

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

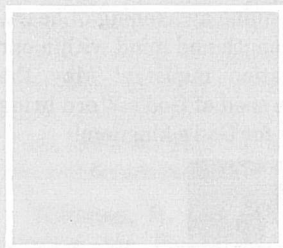
August 11, 1987

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NEXT TIME:

**God was at
work among
the youth at
the record-setting
Luther League
Federation
Convention.**



photo by Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

at the MASTER'S FEET

Inspiration and edification

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work!" (II Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV).

I have often given much thought to my years as a youth. One basic influence was my church. Within my church were two experiences which brought great blessings and direction to my life. The one was the time of worship, while the other was the time of Sunday School. The first was a time of inspiration, while the second was a time of edification. Considering these two experiences, I would have to say that they were interchangeable as to inspiration and edification. In the hearing of the sermon I was inspired and edified. In the sharing and study of the Sunday School were also times of inspiration as well as edification. One supported the other. Our Lord Jesus became more meaningful to me as the years went by.

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Yet, my friend, I also have some long-lasting memories of my days in school. But those memories were temporal, while the Word of God is eternal and, by the Grace of God, He began to make that thought clearer to me. I would strongly hope and pray that the worship services and Sunday Schools of our churches be times of inspiration and edification. Considering the invaluable thoughts of God's Word in II Timothy, one sees the purpose and prayerful result of verse 16, "That the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work!" At this point God's Word is most encouraging: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:08 NKJV).

"So shall my Word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty (void), but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11).

When I think of the blessings that came to me, I now know that many more of those blessings of our Lord in His Word came to the pastor and the Sunday School teacher. God spoke to me! He was calling me to Himself, to realize His love for me and to make real to me the importance of renewing my baptismal covenant that He had made with me some years before. Behind it all were those who were praying for Christ to become real in my life. Oh, the joy of knowing Jesus! This was the experience of some of my teachers and of my pastors. Knowing Jesus as personal Savior, listening to the authority

of His Word and realizing that there is only one way to be "happy in Jesus," that is to permit Him to be Lord of life (all of it).

Through the preaching and teaching of the Gospel, the Holy Spirit calls us to Jesus, convicts us of the sin that so easily besets us and points out the truth - "though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:18).

Dealing with sin before it deals with us is the real challenge before us. Then listen to Jesus: "Come unto Me" (Matthew 11:28). That takes a will to repent, to turn from sin, forsake it, and claim the blood of Jesus to wash it away.

What a calling the church has in our day! Not only to bring precious ones before the Lord in Baptism, but to provide the place where the Holy Spirit can work to make real that repentance, that forsaking, that new life in Christ. What a calling the church has in our day! To encourage and challenge and pray for a genuine awakening of heart, soul, and strength and mind within our parish education ministry! May the sowing of the seed of God's Word bring great results for God's kingdom!



by Pastor
Harvey Jackson



**"HIS KINGDOM
IS FOREVER"**

Psalm 145:13

motivation to Perseverance in Prayer

God commands us in His word, the Bible, to persevere in prayer. In Luke 11:9-10, we read: "Keep on asking and it shall be given to you, keep on seeking and you shall find, keep on knocking and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone who keeps on asking keeps on receiving and he who keeps on seeking keeps on finding and to him who keeps on knocking it shall be opened" (Greek sense). In Colossians 4:2, we read, "Continue steadfastly in prayer." Finally, in Ephesians 6:18, we read, "Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication."

How often do we pray the way God exhorts us to pray in the above Scriptures? It seems that the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. We need a powerful motivation from God in order to faithfully obey His command to persevere in prayer. Without God's motivation we will not get very far in the practice of true Biblical prayer.

How do we receive the motivation from God that we desperately need in order to persevere in our daily prayer discipline? We receive motivation from God to persevere in prayer as we meditate upon and apply to ourselves the six Biblical motivations to prayer.

1. *Prayer is God's command.* The first motivation to prayer is God's com-

mand. Throughout the Bible God exhorts us to keep on praying. In Romans 12 we are called to be constant in prayer. In I Thess 5:17, we are exhorted to pray without ceasing. In Luke 18 Jesus instructs us that "we ought always to pray and not lose heart." We are motivated to persevere in prayer because God commands us to pray and we as His beloved children desire to obey Him.

2. *God is eager to answer our prayers.* We are motivated to persevere in prayer as we consider how eager God is to answer our prayers. God is so eager to answer our prayers that He actually moves us to pray for the very things that He in His abundant goodness desires to give us. We see God's willingness and eagerness to answer our prayers in His promise: "Ask and it shall be given you, seek and you will find, knock and it shall be opened to you . . . If you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask Him" (Matthew 7:7, 11). Another Scripture revealing God's eagerness to answer prayer is Isaiah 65:24: "Before they pray I will answer."

3. *How others need our prayers.* We are motivated to pray as we consider how others need our prayers. Consider, for example, how those who are lost and unsaved need our prayers. Consider how much our family, our church and our community need our prayers. "The fields are (indeed) white for harvest" (John 4:35).

4. *Prayer is the key to revival.* We are motivated to pray as we consider the Biblical teaching that persevering prayer is the key to revival. "If My people who are called by My name will

humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land" (II Chronicles 7:14). Revival will only come as we persevere in prayer.

5. *The sin of prayerlessness.* We are motivated to persevere in prayer as we consider the sin of prayerlessness. "You do not have because you do not ask" (James 4:2). Let us not grieve the Lord by failing to persevere in prayer.

6. *The help of the Holy Spirit.* We are motivated to persevere in prayer through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Zech. 4:6 teaches, "Not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord." How can we receive the presence and power of the Holy Spirit? Jesus teaches us that we need to ask for the presence, power and the help of the Holy Spirit (see Luke 11:13). May we each day pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give us the strength and desire we need to persevere in prayer.

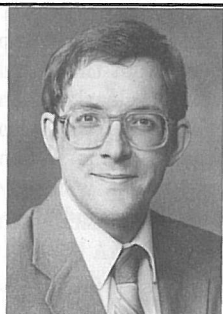
We will experience new motivation, strength and freedom in our prayer-life as we meditate upon and apply the six Biblical motivations for persevering in prayer! Let us persevere in prayer, knowing that our labor in the Lord's work is not in vain (Galatians 6:9).

(Some of the Biblical quotations are the writer's own translations.)

A PRAYER

O that mine eyes might closed be
To what concerns me not to see;
That deafness might possess mine ear
To what concerns me not to hear;
That truth my tongue might always tie
From ever speaking foolishly;
That no vain thought might ever rest
Or be conceived within my breast;
That by each deed and word
And thought
Glory may to my God be brought.
But what are wishes! Lord, mine eye
On Thee is fixed; to Thee I cry!
Wash, Lord, and purify my heart,
And make it clean in every part;
And when 'tis clean, Lord, keep it, too,
For that is more than I can do.

