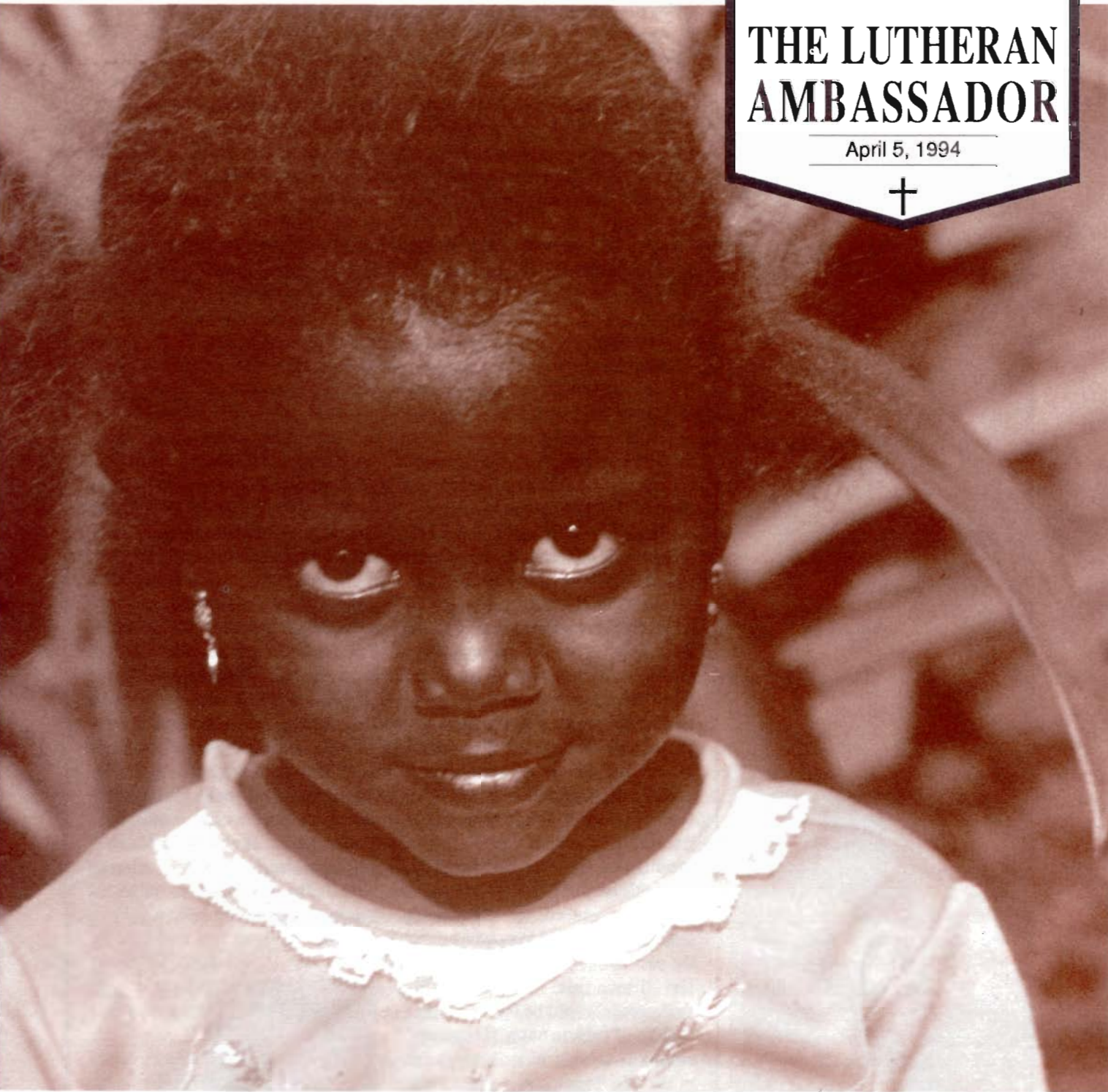




# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

April 5, 1994



## AFLC WORLD MISSIONS

# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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## THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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### CONTENTS

Be Faithful Right Now	p. 3
Supporting the Ones Who Go	p. 4
Why Visit the Mission Field?	p. 6
New Freedom New Challenges	p. 7
World Mission Director in Brazil	p. 8

#### COVER:

photo by E. Enderlein

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## Light on the Way

### The Missionary Messiah

God wants all people "to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). From childhood I've known this and have heard many challenges to be involved in the task of world evangelization. Almost all of them have had at least this one thing in common: they have been based on the New Testament (often the "Great Commission" of Matthew 28 or the example of Paul, the "first great missionary"). Rarely has the missionary mandate been presented using the Old Testament as the base and the implication is that God's missionary concern wasn't really revealed until Jesus came. **This is wrong!**

God's concern for world evangelization was perhaps first made explicit when he called Abram, saying to him: "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Genesis 12:3). This means it has been 4,000 (not 2,000) years since believers were commissioned to be missionaries! Four thousand years — and still many have never heard the good news of salvation!

The missionary challenge goes back even further, all the way to when the deadly cancer of sin invaded our world. On that very day God promised a Savior who would decisively defeat Satan. The promise of Genesis 3:15 said the Messiah would come — this was good news indeed, for His coming would bring deliverance. And, as the rest of the Bible (both Old and New Testaments) makes clear, this deliverance would be for **all** people!

The "missionary Messiah" emphasis is seen in various places in the Old Testament; nowhere is it more vivid than in the names and titles Isaiah gave the coming One. The prophet called him a *Covenant*

for people (42:6, 49:8: though the precise meaning of this phrase is debated, "people" likely refers to the Jews). The **Lord's Servant** would come to serve the Jews.

Isaiah also gave this coming One these missionary titles: a *Light* for Gentiles (42:6, 49:6), a *Witness* to peoples (55:4), and a *Leader* and *Commander* of peoples (55:4). The plural element (Gentiles, peoples) in these Messianic designators is significant. The missionary Messiah would come to serve everyone, *both Jew and Gentile*, for the Father who would send Him wants all peoples to be saved!

Jesus came as a missionary — and more! Not only did He bring good news: He Himself was the good news! He came not only as a *covenant* for the Jews — His shed "blood of the covenant" was poured out for many for the forgiveness of their sins (Matthew 26:18), thus making it possible for all people to be in a loving covenant relationship with God. He came not only telling about the light — He was the *Light* of the world and whoever follows Him "will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). He came as a *witness*, testifying to all who would listen of the salvation He Himself would provide for them. He came as a *leader* and *commander*, guiding all who will follow Him into paths of blessedness and new life.



