morrison, who were glad to welcome their son Robert at his birth, January 11, 1782. That his parents were neither rich nor great made no difference in their son's wishing to do things, nor in his really doing them, but he had to work harder and longer to accomplish them, which did him no harm.

The boy had to begin daily labor early, and was apprenticed to a master who taught him how to make lasts (Ed.—a block shaped like a human foot, used by shoemakers). Robert had no notion, even then, of making this the work of his life; but we believe that he did not shirk his task, though the story goes that he studied while at work. Many have done that, and without slighting their duties. When he was 15, Robert's better life began, for then he became a Christian, and united with the Scotch Church. At 19 he began the study of Latin, Hebrew, and theology, a minister in Newcastle being his teacher. After 14 months' preparation, he entered what was called a theological academy, to prepare for the ministry. He did not stop with this. His "long, long thoughts" went further, and he decided to become a missionary.

He carried out his purpose and his wish was granted, for in 1804, when he was but 22, he was appointed the first missionary of the London Missionary Society to China. It was this that gave him the claim to be called the Founder of Protestant Missions in China. Don't you think it an honourable title? But although Robert Morrison did a number of "first things," it was not for the

sake of standing first himself. There were some things that came first, before the young missionary could begin his mission. He went to the missionary college at Gosport, and took two years' training for his work, studying Chinese among other things. Three years after his appointment the young man sailed for China. But he was not to go directly there from England. Some difficulties connected with the opium traffic prevented, and he had to go to New York first. It was a long and tiresome journey by this roundabout way. He left London the last day of January, 1807, and it was September before he arrived in Canton.

Here Mr. Morrison assumed the Chinese dress, diet and habits. He thought it would be economical, and also acceptable to the Chinese, but before long it proved to be neither. It was not good for his health to live on Chinese food altogether, and the Chinese dress was not suitable. It was not suitable to the Chinese. Of course they knew that he was a foreigner, and it must have seemed like "pretending" for him to dress as they did. Very sensibly, Mr. Morrison returned to his own ways.

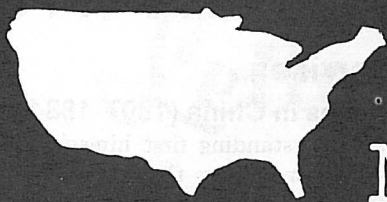
About this time the Chinese Government issued an edict forbidding the preaching of the Jesus Religion and the printing of Christian books. The new missionary therefore wisely set himself about the translation of the Bible, in connection with the continued study of Chinese. His health had suffered from hard study and privations, and besides, it was not safe for him to stay in the empire, and he went to Macao for a year. After this his opportunity came to go back, for he was appointed translator for the East India Company's factory, and this made it safe for him to live in China permanently, with a chance to reach some of the people,

[Continued on page 9]

OUR MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."

(Psalm 121:8)



Home Mission News

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Dickinson, N. Dakota introduced

It was in June of 1975 that the first letter was written to Pastor John Strand, then president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, asking for help and guidance in starting a church in Dickinson, North Dakota. A group of concerned people attempted to find assistance and thought that perhaps the AFLC could give the help needed. A prompt reply was received and our request for help was referred to Pastor David C. Molstre.

Pastor Molstre met with our group on December 10 of that year. He explained the doctrines and policies of the AFLC and answered questions that were asked of him by the group of some 11 people. We were so favorably impressed when we learned that the AFLC believed that the Bible was the Word of God, without exception, that we decided we wanted to seek help from this group.

Pastor Strand conducted our first service on March 7, 1976, in what was known as the Evangelical Congrega-

tional Church, with 19 in attendance. Pastor Strand also conducted the next service, which was on Palm Sunday.

On May 14, 1976, the group met again and appointed Norman Haakenson to act as chairman. A serious discussion was held as to the possibility of continuing with our efforts to organize.

During the next year the Lord was kind to us and we had services every Sunday with pastors and laymen from the surrounding area filling the pulpit. We give special thanks to the Tioga, N. Dak., church for its generous help when it was so badly needed. During this time Pastor Elden Nelson of the Home Mission Department met with us several times and gave us the help and inspiration we needed at that time. On the 29th of August, 1976, the following officers were elected: president, Roger Gabbert; vice-president, Robert Penne; secretary, Mrs. Norman Haakenson; treasurer, August Kuntz.

In answer to our many prayers for a full-time pastor, the Lord saw fit to

send us Pastor Eldon Nelson in June, 1977, and he was with us until July, 1979. Pastor David Molstre became our pastor in July of that year and has been with us since that time.

