

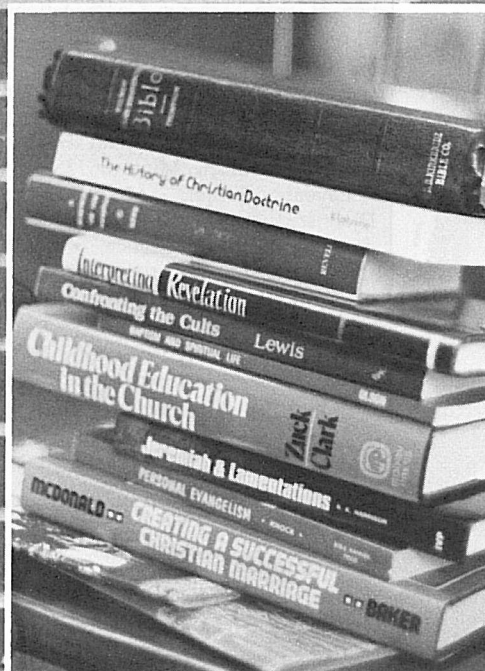
AFLBS
BUILDING ON CHRIST

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

April 26, 1983

For other foundation
can no man lay
than that is laid,
which is Jesus Christ

I Cor. 3:11



AT THE MASTER'S FEET



Pastor Emerson Anderson

Women who are blessings

Our nation needs godly mothers if it is to survive. Someone has said, "The hand which rocks the cradle moves the nation." We cannot overestimate the influence of mothers. Our nation has many woes. We are in need of godly leadership. We need people who know and will apply godly principles to every area of life. We need mothers who can train children by word and example to be such people.

How can we have such mothers? We believe women can only fully and properly fulfill the role of motherhood when they are women of regular, intimate worship. They must

be women of private worship so they may be women of public godliness.

You recall a woman named Hannah. Her story may be found in I Samuel 1 and 2. She was the mother of Samuel. Samuel grew into manhood as one who could lead his troubled and bewildered nation in the ways of the Lord. He became prophet, priest and judge in Israel. The people of Israel began to look to him as one they could follow with confidence. Hannah was a great influence in Samuel's life. She bore him for the Lord's service, and all that she did regarding his training was with that in mind.

Hannah lived in times when everyone was doing what was right in his own eyes. In Hannah's eyes it was right to walk in communion with God. Bad times are no excuse for careless living. Every woman must choose her own way of life. You, too, must make the choice. Hannah chose wisely. She wanted a son who could serve the Lord, but through barrenness she had found that impossible. Hannah so loved the Lord that she should not put this desire aside. One day, in the presence of Eli the priest (and also in the closet of her inner being), she poured out her heart to the Lord and He heard her and granted her request. It is no accident that God prepared her heart through waiting and praying. Such is always good for the soul. To her, Samuel was born.

Hannah had promised Samuel to the Lord for a servant. How she lived her life to keep that promise. She prayed for him; she trained him; she was a model in godliness before

him. We believe she could do all these things well because she was first a woman of the closet. We further believe Hannah's life was a life of joy and fulfillment. That she could pray and have a song in her heart, such as is found in I Samuel 2:1-10, is proof. She speaks of the Lord's beauty in holiness, omniscience, sovereignty and power. She rejoiced in His salvation. Her sense of blessedness burst forth in the words, "He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among the princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory."

We are sure every woman would like to be as happy as Hannah. We believe every Christian woman should desire to be as profitable to the Lord as Hannah. There is only one way that may be. She must be a woman of a growing knowledge of the Lord through private fellowship. I, as a man (and I am sure I speak for many men), wish to state publicly that I thank the Lord for godly women. I thank Him for my grandmother, and my mother, and my wife. We would encourage every woman, whether married or single, to be all God is able to make them to be. We know this can only mean more blessing for us. "An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels . . . Her children rise up and bless her; her husband also, and he praises her" (Proverbs 31:10,28).

Heavenly Father, thank you for every godly woman. Bless us with many, many more, for Jesus' sake, Amen.

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Follow God's Principles

by Mrs. Einar Unseth
Bismarck, N. Dak.

"In the olden days were there babies?" innocently asked the five-year-old boy who comes to our house every morning. Yes, there were babies in "the olden days" and there were fathers and mothers there to care for them then, just as there always will be. As a mother, I would like to share in this article some of my thoughts concerning this important role of motherhood.

God has chosen to give the awesome responsibility of nurturing children to fathers and mothers. What a challenging task this is! The influence of parents begins before the baby is born. That new life growing daily within the mother's body is sensitive even to mother's emotions and to the sounds around it. What a wonderful privilege was ours in bringing our unborn children to God in prayer asking Him to begin His work in the child's life and to guide in the years ahead, preparing the child for His service.

What a joy to love and care for the new baby during those first helpless months of his life! That daily, loving care conveys the assurance of mother's love to her baby. As he becomes a toddler, goes off to kindergarten, to school, becomes a teenager, and even a college student, his need for mother's love and prayers and encouragement continues. There will be many a bump to kiss and comfort, many a scraped knee to bandage, many tears and joys to share and many a time when a sympathetic ear is needed. All of these will be included in the job description of a mother.

In his book, *How to Raise Your Children for Christ*, Andrew Murray writes: "Let us not pray that our children may be saved without thinking of giving them to serve. Let us cease choosing honorable and lucrative professions for our children, turning the

thoughts from a mother



truth that they can serve God in any calling into an excuse for declining special service. Let us lay each child upon the altar, especially our first born and our best, and seek this one thing; that they may become worthy and fit to be set apart for the service of the King . . . The reason so many a parent has prayed for the salvation of his child and been disappointed is that the prayer was utterly selfish; it was simply the desire to see the child happy, giving no thought to the glory of God or of consecration to His service." What a powerful reminder that God gives us children, not for our own selfish use but that His name may be glorified through them.

Had I known that God was going to bless our marriage with six sons I think I would have been completely overwhelmed. I might have been like Saul, who was found hiding among the baggage when he was chosen by lot to be Israel's first king. But the Lord did bless us with such a family and how thankful we have been for each one.

As I look back over our child-rearing years, I marvel at God's long-suffering and loving-kindness and grace beyond measure. We are far from perfect parents. Our children have matured perhaps "in spite of," rather than "because of," our efforts. Raising children for the Lord is a spiritual enterprise indeed. We cannot see what is happening in our

child's heart from day to day but as believers we must hope beyond sight. We can claim the power and might of God's spirit to perform His work in their lives. "Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit, say the Lord of hosts" (Zech. 4:6).

The Bible has many a promise to encourage us along the way. In Proverbs 22:6, God gives parents a great challenge and follows it with an encouraging promise: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Training of children for the Lord must be a priority in the Christian home. As Christian mothers we have only a few short years to teach attitudes of reverence and trust and love for Jesus, respect for parents, respect for property, obedience to authority, and a host of other values. We are told today that the training a child receives in his first three years sets his life values to a great extent. I have seen this illustrated in the children that I have for day care in our home. Those whom I have had since infancy are easier to care for because they have learned obedience. Some whom I have taken at age 3 or 4 have been very difficult because they have not been taught to obey. When a child learns to respect and obey his parents he will learn to respect authority from others in later years. The obedient child is living according to divine order and therefore participates in a deep sense of harmony and fitness.