— Rev. Jerry  
Holmaas

# Be Faithful

# Right Now!

**T**he year 2000 is quickly approaching! Great changes have taken place in our lifetime, and the changes will keep escalating in the days to come.

A sense of urgency should grip us. Truly, we are nearer to our Lord's return than when we first believed. When mission leaders get together all over our globe they grapple with the challenge: can the people of our world be reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ by the year 2000? The resounding answer is "Yes, by God's power, and as His people obey!"

The Adopt-A-People Consultation at Colorado Springs, April 1993, gave a grand declaration to Christians everywhere. This is just a portion:

"We recognize the reaching of unreached people is primarily and ultimately a spiritual battle in which God's grace and power are indispensable.

"We rejoice in reports of God's sovereignty expressed through peoples reached for Christ. They strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and galvanize our commitment to a church for every people.

"We recognize that we have not done all that we could in making Christ known to the unreached peoples. For this we repent.

"We celebrate our love for Christ by commitment to Him and the great commission, a bond which draws us together to find ways to accelerate the establishment of spiritually vital churches among every people.

"As we approach the year 2000 we recognize that God has placed Christians in a time of unprecedented opportunity created by the opening of restricted access countries, dedicated prayer networks, and the availability and widespread distribution of the Word of God and other gospel resources.

"We realize that our common love for the Lord Jesus Christ and trust in his finished work on Calvary, combined with our desire to work together toward our A.D. 2000 goal, are stronger than the differences that tend to divide us."

Dear friends, each of us needs to apply this declaration to our own lives. The time is short. The days are urgent. The task of reaching every "people group" with the gospel is possible. Consider this: The family of Christ is now global and Christians of every nation are helping complete this task. Also, our tools of communication and means of travel are superior than ever before. We can do it!

AFLC World Missions joins in this grand effort by supporting missionaries and/or equipping national workers in the nations of Brazil, Mexico and India. Our goal for the coming year is **faithfulness**. We pray for our missionary families, national pastors and workers and our brothers and sisters in those nations that God will keep their walk with Him pure and strong, and that He will use them to reach lost ones for Christ. The key is **faithfulness**.

Proverbs 28:20 tells us: "A faithful man shall abound with blessings." As our friends labor in other nations we rejoice that God sees their faithfulness. "Who then is that faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household ... Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing" (Matthew 24:45, 46). We don't look at numbers. We rejoice over individuals who come to Christ. "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much" (Luke 16:10).

Join our mission team, dear reader, God blesses each step of faithfulness — the going, the praying, the giving. Join others who are keeping our missionaries on their fields, equipping our national workers and pledging to support our two new missionary couples. Gather with other believers and pray for them regularly. God is doing great things in the hearts of people as we speed toward the close of this century. **Let us be found faithful.**



— Rev. Eugene W. Enderlein,  
AFLC World Mission Director



**I**t is a joy to reflect on our years in Madagascar, 1949-69, where we were called to be missionaries by the Lutheran Board of Missions. In August of 1949 we headed for a year of language study in France before going on to the French colony of Madagascar. With our four-month-old son, Peter, we left our homeland with joyful enthusiasm, being totally certain of God's call and the prayerful and dedicated support of our sending church.

The sending church was the Lutheran Free Church (LFC), from which some congregations were to later become the beginnings of the AFLC. As we are today, the LFC was small enough so we felt as family — close and united in purpose. World War II had ended and the Madagascar staff had continued faithfully without new missionaries during those difficult years. The LFC was excited to finally be able to send a new family and the friends in that African island nation eagerly awaited our arrival.

In our preparations to leave, we began to understand the vital role the sending church has in the life of the missionary. The Executive Secretary of the Mission Board, the congregations and the national WMF together worked to make possible our accumulation of our seven year supply of necessities. We added useful love gifts from church groups, individuals, friends and relatives to the crates and barrels that would be shipped on to Madagascar. We had to take everything except rice, sweet potatoes, meat and fruit which were usually available.

When we arrived at our mission station a year later, we were delighted to learn that someone in the U.S. had discovered that the missionaries had to cook meat several times a

# Supporting

day to preserve it. This lady ignited the spark that led to the WMF's providing a kerosene refrigerator for each missionary home!

Also in the practical support, we remember the love shown us while home on furlough, arriving to a well furnished mission home with groceries in the cupboards and fresh food in the fridge! At the end of our furlough, these ladies told us they would take care of the last minute cares such as washing the linens used the last nights, etc., so we could board our plane or train without that care. Such love is not forgotten!

We were thankful for the policy of our mission board that the wife's primary responsibility on the field was being the helpmeet to her husband, mother to the children and manager of the household; then she could do what she could in other areas of service. This was a comfort to us as two new babies, Naomi and Rebecca, were born during our first term there in Ampanihy. Our youngest, Samuel, was born while home on our first furlough.

Communication was crucial. We corresponded regularly with our families in the U.S. every two weeks and likewise we heard from them. This encouraged us and our family ties were kept strong. This was true for our sending church. Our good communication both ways ministered to all of us.

Spiritually we definitely sensed that we had faithful prayer support from the home base. We knew there were special prayer warriors beseeching God for our spiritual and



Languages of the world with Scripture translation: 1,964 in 1990.

Languages with definite need of Scripture translation: 925.

Illiterates in the world: 1.1 billion people.

More evangelical literature is printed in English than in all the other languages of the world combined.

Of the world's ordained ministers, 90% work among the nine percent who speak English.

Percentage of world's professing Christians living in the West (Europe, North America and the Pacific): In 1960, 58%; in 1990, 38%.

Percentage of people in the world who have not heard a culturally relevant presentation of the gospel: 2.5 billion.

— Source: *Operation World* by Patrick Johnstone,  
*Serving as Senders* by Neal Pirolo

# the Ones Who Go

physical well-being. Often we experienced that special presence, mercy and power of our loving heavenly Father and sovereign God. We knew someone was praying. This occurred often, not only in crucial times but also in our routine daily work. The mission work became a pleasure.

One of many examples of our Lord's protection was during a flash flood. We had left before dawn on our way to Fort Dauphin where our children attended the American school for missionaries' children. Soon we found ourselves on a bridge with no railings and the water rose swiftly and quickly overflowed and became dangerously deep. We could have easily been swept downstream!

During 1951-56, Christians both in America and Madagascar specifically prayed for spiritual awakening and revival. During those years we saw prayers answered and souls were genuinely converted to Christ.

One example of the Holy Spirit's special visitation was Sarodrano in southwestern Ampanihy District where we were stationed. Josefa, a young man from that community, had attended our Bible school in Manasoa and

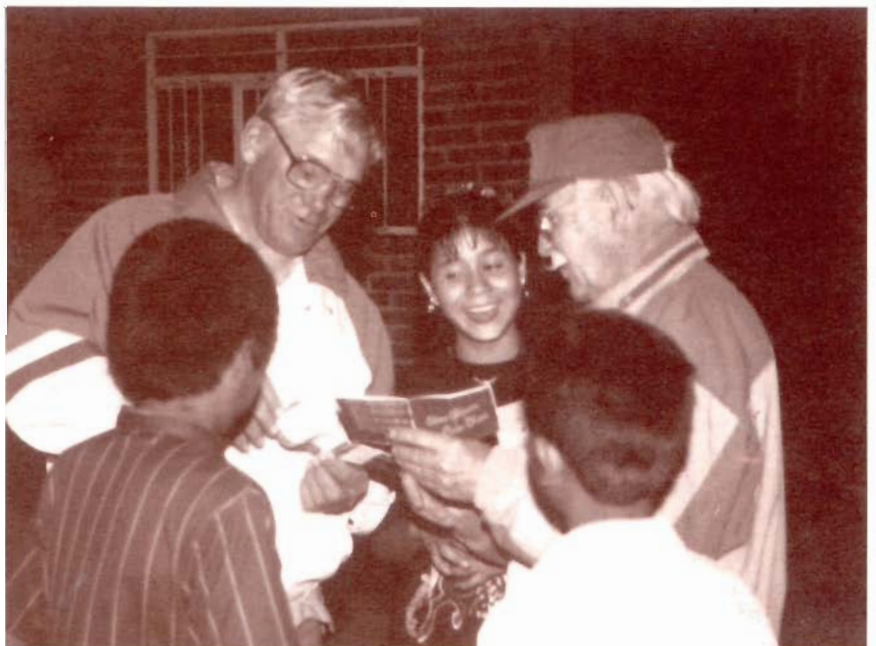
now returned home. Immediately we knew he had experienced genuine spiritual renewal. Now he was eager to live and work as a catechist/evangelist. In a short time people began to pray and listen to Josefa's teaching about the true God. Several mornings a week at daybreak they gathered in the woods for prayer, singing and Bible teaching. Eventually Josefa and his people built a simple church of wood and grass.

God visited non-Christians and Christians alike with spiritual awakening. Nothing is impossible for the Lord (Genesis 18:14a). God honors prayer for His name's sake with special seasons of visitation. He does so still! For this let us earnestly pray. May we with the psalmist say and pray: "I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and my iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when Thou mayest be found (Psalm 32:5, 6a).

— by Rev. Amos and Ovidie Dyrud  
Medicine Lake Lutheran Church  
Plymouth, Minnesota



This little girl was photographed by George and Helen Knapp during the February 1994 Partners in Mission trip to Agrarista, Mexico. The weather was warm and sunny to allow the bus load of Midwesterners to pour cement footings, paint, and even get up the new sign for the church — Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Trunfo. One evening the group visited the neighboring village and sang, handed our Scriptures and Pastor Gabriel gave a salvation message. The Partners in Mission Outreach bus took a group from the West Coast AFLC churches during March.



Partners in Mission coordinator Mr. Al Brazier, Greenbush, Minnesota, and Mr. Ken Williams, World Missions Committee chairman, during their trip into Mexico last November.



**D**uring the winter of 1990-91 we began talking of a FLY team trip to Brazil. It seemed like a faraway dream, but as our school year drew to a close, the "dream" became reality.

We saw God's hand working throughout the planning stages. Students desired to go but lacked the finances. We were thrilled to see the Lord answer prayer. One team member had the desire to go but had no money and there was less than a month before departure. The Lord provided. The student not only had enough, but had excess to leave with the missionary when we left.

Our songs and testimonies shared through the missionary interpretations were eagerly accepted by the Brazilian Christians. We proudly sang some songs in Portuguese. What a blessing it was to experience their enthusiastic worship service with their songs that really came from the heart and their clapping hands. After their main worship service on Sunday evening, there was always time for fellowship: sometimes at the local ice cream shop.

We also enjoyed the work projects the missionaries had scheduled. Our team worked on building a new home for a family of ten. At the ARCA we constructed bunk beds along with painting. We hung doors and painted in some of the AFLC churches. We spent time at a busy marketplace and handed out gospel tracts. The missionaries are great hosts. They made certain we saw some of the fascinating Brazilian culture and beautiful landscape. The last two days of our time in Brazil we saw Foz Do Iguaçu, one of the world's largest waterfalls, and Rio de Janeiro. We flew to Miami, then Minneapolis.

Each one on our team gained a greater appreciation of God's work on the mission field, specifically Brazil. Now when prayers are offered for these people, we have a clearer understanding of our brothers and sisters in that nation. We would

# Why Visit the Mission Field?

encourage everyone to experience first hand the work of the Lord in a mission field. Even of greater importance, may each of us be faithful in praying wherever we are.

— by Craig and Angie Anderson  
Good Shepherd Free  
Lutheran Church  
Cokato, Minnesota

After Christmas 1993, two families from Cokato, Minnesota, traveled by van for the three-day trip to Aguascalientes, Mexico. They visited there for five days. Here are some of their reflections:

"I was inspired to see the dedication and joy that the Giles have in their calling. They enjoy life there although the demanding schedule is very tiring and they battle various health needs. Even though they live in a modern home with electricity, water, etc., they have to live with many inconveniences (like no kitchen cupboards) ... A highlight of our trip was the Sunday morning church service with a group of 40-50 believers in the church. To hear of their transformed lives proves that the things of this world are nothing in comparison to the worth of eternal souls!"

— Linda Korhonen

"The five days spent in the heart of a large Mexican city with an American family named Weaks is an experience I will not forget. (The Weaks family are independent missionaries who work with the Dan Giles family.) The freshness of God's love shone through their uncluttered lives. They were not regretful of the comforts they had left behind in order to live in a country where poverty and pollution are the norm: clean water and air, phones and yards were luxuries they lived without ... It was truly inspiring to hear the stories of the miraculous saving grace of our Almighty God in their lives and others in their church. One of the highlights of our visit was the New Year's Eve prayer meeting from 8 pm. to after midnight. Another was the Sunday morning service where we had opportunity to witness a baptism and hear their joyful, heartfelt singing. I was deeply moved as the entire congregation knelt on the concrete floor to pray. The realization that we are brothers and sisters in Christ hit home as we sang "How Great Thou Art" with them in Spanish."