Our permanent place of worship became a reality when the present building was purchased and we had sole possession of the property. Prior to this time we were sharing the facilities with another congregation in the city. The prayers, gifts, labor and financial assistance from the membership made it possible to buy the church building without outside assistance.

We fully realize that it is God's ownership and our stewardship, and we must be continually aware of this relationship. If we believe this, we will be able to serve our congregation, our community and our Lord.

God has been good to Our Saviour's Lutheran and we have experienced good growth. Our membership at present is 151 and because of this growth our church building had to be enlarged and remodeled. This was done this past winter and we are now worshipping in our remodeled church.

Dickinson is a growing city with some 16,000 people at present and we look forward to an ever-increasing ministry for our church here in Dickinson.

We continue to ask for your prayers and thank the AFLC for her ministry to us.

—Corr.



Ground broken in Aberdeen

Sunday, August 10, was a special day for Grace Lutheran Church in Aberdeen, S. Dak. After the morning worship at the Sheraton Inn, where the

congregation has been worshipping since its beginning, and continues to worship, all drove to the site where a church will be built, for ground-breaking ceremonies.

As the first shovels of dirt were turned on our newly-purchased two acres of land, this area of Aberdeen was dedicated to the glory of God. It was our privilege to have Mr. Ernest Miedema, Director of Development in the AFLC, with us for this momentous occasion. He gave a warm greeting, read from Psalm 122 and led us in prayer.

The first service of our congregation was held a year ago on July 1. Charter membership Sunday was July 20 this year when 32 members signed the

charter, 23 adults and nine children. We are a small but unified group and we are looking to our great God to enable us to build an Association church in Aberdeen. We are very grateful to the Church Extension Fund for provisions being made to loan us money so the work can begin shortly on construction.

We expect a lot of the work on the building project to be done by volunteer labor. If anyone has some extra time to come to Aberdeen to assist us, you are most welcome and we'd be very grateful. However, we recommend that you contact Pastor Roy Warwick, 802 11th Ave. S.E., Aberdeen 57401 before coming. The telephone is 605-226-2497.

—Corr.

editorials

PASTORAL TENURE

Two articles about pastoral tenure in Lutheran periodicals have crossed our desk recently. We shall not attempt any definitive statement on the subject but simply make some random comments.

In the one article, C. Lloyd Bjornlie, president of the Lutheran Brethren Schools in Fergus Falls, Minn., contends in *Faith and Fellowship* that a normal stay in a parish for a pastor ought to be 12 years or more. Pastor Bjornlie asserts that it takes a congregation and pastor that long to build the work well and to develop more than "superficial relationships." In short-term pastorates, he says, there can be no continuity of development. Of course, if a pastor is to stay for a longer time in a parish he and the congregation will have to agree to work out their differences "rather than to look for an easy separation."

The second article comes from *The Lutheran Standard* and is by its former editor, Dr. George Muedeking. Now roving editor for Augsburg Publishing House, Mr. Muedeking doesn't trumpet directly for pastorates as long as Mr. Bjornlie advocates, but the implication is there that he favors something longer than is often the case nowadays. Why can that be concluded? Because he pictures three steps in the moving of a pastor from one call to another (from an ALC study). First, there is the termination of the work in one place when a call has been accepted. Second, for the parish, there is an interim period in which there is no pastor. Third, there is the beginning of work by the new pastor, a time when pastor and congregation get adjusted to one another. Further, Mr. Muedeking avers (from the study) that a pastor is liable to the stress of meeting a new situation for as

long as 18 months after coming to a new place. The implication we see in Dr. Muedeking's article, then, is that too frequent moves by pastors mean that a lot of time is spent in adjustments by congregations and pastors.

In our own background and experience five years has often been considered the ideal length of stay for a pastor, five to seven years. There is nothing sacred about the numbers, they just seem to have been adopted as a sensible average (whether they work out as an AFLC average or not, we don't know). Mr. Bjornlie's 12 years seems too high if we are thinking of an *average*. The number of pastors who can maintain an effective ministry for that length of time or longer is small. But there are the exceptions and that's why it is hard to lay down hard and fast rules. There must always be room for the Spirit's individuality.

On the other hand, a series of short pastorates is harmful both to the parish and the pastor. The parish becomes wary and suspicious and loses its feeling of self-worth. The pastor doesn't put down any meaningful roots and misses the joy of solid relationships.

