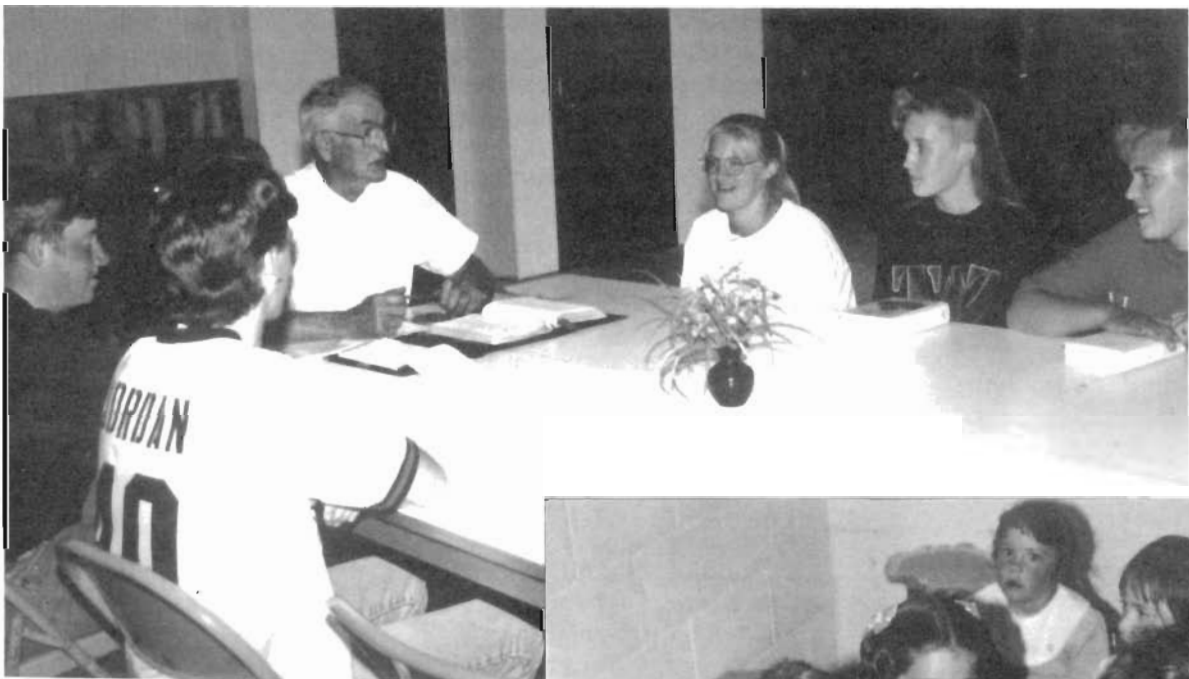
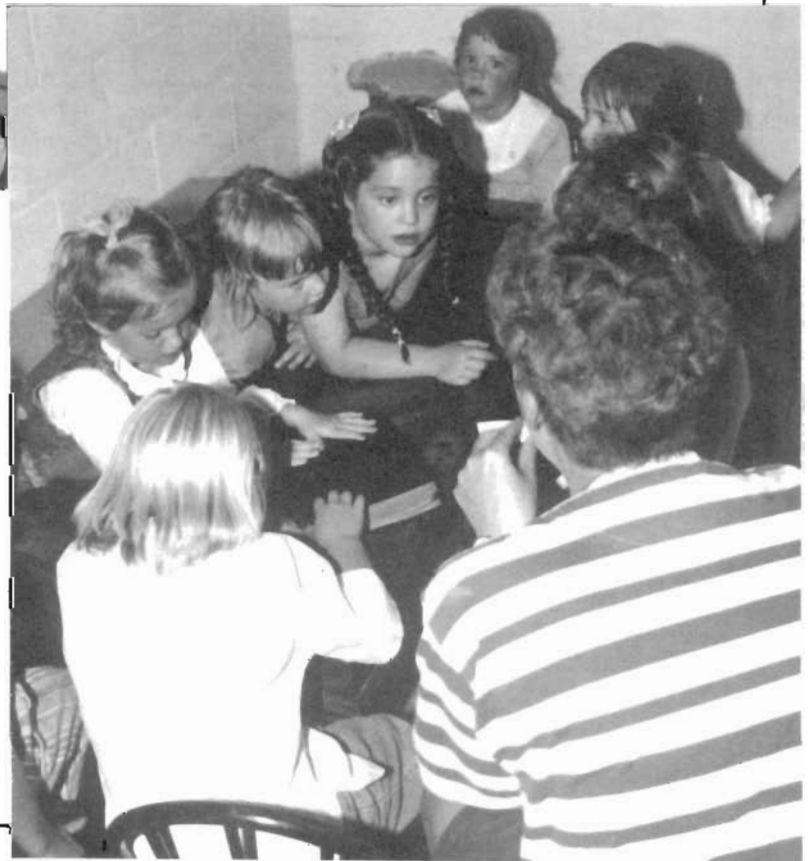


THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

August 23, 1994



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Cover photos by S. Hjermstad

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Rev. Craig Johnson, Editor
Mrs. Wayne Hjermstad, Assistant to the Editor

Editorial Board:

Rev. John Mundfrom
Dr. Craig Jennings
Mrs. Oryen Benrud

Light on the Way

When little toes wiggle

"There are different kinds of service but the same Lord"
I Corinthians 12:6.

There has been a profusion of movements, ministries, missions and parachurch organizations that have begun during my lifetime. Often these Christian entities are not directly related to any particular denomination or church body. To mention but a few: Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Campus Crusade, The Navigators, Basic Youth Conflicts, World Vision, Food for the Hungry, 700 Club, Prison Fellowship, Focus on the Family, World Mission Prayer League, Cup of Cold Water Ministries, Abiding Word Ministries, East European Missions Network, Promise Keepers, etc.

Some are known and supported by thousands of people; others by very few. Sometimes these ministries may seem like an intrusion, a threat to or competition with organized church life. This should not be surprising to us if we know a little bit of church history. Even the Sunday school originally was not church-related and was opposed by church leaders according to *Qualben's Lutheran Cyclopedia; A History of the Christian Church*.

The modern Sunday school was begun as a "new experiment" in Gloucester, England in 1780 by Robert Raikes. When William Wilberforce, John and Charles Wesley and others came and studied the experiment, they "caught the fire" and extended the movement. It grew phenomenally and in the mid 1780s reached America. Some conservative Lutherans did not trust the movement because of its doctrinal laxity, so record the

Lutheran Cyclopedia. To trust ordinary Christians, men and women who were not professionals, to teach the Word of God in a Sunday school was more than some church leaders would allow.

To handle the Word of God, read it and share it with others is without a doubt a wonderful, and to some a frightening thing. Just think! Now ordinary Christians, few people, most of whom had no knowledge of Hebrew or Greek, no understanding of the historical setting of the Bible nor skill in interpreting a text, could have in their hands an open sword! Dangerous some would say!

No doubt for reasons such as these, Sweden's Henrik Schartau (1757-1825), a strong evangelical preacher of the old Lutheran type, reportedly "strongly opposed all forms of lay preaching, all forms of free Christian associations and all free Christian activity."

But we belong, I trust, to "free and living congregations," and do not share Schartau's convictions in this regard. All of us who are truly Christians are members of the body of Christ who is our Head. Isn't it wonderful that He, the Head, can make you and me, even if we are but the little toe wiggle with new life! Vibes from that new life which is in us, which is Christ's life, can cause other parts of the Body to tingle with new life. We dare to boldly speak His Word and do deeds of love to glorify our Head! Revival in the Body causes a lot of new movements, "wiggles" to happen; yes, even Sunday schools ... and Promise Keepers. Now, Lord, what next!?

— by Odell Kittelson

Dear teachable teacher

Congratulations! Did you know that you said "yes" to the Great Commission when you returned your Letter of Call to your Christian Education Committee? What you have been called to teach is not a class of fifth graders. No, you have been called by God to teach His Word to individuals for whom Christ died. You have nothing to fear for Jesus will be with you every step of the way. Or shall I say, Jesus will be with you every class of the way.

Of course God has already put together your lesson plans. He only asks that you enjoy your time alone with Him in order to first learn the lesson for yourself before you attempt to teach it to your class. If you will study Psalm 78:1-5, you will learn God's plan and purpose for your teaching. First of all, God is telling us His truth is not to be kept from the children but rather we are to teach children to praise, respect and adore our living God. We are to teach that our God is a saving God and His way and works are wonderful.

God has also appointed and given an unchangeable Word which He has commanded, not suggested, to be taught to every generation. Why? Certainly not to discuss how we *feel* about His Word or if His Word "fits our times," but rather that each one should put their confidence in Him (a saving faith); each one should remember the works of God; and each one should keep the Word of God. It is evident God is serious about the business of teaching. There will be a **cost** for you to be a successful teacher and perhaps it can be explained in an acrostic.

■ **C** — is for commitment to Christ in a personal, saving relationship. If you only know about Jesus, you will only be able to teach your class about Jesus. But when you know Jesus as your Savior, you will be able to teach your students how to know Him as their Savior. He that winneth souls is wise (Proverbs 11:30).

■ **O** — is for out-growth or result of teaching the Word. You will see growth in Christian character in the lives of your students. You will witness the living, active, eternal Word of God being used by the Holy Spirit to bring students to true



and living faith in Jesus as well as working a growth in Christian character in the lives of students. You will be changed by this living Word also.

■ **S** — is for studying the lesson. You must know exactly the who, what, why, where, when, and how of the lesson you want to teach before Saturday night. When you know God's Word in such a dynamic and appealing way that it has first captured your heart, then your students will be captured and captivated by the living Word.

■ **T** — is for time you must invest to answer God's call to teach. You will invest time in prayer for students, families, direction and understanding. Time will be invested in training for yourself, visiting your students, writing notes of encouragement, preparing your classroom, practicing new teaching methods, personal devotions, finding resource materials, pictures and other ideas to enhance a lesson. In short, you must invest time to know your Master and know His message. And in due time you will hear the Master say, "Well done, good and faithful teacher."

May you be encouraged in the great adventure of teaching for you will be taught by the **Teacher**. He will not leave you alone in the classroom.

— by Katha Tjelta
Director of Parish Education, AFLC
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Sunday school teaching is one of the greatest opportunities in the world to serve God. But with that opportunity comes responsibility. Teaching Sunday school is different from most teaching. It involves a supernatural curriculum, the Bible; it involves a supernatural command, the Great Commission; it involves a supernatural unction and endowment, God's call and bestowal of gifts; it involves the supernatural power, the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit.

— Elmer Towns *154 Steps to Revitaliz Your Sunday School*

Educating for eternity

The importance of teaching Sunday school was impressed upon me after the sudden death of one of my students. Matt Brodland, 15, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, January 30, 1994, due to an accidental shooting. Matt's life and death touched my life and his fellow classmates.

Just six hours earlier on that Sunday, our class discussion was on Joseph and his relationship to his brothers from Genesis 50:15-21. We then compared our relationship to our family members and the need for forgiveness among each other. Matt openly shared his love for his family and his desire to demonstrate that love to them the following week. We continued on by stating the need for forgiveness not only among family members and friends, but more importantly before God. We need to be right with God to enter eternity in heaven. The Scriptures tell us, "That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation" (Romans 10:9-10).

Six months earlier, Matt had confessed his faith at his confirmation. Each student shared a Bible verse that day. Matt quoted Psalm 62:6, "He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be shaken." Matt's rock clearly was Jesus as he demonstrated his love for the Lord in his daily living.

The following Sunday, a somber class gathered to study the next lesson. The Lord's compassion towards us was so clear! The title of that lesson was: "Grief — Surviving the Death of Someone You Know." I believe God had those two stud-

ies specifically planned, as He does for our whole life. Each one in the class experienced in a new way God's loving concern for our every need.

When the Sunday school superintendent expresses the need for teachers in your congregation, do you pray for God's leading as to whether you should teach? Maybe you are one who teaches out of duty: "I guess it's my turn," or "I had better teach because my children are in Sunday school now." Perhaps you are doing it simply out of habit. May each of us examine ourselves. Am I teaching because of love for my Savior and His children?

Sunday school is a wonderful outreach and ministry within the church and community. Teachers have an awesome privilege to share the gospel and to live a Christ-like example to their students. Our students need our prayers for them all week long, not just on Sunday mornings. What joy it is to watch a child's faith grow and be nurtured through diligent use of the Word of God. Proverbs 22:6 declares to parents and teachers: "Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it."

Educating for eternity is described in Ephesians 4:12-13 in terms of "perfecting of the saints" and "edifying of the body of Christ." Paul encourages growth towards the "perfect man ... unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Through our difficult experience last winter, I realized more than ever the responsibility of being a Sunday school teacher and the need to educate for eternity! Ira Stamphill wrote: "I don't know about tomorrow ... but I know Who holds tomorrow, and I know Who holds my hand." Teaching our children is educating for eternity; today may be our last opportunity.

— by Kathie Klenner
Salem and Immanuel
Lutheran Parish
Freeman,
South Dakota

Dwight L. Moody probably had no more than a fifth grade education, and yet he never stopped learning. The Sunday school, more than any other organization, influenced and prepared him for a life of future service. It was through a Sunday school teacher, Edward Kimball, that he experienced conversion to Jesus Christ. It was in the Sunday school of the First Baptist Church that he met his bride-to-be, lovely Emma Revell. It was the Sunday school that nurtured and developed the raw gifts possessed by the dynamic evangelist.

The place of the Sunday school cannot be overstated in the life of D.L. Moody. He credits another Sunday school teacher with his awakening to the worth of a human soul.

One of his teachers was terminally ill and deeply concerned for his class of 12 to 16 slum girls. Not one of them had been led to Christ, and now he had been advised to leave Chicago for a milder climate. Moody was captured by the teacher's compassion and volunteered to accompany the

dying teacher to visit each pupil. They visited pupil after pupil, with miraculous success, as each girl professed faith in Christ. Moody was overwhelmed. He had never witnessed such concern and such a response. Moody later said that up to that time he had been "numbers" conscious but henceforth would be "soul" conscious.

Soon Moody was spending less and less time selling shoes and boots and giving more and more time to sharing the gospel with the needy.

— George Sweeting
Donald Sweeting
Lessons from the Life of Moody



My most memorable class

My most memorable Sunday school class was the first Sunday our family worshiped at Atonement Free Lutheran Church. The opening to the class was fully age-integrated and led as "Bible Class."

After beginning with praise music, the pastor asked: "What has God done in your life this past week?" The members proceeded to share the joyful and challenging blessings that had been experienced that week. The class was then guided to the Bible verses members had memorized during the week. Various verses were volunteered by those four years old to senior citizens.

This Sunday school class impressed me for several reasons: the praise music, real testimonies of God touching lives and then the encouragement of memory work. Our family had found a church where not only the people carry their Bibles and hear Christ preached, but each person is encouraged in their daily Bible reading and living at one with our loving Savior!

— by Tamara Henry
Atonement Free Lutheran
Arlington, Washington

The five-year-old in my Sunday school class came from an unchurched home. He quizzed me a great deal as the Bible stories were presented. He listened attentively. He was learning that God loves him and cares for him on a daily basis. Jesus was made known to him as he grew in understanding God's plan of salvation. At the end of the session as I was collecting material from the desks, he came up to me and hugged me around my legs. "I love you," he said. "Are you God's wife?" A bit startled but always willing to answer any child's question, I responded: "No, I am His child." He looked up at me for a moment and cheerily replied: "So am I."

— by Lois Holscher
Kindergarten teacher,
Christ Lutheran
Savannah, Georgia

Diverse cultures but common spirit

Third International Lutheran Bible Institutes/Schools Conference held at AFLBS campus

It was a special gathering at the Association of Free Lutheran Bible School campus during July 7-13. It was the first time the International Lutheran Bible Institutes/Schools Conference was held outside of Europe. Nearly 50 people registered, representing 14 countries. Though languages and cultures were diverse, the unity of fellowship and spirit was obvious as each delegate departed better equipped and encouraged in the work of the Lord.

They gathered around the theme: "We have this ministry by the grace of God" from II Corinthians 4. The week featured nine lectures such as: "The Book and the Spirit" by Lars Olov Eriksson from the Johannelunds Teologiska Insti-

tut in Sweden and "The Existential (Personal Encounter) and Foundational (Objective) Bible" by Svein Granerud of the Inner Mission Bible School in Norway. AFLC Schools' faculty members Dr. Francis Monseth and Dr. Craig Jennings lectured on "Lutheran Principles on Evangelism" and "The History of American Christianity and Lutheranism" respectively. Numerous workshops were held throughout the week. These sessions focused on practical and specific issues such as: "Communicating Lutheran Piety and Lifestyle in an Age of Secularization" by Dr. Klaus Schulz from the Missions Seminas des Ev. Lutheran Mission in Lowe, Germany. Raimo Makela, Finland, and

Roselinde Paessler, Germany, led a forum on how to find and exchange Christian literature and ideas.

AFLBS Dean Donald Greven was the host. He was assisted by a Bible School BARNABAS team and the schools' staff to meet the needs of an international conference. They quickly discovered some unique challenges. European paper is longer and narrower and does not fit in American copy machines. Since currency exchange rates change hourly, only a downtown Minneapolis bank can service those transactions. It was discovered, however, that the division created by the cultural differences is not as great as the unity found in Christ.



Dr. Trygve Skarsten, United States.



Rev. Connely Dyrud, AFLC Missionary to Brazil and Rev. John Kururia, Kenya. Aid Association for Lutherans awarded a \$3,530 grant to AFLBS enabling them to host the conference.

AFLTS

Three students are studying Greek I at the seminary. The summer class began July 18, and is taught by Peter Burton.

On July 25, twenty-three students began a week of intensive classes on biblical counseling,

UPDATE

ministerial acts and the cults. The following week, thirty-two students took classes on Revelation, doctrine of the church and AFLC history and aims.

On September 7, AFLTS begins

its new school year with ten confirmed students.

AFLBS

On September 12, the Bible School begins its Fall Quarter. Registered are 60 first year students which includes 10 internationals and 40 returning students.

A Hungarian vision

World Missions

He is a determined man with a vision. Hardship and sadness seem only to have sharpened a gentle spirit and deepened his desire to bring Christ's love and peace to his beloved homeland. At age 17, Bulcsu Szell found the joy of knowing Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. From that time on, his life has been one of service to his God. He is today one of Hungary's spiritual leaders.

After surrendering his life to the Lord, Bulcsu Szell studied at a theological academy. Military duties caught up to him. It was while in uniform for the communist government that he began conducting secret worship services. "Many young people asked questions and several came to know Jesus," he added with a smile. "That was good training for me before I began to pastor a congregation."

One of his first congregations was in a village known to be in the center of the Communist Party in Hungary during the 1970s. Revival fires spread in spite of the pressure to choose the party over Christianity. Rev. Szell exclaimed: "That was a wonderful experience!" Though at one time forbidden to preach by his bishop, he simply prayed and worked harder for the Lord.

Five years ago freedom returned to this landlocked nation in central Europe. The big change, he said: "Is what we used to do in secret, we now do freely. The heart and mind of the people did not change. Even many of our church leaders continue to not be spiritually deep and evangelistic. We are open now so the cults and sects are moving in and our battle is against religious people, not those who are non-religious."

During these five years, he, his wife and five children have served a congregation in the Budapest metropolitan area. Beginning with



only 20 people attending worship services, the congregation has grown more than five times as people are coming to know Jesus. Another congregation has begun in a nearby suburb. "People are beginning to see that you can be Lutheran and have the joy of the Lord burning in a mission heart and life," Pastor Szell explained.

The need is so great. Pastor Szell conducts Bible classes to train people how to share their faith in their own communities, but he sees that people need more training. Already an organization, the Fellowship of Lutherans for Gospel (EKE), is in place from which a Bible school could begin.

EKE has been a source of encouragement to evangelical pastors for 18 years. Over the years they have met for Bible study and prayer, sponsored summer family conference, chemical dependency counseling and other special meetings. Today there are 30 pastors and lay leaders working together in EKE under a five-member board, one of whom is Rev. Szell.

This organization shares a vision for beginning a Hungarian Bible school with four aims, according to Pastor Szell. "We

Rev. Connely Dyrud, AFLC missionary in Campo Mourão, Brazil, was one of the featured speakers at the Summer Conference on Global Health Care on August 6, in Bloomington, Minnesota. The conference was sponsored by Global Health Ministries which has recently approved an expansion of the Health Care Center in Campo Mourão. The addition is for an isolation ward for the infirmary. Pastor Dyrud is in the United States for a short furlough during the summer months.

Rev. David Abel, AFLC missionary to Brazil, expects to return to Vitoria on August 30th. Medical reasons prevented the Abel family from returning earlier. Pastor Abel plans to begin a new work in a suburb of Vitoria. Their mailing address remains the same.

desire to teach people how to live Christ in their communities, to have fundamental Bible teaching, to train in evangelism and missions and finally to train lay leaders for ministry in their local congregations. Along with Bible classes," he continued, "We need courses in music, youth work, preaching, practical ministry to the elderly and Christian education."

Bulcsu Szell's vision for a Lutheran Bible school in Hungary is not one that can be realized easily, but that is nothing new for a man and a people used to putting their faith on the line knowing it could cost dearly.

— by Solveig Hjermstad

Editor's note: East European Missions Network (EEMN) is working with EKE and has participated in their conferences, etc. EEMN is a Bloomington, Minnesota, based mission. AFLC pastor Don Richman is the director.

WORLD MISSION NEWS

The World Relief Commission (WRC) — announced that a matching grant of \$1,500 will be provided for AFLC emergency relief to the village of Pothurulan-ka, Andhra Pradesh, India, which was devastated by a fire on May 10. The only church in the village is supported by our sister association in India, which mobilized to meet the needs of many people who were left homeless.

Missionaries Larry and Mae Johnson, Monrovia, Liberia, had the recent privilege of attending the dedication service for the completion of the New Testament in the Kisi language. They began working with the Kisi people in 1973 as missionaries with the Lutheran Bible Translators. "The Kisi work we started is a great task, so we need to put even more effort into it now," said Rev. Fallah Bimba, a 70-year-old pastor who has been a key figure in the translation effort since it began in 1973. The Old Testament is now being translated. The Johnsons call Grace Lutheran, Valley City, North Dakota, their "spiritual home" and sent three children to AFLBS.

Bible Translation Sunday is September 25 — "God's Word at Work" is the theme for this year's Bible Translation Sunday to be celebrated on September 25. Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) is inviting Lutheran congregations to give thanks to God for the ministry of Scripture translation through this special observance.

"We want to celebrate how God's Word works in the lives of those how are receiving it for the very first time in their own languages," comments Dr. Paul Muench, Executive Director. "Through Bible translation, the message of I Peter 1:23 is coming true every day. People are being born again through the living and enduring Word of God!"

Worship material available this year features a booklet of mission related children's messages to use in Sunday schools, Christian day schools and children's sermons. The materials are not dated so they may be used on any Sunday. For a free sample packet, write to Lutheran Bible Translators, Box 2050, Aurora, IL 60507-2050 or call 1-800-53-BIBLE.

To the Editor:

The Pukwana-St. Olaf, South Dakota parish has experienced the force and truth of I Corinthians 12:26: "... and if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it." On Mother's Day this past May, two sons of the Dennis Plooster family were riding in a car with their aunt. Their car collided with a semi-trailer and the aunt, Sandra, and Chad, the 16-year-old Plooster son, were killed instantly. Jarrod, 11, was found to be alive by a medical doctor who was the first to arrive at the accident scene.

Jarrod spent the next eight weeks in a Sioux Falls hospital in intensive care with a severe head injury and numerous bone fractures. He currently is in a rehab hospital in Gardner, Kansas, where he has shown signs of continued but slow progress. His parents, Sandi and Dennis, have been with Jarrod continually, with the exception of attending Chad's funeral. This trial has severely tested their stamina and faith. Yet by God's grace, they have stood. I am reminded of Jeremiah's testimony: "When he has tried me, I shall come forth as gold" (Jeremiah 23:10b).

The Ploosters have one older son, Travis. They are active members of Pukwana Lutheran. On behalf of the Pukwana parish, I

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Al Brazier at the wheel of the PMO bus. For more information contact Al Brazier, Rt. 2, Box 338, Greenbush, MN 56726. (218) 782-2456.

Eagle Butte, South Dakota — Pictured is Florence Schuler of Emmanuel Lutheran Church showing one of 30 homes being built by former president Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, along with more than 1,400 volunteers who participated. This was Habitat for Humanity International's most ambitious project ever during the week of July 17-23 on the Cheyenne River Sioux Indian Reservation. Habitat for Humanity International is a Christian ministry which builds houses for people who can not afford usual mortgage arrangements. The organization has built 30,000 houses worldwide since 1976. Throughout the spring and summer, advance project personnel and volunteers have worshipped at Emmanuel Lutheran.

letters to the editor

ask you, our AFLC family, to please include the Ploosters in your prayers. Jarrod's recovery will be a long, slow process. If you wish to write and encourage this family, their Kansas address is Jarrod Plooster, Room 101, Meadowbrook Hospital, 427 West Main Street, Gardner, KS 66030.

Rev. Wes Johanson
Pukwana, South Dakota

To the Editor:

I wish to commend the members of the *Ambassador Hymnal Committee* for their very excellent endeavors which has led to the publishing of the new hymnal. During my years as a pastor in the Lutheran Church I have seldom seen a hymnal which can be so highly recommended for worship services in the congregation, Sunday school, personal and family devotions and for Christian instruction.

I believe the *Concordia*, which in some ways was the predecessor to this new one, was very good. However, with the inclusion of Luther's Small Catechism, additional orders for worship, special services and the Augsburg Confession, the new *Ambassador Hymnal* is the very best hymnal for Lutheran congregations and

homes available today! It answers the need for a thoroughly Lutheran book. I recommend the book to every family and congregation in the AFLC. It is a good book for all occasions!

The use of this book should be a great help in the spiritual growth of our people. It is my hope that this new hymnal will rapidly replace the variety of hymn books previously used by the congregations. In this way it can be a true blessing.

Rev. Robert D. Giles
Laveen, Arizona

To the Editor:

It has been interesting to read the letters to the editor in response to the articles on evangelism in the April 19 issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador*. I have not been able to see in those articles what some of the letter writers think they have seen.

I was asked to write an article entitled "What is Evangelism." I tried to do that from the biblical perspective, limiting myself to the topic. I was not expressing any opinion on the need for specific evangelists. Evangelism embodies much more than that.

As I was working on the assignment I had access to a large Bible dictionary with a long article

explaining the Biblical usage of the term or word "evangelist." I did not have space enough to quote directly from this article but quoted it indirectly when I wrote that the word evangelist never refers to an office but to a function. That function is proclaiming the gospel. Some evidently disagree. The point is that calling oneself an evangelist, or being chosen by someone to be an evangelist, does not make one an evangelist. To be an evangelist in the Christian sense you must bear the good news of Jesus by word and life. Philip was called an evangelist in the early church, not because he was chosen to be one, (the Bible does not say that he was) but because he was preaching the gospel, even going from city to city. Biblically, to be an evangelist you must have the right message. I find it hard to disagree with that.

The work of an evangelist has fallen in disrepute. Many so-called evangelists have been leeches on the church, self-serving in their work, living lavish lifestyles, not glorifying our Lord but feathering their own nests. The devil has made good use of such. They say and do just enough good to hide their basic purpose, and to get support from unsuspecting believers. The world sees this and smirks, some thinking that all Christianity is a racket and sham.

Some evangelists have been a great blessing to me. In the '30s a radio evangelist was used of the Lord to bring me to assurance and on the road to Kingdom service. My pastors were always key persons in my spiritual development. A biblical evangelist could be a great blessing in our church. I am not in a position to know if such a gifted man is available, or that now is the time to take action. I hope in the discussions no one gets close to the tragic and grievous thought of who is greatest in the Kingdom of God.

Rev. John Strand
Remer, Minnesota



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AALC holds convention

St. Paul, Minnesota — The American Association of Lutheran Churches (AALC) met June 15-18 in St. Paul for their General Convention. They adopted a 1995 budget calling for an 11% increase, with special emphasis on planting new churches. Nearly half of the AALC's 95 congregations have formed during its seven-year history and mission congregations are currently in various stages of organization in a dozen cities.

The convention focused on the meaning of the young church body's foundational doctrine that the Bible is God's inspired, inerrant, infallible Word and on the nature of the Holy Spirit's work today. Discussion centered

AFLC gets grant

Minneapolis, Minnesota — The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations has been awarded a \$15,000 grant from Aid Association for Lutheran (AAL). The money will pay consultants to help evaluate and enhance current gifting programs of the church body. The grant was awarded through AAL's Church-wide Grants Program which provides financial support to Lutheran congregations and their institutions.



Ishpeming, Michigan — Pictured is the treat made with Rice Krispies held by some of the Hope Free Sunday school children last Palm Sunday. The children listened to the Easter story before enjoying the visual treat.

on the understanding of the term "Inerrant."

There was also general agreement that the AALC is unfairly portrayed in some quarters as a "charismatic" body, but not on how this perception should be corrected. Apparently differing views on these matters were referred to a special study committee charged to report before next year's convention.

The convention put off plans to expand the faculty of the American Lutheran Theological Seminary, which opened in St. Paul in September 1993. Dr. Theodore Jungkuntz, who had been proposed as an additional faculty member, asked that his name be withdrawn. This will allow time to continue a seminary fundraising effort and for the study committee to work.



Minot, North Dakota, The two Bethel Free Lutheran basketball teams played each other in the championship game of the Minot Christian Athletic Association Basketball League on April 28. This was the first time in the

league's history that two teams from the same church played one another in the championship.

This was the second year that Bethel had fielded two teams. Bethel also won the league tournament back in 1991.

our lives to him. What commitment does God desire?

a. Matthew 22:37 _____

b. Romans 12:1-2 _____

Discuss what these verses mean and how we can put them into practice.

What a responsibility, opportunity and privilege God has given us as believers! But He has also placed within us the power, through His Spirit, to do His will. All glory to God!

"Thank You, Lord, for your cleansing and empowering so our lives can be used for your service. Help us to reach out and bring others into Your Kingdom. Give us hearts truly burdened for the lost."

Making it personal:

This month, let's think of the many who have confessed Christ but have not dedicated their lives to serving Him. Bring them before God in prayer. Encourage and include them in the things you do. Maybe they're just waiting to be asked.

THE BURNT OFFERING

Now we come to the last of the five regular offerings. The first two — Sin and Trespass — were required of one who wanted atonement for his sin. The next three — Peace, Grain, and Burnt — were offerings given to God as a sweet aroma of obedience, honor and thankfulness to Him.

1. Why was this called a Burnt Offering?

a. Leviticus 1:9, 13, 17 _____

This was the only offering where all the meat was burned. None of it was eaten. In all the other offerings, a portion of the meat belonged to the priests. This was God's provision for their daily needs. **All** of the Burnt Offering was "a sweet aroma to God," which means it was pleasing and acceptable to God.

b. What was offered?

(1) Leviticus 1:5 _____

(2) Leviticus 1:10 _____

(3) Leviticus 1:14 _____

You will notice the offering depended on the ability of the individual to give, from the rich to the poor. But each had to give the **best** they could afford.

c. Requirements: Leviticus 1:3

(1) What kind and condition? _____

(2) Who must bring it? (vs.2) _____

(3) Present it where? _____

Again as in the others, the individual brought the animal, put his hand on

its and killed it. The priest sprinkled the blood all around the altar.

d. How do we know God accepted this animal in the individuals' place?
Leviticus 1:4 _____

2. Now we're going to look at some of the first offerings recorded in the Bible. Who made them and for what reason?

a. Genesis 3:21 _____

(Consider what was necessary in order to obtain skins.)

b. (1) Genesis 4:4 _____

(2) Hebrews 11:4 — What lessons do we learn from his example? _____

c. Genesis 8:20 _____

d. Genesis 8:20 _____

(1) Discuss why you think Noah and Abraham did this.

(2) What is the difference between empty ritual (dead works) and joyful service (living faith)? Discuss.

Let's study a different kind of Burnt Offering.

3. a. Genesis 22:1-2 _____

b. What was Abraham's reaction? Genesis 22:3; Hebrews 11:17 _____

c. What was Isaac's reaction? Genesis 22:9 _____

d. What did God do? Genesis 22:13-14 _____

OUR SUBSTITUTE

4. Compare these verses to God and His Son Jesus Christ.

a. What was needed as a perfect sacrifice?

(1) II Corinthians 5:21 _____

(2) Hebrews 9:12-14 _____

b. What did God do? John 3:16 _____

c. What did Jesus do? Hebrews 10:9-10 _____

d. When we have done **our** part (repented of our sin and trusted Jesus as our substitute), how can we be **sure** that His death takes our place and our sin is completely forgiven? Isaiah 43:25 _____

**"GOD SAID IT — I BELIEVE IT —
THAT SETTLES IT!"**

The Offering of Our Lives

5. When you and I personally have received salvation through faith in Jesus, our grateful response should be the burnt offering of total dedication of

Mentor, Minnesota — Maple Lake Free Lutheran held its 100th anniversary celebration on July 2-3. The weekend activities were well attended. Saturday evening's fellowship time featured Gwen Johnson Kraft as the guest speaker. Rev. Ken Moland, Kirkland, Washington, returned to his home congregation and preached at the Sunday morning service. The afternoon speaker was Rev. Bruce Dalager, Grand Forks, North Dakota, along with another former pastor, Waldeemar Anderson, Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Rev. Anderson had the rare privilege of being the pastor of Maple Bay at the time of its 50th anniversary celebration and returning for both the 75th and now the 100th anniversary.

Pastor Anderson laid the cornerstone for the present church building and his successor, the late Rev. Karl Stendal was the pastor during the time when the building project was completed in 1948. Other AFLC pastors who have served the congregation are the late Harry Molstre, