

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

April 21, 1987

*F*or he himself knows
whereof we are made;
he remembers that we are but dust.

*O*ur days are like the grass,
we flourish like the flower of the field; . . .

*B*ut the merciful goodness
of the Lord
endures forever
on those who
fear him, and his
righteousness on
children's children;
on those who keep
his covenant and
remember his
commandments
and do them.

Psalms 103:14-18



at the MASTER'S FEET

The Christian family

How many of us can look back on our past and recall with fondness the influence of godly women on our lives? I'm sure every one of us can recall the special times spent with grandmothers, aunts, a certain teacher either in Sunday School or public school and, of course, the influence of our mothers.

With the increase in divorce, the significant number of women in the work force, the rise of abortion, and the continued increase of single unwed mothers, motherhood is not what it once was. Without a doubt, the woman who feels called to be a full-time mother and homemaker is one of the most unappreciated, underrated and misunderstood people in American society today. The traditional role of full-time wife and homemaker is not only a rare thing but is even being challenged as to its validity as economic pressures loom large for many families and the encouragement continues to be given to women to "find themselves" as individ-

uals apart from their husbands or their families.

When God created our first parents (Adam and Eve) they were a complete family as a couple. The battle between good and evil was evident, however, even at their creation as they were led to doubt their Creator and deliberately fall into sin. Part of God's divine plan for them was to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth . . ." and thus motherhood became a reality. Through the institution of the family that God established in Eden, He sought to glorify Himself.

The Christian family as a living testimony is one concept I believe we need to re-embrace in God's church today. Most sociologists in our modern world are reluctant to describe what comprises a "family." It can literally be anything you want it to be. To some it is a single unwed mother and her children. Many inner city communities in America today are largely comprised of what is termed an "underclass," unmarried women living with their children with little or no male leadership or support. To someone else, a family may be a divorced father living with his children, or perhaps a single person living with adopted children.

It is risky today to dogmatically state just what the Scriptural definition for "family" is. The reality is that there are single unwed mothers in God's church today, mothers who need to know the forgiveness of God and their fellow men and mothers who need to be encouraged for giving their babies life rather than opting for abortion. The reality in God's church today is also the reality that one quarter of all families with children in America are single parent homes. Certainly God's original formula for family was a husband and wife joined together in marriage and blessed by children, when physically possible, but the reality of what *is* must not be ignored by the church.

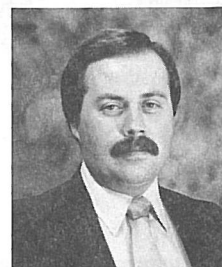
God is a God of redemption who can come to a family which has been hurt by divorce or the death of a father or

mother or a family that exists because an unwed woman has given birth to a child and work a miracle of healing and salvation. God sees these families, too, as possible channels through which He can declare His glory.

Having grown up in a single parent home, I often felt that our family was perceived as being less than whole because of the absence of a father who had died when we children were very young. Time and time again, though, the Lord encouraged me with the testimony of a young church worker in Scripture whose name was Timothy. Paul said of him, "I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded, now lives in you also" (II Timothy 1:5 NIV).

Why there is no mention of Timothy's father or grandfather, we are not sure. Perhaps his mother and grandmother were widows, just as mine were, or perhaps his father, who was a Greek, shunned the Christian faith. Regardless, Timothy came from a family where there was lack of significant influence from one parent. God in His infinite grace and ability, though, provided for what was lacking by declaring His glory through the faith of his grandmother and mother and brought Timothy to that same degree of faith. It is interesting that Timothy's mother's name, Eunice, means "blessed with victory."

If God has been the redeemer of your family today, regardless of its format, let's live in His victory, declaring His glory in a needy world through the witness and testimony of the Christian family.



by Pastor
Robert Lewis

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not a
"second-class"
career



the investment of homemaking

Homemaker. That's a word which makes many a woman cringe. It sounds like a glamorous word for "housewife." Dull, uninteresting, not at all exciting, kind of dull gray in a world of vibrant color. Even Webster's Dictionary has a very terse definition: "a woman who manages a home; housewife." Period! This is the image many women carry around today of the vocation of "homemaker."

If you are a working woman, married, and perhaps with a family, what is your first answer to the question: "What do you do?" Is the title of your job the first thing that comes to mind or the fact that you are a homemaker and mother? More than likely it's your outside-the-home occupation you think of first. If you are a woman who has chosen to stay at home to be a full-time homemaker, what is *your* response to the question? Many women would probably hang their heads as if in shame and respond, "Oh, I'm only a housewife." They would feel almost apologetic for not contributing something worthwhile and meaningful to society.



by Rev.
Gilbert Schroeder,
Tioga, N. Dak.

Could these responses possibly communicate the idea that jobs are exciting and homemaking routine, careers are interesting and homemaking dull? That is the thought of many a wife and mother. Such is the image of today's homemaker.

The fall of the housewife/homemaker image hasn't happened overnight. There has been an effort for many years to glamorize the image of the career woman at the expense of the family. For a number of years now women have been hearing the call to "get out of the home," "seek self-fulfillment through a career," "don't waste your brains by being confined to housework and runny noses," "express yourself," etc. The idea is that you're not a *real* woman with something to offer society unless you are a working woman. Homemakers are seen by these society changers as dull people, women who cannot converse intelligently on anything that does not have to do with children and housework. And so, women today are being torn between listening and responding to the call to work outside the home and listening and responding to the call which God has placed in their hearts, the call to be a career homemaker.

I suppose that by now some working women are saying, "Hey, wait a minute. I'm a working woman and I have good reason to be!" Their reasons for working range from having to work to just plain wanting to work outside the home rather than being at home. No one can tell them whether they should work or not. That decision is between them, their family and God.

One thing to consider, though, is the matter of priority. Every woman who has a home must consider where on the list of priorities homemaking falls. She

"There has been an effort for years to glamorize the image of the career woman at the expense of the family."

must consider what the highest priorities in her life are, next to her Savior. That is where she will give the greatest investment of her time and energy. So, the real question is not whether or not to work, but rather where on her list of priorities does homemaking fit into her life? In other words, what does she consider to be important?

Many women do not see homemaking as important. To them, being a mother is a necessary pause between coming to adulthood and pursuing a career. But being a wife and mother *is* a career and an important one. Homemaking has become a second-rate vocation and those who want to be full-time homemakers are viewed as (well, almost) second-class citizens. However, this is not so. Experts on the family agree that the very fabric of our society is dependent upon the home. And the home is dependent upon the wife and mother. Without the homemaker managing the home, the family would be only a collection of individuals coming under the same roof to eat, sleep, get clean clothes and go off again to their separate worlds.

Homemaking is more than that. It is providing an environment that is inviting to live in, a place where values are taught, where love is seen in quiet response to unspoken needs, a place

HOMEMAKING . . .

that builds a sense of security and acceptance into the family members, a place that helps children grow into responsible adults. This does not happen overnight; it takes time and commitment, energy and sacrifice. The woman who sees homemaking as something special, something significant to society, something given to her by God, will provide the time and commitment, the energy and sacrifice required for quality homemaking. Other things may be more exciting, but none more significant. None can change the course of society as can homemaking.

