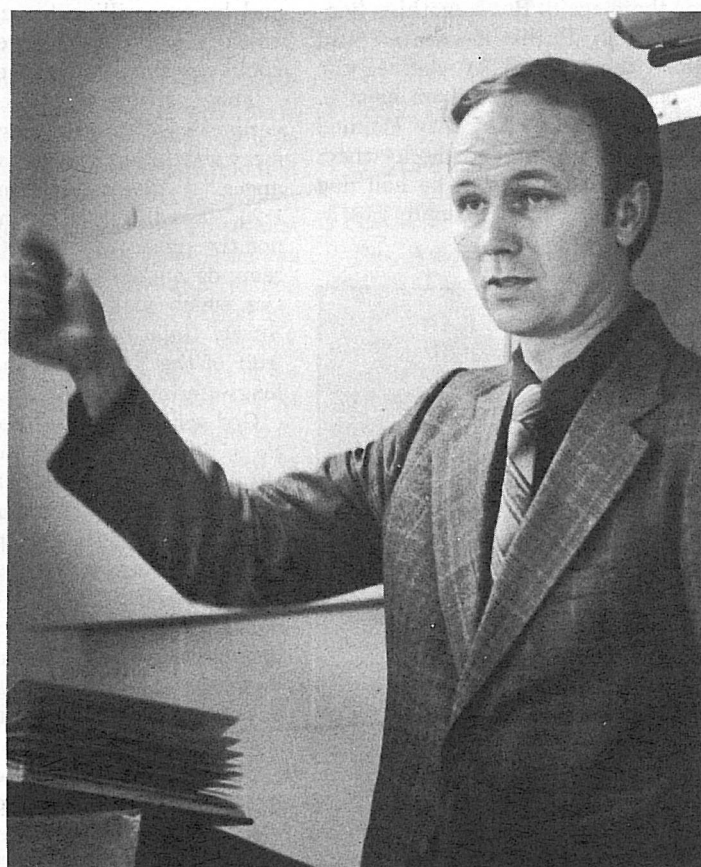
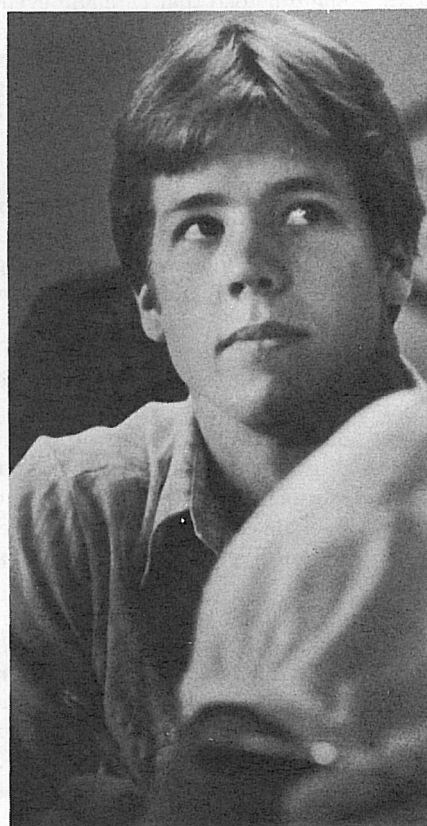




# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

September 30, 1980



## COMING TO LEARN

Association Free Lutheran Bible School

# AT THE MASTER'S FEET

Pastor Ralph M. Rokke



## The servant of God must be gentle

Recently, in my personal devotions, I was reading in the book of Genesis and read again an incident from the life of Isaac.

Isaac had just moved to the Valley of Gerar. It was a place where his father Abraham had lived earlier. Abraham had dug several wells in that valley, but after Abraham's death and while Isaac was not living in the area, the Philistines had plugged up those wells.

Now Isaac returned to Gerar. He unplugged the wells, and he watered his herds there again. But something happened. The Philistines came and claimed the wells. They claimed the first one, and Isaac let them have it. He dug another. Then they claimed that well, too, and again he let them have it. It was not until he had dug three wells that he was finally left in

peace and was able to keep control of a much-needed source of water.

As I read that story again, I thought, "What an example of a kind and gentle spirit!" Undoubtedly Isaac could have fought. Remember that Isaac's father, Abraham, had had a small private army in his day. It had consisted of 318 of his own servants. Isaac was now richer than Abraham had been, and undoubtedly he had even more servants than his father.

But Isaac was interested in peace and he was willing to accept a little abuse without seeking revenge if he could thereby live in peace.

This incident reminds me of Proverbs 15:1: "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger." It also reminds me of James 1:20, "For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God," and it reminds me of one of the characteristics which make up the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22 says, "... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, *gentleness*..."

God wants his people to have a *gentle* spirit, to be willing to turn the other cheek and to seek as much as possible to live in peace with all men.

The world constantly glorifies and glamorizes aggressiveness and even selfishness. It urges us to look out for *number one* and to make sure that we demand and receive our rights. In recent years there have even been classes designed to teach people to be aggressive and assertive.

To turn the other cheek, to respond to unjust treatment with patience and kindness is foolishness in the eyes of the world. Nevertheless God's Word tells us in James 3:17, "... the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, *gentle*, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good

fruits. . ." God's ways are higher than man's ways and there is a superior wisdom in responding to harsh treatment in a gentle way.

There was once a young woman and her brother in the country of Turkey who were being pursued by a soldier. The soldier caught up with them and the brother was killed. The young woman managed to escape.

Later a wounded soldier was brought to a hospital. The young woman had become a nurse at that hospital. She recognized the wounded soldier as the one who had killed her brother. The soldier was in critical condition and required constant care if he were to live. She provided that care and eventually he regained consciousness.

When he recognized his nurse, he asked her, "How could you care for me so kindly? Why didn't you get revenge and let me die?"

The nurse replied, "I am a follower of Christ, who said, 'Love your enemies and do good to them.'"

For a while the soldier was speechless. Then he said, "I never knew there was such a religion! Tell me more about it! I want it!"

There is such a religion because Jesus, God's Son, is a gentle and kind Savior. He turned the other cheek to those who smote Him. He did not take revenge. He went to the cross to bear your sins and mine and now He gives eternal life to all who put their faith in Him.

II Timothy 2:24 tells us, "... the servant of the Lord must . . . be *gentle* unto all men. . ." May you, dear reader, look to the Lamb of God and by trusting in Him and by walking in close fellowship with Him reflect this characteristic of His Spirit in your life, namely gentleness. Amen.

