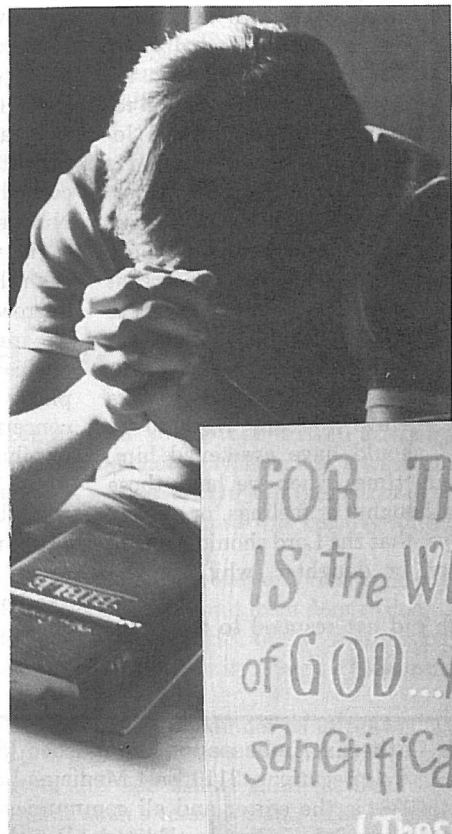


September 18, 1979

The Lutheran Ambassador



FOR THIS
IS the WILL
of GOD...your
sanctification
I Thess. 4:3

**1979
LUTHER LEAGUE
CONVENTION**

MEDITATION MOMENTS

Jonah objects

Jonah 4:1-11

In Jonah we see a saint under the power of the flesh. It was the flesh that led to his fleeing from the presence of the Lord. His heart should have been filled with joy because of the repentance of the Ninevites. Instead he was filled with anxiety. What a strong place self has in our own affections. There is too much of the Jonah disposition in us from time to time.

The rejoicing in heaven over the repentance of one sinner displeased Jonah exceedingly and he was angry. He was quick to look at his own importance. It is unbelievable that a servant of God could be in such a state of mind. It really was the disease of pride that took hold of him. He went so far as to say, "O Lord, take away my life for it is better for me to die than to live."

Certainly the question the Lord puts to him, "Have you any right to be angry?" should have awakened him. There are times when we have those unholy thoughts or feelings, or neglect His ways, that the Lord should come to us, "Son or daughter, why are you angry?"

Jonah did not respond to the Lord.

Scripture tells us he went and sat down at a place outside the city. He wanted to see what would happen to Nineveh.

God miraculously prepared a vine that grew to give shade for his head. Jonah was happy about the vine. It would ease his discomfort from the heat of the sun. God then provided a worm which chewed the vine so that it withered. God sent a scorching wind. Jonah grew faint. He wished once more to be dead. He wanted to be permitted to escape his trials. How callous he became to sin in his own life. How unconcerned he was about the lost souls of Nineveh.

He was concerned about the vine even though he did not tend it or make it grow. Isn't it true of each of us that we are concerned about the pleasures of this life, the things we have and the places we go. But how many of us are concerned about the lost souls in our family, neighborhood or the place we work? Have you invited that person who doesn't know the Lord to your church? Just think how souls could be saved if every Christian did his part. We have a great responsibility. There

are souls outside of Christ because a Christian didn't take time to show love.

How privileged we are to serve the Lord. We are saved to serve. Can we say we are watching for the souls of others, striving to bring others into the fold? Do we, after they are in, watch over them tenderly until they are established in the faith? The primary object in all service for the Master is the winning of others who do not know Him. Is it not a sobering thought that there might have been fewer souls in hell if only we had been more faithful in our witness. Just think how important it is to rescue a soul from spiritual and eternal death. Just think of the happiness of an individual in having forgiveness of sins.

May grace be ours to love the lost and lead them to the Savior. God had love for the sinners of Nineveh. God has love for each of us. May God give love in our hearts for one another. We call Him Master but do we obey Him? We call Him Lord but do we love Him? May Jesus be Lord of our lives.

Leslie Galland

The Lutheran Ambassador is published biweekly (except the second issue in August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn. 56738, is the editor and all communications concerning content of the magazine should be addressed to him. Layout design: Solveig Larson. Editorial Board: Mr. Clarence Quanbeck, Rev. Francis Monseth and Rev. Robert L. Lee. Subscription price is \$4.00 per year in advance. Subscriptions should be sent to **The Lutheran Ambassador**, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn. Volume 17, Number 18
Lutheran Ambassador USPS 588-620



A Thousand Single Steps:

the education of children in the Christian home

by Dr. Philip Dyrud,
Middle River, Minn.

A little girl, when asked to write an essay on people, wrote:

People are composed of boys and girls, also men and women. Boys are no good at all until they grow up and get married. Men who do not get married are no good either. Boys are an awful bother. My mother is a woman and my father is a man. A woman is a grown-up girl with children. My father is such a nice man that I think he must have been a girl when he was a boy.

As much as we may chuckle, this girl's essay was a great affirmation for Mom and Dad of the love of their little daughter.

A fundamental question we as parents should ask ourselves is: What can we do to influence our children so that they will make decisions that will honor God, their family, and also make them feel good about themselves? In Proverbs 22:6, we read: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Even if trained, will the child behave himself when away from Mom and Dad, such as when staying overnight at the home of a friend? A parent can never be sure because a child is not

a computer that can be programed. He has a mind of his own and makes original choices because of his free will. However, we believe that it is God's decision that children be cared for, raised, and led to responsibility within a Christian home.

A Thousand Single Steps

With regard to the Christian faith and how it can be grasped, we need to take a *thousand single steps* in the communication of faith rather than stressing a dramatic conversion. It cannot be denied that many people recognize certain decisive moments in their lives—the precise day and moment when they said "yes" to Christ. Yet, rarely have we seen an individual in whose life this conversion experience has taken place without many factors preceding it. Very often, these factors are the *thousand single steps* of preparation—loving, caring, touching, disciplining—that take place within the Christian home. As parents, we need to remember that coming to authentic faith in Christ is not just an event that happens in some dramatic moment. It is the process of a *thousand single steps* that become basic ingredients in God's timing, the laying of a foundation that will lead a child to Christ.

We must realize that we will not be able to teach the entirety of the Christian faith in some great dialogue with our child. Some people might say: "I'll wait until my child is 13 or so and then sit down and talk to him about becoming a Christian." Rather, we need to embark on a *lifelong strategy*. It is common for parents to just want to do "what comes naturally" without giving much thought to the future.

The philosophy of a thousand single steps has transformed my philosophy of evangelism. I used to think that if Christ were the most important thing in life that I should share that fact with someone. I was meeting for the first time, no matter how inappropriate that might be. I know God blesses the aggressive evangelist, but I feel that with each potential Christian I meet, each soul for whom Christ died, I should embark on a lifelong journey in a thousand single steps of listening, caring and being available to him. It is building a relationship. Then, in God's timing, as I feel the direction of the Holy Spirit in certain witnessable moments, I will be able to share Christ with him. We need to spend time building relationships.