Fear of physically punishing our children is a powerful force in our lives today as "child abuse" is con-

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"What a wonderful privilege was ours in bringing our unborn children to God in prayer . . ."

MOTHER . . .

stantly held before us. God's Word, however, speaks to us of the importance of discipline and even of using the "rod". "Do not withhold discipline from your child, if you beat him with a rod he will not die" (Prov. 23:23). Physical punishment is to be reserved for occasions of open rebellion and deliberate disobedience, not for accidents or mistakes of the child or to vent a parent's frustration upon the child.

Perhaps you have felt, as I have, that those who campaign for "women's rights" do not understand the position that God has given to women, particularly mothers. That God-given place has great joys and rewards for those who are willing to take the responsibility. A Christian wife and mother has opportunity to use all of her talents and creativity to enrich her home and her family life. Larry Christenson, in *The Christian Family* writes: "In a family the wife is the link between husband and children; when she lives according to Divine Order, it will tend to draw both husband and children into order." Though father is ordained to be the head of the home, mother must be his encourager and prayer supporter. Perhaps you have seen a plaque reading, "The best thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." A companion plaque could read, "The best thing a mother can do for her children is respect their father." When children are taught, largely by mother's example, to respect their father, he is free for leadership in the family, his God-given post.

Family devotions have always been an important part of our family life. When the children were small they became familiar with the Bible through a book of Bible stories which we read at the supper table. We went through that book several times over the years, as well as some devotional books written for children. As they grew older we read the Bible to them. Our boys have expressed their appreciation for this foundation in the Bible as they have gone away from home to school. Christian parents, don't miss your opportunity to teach your children the Bible while you still have them with you. You can't afford to leave this important

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A Tribute to Mother

By Pastor Gustav Nordvall, Roseau, Minn.

"Honor thy father and mother (which is the first commandment with promise), That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth" (Ephesians 6:2-3).

The Lord has commanded us to honor our parents. This commandment was included in the second table of the law. Other parts of Scriptures have admonished us to give honor where honor is due. It is from this perspective that we honor our mothers on the day designated for this purpose.

Whenever we think of mother, we naturally think of our own. We have but one mother. We do, however, recognize adoptive mothers as well.

My mother was laid to rest in August, 1965, some three years after my father's death. I had lived at home with my parents until I was 45, at which time also I married. It was at this time my parents retired from the farm and moved to town.

My father and mother both grew up in the same village in Sweden. They were married there and a year later they left their homeland for America. The first major step in becoming immigrants was the heart-breaking experience of saying farewell to their families, whom they knew they would never see again in this life. They came to Minnesota in the fall of 1910. My father worked at different jobs for two years in a little town where they settled. It was during this time they suffered their first loss. Their first-born son died very suddenly.

In 1912 they decided to venture out to establish a new home in the untamed frontier. They filed for a government homestead. It was the dream of almost all immigrants to own 160 acres of land and a home they could call their very own.

My mother was a pioneer woman in the fullest extent. Their home at first was a one-room house. This was enlarged later, but so also was the

family. In this humble setting they reared a family of five. The basic furnishings were: beds, a few chairs, table, a wood-burning cook stove and a sewing machine. The laundry equipment consisted of tubs, a wash board and a clothes line. There was, of course, no electricity, telephone or running water. Like most pioneer women, mother was confined to her home for weeks on end because there was no road at first, only a wagon trail, which was impassable much of the time.

When my father worked away from home it was my mother's lot to keep up the work at home. This consisted of bringing home the cows for milking from out of the deep woods. They would sometimes wander far and were not easy to find. The cowbell was the only clue as to their location.

One day when I was about three years old, the cows had wandered across the border into Canada. Mother set out to bring them home with her trusty and very intelligent dog named Spring. On returning home with the cows, and about a mile away, the dog became very excited. He had found something! He was determined that mother should come to see. He barked and tugged at her coat until mother decided out of curiosity to investigate. There, to her great surprise, was I, her three-year-old boy! When she returned to the house she asked of the neighbor lady with whom she had arranged to watch the children while she was gone, "Do you know where I found Gustav?" She was horrified! This story may never have been written if it were not for old faithful Spring and a woman who was inclined to believe him.

On another occasion many years later, she went for the cows in the pasture. There behind a tree was the black heifer fast asleep. Mother

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Building Christian character

Two years of Bible school are over, behind me. But wait! Is it really over? Is it completely ended? Would there, could there (dare I think it?) possibly be a chance that it was just a beginning? Did I say beginning, i.e., the first part or early stages? Yes, and isn't that an exciting thought?

Bible school truly was a start, and a very special one at that. A foundation was laid during those weeks and months that will carry over for our entire lives. One very important aspect underlying everything that took place was the growth and building of Christian character. But what is character? Webster defines it as an attribute, quality or property; especially a distinguishing attribute. Now putting that in the context of Christian character, what would some of these "distinguishing attributes" be, and how were they encouraged in our lives during Bible school?

Many times in Scripture we are told of the effect God's Word has in lives. That is why the Bible was the center of all areas at AFLBS. As we studied His Word in and out of class, we grew to know and love God in a much deeper way. As we realized the bigness of God and His amazing love for us, our faith became more steadfast and immovable.

Along with all our studying and instruction, we were given avenues of service to enable us to share with others what we were receiving. Ser-

vice is an important part of this character development. As we were sometimes reminded, we shouldn't be like a sponge, always taking in but never giving out. An inactive Christian becomes a stale Christian, for our outward acts are a reflection of our inner love for and faith in God. Out of this love for God comes a growing love and concern for those around us. There's a world in need of Christ and we as Christians have the responsibility to make Him known. This involves establishing priorities and self-discipline in our daily lives, sorting out that which is of eternal value.

Christian fellowship plays a big part in the building of these qualities. Bible school provided much in this area. How I thank the Lord for the love and prayers of those people He placed in my life! Those friendships continue to be a source of encouragement to me in my Christian life today.

Now tell me, does this sound like a stopping point? Rather, I see it as a step in a life of service to God. We've been given so much, and now have many opportunities before us to use it all for Him wherever we are. These characteristics should be evident by the way we live our lives. Oh, that we would be "vessels for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work."

Jean Swanson
Class of 1982

Stand firm

Christian character-building is an ongoing process. God is working patiently with us.

The other week I was at a class taking a test. I finished the test and proceeded to my room to take a break. I was bushed, it was a hard test and I did not do as well as expected. I changed clothes, went down to the lobby and relaxed by reading the paper. Just as I was finishing my reading a teacher walked in and challenged me, "There you are, Hans, we missed you in class." My face turned red with embarrassment.

The world in which we live always throws curves at us. There is always something happening. It is the same as a pitcher on a baseball team who throws curves and catches the batter unaware. There is always something to talk about, troubles, problems, griefs or sorrows. It is part of life. These experiences quickly remind me of my weaknesses. I am not perfect.