But again, it is hard to make hard and fast rules. They would only be broken. We are only touching on a few aspects of a very wide concern today. Perhaps our readers can shed more light on the subject. May we only refer to a term Pastor Bjornlie uses in the above-mentioned article. It is "a long term relationship of love and growth." That's what we want between pastor and congregation and it is the ideal we must seek. And as in the marriage relationship, the two must work at it together. ☩

Robert Morrison . . .

and go on with Bible translation.

Mr. Morrison kept this office for 25 years, and found time for his Bible-work, also his great Chinese dictionary and other books. His revision of the Book of Acts was the first Scripture portion printed in Chinese by any Protestant missionary. Early in 1814 the whole New Testament was ready. Think what a great work it was.

How long do you suppose it was before the first Chinese convert was won? Seven years. He had to have "long patience," you see, but he did not give up. With all his missionary work, Dr. Morrison, as he was made about this

time, went on with translating the Bible, a grammar and other works. Finally the entire Bible was printed, the Old Testament alone making 21 volumes. The hardest work of all was the dictionary. It cost 15,000 pounds to print it, but Dr. Morrison's part was never reckoned in money. Instead of an alphabet, such as we have, the Chinese make a character stand for a word, and there are over 40,000 characters. A man can get along pretty comfortably with only 10,000, but really ought to know 25,000. There are seven different tones or ways of sounding, and one tone may mean a verb and another a

noun. The different tones are sometimes shown by marks. But it is a hard language.

Dr. Morrison took no vacation for 17 years. Then he went home for two years. He had an audience with George IV, and presented him with a Chinese Bible. He was received with distinction everywhere. Then he went back to the field and died, August 1, 1834, after 25 years of heroic service.

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

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

FROM NORTH DAKOTA

Just a line to say how much I enjoyed the two days at Lake Bronson, at Galilee Bible Camp.

It was really encouraging to hear about our Home Mission churches and how the work is being accomplished. What a surprise when the interior of the church in Bismarck was shown and I didn't recognize the pews which had come from Bethany at Derrick, N. Dak. It wasn't long before I saw all the hard work that was put into making them like new. Certainly a big task to scrape and sand and varnish them.

I really enjoyed each speaker and the testimony meeting in the evening. It is good to have a time of sharing and fellowship.

Also a blessing to visit with our former pastors, Hubert DeBoer, Wesley Langaas and Howard Kjos, and their wives. Danny and LaNae (Kjos) certainly have grown up since we last saw them.

Then how good it is to see so many parents with their little babies and families. I do pray that they all had a blessed time. The surroundings are very nice and plenty to do for all in the way of recreation. Again, thank you to the folks who spent time in the kitchen, supplying us with very tasty meals. Praise the Lord for the privilege of being able to get together.

While writing about Bible Camp I thought I would include some thoughts on the articles regarding church music and the recent editorial on pastors and college (August 5).

First, the music. While there are many precious hymns in the *Concordia*, there are also those which are not well known and whose melodies are quite heavy. How much better to find a hymn in another hymnal which would still relate to the message and which the congregation knows, rather than trying to practice during the time of service. We have the *Tabernacle Hymnal* which also has many fine old hymns in it and I personally think it is good to use either one as the occasion arises. Praise is from the heart; one cannot be educated into it.

Now my other thought was in regards to requiring pastors to have four years of college before being able to serve the congregation. While that may have some good points, let us also look at the other side. First, how many of the old evangelists and pastors had college education? Many seem to lose the vision they had before entering college and end up doing something entirely different. Could it be they had mistaken their calling? The disciples were not eloquent in speech. Today there seems to be a great emphasis in the field of education. One should be led of the Lord in making any decision. We may

turn away some great man of God because he lacks four years of college. Pray much before making it a rule.

We are enjoying the articles in the *Ambassador*. The one on intercessory prayer was very good (June 24). We have a prayer chain of ladies. Praise the Lord for answered prayers.

Mrs. Reuben Ivesdal
Edmore, N. Dak.

CONVENTION OFFERING

Greetings in the name of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.

I visited my daughter, Mrs. Bob Bursheim, in Winger, Minn., the other day. (We both belong to Dovre Church at Winger.) Among other things we talked about the convention at Valley City (in June). Meredith said that she would like to have been there. But then she said that she sent her offering to the convention. That gave me an idea! Why not send some money for the convention? Just a small percentage were there. Why not take part in the great get-together? It would have cost from \$25 to \$100 in gas and lodging, so why not give that to the Association? Now that would give a great lift to God's work.

The president, Mr. Snipstead, and the other workmen are doing a tremendous job. With God's help and blessing we will go forward and meet our goals.