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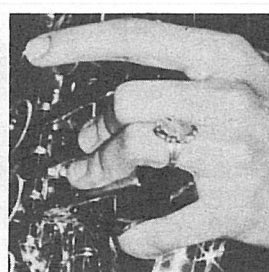
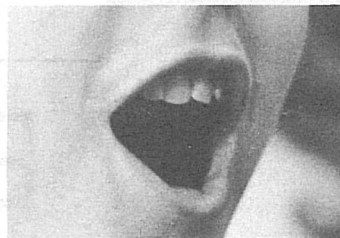
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# WHAT DOES A BIBLE SCHOOL GRADUATE LOOK LIKE?

Can you recognize someone who has been to Bible School? What does the "finished product" look like? An automobile design engineer must envision what the end result of the process of making a car will be. Similarly, a school must project its thinking to the desired result.

It is appropriate to ask, then, "What do we expect of a Bible School graduate?" Let's allow God to increase our vision and develop our prayer concern for AFLBS by considering what He would want our graduates to be.

## Being Comes Before Doing

As Jesus disciplined His followers, there was always a concern for what they *were* which came before a concern for what they *did*. Doing without being results in works-righteousness at best, and ugly hypocrisy at worst. Bible School students are also susceptible to this danger. Let us first talk about what a Bible School graduate ought to be.

## At Peace With God

The first goal of AFLBS is to foster the assurance of each student's salvation through the work of Christ on Calvary.

Through study of God's Word, the Spirit works faith in the student's heart so that he may trust more fully in the promise of his salvation.

by  
Pastor Kenneth D. Moland  
Dean, AFLBS

## Character Molded by the Word

The teaching of the Scriptures at AFLBS is intended not only to enlighten minds, but to also *change* lives. God is at work to transform the very character of the clay placed in His hands.

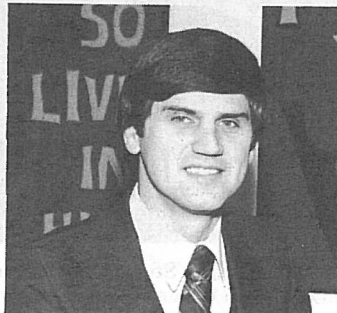
These fruits of the spirit are to characterize the Bible School student. His character should bear the marks of daily renewal. His person ought to be such that others can see that he has been with Jesus, in His Word.

## A Heart to Serve

The knowledge of the Great Commission and the student's acceptance of personal responsibility combine to foster a burden to serve.

This, too, comes before doing, because it is the motivation which will make a consistent worker in the Kingdom's work.

Much prayer is needed for these weighty goals to be reached and there is full realization that no Bible School graduate has fully attained them, but they provide a composite picture for which to strive.



## Does a Bible School Graduate Do Anything?

James, the Apostle, said, "Faith without works is dead." In the terminology of this article, we could say, "Being without doing is an illusion." The true kind of "being" always results in "doing."

In that light, we might expect a Bible School graduate to manifest his spiritual life in visible ways. Here are some for which we pray.

## Christian Homes

One of the joys in my recent contacts with former students is to see solid, Christian homes being established on the principles of God's Word. In a day of increasing disruption in family structure, a strong witness is made by the Christian home.

## Stronger Congregations

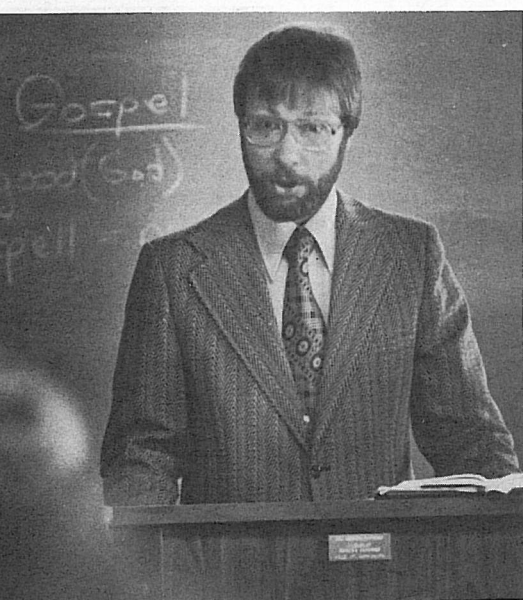
Here is the strongest reason for the AFLC to support and continue a Bible School. Our expectation for students includes the vision of active, serving lay people blessing the work of the local congregation.

While it takes some graduates longer than others to find their place in a congregation, AFLBS is now old enough so the impact is being increasingly felt. It is encouraging to see more and more alumni taking servant and leadership roles in their churches.

## World-Wide Vision

A number of alumni of AFLBS are now in the parish ministry, serving in the United States.

Others have gone on to serve in Central and South America, Africa, and various countries of the world.



by Pastor R. L. Lee  
instructor, AFLC schools

# EXPECTATIONS

personalities and experiences, as no two classes from year to year are identical . . . and yet our expectations remain surprisingly the same.

Bible School is a *school*, and a Bible School teacher is a *teacher*, and so we must have academic expectations. God's revelation comes to us through the pages of a book, the Bible. And the Bible itself stresses the necessity of diligent study (II Timothy 2:15, 3:14-17), teaching (Ephesians 4:11, Matthew 28:20, Colossians 1:28, and 3:16), and knowledge (Romans 15:14, II Peter 3:18 and I John 5:13).

Thus, a teacher expects students whose highest priority at Bible School is to grow in their knowledge of Christ through His Word, the Bible. Isn't this almost too obvious to even bother stating? And yet that priority is not always evident in the lives of students, some of whom would seem to give higher priority to fellowship, or to recreation opportunities, or to work responsibilities.

And so there will be tests, and term papers, preceded by some long hours of preparation. sounds like school . . . yes, it is! And our subject matter is centered around that most important book in all the world, the Word of God.

A Bible School teacher should be able to expect even more diligent study and careful preparation than a student would devote to secular subjects, because of the eternal value of that which we present.

Yes, we are a school, but the fact that we are a *Bible* school adds a new dimension to our expectations . . . a spiritual dimension. It is always rewarding for a teacher to watch students learn, to be a part of that learning process. When such knowledge is acquired, it can be measured by the teacher through discussion or testing.

But what can a Bible School teacher expect spiritually from his students, and how can that be measured?

The Psalmist wrote, "Thy word have

Some say that the best way to avoid disappointment is to not expect anything at all! Yet such a claim to a total lack of expectations is rarely true. A student who comes to Bible School does expect certain things, and the same is true of each teacher.

What sort of expectations come to the mind of a Bible School teacher at the beginning of a new school year? New faces, a unique combination of

## GRADUATE . . .

While AFLBS does not hold full-time service as a goal for all students, yet it is a joy to see God leading some out to serve in that capacity.

### A Composite Picture

Now can you recognize a Bible School graduate? Perhaps, and perhaps not, because he is not a "super Christian," nor does he always wear his faith on his sleeve.

But neither should he be incognito. We expect him to bear the marks of one who seeks to walk with God and desires to serve Him.