As I look around the country I see many people. Many are not God's people. Many even seem to be rich and prosperous. But here I sit without work and bills to pay. I ask myself where am I with my life? How am I, a Christian, going to establish a useful life? I hope to have a wife and family. I hope to have a home with a dog or an apple tree in the back yard. Happiness and usefulness are wrapped up together in a Christian's hopes and dreams.

God says, "The just shall live by faith" (Habakkuk 2:4). As Christians we must accept the fact that we are imperfect and we can only live by God's grace through faith.

Our goal must be to stand firm. God never promised an easy way around problems. He told us to tackle them straight on with no more shying away from the issues. We cannot be as a mere horse who shys at an object it sees in the grass and does not understand. As Christians we must stand firm. "Watch ye, stand firm in your faith, be men, be strong." (I Corinthians 16:13)

Hans DuBois
Class of 1984



A foundation laid on God's Word

"And upon this rock I will build My church." The church is built with Christ as the very foundation. Each of us in his personal Christian life must have Christ as his foundation, and build his life on Him, the solid rock. To build on the foundation and strengthen our faith in Christ we must study God's Word and spend time alone with Christ in prayer and devotion.

As I have spent the past two years studying at AFLBS, God has richly blessed me. AFLBS has helped me to learn to build my foundation on Christ, and has built my Christian character.

To build Christian character is to spend time in God's Word and to apply it to one's life and put it into practice. At AFLBS the basis for each class is the Word of God and throughout the whole school it is the main textbook. This helps me to spend time in God's Word and also to learn and understand the teachings

of Christ. As I study and desire to become more Christlike, my faith grows by God's grace.

As we lay our foundation in God's Word, we have many opportunities to apply it to our lives. AFLBS has many areas of service in which each student has an opportunity to serve God. This builds faith and Christian character in a person.

We have briefly seen how AFLBS can help build our Christian lives through studying God's Word and applying it to our lives by fellowshiping with other Christians and having an opportunity to serve God to further His Kingdom. I must say with certainty, AFLBS is an excellent way to build a firm foundation on Jesus Christ, our solid rock.

"Therefore every one who hears these Words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock" (Matthew 7:24).

Mark Schmitke
Class of 1983

Friendship

Aristotle wrote: "One chooses friends for their usefulness, for amusement and pleasure, and, finally, for their virtue (admiration and respect for one another)." Some have said that this highest form of friendship no longer exists today.

And then came AFLBS. "A friend loveth at all times." "There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." A mutual love for Jesus and God's Word is the foundation for friendships at AFLBS.

Whether it's at joint devotions, popcorn parties in the dorm or romantic walks by the lake, the good friends and fellowship are a slice of heaven on earth.

I think back to those "heavy" theological discussions and realize how true it is that "iron sharpens iron," and how special it was to have a prayer partner with whom to share, or cry or search the Scriptures.

Though not true for everyone, in my case my roommate became my closest friend. She was the one who



Patience has been rewarded for these girls in finding mail in their boxes one afternoon. Left to right. Dawna Westby, Kristi Olson and Becky Pentti.

Developing lasting relationships

"Everyone who comes to Me, and hears My words, and acts upon them I will show you whom he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation upon the rock; and when a flood arose, the river burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built" (Luke 6:47, 48).

As I look back on my experiences at AFLBS, I see how God worked though His Word to give me a strong foundation in knowing Jesus Christ. I believe these verses clearly show how important it is for our lives to be rooted and grounded in God's Word so that when we are confronted with false doctrine, even in its sub-

tlest forms, we might be able to discern it because we know the truth.

I am so thankful that I had two years at AFLBS before going to college where I was confronted with secular humanism and other unscriptural philosophies. Being grounded in Christ and His Word enabled me to stand firm in the faith. The Bible school training before college also prepared me to better share my faith in Christ.

Bible school also provided opportunities to make lasting relationships with other Christians. The devotional times of singing, sharing and prayer were such an encouragement. The Christian love shown in bearing one



Photos left to right:

Warm, encouraging friendships are a vital aspect of AFLBS. Left to right, Ruth Tollefson, Jane Nelson, Lynelle Hartman and Carol Hanson chat with Residence Head, Andrea Kreuger.

Committee work brings students together as they work toward specific goals. Left to right, Kim Erickson, Rick Crestik and Lynelle Hartman.

Current AFLBS faculty. First row, left to right, Francis Monseth, Kenneth Moland, and Robert L. Lee; second row, Donald Rodvold, Philip Haugen, Eugene Enderlein and Mrs. Eugene Enderlein. Not pictured: Pastors Amos Dyrud and Bushanarao Dasari.

really knew me and loved me in spite of it all. My innermost dreams and secrets were safe with her.

When it came time for graduation we were sad to leave those days behind. But we knew that we would never leave behind the friends. They were ours to keep. Christians never say goodbye for the last time. Maranatha.

LaVonne Torkelson
Class of 1982

AFLBS: equipping for fruitful ministries

Going to Bible school was the best thing I could have done after high school! Here's a summary of the areas in which AFLBS most helped prepare me for future service for the Lord and will help you.

1. *Personal Growth.* Spiritually, emotionally, mentally and socially, it's a time for building that firm foundation on the Word of God from

which all the rest of life is an overflow. A right relationship with God will mean a right relationship with others.

2. *Applying Oneself.* My desire was to learn as much as possible at Bible School, so I tried to use study time wisely. I believe each AFLBS student will get out what he puts in. Yet the Bible must not be just a textbook, because it's applying its truths personally that's life-changing!

3. *Fellowship.* Friendships developed in Christ are close and enriching. Dorm life is also a training ground in learning personal responsibilities and how to live unselfishly.

4. *Ministering.* "Taking in" without "giving out" develops a stale "spiritual sponge." Every person at Bible school has needs, so learning how to be understanding and encouraging and looking out for others instead of oneself is an exciting way to live!

5. *Outreach.* I feel this is one of the most important parts of being equipped for future service, and yet it's one of the most neglected areas. Being involved during Bible school in teaching Sunday school, youth work, choir, music and Bible studies in a congregation was invaluable preparation for me when I later became a parish worker. Street witnessing and passing out tracts with other classmates really gave me new enthusiasm to go back to classes and learn more, and also it strengthened my desire to be bold in sharing my faith with anyone.

As I now look forward to a new role as a pastor's wife, I look back with gratefulness to my two years at AFLBS. Seeing how much I still need to learn and grow almost makes me wish I could do it all over again!

Linda Moan Korhonen
Class of 1972

The same love and concern

Looking back at our two years of Bible school we can see how they help us in relationships in everyday life. As a family we can put to use many things that were taught to us. We do learn and grow by the fellowship we have with one another. Through communication with each other and our family in God's Word we can become like-minded. We have the same concerns and love for the work of our church.

Many of the friendships formed at

AFLBS have been lasting. Out of the 12 people in our wedding party nine were friends we had made through Bible School. Although we may see some friends only once a year they are always close to us in our thoughts and prayers.

Coming back to AFLBS for homecoming or basketball tournaments is always a high point in our lives. It gives us a chance to fellowship with our classmates and become better acquainted with other alumni. It was always fun to come and see the gleam in our friends' eyes every time we had added another little Balmer to the family!