If the family has one thing going for it, it is the fact that the members will probably be together for a long time.

"The idea of a thousand single steps means that each day is important."

Set Goals—Not Just "Doing What Comes Naturally"

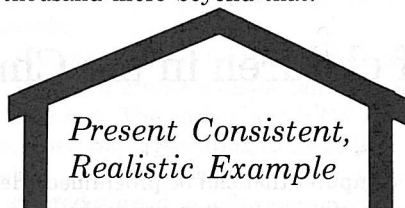
How do we implement ideas that will help us in raising our children? We need to set goals. Many parents do only that which "comes naturally," basing their philosophy mostly upon what their parents did. In a changing world, raising children is not that simple. Just the other day, I was talking to someone who was going to counsel a German mother in our area who was using the strict techniques of the old country. She was completely alienated from her children to the point that it was almost necessary to take them out of the home. She had failed to take into account the changing times and the necessity of changing techniques to accomplish probably the same goals her parents had had.

Make Specific Goals

Is it enough to just have big goals for our families such as "glorifying God in our home," "making Christ the center of our family," or "demonstrating love to our children"? As good as these sound, they are not specific enough for practical use. Let's look at some specific goals. You cannot expect children to suddenly become mature Christians; you must train them, as it says in Proverbs 22:6. There are skills and abilities for children to learn at five years of age and other things at age 14. But training children involves *conscious* decisions made by the parents. Sometimes there are qualifications for privileges; beds should be made before the TV goes on, for example. Some examples of skills, abilities and tasks for children to learn over the years would be: make one's own bed, set the table, attend church regularly, make a personal decision for Christ, read the Bible daily, do dishes, exhibit proper eating habits, manage money, mow and trim the lawn, etc. Because each child is different, there should be a different list and a different sequence of items for each child.

These items can become some of the thousand single steps necessary to achieve the big goals. For example, the goal of showing love in the family is

great, yet it needs to be seen in practical terms on a day-to-day basis, especially when we realize that the typical father in America today spends an average of 37 seconds a day with his preschool children. Similarly, the goals of the Ku Klux Klan and the Nazi party seem good and noble on the surface, but the world remembers only too well what these groups did in their "thousand single steps" of disgrace. The only way that the truths of the Christian life can be "caught" by our children is to commit ourselves, with God's help, to taking a thousand single steps, and then a thousand more, and a thousand more beyond that.



One very important step in keeping a child's respect is to set a *consistent* example for him. It must be remembered that what a parent does in moderation a child can find reason for doing in excess. One example is that if a parent drinks socially, the child will have reason to feel comfortable in a crowd or feel comfortable dating and marrying a person who drinks to excess. More is caught than taught and this is more important at age 2, 3 or 4 than 15, 16 or 17.

We need to be realistic and must be compassionately sensitive to the needs of our children. We need to know and feel the pressures they go through. If we want our children to come up with a real faith and not a superficial carbon copy of our own, we must be open to the difficult truth that our children will probably go through a time of doubt. We need to understand their struggle and give loving help. As much as we love our children, we cannot give them ultimate meaning for life, only Christ can do that. We should not be too optimistic or too pessimistic about our children's struggles. We have to be realistic. The danger of being too optimistic is illustrated by the story of the optimist who fell out of a ten-story

building and was heard to say as he passed the second floor, "Safe so far!"

The "Homing Instinct"

The process of rearing a child is to give him a "homing instinct" (Prov. 22:6). This is illustrated by the young penguins of the great Antarctic ice barrier. When the icebergs break off and float away toward warmer waters, the young penguins often remain floating on the ice. What pain and terror to witness the parting of the ways between the old and young! But, when in trouble, they face the test and drop into the water, and the homing instinct brings them home.

Variables In Raising Children

There are many variables in raising children. Like snowflakes, they are all different. Some are by nature more difficult to raise. We could say that there are no good or bad children, but that there are some who need more help to grow up. Each child is an amazing creation; although the brain at three pounds has been compared to a sophisticated computer, it far exceeds any modern computer because it is capable of love, compassion, creativity and feeling.

Parental Willingness To Learn

We must reflect on ourselves and be willing to learn about ourselves in order to deal with children. A child once said, "The trouble with parents is that they are so old when we get them, it's hard to change their habits." We must act, not just react. We must not only solve problems but prevent them, if possible. It is possible and common to either over-react or under-react; we must be careful not to call a child names or label him. To call a bone broken never caused a fracture, but to say that a child is dumb, stupid, clumsy, etc., is really requiring him to be so. For some reason, labeling requires behavior appropriate to the label. These single steps need to be taken

enemies of the christian home

by Mr. Arlo Kneeland,
Summit, S. Dak.

consciously. We cannot wait until our children are teenagers and then clamp down. The teenage years are a time of backing off, in one sense; our approach and emphasis need to change. Yet, we should not trust current fads of society to rule our lives or to be the judge of our actions since "the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked."

In conclusion, raising children is a joint effort, combining the influences of parents and the home, the church, the community, the school, relatives, evangelists, and many others, such as Christian musicians. All of these should point in the same direction. All are part of a lifelong strategy of raising children in the Christian home: a thousand single steps.

"The philosophy of a thousand single steps has transformed my philosophy of evangelism."

"Communication is talking, but it is also listening, and may be an even greater part could be understanding."

Could enemy No. 1 be *pride*? Being proud of one's own accomplishments, opinions, abilities, trying to do things in one's own strength? Being too proud to admit one is wrong or has made a mistake? Always finding someone else to blame, just like Adam and Eve? Adam blamed Eve and even blamed God (that "woman You gave me"). Then Eve blamed the serpent.

The husband and/or father may have the most trouble with this enemy, although it can affect any member of the family.

Then, too, there is *inverted pride*, when one has a low self image. The person is not *up* on himself but rather *down* on himself, but the spotlight is still on *self*. Sometimes people even become proud of their humility.

The sin of *selfishness* comes to many members of the family in different ways. Husband and wife have to struggle with this enemy as do all the members of the family. We need to surrender our selfish rights to God and they will come back to us as privileges.

The *lack of communication* is a very real enemy, such as husband to wife, parents to children, children to each other or just general lack of communication. Communication is *talking*, but it is also *listening*, and maybe an even greater part could be *understanding*. "Lord, grant that I might seek more to understand than to be understood."

The *sins of the flesh* are all enemies of the Christian home. We find some of them mentioned in Gal. 5:19-20. St. Paul is here challenging us to "*Walk by the Spirit*," don't gratify the deeds of the flesh. This is a struggle for the Christian home. We need to feed the *new nature* by the *Word*. Do not feed the flesh; *crucify it daily*.

We have nine *fruits of the Spirit* to help us to do this. They are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Eph. 5:18b: "*Be filled with the Spirit*" and have a song in your heart, give thanks always and be submissive to one another (19-21). This is *supernatural power* for family living.