Parents hold in their hands the future of the American society. Abraham Lincoln once said, "A child is a person who is going to carry on what you have started. He is going to sit where you are sitting, and when you are gone, attend to those things which you think are important. You may adopt all the policies you please, but how they are carried out depends on him. He will assume control of your cities, states and nations. He is going to move in and take over your churches, schools, universities and corporations . . . the fate of humanity is in his hands." How this child turns out, what values he cherishes, what influence he intends to have over his world depend largely upon the training he receives at home.

The Bible has much to say about the training of children. Deuteronomy 6:6, 7 says: "And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be in your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up." Several observations can be made. First, the "words" referred to are the Ten Commandments, given in Deuteronomy 5. They are more than "dos and don'ts;" they are guidelines for living. They are personal character values which, when fully grasped by the heart, will result in a peaceful, productive life. Secondly, these values are to be communicated from generation to generation through the parents. Third, teaching may be done in a school-type setting at an appointed time, but most is done by example during the course of day to day living, when you sit, walk, lie down,

get up. The teaching is done by word of mouth to be sure. However, life values are communicated in an indelible way by example. Verse seven implies that we parents are to communicate these values to our children by spending time with them so they can observe these values in action in our lives.

Although both parents are responsible for training their children, the influence of the full-time homemaker will be greater than her husband's, especially among preschoolers, because of her greater availability. If mother is not readily available, then who will instill good character qualities? Who will teach positive values? Who will reveal Christ in daily living? Children see these things acted out at home first, then they follow in their parents' footsteps. This is called nurture. To be sure, *someone* will teach your children values. Are they the values you want

"To be sure, *someone* will teach your children values. Are they the values you want taught?"

taught? Child stealing is going on today. Not physical abduction, but abduction of the mind. The values of parents are being supplanted with another set of values. How can this be stopped? By nurturing your children with your set of values.

Nurture means "to feed or nourish." And that is what the homemaker does. Not just in the sense of physical feeding and caring for the family. The wife and mother nurtures her children in many ways. Mrs. Jean Fleming writes in her book, *A Mother's Heart*, as adapted in the Focus on the Family brochure, *A Woman of Influence*: "The aspect of mothering that excites me most is the knowledge that I am making a permanent difference in my children's lives. I am a woman of influence. I impart values, stimulate creativity, develop compassion, modify weakness, and nurture strengths. When I read my child a story I am doing far more than entertaining him. I am expanding his world

the foundation

The home is the foundation of both Church and State. Domestic life over-arches and undergirds all other life. If things go right in the home, they go right everywhere; if things go wrong there, they go wrong everywhere.

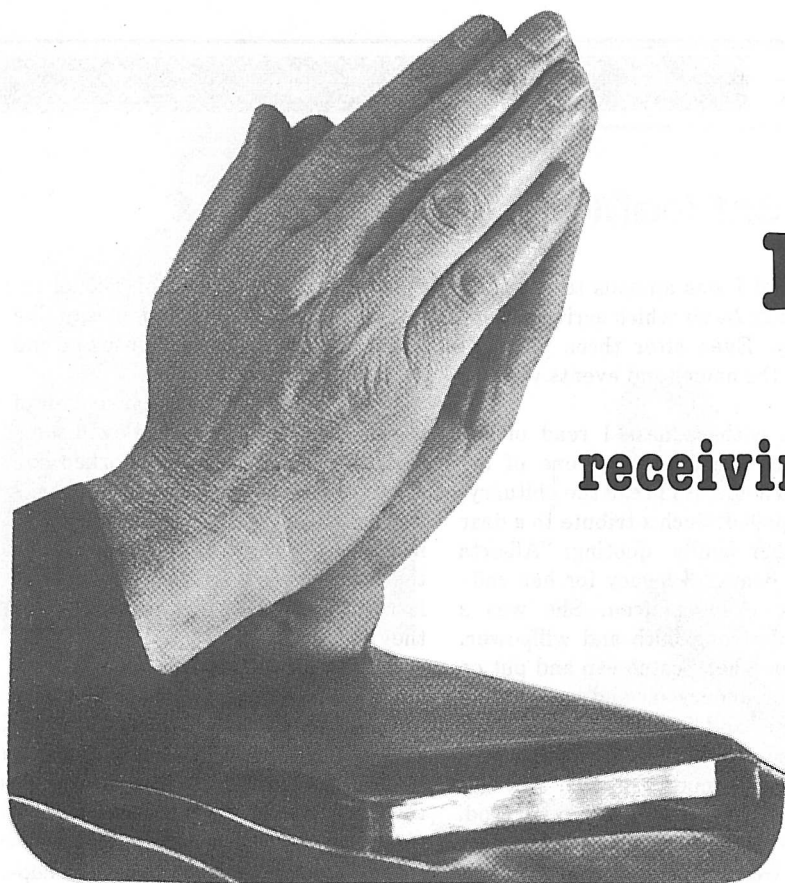
—L.B. Buchheimer

with language, words, thoughts and imagination. When I sit beside my child's bed at night to talk and pray, I'm doing far more than cultivating a bedtime ritual, I'm tuning in to what he is thinking, catching up on his day, and listening for fears, hopes, and questions."

Influence is a powerful thing. Nurture and influence go hand in hand in training children. The mother of Moses had him under her care for only a few years. What she taught him during those early years of training about his heritage as a Hebrew and his God made an indelible impression on him. So much so that God could say in the book of Hebrews: "By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin; considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward" (NASB).

Timothy had much the same experience. It was through the faithful training in the Scriptures by Eunice, his mother, and Lois, his grandmother, that Timothy came to know God.

cont. on p. 10



PRAYER

receiving working orders

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

Prayer is a means through which we talk to God and God talks to us through His Word. But it is by means of the Word that this relationship begins. Here we first discover that God has a plan, a will for each person who chooses to follow Him. After making this choice we contact God through prayer.

In this sense the Bible can be compared to a catalog. Upon seeing what is available (God's promises in Scripture) we place our orders in the form of prayer petitions. But we must stay within the limits of what the catalog (the Bible) offers. We have no right to ask for that which God has not promised. And like a catalog, there is a price to pay. God expects something from us as we pray. We often think only of receiving, but praying involves giving — giving up our sins and worldly pleasures, and giving of our time, strength and means in order that God's kingdom might go forward on earth. We might be asked to give up certain earthly comforts to help accomplish that advance.

The Bible will show us what God is like, what He has done, what is pleasing and displeasing to Him, as well as what He expects of us.

Praying Aright

It is important that we become acquainted with and learn to know what our God (Jesus) is like when approaching Him in prayer. As we study the Bible, the Holy Spirit will teach us how to pray even as Jesus taught His disciples (Matt. 6:5-15). Sincere prayer, accompanied with a knowledge of Scripture, will result in growth in our faith.

“God expects something from us as we pray.”

A thorough study of God's Word will help us to realize that God does not answer prayer according to man's desire but according to what is directly and indirectly for the spiritual good of all mankind. It is only after we have the mind of God, making His will our will, that we have the right to freely ask and that God will freely give.

“Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you” (Matt. 7:7).

This verse is not a universal promise given to all mankind, but was first given to Jesus' disciples whom He had chosen to do God's will in evangelizing the world.

There has been an increasing emphasis on prayer in recent years. We know that prayer is vital to spiritual life. However, the emphasis has been on quantity of prayer rather than on quality. The study of God's Word has not received equal emphasis. Much prayer, intense praying and insistent praying is stressed. To pray that God's will be done is often neglected.