God has given us four special blessings in the form of Peter, Joshua, Lydia and Ruth. Bible school helped us set the foundation for our home, which is Jesus Christ. It is our prayer that our children will also have the special privilege of being rooted and grounded in God's Word at AFLBS.

We think the best reason for spending two years at AFLBS is found in I Peter 3:15, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

Don and Sonia (Mortrud) Balmer
Class of 1972

another's burdens was also an encouragement to me.

Studying the Bible and getting to know Christ better are never a waste of time. The Apostle Paul considered "all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:8). We, too, ought to consider our relationship with Christ of supreme importance in our lives. Someone has said it so well: "Bible school may not teach you how to make a living, but it will teach you how to live."

Joel Rolf
Class of 1977

Joel is a student in Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary.

TWO RELIGIONS

*A woman sat by a hearthside
place
Reading a book, with a pleasant
face,
Till a child came up, with a
childish frown,
And pushed the book, saying,
"Put it down."
Then the mother, slapping his
curly head,
Said, "Troublesome child, go off
to bed;
A great deal of Christ's life, I
must know,
To train you up as a child
should go."
And the child went off to bed
to cry,
And denounce religion—
by and by.*

*Another woman bent over a
book,
With a smile of joy and intent
look,
Till a child came up and jogged
her knee,
And said of the book, "Put it
down—take me."
Then the mother sighed as she
stroked his head,
Saying softly, "I never shall get
it read,
But I'll try by loving to learn
His will,
And His love into my child
instill."
That child went to bed without
a sigh,
And will love religion—
by and by.*

—Author unknown
Medicine Lake (Minn.)
Messenger

Beginnings for a productive ministry

Each of us is on a spiritual journey in this life. Some are racing along as quickly as possible toward that goal of the Eternal City, while others are stumbling in despair over the uncertainty of the correct path.

Attendance at Bible school does not guarantee spiritual victory, but at least the student who is honestly seeking God's will and understanding of the basics of God's Word will find some of the answers for life's greatest questions.

While Christ had always been an important part of my life and I had had the special blessing of having the Rev. Fritjof Monseth as my pastor, I knew that I had to gain an even greater understanding of the Bible. My pastor consistently challenged each of us in the church to be completely yielded to God. He exhorted the youth to find God's will for their lives and part of that exhortation was to attend Bible school.

The second year of AFLBS' existence and what it is today are really two different worlds. The only faculty member from the 1967-1968 school year who is still teaching is Mr. Donald Rodvold. The spring of 1968 found the ground breaking ceremony for our first dormitory, so not even the campus and facilities are close to what the new students may enjoy today.

What does remain is the fact that every teacher continues on the firm foundation that the Bible is God's holy and inspired Word. We are so fortunate to be able to recommend AFLBS as a school where students can be challenged to greater heights of service, devotion and maturity in their faith.

In my years as a pastor and now as an army chaplain, I am always deeply grieved with the bankruptcy of knowledge which people have of God's Word. The tendency to baptize children without any intention of teaching them God's Word or the business of leading souls through a spiritual conversion without disciplining them is one of the saddest commentaries on the church of our age. AFLBS reinforced my desire to hunger and thirst after the knowledge of Christ and to help others grow in their understanding of Him.

Many people are also lacking in their understanding of why they belong to a particular denomination. The reasons for the customs, practices and traditions of our AFLC are carefully examined in Bible School. A person who desires to see his or her church grow must know what that church believes to be true and the reasonableness of such doctrines.

The teachers in our Bible school stressed the diligence of each student in good study habits. This was not always appreciated at the time, but was a blessing in later years of college and seminary training as well as in practical ministry.

I left AFLBS with some very basic tools which have encouraged me in the work of ministry. Proper study methods, evangelism techniques, music appreciation, basic doctrine, and Bible survey were laid upon a firm foundation which has allowed for proper direction in subsequent growth.

While some of my yearning for a more complete understanding of the Bible and theology was met at AFLBS, a far greater gift was the challenge to read, study, examine and share the Word of God, and to submit to the all-knowing God.

Bible school is not intended to take the place of a liberal arts or seminary education, but anyone desiring to begin with a firm foundation in the Christian life will certainly never regret attending our Association Free Lutheran Bible School.

Chaplain Timothy K. Skramstad
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland
Class of 1969

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Preparing for ministries in areas of Christian Education is a unique feature of AFLBS studies. Rochelle Bryson, left, and Adelle Niemi are ready to teach the children of Medicine Lake Lutheran Academy.

editorials

PASTOR JOHN DeBOER

Pastor John DeBoer, whose obituary appears elsewhere in this *Ambassador*, because of age, never served a parish full-time in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, but did interim work in a number of places and was known to many of our people. He was one of the elders in the Association and his counsel and interest will be greatly missed.

John DeBoer was ordained into the Christian ministry relatively late in life, but his ordination into the Lutheran Free Church ministerium came after considerable experience as a lay pastor.

I knew of him from annual conferences of the Lutheran Free Church, but it wasn't until we were both pastors in the South Dakota District of the LFC that we really became acquainted. Part of our mutual work included Bible camping at Pickerel Lake in that state.

John DeBoer was a bold and courageous preacher of the Word of God. He called things as he saw them according to the Word of God. He "ruffled feathers" sometimes, too, but his intentions were always good. He dealt directly with people and longed for the salvation of souls.

Pastor DeBoer knew great sorrow in his life as he laid three wives to rest, the last, Nina, the one whom I knew, in 1975. She was a kind and friendly woman. Those last eight years must have had many moments of loneliness for him.

He leaves a host of friends both within and without the Association. He touched many lives. He is at rest.

Blessed be Pastor John DeBoer's memory.

—Raynard Huglen

THE BIBLE SCHOOL

Association Free Lutheran Bible School is about to complete its 17th year of operation. Many hundreds of students, most of them just out of high school, have gone through its doors. While attendance has reached a plateau of sorts, the potential for moving upward very much exists.

The AFLC can be justly proud of the facilities she has provided for the Bible school, but there may well be a new call for further outlay to build a library-classroom building in the next decade. Such a structure would ensure the accommodating of a student body almost half again as large as the present one (by converting all present classrooms, the study hall and all non-Bible school usage into dormitory rooms). And that would be sufficient space for many years.

Talk about offering third year work for certain students has died down, if not out. However, we hope it

hasn't been forgotten. It would be good if some specialized training for congregational Ministries could be provided at AFLBS. Why not promote the parish work vocation for women in our church? Larger congregations could benefit from that type of service (some already are). Then there are areas of ministry such as music, youth work and Christian education. Don't let the idea of providing training in such fields as these die.

But for now, our Bible school produces a generally excellent product. Some persons can have the Bible school experience and come out still very much unsettled spiritually. But for every one such there are many more who fill a really meaningful place for Jesus Christ in the local congregations. To God be the glory for that.

Encourage our Bible school people in every way. Be generous in your gifts and in your prayers. Talk up the school to prospective students. It is *our* school.

MOTHERS' DAY

It is natural to think of home when one thinks of mothers. Mother is the queen of the home. In a unique way she sets the tone of it. There is an old adage concerning American elections: "As Maine goes, so goes the nation." In a much truer sense, "As mother determines it, so goes the home."