Lack of proper discipline is another enemy. Parents need to have a balance of love, discipline and teaching responsibility toward their children. Eph. 6:1-3: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right . . . that it may be well with you." This is a promise for children that needs to be taught very early in life. *God will bless the children* and this, in turn, will be a blessing to the parents.

Our society even seems to discourage discipline. It is so very important for parents to train their children to respect and obey them, *because* respect for parents provides a *basis* for a child's respect for *all authority* throughout life, such as in school, with the police, other people, society in general, and even their respect for the *authority of God Himself*.

The *permissiveness* that society promotes is an enemy of the Christian home along with lack of discipline. There are many places in Scripture that show the importance of proper discipline and the responsibility of parents to their children. One of these is Deut. 6:6-7; study this one out for the real deep meaning in it. Proverbs has several good verses: 13:24, 23:13, 22:6 and others. God knew we would have to deal with a permissive society.

Society encourages things like "Let the youth do their own thing." What this really means is that "I'm first and everybody else is last." A Christian family functions on a *spirit of giving* and not taking. Thus it is a very real

Enemies . . .

enemy. Another saying is, "If it feels good, do it." This is saying, I will do what gives me pleasure regardless of what it does to you. This really encourages selfishness. It is directly contrary to Christianity. Real joy comes in this order; Jesus first, others second and I last. It is only through the Word and grace of God that the Christian home can win against permissiveness.

Also the *dating practices* in our society are an enemy of the Christian home. The pressure in this area is terrific, both for young people and parents. It's really not necessary to be dating as young as our society allows. It often leads to guilt feelings that bother for years and years, even to the next generation. Children can even pick up the guilt feelings of their parents. The chief purpose of dating is to develop a

oneness of spirit as one looks for a lifetime mate.

Another enemy of the home can be *friendships* we have. Most teenagers don't realize why it is true that in order to have the right friends we must be willing to have the right enemies. God warns us in the Bible when He says, "Whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God" (Jas. 4:4).

I believe the main enemy, *the devil*, works overtime to keep families from having family devotions. He keeps telling us we don't have time or no time is right for all the members of the family. Eph. 6:4: "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." This is one of the greatest challenges for all fathers. We are responsi-

ble for discipline and instruction, which includes family devotions, Bible study, family worship, and through it all we are not to provoke our children to anger or rebellion. This really takes a special measure of God's Grace.

Now let us consider some of the more obvious enemies. One is *materialism*. This enemy may attack our homes in many and different ways. Oh, how important *things* seem to be at times. A person just has to have this thing or that thing. We have to make a living, so we become too busy for many things that would be the best for the family. The standard of living is so all-important. One fellow told me that his main enemy was the pressure to "keep up with the Joneses."

How about an *automobile* for high school teenagers? This surely does put

THE FAMILY IN WORSHIP

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

by Pastor Einar Unseth,
Bismarck, N. Dak.

In America today people are expressing more and more concern about our homes and families. One pastor recently wrote these words, "There has been such a slackening of family ties, one-third of marriages ending in divorce, continual propaganda for birth control, and for abortion. The government has

had a tendency to take over the children, and kids grow undisciplined without learning to work, no respect for Dad or Mother, and homes in America are usually in a mess."

Indeed, there are many homes that are messed up with severe problems. Only about 40 miles from Bismarck a husband and wife were killed while asleep in bed. The murder suspect is

their own 15-year-old son. Though few homes have problems that develop into such a serious tragedy, many are the homes which lack the peace and joy of Christ.

Because of the many troubled homes today, people are wondering if there is any hope for our homes. I know for certain that there is still hope, for our God is a God of hope. The way to a happy, peaceful home is for the family to be regularly, jointly and wholeheartedly involved in worship of God. Therefore, I would like to share with you some thoughts on "The Family in Worship."

First of all, we may ask, "What is worship?" The dictionary definition of worship is: "courtesy or reverence paid to worth; hence, honor, respect." Dr. D. James Kennedy says, "To worship means giving God the number one place in your life." To worship God is to obey the most important of all the commandments, namely the first one, which says, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." Concerning this commandment, Luther said, "That is: you shall have (and worship) Me alone as your God. It is the intent of this commandment to require true faith and trust of the heart which settles upon the only true God, and clings to Him alone."

a lot of pressure and responsibility on the parents of the youth with the car and also the youth without one. The parents need to teach proper values, uses and attitudes concerning cars.

We all know some of the dangers of television, don't we? There is a lot of good in and on television, too. In many ways it becomes an enemy for us, though, such as in certain types of programs, the influence on one's thinking, the time consumption. These affect both the parents and the children. I even believe these game shows that seem so harmless have a bad effect on our values. The desire to get so much for so little or just missing getting a new car by one number. The gambling aspect is so strong. Then in other programs so much worldly thinking is expressed as normal, making it so easy to

compromise principles. It really can have a bad influence on almost anyone.

Little gambling pools on athletic events and while bowling, etc., is another compromise so easy in which to get involved.

Public education is another thing that most of us have to deal with. In some areas, there is a lot of emphasis on evolution. Some of the required reading is terrible, also library books. The over-emphasis and wrong emphasis on sports in some places. The non-Christian influence on the pupils. The peer pressure from the worldly groups. Christian young people really have need for our prayers and the grace of God to cope with all the pressures and influence of the public school. There is such a need for Christian young people to witness for our Lord and Savior, too.

It is so important for our young people to have Christian fellowship outside the public school so they can be the kind of witnesses Christ wants them to be.

We haven't nearly mentioned all the enemies of the Christian home. In fact, some of you may be thinking that I missed the main ones, because the main enemy for one home may not even be an enemy for the next home.

Let each of us search our own hearts for the enemies in our own homes that *God wants us to deal with*. May we daily crucify the *flesh*, the *worldly* influences and the *devil's* influences in our homes. Put complete trust in God and "*walk by the Spirit*."

Let Christ be head over the husband, the husband head of the wife and parents over the children, and not in some other order.

"The way to a happy, peaceful home is for the family to be regularly, jointly and wholeheartedly involved in the worship of God."

God desires that we worship Him not only as individuals, but as families. In Deuteronomy 6, God says that we should teach His words diligently to our children. If we have brought our precious children to Christ in baptism, then we should do everything in our power to bring these children into a personal relationship to Christ and to worship Him. I believe that the conducting of family devotions is the best way in which the family can engage in worship of God.

Dr Narramore, a Christian psychologist, emphasizes the importance of the family altar with this statement, "Among all Christian activities few, if any, are more important than daily family devotions. Attendance at church and prayer meeting, as important as they are, can never take the place of the family altar. Here is where you develop Christian character, receive godly instruction, and learn to walk intimately with the Lord."