What a man is in his heart plays a very important part in God's granting what is requested.

“The effectual fervent prayer of a *righteous man* availeth much” (Jas. 5:16).

The emphasis on much praying rather than right praying is often geared to the individual's selfish desires rather than to God's will. It is like children wearing down their parents' resistance until they get what they want but causing the parents to go against their better judgment.

God, too, may grant requests against His own better judgment because of selfish heart desires and stubborn persistence. An outstanding example is the children of Israel who stubbornly

◇

PRAYER . . .

prayed for a king (I Sam. 8). God granted the request but this (over a period of time) did not prove to be a blessing and led to the nation's downfall.

Paul prayed for healing three times (II Cor. 12:7-9), not four, five or more times, but only three. He accepted God's "No" and His grace to endure.

Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matt. 26:36-44) prayed three times (but only three), "Let this cup pass from Me," accompanied each time with the words, "Not as I will, but as Thou wilt;" after which He continued to face the cross knowing this to be the Father's will.

James had this to say about prayer: "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts" (Jas. 4:3).

And Jesus said: "But when ye pray, use not vain petitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking" (Matt. 6:7).

Many seem to think of God as a Santa Claus to whom they may make all kinds of requests to their hearts' content and that God out of love and a most generous heart will grant all requests if strongly and continually insisted upon. They also put God to the test. If He does not respond as they expect, they lose faith and sometimes turn from Him.

The heathen also pray but to the wrong God. We dare not overlook the dangers of going astray and contacting the demon world or the powers of darkness if we neglect God's Word. Some who pray, and pray amiss, become deceived and unknowingly get in touch with evil forces which have the power to do miracles. It is dangerous to pray without studying and becoming acquainted with all of Scripture.

I like to think of prayer as receiving my working orders, much as an employee gets orders from his employer (Matt. 20:1-16). As a good employee, my interests are secondary to that of my employer. In all the petitions I make, my chief concern needs to be for that which I need in carrying out His will for me — working equipment.

How long am I to pray? Time is not the issue. I need to pray and read my Bible until my working orders are clear

As usual I was anxious to read the *Eagle Butte News* which arrived every Thursday. Even after three years of absence, the names and events were as of today.

It was with sadness I read of the passing of the mother of one of my teacher friends. As I read the obituary, I was appalled. Such a tribute to a dear lady by her family, quoting: "Alberta leaves a beautiful legacy for her children and grandchildren. She was a person of strong faith and willpower. She donned her Scotch cap and put on her dacron underwear and would "tote that barge" and "lift that bale." On the same token, Alberta loved lace, ruffles, and delicate feminine things. She was close to Mother Nature and to her God. Alberta endeared herself to all her family. She sensed when someone needed a lift and spent many a night in prayer and supplication for a family member. Thus ends her valiant struggle with the debilitating disease rheumatoid arthritis."

to me and until I receive what I need in order to go to work. However, like the apostles just prior to Pentecost, I may need to wait for the opportune time. This kind of praying is not the same as needless, repetitious prayer, but it involves waiting on the Lord. When I order from the catalog I do not reorder every day until I receive. I order only once and then wait.

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord" (Ps. 27:14).

By waiting I keep the prayer line open between myself and God. I believe this is what is meant by praying without ceasing (I Thess. 5:17). As I wait and live in His Word, new insights regarding His will or work might come to me. I may find out that I asked for something I should not have, or a new need may

There was no list of professional accomplishments and you might say like some do, "She was just a housewife and a mother."

Now Mother's Day is near and all of us have fond memories and even some regrets. As a mother who worked five days a week, ten months of the year, I missed many precious moments with my three youngest children. Although these moments were shared by their father and other family members, to me they were lost.

Also in *Eagle Butte*, a dear friend, Tilla, deserves praise as a lady, not a mother, for that was never her privilege. This didn't discourage her nor her husband because their home was open to many neighbors' and relatives' children.

Tilla was referred to as the "shepherdess" in Harriett Erickson's book, *His Mysterious Ways*. Tilla was instrumental in getting Rev. and Mrs. Jay Erickson, then a traveling evangelist for the Innermission, to come to Dakota

come to my attention in relation to what I have already asked. I can then adjust my prayer. Just a sentence prayer is all that is needed at times. Or what I ask for is put on "back order" and I need to wait some time before receiving it.

Quite often as I make my requests known to God, I do not even know what my needs are and therefore I just ask my employer (God), who knows the needs better than I do, to grant what is needed. I do not always know what to do or how to use what He has granted and I need to ask Him for instruction and

"As I wait and live
in His Word, new insights
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might come to me."

A Tribute To Mothers

country in 1950. They stayed two weeks. Tilla had just found the Lord. While herding sheep she read and studied the Word of God.

Now, as then, she always carries out the Lord's command to tell others about her Savior. To visit her in the Manor, alone in her apartment, is always a blessing. Despite her 89 years, she is active in church work and walks a mile to the Senior Nutrition Center for dinner. There she witnesses to others and brings tracts to distribute, especially to the Indian elderly.

In her own words in a letter to me, she said, "I never worry any more, I leave it all in God's hands . . . He takes care of me. I read His Word and sing His praises all day long. And if we can't meet again here on earth, let's meet in heaven."

Mother's Day will bring many sentiments, gifts, and cards from loved ones. Recently, I was fortunate to find a poem I wrote to my mother when I was attending eighth grade in a country school.

My Mother

Somewhere there is a woman,
Who cares for me each day,
Who awake many nights has lain
To brush my tears away.
If I'm ever sick or worried,
To her my troubles go,
And the consequence is hurried
Because she loves me so.
The meals are always on time.
My socks are always mended.
My dresses are always on the line,
'Cause Mother to them has tended.
She is the first to be up in the morning
And the very last to retire.
God bless her and keep her each day
And make her ideals higher.
So, dear Mother, I owe to you
Something which I can ne'er repay,
But I'll give my love in lieu
And take care of you some day.

(Lydia Johnson)

The greatest mother was Mary, the mother of Jesus. From the time the angel told her that she would bring forth a son, Jesus, to the time on the cross: "When Jesus therefore saw His mother and the disciples standing by, whom He loved, He saith to His mother, 'Woman, behold thy son:' Then saith He to the disciple, 'Behold thy mother!'" And from that hour that disciple took her unto His own home (John 19:25-27 KJV). Mary was a faithful mother.

A special blessing to all mothers and grandmothers on Mother's Day. We are God's helpers to bring love and encouragement and to lend a helping hand to those entrusted to our care.

Mrs. Arnold (Lydia) McCarlson,
Langford, S. Dak.



guidance. I find much of this in prayerfully studying His Word. If I forget to ask for what I need, God grants it nevertheless. He continuously gives me much for which I did not ask. I am never left desolate. My receiving is not dependent on my praying; I need only to stay close to Him in the spirit of prayer.

There are valleys to go through, problems and storms to face which bring special needs. Sometimes it becomes very difficult to pray and my prayers are only groanings, but God hears and understands, nevertheless. He is especially close at those times, although the storm may hide Him from me and cause me to wonder if He might have deserted me (Matt. 14:30-31). But God always works it all out for good (Rom. 8:28). His closeness through storms has done much to strengthen my faith.

"And, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28:20).

"I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you" (Jn. 14:18).

"My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness" (II Cor. 12:9).