— Mary Lou Mykkanen  
Excerpts from the March-April 1994  
WMF Newsletter



Missionaries Dan and Debbie Giles, Ingrid and Daniel.

## India Mission Building Four Churches in Spite of Limited Resources

One of four semi-permanent churches in India under construction. The AFLC provides a monthly subsidy of \$500 toward the support of 23 national workers. Additional funds may be provided for special needs. Support for a worker averages \$22 a month. Perhaps you or your organization would like to support specific worker(s). Contact the AFLC World Mission office for more information.



## New Freedom, New Challenges

The people of Estonia suffered under the domination of its huge neighbor, commonly known as Russia, for 50 long years.

Now Estonia is free! The people of this small but culturally strong nation are hungry for instruction about God. One of Estonia's talented educational leaders, Mrs. Tiiu Nigola, is currently in the U.S.A. studying at the Association Free Lutheran Bible School in Minneapolis and living in the women's dormitory for two months.

An accomplished music teacher, Tiiu now develops programs for teaching scriptural truths and values to public school children in Estonia. She is a charter member of the Tartu Academy of Theology and officially represents the Association of Religious Teachers of Estonia; all are from the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church. She expects her experience here will be valuable in training teachers of religion. Tiiu's goals for this short stay are to improve her English language skills; visit public and private Christian schools and the University of Minnesota; drink in the good teaching from God's Word at AFLBS and enjoy American Christian fellowship.

Tiiu is a delightful and lovely woman who speaks with sparkle and warmth of her banker-husband, Erik, and their 14-year-old daughter,

Alice, studying in an English school in Estonia. She easily tells of her faithful parents and how they maintained a Christian home throughout the years of Soviet rule.

Tiiu opened a little photo album and showed me pictures of her family. Suddenly I recognized a very familiar family sitting at her table for a holiday meal! It was Dr. Francis Monseth and his family! Dr. Monseth stays at the Nigola home each time he travels to Estonia from Latvia to teach at the Tartu Academy.

Tiiu explained to me what the academy was and its unique purpose. It is a private national university which began classes in February of 1993. Currently there are 65 students enrolled and five professors and visiting lecturers such as Dr. Monseth. The school trains pastors, youth ministers, chaplains, congregational leaders and religion teachers for Estonia's public schools. Evangelical Lutheran people from the U.S.A. provided the funds to start the

school. She smiled when she added: "Students are eager to attend and we never have an attendance problem." Classes begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 8 p.m. in this intense program.

"Freedom has brought a great opportunity for the gospel of Christ in the land of Estonia. The Estonian people are very reserved," commented Tiiu, "but they are eager to learn about God. Religion classes are offered in every school and all the children want to take them." Tiiu's work involves travel to each school to develop programs (curriculum) to teach religion. She also helps train teachers and other leaders at the Tartu Academy of Theology.

With the new freedom, new challenges come. Tiiu shared the dismay that Christian parents experience when they see their children eagerly wanting to watch American movies on television: a new luxury. The children say they want to practice their English but the moral standards in these movies are often detrimental. "The time to bring Christian teaching into their lives is when they are young," Tiiu emphasized. "We realize these are important years. We must pass on this teaching quickly to the next generation!" This challenging opportunity is one the Estonian Lutheran Church is taking seriously!

— by Beverly Enderlein  
Principal of Medicine Lake  
Lutheran Academy  
Minneapolis, Minnesota



# World Mission Director in Brazil

**D**uring January, 1994, World Missions Director Rev. Eugene Enderlein visited the AFLC mission work in Brazil. He was the guest speaker at the 28th Annual Conference of Brazil and met with each of our AFLC missionaries and spoke in many of the churches in the states of Parana and Espirito Santo.

Meeting with the theme: "Be Ye Holy as I Am Holy" from I Peter 1:16, the conference gathered at the ARCA outside the city of Curitiba. Pastor Enderlein's messages during the January 14-16 sessions called for a more dedicated and sanctified life."

After the conference closed, Pastor Enderlein brought greetings to the area congregations pastored by Paul Abel. The following day he left for the AFLC headquarters in Campo Mourão, Parana. On Wednesday night he preached at a new home mission work in Maringa. The city has a population of 250,000 and the young congregation has a bright future. The next night he spoke in the Londrina church which was filled to capacity. Londrina has grown to



Pastor Cleodo Fruhauf, soon to move to the neighbor state to the northwest and begin a home mission work in the capital city of Mato Grosso do Sul: Campo Grande; Missionary Connely Dyrud, Dean of the AFLC Brazil Seminary and Bible School and pastor of Central Church; Pastor Oséias Camara, President of the Brazil AFLC and teacher at the schools.

nearly half a million and our congregation has been reaching out to a nearby suburb.

I then traveled with the director to the small interior town of Iretama, where Pastor Enderlein preached to a full church that Sunday morning. Later that afternoon, we returned to the Campo Mourão campus for the dedication of the Good Samaritan Lutheran Infirmary. The Global Health Ministries Foundation, an inter-Lutheran mission out of Minneapolis, Minnesota, provided funds for this ministry to help the sick and abandoned children in our orphanage.

That Sunday evening, all four of our nearby congregations gathered at Central Church. Over 300 members and visitors met in the new and still unfinished building for warm fellowship on a hot tropical night. The soaring 100 degree temperatures that day were an unbelievable contrast to the minus 70 degree wind chill Pastor Enderlein's wife was experiencing at home in Minneapolis. The Brazilians found this contrast hard to believe.

On Wednesday evening the AFLC National Church Council met with Pastor Enderlein. There was a genuine spirit of openness to work together on the Brazilian goals for the year 2000, Lord willing. There again was the call for sharing in new areas of mission in Paraguay and Portuguese-speaking African countries.

The director agreed to share these prayer requests with the AFLC in the U.S.A. and work together for better communications between the World Mission Committee in the states and the Field Conference of Missionaries in Brazil and the National Church.

The following night Pastor Enderlein preached in our church in the city of Foz Do Iguaçu. The congregation meets near the Iguaçu Falls, one of the most beautiful places on earth.

Pastor Enderlein spent his last weekend in Brazil with missionary Jonathan Abel and family. He spoke in the Vitoria area churches and visited other locations in the greater Vitoria area where new works are planned.

— by Rev. Connely J. Dyrud  
Field Conference President



Jose Klein, chairman of the Campo Grande congregation in Vitoria.



# Your AFLC Missionaries to Brazil

Connely and Carolyn Dryud



David, Janet, Tamara, Robert, Melissa and Jonathan Abel

Paul, Rebecca, Joanna, Christina, Andrew and Matthew Abel



Jonathan, Tamba and April Abel

## letter to the editor

To the Editor:

It is always interesting to get a copy of the AFLC Annual Report. A lot of information is contained in it: reports to and from the annual conference, the financial statement of the AFLC, vitas of the newly ordained pastors, statistics on the congregations, the report on the benevolence given by the individual churches.

In regard to the latter, a pastor tends to look those records over to see how his parish compares with the others. I do that too, and this year came up with some statistics I'd like to share with you.

For some years I've served a small congregation called Telemarken Lutheran Church, located seven miles southwest of Goodridge, Minnesota. For many of you it will make more sense if I say that it is 13 miles east of Thief River Falls. The congregation has 20 members, all baptized, all confirmed. It is a "graying" congregation made up of some people who are retired, others who are not. All have been involved with farming to some extent. A couple of the women work outside the home. The congregation's future is uncertain, going on a year by year basis now.

Telemarken has been a "giving" congregation and this is borne out by what the 1993 Annual Report reveals. The congregation gave more actual dollars in 1992-93 (\$4,403.05) to AFLC benevolence than 121 other congregations. Benevolence giving is the church at work away from home through world and home missions, a seminary and Bible school, world relief, parish education, maintenance of organization and so on.

The amount given, divided by the number of confirmed members (20), comes to \$220.15 for each one. Of greater interest to me was that only eight congregations exceeded that average out of the 213 included: excluding those listed as "new" in the

report. Those eight churches are New Luther, Valley, McVillie, North Dakota; Zion, Willmar, Minnesota; Word of Life, Upsala, Minnesota; Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Solid Rock, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota; Mt. Sion, Kasson, Minnesota; Hosanna, St. James, Minnesota; and Triumph, Ferndale, Washington.

A few admissions should be made:

These results are only for one year. Another fiscal year has already ended, but that report is not available to us yet.

Telemarken's total for the year in question was the largest in the 14 years or so that it has been contributing to the AFLC.

Naturally I am proud of my congregation's record, but Telemarken's giving is not due to the fact that I preach a lot on stewardship of money. I could rather be faulted for not speaking on the subject as I probably should.

I realize that most congregations contribute to Christian work outside the AFLC and if all of that were factored in the totals would be higher. This would also be true of Telemarken, although the vast majority of its benevolence giving goes to the Association.

I am also aware that many congregations have heavier local expenses than Telemarken does. In most cases there are also more people to share in them, but the local responsibility is greater than in my church.

But we go back to that figure of \$220.15, the average given per confirmed member in Telemarken. I divide it by the days in a year, 365. That comes out to 60¢ a day. If I go into a cafe for coffee and some pastry — a cookie, a Danish, a piece of pie, a doughnut — the cup of coffee alone may cost 60¢.

It's a sobering thought.

Rev. Raynard Huglen  
Newfolden, Minnesota

## Mini-Manual III

**T**he position of counselor/youth worker/advisor is a very important position. This person is an **adult guarantor!** An adult guarantor is a person who represents the future for the youth they are ministering to.

Often the position is filled by a volunteer, especially in the smaller congregations. Congregations which are 200 or more in number might consider calling a part-time or even full-time youth worker or youth director. We have a growing number of congregations and parishes who are doing this in our AFLC.

Your congregation or parish can call a youth director who will work for pay elsewhere. Maybe someone in the congregation is going to hire someone anyway. Perhaps your youth worker-to-be will qualify for this position.

The youth worker can live in an apartment or stay in a home. People can supply food and invite the person to their homes. You can also say thank you by taking an offering monthly or at the time the individual leaves you.

**It will depend upon your situation** whether you call for a volunteer or for someone to be part or full-time. Full-time workers are usually paid by the congregation or parish.

You might want to call someone to work with the youth in your district. The person could be responsible for retreats, rallies and camps. The person could be used by the local congregations in a number of ways.

There are many ideas of what a youth director does! Mark Lampert in the *Christian Education Journal*, Autumn 1993 issue says: "Other popular misguided images of the youth minister are often seen: entertainer, baby sitter, older adolescent, surrogate parent, disciplinarian, buddy, activities director."

# The Counselor-Youth Worker-Advisor

I would concur with the rest of the article where Mark lists the responsibilities of a youth worker, volunteer or paid:

1. To teach the Word of God.
2. To care for the souls of the people.
3. To administer the programs of ministry.
4. To develop both adult and peer leadership to do the work of ministry.
5. To be models of the Christian faith for people to observe.

**The major problem is that we ask for youth workers who are not trained.** Most of the time we ask young men and women who are themselves young, thinking they can best communicate with the youth. Since we live in such a changing world, this concept may not always be true, it depends on the one you are calling.

"One who ministers would do well to have a clear sense of why they do what they do, an understanding of the nature of young people, competency in handling the Word of God and insight into how to help persons grow into Christlikeness.

Many youth workers are "hired" on the basis of their youth, their winsome personalities, their good looks and are **trained on the job.** Their primary resources are books found on the local Christian bookshelves!"

AFLC Youth Ministries offers to the local congregation, parish, and district or region programs to train youth workers. Your youth ministry directors Pastor Dennis Gray and Mr. Robert Halvorson have had important experience and training in the area of training youth workers, advisors or counselors. These men are available to you for training seminars. They also will work with you as a resource for selecting youth workers. When the youth worker has been selected, they will spend time with them as a resource.

There are a number of Christian colleges which are now offering a B.A. degree in youth ministry. Youth

ministry is fast becoming a calling of its own. A few years back, youth workers were encouraged to go on to seminary. Now, this may not be necessary, even though it is recommended. Men and women are being called to a full-time ministry with youth, one that is life long. Our AFLC is in a position to help you through the Youth Ministries Department.

Contact Bob at AFLC headquarters or Pastor Dennis Gray at P.O. Box M, Greenbush, MN 56726; phone 218-782-2249 or 782-2246.

Contact us if you are interested in finding a youth worker or being available yourself.

—Rev. Dennis Gray

## News and Notes

**Centerville, South Dakota** — Immanuel Luther League sponsored a Lock-In on a Friday night last winter. After an evening of Bible study, homemade pizza, videos, games and a scavenger hunt, it is alleged that Pastor Mike Klenner was discovered sleeping in the banner closet.

**Newark, Illinois** — West Lisbon's youth group is known as the **HeirForce**.

### For Parents of Teens

Mr. Bob DeMoss is the youth cultural specialist for Focus on the Family. On the evening of Tuesday, April 19th at the Fargo Civic Center, he'll be presenting a seminar for parents of pre-teens and teenagers. For more information call (701) 237-6682 or write The Red River Valley Network of Youth Ministries, PO Box 3021, Fargo, ND 58108. Tickets are also available after March 25 at all Fargo-Moorhead Sunmart stores; Promise Shop, Fergus Falls; Sonshine Shop, Fargo; Melbergs, Moorhead and Christian Bookshelf, Grand Forks.

For information contact Pastor Kirk Militzer, Triumph Lutheran Brethern Church, 2901 20th St. S. Moorhead, MN 56560 (218) 233-4048.

## OUR TRESPASS OFFERING

9. What is our trespass offering today? John 1:29

1. What blessings result?

a. II Corinthians 5:19

b. II Corinthians 5:21

11. When we come to God in true repentance and heartfelt confession of sin, is there any trespass too great or too "bad" for God to forgive?

a. John 6:37b

b. I John 1:9

The Trespass or Guilt Offering is a repentance offering for sin. It's the first one we offer when we come to the realization that we have sinned and have disobeyed God's will and Word.

God Himself, in Christ, became my Ram without blemish, sacrificed in my place, atoning for my sins, and thereby reconciling me to Him.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Making it Personal:

This month, think about the trespasses you have committed in your life. If you have never confessed them to the Lord, do it now. Also pray and ask God to bring to your mind anyone that you have wronged, hurt or offended but have never made it right. If you need to make restitution (pay back money, return stolen goods, make amends, etc.), don't put it off. That is essential for a clear conscience and full assurance of forgiveness.

"Thank you, God, for a love that would send your beloved Son to pay for our sins. Forgive us, and through Your Holy Spirit, give us power over them, and may all praise and glory be given to You."

## TRESPASS OFFERING

God had chosen, preserved, and guided the Israelites on their way. He made a covenant with them and they accepted it to be God's people. God gave them the law and showed them how they were supposed to live as His people.

By the law, the people realized their sin. As they saw that they couldn't keep it, God gave them the sacrifices (offerings) with instructions on how to be brought into a right relationship with Him.

1. What is the purpose of the law?

Psalms 19:7 (see also vs. 8-11)

James 2:10

Romans 3:19-20

Galatians 3:24

2. Who has sinned? Romans 3:23

Does that mean **me**? Discuss.

## TRESPASS OFFERING

When the people of Israel were convicted of sin before God, they were instructed to bring sacrifices to Him. Let's take a closer look at the Trespass or Guilt Offering (Leviticus 5:14-6:7).

3. Look up the definition of the word "trespass" in a dictionary.

Who was guilty? (one word each)

Leviticus 5:15a:

Leviticus 5:17a:



Leviticus 6:2a: \_\_\_\_\_

Ordinary individuals had to admit and take responsibility for their own personal sins.

### TYPES OF TRESPASSES

4. First type: a. What was violated?

Leviticus 5:15: \_\_\_\_\_

Leviticus 5:17: \_\_\_\_\_

b. How were they committed?

(1) Leviticus 5:15: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Leviticus 5:17: \_\_\_\_\_

c. Who were they against? Leviticus 5:19

d. Are we guilty of these sins? Give examples.

5. Second type: a. List the sins mentioned (Leviticus 6:1-7)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. How were these sins committed:

c. Who were they against? vs. 2

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

d. Are we guilty of these sins? Give examples.

6. a. What kind of animal did they have to bring for an offering to God?

Leviticus 5:15, 18

b. What else did they have to bring?

(1) Leviticus 5:16: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Leviticus 6:5: \_\_\_\_\_

7. a. What did the sinner have to do when he brought his offering to the priest to be presented to God? Leviticus 4:29

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

b. What did it signify? Leviticus 1:4

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Whether the trespass was unintentional or deliberate, what happened when the offering was made with the right heart? Leviticus 5:18; 6:7

\_\_\_\_\_

## Women's Missionary Federation

### *In memoriam gifts*

Clara Krogh, Bruce, SD  
 Mary Thom, Jamestown, ND  
 Conrad Sandness, Valley City, ND  
 Ruth Bjornson, Valley City, ND  
 Stella Johnson, McIntosh, MN  
 Simon Pepper, Ray, ND  
 Alfred Sundhagen, Tioga, ND  
 Emil Moratzka, Tioga, ND  
 Minnie Helland, Cooperstown, ND  
 Selma Helland, Cooperstown, ND  
 Lillian Amundson, Binford, ND  
 Erna Kjellesvik, Morris, IL  
 Mae Nelson, Chamberlain, SD  
 Gladys Wix, Morris, IL  
 Michael McPherson, McVile, ND  
 Christopher Hala, McVile, ND  
 Roy Thompson, Grand Forks, ND  
 David Lundemo, Salol, MN

*Blessed are  
 those who die  
 in the Lord*



## Spring WMF Rallies

**Eastern North Dakota** - May 7, Bethel Free, Grafton.

**Wester North Dakota/Eastern Montana** - April 24, Bethel, Culbertson.

**South Dakota** - April 23, Calvary, Wallace (East River). April 30, Bethel, Faith (West River).

**Northwestern Minnesota** - April 9, Badger Creek, Badger.

**North Central Minnesota** - April 23, Trinity, McIntosh.

**Southwest Central Minnesota** - May 3, Maranatha, Glyndon.

**Lake Superior** - April 23, St. Paul's, Cloquet.

**Minneapolis** - April 9, Living Word, Eagan.

**Northern Michigan** - April 30, Calvary, Even Junction.

**Illinois** - April 16, Helmar, Newark.

**Cooperstown, North Dakota** - The Eastern North Dakota Women's Spring Retreat will be held at Cooperstown Bible Camp on April 15-16. The theme is "God's Creative Woman." Registration will be from 3:30-5 on Friday.

**Ambassador Hymnal** (for Lutheran Worship): Worship Services, Devotional Resources, Doctrinal Materials, 634 Hymns representing German Chorales, Scandinavian Hymnody, English and American Chorales and Gospel Hymns, Children's Songs and more. Price: \$14 (through August 1) plus \$2 handling per order, plus 6 1/2% tax for Minnesota residents. Shipping (UPS or pick up at AFLC Headquarters or Annual Conference in Valley City, North Dakota). Color: Dark navy blue or ruby red. Organist's Edition (modified perfect lay-flat binding with reddish-blue cover) \$18. Available soon after June 3, 1994. For order forms, shipping information or other questions, write to Ambassador Hymnal Sales, 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard, Minneapolis, MN 55441; Phone 612-545-5631.

## Why Attend a Rally?

**H**ave you ever wondered why our Free Lutheran Youth get together? I always thought it was just for fun and games. This Christmas, however, I acquired a different perspective on youth rallies and what they mean when my family received a Christmas card from my uncle.

The card featured a picture of Stillwater Lutheran Church, Kalispell, Montana. It made a splendid Christmas scene with its steeped white chapel, blood-red doors, country lanes, and billowing slate-gray clouds. Yet the significance of the card was not its stately beauty.

The importance of that church to my uncle was that 25 years ago at a youth rally in Kalispell, he accepted the Lord into his heart.

What considerable meaning will our youth rallies have on you 25 years from now?

— Bjorn Strandell

*Atonement Free Lutheran Church  
 Arlington, Washington*

## YOUTH NEWS

### Upcoming Youth Rallies

**South Dakota District:** April 9-10 at Mitchell.

**West Coast District:** April 22-24

**Thief River Falls, Minnesota** — "Falling in Love" based on John 15:12 was the theme for the second annual Northwest Minnesota District Luther League Retreat at the C'Mon Inn in Thief River Falls. About 50 teenagers were in attendance for the gathering that ran from February 20-21.

**Ferndale, Washington** — Triumph Luther League held a spaghetti dinner on March 23 to raise funds for the support of missionary candidates David Nelson and Todd Schierkolk. AAL provided matching funds up to \$600.

**Osseo, Minnesota** — Solid Rock Lutheran's youth group proudly wore their new sweatshirts at Sno-Daze identifying them as **Rock Solid Youth**.

at Elim Lutheran Church in Lake Stevens, Washington.

**Illinois District:** April 10 at Dickson Valley Gym, Newark, 6:30-9 p.m.

**Freeman, South Dakota** — Salem Lutheran's Luther League tragically lost one of its faithful members. Matt Brodland, 15, was accidentally shot on January 30, 1994. His family wrote this in the church newsletter: "All memorials have been directed to Gideons International and will provide a total of 1,510 Bibles to be distributed somewhere throughout the world. Our prayer is that many souls will be in heaven with Matt because God has promised in Isaiah 55:11 that: 'My word shall not return unto me void, but shall accomplish that which I please, and shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.' — Julian, JoAnn and Kerri Brodland." Matt is deeply missed by his family, church and community.

## PEOPLE and PLACES

**Elbow, Saskatchewan** — Bethel Lutheran Church is nearing their goal of \$150,000 in their building fund. Once that goal is reached, they will decide on specific plans to improve or replace their facilities. The congregation joined the AFLC in the spring of 1993.

**Newfolden, Minnesota** — West-aker Free Lutheran Church will host special meetings during April 17-20, with Pastor Rodney Stueland, Kenyon, Minnesota, as the guest speaker.

## ARC News

**W**inter retreats at the ARC in 1994 are now history. During February over 100 teens participated in Youth Sno-Daze and Rev. Vince Will and Russ Hanson spoke to 45 men gathered at the Men's Retreat. On March 18-20, nearly 70 young people enjoyed the Junior Sno-Daze.

Coming soon is the annual Women's Retreat during April 29-May 1. Mrs. Jeanne Brandt, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, is the featured speaker. Ladies, remember the traditional silent auction of your craft and baked goods held on Saturday. All proceeds go to the ARC. A new feature this year is the Saturday evening singing and sharing time. Everyone is welcome to come prepared to share.

For a fun working holiday weekend, consider the ARC this Memorial Day on May 27-30. There is something for everyone to do! Bring the whole family. It's **free!** Just call ahead and tell us you are coming — 715-294-2877.

The summer youth and family camp schedules are out. Ask your pastor for more information. Watch for the AFLC camp schedules coming in the May 31 issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador*.

**Rev. Harris Van Someren** has resigned as pastor of Drummond and Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Drummond and Mason, Wisconsin, in order to accept the call to serve the Winger, Minnesota parish of Dovre and Union Lake. Pastor Van Someren has lived in Mason since 1983, and plans to move to Winger in June.

**Rev. Steve Ruechel**, East Grand Forks, Minnesota, has been removed from the AFLC Fellowship Roster at his own request.

**Topeka, Kansas** — Lamb of God Lutheran Church will have its first confirmation service later this spring. The confirmand has had a total of 10 pastors involved in her instruction over the past two years. Her mother says: "It's exciting to realize that they all taught and emphasized the same things! That's what we appreciate in the AFLC." Lamb of God Church continues to seek God's leading in providing for their first full-time pastor.

**Thief River Falls, Minnesota** — Our Saviour's Lutheran Church will hold their 13th Annual Missionary Conference on April 10-13, 1994. Speakers will be World Mission Director, Rev. Eugene Enderlein and Missionary candidate Rev. Todd Schierkolk.

## In Memoriam

**Gladys Finnestad**, 83, passed away on February 4, 1994. She was a member of Grace Lutheran Church, DeKalb, Illinois.

**Clara Korgh**, 91, passed away on February 14, 1994. She was a member of Grace Lutheran Church, Bruce, South Dakota.

**Oscar Folden**, 94, Minot, North Dakota, died on January 24. In 1975 he became a charter member of Bethel Free Lutheran Church. The funeral service was held at Bethel Lutheran Church January 29, 1994, with Rev. Jerry Moan officiating. Other pastors participating were Terry Olson and Harland Hedland.

**Missionary candidates David and Sarah Nelson** are now living at 2348A 30th Avenue, Osceola, WI 54020; phone 715-755-3308.

**John and Pat Rieth** are living at 901 East Co. Rd. D #208, Vadenais Heights, MN 55109.

**Ortonville, Minnesota**, Abiding Faith Lutheran Church recently accepted 12 new members. The Home Mission congregation is served by Rev. Roy Johnson.

### Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

#### AFLC Benevolences - January 1 - February 28, 1994

FUND	TOTAL Subsidy	REC'D IN FEBRUARY	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% TOTAL
General Fund . . . . .	\$256,591.00	\$13,709.84	\$28,893.36	11
Seminary . . . . .	148,000.00	8,089.35	27,049.13	12
Bible School . . . . .	232,562.00	12,435.05	22,984.71	10
Home Missions . . . . .	319,086.00	13,891.44	28,907.78	9
World Missions . . . . .	342,788.00	23,181.55	52,774.10	15
Capital Investment . . . . .	37,395.00	1,161.81	2,385.17	6
Parish Education . . . . .	67,868.00	1,873.15	4,798.11	7
ARC . . . . .	8,600.00	468.73	665.88	8
Church Extension . . . . .	10,000.00	433.17	733.54	7
<b>TOTALS . . . . .</b>	<b>\$1,422,890.00</b>	<b>\$75,244.09</b>	<b>\$159,191.78</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total 1993 . Goal 9% .</b>	<b>\$1,235,434.74</b>	<b>\$117,742.25</b>	<b>\$117,742.25</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>1994 Goal 17%</b>				



## One Way

**W**e may not say it, but we seem to like to think it. "God must have some other way. It really can't be that important for everybody in the world to hear about Jesus!" We, who are practically drowning in opportunities to read and hear God's Word, are pricked in our consciences by the statistics that say 2.5 billion people in the world have never heard a clear or culturally relevant presentation of the gospel. To make ourselves a little less uncomfortable, we try to offer an explanation. We search the Scriptures for an alternate plan that God must have for those 2.5 billion. "It can't be that necessary that somebody goes and tells them about Jesus!"

I have never found in the Bible an alternate plan. Jesus said, "I am the Way ... No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). The first chapter of Romans indicates that people by nature have some concept of the law. But the gospel, the good news of Jesus' death for our sins and His resurrection, is an unknown fact to the person who has never been told it. It is such an amazing truth the most creative mind would not conceive of it. The Holy Creator God took on human flesh and died for sinful people and then rose again from the dead. Who could figure that out without being told?

The Bible asks the questions, "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?" (Romans 10:14, 15). To answer the questions by thinking, "They can somehow believe even if they have not heard, and they can hear even without someone telling them," is more an attempt to pacify the conscience than to do proper Biblical interpretation. Every human being on the face of this planet needs to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

God's salvation is needed by all and is available to all who hear and receive it. Instead of being in despair about the condition of the world, we can take heart that in the gospel of Christ we have the answer to every person's greatest need. We must see the needs of the world, but at the same time not lose sight of the cross. People are lost without Jesus, but they can be saved when they know Him. We go forth into all the world with the gospel of Christ because of people's

needs. Even more so, however, we go because of the great news God has given us the opportunity to share. Two and a half billion people need to hear a message of hope and love. How good it is that we have something to tell them.

## Send the Best

**T**hey are gifted people with a desire to serve God. We could use them in this country. Why, then, should we be interested in helping them go to another country? Because we love God and love the people He loves, we honor Him and serve them by giving our best.

Our selfish nature says, "Let's keep missionary candidates David and Sarah Nelson and Todd and Barb Schierkolk and their families here in this country. Let's send people to Brazil and Mexico who would not be so useful here and who we would not miss very much." That type of attitude would rewrite the hymn to say, "Give of your leftovers to God" instead of "Give of your best to the Master." Because the people in Mexico and Brazil matter just as much to God as we in North America do, we give them our best.

It has seemed at times like a long wait (for them especially I am sure), but the time is now finally here when the Schierkolks and Nelsons are gathering support and making plans for beginning to serve as AFLC missionaries. The need for more missionaries being sent by our AFLC has long been overdue. While the number of congregations that make up our church body has almost doubled in the last ten years, the number of missionaries we support has remained the same. The AFLC in Brazil has long requested a total of six missionaries for that field. The Nelsons will bring the number to five. Let us seek wisdom from God and courage to take whatever steps are necessary to insure that the next ten years do not produce mere maintenance of the status quo in regards to the number of missionaries on the field.

We can give thanks for these whom God has called and whom God will use. By sending them and supporting them, we have the chance to give some special gifts to people whom God dearly loves.

### Denominational Affiliation Less Important to Individuals

WILLOWDALE, Ontario (EP) — Experts believe there will be 25,000 religious denominations by the year 2000, but according to an article in Canadian magazine *Faith Today*, denominational affiliation seems to hold less importance for individual believers than it once did.

The decline in the importance of denominations is the result of a cultural decline in loyalty in general, and a coinciding "cynical view of institutions," says Don Posterski, vice president of national programs for World Vision Canada. "The church is an institution, so why do we think it's going to escape cynicism?"

Denominations historically came about because of differences in theol-

ogy and doctrine, but those elements are becoming less important as people choose churches based on the meeting of their own needs, as opposed to denomination.

### Woman Fired For Objecting To Halloween Can Receive Unemployment Benefits

PASS CHRISTIAN, Miss. (EP) — Under a judgment made final in mid-February, a nursing home employee fired for refusing to plan Halloween activities can now receive unemployment benefits.

Sheila Naghshpour of Pass Christian, Mississippi, was initially denied unemployment benefits because the state said she was fired from Woodland Village Nursing Center for failing to do her job. Bob Frey, a participating attorney with the Rutherford Institute, assisted Naghshpour in filing an appeal with the Mississippi Employment Security Commission, and in December of 1993 the Commission ruled that she was entitled to the benefits.

"Religious discrimination, when it happens, must be strongly confronted. Our country was founded upon principles of religious liberty," said Rutherford Institute Southwest Regional Coordinator Kelly Shackelford, who also assisted in the case.

"People like Sheila are truly rare," Shackelford said. "It takes tremendous courage to be faithful to your beliefs when both your job and your ability to buy your next meal are being threatened."

### Meals at the Annual Conference June 15-19, 1994

Please indicate the number of people registering for each meal

Food service cannot be guaranteed if pre-registration is not received. Pre-registrations must be received by May 22. Cost of the regular meals: Lunch, \$5.25; Dinner, \$6.25.

#### Regular Meals:

	Lunch	Dinner
Wed.	_____	_____
Thurs.	_____	_____
Friday	_____	_____
Saturday	_____	_____

#### Special Meals:

Wed.	WMF Luncheon (\$5.00)	_____
Thu.	WMF Breakfast (\$4.50)	_____
Thu.	Builders Fellowship Lch.	_____
Thu.	Schools Corp. Dinner	_____
Fri.	Miss. Corp. Breakfast	_____
Fri.	ARC Corp. & Sup. Lch.	_____
Fri.	Pastor's Banquet	_____
Sat.	Miss. & Laymen's Bfst.	_____

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

When you arrive at the conference, the named person will pay for the meal tickets. All meals will be served at Valley City State College.

Regular lunches include: casserole, sandwich, soup, vegetable, salad bar, prepared salads, desserts.

Regular dinners include: entrees (1 solid meat), starch, vegetable, salad bar, prepared salads, soup, desserts.

Please send registrations to:

**Grace Free Lutheran Church**  
P.O. Box 37, Valley City, ND 58072