God Himself stresses the necessity of family devotions when He says that we shall teach His Word diligently as we sit in our house, when we walk, when

we lie down, and when we rise up. This means that every problem that arises in the home will be dealt with in the light of Scripture. In order to obey that command, surely it is essential that we devote a portion of each day to holding family devotions.

The conducting of family devotions can be done in various ways. Singing can be a very enjoyable part of it. The amount of singing and the type of songs will naturally depend upon the musical ability and the ages of the members of the family. The practice of having each member of the family choose a hymn will add to the overall interest in family devotions.

A vital part of family devotions is prayer. Dr. Walter A. Maier said, "Basic in all prayers should be the petition for the forgiveness of sins and gratitude for Christ's redeeming grace." Before the family goes to God in prayer, it is good to ask for prayer requests. This helps to remind each person of important needs to pray for as well as to create a greater involvement by each person. Naturally, we will want to pray for each member of our family, both

those present and those absent. Remembering absent members in prayer is a very meaningful spiritual experience. Specific family needs should be brought before the Lord. Each member of the family should pray, asking God for His blessing, asking for help for our work and studies, asking for healing for those who are sick, and for help to win souls. The local congregation, the leaders and teachers of our Association of Free Lutheran congregations, and our missionaries should be remembered in these family prayers. This can be personalized more by having each member of the family choose one of our missionary families for which to pray. The leaders of our nation should also be brought before the Throne of Grace. When prayers are answered, these joys should be shared in family devotions. Hearing of such answers, children will know for sure that our God is a prayer-answering God.

Above all, family devotions should be centered on the Word, for through the Word God speaks to us and Christ becomes real to us. Through the Word we come to see our sin and our need of a Savior. Through the Word we come to see that Jesus is the Savior whom we need. For very small children, Bible

Worship . . .

story books are helpful and understandable. However, one of my sons recently told me that even as a child he liked it better when we used the Bible itself instead of a Bible story book.

When reading the Bible to our children, father or mother should occasionally explain difficult portions and call attention to some verse that is especially good and suggest they memorize it. Family devotions offer an excellent opportunity to memorize Scripture and to share with one another verses that God has used to bless and help us. If Dad and Mother find the Bible sweet and blessed, so will the children.

But someone will ask, "Why is it so important for the family to worship God in daily family devotions?" First of all, because God tells us to do it; and secondly, because of the great blessings that come to a family from doing it. After the 26 years that we have been holding daily family devotions, I felt led to ask our six sons how they have benefited from it.

One blessing from it is that it helps draw us closer to God. This was pointed out by one of our sons when he stated, "Family devotions was a source of continuity for me. Though I often disliked the time spent, I saw later that the continual presentation of the Word as *believed* truth had a strong effect on my becoming a Christian (Isaiah 55:11)." Another of our sons said, "Learning to pray as I learned to talk, helped me to form a concept of a real, personal God long before I made a commitment to Christ."

Some weeks ago, when one of our sons was ill in bed, the rest of us gathered around his bed for family devotions. Our bedridden son prayed, "Dear God, thank You for this sickness. Please show me Your purpose in it for me. I know You are able to heal me, so please heal me." Through that family altar we were all drawn closer to God.

Another blessing from family devotions is that it draws the members of a family closer together. One of our sons gave this testimony, "Having a definite devotional time for the family has kept our family's members together more than if we had not had it. This has improved our family unity, focusing our attention on the Bible, which

has provided a start for building a foundation for a Christian life." Yes, the Family Altar will help close the generation gap and draw the family together. How we need this uniting force in our world of broken homes today!

Yet another tremendous blessing from family devotions is that it provides us with a plentiful knowledge of God's Word. One of our sons spoke of this benefit thus, "The importance of family devotions first made its impact upon me when I went to Moody Bible Institute and took their Bible knowledge test. Then I discovered that I had a very good knowledge of the Bible; and I realized that I had obtained much of it through our family devotions."

Yes, through the Word that we use in family devotions, the Holy Spirit brings many wonderful blessings to our children and also to we who are parents. How tragic it is, then, that so few parents provide these precious blessings for their children! A few years ago a pastor stated, "By testing congregations all over America I have come to the conclusion that *less than one out of ten fundamental Christian families*

regularly have a time of daily Bible reading and praying together."

We who are parents want the best for our children, both for this life and for eternity. We know that every child has a soul that will live somewhere forever, and that unless he comes to a personal faith in Christ, he will be eternally lost. If we don't reach our children for Christ while they are young it will be extremely difficult to reach them after they have grown up. As one person said, "The film of childhood can never be run through for a second showing."

May God move every one of us parents, who still have children at home, to worship the Lord through regular family devotions. The result will be the godliness and happiness in our homes that God planned for them. Through it God will lead our baptized children to personal faith in Christ and will help them to grow up to be great blessings to their families, to their church, and to society. Yes, the hope of our homes and families today rests in the wholehearted joint, regular worship of God in family devotions.

Pastor Jonas Helland



Pastor and Mrs. Jonas Helland on their golden wedding anniversary.

Funeral services for Pastor Jonas Helland, who passed away on July 30 in Willmar, Minn., at the age of 84, were held in Zion Lutheran Church, Willmar, on August. 1. Rev. Dennis Gray officiated and preached a sermon, as did Rev. Richard Snipstead,

president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

Mrs. Roger Rasmussen was organist and sang the duet, "He the Pearly Gates Will Open," with Esther Floren. Pastor and Mrs. Trygve Dahle sang "Children of the Heavenly Father." At the beginning of the service the congregation sang "My Heart is Longing to Praise My Saviour."

WMF RALLY TO BE AT SPICER

The fall rally of the Women's Missionary Federation of the Southwest Central District of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will convene at Green Lake Lutheran Church, Spicer, Minn., Rev. Dennis Gray, pastor, Oct. 2.

Registration will begin at 9:30. The morning session will open at 10 with Pastor Elden Nelson, director of Home Missions, speaking and showing slides.

The afternoon session will open at 1:15, with Pastor Carl Hort, Brooten, Minn., bringing the message.

Mrs. John Arleng Johnson
Secretary

editorials

YEAR OF THE CHILD

This is the international Year of the Child. We haven't planned anything in observance of this year. Our articles in this issue from the Bible Conference in Grafton, N. Dak., will have to be our message to the world on this subject.

This isn't to say that the idea of having a "Year of the Child" is preposterous. Some people feel that way. "The very idea of emphasizing the child! They are giving us enough trouble anyway!"

But the other way of looking at it is that children are people, too, and that hasn't always been recognized. Always, one is reminded of Paul's words, "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger" (Eph. 6:4a). There is one of those Bible clauses which will take a lot of study. We can take it to mean, for one thing, that adults can't be two-faced with children and get away with it. And the child certainly won't come away from such adult behavior unmarked.

We must remember that children have never "walked this way before." The world is a whole new way to them. What they learn, they learn first of all from those who are

older than they are, and as far as adults go, from their parents, then their neighbors, other relatives, people in the church and school, and so on. Unless children can grow up amidst right ideals and ideas, they're going to have a tough row to hoe. And, of course, in the Christian context, we believe that Baptism and right instruction in the ways of the Lord will make the difference.