Perhaps primarily, we desire to see the graduate of AFLBS at work in your church, still learning, still struggling at times, but contributing something both out of what he is and what he does. The goal of building up the body of Christ on earth continues to control his thinking and he seeks to serve the Lord of the church, the Savior, Jesus Christ.



Pastor and Mrs. Rodney Stueland and Mr. and Mrs. David Jacobson from Buxton and Bimford, N. Dak., help their daughters move in.



I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee" (119:11). There is a difference between hiding the Word in our hearts and cramming it into our minds. One of the real dangers of a Bible School education is the constant temptation to approach the Word as merely another academic subject. This approach will only lead to spiritual deadness.

"By their fruits you shall know them" (Matthew 7:20), Jesus said, and the Bible School teacher expects and rejoices over the changes that are taking place in the lives of his students, who are applying the truths that they are taught and thus hiding the Word in their hearts.

It is good to be a part of what God is doing! And so we give our expectations to the Lord, waiting on Him for the increase (I Corinthians 3:7).

## AFLBS begins its fifteenth year with 87 registered



Sandy DeBoer took her first Doctrine I notes. Sandy is the daughter of Pastor and Mrs. H. DeBoer, Colfax, Wis.

On September 14, the fifteenth school year opened with a worship service in the school's chapel. Pastor Kenneth Moland confirmed the purpose of Bible school in his sermon from Ps. 119 on the results of studying God's Word and allowing it to perform its good work.

After 87 students registered on Monday, classes began on Tuesday, Sept. 15.

Fall quarter ends on November 26.

### Dates to Note

Homecoming—Oct. 10-12

Reformation Rally—Oct. 26

Exams—Nov. 22-26

Christmas Recess—Dec. 20-Jan. 4

Missions Week—Feb. 4-8

Parents' Day

Easter Recess—Apr. 16-26

Graduation—May 22



Mr. and Mrs. Lester Hansen, Ferndale, Wash., enjoyed dinner with their daughter Jeannette after opening services.



By Mary A. Rolf  
Dean of Women, AFLBS

# Students come because...

**"Even though the backgrounds may vary . . . each student has expectations and desires he hopes to see fulfilled . . . at AFLBS."**

With the coming of September, the leaves are turning color, sunflowers are hanging their heads, waiting to be harvested, the goldenrod is yellow and all across America students are off to school. AFLBS, too, for the 15th year, has once again opened its doors to students. From nearly ten different states they have come, some from small farms, others from large cities. Most AFLBS students have come right after high school, but others have first gone to college, have taught school or worked in another profession. Some have recently made a decision to follow Christ, while others have walked with Jesus most all their life, having been brought up in Christian homes and churches where they have been spiritually fed and nurtured in the Word. Many have come because of encouragement from someone else, a pastor, parent, teacher, friend, or perhaps a brother or sister who has previously attended Bible School.

Even though the backgrounds may vary, we know that each student has expectations and desires he hopes to see fulfilled during his stay at AFLBS. Question No. 12 on page 2 of the application reads, "State briefly why you want to attend Bible School." Among the responses, we find such statements as, "I want to attend Bible School because I want a firm foundation of knowledge of God's Word on which to build my life." Another desires to learn more about the Bible and God, to grow more mature and closer to Jesus Christ, to have good Christian fellowship and a good and solid foundation in Christ which will prepare and strengthen her for the future.

Others come seeking how to be a more effective witness, while others want Christ-centered preparation for college. One student wrote, "There is so much in God's Word I don't know or

understand, but I want to learn." Certainly an asset for any student is a desire to learn and coming to Bible School is no exception. God's Word tells us that "... He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Heb. 11:6).

As a former AFLBS student, I'm thankful for the privilege of having spent two wonderful years in the study of God's Word at Bible School. I'm grateful for the prayers and encouragement of many who shared with me the importance of the Word. One verse that my parents have often shared is Isa. 40:8: "The grass withers and the

flower fades, but the Word of our God shall stand forever." It has been said that there are only two things that will last forever, the Word of God and the souls of men. What a privilege to be a part of AFLBS and be encouraged to invest in that which has eternal value.

For each student who comes to AFLBS, and for all of us, may the Lord give a real love and hunger for the Word of God. May we be like Jeremiah who said, "Thy words were found and I did eat them; and Thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart. . . ." (Jeremiah 15:16).

—Mary A. Rolf  
Dean of Women

## Association Free Lutheran Bible School Hymn

Our lips cannot  
reveal our hearts, the love we have for Thee;  
Thy gifts to us, the priceless one, salvation  
full and free, We gratefully accept and  
pledge our lasting loyalty.

We thank Thee Father for our school, our homes,  
the church, our land; And as a tool may we  
be used according to Thy plan; so mold us  
team-like in Thy rule by  
Thine almighty hand.

—Donald Rodvold



## Mrs. Hans Egede

Shared her husband's labors in Greenland, 1721-1736

Did you ever sing "From Greenland's Icy Mountains"? Of course you did, for you are not such heathen as never to have sung Bishop Heber's missionary hymn. But have you thought much about those "icy mountains"?

It is hard to decide whether to speak of the husband or the wife in telling of the missionaries to Greenland in 1721. Think how long ago it was. It was a book that began it. How often it has been a book. It was so with Dr. Judson and Henry Martyn, and many others.

This book was in the library of a young minister, Hans Egede, in Vaage, on the coast of Norway. It told how a Christian church had been founded in the tenth century in Greenland. Fourteen bishops had ruled over it, but at last the heathen fell upon the Christians, drove them away, and the church was forgotten for centuries. The young minister's heart was stirred with a desire to go and find the lost church. His people called him crazy and even his wife at first refused to think of it. But at last many providences made the wife, as well as the husband, willing and even anxious to go to Greenland, feeling that it was God's will, and their work.

Early in 1721 they went but were al-

most wrecked in trying to land, and did not land until July. It was far from a "green land" that they found. Not a tree or bush or blade of grass was to be seen, and no remains of the church could be found. The people were greasy savages, smeared with seal oil, dressed in skins, living in queer dwellings more like ant-hills than houses. The wizards tried to kill the missionaries by magic, but failed, of course. Yet it seemed as if hunger and exposure would soon do it, for the ship with supplies was lost. The minister thought they must go back home, but Mrs. Egede said, "Wait a little." She kept up his courage for three weeks and then a ship arrived with stores and colonists, and hope revived.

Mrs. Egede was so anxious that the work should go on that she was willing to have her husband and two boys spend the winter in Greenland huts, that they might learn the language of the natives and make friends with them. The huts were like great beehives, without any ventilation, heated by seal oil lamps, unimaginably dirty, and shared with dogs and pigs, after two or three families had crowded

in. What do you think of the heroism all around?

After two years the relics of the old church were found, but no one among the living could tell the story of it.