So with my love for our Association and our God and Savior, Jesus Christ, I enclose a check for \$100. Let's get on the ball and go forward. Maybe someone else can come with another good idea.

Pastor Huglen, I really enjoy reading "The Edge of Town." I've been giving the *Ambassador* as a Christmas present and I have gotten telephone calls and

Tender Shepherds Vicious Lambs

There is a grievous situation in far too many of our congregations today where voracious lambs are constantly biting their shepherd. It seems that we have indeed come to the latter times when so many find fault with their pastor and heap unto themselves teachers after their own lusts. Far too often we hear of contention and strife within congregations which does not speak of the Holy Spirit working but rather that the devil is holding sway.

"ROAST PREACHER"

What is your personal attitude towards your pastor? Reflect for a moment. The time spent will be well worth the while if one honestly faces up to a true spiritual evaluation of one's spiritual response to one's pastor. Is your response one of criticism? Are you given into the hands of the devil by backbiting, speaking ill of your pastor, constantly having "roast preacher" at your Sunday dinner? Do you, have you

JOINT BOARDS MEETING SET

There will be a meeting of all boards, committees and commissions of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations on Tuesday, Sept. 30, at the Association Headquarters, Minneapolis, Minn.

All those involved are being notified individually.

Many of the boards are holding regular meetings in conjunction with the joint meeting.

Pray for this meeting which combines inspiration with information and discussion.



1980 Summer Institute of Theology

The Institute was held at Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, July 23 to August 8. Shown here are, front row, left to right, Dr. James Hamre, guest lecturer, first week, Ken Thoreson, Ray Persson, Roger Krueger, George Knapp and Walter Beaman; middle, Lyle Aadahl, Bill Moberg, Gustav Nordvall, Burton Rygh, Gaylen Stenseng, Frank Cherney and

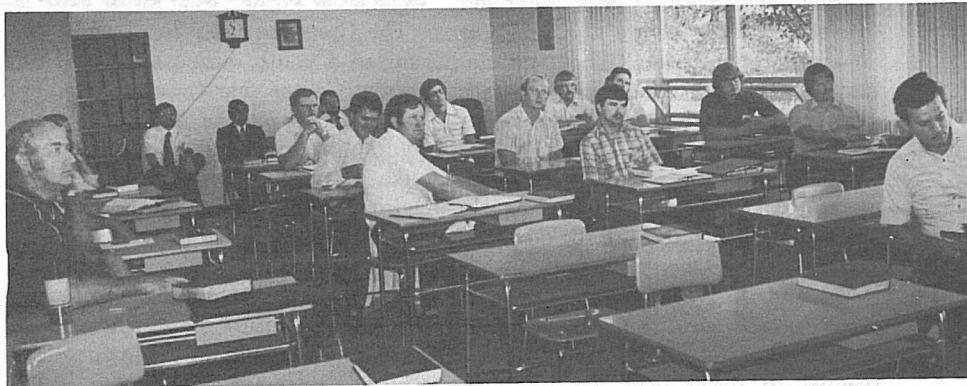
Larry Severson; and top, Rev. Amos Dyrud, Emerson Anderson, Rev. Francis Monseth, Rev. Robert Lee, Lynn Haufschild, Verle Dean, James Erickson, James Hoialmen and Frank Ruth-erford. Not pictured: Rev. B. R. Dasari, Merle Knutson, John Johnson, Richard Snipstead, William Goodman, Kenneth Williams, Les Puett and J. G. Erickson.

letters telling me how much they enjoy our church paper.

Let's pray together: Most gracious God, by Whom we have been given the gift of life, and with that gift a reason and purpose for living, we thank You for the grace and mercy You have shown to us. And especially for the love given to us in Your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Grant that we may always recognize Him as the Lord of our lives and that nothing may ever distract us from serving Him. Amen.

Oscar Raaen
Erskine, Minn.

(Ed. note: At the Annual Conference offerings were given to the major benevolence areas of the AFLC. Any offering sent in now in response to this appeal by reader Raaen will be divided among them.)



Seminarians shared what God is doing in their lives during the first class on Sept. 3

ever really prayed for your pastor?

A GREAT NEED

Some years ago I read or heard of an account of a congregation having great difficulty. The pastor had inability to preach, people were leaving the church, no spiritual life was evident, only deadness, discouragement and the desire to get another pastor. The board members came to the pastor and reviewed with him the discouraging picture. They told him quite frankly that he could not preach, of other fail-

ings, people were leaving and as such the church was going on the rocks. "But" they said, "We have covenanted together to pray for you that you will be able to preach and that the Lord will bless your ministry." The church had a revival!

SPIRITUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Now it is true that if sheep are not properly fed the flock becomes restless, discontented, agitated and disturbed. This places a great responsibility upon

the shepherd to feed the flock, but it is also true that where sheep become vicious a great responsibility is also placed upon the flock. There is a great need for prayer, for revival. Tell me, in your critical state as a vicious sheep, do you really pray for your pastor or do you find a sweeter expression in faulting the one to whom God expects you to be in subjection? God's Word stands sure of individual accountability. "Touch not mine anointed ones and do my prophets no harm" (Psalm 105:15).

A Concerned Pastor

YOUTH

He'd make her strong

He was a tall, burly fellow with coal black hair, a ruddy complexion, and skin burned dark by the sun. His deep set brown eyes seemed to penetrate straight through her body and for a moment she wondered desperately how she'd ever gotten herself into this situation, and then it all came back to her.

It had been a beautiful spring day, the sun was out brightly, the air was warm, and she was sitting in Sunday School listening to Mr. Carlson talk about witnessing. He had said that no one could have a prosperous Christian life if he didn't witness. It had all seemed so easy then with the sun streaming down to strengthen her, the instruction of God's Word prompting her, and the friendly, smiling faces of the other kids encouraging her. "It'd be easy to witness," she had thought.

Now, only two days later she found herself standing before the toughest looking guy in school. "What am I doing here?!" she cried within herself, and from somewhere way back in her mind an answer seemed to come, "Didn't you pray for this opportunity?" Opportunity?! She nearly choked on the word. Sure she'd prayed for the chance to witness but . . .

His cold, dark eyes seemed to pierce through her soul, his huge hands seemed like anvils, and his tall body seemed to tower over her like the Statue of Liberty. Her knees trembled beneath her, her hands were soaked with sweat and drops of water grew on her forehead. She fumbled for words. "Hi," she said feebly, "I . . . I guess you're new here, huh?"

"Yeah. Moved in last week. This school is the pits, isn't it?!" He jerked his head toward the cafeteria, "Never tasted such rotten food in all my life."

She gave a nervous giggle and replied, "I guess I've never thought much about it. I've lived here all my life."

"No wonder you're so skinny," he responded quickly as a fleeting smile crossed his lips.

She smiled kindly, "My name is Sharon."

"Oh," he said simply, as though she'd just stated the most boring fact ever, and then he added, "I'm Darren."

She stretched out her hand and said sincerely, "Glad to meet you, Darren, and you know, after you've been here a while this school won't seem so bad. There are a lot of nice kids here and . . ." Somehow his hands didn't look so large anymore, his eyes didn't seem so cold, and even his tall figure didn't look so overpowering. Her heart still trembled nervously and she struggled for words at times but as she spoke she prayed silently for the Holy Spirit

to guide her and she began to relax in His assurance. A new love surged through her and she found a deep concern in her heart for Darren. He needed to know her God and she would help him to find Him, because her God would give her strength according to Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

by
Stephanie Krueger



LEAGUES ALIVE

The Green Lake Luther League organized a youth outing at the AFLC Retreat Center near Osceola, Wis., on June 27-29. A total of 20 youth and six adults were in attendance from Green Lake Church, Spicer, Minn., Zion, Dalton, Minn., and Faith, Granite Falls, Minn.

The retreat began on a working note with everyone pitching in help fix up the ARC for future events. After that we had a delicious supper. In our Bible study, Anders Macy of the Bible School shared with us about the four stages of the Christian life. There was a time for songs and testimonies afterward.

Everyone rolled out of bed on Saturday morning and had breakfast. Student Pastor Frank Rutherford shared with us in two Bible studies on Paul's journey in Galatia.

After dinner everybody spent an afternoon tubing down the Apple River.

In the evening Pastor Dennis Gray of Green Lake shared a message with us and then there was a campfire to round out the evening.

Before leaving the ARC on Sunday morning, after breakfast and packing up, there was a period of questions and answers.

We went to Amery Lutheran Church for their Sunday morning worship and provided special music for them.

Thanks to the counselors and youth and a special thank you to Bob and Carol Dietsche of the ARC. "O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! in wisdom hast Thou made them all: the earth is full of Thy riches" (Psalm 104:24).