My employer (God or Jesus) works close beside me in the work I do for Him. He works with me. Being so close, we freely talk. We do not talk all the time, but as the need and urge presents itself we talk about the work we are doing together. At the same time His blueprint, the Bible, is ever before me to follow.

My employer (God) is both far away and close by. He is far away in that I cannot see Him face to face and must learn to know him by letter, His book, the Bible. And He is close in that I can talk to Him and He gives me grace to do

His will.

But what about my personal needs and even the personal desires of my heart which are not sinful but not especially related to building His kingdom on earth? Dare I pray for such things? Yes, if they are not my first love. God encourages this kind of praying as well.

"Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Ps. 37:4).

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things (personal, material and temporal needs) shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

(Ed. note: This article is a chapter out of Pastor Mundfrom's new book entitled *The Threat of False Doctrine*, which he hopes to have ready for distribution in the near future.)

I want to grow, Lord!

by Mrs. Richard (Clara) Gunderson,
Lake Stevens, Wash.

What hinders me?

What hinders me? God's expectations - that's what hinders me! Ah, so now after understanding that playing the game of *comparing myself to others* is not God's way, but rather using God's Word as a measuring stick to take my spiritual temperature, and after seeing that my *anxiety* and *worry* are only assuming a responsibility that God never intended for me to have, and admittedly having sensed through the Holy Spirit the *need to change*, why now are God's expectations of me a hindrance? Why do I look at them in this way? Why are they so binding?

And they can seem so. In the words of one of my children, "I want to be a Christian, but it is so hard." At the moment these words were uttered we were discussing how we felt a Christian should act, just regular daily living. He felt that the Lord was asking too much from him. I understood, because I realized that I, too, a grown-up, mature woman, a mother, can also feel that same way.

What's wrong with this thinking? I asked myself. I believe it is in my view of God Himself . . . and I have to admit that it is all due to my *misunderstanding* of what His Word sets out. And as surely as I can see the truth in the Word, just as surely I can see my understanding clogged up, clouded over and, yes, perhaps even shut off consciously or unconsciously. So as I pick and choose which of His commandments and laws I want to follow, I am deciding that He's unfair by asking this or that of me.

"O, Father, you are asking too much of me to come out and be separate when all I want is to be like all the others, free to dress, act, spend and go however and

wherever. How can I give you my tithe and all these offerings besides? How can I possibly live up to the expectations of a godly woman that are read every Mother's Day from Your Word? What will happen to me if I *always* put others first, if I am totally submissive to my husband? Do I always have to be the servant?"

"But, My child, you are looking at this all wrong. Come to Me and I will show you that the yoke I place upon you is not one of slavery; it does not bind, but it is an easy harness, allowing you and Me to walk together in harmony. I fear you misunderstand My words, My motives. My claim upon you is not to keep control of you by forcing you to keep a lot of rules and laws. No, that would be mere religion. My desire for you, you must understand, is that you walk in this life on earth in a manner worthy of what I have done for you through your Lord Jesus Christ! I want your very life-style to praise and honor Me!"

Oh, how these words tear me up inside! One died for me and I, in my selfishness, feel put upon!

"He felt that the Lord was asking too much from him."

These thoughts of living a worthy life come from Philippians 1:27: "Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ . . ." They were particularly powerful in my heart during the Lenten and Easter Seasons and I have felt the Holy Spirit emphasizing them again and again in my struggle to live victoriously, obediently as a woman, as a wife and as a mother. What a tremendous load I carry upon my shoulders when I look upon the invitation of Jesus to be under His yoke (Matt. 11) as being a *burden*! Can I compare this, perhaps to the demand for perfection I place upon my children? Do I see a similarity in my view of the yoke Jesus speaks about in Matthew and my own apron strings which wrap themselves around each child with unreasonable expectations? I can tell clearly by my child's attitude if he feels put upon when

I ask him for some task to be done, or, if it strikes a responsive chord in him and he willingly goes to it. Does not my Heavenly Father seek to strike a responsive chord in me? Will I respond by allowing the Holy Spirit to open the eyes of my heart to understand His motives? Yes, my heart cries in response: I *want* to walk willingly, obediently, worthily.

I knew long before my mother died that she was a woman who brought honor and praise to her Lord in her daily walk. As a youth I witnessed a wife who loved her husband submissively and gave that example to her five daughters. I knew her as a mother who cared about the moral and spiritual and emotional lives of her children, as importantly as our physical needs. I knew her as a mom who willingly, not grudgingly (no, it was not a burden), put her husband's and children's needs and wants ahead of her own. She was a woman who found it difficult to criticize or judge anyone else, who found it difficult to pray or witness out loud. As I helped care for her when she was partially paralyzed from a stroke I saw how her sweet nature was Christ-centered. She who couldn't walk physically was walking worthily of what Jesus had done for her!

Saved by Grace

That such a sinner as David could, by genuine repentance, become "a man after God's own heart," is an encouragement to all of us.

—Alvin E. Bell

editorials

RED FACE

Was our face red!

In the March 24th issue we presented information about lodging for the 1987 Annual Conference to be held in Thief River Falls, Minn., June 17-21. We averred editorially that never before had we presented housing information that early in a year.

Everyone was kind enough not to rub it in or even call the mistake to our attention, but imagine our chagrin when we realized, too late, that *only last year* we printed information pertaining to the housing for the 1986 Conference in Washington in the January 28 issue! How soon we forget!

We've thought about it sometimes, how quick we are to say that some recent experience, sight or accomplishment (ours or others) was the "most" or the "least," the "highest" or "lowest," the "largest" or "smallest," the "most wonderful" or the "worst," when it actually may not be so at all. How quickly we forget.

Ah well, we live by the grace of God and also by the generosity of our considerate readers.

UNHAPPY TIMES

These are unhappy times for television evangelism and witness and the resultant shadow chills the whole cause of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mercifully, the worst may be over when you read this. It is being written when the "stained glass scandal" is in full bloom. Sins have been committed. An alleged "sexual encounter" was confirmed as fact. Money was paid either as hush money or blackmail and what is the difference between them? The Assemblies of God denomination was thrust into the middle of the problem because the pastor who sinned (one of those who sinned) and the pastor who felt the cover-up couldn't go on are both of the Assemblies.

A third TV personality in his own right, from a different denomination, was brought in to chair the board of the ailing PTL (Praise the Lord, People That Love). Charges ring out that a fight for the TV audience and their contributions is only dimly veiled in all the goings on.

In the midst of all this, another TV evangelist has "averted death" by receiving eight million dollars before the end of March. He had told his viewers that "God would call him home" if the funds didn't come in in time. The secular press has had a field day with that, claiming he held God hostage. We are inclined to agree. The evangelist compounded the problem when he accepted a seven-figure check from a dog racetrack owner in Florida. Whether or not it went against the eight million is immaterial, it is still what we used to call "tainted money."

Yes, these aren't happy times for TV evangelism. And even before these latest problems came to light, there were nagging concerns on the part of the Christian community. Why do some of those in high visibility outreach for the Lord end up in extravagant life-styles? Why the opulence, the "fat cat" image? One harks back to the Old Testament prophets, to Christ's Apostles, who from all accounts travelled light,

spoke boldly to those in high places and let the chips fall where they might.

We appreciate the reminders that not only TV preachers and personalities who know Christ can fall into sin of one kind or another. It can happen for those well known or little known. Always the words of I Corinthians 10:12 bear hearing: "Therefore let any one who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall."