Mother spends most of her time in the home, or she ought to. She usually has most to say about the outward and inner trimmings of it, that is where the furniture is (or is moved to), what kinds of drapes and curtains enhance the windows, where and what kinds of flowers decorate the yard. Mother is the dietitian, as well as the cook, determining to a large degree what the family shall eat. And morally, too, she has much to do with what is permitted or not permitted in what is especially her domain. Of course, that must be decided upon in conjunction with her husband, but sometimes mothers have had to make the decisions alone and pretty well make them stick alone. God bless those mothers who have insisted on decency and morality in their homes.

Mother is more than a washer of dishes and clothes, an arranger of flowers and furniture, a cooker of food, or a decider of rules in the home. She is a sounding board, a confidante to sons and daughters, and husband. She is someone who should be there, and here, when she is needed.

And, of course, it is so much the best if she is motivated by the love of God and the Word of God. Then she sees the whole picture of her family's needs. God bless those mothers who have one hand in the Lord's hand and the other in the hands of her family. They talk to God about their family and to their family about God.

TRIBUTE . . .

awakened it with a healthy kick. But this was not the black heifer, it was a big black bear! In his surprise the bear stood upright on its hind feet with its front paws in the air. Mother had the presence of mind to stay calm, look the bear straight in the eyes and slowly walk backwards until she came behind some trees. The bear never moved. "The Lord was with me," Mother remarked.

During the early years mother assisted in caring for mothers during the time of childbirth. A kind doctor taught her the basic procedure of delivery, to prepare her for an emergency where she might have to do it alone. She soon gained the reputation as a reliable midwife and delivered a good number of babies without a doctor. I remember as a boy how someone would come for her with a team of horses any hour of the day or night. She would stay a few days until the mother could manage on her own. These were people in the neighborhood and also across the border in Canada.

Many times, I recall, she would bring some food along to help the families who were in need. This was in the years of the great depression and before. She never asked for any fee for her services. She did it purely out of love and concern for people. Many, however, rewarded her with some gifts, even years afterwards.

Like most pioneer women, Mother was very industrious. Besides the numberless household tasks there were the wild berries to preserve, the garden to take care of. Mother had lots of help from her family, to be sure, but there were some skills which she alone could do, like spinning wool on the spinning wheel that she brought along from Sweden. She kept the family in warm socks and mittens. Even when she was resting, her fingers were busy with the knitting needles.

Mother had come to know the Lord in a real personal way as a young girl. She walked in faith all the days of her life. However busy, she somehow managed to share her faith with her children.

I can still remember a basic lesson in deep theology I learned from her while still a very young boy. I was
continued on p. 16

Practical principles learned at AFLBS

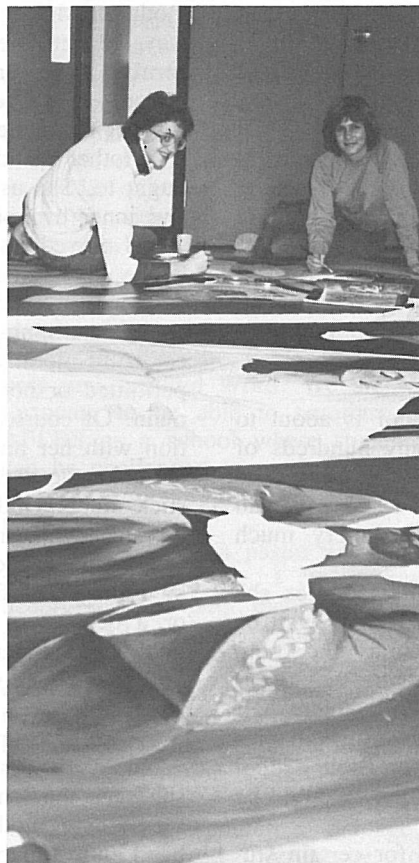
"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it" (Psalm 127:1). The psalmist had really come to grips with an important truth when he wrote these words. He realized that any building attempts made in our lives are futile, unless the work is being done by our Lord. Jesus emphasized the need for a firm foundation when He said, "The wise man built his house upon the rock" (Matthew 7:24b). Of course, the rock that we need to build our lives on is Jesus Christ, and the building must come through the Word of God.

I'm thankful for the firm foundation that I have in Jesus Christ and for the instruction manual that God has given me to follow, the Bible, to build upon that foundation. I had the privilege of studying God's Word at AFLBS. There I was able to apply God's principles to my personal life, but also to the ministry to which God has called me.

AFLBS not only offers a place where we can study God's Word, but also a unique atmosphere in which to apply it. We were able to put what we learned into practice as we were out on nursing home visitation, a Gospel team "weekender," during afternoons at work, during floor devotions, or while trying to "put up" with our roommate's peculiarities.

Now, two years later, I'm still able to apply these Biblical principles in my work, and I'm thankful that because God's Word never changes that I will always be able to base my life upon these principles. As Director of Youth and Christian Education at Zion, in Tioga, N. Dak., I have found these principles to be not only helpful, but essential. I praise God that He never calls us to a work without first equipping us for that work.

Barbara Elmquist
Class of 1980



Charlotte Rolf, left, and Dawn Tollefson paint scenery for the Christmas concert.



Ben Unseth pauses before the choir presents a concert at Medicine Lake.

REPORT OF THE NAE CONVENTION

By Raynard Huglen, Editor

NAE Membership

The annual convention of the National Association of Evangelicals was held in Orlando, Fla., at the Sheraton-Twin Towers, March 8-10. It was my privilege to attend this convention on behalf of *The Lutheran Ambassador*.

The NAE has some 3,500,000 members. Forty-two denominations hold membership. These include such well recognized groups as Assemblies of God and Christian and Missionary Alliance and such unknown groups, to us, as the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists and Fire Baptized Holiness Church of God of the Americas. In addition local congregations from some 33 other denominations belong and other evangelical associations, organizations and schools. Some Lutheran Brethren congregations belong. Several Association of Free Lutheran Congregations churches do also.

With a variety of morning and afternoon workshops and noon luncheons, it wasn't possible to take everything in, but I report on some of that which I experienced.

"Change Your World"

In the first public session, Rev. John Guest, rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Sewickly, Pa., spoke on "Change Your Church." The theme of the whole convention was "Change Your World." He said that there is a need for a change for the better in our churches. Pastors are called to high office but they are also called to pay a high price in possible opposition. He charged that some people are evangelical in theology but are not evangelizing.

Dr. Ted Ward of Michigan State University addressed the convention on "Facing the Crisis of Human Need—A Question of Spiritual Integrity." He spoke on behalf of the World Relief Commission, which AFLC congregations help support. He declared that evangelical Christians are in the forefront of concern for relief for world needs. Mr. Ward asserted that evangelicals have spent

much time discussing the mechanics of creation and eschatology, but, he asked, when did you last hear a sermon on Isaiah 58? It was in this message that he made the statement referred to in an editorial last time that any conflict between the Gospel and social action is alien to Biblical truth.

Anyone who has listened to Christian radio at all has undoubtedly heard the voice of James Montgomery Boice. The pastor of Tenth Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Pa., he gave the "Biblical keynote" or Bible study on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. The first day he considered Amos 5:24 and the second day Matthew 5:13,14. In the latter study he declared that God's people are to be different, they are to be salt and light.