So the Year of the Child actually could just as well be called the Year of the Parent or the Year of the Adult. For it hardly means, how can we give children more toys with which to play and more ice cream to eat? But it means, how can we as adults help children to grow up into useful human beings? And to use the Christian reference again, into beautiful Christian people?

We commend our four feature articles in this issue to you, under the general theme, "The Christian Home in God's Plan."

SPECIAL EMPHASIS

We are pleased to present four articles in this issue on "The Christian Home in God's Plan." They are based on presentations made at the Bible Conference in Grafton, N. Dak., earlier this year. Two of them are by pastors and two by laymen and they all present challenging ideas and spiritual concern for more effective Christian homes, in our church and in the world.

Pallbearers for Pastor Helland were Rudolph Helland, Kermit Helland, Dr. Walter Helland, Oliver Rosvald, Carl Rasmussen and Ingvald Underland. Interment was in Cloverleaf Memorial Cemetery, Willmar.

Jonas Larson Helland was born on November 1, 1894, at Bryne, Norway. He immigrated to the U.S. in 1914, coming to Binford, N. Dak., where he had an uncle. During World War I he served with the U.S. Army in France.

He attended the Lutheran Brethren Bible School in Grand Forks, N. Dak., and later, Augsburg College and Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, Minn., being ordained into the ministry of the Lutheran Free Church in 1926, in Calvary Lutheran Church, Willmar. In June of 1926 he was united in marriage to Agna Storeygard in Minneapolis.

They served LFC parishes in Lansford, N. Dak., 1926-30; Hawley, Minn., 1930-39; Carpio, N. Dak., 1939-45; Calvary Lutheran, Everett, Wash., 1945-50; and Satersdal Parish, Thief River Falls, Minn., 1950-58. He then served

the independent congregation, Ny Stavanger Lutheran, Buxton, N. Dak., 1958-63. The church subsequently became affiliated with the AFLC. He was interim pastor of Crow Lake Lutheran, Belgrade, and Sunburg Lutheran, Sunburg, Minn., 1967-69.

He was active in community affairs, serving on the school board while in Carpio and on the corporation of Oak Grove Lutheran High School in Fargo, N. Dak., for a number of years. In Everett he was president of the Bethany Home corporation for a time.

Pastor Helland entered the Christian Living and Nursing Center, Willmar, on January 23, 1976, and on April 1 of that year suffered a stroke. He had been in failing health since that time.

He is lovingly remembered by his wife Agna, a daughter, Rachel, Willmar, two brothers and a sister, Ragnvald, Peter and Inga, of Bryne, Norway, and cousins in the U.S. His parents, one brother and a sister preceded him in death.

Peace be to his memory.

In Memoriam

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

SOUTH DAKOTA

Wallace

Mrs. Louis (Emma) Anenson, 77, Apr. 8, Calvary

Mrs. Henry (Martha) Johnson, 72, July 8, Calvary

Miss Anna Sakariason, 72, Aug. 13, Calvary

THE HOME AND SOCIETY

by Pastor David Molstre,
Dickinson, N. Dak.

It is interesting to notice how many Scripture passages there are concerning the home and how important it is.

In this article I would like for us to consider three areas the Bible speaks about when it considers the home.

I. Importance of the Home as we see it in Scripture:

God commends marriage. In Prov. 18:22, we read: "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord." Heb. 13:4 says: "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled."

God calls marriage a solemn obligation. In Gen. 2:24, we read: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother . . . and they shall be one flesh." Mark 10:9 says: "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." This is an area that many couples have forgotten today, and how they suffer when they do forget.

God gives us instructions in Scripture on how we should conduct ourselves. God says to husbands, "Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of thy life" (Eccles. 9:9). In I Pet. 3:7, God instructs husbands to "dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."

God says to wives: "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." In I Tim. 3:11, God says: "Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things."

There are instructions given in Scripture about how we should deal with our children. *We are to teach them.* In Deut. 6:7, we read, "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when

thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

We are to train them. In Prov. 22:6, we read: "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

We are to provide for them (II Cor. 12:14). *We are to nurture them* (Eph. 6:4).

We are to control them. We read in I Tim. 3:4: "One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity." How important it is that we begin early in life to control and set limits upon our children.

Now the reason that God gives so many verses on parents and their responsibilities is because God knows how this will influence children for their entire lives.

II Timothy 1:5 tells us that it was the training that Timothy got from his mother and grandmother that helped him become the Christian he was. In II Chron. 22:3, we read the tragic verse: "He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly."

The Bible is full of examples parents set and how these affected their children. We see how true Proverbs 10:1 is: "A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother."

It is interesting that before any other institution, marriage was established by God. The home is very important; it affects everything around it. And that is probably why the home today is in such trouble, constantly being attacked. For if Satan can get the home to crumble, he also has won a victory over the church and the community.

II. The Home Influence in the Church:

None realize as much as the pastor how important it is and what a difference it makes when the young people come from Christian homes.

Young people who come from homes where parents care about their spiritual needs are more receptive in confirmation, in Luther League, in the wor-

ship service, and the Sunday school.

When parents are praying, and giving a Christian example, there is co-operation, respect and Christian memory on the part of the children. Every good youth program begins in the home. We must never forget that.

Travelling for the last four years among our churches in the Association, it has been interesting to see how our churches vary in their pietism, their programs, their priorities. The people have much to do with this and the homes out of which they come. There are certain values that we never quite get over—these values come from the home.

The church is built on the Rock which is Jesus. The body of Christ (the Church) is made up of believers. The natural way for one to become a believer and part of the body is through Baptism and then Christian instruction in the home and church.

III. Home influence in the School and Community:

What a difference Christian kids make in a classroom in school. They can be a conscience of morality and a source of healthy ideas for action.

I have known young people starting prayer meetings in the classroom before school. They have been a voice against evolution, a witness for Christ by their actions.

Christian parents can make a difference with their activities in PTA and also by their involvement with the school board and teachers.

Instead of complaining about how bad things are getting we can and should do something about it through involvement.

When it comes to influence in the community, I suppose none of us ever really realize what an influence we have. We don't know who is watching us, what they are thinking.

Next to the preaching of the Word, how we live, what we say, how we react have a very powerful effect on the progress of the kingdom of God.

Christ and our church are judged by what people see in us. The book of James is full of verses dealing with

"The home is very important; it affects everything around it."

Evangelism Today

Committee Preparation for the Crusade

PUBLICITY

Select people who are good in this area. Newspaper articles plus radio and television ads are very effective in notifying the community of the meetings and inviting the public to come. It is good to inform the entire membership of your congregation of the meetings, either by letter, telephone calls, or house-to-house visitation. Oftentimes a face-to-face invitation to the meetings impresses many people with the urgency and the importance of the crusade. Visitation teams of two or three people can be assigned to cover various areas of the community to reach the unchurched people as well as the indifferent church members. The youth can be involved by making and/or distributing posters around your community—to other churches (when permission is granted), on community billboards, in stores, laundromats, etc. Print up interesting brochures which can be passed out to the neighborhood. Many people in your congregation can be actively involved in the publicity for the crusade, thus not only reaching out to others but also building their own excitement for the meetings.