Parish clergy are not immune to the lure of the dollar. Today not a few pastors command attractive salaries. They and their congregations justify it on the basis of the profession and the "image." It is good to hold the ministry as a worthy work, but woe unto us if we think it is validated by remuneration somewhat equal to the high paying "professions." The validity comes from the fact the ministry is God's work.

We're not advocating low salaries, but it is much better to be on the low side with always the need for some faith for the future than to be "sitting pretty" and forgetful of the need to always trust the Lord for one's daily bread.

Perhaps we have deviated from our starting point, but no matter. One more thing which has come up in the discussion about the TV evangelists is the thought that the local church and pastor are important, too. No one will argue that people haven't been helped and saved through television evangelism, but we must never forget that the local unit is always the most important in God's work, the local unit and the work those units do together as they band together, as in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

The TV programs have taken millions and millions of dollars away from locally-sponsored Christian work. And some of it hasn't been put to good use or necessary use, as in the case of luxurious homes and cars for some servants of Christ. Some of the money has been squandered. Maybe now is the time for contributors to give more of that money at home where they are sure of the theology preached and acquainted with the programs of missions and mercy and education carried on.

But in all, let us pray that sins are confessed and forsaken, brotherhood restored, integrity maintained and a willingness to forgive found present.

MOTHER'S DAY

The second Sunday in May is one of the happiest days in the year. It is the day on which Mother is honored and husband and children do their best to make the day a pleasant one from morning (breakfast in bed?) until night. Nice things are done and gifts are given. It is a day also for grown-up sons and daughters, even if they have children of their own, to remember and honor their mothers.

God is pleased with the honor given to mothers. He has ordained the home and family and motherhood. One of His commandments calls for honor for mother and father. Of course, it is not enough to be kind and agreeable and helpful only on the one day of the year. To be so only then would be a mockery through which Mother could easily see. Honor and love are to be shown each day and at every opportunity all the year through.

God bless all mothers. May Mother's Day be a very happy one in your home and family.

HOMEMAKING . . .

Through their influence and nurture from early childhood, Timothy grew to be a godly man, trusting in Christ, zealous for the work of the kingdom. This heritage of piety and personal faith did not happen by accident. It was taught from generation to generation, from Lois to Eunice and from Eunice to Timothy: "For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well" (II Timothy 1:5 NASB). Such training does not just happen. It takes time, commitment, availability and an investment of one life into another.

What we sow we reap. Only as we invest much time and energy in being with our children, teaching by example and listening to them, will the yield be great. If we invest little in our children and let someone else raise them, or worse yet, let them raise themselves, they will not have the personal and spiritual character we would desire for them.

Susanna Wesley was the wife of a financially poor preacher and a mother. She knew what investment in her family meant. She was far from being a dull and unintelligent homemaker, having studied Greek, Latin, French, logic and metaphysics. She ran an orderly household while teaching her ten children at home. Through her influence and the investment of her life in her family, two of her sons (John and Charles) became famous for their work of evangelism and hymn writing. And, in turn, these two men have affected the eternal futures of countless millions. Because this one mother dedicated her life to her family, millions of people have had their lives changed forever. Truly, career homemaking is significant! And it is fulfilling.

**"In the end, homemaking
is an investment
of one life in another."**

Everyone wants to live a meaningful and fulfilling life. Fulfillment in the task of mothering is not as immediate as the

Something for children

In the Gospel of St. John (19:25) there are these words: "There stood by the cross of Jesus His mother." And, boys and girls, that is just like Mother, isn't it. She is always standing by where her children are bearing crosses. Otherwise, I suppose, we should have thought it strange that Mary, the mother of Jesus, should have been at the crucifixion, for she was probably not with Him on all of His preaching journeys. Yet when it comes to the time of the cross, behold, the mother is there! But since we know the spirit of "Mother" there would be something strange if

business world. It comes in bits and pieces during the mothering years: an "I love you, Mom" coming out of the blue, a bouquet of flowers hand-picked from the neighbor's yard, a hand-drawn picture, all these are expressions of love which warm a mother's heart. But the greatest fulfillment of a job well done is when the children are out of the nest and on their own. It comes when she can see her character qualities and godly values living in them and being revealed in their everyday living. Qualities which she taught and nurtured.

In the end, homemaking is an investment of one life in another. It is an expensive investment. Perhaps an outside career can give you excitement, an opportunity for self-expression and a way to make a significant mark on the world. But will all your achievements, all the pleasure, all the fortune earned apart from the home make a difference to you ten or 20 years from now? What will make a difference, what will matter to you is the end result of your children. Will they turn out as you hope? Will they have the character and values you desire from them?

The working world has much to offer a woman, but the investment of her time and talent is always in someone else's business, not her own. The best investment she can make is in her family, for there is where eternal results are yielded.

Homemaking is not a second-class career because it is occupied by first-class women.

the mother at the cross

the mother of Jesus had not been with Him when He was in trouble. When you boys and girls are sick or hungry or when your clothes are torn or when you have any sorrows, Mother is always close by to help, isn't she?

Did you ever wonder why it is that mothers never seem to get weary of working and caring for their children? Sometimes they will work all day and then perhaps sit up all night caring for a sick boy and yet never seem to think that they are doing too much for their children. It must be their love that enables them to do it all, don't you think so?

Then I think that we ought to try to help Mother, too, with that same love and care that she shows to us. I think that just as she is always at our side when we have need so we ought to be at her side when she has need. Perhaps sometimes she may want an errand done or some work performed and then it would be nice to be at her side to satisfy her wishes.

In that way we shall be showing toward her that same kind of love that she has for us. And it won't take her long to discover that we are always by her side to help her because we love her too, just as she loves us. And this was why Mary was always at the side of Jesus.

At the cross her station keeping
Stood the mournful mother weeping,
Where He hung, the dying Lord;
For her soul of joy bereaved,
Bowed with anguish deeply grieved,
Felt the sharp and piercing sword.
Jesus, may her deep devotion,
Stir in me the same emotion,
Fount of love, Redeemer kind;
That my heart fresh ardour gaining,
And a purer love attaining,
May with Thee acceptance find.

Rev. Andrew Hanson
Wandering Stars, George H.
Doran Company.



Hermas Pintos Dominguez

Hola, (Hi). Well, I never thought that I would be studying in a Bible school. In reality, I prayed for a whole year, asking God, according to His will, that He would show me the right place to be, to be useful and to be a worker for Him. I had been studying some Bible courses with the pastor of my church, but felt I wanted more. I had a difficult time when I first arrived here at the Bible school. It was difficult for me to understand Portuguese and to speak it. I was almost ready to give up and go home, but thanks be to God that soon I was able to learn to speak Portuguese and others helped me to understand what the teachers were teaching us. Well, maybe you are asking why I don't speak Portuguese! The reason is that I am a sweet Paraguayan!! (Spanish is the language of Paraguay.) My name is Hermas Pintos Dominguez and I am 21 years old. I come from a Christian family and received Christ as a teenager. My family is very musical and one of the things I enjoy most is to play guitar and sing. This year I am also studying piano, so I may be able to help more in music at my church.