Alan Arneson, president
Green Lake Luther League

**"I can do all things
through Christ
which strengtheneth me."**

Phil. 4:13

Life on the Edge of Town



Approach of Fall

When the temperature dipped to 43 degrees today (Aug. 26) it was a sure sign of approaching autumn. Naturally, we hope that even when you read this the first frost will be in the future. Our garden, which was so late in coming up, needs more time and warm sunny days into September would work wonders. Even now we have done better than looked possible in late June. Light rains through July and heavier ones in August have been very helpful. On the farm scene, rains have aided the sunflowers and hayland, but have caused real problems in harvesting small grains. So our farmers, on whom we depend so much, know what it is to be tested, but the Lord will honor those who honor Him.

There is a great abundance of acorns this year and they fell early. We wonder what that portends for the coming winter. In 1977 a lot of acorns was followed by an early winter with two storms in November. And the winter was quite a cold one. Now it is only to wait and see.

The old axiom that winter frost will be followed by rain in six months was pretty well shot down this past year. Some notable frosts produced little or no rain in spring and early summer for us.

The berry crop was poor this summer. Three hours of picking resulted in less than a gallon of cranberries. There were no chokecherries or blueberries. Not every year is the same. We read about a huge wild raspberry crop on the North Shore of Lake Superior this summer. I would have enjoyed being turned loose in that.

Riding Mountain

Some of our family took a drive to Brandon, Man., and Riding Mountain Park in July. Brandon is a fine city about the size of Fargo, N. Dak., and the home of church-related Brandon University.

To the north, an hour or so away, is Riding Mountain National Park. Some of us recall being there in 1959 for a Luther League Federation regional convention. There are many fine memories from that occasion. The townsite, Wasagaming, looks much the same as it did then. Beautiful Clear Lake lies on the north edge of town.

We didn't have time to do a lot of looking around but it was good to see the place again. Our return trip brought us through Portage la Prairie and Winkler in Manitoba and Walhalla and Cavalier in North Dakota, with a late supper stop at the latter.

A Trip to Minneapolis

Made a trip to Minneapolis recently, both for business and vacation.

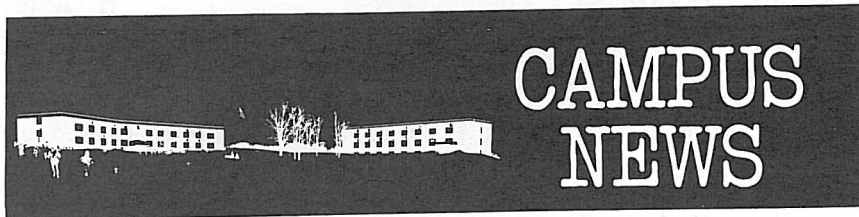
The business end took me to such places as Bethany Fellowship, our printer, Lutheran Church Supply at the Protestant Center, Osterhus Publishing and church headquarters at Medicine Lake. Had afternoon coffee with some of the men and talked a while with the new man on the maintenance staff, Bennie Stave, whom I have known for quite a few years.

The vacation part took me to Met Stadium for baseball and to the State Fair, for about three hours. Have yet to spend the time there I'd like to. One "act" I did catch was the man promoting a certain blender. I believe he's the same man I've seen work before and he does it so well and I was quite fascinated by it all.

Also had the opportunity to attend the funeral for Einar Rokke at St. Luke's Lutheran. Einar was from Newfolden and I'd visited with him over coffee after Luther League at Bethania Church not long ago. He was related to all the Rokkes in the AFLC. He was taken so suddenly. I met a number of old friends at the church including Dr. and Mrs. Iver Olson.

On the trip home I stopped at the Jergenson farm home near Donnelly, Minn. There 97 year-old Mrs. Jergenson, still managing her home for son Ruben, fixed supper for us. I don't expect that to happen often in my life. I treasure those stops at the Jergenson farm. I was a student intern at their church, Kongsvinger, in seminary days and her son Arnold was a classmate.

—Raynard Huglen



CAMPUS NEWS

Ambassadors for Christ

"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (II Cor. 5:20).

How thankful we can be that God has offered to each one of us salvation through the Son, Jesus Christ. And in response to His great love we have the responsibility and privilege to witness for Him, to be ambassadors for Christ.

Given the opportunity to serve the Lord on the 1980 Ambassador summer Gospel Team were Karla Kneeland, Ortley, S. Dak., Kristin Kloster, Atwater, Minn., Rebecca Wall, Comfrey, Minn., Lloyd Quanbeck, McVillie, N. Dak., and Terry Moan, McIntosh, Minn.



Accompanying us throughout the summer at various times were Miss Mary Rolf, Mr. Don Rodvold and Mr. John Mundfrom.