President Reagan Spoke

I didn't know until I arrived in Orlando that President Ronald Reagan would be addressing the convention while on a whirlwind visit to the area. He spoke to the largest gathering of the assembly by far. He was enthusiastically cheered by his audience. He stated his strong support for prayer in the public schools and his opposition to abortion on demand. The President declared that there is a religious renewal taking place in America. He cited a poll which discovered that 95% of Americans believe in God. Mr. Reagan made a strong plea to the churches to support his contention that a nuclear freeze now at present levels, before negotiation, would be disastrous. We must keep strong while we negotiate, he



President Ronald Reagan addressed the convention.

insisted. The President certainly found a warm response among the NAE convention-goers.

Before a skeleton audience compared to the President's, Ralph Winter, general director of the U.S. Center for World Missions, Pasadena, Calif., spoke on the convention theme. In the face of the great task of changing our world, he said two things have happened: we have given up and we have turned the job over to the nationals. As to the latter, he felt that we may have gone too far in that regard in some cases. He said that in some countries nationals are no more acceptable in some areas than missionaries because of tribal conflicts. Mr. Winter set forth a two-fold challenge for evangelicals. 1) Wake up. In the next ten years 30,000 missionaries will retire and only approximately 5,000 new ones will replace them. 2) Move up in priorities and facts. By this he meant, use every opportunity to reach the uncommitted.

Evening Service

In the first evening service, Dr. Ray Hughes, second vice-president of NAE and president of Lee College, Cleveland, Tenn., talked about "Changing Your World Through the Transforming Gospel." He asked, why doesn't the Gospel "work" today? He answered his own question by saying that there is a famine of preaching it and hearing it. The Gospel is news that never gets old but always meets needs. He emphasized that it is the Gospel of Christ which has power. Mr. Hughes referred to the people in Corinth who were changed through the Gospel.

The choir from his college sang at the service and was shortly to leave on a tour to Russia and Romania. The college is of the Church of God.

On Wednesday morning I attended a workshop put on by the Evangelical Foreign Missions Association. It consisted of a number of presentations on technology in missions. Technology, it was said is "know how," which in turn is power. Technology has vaulted missions to undreamed of achievements. I heard

◇



Author Jill Briscoe spoke at the Wednesday evening session of the NAE convention.

Photos by NAE-Singer.

CONVENTION . . .

about the use of computers in translation work, about new advances in Christian broadcasting, including the use of satellite radio, and how there is now a relatively inexpensive way to produce nitrogen fertilizer in remote areas of the world.

Convention Business

Not a great deal of business was conducted in the general business sessions of the convention. Delegates passed a relatively brief position paper of general policy, really an elaboration of themes found in Amos 5:24 and Matthew 5:14. Two other resolutions were specific. One supported the concept of tuition tax credits for parents who have children in private schools. The other asked for reform in sentencing for criminals. The resolution called for programs of restitution in non-violent crimes instead of incarceration. It was actually an endorsement of a bill to be introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senators Sam Nunn and William Armstrong.

More Sessions

At a noon luncheon on Wednesday, Rev. David Grubbs, pastor of the Salem Church, Clayton, O., told us "Your Church Can Grow." He said that after five years in the ministry he felt unsatisfied in his work. He realized that he needed to develop a New Testament ministry. He determined that his priority would be to be an obedient follower of Jesus and train other followers to be faithful ministers. He told the story of one of his members who took his challenge seriously and whose life has been a great blessing in the salvation of souls.



NAE president Arthur Gay presents Charles Colson with the 1983 Layman of the Year award.

An Evangelical Free Church minister in Gainesville, Fla., spoke at the afternoon workshop I attended. Rev. Mike Braun elaborated on "Capturing the Potential of Today's Youth." He said that the best strategy for that is to have a local church sound in doctrine and Biblical in pattern. But in and together with that he asserted that it is necessary to alter church structure and change programs to respond to human needs and unique circumstances.

Jill Briscoe

Jill Briscoe, the author, who hardly needs an introduction, spoke at the Wednesday night service. She likened the church to a little boat going across a stormy sea. The billows are the current events of our time. The crew of the boat are the Christians. She described the twelve disciples, their characteristics. Today, too, we must respond to the Master, Jesus, the Lord of the Church.

There was a spirited exchange in a panel discussion on Thursday morning when three persons considered the subject "Matching Human Needs and Evangelical Resources." The black panel member had difficulty getting off his conviction that first of all the government must do more in welfare programs. The needs are too great, he said. Some people aren't going to make it without more government help. The other two attempted to stay on the subject, how to find and utilize evangelical agencies for aiding the poor. The word "network" was used, a new usage to me, to describe a drawing of resources and strengths from one another in order to pull together in the task of aiding the poor and needy. I should say that

some other blacks in the room seemed more hopeful of the potential for good among evangelical social agencies than the first black mentioned.

Banquet

The convention closed on Thursday night with a banquet. Charles Colson was honored as Layman of the Year in the evangelical world and made some appropriate remarks about his prison ministry. The music was by the Warner Southern College Choir. (The convention song leader, by the way, was Steve Musto.) Leighton Ford, brother-in-law of Billy Graham and an evangelist in the organization, was the speaker. He said that he thought the 1980s would be the "decision decade," one in which there would be real change. Referring to the recently concluded TV program M*A*S*H, Dr. Ford said that maybe God is saying I want the church to be the field hospital of the kingdom. Then he went on to indicate some Biblical models of change. Joseph is the model for service to the world. Evangelism and social responsibility belong together as both wings are needed in order that bird can fly. Daniel is the model for resistance to evil forces in the world. He cooperated with his world situation to a point, but knew when to resist. Mr. Ford said that he likes the involvement of evangelicals in politics, but it mustn't becloud the main task of proclaiming the Gospel. And he set forth Jesus as the model for redemption. But not only is He the model, in a unique way He *is* the redemption. There is power in the blood.

Trivia

This was my first trip to Florida. But when one drops out of the sky and is headquartered at a hotel in the far-out suburbs of a city, one doesn't see a great deal. There wasn't time to go to some of the tourist attractions in the area: Disney World, the EPCOT Center, the Wild Kingdom, Sea World, etc., but I did take in a Grapefruit League baseball game between the Minnesota Twins and Houston Astros at Tinker Field, which I discovered abuts the Tangerine Bowl.

At the game I talked to Dr. Waldo Werning, also attending the conven-

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THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

What attitude shall we take in regard to the difficulties in the Bible?

There are difficulties in the Bible. There is no use denying this fact. Every person who has done any thoughtful Bible reading will readily admit that there are some things in the Bible difficult to understand and harmonize. And the many disagreements in interpretations of the Bible suggest that parts of it are understood differently by different people.

The question then becomes: What attitude shall we take in regard to these difficulties?

1. The first answer to give to this question is that we should expect difficulties.

Does that answer surprise you? You say perhaps that if God gave us a book to show us the way to salvation, He would not purposely put stumbling blocks in it. There is truth in what you say. As a teacher of the way of salvation in Christ Jesus the Bible is plain to everyone who uses it aright.