Sunday services can also be used as a time of informing the congregation about the crusade, preparations, etc. Have one of the members of the various committees give a five-minute presentation on what their specific committee is doing in this evangelism effort.

Publicity is important. There is nothing more frustrating to an evangelist than to come to a church for a week of evangelistic meetings and then to find that only Christians are in church because the lost have never been invited to come.

COUNSELLING

Because we have prayed, we must expect the Holy Spirit to be moving in hearts, so there will be people seeking help after the evening services. Training classes for counselors should be held for several weeks prior to the crusade. Five to ten hours on soul-winning should be a "must" for every counselor. Pastor A. W. Knock has a very good book called *Personal Evangelism* and a small booklet, *Winsome Soulwinning*, which could be used for this training.

The counselling chairman should also be responsible for ordering counselling materials to be available during

the meetings, such as tracts explaining the way of salvation, perhaps Nels Pedersen's tract, "New Life Now" (Lutheran Colportage). It is important that the counselors are familiar with these materials before the crusade begins. Counselors should be praying, committed Christians with a real love for souls, a basic knowledge of the Bible, and a humble, willing spirit to serve the Lord and others.

FOLLOW-UP

This committee has a very important task, because salvation of souls is only the beginning. New Christians must be established in their faith and encouraged in daily personal Bible study and prayer. There are many good follow-up materials available.

This committee can be the same as the counselling committee. The same qualifications and training are important for both. Each member of this committee could be assigned one or two persons who made commitments to the Lord during the crusade. Follow-up can be done by phone calls, personal visits, as well as prayer and Bible study times together at least once a week. They should pray for these people, encourage them, and help them until the new Christians are able to stand spiritually indoctrinated in the truths of God's Word. New converts should be encouraged but not pushed into Bible study groups in the church. Working together with the pastor, all who are involved in this important phase of the ministry are sure to be strengthened and blessed.

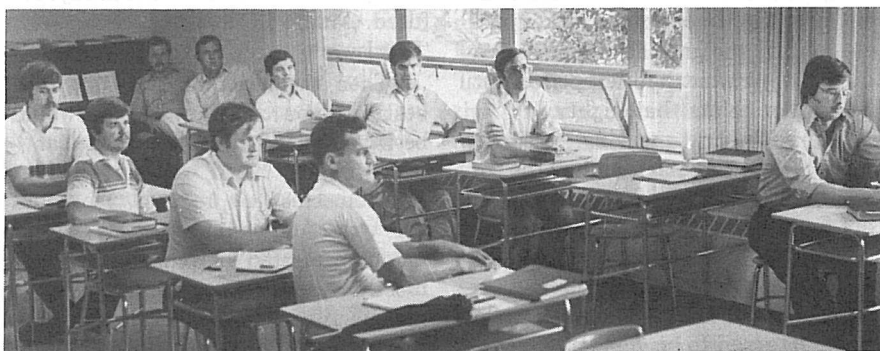
Pastor Herbert L. Franz

"Instead of complaining . . . we can and should do something about it through involvement."

practical living and how important it is.

There are people in our community who are Christians. They don't have to say it. It is obvious, even to the unbeliever. These people influence the community where they live.

With all of what we see in Scripture and around us, it is very clear that the home is essential and without Christian homes the future is very dark indeed.



On September 5, twelve men began their studies for the new year at AFLTS. Pictured above row 1, (L-R): Robert Blies, Mark Antal, Franklin Rutherford, Thomas Baker. Row 2: Robert Lewis, Curtis Emerson, Edmundo Hassenteufel, James Berdeen, Gilbert Schroeder, Gary Jorgenson. Not pictured: Charles Knapp, Jon Wellumson.



Happy Acres

PORCUPINE HEAD

"Well, if it is time for another story," said Dad, "I suppose I'd better put my story-thinking cap on."

"How about a story about Indians?" asked Paul.

Dad scratched his head. "Well, I know one about an Indian called Porcupine Head."

"Oh," said Mark, "this ought to be real good."

"Well, this Porcupine Head was a half-breed boy that lived out on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation where Missionary Hall worked. Porcupine Head learned to be a cowboy, and when he grew up he had a ranch of his own on the Reservation. He used to drive cattle for many miles across the prairie to Minot and ship them to market from there.

"Once when he had been to Minot and had taken a thousand dollars in cash from his bank, he put his wallet with all this money in it into his jacket pocket, and started driving home in his buggy. It got very hot that day, so Porcupine Head took his jacket off and laid it across the top of the buggy seat beside him. Somewhere along that trail, the wallet with the thousand dollars in it slipped out of the jacket pocket and into the grass. Porcupine Head didn't know what had happened until he got home late that night.

"Early the next morning, he started with fresh horses and searched the trail all the way back to Minot. He could not find his wallet. Homesteaders were flocking into that country at that time, so Porcupine Head was pretty sure some one of them had found his wallet. So he returned to his bank and wanted to draw out another thousand dollars. But he had a banker friend who told him he ought to wait over till the next day, and maybe someone would return the wallet.

"Well, Porcupine Head was sure no one who found a thousand dollars in cash out on the prairies would return it, but to please his banker friend, he did stay overnight at Minot.

"The next morning when Porcupine Head came to the bank, his banker friend asked him to come into his office. There, standing beside the banker's desk was a homesteader in patched clothes, and that homesteader handed Porcupine Head his wallet.

"The man said to Porcupine Head, 'You count it over. I think all the money is there.'

"Porcupine Head could hardly believe his eyes. He counted the bills carefully and found that all his thousand dollars were there. Then he pulled out a hundred dollar bill and offered it to the homesteader. "Take this," he said, "as a reward for bringing my money back to me."

"But the homesteader would not take the hundred dollar bill. 'The money is all yours,' he told Porcupine Head, 'I shouldn't have any of it for returning your own money to you.'

"Porcupine Head tried several times to get the homesteader to accept some money, but the homesteader always refused. Finally, Porcupine Head said, 'But I want to reward you some way.'

"Then the homesteader said, 'The best way you could reward me would be if you would become a Christian.'

"Porcupine Head was surprised at the homesteader's request. He could not quite understand it. He wasn't much interested in religion. He was mostly interested in making a lot of money. So he just shook hands with the homesteader and headed back for his ranch.

"But Porcupine Head could never forget that homesteader. He tried many times to find that homesteader and try again to reward him. But he

was never able to find the homesteader. As the years passed, Porcupine Head found that he was never satisfied no matter how much money he made. And he kept remembering how contented and joyful looking that poor homesteader had been, and how honest and decent the man had been. He kept remembering, too, how that homesteader had asked him to become a Christian.