Besides music, I like to help people. I am glad that I can share Jesus Christ with those who need Him. That is one reason I am glad to be here this year. I am better preparing myself to work for Jesus. I am learning something that I had imagined I'd never have the opportunity for and that is to study and learn God's Word more profoundly. I thank God that He has provided for me so that

Meet the students of IBSM

Part VI



Celia Milla Cavalcante

My name is Celia Milla Cavalcante. I am 23 years old and live in Londrina, Pr. I wasn't born into a Christian home and I grew up, until August of 1985, without knowing God's Word. When I would go to the Catholic Church, I learned so little and I was never satisfied. I was searching for more, but didn't know what it was I was looking for. After my family moved to where we are now living, a year and a half passed and then we received a visit from some members of the Free Lutheran Church. They sang and shared with us their testimonies and read from the Bible. We were invited to attend an evangelistic service

I am able to continue studying here.

A favorite verse of mine is Proverbs 15:3: "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good."

Hermas is the youngest of a family of four brothers and three sisters. She learned about the IBSM through the Free Lutheran Church of Foz do Iguaçu, which borders Paraguay. She attends the Lar Parana Lutheran Church this year and is Sunday School teacher for the children up to seven years of age.

and to come to church. I was happy that these Christian young people showed concern and love for me and I accepted their invitation. The church was near my home so I went that evening. The message that I heard through the hymns and sermon spoke to the emptiness in my heart and filled my heart with peace. I started coming to church often and received visits from the church members. One night, during an evangelistic campaign, I prayed with the pastor and accepted Christ into my life. It has been a year now since that day and I am very happy for the new life I received.

This year God called me to study at the IBSM and this has been a great privilege for me. Here I am fortified in my faith and am learning so much from God's Word. I am thankful to God also for my fiancé, Marcos, who is also studying here. We know that God has something special planned for us to accomplish for Him.

I also have a sister who was converted at about the same time as I was, and together we were taken in as members of the Free Lutheran Church of Londrina in February of this year. My mother is also coming to church and my prayer is that my whole family will come to Christ, so we may all say we are one in Christ Jesus.

My prayer is that all of us, as God's family, may rejoice in His divine plans and always walk in the Light, so we may thus bring the Light to those who are still in darkness.

A verse that has spoken to me since my conversion is II Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold the new has come."

Celia is working in the Lar Parana Lutheran Church this year. She is a Sunday School teacher for 7-9 year-olds. She also helps out with an afternoon Sunday School at a housing project.

SW Central Minnesota WMF Rally scheduled

May 5, 1987
9:30 registration
10 a.m. morning session.
Bethany Free Lutheran
Sebeka, Minnesota.
Missionaries George and
Helen Knapp, speakers.

From the files of *Folkebladet*:
May 28, 1930

Pioneer mother dies

Mrs. Ole Tweidt died on April 5 and was buried on April 8, 1930.

Mrs. Christine Tweidt was born in Vinje parish, Telemarken, Norway, on April 29, 1850. She immigrated to America in 1870 and came to acquaintances in this settlement (Christiana congregation, Farmington, Minn.) upon her arrival. She often told about her trip; it was both long and difficult; the journey was by sailing vessel and it took nine weeks to cross the ocean. Contrary winds and stormy weather didn't make the trip pleasant. But come she did and accustomed as she was to different kinds of toil and suffering she soon forgot the unpleasantness of her journey. Other things came to her which struck more deeply, but also bore more blessed fruit.

At the time she arrived here a great awakening took place in this area and quite a few of the leading families were along in the revival and came to life in God, among them the Ole Halling family and others. Mrs. Tweidt got work and a place to live at Hallings and was also awakened, but it took, as a person can understand from her own account of it, quite a long time before she completely came to believe she was saved, and during that time she went through great soul struggles. Darkness and doubts for a longer time were her load, but at last she came through to peace and assurance of salvation.



Medicine Lake Lutheran WMF, Plymouth, Minn., honored five ladies who have given faithful service. Pictured L. To R. are: Mrs. Carol James, Mrs. Richard Snipstead, Mrs. Amos Dyrud, Mrs. Laurel Udden, and Mrs. Clifford Holm.

A mother's words fitly spoken . . .

An aged Christian mother heard one of her sons describe his brother's sudden rise to wealth. When he finished telling about his brother's money, luxurious home and new cars, he declared, "John is really getting along in the world."

The mother looked soberly at her son and asked, "Which world?"

Laugh at yourself first, before anybody else can.

—Elsa Maxwell

Real womanly strength comes in submission—submission to Jesus Christ and then to her own husband. A woman's strength is demonstrated when she upholds her husband in prayer and in decisions he makes. That strength takes character.

—Cheryl Bond Sutton

God takes a thousand times more pains with us than the artist with his picture, by many touches of sorrow, and by many colors of circumstance, to bring us into the form which is the highest and noblest in His sight, if only we receive His gifts of myrrh in the right spirit.

—Mrs. Charles E. Cowman

. . . there are those who urge others to make a choice for abortion. If this takes place without our protesting in any way, then our silence is giving consent in a very real way. (see Jeremiah 5:28-29).

—Edith Schaeffer

Our hymn study

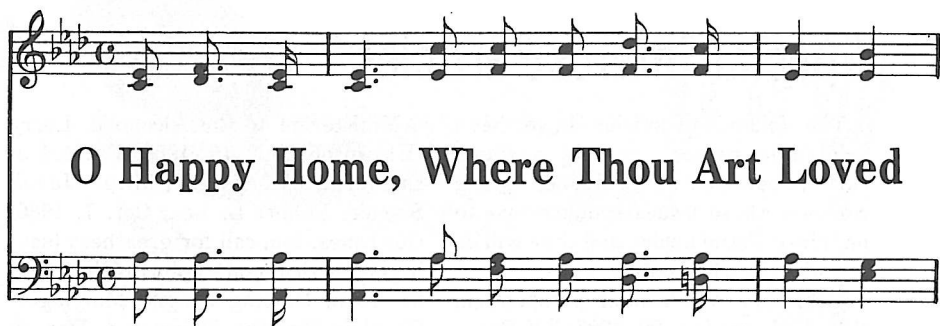
Concordia, No. 351

Carl J. P. Spitta, 1833

Sarah Borthwick Findlater, 1823-1907

Tune: ONE RADIANT MORN

Anonymous



While this hymn is Scripturally based on Luke 19:9, it is said to be a description of the author's own childhood home life. It's the finest hymn ever written on the topic of the Christian home (contrast this with #349, "Mid Pleasures and Palaces") and is a wonderful tribute to his mother, a Christian Jewess, who raised him alone.

"And Jesus said to (Zaccheus), 'Today salvation has come to this house...'"

O happy home, where thou art loved
the dearest,
Thou loving Friend and Savior
of our race,
And where among the guests
there never cometh
One who can hold such
high and honored place!

But no other things had left such definite impressions upon her life's experiences as exactly those she had lived through in that time. For this reason also her Christianity was so deep and genuine and many who hadn't had much of her experiences could think that her Christian zeal and manner were altogether too pronounced. Her hard experiences and sorrows later in life only deepened her Christian life and made it more sincere.

Some years after she came here she was married to Ole Tweidt and settled on a farm in Eureka Township 52 years ago. To this union seven children were born of whom four are living. First, her husband died, Ole Tweidt, 27 years ago, a hard blow certainly for a tender and sensitive spirit such as hers. Seventeen years ago the first of her sons died, Oliver, of natural causes (believed to be

O happy home, whose
little ones are given
To Thee, O Lord, in humble
faith and pray'r,
To Thee, their Friend, who from the
heights of heaven
Guides them, and guards
with more than mother's care!