June 1 marked the beginning of our tour which continued through August 24. Throughout our travels in the Midwest, eastern states and out to the West Coast, we were blessed with journey mercies and could rest in the promise of Psalm 121:8: "The Lord will guard your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forever."

It was certainly a privilege to be present at the Annual Conference, attend Bible camps near Bemidji, Minn., Lake Bronson, Minn., and the Upper Peninsula Bible camp in Michigan, and to be in many AFLC churches. It was such a joy to share through song and spoken word what the Lord has done for us. Although this was our main responsibility at each place, we were given the chance to participate in other service opportunities, including nursing home visitation, teaching vacation Bible school and counseling at Bible camps.

As a group, one of the most outstanding things we were thankful for was the prayer support we received. So many people shared with us that they were interceding for us daily. Prayers were answered as God supplied us with His strength and prepared open hearts to receive His Word. We surely experienced the truth of Philippians 4:19 as the Lord so richly provided for us each place we went. "And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

This summer was certainly a learning experience for me. I believe one of the most important lessons the Lord taught me was the importance of putting my full trust in Him. I realized the necessity of allowing Him to take control of every situation I encountered, surrendering my will in each area of my life. "Commit your way to the Lord. Trust also in Him and He will do it." This verse, Psalm 37:5, became real to me as I daily learned how vital full commitment is to my Christian walk.

As I reflect upon the summer and the profitable time it was, I'm so grateful for the opportunity to represent the Bible School. But, most importantly, I'm thankful for the privilege of being a representative of Jesus Christ in this manner and for the valuable preparation time it was for becoming a lifetime ambassador for Him.

Rebecca Wall

Beaver Creek church dedicated

Over the years the Beaver Creek Lutheran Congregation gathered a number of times to discuss the possibility of building a new church.

On Sunday evening, September 16, 1979, the congregation again met to talk over the matter of a new church edifice.

When the vote was taken it indicated that nearly all favored building a new church.

In the months that followed the men of the congregation would gather at the building site after the regular workday on the farm was over. The size of the crew would necessarily vary from time to time for all of them have much farm work to do but they had determined to build the church without hired help, with the exception of putting on the steel siding. The women, too, faithfully turned out to help with many things.

On June 1, at 4 p.m., the church was filled to overflowing. Friends and neighbors as well as members turned out for the dedication service. Pastor Karl Stendal presided; organist and pianist were Mrs. Karl Stendal and Mrs. Myrtle Lund, respectively. Don Anderson, president of the congregation, welcomed the audience; Arley Hartsoch had Scripture reading and prayer; Mrs. Wayne Vance sang, followed by greetings from visiting pastors.

The dedicatory address was given by Pastor John Strand, a former pastor of the congregation. He was also in charge of the dedication service.

Valley City pastor installed



Rev. Curtis Emerson, left, was installed as pastor of Grace Lutheran and Zion Lutheran Churches, Valley City, N. Dak., earlier this summer by Pastor Richard Snipstead, AFLC president, also shown here.

Getting the *AMBASSADOR* to you on time

Over the years there have been intermittent complaints about slow delivery of the *Ambassador*.

Inquiry has been made into this problem again recently. Neither we nor our printers can dictate to the Postal Department by what routes the papers are sent to their destinations.

Secondly, delays are always possible in distributing centers. They are not planned, but they are possible. Receivers may accomplish something by complaining to local postal officials. One of our subscribers recently wrote to one of his U. S. senators about the problem re: the *Ambassador*.

We have begun a policy of mailing orders of 25 or more *Ambassadors* to one state in a separate bag, instead of

in a Mixed States bag. This will speed delivery in some cases by a day or two at the least.

We will endeavor to carry announcements far enough in advance to be of use to most of our readers.

Thank you for your patience.

The Editor

Personalities

Rev. Howard M. Kjos, Roslyn, S. Dak., who has served the Lake Region Lutheran Parish since 1972, has resigned as pastor. His future plans are unknown at this time.



A Minister's Musings



Pastor Einar Unseth

God's Purpose in Affliction

James 5:11

"I have no regrets for having gone through it." Thus spoke a pastor concerning the sorrow that he endured in the loss of his wife 21 years ago. He made this significant statement recently when our son and his daughter were united in marriage. I was much interested in learning about his first wife being she had grown up only one and a half miles from my childhood home. I remember her as a fine Christian girl who attended the Methodist church. Since she had lived her married life in Pennsylvania, I had almost forgotten about her. But now I learned that after having suffered from cancer for five years, she had died at 40 years of age. Her suffering and death had brought much sorrow and difficulty to her husband. Nevertheless he commented concerning that experience, "I have no regrets for having gone through it."