"Finally, Porcupine Head started going to church, and he did become a Christian."

"Did the homesteader ever find out that Porcupine Head became a Christian?" Ann asked.

"No," replied Dad, "I'm sure the homesteader never learned that because of his humble testimony those few minutes he was with Porcupine Head, that one day Porcupine Head was to become a Christian. You see, each of us little knows how much we may be able to help people—or hurt them—by what we do and say, any day. That homesteader was no important person, and we may think that we aren't important and so what we do and say isn't important. But, for all we know, someone we least expect may be brought closer—or farther—from Christ, by what we do and say."

"That homesteader," said Mom, "will have his reward in heaven. For 'whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven' " (Matt. 10:32).

Memory Verse

Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. Matthew 10:32

Life on the Edge of Town



Garden Produce

My garden is bearing well. And this in spite of very little rain between the first week in July and the third week in August. More moisture would have helped, to be sure. Next year I'd like to get a gas pump and arrange a sprinkler system using river water.

This is the second year for the garden and it is producing better in most respects. I continue to be amazed at how vegetables such as tomatoes, cucumbers and squash find the moisture they need to grow and develop. It is all a real miracle to me, all the plant growth, the uniqueness of each kind of flower blossom. God's handiwork constantly amazes me.

This summer I picked blueberries for preserving for the first time in my life. And my aching back brought back memories of my potato-picking days.

FAMILY DISCUSSION

1. What are ways in which children can confess Christ before men by what they do?
2. If we could have met this homesteader in patched clothes, would we have considered him an important person or a leading Christian? (Read Matthew 19:23-30). In God's sight, how do you think this humble homesteader will stand? One of the "first (that) shall be last" or one of the "last (that) shall be first"?
3. What should we do if we find something that is not ours? If we say, "Finders, keepers," what Commandment are we breaking?

Reprinted from *Happy Acres* by Erling Nicolai Rolfsrud, by permission of Augsburg Publishing House copyright owner.

Heard about a place six-seven miles northeast of Newfolden where they were to be found. Went out several times for a couple hours and gathered in some quarts of the delicious berries. Some were found in brush, some in the open. Over a month's time hundreds of people visited this perhaps 80-acre blueberry swamp and were defied to pick them all. I wonder how many thousands of dollars worth of berries were taken out.

This year I also picked some chokecherries and cranberries, too, but not many of the latter as we have quite a carryover of canning from last year.

Trip to McHenry

In 1946 and 1947 I worked in the harvest out by McHenry, N. Dak. My employers were Roy and Beatrice Rasmussen. Beatrice is a sister of Pastor Amos Dyrud of our schools.

In July I drove over on a Sunday to visit them and stayed till Tuesday. Hadn't visited them there for over 20 years and only once in the 32 years since I worked there. Also saw their son Jim and his wife Jane (McCarlson) and their two boys. I officiated at their wedding while a pastor in South Dakota. Beatrice's sister, Edel Gast, was also visiting at the time.

We visited some of the neighbors—Twedts, Eidoens, Havens, ate supper one evening at the Red Willow Lake Resort near Binford, and looked in the Gethsemane Church where I found a good church home while out working. It was pastored then by Rev. J. Loland, who is married to an aunt of Pastor Francis Monseth, also of our schools. Roy also took me over to visit Palmer and Nick Overby. Palmer had attended Augsburg with my dad for three

years, 1912-15, and he recalled some memories of those days. Before leaving the area I visited a while with Monroe Tweed, an old Augsburg classmate of mine, on his farm. It was homesteaded by his grandparents, the Gudmondsons, and there many newcomers from Norway found work, including, for a brief time, my father.

And I found it interesting to just be on the Rasmussen farm again. Of course, things have changed. The barn is gone. Rows of trees separate fields where before there was only open prairie. The farm has electricity and running water now. (My old bedroom is now the bathroom.) In the days when I worked for Rasmussens, if a man wore an overall jacket it meant that he was a working man. Yes, times have changed.

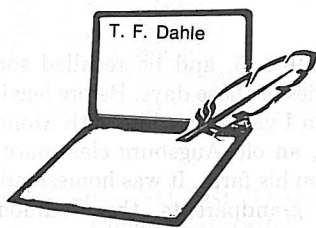
It was out in that country between McHenry and Tolna that I made some of the money that enabled me to go to college. It was good to spend a while there again.

Winnipeg

There haven't been any longer vacation trips this year. Maybe next year, although unleaded gas has now reached the dollar a gallon mark here in Newfolden. We knew it would get up there, didn't we?

Have been up to Winnipeg twice. That metropolitan community of some 580,000 people is a two-and-a-half hour drive from here. The last time I saw the excellent museum on Man and Nature in downtown Winnipeg. It features the contributions of the Jewish people, Mennonites and Ukrainians. I didn't see any mention of Scandinavians as being among those who had shared in the making of Manitoba. Truly they have been a miniscule part of the province.

Kildonan Park is a spot of beauty with its tall trees and beautiful flower gardens. Assiniboine Park has these and a very fine zoo, presenting a lot of God's creatures in captivity. And it's all free. One time I saw a fascinating display of agility by gray gibbons (monkeys) as they swung from place to place in their cage. My mother and sister and I usually take time to drive around a little in Tuxedo (near Assiniboine) to look at the large, beautiful homes there. —Raynard Huglen



Thoughts from Tryg

CONFORMITY

Rom. 12:2

"We often ask ourselves, 'How could the early disciples turn the world upside down, when millions of Christians today can't even keep it right side up?' The answer is simple. They didn't conform their faith to the world. They had the truth, and they refused to water it down. They held a faith that would not compromise"—Billy Graham.

When the Church conforms to the world, so as to not offend, the Church loses its power to win men for Jesus Christ. A Lutheran pastor's wife, talking to a group of young people, said: "It would be better for you Christian young people not to give a public testimony, for in so doing you might offend someone." Where then is the cross? A young Lutheran pastor, fresh out of seminary, a counsellor at a Bible camp, told the seeking youth at that camp, that it was not wrong to smoke and drink moderately or dance. They could do those things and still be Christians. How sad.

In the two cases mentioned above (and those persons are not the only ones in our day who talk like that) where, then, is the cross that Jesus talks about? "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (Matt. 16:24). Taking up the cross means the persecutions we suffer for daring to be different, daring to let others know that we are saved, daring to suffer ridicule for Jesus' sake. Paul says, in Gal. 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live,

but Christ liveth in me; and that life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself up for me." To be set aside, laughed at or mocked because you will not do the things others do, and you bear that for Jesus, that is taking up the cross. Daniel dared to be different, dared to stand alone, and the Lord sustained him. His three companions were thrown into the fiery furnace, but the Lord saved them out of it. He was also thrown into the lions' den, but the lions could not hurt him for the Lord closed the lions' mouths.