O happy home, where each one
serves Thee lowly,
Whatever his appointed work may be,
Till ev'ry common task
seems great and holy,
When it is done, O Lord,
as unto Thee!

O happy home, where Thou
are not forgotten
When joy is overflowing,
full and free

O happy home, where
ev'ry wounded spirit
Is brought, Physician, Comforter,
to Thee.

And when at last all earthly
toil is ended,
All meet Thee in the
blessed home above,
From whence Thou camest,
where Thou hast ascended, —
Thine everlasting home
of peace and love.

typhoid fever — Ed.), then shortly thereafter, in 1914, her son Enok was caught by a pulley on a "gasoline machine" and killed instantly. Thus the years went by until two years ago when son Adolf was struck by a train in Farmington and also killed instantly. These were hard and difficult experiences for a mother to bear, as well as for others in the family, but Mrs. Tweidt carried it all with Christian patience

Carl Johan Philipp Spitta's father died when the boy was a very tender four. The mother did extraordinarily well in providing necessities and keeping the family together but her dream of seeing Carl in the Lutheran ministry dimmed and vanished. Carl was apprenticed to a watchmaker (age 15) in order to help sustain the family, while a younger brother would be guided into the ministry. When the younger brother died, Carl was invited by the family to adopt his career, an offer joyfully accepted. He returned to his elementary school and proceeded, through diligent study, to the top of his classes in both high school and university, eventually earning a doctorate. Although the seminary faculty was rationalistic, they were without lasting effect on the well-bred Spitta; he remained a pietist until his death of a heart attack as he sat at his desk. He was 58.

His hymns are characterized by their "quiet beauty, their tone of earnest, sincere, and child-like piety, and of glowing devotion to the Savior... They form a faithful mirror of his inner life and Christian experience... and they ministered to the revival of evangelical religion in Germany." (John Julian)

For translator Sara Borthwick Findlater, see #113.

— Don Rodvold

and was able in spite of it all to praise God.

She was laid to rest in Christiana congregation's cemetery on April 8 in the presence of a large gathering.

She is survived by four children: Nettie, Mrs. Sam G. Quanbeck, Aneta, N. Dak.; Alma, Mrs. Wm. Quanbeck, Bowbells, N. Dak.; Leander and Anna on the home place. She is survived also

Special interest articles

The following articles have been printed in response to our readers' survey some time ago. Anyone wishing copies of these issues should write to our office, listed below, and they will be supplied if at all possible.

Evolution—A Christian perspective, Wm. Moberg, Oct. 22, 1985; TV Evangelism and the Local Congregation, Ralph Rokke, Nov. 5, 1985; The Lodge—a conflict of issues, Dennis Gray, Nov. 19, 1985; Deeper Life and the Power of the Spirit, Laurel Udden, Dec. 17, 1985; Marriage: God's Plan, John Rieth, Dec. 31, 1985.

Abortion is Murder, David Barnhart, Feb. 25, 1986; World Hunger: Hungry for What?, Charles Knapp, Mar. 25, 1986; The Fathers of Lutheran Pietism—What is Lutheran Pietism?, Robert L. Lee, Apr. 22, 1986; Drugs and the Christian, Michael Crowell, May 6, 1986; A cloak or a cloud of dust (more on the drug problem), Richard Gunderson, May 20, 1986; Dangers of the New Age Movement or Humanism, Gerald Mundfrom, June 17, 1986.

PIONEER . . .

by a sister, Thilda Nelson, Kalispell, Mont., and a brother, Olaf Rice, Sheyenne, N. Dak. In addition she is survived by 13 grandchildren.

The undersigned officiated in the home and the church with the assistance of Pastor (J.R.) Gronseth of Minneapolis. Songs were sung by Mrs. Sundal and Mr. Harvey Hanson.

With the deaths of Mrs. (Marie) Sorenson and Mrs. Tweidt, Christiana Church has suffered a great loss in workers; they were both willing and good women who did what they could. May the Lord raise up others who have the same spirit to take their places.

(Pastor) B. L. Sundal

Translated from Norwegian

(Ed. Note: Mrs. Tweidt was the grandmother of Orlin, Evelyn and Clarence Quanbeck of New Luther Valley congregation, McVile, N. Dak. All of her children are deceased, but those who attended LEM Mid-Winter conferences in the '40s-'60s will remember her son, Leander Twedt, who was faithfully present.)

Ministering to the Alcoholic; Larry Haagenon, July 15, 1986; Fathers of Lutheran Pietism—Philip Jacob Spener, Robert L. Lee, Oct. 7, 1986; Our times, too, call for greatness (saving our environment), John Strohm, Oct. 21, 1986; Helping Fragile Marriages, Chaplain Timothy Skramstad, Dec. 2, 1986.

God does not condone it, but will forgive homosexuality, Dennis Gray, Jan. 13, 1987; Premillennialism, Lyndon Korhonen, Feb. 10, 1987; Amillennialism, Martin Horn, Feb. 10, 1987; The World Council of Churches, Ralph Rokke, Feb. 24, 1987; Why do they leave? (and go to Anabaptist churches), Bruce Dalager, Mar. 10, 1987.

Write: *The Lutheran Ambassador*, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Please specify which issue(s) you want. If you order several copies, something for postage would be appreciated.

CALLED TO OUR ATTENTION

An observant reader has called to our attention the need for a clarification in Pastor Bruce Dalager's fine article "Why Do They Leave?" in the March 10th *Ambassador*.

In the second column of the article, on page 6, there is the sentence: "Certainly one should be careful in using a term ('Our church is dead.') that even our Lord did not use to describe the most apostate church in His letters (Rev. 1-3)." The reader points out that Jesus did say about the church at Sardis: "I know your works; you have the name of being alive, and you are dead" (chapter 3, verse 2).

We call this clarification to your attention. The Editor

RADIO PROGRAM AT DEVILS LAKE

Christ Lutheran Church, Rev. Joel Rolf, pastor, sponsors a 25-minute broadcast on Sunday mornings at 8:05 on Station KZZY-FM (103.5), entitled "The Message of Hope." The program includes music and a "message of hope" from God's Word by Pastor Rolf.

Deaths of two pastors, pastor's widow noted

Rev. Kenneth I. Rusdahl, 68, pastor in the former Lutheran Free Church, passed away on Nov. 25, 1986, at Sweet Home, Ore. A graduate of Augsburg College and Seminary, Minneapolis, Minn., he was ordained in 1949. He served parishes in Racine, Wis., Seattle, Wash., Starbuck and Cyrus, Minn., and Upland, Calif., in the LFC and Upland and Meadow Vista, Calif., in the American Lutheran Church. He retired in 1983. Pastor Rusdahl was united in marriage to Evane Hanson in 1949. He was a native of Superior, Wis.

Rev. Morris G.C. (Carlson) Vaagenes, Sr., veteran missionary in the LFC, passed away on Mar. 24 in St. Paul, Minn., where he resided in Lyngblomsten Home. He was born in the Bergen, Norway, area, July 8, 1888, and came to America in 1909. He was a graduate of Augsburg College and Seminary and was ordained in 1919. After brief service in the Rochester and Ellendale, Minn., parishes and a year of language study in Grenoble, France, Pastor Vaagenes sailed to Madagascar as a missionary in 1921. He was united in marriage to Hanna Bovre, a missionary nurse, in 1926. They were in mission work until 1939 and later from 1946-60. They laid two young daughters to rest overseas.