What the missionaries endured can hardly be believed. Once a big, hungry polar bear came into their house, and was gotten out, as by miracle. One of the younger sons used to draw pictures to help illustrate the father's sermons. Every means possible was used to help the natives. They were very unfriendly for a long time, but in days of distress came and fed the missionaries.

In all times of trial, the brave wife kept up her own courage and helped to make the others courageous. At last helpers came and the work prospered wonderfully.

Mrs. Egede did not live to see the full dawn of light, dying after 15 years of faithful service in Greenland.

(Ed. note: Pastor Egede, in broken health, left Greenland the following year with his family.)

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

## OUR MEMORY VERSE

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her" (Proverbs 31:28).

# COME, HOLY SPIRIT, GOD AND LORD

Come, Holy Spirit, God and Lord!  
Be all Thy graces now out poured  
On each believer's soul and heart;  
Thy fervent love to them impart.  
Lord, by the brightness of Thy light,  
Thou in the faith dost men unite  
Of every land and every tongue;  
This to Thy praise, O Lord, be sung:  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Thou holy Light, and Guide divine!

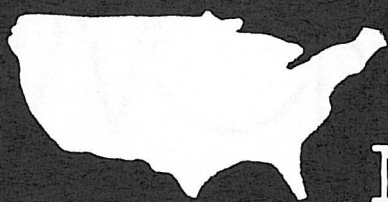
O cause the Word of life to shine;  
Teach us to know our God aright,  
And call Him Father with delight!  
From error, Lord, our souls defend,  
That they alone on Christ attend;  
In Him with living faith confide,  
And in unfaltering trust abide.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Sweet Source of comfort, holy Love,  
Send us Thy succor from above,

That in Thy service we may stay,  
And trouble drive us not away.  
Lord, with Thy grace our souls  
refresh,  
Confirm our frail and feeble flesh,  
That we may battle manfully,  
And press through life and  
death to Thee.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Martin Luther, 1524  
(from *The Lutheran Hymnary*)



# Home Mission News



## God blesses Minot congregation

Bethel Lutheran Church is evidence of answered prayer. For a number of years the Home Mission of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations and many interested Christians had prayed for a church work in Minot.

On April 16, 1975, Pastor John Strand, past president of the AFLC, met with interested individuals at the Ward County Court House. This resulted in 15 people signing to become members of Bethel Lutheran Church. After meeting in the Bible Baptist School for a few Sundays, they secured rental of the Seventh Day Adventist Church and worshipped there for two years.

Mr. Rodger Olson was the first to serve Bethel. He served as an intern for the summer months of 1975. Pastor Bruce Dalager then came in August, 1975, and served as Bethel's first resident pastor until August, 1977. During his pastorate land was purchased by the Home Mission Board of the AFLC with plans to build a new church structure in the fall of 1976. Herbert Presteng, Grafton, North Dakota, designed and constructed the church building.

The first worship service was held in

the new sanctuary of Bethel Lutheran Church on September 4, 1977. The church building was dedicated on Sunday, April 23, 1978, with Pastor Strand officiating. We are thankful to God for the beautiful edifice in which we can worship Him.

During two interim periods the Lord also supplied by sending Pastor Timothy Skramstad, Minnewaukan, North Dakota, and Mr. James Gerdeen from the AFLC Seminary in Minneapolis. We are thankful to God for sending dedicated spiritual men who are serving Him so faithfully.

Currently Bethel has 100 members. The Sunday School enrollment is 35 children and about 15 adults. The average worship service attendance has increased to 90 a Sunday. Our WMF is very active in supporting mission work both abroad and at home. Our Luther League is becoming more active. This past winter and spring we had Marty Horn of Kalispell, Montana, working with us. He is now a student at our seminary in Minneapolis. Marty did much to encourage and organize our youth work.

We have had many opportunities to

reach out into our community. We have done much canvassing, radio and newspaper advertising, and used different means for exposure in our community. Yet with all of our attempts we have found our growth mainly comes from our own people telling others. Thus our worship service becomes our central and most important part of our growth. Hearing the Word of God causes believers to grow together in Christ and the unsaved to be drawn to repentance and faith. Our Sunday School and midweek service continue to equip each believer for every good work and make us adequate for the Master's use. As we say in our rite of dedication, we do believe in the preaching and teaching of the Word of God for the *quickening of spiritual life* and the *salvation of souls*.

Opportunities for personal work by our members comes every moment of every day. The Church will prosper only as its people experience a personal commitment to Christ and to His cause.

Our prayer concern is that we will continue to be a free and living Lutheran congregation; guided by the Word and Spirit of God. Pray with us! We are mindful of and thankful to all of you for the prayer and gifts of love, labor and financial assistance you have given the work here in Minot. It is good for us to know we are fellow-workers together with you. It is our joy, challenge and assigned task to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our neighbors here.

We are thankful for God's continued work and blessing here in Minot. Without Him we can do nothing. Our God has reminded us of this in John 15:5, "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing." It is good for us to always remember this as we continue to labor in this new work.

Pastor Terry L. Olson





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# editorials

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## THE USE OF PASTORS

Some years ago, before the Association had her first full-time evangelist, the Commission on Evangelism sought to expedite the use of all pastors in the church as speakers at special meetings in the congregations. Each pastor (and professor) was asked how many weeks in the year he would be available for meetings in other parishes. This information was published in the *Ambassador* and then local parishes could contact the pastor they wished to have, to set up a series of meetings at a time mutually agreeable. Most pastors offered their services.

We have no idea how well the program worked out. There was no attempt to follow up on how many pastors were utilized, of which we are aware. But the idea was good.

Today the Association employs a full-time evangelist. He is as busy as a man should be in that work. There is a great demand for him to conduct evangelistic missions. If he were in 28-32 congregations in a year, he would still need over four years to reach every one and more likely five or six years, the way things actually work out. So one man cannot satisfy the desire of our congregations for special meetings, whatever term for them we want to use.

Following the official evangelist in demand are perhaps ten pastors and teachers who get the bulk of the invitations because they, too, have gifts in evangelism or Bible teaching or preaching. Their availability is limited by their obligations to their parishes and/or the Schools.

Use is also made of speakers from the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement and the Hauge Innermission Federation, independent evangelists (lay or pastor) and pastors from other Lutheran bodies.

All of this is well and good. We wouldn't go along with restrictions on this freedom provided that the so-called special meetings accord with Lutheran doctrine and understanding of evangelism.

But finally we come to our main point and we don't know if anything can be done about it. It is that we wish that every pastor in the church, physically able for the task, could be scheduled for at least one week of special meetings each year in another congregation or parish.