It is not pleasant for flesh and blood to carry the cross for Jesus, but it pays in the end. The early Church (in Acts 8), when the persecution came to Jerusalem, left their homes. They were scattered abroad in Judea and Samaria—and they went everywhere preaching the word. The Apostles were arrested and put in prison, and when brought before the great council and asked by what authority they did these things, Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, told them, "By the power of the Name of Jesus." Paul and other Christians rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer these things for the name of Jesus.

"Be not fashioned according to this world; but be ye transformed" (Rom. 12:2). May God help us to "Take up the cross and follow Jesus." "Dare to be a Daniel, dare to stand alone." "For great is your reward in Heaven." "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad" (Matt. 5:12).

Trygve F. Dahle

Preaching Missions

Eagle Butte, S. Dak.
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Ernest J. Langness, pastor
Oct. 7-11

Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden,
Minn., speaker

Grygla Church to host Laymen

The Northern Minnesota Lutheran Laymen will meet on Sunday, Sept. 23, at Bethsaida Lutheran Church, five miles east of Grygla, at 2:30 p.m.

The text will be Revelation 8. All are welcome.

Art Joppru, Chairman
Joe Jacobson, Secretary

We filled the gaps

by Joel Quanbeck

"So you, too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done'" (Luke 17:10).

"Oh, you're not the Gospel Team. Well, what do you do then?" It is at this point that we as the 1979 Home Mission Team claimed for ourselves Luke 17:10. It has been our privilege this summer to serve in six different AFLC Home Mission congregations. The emphasis must rest on privilege and service because we count it a privilege to know and be in God's will this summer. We count it a privilege to be used by Him to help build His body. We trust that we have been a blessing to those with whom we have worked.

If the Home Mission Team is not a Gospel Team, what exactly is it? Many congregations within the Association have great areas of potential which that congregation is unable to explore due to lack of time, money, manpower or other reasons. The joy of the Home Mission Team is to fill those areas as much as possible, under the direction of the local pastor.

Personalities

Please note these changes of address:

Rev. Frank A. Miller, Route 2, Box 235, Kasson, Minn. 55944.

Rev. Ralph Rokke, 140 West 44th St., Minneapolis, Minn. 55409. This is the Rosedale Lutheran Church apartment or parsonage.

Rev. Robert L. Lee, 8408 32nd Ave. No., Minneapolis, Minn. 55427. This is the home formerly occupied by *Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Jacobson*, who have now moved to Wadena, Minn. Mr. Jacobson is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Association Schools. Mrs. Jacobson continues to recover from a fracture of the hip sustained in June.



Joel Quanbeck, McVille, N. Dak.



Mary Ann Herset, Kila, Mont.



Mary Ann Dalager, Roseau, Minn.

In each of the communities we worked in we saw people searching for something to fill their lives. We found people who have never grasped the concepts of salvation through Jesus Christ alone. We found hungers that a free and living congregation could fill given willing hands, loving hearts and committed lives. In the two weeks spent at each of the six communities, we were often overwhelmed with the challenging potential there as we realized we were only seeing the tip of the iceberg. We desired to not in any way usurp the position of a member of the congregation, rather it was our calling to fill the gaps that are often found in young, growing churches.

The Home Mission Team was trained for four days before we began

our work on June 2. We were given a theme for the summer, "Expect the Unexpected." It has been a fitting motto. We have done everything from painting church doors to giving puppet shows in nursing homes, from bike hikes to conducting Sunday morning services. Most of our time has been spent teaching VBS and canvassing. It has been interesting and rewarding to work under six different pastors, each with his own perspectives and concerns.

This year's Home Mission Team was composed of three AFLBS students, Mary Ann Dalager, Mary Ann Herset and Joel Quanbeck. We have worked in the Minot, Dickinson, Chassell-Pelkie, Amery, St. Paul and Fergus Falls parishes. God has richly blessed

us by strengthening and teaching us as individuals and as a team. He has given increase beyond all expectation. We know of over two dozen children who have accepted Jesus Christ as a personal Savior during the Vacation Bible School activities we were involved in. Thanks be to God.

God has used us in ways we do not even know of this summer. We as a team are thankful for the power of God's Word to work in spite of our failures. We are thankful for each congregation and all we have learned through them and the prayers made on our behalf.

The Home Mission Team came to our church

It was a typically hot and humid July afternoon when two young women and one young man arrived at their newest Home Mission charge. By now they had many character forming experiences behind them and here was a fresh challenge for their ministry. They had already been welded together as prayer partners so it was natural to join the pastor of this new congregation in prayer. This congregation had hosted a team of workers the year before and was eagerly anticipating another rich blessing.

Each day held a blessing and a new adjustment. The team had come to expect the unexpected and relish the grace God would always supply to meet the call. Canvassing for vacation Bible school, witnessing for Christ from door to door, singing and sharing in various senior citizen homes, giving Gospel puppet presentations, teaching VBS, taking leaguers on a bike hike, and visiting members in their homes provided a never ending variety of spiritual opportunity. Being a blessing and being blessed became the norm for each new day.

Our new found partners in the Gospel would soon move on, but we knew they would remember us in prayer. Through them others would know of our work and they, too, would pray. What God is doing in Amery, Wisconsin will be known through their witness. The work will have many new and unknown supporters and God will be glorified. Our church will have an even deeper appreciation of the congregations in our AFLC, which made such a team possible. The body of Christ will be drawn closer together. "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all" (Ephesians 4:4-6).

Pastor Michael W. Brandt
Amery Free Lutheran Church

Luther League Convention at Medicine Lake

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Second-class postage
paid at Minneapolis, Minn.

The campus of Association Free Lutheran Bible School, on the shores of beautiful Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minn., was once again the setting of a Luther League Federation biennial convention, this time, July 10-15.

Warm, even hot, weather prevailed, but the convention group of over 100 took it in good spirit.

Evening speaker for the week was Rev. Ralph Tjelta, DeKalb, Ill. The Bible teacher was Rev. Donald Greven, Radcliffe, Ia. "Family Living" was the topic considered daily by Rev. Allen Monson, Tioga, N. Dak.

In other morning sessions, Rev. Kenneth Moland, dean of AFLBS, spoke about the Bible School and Seminary and Mr. Don Rodvold, music director of AFLBS, discussed the subject of music. In daily mission hours, Rev. Elden Nelson, Minneapolis, presented the work of Home Missions and Miss Priscilla Wold and Rev. John Abel, home on furlough from Brazil, shared the challenge of World Missions.

The re-elected president of the LLF, Rev. Dale Mellgren, Abercrombie, N. Dak., spoke at the banquet Saturday evening.

A leisure time highlight of the convention was a trip to the Minnesota Zoological Gardens in Apple Valley on Thursday.

The business meeting took place on Saturday afternoon and saw, in addition to Pastor Mellgren, Tad Spading, Kirkland, Wash., re-elected to his office, devotional life secretary, and Miss Robbin Thompson, Newfolden, Minn., elected secretary.