And yet there are difficulties. Let us see why.

As Christians we believe that the Bible is the revelation of the infinite God to finite minds; it is giving us human beings a glimpse into the realm of the supernatural. In other words, it deals largely with matters that lie far above the sphere in which our natural minds ordinarily move. Should we expect, then, that everything would be perfectly plain and simple and easy to understand? Should we not rather expect that we would have difficulty with our little minds trying to think the great thoughts of God and trying to peer into the wonders of the supernatural world? That there are in fact difficulties here is plainly stated by the great

St. Paul in the words: "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14).

But the Bible is not for that reason a closed book to us. God has provided for us a great search-light to illuminate the sacred pages which is far more powerful than the little candle of our minds. Paul expresses it this way: "God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual" (I Cor. 2:10-13).

Accordingly, with the help of the Holy Spirit we are capable of understanding the deep things of God. But not perfectly. For no matter how willing we are to be guided by the divine Light and no matter how far we progress in spiritual insight in this life, we shall still be subject in part to the limitations which sin has placed upon our intellects. Not until our ushering into the blessed life beyond the grave shall we see God and spiritual things as they really are.

Therefore in this life we must always expect to have some difficulties in grasping God's revelations.

2. Another attitude we should take in regard to difficulties in the Bible is to assume that the Bible as the inspired record of God's revelation is true.

"And never once did Jesus express the least shadow of a suspicion that the Old Testament was not true."

That is the attitude Jesus took. Certainly He took this attitude toward the Old Testament. In the time of His sojourn on earth the Old Testament existed as we have it today, and it had existed long before His time. And never once did Jesus express the least shadow of a suspicion that the Old Testament was not true. One the contrary He constantly confirmed it. In the Sermon on the Mount He said: "Think not that I came to destroy the law, or the prophets; I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Matt. 5:17-18).

And to the two disciples going to Emmaus He spoke these extremely significant words: "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself" (Lk. 24:25-27).

Later He said to all the disciples: "These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning Me. Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures, and said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day; and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Lk. 24:44-47a).

The attitude of Jesus was corroborated by the disciples in such well known passages as the following: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (II Tim. 3:16).

"We have also a more sure word
Continued on p. 16

MOTHER . . .

work to Sunday School teachers, who, however competent, have your child less than one hour a week.

It won't be easy. The enemy will make all manner of obstacles and interruptions as you begin to have family devotions. You will have to make this time with the Lord a priority, often at the expense of other activities. No child is too young to be included in the family worship and certainly none outgrow it.

We often hear people say they don't read the Bible because they can't understand it. Give your family an advantage by teaching them to love and understand God's Word from childhood.

We have always believed that it is important for children to learn to work and to enjoy work. With Dad's office located in the home, what a blessing it was that he was available and willing to set up and supervise work projects. Lawn-care, gardening, vegetable sales, even cattle projects were carried out by the boys. Those early experiences prepared them for future jobs where employers appreciated their good attitudes toward their work.

Many are the mothers of straying children who regret their over-indulgence in activities outside the home when their children were small. Often these were good activities—too many responsibilities in

"A Christian wife and mother has opportunity to use all of her talents and creativity to enrich her home and family."

church or community, or maybe a job that took priority. Today there is great pressure put on mothers to get into the job market to find "fulfillment." The lure of an extra paycheck to supplement the budget is a strong pull in our material-oriented society. But unless there is a real financial need, it is better for the whole family if mother is at home caring for her home and children.

My closing thought concerning the role of motherhood is that it brings great rewards both in this life and in eternity, if we follow God's principles for raising our children.

ABS challenges American churches

NEW YORK, N.Y. (ABS)—Every U.S. churchgoer is being challenged to give \$3 on Bible Sunday in 1983, so that someone somewhere who now wants a Bible may have one.

This year will see the 69th continuous observance of Bible Sunday, an annual custom started by the American Bible Society in 1900 and observed throughout the nation every year since 1915.

Bible Sunday is set for November 20, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, although some churches will observe it on other days. It will climax ABS activity during 1983, which President Reagan has proclaimed the Year of the Bible.

In his proclamation, the President, recognizing the influence of the Bible throughout our nation's history, encouraged "all citizens, each in his or her own way, to reexamine and rediscover its priceless and timeless message."

If churchgoers respond well to this unique Bible Sunday challenge to each donate \$3, it will go a long way

in helping the Bible Society meet its commitment to supply at least 4.4 million Bibles by the end of the year.

That goal is based on the actual requests for Bibles which have come in to the Bible Society from men, women and children not only in the U.S., but in 133 other countries and territories. Scriptures in over 270 languages are involved.

The \$3 gift represents what it costs on average to supply someone with a Bible anywhere in the world. It can be supplied for less in some places, but in others it costs considerably more.

Some 40,000 American churches actively support the Bible Society's 167-year-old mission of translating, publishing and distributing the Scriptures. They represent more than 100 denominations.

All churches in the United States are being urged to celebrate Bible Sunday because of its added significance during the Year of the Bible.

ABS launched Bible Sunday in 1900, although it was not observed annually until 1915. Its aim is not only to encourage interest in Bible work, but to stress the place and use of Scriptures in the nation's churches.

Last year was a record one for ABS, which helped in the distribution of over 244 million copies of Scripture throughout the world, over half of them in the U.S.

CONVENTION . . .

tion. His niece is Mrs. Bobby Mitchell, whose husband is a centerfielder for the Twins. She was at the game and I saw Dr. Werning holding her young child at times. Dr. Werning has spoken to AFLC pastors at the ARC in Osceola, Wis., on a couple occasions. He is from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

It was on the half-hour bus ride to the game that I saw orange and grapefruit trees for the first time. Otherwise I wouldn't have seen any of them. I did see palm trees and other tropical vegetation by the hotel. We had some wet and windy weather at times, as windy as in Minnesota and the Dakotas.

Dr. Everett Graffam, retired executive director of the World Relief Corporation, was at the convention, but after I recognized who he was, I didn't have a good chance to greet him. I am sorry. He spoke to our pastors' banquet at the annual conference in Hancock, Mich. (actually the banquet was in Houghton) in 1976.

Annual
Conference
of the AFLC

June 15-19
ARC, Osceola, Wis.
(Next issue:

Conference program)

Luther League
Federation Convention

July 12-17
Kalispell, Mont.

A tribute to Pastor John DeBoer

Pastor John DeBoer was active here at Our Saviour's in 1975-76-77 as part-time pastor or as interim pastor or as a full-time pastor. God took him home on Thursday, March 17, and a service of honor and tribute was held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church on Monday, March 21.

The service, at Pastor DeBoer's request, was:

- Simple
- Dignified and conservative. There were only two bouquets.
- Focused on missions.

The message was shared by Pastor Richard Snipstead. Pastor Robert Lee shared his precious experiences and Pastor Hubert DeBoer spoke lovingly of his father.

Words used to pay tribute:

- Bold in his preaching
- Courageous and straightforward
- His preaching had urgency
- He was genuine. If he found he had erred, he would come humbly and sometimes publicly apologize.
- Children remember the candy treats he always seemed to have in his pocket.
- He truly enjoyed people.
- He was alive and colorful, as opposed to being drab.