As I mused over his statement, the words of James 5:11 have come to me: "Behold, we count them happy who endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end (purpose) of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy."

In Job's case God had a purpose to fulfill through the afflictions that He permitted to come to him. My son's father-in-law also has seen that God had a purpose for him in his sorrow. He proceeded to share with me about a happening at a hospital one night a few months after his wife's death. Leaving

the hospital, he saw a man who had been weeping. To this man he commented about the beautiful evening. The man sarcastically replied, "It's easy for you to say that." When the pastor asked him if something was wrong, he replied that he had just been informed that his wife had only a short time to live. The pastor then told him that he had lost his wife recently. Thereupon the other man invited the pastor to sit in his car and talk with him. The pastor smiled as he said to me, "And that night that man made a commitment to Christ." My friend had seen the purpose of the Lord in his affliction.

The example of Job is intended to be an encouragement for us in the day of trouble. Though Job was left childless, penniless, friendless and helpless, yet he patiently endured his awful afflictions. He came to realize that God had a purpose in all his troubles, namely, that he should come forth as gold, with the dross removed.

God's Word reminds us that God is very pitiful and of tender mercy. Spurgeon said, "We never get so near to the source of all heavenly consolation as when earthly comfort is removed far away." God's purpose in affliction is to prove that He is full of pity and mercy.

By looking to Jesus and by trusting God's promises we, too, will be given the patience to behold God's purposes in our affliction. May we also be enabled to say, "I have no regrets for having gone through it." ☩



Our Savior's Academy

T.R.F. church assumes academy sponsorship

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, Minn., has assumed leadership and direction of the former King's Way Christian Academy of that city. It is now known as Our Saviour's Christian Academy.

A school council, operating on behalf of the congregation, directs the affairs of the school. Rev. Eugene Enderlein, pastor of Our Saviour's, is the pastor-principal of the school.

The curriculum to be used comes from Accelerated Christian Education and each child will work at his own level of achievement. The school is open to children of all denominations and pledges a concentration on the "primary doctrines" of Scripture in the Christian studies.

Mrs. Enderlein, Mrs. Donald Lerud and Mrs. Maurits Scholin will be teachers this year, with others to be added.

A Christian Academy Boosters club has been organized to give prayer, financial and work support to the school.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR
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that Bible school experience

Coming to Bible school, whether it means leaving home or not, is a strange, yet exciting new experience.

The decision to come to Bible school is the first step. For some this decision is made because of suggestions from friends or parents. Others come because it is always what they have wanted to do. Many of the approximately 85 students who registered for the 1980 AFLBS fall quarter found the decision to be difficult.

Human rationalization questions spending time in a non-accredited institution. Considering economics, why is it not wiser to join the job market immediately? Satan creates numerous reasons why one should not be in the center of God's will. Most students, sooner or later, realize it was God's will to attend AFLBS and that was why they found many obstacles planted by Satan.

The decision to come behind them, students arrived on campus on September 14, for the challenge of meeting new people. It does not take long, however, to find that instead of being surrounded by strangers you are surrounded by Christian brothers and sisters. The warmth and fellowship that quickly result make finding your room, meeting a roommate, and not eating Mother's cooking a pleasant foretaste of the next nine months.

The first day of class is made easier by teachers who are more interested in learning about their students than immediately plunging into lectures and assignments. But, before the day ends, the new student realizes that the routine of lectures, discussions,

assignments and intensive study of the Bible is about to begin.

Classes occupy four hours of the morning and most students work at jobs in the afternoon. Jobs are usually easy to find as the reputation of previous AFLBS students has made employers such as Sears, McDonald's, Jewelmont, and Pillsbury eager to hire. The average salaries and inexpensive transportation that can usually be arranged make it possible to pay for a large portion of the school cost. Working also provides the student daily contact with the non-Christian community and an opportunity to reflect Christ to the world.

As the 15th AFLBS year begins, students have again come with unique needs. At school the Lord is willing and able to provide for every need as each student allows Him to perform His good work. No matter where one is, God's Word must be internalized and Jesus Christ accepted as Lord and Savior for one to be maturing in Christ.

Numerous alumni can join in voicing their appreciation for the years at AFLBS. The value of their experience cannot be measured in monetary value or in time spent. The preparation received through the study of God's Word is for now and all eternity.

A recent AFLBS graduate

Perhaps you should join us

Association Free Lutheran
Bible School
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441



612/544-9501