The benefits would be two-fold. First, it would be a blessing to the pastor who goes out. His own soul would be enriched through his preparation and week as guest missionary. Laboring faithfully in his own place month after month, year after year, the change of pace and place would do him good. He would get acquainted with new people, observe another congregation in action and enjoy fellowship with his

brother pastor. In other words, he would be refreshed in his spirit.

The second benefit is that he would be a blessing to those to whom he comes. Every pastor in the church has gifts. The Holy Spirit is able to reach one soul through one individual. He has to use someone else to get through to someone else. We must never be guilty of the error of thinking that the Lord can only work through the well-known. He may be equally able to accomplish His purposes through the lesser known or even the unknown.

Maybe we could put it this way. We wish each pastor and professor of the church were *required* to spend at least one week a year in a preaching mission in some other congregation than his own. Maybe that can't happen in a free church, but it's a good idea anyway.

## OUR BIBLE SCHOOL

In this issue of the *Ambassador* you will find several pages of material concerning Association Free Lutheran Bible School. Our School is beginning its 15th year this fall. A respectable enrollment entered the doors of AFLBS on Sept. 15.

We say "respectable" because the facilities are there for many more. Let us work toward fuller utilization of our dormitories, classrooms and faculty. But this must be done in these next years in the face of a lower nationwide population in the age group the School normally serves, the 18-20 year olds.

Students who come to AFLBS have a unique opportunity to study the Word of God and related subjects. They are guided by capable and consecrated instructors. A warm and pietistic atmosphere is maintained on the 25-acre campus overlooking beautiful Medicine Lake. Service and witness outreach from the School gives the students practical experience. Equally important are the challenges young people have to live their faith at their places of secular employment.

Let AFLBS be on every prayer list. The School will be strong and effective as much prayer is made in its behalf. God bless all who study there and all who direct the work and all who serve at Medicine Lake.

## AUGSBURG CONFESSION BOOK

Our next issue, Oct. 14, will carry information about the 450th anniversary of the *Augsburg Confession*, which in Association churches will be observed on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 26.

But today it can be announced that our book on the *Confession*, *The Augsburg Confession: Its Meaning for Today*, is off the press and is being distributed. A box ad about this publication will be found elsewhere in this *Ambassador*.

The book is a collection of articles on the *Confession*, the



## From restless wondering to peaceful purpose

*Condensed from a testimony given by Mrs. Marie Klausli, Ferndale, Wash., on April 29, 1979. Edited by Solveig Larson.*

Four years ago, before my 40th birthday, I hit the bottom of the pit called despair. There were times earlier when I half-heartedly called on the Lord to help me. But for the first time, during that gloomy day four years ago, I called on the Lord with all my heart and found Him waiting for me. The verse, "By faith are you saved . . ." became a reality. Nothing gives me greater joy than to share what great and merciful things God has done for me.

For years Jesus had knocked at the door of my life through the witness of Christians and through an inherent awareness of a restless yearning for inner peace and joy.

As a South African teenager I was religiously active but wary of some of my friends who took Christianity too seriously. I simply did not want to be shackled with Christianity's "don'ts" and so went my way.

During the four years of nurse's training in Rhodesia, two things happened which profoundly affected my attitude towards God. One, my parents were divorced. Two, I became personally involved in trying to save a young mother's life, but to no avail. I was furious with God.

After nursing school, three friends and I sailed for London and Scotland to do midwifery. Occasionally, I would

walk through the heather-covered hills of Scotland and wonder what was the purpose of this beautiful creation. My mind spun with unanswered questions. Why was I even created? Oh, if only I had known then that He created me for fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ, and to bring honor and glory to His Name.

Early one morning I delivered a baby in the home of a poor dock worker outside of Glasgow. As I handed the mother a beautiful healthy baby, I realized there was no joy in her eyes, only quiet resignation to the reality of another mouth to feed. Suddenly I became frantic, trying to find something to give her to bring hope and joy. It was futile. I had nothing to share.

I yearned for God, yet ran from Him.

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"As I handed the mother a beautiful healthy baby, . . . I became frantic, trying to find something to give her to bring hope and joy."

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Restless, I moved to Ottawa, Canada, and three months later traveled 600 miles north to work in an Indian reser-

## Editorials . . .

Creeds and *Luther's Small Catechism* which appeared in these pages in 1976 as a Bicentennial series. One article not available then is included now. Besides all this, the *Augsburg Confession* is included in its entirety, as well as the three chief Creeds of the Christian Church and the *Small Catechism*.

For many of our church homes this will be the first time it has been possible to have all of these documents so readily available in one handy volume. This is an exciting thing. Here is an opportunity to read about and study writings which, next to the Bible, we hold most precious.

Only 2,500 copies of *The Augsburg Confession: Its Meaning for Today* have been printed. They are available at a reasonable cost on a first come, first served basis. Most will be sold through the congregations. A few may be ordered from our church office.

Buy this book and read it.

## WMF PAGE

Over the years the *Ambassador* has carried a WMF page with more or less irregularity. There was a time when the page appeared with frequency, but not so in later years.

But now the attempt is being made to make this a regular feature once more and the first of these is to be found on page of this issue. The plan is that it will appear in one issue a month, in an issue which doesn't contain a WMF Bible Study. Occasionally it may appear twice in a month if there are three issues, as happened this month.

Miss Solveig Larson, who handles layout design in the *Ambassador*, will edit the page. Therefore, all WMF material from now on should be sent to her at 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. We hope this transition can be made smoothly and quickly. Please remember to allow extra time in sending in material.

May we make a couple of requests. In identifying married women in news reports, please refer to them by their husband's name, such as Mrs. John Smith, not Jane Smith. We feel this is a more proper identification. And in writing of district meetings, identify people uniformly, either by their congregation or home address. Remember that while the local group may know well where everyone comes from, readers from other districts may not know unless they are told.

Best wishes to our re-vitalized WMF Page. With the cooperation of our church women, and you will be called on to help, it can add a good deal to the usefulness of this paper.



vation hospital. There I found extremely cold temperatures, very friendly people, and a loving husband.

After our marriage in Switzerland, we settled in Oakland, California. One day my husband said to me, "You know, I think we really ought to go to church." But I refused to go with him in spite of the fact that he faithfully attended.

After our children were born I agreed to join a church to baptize our babies. At this stage I could no longer passively ignore the patient knocking of the Lord on my heart's door. The anger, impatience and frustration spilling over on my husband and children were threatening our home. Yes, we had everything and appeared successful and fulfilled. But the inner restlessness was reaching a crescendo.

We now lived in Ferndale and attended Triumph Lutheran Church. I had no desire for any religious function, but somehow found myself going with a friend to a women's luncheon at "The Firs." By grace, I saw that day a personal, living Savior and Lord in the life of the speaker. I went home and began reading a Christian biography.