Finally, Heaven's gain is earthly loss as Pastor DeBoer was laid to rest. May God bless his memory.

The Observer

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Zumbrota, Minn.

Rev. Karsten Kristenson

Rev. Karsten Kristenson, 68, former Lutheran Free Church pastor, died suddenly in Moorhead, Minn., in March. He was currently serving as a visitation pastor at Pontoppidan Lutheran Church, Fargo, N. Dak.

Born June 24, 1914, in Bisbee, N. Dak., Karsten Kristenson was a graduate of Augsburg College and Seminary in Minneapolis, Minn., and was ordained in 1943. He was married to Bernice Henrikson in 1942.

He served LFC parishes at Pembina, N. Dak.; Eagle Lake, Willmar, Minn.; Henning, Minn.; and Wanamingo, Minn.

Rev. John DeBoer was born on July 5, 1895, in Chicago, Ill., to Frank and Jennie DeBoer. His early vocation was that of a barber. He was also a lay preacher, first on a part-time basis, then full-time. Because of his maturity and experience he was ordained into the ministry of the Lutheran Free Church. In that church body he served these pastorate: Faith, Shelton, Wash.; Bethel, Portland, Ore.; Escanaba, Mich.; and Chamberlain, S. Dak.

In the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations he served a number of parishes on an interim basis. His most recent address was Sunset Home, Kenyon, Minn. Pastor DeBoer was predeceased by three wives, Lydia (Breuggeman), Anna (Wynia) and Nina (Ingwald).

He passed away on March 17, in Kenyon.

Among his survivors is a son, Rev. Hubert DeBoer, Colfax, Wis.

His funeral service was held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Kenyon, on March 21, and burial was in the church cemetery. The sermon was preached by Rev. R. Snipstead, president of the AFLC, and a tribute was given by Rev. Robert L. Lee, Minneapolis, Minn. Pastor Hubert DeBoer spoke on behalf of the family.

Reum estate gift acknowledged

A gift of nearly \$64,000 was recently received by the seminary and Bible school of the AFLC. This gift is from the estate of John and Martha Reum of Brockton, Montana. The Reums had a strong interest in the work of the AFLC and this gift demonstrates that concern. The Board of Trustees of the AFLC schools is designating this amount toward future capital expansion. It is with gratefulness to God and a deep sense of dependence upon Him for wise stewardship of these resources that this gift is acknowledged.

(Ed. note: The Reums were members of Zion Lutheran Church, Brockton, Mont., in my first parish. How like this wonderful couple to leave this generous contribution to the Lord's ongoing work.)

With our evangelist-youth worker

We are in the post-Easter season. In the Apostolic days, these were days of waiting for God's visitation. While the Holy Spirit is with us, we pray for His work of calling and convicting and blessing to go on among us in an ever greater way. Pray for Evangelist Kenneth Pentti as he conducts these preaching missions.

Everett, Wash.

Calvary Lutheran Church
May 1-5
Marlyn Kruse, pastor

Astoria, Ore.

Bethany Lutheran Church
May 8-11
Alvin J. Grothe, pastor

Eugene, Ore.

Spencer Creek Lutheran Church
May 13-15
Stephen Odegaard, pastor

Greenbush, Minn.

Oiland Lutheran Church
May 22-26
Gustav Nordvall, lay pastor

McIntosh, Minn.

Trinity Lutheran Church
June 5-8
Walter E. Beaman, lay pastor

The Book Our Mothers Read

We search the world for truth;
we cull
The good, the pure, the
beautiful,
From graven stone and
written scroll,
And all old flower-fields of
the soul;
And, weary seekers of the
best,
We come back laden from
the quest,
To find that all the sages said
Is in the Book our mothers
read.

John Greenleaf Whittier

TRIBUTE . . .

sitting in the kitchen; a shaft of sunlight shone into the room. I was fascinated by the number of specks of dust floating around in the air, which were not visible outside of the sunlight. "These specks of dust are like the sins in your heart," Mother said. "We never see them until the light of the Holy Spirit reveals them to us. God sees these sins even before the light shows them to us, and only one of these is enough to cause us to miss heaven." I will never forget it. As I have studied the Word of God throughout my lifetime, I have seen the validity of that simple illustration.

I have not attempted to write a biography of my mother's life in these few paragraphs. Rather, I have shared with you some deep impressions on my own life and the benefits of having a mother who trusted the Lord for her own salvation first of all. Then having this foundation was able to direct her children by her example, instruction and her prayers.

"My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother" (Proverbs 1:8). So in gratitude, we pay tribute to our mothers, a tribute well deserved.

LIFE . . .

of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but the holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (II Pet. 1:19-21).

As far as the New Testament is concerned, we shall perhaps have no great difficulty in accepting that as true if we accept the Old. The two Testaments complement each other and fit together in the most beautiful harmony as integral parts of one whole. However, we have a definite independent ground for believing the New Testament true in the promises which Jesus made concerning the guiding agency of the Holy Spirit in the activities of the Apostles. Note this passage: "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when He, the

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Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come" (Jn. 16:12-13).

There are many other reasons for assuming that the Bible is true, notably the marvelously beneficent influence of the Bible in history. Wherever it has come, it has brought untold blessings with it and has delivered peoples from many forms of oppression and slavery. And today after all the attempts to destroy it and to weaken its influence, it is still by far the best seller among all books, and is being constantly translated into new languages and circulated among new peoples. It is an entirely reasonable assumption that a book with such a record is true.

3. While we believe that the original documents of the Bible were free from error, their writing having been supervised by the Holy Spirit, we do not claim such inerrancy for existing copies of the books. By reason of human liability to error, we may take the attitude that minor discrepancies may have crept in in the process of copying. The utmost care was taken by scribes to prevent this, but in spite of their best efforts some errors have crept in. It is a remarkable fact, however, that among the variations in the several manuscripts there is not a single one that affects the meaning of any important Christian truth.

4. Another fact to bear in mind is that what constitutes a seemingly unsolvable difficulty to some of us may have been solved by others more deeply versed in Bible study than we

are. Practically all the so-called discrepancies in the Bible have been known through all the Christian centuries. Many of them have been completely accounted for as new light has been cast upon the Bible from archeology and elsewhere, and it is entirely reasonable to expect that some of the existing difficulties may be entirely cleared up in the future. We should therefore possess our souls in patience in the presence of Bible difficulties and pray and strive for more and more light.

5. Let it be said also that the people who are most troubled by Bible difficulties are not the profound Bible students, but the superficial and thoughtless readers who have failed to get hold of the sublime meanings of God's Word. Those who have lived long and intimately with the Book have passed beyond the stage where they are troubled by little specks on the great panorama of revelation which God has spread before the eyes of humanity.

Let us therefore welcome light and information on Bible difficulties from every source, but preeminently let us enter more and more earnestly into the meaning of the great messages of the Bible and let their vital truths enter into us to transform us progressively more and more into likeness with Him who is the heart and core of the sacred Book.

—From *Problems of Young Christians*

by Martin Hegland,
Augsburg Publishing
House.

Next time: What is the State of the Dead?