Thomas Elwood, 1639
—Luther League Helper



by Pastor
Mark Bateson
Colfax, Wis.

*Some thoughts
on how the Gospel
should be preached*

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

The dictionary defines "evangelize" to mean "to instruct in the Gospel" or "to convert to Christianity." When we think of the Gospel we think of Jesus. If it were not for Jesus, there would be no Gospel. We could define "being evangelistic" or "to evangelize" as talking about Jesus—who He is, what He has done, what He stands for, His likes and dislikes, our responsibility toward Him, how to become one of His followers, etc. Certainly the world needs to hear about Jesus. Thinking of evangelizing in this way we cannot be too evangelistic.

However, to be "evangelistic" has also taken on another meaning. Often the term is associated with a certain type of preaching in which the speaker addresses himself to the emotions of the listeners, using strong persuasive language to try to get them to make a decision to accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord. Sometimes this type of speaking or preaching is contrasted with a more pedagogic, informative method in which the speaker appeals more to the intellect of the listeners than to their emotions. The "evangelistic" preacher may also use such tactics as asking his listeners to close their eyes, raise their hands or come forward in order to reveal their relationship to Christ and to lead them into making a decision to surrender their lives to Him.

There was a time when this type of emotional, evangelistic preaching was frowned upon, believed not to be Lutheran but belonging to the Reformed and Pentecostal churches. It was feared that such preaching would result in picking unripe fruit, or causing some to decide for Jesus without counting the cost, or seeking decisions be-

fore some listeners really knew all that was involved in accepting Jesus.

The feeling toward this type of evangelistic preaching has changed with the coming of Billy Graham on the scene. He has brought a new respect for this kind of evangelism into our churches, including the Lutheran Church.

Little is said today about the danger of picking unripe fruit. Little is said about the cross of the Christian or of counting the cost before deciding to follow Jesus. And therefore we ask the question, "Is this type of evangelistic preaching, which appeals to the emotions, the type of preaching which is needed today?"

I have observed that often this type of evangelistic preaching is done at Bible conferences and Bible camps where most of the listeners are Christians, have already decided for Jesus and are hungering for more practical information about Jesus (the Law as a guide) as they walk the narrow way described by Jesus.

Too often, I fear, in our day we tend to overemphasize this type of evangelistic, emotional preaching to the neglect of meeting the soul needs of the Christian, who is in need of encouragement and direction in the Christian

warfare in which he is involved. He faces a society and a world which to a large extent is indifferent and sometimes hostile toward Jesus and His teachings.

I believe that if more attention were given to the soul needs of Christians, giving them spiritual food that they may mature and become more Christlike, they in turn would be better evangelists as they rub elbows with non-Christians in everyday living and win them for Jesus. The Gospel tells how Jesus won a number of converts on a one-to-one basis. The Christians' need is to be encouraged with the Gospel and gently guided with the Law. He does not need the Law to whip him into action.

But how about the non-Christian who may be present where Christians are gathered? Shouldn't he be ministered to also? And don't his emotions need to be touched, challenging him to come to Jesus?

Yes, God forbid that we neglect the non-Christian. But does not the Word of God when proclaimed clearly in an understandable, informative way also have power to stir the emotions? When the Word of God, as written, is clearly explained, elaborated upon and illus-

CAN WE BE TOO EVANGELISTIC?

trated, it is food for the soul to the non-Christian as well as to the Christian.

There are non-Christians who fear going to church or a special meeting where the Word of God is proclaimed for fear of being pressured to make a decision they are not ready to make or would feel uncomfortable with if they made it under pressure. I fear that some of the evangelistic preaching we hear today is not drawing people to Jesus but causing them to hesitate or to completely reject Him.

The non-Christian (like the Christian) needs to be informed in order to honestly decide for Jesus. The more he knows, the easier it will be for him to make a decision. He should at least be made aware of his need for Jesus as Savior from sin and the cost of going all the way with Him. He needs to know that it will do him no good to decide for Jesus unless he is also willing to go the full way and pay the full cost. He needs to realize that he cannot serve two masters (Matt. 6:24). However, a person need not know everything there is to know about Jesus before deciding to accept Him. After becoming Christians we continue to learn of Him the rest of our lives.

Too many think of Jesus as a kind of Santa Claus or good luck charm who freely gives whatever one might wish for. Their chief concern is for a care-free, happy life rather than a Savior from sin. They hope to follow Him without making too much change in their present life-style. They think only of receiving and little of serving or paying a price. There is much more to being a Christian than going forward at a special meeting.

Some of today's evangelists remind me of a salesman who is so anxious to sell his product that he tells little or nothing about the product but only urges one to buy. A good salesman, if he has a good product, will let the product sell itself.

As we tell of Jesus and proclaim His Word, we need to let Him sell Himself to our listeners. We need to put our faith in the power of God's Word when

clearly and truthfully proclaimed and not in the eloquent, persuasive, manner of the speaker.

Too often the present-day evangelistic speaker, in order to gain more converts, minimizes the cost of being a disciple of Jesus and dwells mostly upon the blessings received. Such evangelists leave the impression that if you once decide for Jesus all your troubles will be over and from that time on you will experience only mountain top living. They may draw a sharp contrast between the non-Christian and the Christian by picturing the non-Christian as an unhappy, depressed person with many unsolved problems and the Christian as one living in continuous bliss.

But this is not the true picture! One of the problems in winning souls for Christ is that too many people are content with the comforts and pleasures of this world and are not ready to travel the hard, steep, narrow way referred to in Matt. 7:13. Christianity here on earth is not all bliss! It is still a warfare and warfare is never easy. "We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22).

The evangelists of today described

as well as his need for Him. An informative message will help all of us to see our present relationship with Jesus and to see if we have strayed.

But lest I be misunderstood, I need also mention that there is an opposite extreme which could be just as misleading as the emotional evangelist's message. Some preachers take for granted that all listeners are Christian. Such a speaker may give an informative message, but because he takes his listeners for granted, assuming all are Christians and addressing them as such will cause them to be indifferent about their relationship to Jesus and to neglect examining their hearts on the basis of the Word of God being proclaimed. Why bother to examine oneself, or show any soul concern, if everyone present is declared to be Christian?

Jesus said: "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (Jn. 12:32). Our job as Christians, teachers, and evangelists and preachers is to lift Jesus as His Word presents Him and at the same time let our lives show, by the way we live, that He is doing a work in us. Then Jesus (by the power of the Holy Spirit) and not we, the preachers or evangelists, will do the saving and preserving of souls.

"Too many think of Jesus as a kind of Santa Claus or good luck charm who freely gives whatever one might wish for."

above often ask questions as: "Are you a Christian?", "Are you right with God?", "Do you know Jesus?", or "Do you have assurance of salvation?" A non-Christian listener who has little knowledge of the Word of God often does not know what his relationship with God is and such questions only confuse him. An informative message in which he can see Jesus as He really is will serve as a mirror and help him to know his true relationship with Jesus

Some Greeks on Palm Sunday said to Jesus' disciples, "Sir, we would see Jesus" (Jn. 12:21). These Greeks were open to Jesus and eager to see and hear Him. It is assumed that when introduced to Him they readily and eagerly followed Him.

There are people also in our world today who want to know about Jesus. And when we tell them about Jesus, all there is to know about Him, they will need little persuasion to accept Him, but eagerly follow.



WMF Annual Convention

**Retiring
Executive Secretary,
Judith Wold,
honored for
17 years of
service.**

Photos by S. Hjermsstad

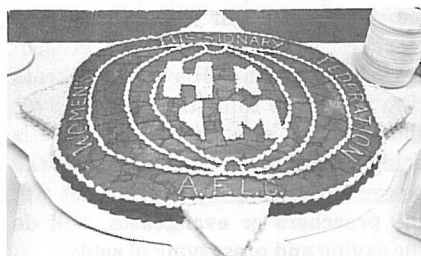
Erickson were organists Wednesday and on Thursday evening; the pianists were Mrs. Carl Reed and Mrs. Leslie Galland. It was good to have both piano and organ for preludes and hymn singing.

Mrs. Bruce Dalager of Grand Forks, N. Dak., enthusiastically led the sing-spirations with the theme song, "Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word" and other hymns befitting the Convention theme.

Mrs. Norman Peterson of Thief River Falls cordially welcomed the ladies and our president, Mrs. Wendell Johnson of Stacy, Minn., expressed heartfelt thanks to the host ladies of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

The devotions for the three sessions, Wednesday morning, afternoon and on Thursday evening, were led by Mrs. Sylvia Molstre of Fergus Falls, Minn., Mrs. Karl Stendal of Minneapolis, and Mrs. John Strand of Remer, Minn.

The convention was favored with musical selections from Miss Solveig Swenson of St. Hilaire, Minn., a ladies' quartet from Grafton, N. Dak., and a choir from Maple Bay Free Lutheran Church near Fertile, Minn. Janeen



The cake in honor of Judith Wold.

Over four hundred ladies registered the morning of June 17, at Thief River Falls, Minn., for the twenty-fifth Annual Convention under the theme, "God will Revive the Lowly and Contrite." Isaiah 57:15 provided the theme text.

Mrs. Ella Rorvig of Dalton, Minn., led the prayer service in preparation for a good day of spiritual blessings.

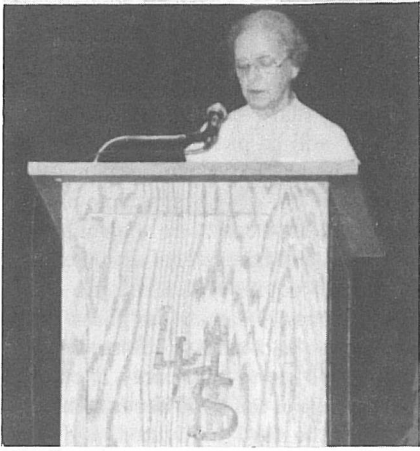
Mrs. Charles Vigness and Mrs. Gary



Mrs. Morris Moen, McIntosh, Minn.



Missionaries George and Helen Knapp and Carol.



Mrs. Sylvia Molstre, Fergus Falls, Minn.

Galland of Thief River Falls so beautifully played her flute for the offertory on Thursday evening. Mrs. Roderick Stave of Wadena, Minn., sang "Because He Lives" as a part of the Memorial Service which was led by Mrs. Norman Haugen of Murdock, Minn. Also, Mrs. Lonnie Nyflot, Thief River Falls, sang at the Thursday morning early breakfast. At that program we also enjoyed a flute solo by the wife of the president of the AFLC church of Brazil, Mrs. Oseias Camara.

The Memorial Service directed our thoughts to the ladies who first organized the WMF.

Dr. Mary Lindquist of Grand Forks, N. Dak., the author of our present Bible studies, spoke Wednesday morning on the theme "When God Revives" and based her thoughts on Isaiah 57:14-19. God becomes all in all. His people have a deep consciousness of sin. God does a work of grace in His people. Her message was so well prepared and presented. We are indeed grateful to her for this excellent series of studies.

The afternoon presentation of the work in Brazil was most interestingly done by Rev. and Mrs. George Knapp and Carol. They used the question and answer method, so it was informal but informative. The president of the church of Brazil, Pastor Oseias Camara, brought greetings; Pastor Knapp translated for him. Craig Johnson, a seminarian who interned in Brazil, brought greetings and expressed appreciation to the ladies for the Missionary Scholarship which made it possible for him to go to Brazil. He said he wants to heed the call of God to the

mission field if God does indeed open doors for him at some future time.

The offerings were received for the "My Missionary for a Day" project and for the AFLC Schools.

The terms of two members of the national board of the WMF expired. The elections were as follows: Mrs. Wendell Johnson was re-elected president for a second term. Mrs. Kenneth Rolf of McIntosh, Minn., was elected to the 2nd vice-president position (Mrs. Robert Lofthus of McVile, N. Dak., served two terms); and Mrs. Aini Myking of New Hope, Minn., was elected to the treasurer's position (Mrs. Gerald Mundfrom of Osceola, Wisc., served two terms).

The Thursday morning breakfast was served at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. The past presidents (five living) were given special recognition and each shared comments about interesting things that happened during her term of office.

Special recognition was given Judith Wold whose resignation takes effect on September 1. At the Thursday evening service she was presented gifts of appreciation for her seventeen years of loving and conscientious service; also, following the service a beautifully-decorated cake was served in her honor. The church was blessed with Judith's life and service. "May the Lord's abundant blessings go with you." Mrs. Gerald (Karen) Knudsvig of Buxton, N. Dak., has accepted the call to be the Executive Secretary, commencing September 1. She, too, comes



Mrs. Karl Stendal, Mpls., Minn.

with excellent qualifications and we anticipate her contribution to our WMF work.

Pastor Richard Snipstead installed the new Executive Secretary and the two board members at the Thursday evening service.

The mission message on Thursday night was brought by Rev. George Knapp. He spoke of milestones in the AFLC Missions. Where have we been? Where are we now? and Where are we going? "Go ye into all the world, and lo, I am with you," — God's great command with promise. We as an AFLC should thank God for what He has done and will do for His Kingdom in Brazil.

—*Esther Larson, Secretary*



WMF National Board: (Row 2, L. to R.) Vice Pres. Mrs. Harold Erickson, Exec. Sec. Judith Wold, former 2nd Vice Pres. Mrs. Robert Lofthus, Sec. Mrs. Esther Larson, former Treas. Mrs. Gerald Mundfrom; (Row 1), Mrs. Kenneth Rolf, 2nd Vice Pres., Pres. Mrs. Wendell Johnson, Treas. Mrs. Aini Myking and Mrs. Gerald Knudsvig, the new Exec. Sec. beginning on Sept. 1.

I want to grow, Lord!

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

Only half-equipped

We flew over snow-capped mountains between Peru and Bolivia, viewing with eagerness Lake Titicaca, which we knew from our reading was the world's highest navigable body of water; we were about to land at what may well be the world's highest airport, LaPaz, at 12,500 feet above sea level. Since a child of ten I had known I was called to be a foreign missionary and now at 33 years of age with a husband and three children it was becoming a reality.

Whatever glory I may have been basking in, with the farewells of family, friends and church, as well as the travel to another country and the reception by our fellow workers, eager to see the answer to their prayers, came to an abrupt halt as I sat in the classroom and heard from the director of the language school that there would be no English spoken. I was suddenly confronted with the fact that Spanish may be the easiest language to learn (Thank you, Lord, for not sending me to Japan!), but it would only be mine with hours of hard work, bathed in tears of frustration, embarrassment and sometimes anger. Where was I when my high school English class was parsing verbs and breaking down sentence structure? Had I thought, "I'll never need this?" *I felt less than half equipped for the task*—a hindrance I struggled with a good many times in those years, and still find to be with me.

This was true in our first assignment after language school. We had moved our two oldest children into boarding school, taking five-year-old Peder with us to our place of work on Coaba Farm,

at the Bible school. Dick was to teach and he was eager to get to it. No so I... I was satisfied to not have to make too much effort to speak the halting Spanish that was mine. A wise but frank older missionary candidly asked me one day, "And what do *you* do?" No longer able to hide behind my wifely and motherly duties, I was given a class in Bible geography to teach to about a dozen Bolivian boys who found Spanish as hard as I did, but they from their Aymara background. These were boys who had not been very far away from their own villages and by a large majority had not had any study previously with maps.

I was definitely not equipped for this, although the experience itself was preparing me for later classes, one in the grade school in a simple Bible study, and my favorite of all, a sewing class for the boys at the Institute where they all made white shirts, each getting a pattern which I taught them to make. Why was this my favorite class? Because years before, my mother had equipped me with the knowledge and instilled in me the rewards of sewing!

The Lord gave me a special help in His Word during that first teaching experience. At that time I was using the Amplified Bible and Galatians 2:8 reads: "For He Who motivated and *fitted* Peter and worked effectively through him for the mission to the circumcised, motivated and fitted me and worked through me also for the mission to the Gentiles." I see that Paul's motivation was an inner experience with God, but his *fitting*, that I see as the learning he had whether it was formal or homespun. This is where I personally felt hindered; being only partially equipped for my current service to the Lord causes my spiritual growth to be stunted.

Again, as in past hindrances which I have shared, I know that this hindrance is also felt among many in the church. Hearing discussions among Sunday School teachers, deacons, youth leaders and pastors, as well as at congregational meetings both large and small, assure me of that. The need can readily be verbalized, but the solution evades us. Or, the solution is also voiced but the implementation of the solution isn't carried through because of lack of knowledge of how to do it.

One way to become equipped, even as I discovered through that very painful Bible geography class in Bolivia, is to get into the situation itself and the old saying that "experience is the best teacher" will be put to the test. Being all the things that a wife and mother needs to be doesn't always come naturally to me, but I can't hire someone else to come in and take over. I am forced to get myself equipped for the job or it goes undone. A son or daughter with an interest and ability different from mine needs me to help carry it out. A youth group of ten or 50 needs someone who sees the need (motivated) and who will then work at it, learning through seminars, books and workshops, as well as through experience... whether it be his own or that of others. A group of deacons talk of drawing people into the church; the women know they need to reach out and minister to others; the Sunday School teachers need training. What I fear and what I have seen happening is that the needed job won't be done because few are equipped or willing to be equipped to do it.

"... to be motivated
and fitted for
my part in the coming
of Your Kingdom."

I have set a goal for myself that I would be ready spiritually, mentally and emotionally for whatever circumstances come to me. I can't see them all now, of course. As I look at the ministry the Lord has given me just now, I see that through my willingness to take care of my mother when she was ill, He prepared me to visit other shut-ins at nursing homes or privately. He has placed in my heart a strong desire to memorize portions of Scripture and the implementation of doing so has stretched my mind and I have been equipped to share with others.

O Lord, right now here in my home, my church and my community, I open to You my willingness to be motivated and fitted for my part in the coming of Your kingdom.

editorials

CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

Almost two months have passed since Annual Conference. Because of a missed issue in July our coverage of the Conference gets drawn out over a long period of time. Perhaps an adjustment can be made for next year. We'll see.

The Conference was good. Our over-all reaction to it is positive. As it should be, the Annual Conference was a boost to our work as congregations. Over the years we have been able to come home from Annual Conferences with a good feeling. At two or three of them there was some unpleasantness, but even in those cases there was enough that was positive so that the church could go forward anyway.

One comes away from Thief River Falls realizing that because of a significant number of new people coming into the Association, through new congregations affiliating and Home Mission work primarily, the church is going to have a broader base for work in missions, Christian education, etc. There is little question but what this year's budget goals will be met in full, although we should keep in mind what one delegate told the Conference, "Our budget goals are only floors," meaning that they represent the minimum of what is needed. Already the monthly reports of receipts this year reflect a large enough difference over last year to indicate that. This is encouraging. It looks as though the AFLC may soon be able to lay out some ambitious plans for the future. That is personal opinion, but something to think about.

In that connection the point can be raised again that in the Association we don't explain finances very much. The time spent in the business report at Conference is very brief. Twenty-three pages of financial statement, including introduction and notes, is a lot of material. Many delegates have literally not had time to look it over, much less digest it, by the time the report is given. Something should be done to illuminate what it takes to run a church body in terms of finances. Finances can be thought of as something dry, but it can also be an exciting subject.

The Budget Analysis Committee doesn't usually throw any light on the matter either. This year the BAC concurred on the recommendations of the five major agencies or funds. They gave no explanation of why they did so. The church isn't usually given any look into why some decision is made one way or the other. Perhaps the thought is that during the discussion of Schools and Missions, for instance, these things will come up. Sometimes something does, but seldom very much of a picture emerges. More can be done to explain finances in the AFLC.

Something about the Nominating Committee. When the Association began there were seven districts. There were to be three pastors and four laymen on the committee. Today there are 13 districts and the number could well go higher. There is no written rule on what a district is or how a district is established. The AFLC has had a district as small as one congregation and there is no upward limit.

Under the amended Order of Business for the Annual

Conference each district is to be represented on the Nominating Committee and the majority of the Committee must be laymen. Perhaps there will never be so many districts that the Nominating Committee will become unwieldy. Even as many as 20 people should be able to function effectively. We have some problem in allowing one congregation to be a district, but that isn't a situation which exists today, but did in the past. A point to look into, though, may be that of how many pastors should be on the Committee. Theoretically, as the law is written now, we might sometime have a Committee with no pastors on it. It depends on if any are nominated. Or, let us say that in six districts pastors are nominated, but in every case receive fewer votes than a lay candidate from the district. Or put it this way: suppose every pastor on the ballot receives fewer votes than the total received by the lowest vote getter among the laymen. Would there then be no pastor on the Committee? We admit, this gets confusing, but there may be a need for more clarity in our procedures on this point. Next year's Nominating Committee will have eight laymen and five pastors.

Resolutions committees at the Conferences are made up of five members. Interestingly enough, nothing is said in our documents about how many persons should be on the committees or the division between laity and pastors. Traditionally, there have been two pastors and three laymen. It has been an unwritten law. Perhaps it should remain unwritten. But here is what happened this year. Two of the three committees elected for next year have three pastors, one has one pastor and one has no pastors.

In one sense, what difference does it make? In another sense, it seems that it would be good to maintain an orderly and systematic balance between pastors and lay people. It is right that lay people be in the majority. After all, there are so many more of them. Three pastors on a committee of five are too many. On the other hand, one pastor or none out of five is too few. Both pastors and laymen have something unique to add to a discussion.

Lay pastors are classified as laymen as far as committee and board memberships are concerned. That seems rather odd, really. Lay pastors devote themselves to the ministry, as ordained pastors do. There must remain a distinction between pastors and lay pastors because of differing educational levels, but since the lay pastor is usually working full-time in the ministry and is in the position of pastor, it would seem that they should be classified as pastors as far as Conference committees and board memberships go. We speak here of those who are licensed lay pastors.

The Nominating Committee this year several times brought in an extra nominee for either a 1988 Conference committee or a board position, necessitating a ballot by the delegates in regard to the former. There is no law against that and nominations can always be made from the floor. But here, traditionally, and we use that word again, the Committee brings in only five names for a five-person resolutions

◇

I remember Iver Olson

by Roger Ose

When I think of Iver Olson as a teacher at Augsburg Seminary, I remember specifically two things:

First: "Be a pastor who is a shepherd. Be a part of the events that surround your people. Be a part of their funerals, their weddings, their baptisms. Quite often the words you say at a funeral will be forgotten, but your presence there will be remembered."

"Don't be a pastor who needs big words to make a sermon come alive. The big words and fancy phrases will be forgotten, but the Word of the Lord will be remembered. Keep it simple. Keep it direct. Use good stories to drive home a point."

Second: "When my father died, I didn't miss the visits. I had not been home in Canada much for over 30 years. When my father died, I didn't miss his letters. He was not much to write. I did not miss the money he sent me for college. In fact, I had sent home money to my parents on several occasions."

"What I did miss was my father's prayers. I knew that every morning of my life my father thought about me and prayed for me. I knew that in the

evening of the day he prayed for me. More than anything else, I miss my father's prayers for me now that he is no longer living."

(From my classes, Iver Olson, teacher, Augsburg Seminary, Mpls.)

(And a note from Pastor Ose.)

I visited Iver Olson at Augustana Home and Augustana Apartments off and on for the past six years. For the past two years he was in the skilled care unit of Augustana Home and was ill with Alzheimer's disease. At times he did not know me. But on other occasions I would remember an incident from seminary and he would affirm that it was so. He almost always called me "Ose," even toward the last. On these occasions I usually shared communion. He asked for communion several times when I came. The last year had been most difficult for him, as memory and mental activity receded and seemingly evaporated toward the last. Yet my memories of him as my teacher did not diminish. Blessed be his memory.

God has to be in charge of details if He is going to be in charge of the over-all design of our lives.

Something about Dr. Wong

(In our May 18 issue, we carried a letter which Mrs. Oscar Folden, Minot, N. Dak., had received from one Fun-chee Wong, a surgeon in China. Believing that some background information about Dr. Wong would be helpful, Mrs. Folden has sent the following article which we are glad to print at this time. We are only sorry that it couldn't have appeared sooner after the letter. —Ed.)

Perhaps the readers of the *Ambassador* could know a bit more about Dr. Wong. On my second trip to China, he came to spend a few days with us in the home of Grace Winter, one of my "Chinese relatives."

Dr. Wong is a surgeon in Kwangtung Province. When he was taking his medical training, at age 18 in 1951, his dear friend, Rev. Warren Winter, a missionary sent to China by the Cicero Bible Church (Illinois) in 1920, who was a cousin of my father, came to tell him of impending trouble. Though he had been encouraged to remain in China by the Communists to continue his work among the lepers, now Rev. Winter sensed the changing mood of Communism and believed that he and his

cont. on p. 16

EDITORIALS . . .

committee. But when six names are sent in, especially on the last business day of the Conference and time is at a premium, the act almost borders on mischief. The same occurs when three candidates are submitted by the Committee for a board position. This will quite likely result in no candidate receiving a majority on the first ballot and there must be a second ballot. Many delegates have left, the Conference is pressing toward adjournment and new tellers must be rounded up. Sending in extra nominees at such a time almost borders on mischief. The Nominating Committee was made up of good people. Nothing written here is meant to discredit them; we simply point out some things that come to mind in these post-Conference weeks.

Let the long lingering memory of Annual Conference 1987 be that of good fellowship, a progressive spirit and good food for body and soul. The Conference theme, "His Kingdom is Forever," was imprinted on our hearts and minds by the giant banner which spanned the auditorium stage. May we carry that truth and challenge with us throughout this year and in all of life.

ANOTHER WORKER

Because she has gone out under a non-AFLC organization, Miss Rachel Mundfrom has left for her overseas assignment with a minimum of notice and attention. She will be working with Lutheran Bible Translators, Inc., eventually in West Africa. Her support comes from individuals and groups with a larger gift from a certain congregation.

We mention Rachel's departure for France and Africa at this time in order that the Association can rejoice in this new worker in God's kingdom and uphold her in prayer.

The work of Bible translating is exciting. Think what a blessing can come from it for generations and generations. People receive the Word of God in their own language and then the Holy Spirit can lead into life which is life indeed, through Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life.

The Association has no Bible translation work. Rachel had to find that opportunity elsewhere and we are glad she found it through this fine Lutheran organization. Bible translation cannot be biased, but must be objective, carefully putting the words of Scripture into the new language and it is good to know that a Lutheran society is involved in this work.

May the Lord bless Rachel in this calling God has given her.

III. Assurance of Victory, vs. 31-39

A. God Is For Us, vs. 31-34

1. Why don't we need to fear any enemy, no matter who he is?
v. 31-32 _____

2. What charges *could* be brought against God's people? vs.
vs. 33-34 _____

Who brings such charges against us? I Jn. 3:20-21; Rev. 12:10

Why won't these charges stand? _____

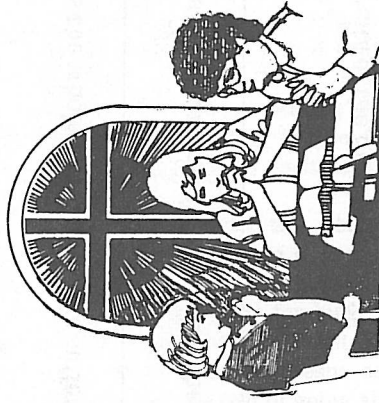
B. Christ's Love Conquers All? vs. 35-39

1. Why might the suffering believer be tempted to doubt
Christ's love? v. 35 _____

What is the answer of God's Word to such doubt? v. 36 _____

2. How can we be overwhelming conquerors over all things that
threaten us? vs. 37-39 _____

Hymn No. 303 (*Concordia*): "Under His Wings I'm Safely Abiding"



WMF BIBLE STUDY

Studies in Romans

God's Righteousness by Faith

RESULTS OF JUSTIFICATION: THE COMFORT OF THE SPIRIT

Chapter 8:18-39

Hymn No. 342 (*Concordia*): "We Would See Jesus"

In the latter portion of Romans 8 we come to the last of the effects of justification presented in this letter. It is one of the great portions of a great book and a favorite of many Christians.

I. Hope in the Midst of Suffering, vs. 18-25

Paul turns from the sufferings we meet for Christ's sake to suffering in general.

A. God's Purpose for a Suffering World, vs. 18-22

1. In this world believers suffer for Christ's sake. What are some other reasons for our suffering? (Consider also Hebrews 12:4-11 and your own experience.) _____

2. Why does the whole world of nature suffer? vs. 20, 22 _____

3. What was God's purpose in subjecting the world to suffering? _____

B. The First Fruits of the Spirit, vs. 23-25

The Holy Spirit is the first fruit given to the Christian as the down payment (the earnest or pledge of our inheritance, II Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:14), which assures that more will follow.

1. What is the "more to follow" assured by the first fruits of the spirit? vs. 21 _____

v. 23 _____

2. How should this hope be a comfort to us in the midst of suffering? vs. 25 _____

II. Help for Our Weakness, vs. 26-30

A. The Spirit's Intercession, vs. 26-27

The transitional phrase, *in the same way*, connects this section with the previous one.

1. What is our weakness? vs. 18-25 _____

2. How should we seek help for this weakness? vs. 26 _____

Why do we need the Spirit's help? _____

3. How does the Spirit help? vs. 26-27 _____

B. Knowledge of God's Eternal Purpose, vs. 28-30

1. How do we *know* God's purpose through "all things?" _____

2. How can all things *work together* for good? _____

3. What did God foreknow? vs. 28-29a; II Tim. 2:19 _____

4. How is God's foreknowledge a comfort to the Christian? _____

What is God's eternal purpose for His own? vs. 29-30 _____

Personalities

The address of **Rev. and Mrs. Stephen Odegaard** is 842 Kimberly Ave., Kent, Wash. 98031. Telephone: 206-854-7707.

And for **Rev. and Mrs. Ragene Hodnefield**, it is 100 N. E. 102nd St., Vancouver, Wash. 98665.

As reported last time, **Rev. Jay Erickson** will be retiring this summer. He will conclude his ministry at Calvary Lutheran, Fosston, Minn., on Aug. 31. Pastor Erickson hopes to devote some part of his time to evangelistic meetings, pulpit supply and interim work as there is opportunity. Pastor and Mrs. Erickson will be at home at 2345 Jonquil Lane No., Plymouth, Minn. 55441.

NEW PASTORS

New pastors received on the fellowship roster of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations in the past year are:

Rev. David Hinrichs, serving Good Shepherd Lutheran, Cokato, Minn.

Rev. John Skeie, serving Bethlehem Lutheran, Morris, Ill.

Rev. Richard Thompson, associate pastor, Bethlehem Lutheran, Morris, Ill.

Rev. Steven Lombardo, serving West Lisbon Lutheran, Newark, Ill.

All of these are formerly of the American Lutheran Church.

Placed on the clergy roster of the AFLC since the 1986 Annual Conference are:

Rev. Walter Johnson, serving Faith Lutheran, Shakopee, Minn.

Rev. Paul Larson, on loan to Northern Lutheran Missions, White Earth, Minn.

Rev. Christian Oswood, serving Zoar Lutheran, Hampden, N. Dak.

Rev. Palmer E. Sevig, serving Calvary Lutheran, Wallace, S. Dak.

Dates for 1988 Conference

The Co-ordinating Committee of the AFLC has announced that the dates for the 1988 Annual Conference to be held in DeKalb, Ill., will be June 15-19.

Rachel Mundfrom commissioned

Miss Rachel Mundfrom was commissioned for work with Lutheran Bible Translators, Inc., in a service at Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, N. Dak., on Sunday afternoon, June 7.

Rachel is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Gerald Mundfrom, Osceola, Wis. Her brother Daniel gave the devotions in the service. Greetings were brought by her father and Mr. Stan Miller. The sermon was brought by Trinity's pastor, Rev. Bruce Dalager. His theme was "Publish Glad Tidings" and the text was Romans 10:11-15.

Assisting Pastor Dalager in the commissioning were Pastor Mundfrom, her brother-in-law, Rev. Mark Antal, then of Bemidji, Minn., and Rev. Clair Schwalm, whose church has committed itself to her support.

Choir anthems sung in the service were "On Eagle's Wings," and "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee." Audience hymns were "O Zion, Haste," "Hark the Voice of Jesus Calling" and "We Rest on Thee" (sung to *Finlandia*).

A fellowship lunch was served following the service.

Rachel Mundfrom left on July 3 for Grenoble, France, where she is spending a year in language studies. When that year is completed she will be assigned to translation work in Cameroon, Africa.



Rachel Mundfrom was honored on June 28, her last Sunday in the U.S., at Victory in Christ Lutheran Church, Maplewood, Minn. She is pictured with her parents, Rev. and Mrs. Gerald Mundfrom.

IMPACT GRANTS RECIEVED

Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, Minn., has recently received \$1310 from Lutheran Brotherhood's IMPACT program, *Inviting Member Participation in Aiding Lutheran Colleges and Theological Seminaries*. The latest payment covers 16 gifts of Lutheran Brotherhood members made during the second quarter of 1987.

It was great!

Those are the best words that describe the recent AFLBS Ambassador concert that I attended. The music was excellent! The team shared Christ through a fine selection of songs. A real good variety. The testimonies were truly from the heart! The ones who shared with us came prepared and willing to tell us how they came to Christ as their Lord. They told about those Bible School experiences, but most importantly they told about themselves. What God had been doing in their lives. How He had changed them and their perspectives as Christians on every day that they live. They showed concern for me. They want to get to know each one of us. They are "Ambassadors

for Christ!". These five young adults are giving of their summer because they are concerned about our Association, our Bible School and, greatest of all, proclaiming Christ to everyone!

Let's show some hospitality and thankfulness by having this group for a meal or overnight. It's a great way to get to know them and to show them that we as Christians care. If they're in your community don't miss a wonderful opportunity to hear His name praised! May God bless your summer, Shannon, Earl, Patricia, Kraig, Mark and Jim.

Alan Arneson
Spicer, Minn.

(Alan Arneson was himself a member of the Ambassadors in a former year—Ed.)



Over 250 people attended the 85th anniversary of Tabor Lutheran Church, rural Webster, S. Dak., June 6-7. The church was decorated with bouquets of flowers and plants, gifts from former members and friends of the congregation. Theme for the occasion was "Jesus Christ is the Same Yesterday and Today and Forever" (Heb. 13:8). That was the theme for Rev. Richard Snipstead's message on Sunday afternoon. He is the president of the AFLC.

A buffet supper was served to the former confirmands and their families on Saturday evening at 6. At the music festival later that evening, Rev. Howard Kjos, Roslyn, S. Dak., former pastor at Tabor, gave devotions. Mrs. E. S. Vik, Waubay, S. Dak., widow of a pastor who served at Tabor for 35 years, gave a greeting.

ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATED

On Sunday morning the sermon was preached by Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn., also a former pastor of the congregation. He spoke on the day's Gospel text, John 15:1-11. Pastor Rodney Stueland, presently serving Tabor, conducted the service. The re-union senior choir, the former youth choir and the male chorus sang.

At the Sunday afternoon service Mr. James Rasmussen, student at the AFLC seminary and married to a Tabor girl (Jane McC Carlson), led the devotions. Mr. Michael McC Carlson, a deacon, was in charge of the program. Mrs. Ervin Tvinnereim read greetings from friends, including Rev. Trygve F. friends, including Rev. Trygve F. Dahle, Spicer, Minn., a former pastor, who was unable to attend, and Rev. Dale Battleson, Roslyn, pastor of the American Lutheran Church parish. Two nearby congregations, Bergen and Skudenes, sent greetings with representatives, Richard Sigdestad and Melvin Enstad, respectively.

The noon meal was catered. A balloon launch was held in early afternoon for the children. The balloons of many colors sailed off in a southerly direction from the hill on which Tabor is built. The church is visible in some directions for many miles.



Valley Lutheran Church, Portland, N. Dak., celebrated 25 years of service in God's work on Sunday, June 14, in morning and afternoon services. Rev. Kerwin Sletto is pastor.

In the morning worship service, Rev. Philip Haugen, a son of the congregation and a member of the faculty of the Association Schools, preached the sermon on the theme "What is the Church?" (I Peter 2:4-10).

Following a dinner in the church parlors served by the Ladies Aid, an anniversary program was given. It consisted of greetings—oral and written—and musical numbers. Former pastors present and bringing greetings were Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn., Gary Skramstad, Bloomington, Minn., who served as a student, Stephen E. Odegaard, Kent, Wash., and Joel Rolf, Devils Lake, N. Dak., as a student.

Others who have served are Robert Lee, Minneapolis, Minn., as a student, Hans J. Tollefson, Astoria, Ore., Norman Tenneboe, Park River, N. Dak., as a student, Peter Franz, Minot, N. Dak., also as a student, and Rodney Stueland, Roslyn, S. Dak. Pastor Sletto began his ministry at Valley in 1983.

Valley Lutheran was started in 1962 by people who withdrew from Aurdal Lutheran Church in Portland, choosing to be a part of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. The congregation did not hold its own services until the fall of 1963 when the Presbyterian church moved from Clifford, N. Dak., was taken into use. It was dedicated on Oct. 4 of that year by Rev. Fritjof Monseth, then vice-president of the AFLC.

An afternoon lunch on June 14 closed the special day for Valley Lutheran Church.

ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

AFLC Benevolences February 1 - June 30

FUND	TOTAL BUDGET	REC'D IN JUNE	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% TOTAL*
GENERAL FUND	\$208,000.00	\$11,877.49	\$60,744.02	29
SCHOOLS - (AFLTS)	99,834.00	6,124.10	33,234.18	33
(AFLBS)	152,060.00	12,952.32	56,854.69	37
HOME MISSIONS	280,000.00	22,366.10	71,694.79	26
WORLD MISSIONS	250,000.00	21,278.06	78,009.92	31
CAPITAL INVESTMENT	25,000.00	4,741.72	11,151.43	45
TOTALS	\$1,014,894.00	\$79,339.79	\$311,689.03	31
1986-87 —	\$1,084,478.00	\$63,945.43	\$268,017.28	25
Goal 42%				

news of the churches

from here and there . . .

Mason, Wis.—Our Savior's Lutheran will dedicate their new church on Aug. 23, with a service at 2 in the afternoon. This will follow morning worship at 10:30 and a dinner at noon. Rev. Harris Van Someren is pastor.

Thief River Falls, Minn.—The "loft room" in the church, Our Saviour's, is being decorated as a youth room. Youth Director Mike Palkie and the young people have chosen the name "Upper Room" for it.

Miss Bertha Aanestad of Norway, who is a missionary to Ethiopia, spoke at Our Saviour's on July 14 in a special service.

Newfolden, Minn.—Reports from the Family Bible Camp at Lake Bronson were given at Family Night on July 12.

Grand Forks, N. Dak.—Mona Julsrud and Guri Underdal of Norway presented a concert of sacred music at Trinity Lutheran on July 15.

Minneapolis, Minn.—A congregational camp-out was held on Sat., July 25 at Baker Park, Oak Knoll, for members of Medicine Lake Lutheran Church. All enjoyed a picnic supper and an evening of fellowship and fun. The Medicine Lake Lutheran Academy picnic was held on July 13 at Elm Creek Park Reserve. This was for past, present and future families of MLLC.

Williston, N. Dak.—A farewell reception for Pastor and Mrs. John Rieth, Jason and Jessie, was held on Sunday, July 12, from 3 to 5 p.m., following a brief program at 2:30. Pastor Rieth's farewell service was on July 26 and the family has moved to Amery, Wis., where he is now pastor of Amery Lutheran.

Grafton, N. Dak.—Youth Sunday at Bethel Lutheran was on July 26 with the service under the direction of the youth and Kevin Borg, youth worker.

Park River, N. Dak.—A building bee for Victory Lutheran's church was held July 20-25. John Presteng, Grafton, was in charge of the work. A good

number of people came to help out, from different places. Perhaps a full report on this project will be sent in later.

Tioga, N. Dak.—Rev. and Mrs. Rodger Olson and family of Fergus Falls, Minn., shared a concert of Christian music with home folks at Zion Lutheran on Sun., July 26.

The Zion congregational picnic was held on Aug. 2 after church at Sakakawea State Park on the Missouri.

Dalton, Minn.—A monument commemorating its church destroyed by fire was recently dedicated by Sarpsborg Lutheran. The congregation, presently worshipping in Zion, Dalton, may rebuild at a later date.

New members at Zion are Mr. and Mrs. John (Beverly) Dahlager, Mr. and Mrs. Dean (Mavis) Henderson and Mrs. Dan (Tracy) Hanson.

St. Paul, Minn.—Every third Tuesday of the month Victory in Christ Lutheran conducts services at the Union Gospel Mission. Laymen from the congregation often preach at this evangelistic service. Mr. David Fugleberg and Mr. Vic Parsons spoke at the June and July services.

Tucson, Ariz.—Greetings from Living Faith Lutheran Church in Tucson, Ariz. Many winter visitors from the Midwest worshipped with us this past winter and we hope many more will be coming this next winter. We welcome their fellowship and encouragement. They help us feel more a part of the larger whole, the AFLC, though we are separated many hundreds of miles from any other AFLC congregation, except for our sister church, Triumph, in Nogales, 65 miles south of us.

A beautiful oak baptismal font, built by a local cabinet maker, was recently given to our church by a member family. Another recent gift in memoriam was that of two beautiful offering plates.

—Corr.

Two historic churches seek affiliation

Two Illinois churches have voted to affiliate with the AFLC since the Annual Conference in June.

Helmar Lutheran Church, rural Newark, which voted on June 22, is a 590-member congregation served by Pastor H. T. Masted. The congregation traces its roots back to 1850 and the ministry of Elling Eielsen, the first Norwegian Lutheran pastor in America, and P. A. Rasmussen.

Fox River Lutheran Church, located in the community of Norway, near Sheridan, voted for AFLC affiliation on June 28. The congregation has a membership of 204 and is served by a retired pastor, Maynard G. Halverson. Dating back to worship services in 1836 and officially organized by Elling Eielsen in 1843, Fox River claims to be the oldest Norwegian Lutheran congregation in America.

Both Helmar and Fox River were former members of the American Lutheran Church and voted to withdraw during the current merger discussions.

—Corr.

ANNIVERSARY VIDEO CASSETTE

A Celebration of Sights and Sounds for the Silver Anniversary of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

SEASONS:

A 40-minute video documentary, surveying the roots of the AFLC in 19th century American Lutheranism, the renewal of a vision for free and living congregations in 1962, and the results of that step of faith during the following 25 years.

Congregations will want to use this aid for their anniversary celebrations this fall.

Pastors will find it a valuable tool for new member instruction.

Many individuals will want a copy as a personal anniversary year memento.

Please send your order, plus a check for fifteen (15) dollars, to:

AFLC Seasons

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

The video cassettes will be available for mailing after October 1st.

DR. WONG . . .

family were in danger. The two men shared Bible verses and knelt in prayer. Tears flowed as the two friends parted.

In a few days the Winters and adopted Chinese daughters were arrested. In one month Rev. Winter, a well man, was dead in their Communist prison. No doubt he was a victim of their torture. After a couple of years the remaining family members were released. Mrs. Winter had been released earlier and returned to the U. S. A., never to learn what happened to the family so dear to her.

Dr. Wong, as a Christian, also suffered during those years, but the brutal treatment came in the '70s when Mao's Red Guard youth groups undertook to reduce all intellectuals down to the level of peasants. Doctors, nurses, teachers, lawyers, etc., were all demoted. One nurse, for instance, was given a hammer and for two years she had to break up rocks for gravel for roads. Dr. Wong was arrested and locked in a hospital room where he was tortured and beaten. In daytime he was taken out to dip out the contents of the outdoor open-pit toilets, which was then carried to the fields to be used as fertilizer.

After two years he was united with his family and sent to the mountains to chop wood. This was not demeaning to him. Several years later he was ordered to return to his hospital when a new government took over. The sad part was that his two sons were also classed as peasants and held for another five years, thus not entitled to an education. Subsequently, they were assigned to work areas.

For 11 long years, the younger son has been assigned to hard work in a steel mill. He lives in a dormitory room with a bed, wooden, of course, a small table and one square stool. He does have a little radio and can hear the Gospel beamed into China by the Far East broadcasting station. Alone, he has studied English. His heart's desire is freedom and an opportunity to come to the U. S. and study at a Christian college, thus equipping himself for evangelistic work if ever such an opportunity comes to him. Oscar and I realize that neither our age nor our health permit us to take on added responsibilities, but we pray that God

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR
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TRIUMPH IN CHRIST

*Miss Faith Call
Westby, Wis.*

We shall triumph selflessly, edifying;
Turn thanklessness to praise, gratifying;
Subdue all fear and doubt, testifying
Jesus is Lord!

Spirit, Master o'er our flesh, mortifying;
Be a conqueror o'er the foe, in defying;
Overcomer in the world, glorifying
Christ the Lord!

We shall triumph over death, in our dying;
And discomfit pain and grief, in outcrying;
Be a victor in the strife, by relying
On Christ the Lord!

will open the doors to make this happen.

Dr. Wong covets Christian fellowship and he, too, longs to visit the U. S. and Christian people. He speaks fluent English, as when he trained in Shanghai his professors lectured and the textbooks were printed in English. When I asked him how he dared to share so many of his experiences with me, he said, "It is simply history now." Both Dr. Wong's and his sons' letters to me express their deep faith and their desire for fellowship, which at this time can only be through correspondence. We did a great deal of singing in China and Dr. Wong knows many of our beloved hymns in both Chinese and English. Your prayers for Dr. Wong and his family would be much appreciated.

I know the United States isn't perfect, but we need to count our blessings. Our convenient life-style and the freedoms we enjoy are not found in most other countries. We need to be alert and strive to keep it thus.

*Mrs. Oscar Folden
Minot, N. Dak.*

ANNOUNCEMENT

The article entitled "The Dangers of the New Age Movement or Humanism" by Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom, which appeared in the June 17, 1986, issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador* is now available in tract form.

It can be ordered from: Mercy and Truth Publishers, Route 1, Box 503, Osceola, Wis. 54020.

The cost is \$9.50 per 100 or .10 each. Please allow postage.

NO AMBASSADOR NEXT TIME

According to our policy of some years, two issues of the *Ambassador* are omitted each summer. The July 14 issue having already been omitted, the second one will be that of August 25. We trust this will cause no inconvenience to anyone.

Please remember that material intended for the September 8 *Ambassador* should reach the Editor at Box 128, Newfolden, Minn. 56738 by August 15.

We trust that you are having an enjoyable, fruitful and blessed summer.
The Editor.