Six months later, on a Sunday morning, I truly realized the condition of my

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**"The storm of anguish stopped. For the first time, I tasted peace."**

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desperately sinful soul. I hit bottom. God's Word is true. I sought the Lord with all my heart and found Him ready to cleanse. The storm of anguish stopped. For the first time, I tasted peace.

Life now has purpose. For my 40th birthday present I requested an English Bible, which my husband gave me. Since then I've had the joy of spending hours upon hours in prayer and in God's Word. These have been the most exciting and difficult years of my life. Christianity is full of paradoxes. Through difficulties, Christ manifests Himself to draw us closer in developing Christ-like qualities in our lives.

Daily, I walk amazed that God would send His Son to take Marie Klausli's sins on Himself that I might be spared eternal condemnation. Rather, He allowed me to choose to receive His free gift of Salvation and I now await living eternally in heaven.

Ed. note: Three years ago, the Triumph Lutheran women's prayer group joined Marie in praying specifically for the salvation of her family in South Africa. She returned to her homeland with a burden to share the Gospel with her family. Before her visit ended, Marie had the joy of seeing her father, mother, brother, and sister accept Christ as Savior and Lord. ✝

*tell us what  
you think.*

The WOMEN'S page of the Ambassador is for you. If you are 18 or 80 years old, we want your opinions, story ideas, writer suggestions, WMF program helps and anything else you believe is important for us to know.

Contact: Miss Solveig Larson  
3110 E. Medicine Lk. Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441  
612/544-9501

## Local WMFs sponsor Cradle Roll programs



Back Row: L to R. Mrs. John Helms and Christopher, and Mrs. Reuben Olson and Sandy Dan. Front Row: L to R, Mrs. Joe Wilkinson and Jennifer, and Mrs. Philip Rokke, Benjamin and Jessica.

### Reva, S. Dak.

The WMF of Slim Buttes Lutheran Church near Reva, South Dakota, Philip Rokke, pastor, held a Cradle Roll morning program and tea August 6th.

Pastor Rokke explained that Cradle Roll is sponsored by the WMF as a help and encouragement to parents.

Margie LaDue read Scripture from Proverbs 22:6 and Matt. 18:2-6 after which her children, Danny, Darcy and Delta, sang "Jesus Loves Me." A delightful and inspiring puppet show was given by these children.

Marlene Rokke explained further about the Cradle Roll's program and all that it entails. Janice Peck entertained with a game of "Children from the Bible."

The tables, beautifully decorated by Vi Week and Alice Wilkinson, were centered with baskets of summer flowers.

Amy Olson, Reporter

### Binford, N. Dak.

Three children, Wade Miller, Aaron Pittenger and LaRae Pittenger, were honored as graduates of the Cradle Roll sponsored by the WMF of Bethany Lutheran Church, Binford, N. Dak., at a party on Aug. 18. Rev. Wesley Langaas is pastor of the church.

The program included a song by four girls from the Sunday School and group singing. A Bible story for the children was told and a talk was given to the mothers and grandmothers. Lunch was served following the program.

Other children present in addition to the graduates were DaRhan Miller, Travis Adrian, Michelle Oien, Wendy Oien, Shawn Adrian, Tanya Oien, Stacy Adrian, Andre Schiller, Mark Miller, Jason Ekern and Shawn Pittenger.

Mrs. Arne Berge  
Cradle Roll Secretary



Part III

All in the life of a missionary

## The Official Highway

by Missionary Connely J. Dyrud

My mind now drifted back again to the fine weekend. Sunday morning we visited "Big Tim's" farm, with large orange groves, for the last time, as he had sold it. He felt he was too old to continue farming, and renting was too much of a headache. He felt that he wanted to move to Sao Paulo with his sons and maybe even open a church there for our Association as he had founded the work in Alvorada for us. We talked and prayed about his future and I asked if he could perhaps travel to various places and open new work and congregations in several communities. He seemed open to the Lord's leading and guiding. So that was a relief to me as I knew that his absence would be a terrible loss in Alvorada.

I believe the Lord is opening up new areas of work as some leave to work new fields and others stay and work the old ones and engage in intercessory prayer for the new areas.

The Sunday service was a blessing and there was the baptism of a child. Communion with the brothers and sisters of the faith was held and a meeting of the church council afterward. There I was notified that two more families of faithful members were moving. In all, about 20 of our members were moving to Curitiba or Sao Paulo within the month. That's what hurts a congregation. We discussed further business and then formed a circle as we prayed for the brothers who were leaving, that the Lord would help them and also that the little remaining congregation at Alvorada could carry on knowing that "all things work together for good to them that love the Lord."

After the meeting Manoel and I took home two large families with babies in arms and toddlers hanging on to

mommy's skirts. They had walked 10 kms. (about six miles) to come to church, with one little boy who was sick. He was taken to a drugstore for a shot before we left for home.

The road was really curvy and steep and before we had arrived it started raining "pitchforks and frogs." We were not able to take our passengers to their homes because of the worsening roads now. They told us to drop them off or we'd never make it back to Alvorada. By this time it was hard to keep the van on the road as the red clay gets like grease when wet.

We dropped them off and turned around, heading back as fast as we could. But the inevitable happened. Heading up a steep incline the van started losing momentum as I shifted down as quickly as I could. Finally the wheels were spinning faster than we were moving ahead and slowly we weren't moving ahead but sideways and back. Manoel, who was now sitting on the edge of his seat, gripping the dash with both hands, looked at me and shook his head. "Well, Manoel, I suggest we both get out and each grab a chain and see who can put his chain on faster." "Not a bad idea," he said, so we hopped out and went right to work. Shortly the chains were on and secured, but only after getting soaked and well muddled down ourselves. Water was running down the sides of the road so we washed off our hands and arms. The rest of the way to Alvorada went well. We got there and packed up to leave as the sky was getting darker and the rains weren't easing. Driving back in the mud is really a skillful job in the day and at night you have to be a daredevil.

It was now five o'clock in the afternoon. We had loaded up all the sacks of oranges picked on Tim's farm, plus bananas, plants, peanuts, avocados,



Oranges from a tree on Big Tim's farm.

suitcases and people, all sandwiched into the van for the journey back.

Saying our thank-yous and having a word of prayer, we eased out of Alvorada. The road at its best is rough. I always remember the words of Pastor Trygve Dahle, who spent some days with us on the field here with his wife and others, when they made this trip with us to Alvorada: "I've travelled thousands of miles as pastor and driven on the worst roads in northern Minnesota and North Dakota (maybe Saskatchewan, too—Ed.), but never have I been shaken up like this in all my life, as on this trip."

The rains were not letting up and the sunken roads were oozing with water. That reminds me of when Mr. Robert Knutson, then our Mission Board chairman, came to visit the field and shouted to us, "Well, men, we've travelled long enough in the ditch; when do we get on the road?" And to top it all off, the roads are maintained with

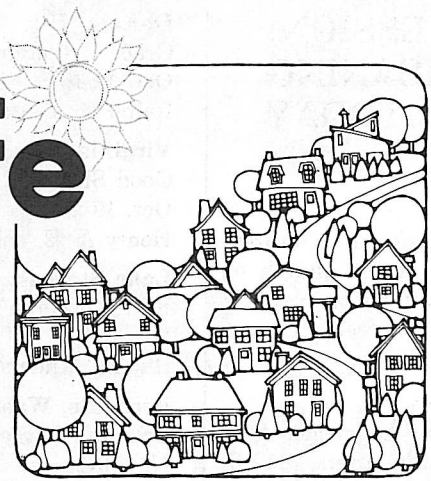
[Continued on page 14]



Pastor Dyrud baptizes a child at Alvorada.



# Life on the Edge of Town



## Four Men

Permit me to pay tribute to four pastors who have departed this life, three of them this year, one earlier. Each was known to some of you.

*Sylvester Rue.* I remember him from my boyhood in Saskatchewan, also from a circuit or district meeting held in my father's parish. He was pastor at Elbow, where his father-in-law, Wm. Hagen, had served in pioneer days. Later on Rev. Rue was pastor at Ferndale, Wash. He was an earnest, kindly man.

*Oscar Weltzin.* Before I left for college, a member of the Augsburg Quartette that summer, while on tour, encouraged me to attend Olivet Lutheran Church and to sing in the choir there which he was directing. And so I came under the ministry of Pastor Weltzin for that first year at least. He was a concerned pastor with a good evangelical message. He, his wife, and the congregation in general gave us students a warm welcome and made us feel at home (Amos Dyrud was also attending Olivet in those days). When I came to our Bible School in 1972 I had the privilege of preaching from the Olivet pulpit on a couple occasions, and Rev. Weltzin was still pastor. It was a sadder time when I and some others of the Medicine Lake family attended and took part in a final fellowship meal as the old church on 23rd and Franklin Avenue closed.

*Justin Torggrimson.* We always called him Gus. A seminarian by the time I arrived at college, he was with us at our freshman camp (at Mission Farms, Medicine Lake, by the way) and led us in the college cheers (he being a former cheerleader, you see). I twice had him in my parishes for special meetings and Gus was the ideal man for that. He was friendly and easy to be with. In his preaching he was a no nonsense man, but his love and concern were always at the surface, but not shallow. The last time he was with me at Tabor Lutheran, Webster (S. Dak.) he used a theme song. It was "In Times Like These You Need a Savior." It added a lot to our meetings.

I'm not even sure what the disease was that took Gus at age 59. But it was one of those which slowly but surely left him an invalid. Thus his work was ended some years ago. Therefore his ministry wasn't long, but he made the most of it. The product of a broken home, Gus knew the love of the Savior in rich measure and was able to manifest it to others.

*Edwin C. Peterson.* Our people at Sebeka and McVille will remember Edwin Peterson especially for he served as pastor there. And in retirement in the Seattle area he and his wife attended Our Redeemer Lutheran sometimes. I know I last saw him when at the Luther league Federation convention there in 1977. I got acquainted

with him as a fellow pastor. He was in western North Dakota, I in eastern Montana. He was a serious, earnest pastor, a good man. I have regretted not making mention of his passing before this, but pay tribute to him now nonetheless.

## Varia

Last time I wrote about the unusual amount of acorns this fall and that they fell early. Another point of interest this year is that the ash trees turned yellow so early, in early September. They have been pretty against the green leaves of other trees. Maples have turned early, too, but we have few of them around here. Did see some last Sunday (Sept. 7) when we were over by Clearbrook, Minn., for dinner with friends. The drive was beautiful. Spending a gorgeous Sunday afternoon on a farm was very enjoyable and brought memories of my parish experience when invited out to farm homes for Sunday dinner after church.

Saw my first deer near our place recently. We moved here 40 years ago and while I haven't been around all of that time, none of us have ever seen a deer around here. Moose, yes, but not deer. I was parking my car when I spotted the deer about four rods away. But with a bound it was in the woods.

As this is being written, the garden needs more time before frost. We had our first corn-on-the-cob last night for supper. But as I've said before, the garden will produce much more anyway than we ever thought possible earlier in the summer.

Brother Erling, a pastor in Roseau, Minn., has had quite a time of it health-wise this fall, but is recovering well now, thanks to God. Following a two-and-a-half week stay in the Roseau hospital for gall bladder surgery and a day or two at home he was transferred to the University Hospital in Minneapolis where a large abcess was removed by Dr. Najarian. Erling is married to the former Rhoda Monseth. They have five children.

—Raynard Huglen

## Commemorating the 450th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession

### THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION: ITS MEANING FOR TODAY

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## Governor says politicians should not try to 'use God'

St. Paul, Minn.—(LC)—Minnesota Republican Governor Al Quie says there is a danger that some politicians are "trying to use God" by appealing to voter's religious beliefs.

Quie, a Lutheran, said Christianity is being exploited by some politicians. He said he is concerned that "political involvement" will hurt the church and the faith of the people.

"When one becomes known as a believer," he observed, "you have special responsibilities because everything you

do is viewed by some people as coming from God . . . and everything you do wrong could hurt Him."

He said Christians should be active in politics but not equate their political acts with religious faith.

Quie said preachers have a right to campaign from the pulpit but he doesn't like it and would not do it himself.

He said some political actions by his Christian supporters have made him uneasy.

## HIGHWAY . . .

such an incline on both shoulders that one is forced to stay right in the middle. Meeting a vehicle becomes a real skill, for when pulling over to the side of the road the car just keeps sliding sideways until stopping against the embankment. Something like trying to keep a wiggly spoonful of jello on a knife.

All went well for some kms., until one chain started slapping against the side. We stopped right in the middle of the road to tighten it. Just then a pickup load of soccer players came flying over the hill travelling far too fast for the conditions. The men were shouting and singing and having a wild time in the rain when all of a sudden they noticed the lights of our VW in the road. They shouted and pounded on the roof of the pickup to their drunken driver. He thought he could speed by us easily

on the side of the road. That's where he was mistaken. It was but a moment that the lights swerved and we heard a solid thud as the pickup kissed the embankment. Everybody shouted at their "crazy" driver as they piled out to push him back on the road again. We got our chains tightened and rolled on. There was no room for us to help them as they already had a couple dozen fellows pushing.

By nightfall we were on the official highway heading for Iretama. The rain had stopped now and the crushed rock base was a blessing. We stopped to take the chains off, but I could feel the heat of the rear air-cooled engine. It had really worked and pulled in the mud.

(To be continued)

## With our evangelist

### DeKalb, Ill.

Grace Lutheran Church  
Oct. 12-16  
Ralph D. Tjelta, pastor

### Virginia, Minn.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Oct. 19-23  
Henry A. E. Johansen, pastor

### Lake Stevens, Wash.

Elim Lutheran Church  
Nov. 2-7  
Richard Anderson, pastor

### Ferndale, Wash.

Triumph Lutheran Church  
Nov. 9-14  
Ronald Knutson, pastor

### Everett, Wash.

Calvary Lutheran Church  
Nov. 16-21  
Leslie Galland, pastor

Evangelist-Youth Worker Kenneth Pentti brings his ministry from Illinois to Washington in the above itinerary. Pray for him in the work of evangelism among our congregations.

## Preaching Missions

### Minneapolis, Minn.

Medicine Lake Lutheran Church  
J. G. Erickson, pastor  
Oct. 12-19  
Rev. R. Norheim, speaker

### Stacy, Minn.

Sunnyside Lutheran Church  
Wendell Johnson, pastor  
Oct. 19-22  
Rev. Robert L. Lee, AFLC Schools, speaker

### Greenbush, Minn.

United Lutheran Church  
Burton Rygh, lay pastor  
Oct. 26-30  
Rev. Rodger Olson, Grafton, N. Dak., speaker

### Roseau, Minn.

Roseau Lutheran Church  
Jerome Nikunen, pastor  
Oct. 26-30  
Rev. Raymond Martin, Finland, speaker

### Eagle Butte, S. Dak.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Ernest J. Langness, pastor  
Nov. 2-6  
Ev. Sterling Johnson, LEM, speaker





# A Minister's Musings

Pastor Einar Unseth



## Contentment

*I Timothy 6:6-8*

"I am content, and I've always been content." These blessed words came from the lips of a 90-year-old Christian lady at our Bible study recently. Though this lady is a widow who lives alone in very modest conditions, she is able to say from the heart, "I am content." As I thought upon her wonderful statement, my heart was greatly touched, for I do not often hear people say that they are content. Obviously some other people at our Bible study were also moved by this elderly lady's testimony. At prayer time a much younger lady requested prayer for herself that she might have this same spirit of contentment.

Surely the attitude of contentment is something to be much desired since God's Word says, in I Timothy 6:6, "But godliness with contentment is great gain." In fact, it should not be difficult for any of us to be content, for God's Word states: "And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."

In March of this year some church members from the midwest visited a Mission in Mexico. Making that visit opened the eyes of those people. One of them expressed her reactions thus, "My first thought was, 'Oh, such poverty and in this day and age.' Then I heard them sing, pray and speak of the love they have for Jesus. I saw the joy they have in their hearts as Christians, and I thought, 'They may not have all new clothes, large houses, furniture,

cars (not even one car, let alone two, and a pickup), but they are rich in their love for Jesus and for each other.' It put me to shame that I haven't shown the love of Jesus as I should. We may be rich in property, but poor in things of spiritual worth."

Yes, sometimes God introduces us to people of lesser means who have discovered the secret of contentment in order to lead us to contentment. It is no credit to us Christians that occasionally even some of the heathen have progressed further in this area than we have. Many centuries ago, Socrates, the prominent Greek philosopher, walked through the streets of Athens, Greece, and observed all around him the many evidences of wealth, art and culture. Seeing those material things led him to exclaim, "How many things there are that I can do without."

If a heathen man could come to such an important conviction, then surely we who are Christians should be able to arrive at a spirit of contentment if we have the basic needs of life. In fact, godliness and contentment go together. Godliness is to know Jesus Christ as our Savior. When we have experienced God's love in Christ, then Christ becomes the greatest blessing we can have. Then God reminds us that as we brought nothing into this world it is certain that we can carry nothing out. Knowing this fact will help to lead us Christians to be content. If we are living for Christ, then He will satisfy all our needs and will enable us to say, "I am content."

## Personalities

**Rev. Merle T. Knutson**, pastor of the Newfolden, Minn., parish (Wes-taker, Bethania and Hegland) since 1975, has resigned, effective December 1. His future plans are unknown at this time.

**Address of Pastor and Mrs. John Rieth and family** is 1823 10th Avenue E., Williston, N. Dak. 58801. Pastor Rieth is beginning the Association work in that city.

**Rev. and Mrs. Robert Rieth and family** are now living at 7210 N.E. 149 Place, Bothell, Wash. 98011. Pastor Rieth is national director of the Fellowship of Christians in the Arts, Media and Entertainment (FCAME).

**Rev. Maynard Force**, Minneapolis, Minn., long-time Lutheran pastor and Bible teacher, spoke at the Fall Preaching Mission at Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, N. Dak., Sept. 7-10. Rev. Harvey Carlson is the local pastor.

**Rev. Sterling Johnson**, evangelist with the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement, spoke at services in Faith Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn., Sept. 25-28. Rev. Ralph Rokke is pastor of the congregation.

## Pastor Amos Dyrud recovering from heart attack

**Rev. Amos O. Dyrud**, dean of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary since 1971, suffered a heart attack on Sunday, August 31, and was hospitalized at North Memorial Medical Center, Minneapolis, Minn.

He had intended to retire last spring but acceded to the wishes of the Board of Trustees to continue as dean for another year.

The prayers of the church are for the full and complete recovery of Pastor Dyrud. His home address as he convalesces is 4509 Jersey Ave. No., Minneapolis 55428.

His son, Dr. Peter Dyrud, and wife had not left yet for Madagascar when the illness occurred. They delayed their departure but have since flown to their new work.

Pastor Dyrud is doing well and expresses his sincere thanks to all who have remembered him and his family in prayer and have sent greetings and well-wishes. He has been conscious of the Lord's kind hand all the way through.

## Wisconsin congregation joins AFLC

Christ is Lord Lutheran Church at Onalaska, Wisconsin, was approved for membership in the AFLC by the Co-ordinating Committee at their meeting on Aug. 29.

The congregation voted unanimously to join the AFLC on August

3rd. Special services observing the second anniversary of the congregation were held on Sunday, September 28th. On that occasion the congregation made their affiliation in the AFLC effective. Pastor Snipstead was present for the observance.

## PROPHETIC CONFERENCE IN FARGO

Pastor Arnold Stone, LEM evangelist, will speak at a prophetic conference in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1603 North Fifth St., Fargo, N. Dak., Oct. 16-23, leading studies in the Book of Revelation.

The services on Sunday are at 11 and 5 p.m. On the other evenings they will be at 7:30 p.m.

Rev. John P. Strand is pastor of the church.

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The program gives interested donors an excellent opportunity to see their gifts have a far-reaching effect. New churches can be built—more students can benefit from life at AFLBS.

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More information is available through the dean's office at AFLBS. Interested congregations or individuals may send their gifts to AFLBS designated for FASTEN.

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