Pastor Vaagenes served rural churches out of Thief River Falls, Minn., from 1941-43, First, Madelia, Minn., 1943-46 and St. Paul's, Superior, 1961-62. He assisted in church work after his retirement also. His funeral service was held at North Heights Lutheran Church, St. Paul, where his son, Rev. Morris Vaagenes, Jr., is senior pastor, on Mar. 27. Pastor Vaagenes is survived by his wife and also a second son, Rev. Carl P., Tofte, Minn.

Mrs. Julia Gronseth, widow of Rev. James R. Gronseth, passed away on Mar. 11 at the age of 92. They were married on May 26, 1918, at Stephen, Minn., where he was pastor and she (Julia Grandstrand) was a church organist. They served at Calvary Lutheran, Everett, Wash., from 1918-21 and

news of the churches

Arlington pastor installed

Pastor Frank Cherney was installed as pastor of Atonement Lutheran Church, Arlington, Wash., at the closing service of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations' Bible Conference held at Calvary Lutheran in Everett, Wash., on Feb. 20-22. The pipe organ at Calvary was also rededicated to the Lord at the service. It has recently undergone an extensive rebuilding. The president of the AFLC, Rev. Richard Snipstead, officiated at the installation and rededication.

Pastor Cherney is Atonement's first pastor and with the nearing of the construction of their first church building there is much excitement among the friends and members of the young congregation. They are working to establish a Bible-centered ministry that meets the needs of people through faith in Jesus Christ and guidance of the Word. They are currently meeting Sundays at 10 a.m. for Sunday School and at 11 for worship in the Arlington VFW and on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in homes for Bible study and prayer.

then from 1921 until his death in 1970 at Rosedale Lutheran in Minneapolis. Rosedale then became an AFLC congregation. In recent years the congregation merged with Faith Lutheran and they took the name Faith. The congregation uses the Rosedale building.

Mrs. Gronseth was organist at Rosedale all those years. She also directed the junior choir. In recent years she had lived at Ebenezer Towers, Minneapolis, and Ebenezer Ridges Nursing Center, Burnsville, Minn., where she passed away. She is survived by four sons, James, Jr., Luther and Phillip, Minneapolis, and Rev. Stephen, Kimballton, Ia.; two daughters, Mrs. Amos (Magdalene) Stolee, Kenyon, Minn., and Mrs. Sherman (Joyce) Limburg, Austinville, Ia.; 21 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren; and one sister in Texas. A daughter, Rose Ivadelle, died at a young age.

Blessed be the memories of Pastors Rusdahl and Vaagenes and Mrs. Gronseth.

Pastor Cherney, his wife Pam, their children, Tina 16, Tara 10, Abigail 5 and Andrea one, and his mother, Shirley, have moved from Minnesota and are now making their home in Arlington. Most recently he served the AFLC congregation in rural Sebeka, Minn. They welcome visitors and hope to make many new friends. They want to share what they have experienced personally, what a difference Jesus can make.

— *Corr.*

In memoriam

Key: The name of the town was 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.

MINNESOTA

Spicer

Clara G. Stulen, 81, Mar. 16, Green Lake.

Newfolden

Hjalmer Hjelle, 88, Mar. 28, Westaker.

PASTOR DASARI'S FATHER DIES

Joseph P. Dasari, 81, father of Rev. B. Rao Dasari, AFLC pastor, passed away on Dec. 7, 1986. He was a farmer at Intur, Andhra Pradesh, India. His funeral was held on Dec. 8 and his son, Pastor Dasari, was in India and able to be present.

Mr. Dasari is survived by his second wife, the first one having died, and three sons.

Blessed be his memory and our sympathies to the family in India and the U.S.

Teacher wanted: Medicine Lake Lutheran Academy needs a half-time elementary teacher for the '87-'88 school year. For application, contact: Mrs. Enderlein, 6300 Walker St., Central Community Center, St. Louis Park, MN 55416.

Preaching missions

Boscobel, Wis.

Trinity Lutheran Church

Rev. Merle Knutson, pastor

April 26-29

Rev. Dennis Gray, DeKalb, Ill., speaker

Minneapolis, Minn.

Medicine Lake Lutheran Church

Rev. Laurel Udden, pastor

Oct. 18-22

Rev. Herbert Franz, Dollar Bay, Mich., speaker.

Personalities

Rev. Richard Bartholomew, who has served at Faith Lutheran in Kalispell, Mont., since 1981, has resigned as pastor with future plans indefinite.

Rev. David Molstre of Fargo, N. Dak., spoke at evangelistic meetings in Christ Lutheran, Devils Lake, N. Dak., Mar. 29-Apr. 1.

Dr. James Gerdeen to speak at first week of ARC Family Camp

Dr. James Gerdeen of Chassell, Mich. will be the evening speaker at the first week of Family Camp at the Association Retreat Center near Osceola, Wis., June 29-July 5.

Dr. Gerdeen brings an interesting background into his ministry in the AFLC. He was born in Escanaba, Mich., and came to a real spiritual experience at a Lutheran Free Church Bible camp as a teenager. He got his Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan Technological University in Houghton in 1959, his Master's Degree from Ohio State University in Columbus in 1962 and his Doctorate from Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif., in 1965. He was a

No nation can be destroyed while it possesses a good home life.

— *J.O. Holland*

CAMP . . .

Research Engineer at Columbus from 1959-1968, has been a Professor at Michigan Tech from 1968-77 and again from 1981-87, as well as doing Consulting/Engineering for many years. Dr. Gerdeen served as Lay Pastor of Marantha Lutheran Church in Chassell from 1971-77, while teaching at Michigan Tech.

Dr. Gerdeen felt the call to attend Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary from 1977-1980. He served as interim pastor in Minot, N. Dak., from 1977-78, Faith, Minneapolis, in 1978, and Granite Falls, Minn., in 1978. He served as pastor of Victory in Christ Lutheran Church in St. Paul from 1979-81 and again as pastor at Marantha Lutheran Church in Chassell, Mich., from 1981 to the present time. He has served on the Co-ordinating Committee of the AFLC from 1975-77 and again from 1985 to the present time.

His wife's name is Wanda and they have three children, Lori, Sonya and Timothy, and two grandchildren.

Dr. Gerdeen will speak at the evening services on the theme "Seven Mountain Top Experiences in the Bible."

Send your registrations of \$2 per person or \$5 per family to: ARC, Rt. 1, Box 92, Osceola, Wis. 54020.

— Committee

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June 17-21, 1987

Thief River Falls, Minnesota

Every congregation represented by a lay delegate!

PRAY

Pray to God and trust

His Word,
Never doubt or waver;
Claim the promise of
the Lord,
Claim in faith His favor!

Pray in faith, in patience wait,
God will grant your prayer;
Meet Him at the Mercy-seat,
Bring your burdens there.

Pray, O pray, before you act,
For the Holy Spirit;
Pray for wisdom, love and tact,
Plead alone Christ's merit.

Pray to God in Jesus' name,
Pray for "whatsoever;"
If His promises you claim,
He will fail you never.

Pray, but do not fail to praise
God, the Gracious Giver;
Praise Him for His Gifts
of Grace,
Praise the Lord forever!

C. K. Solberg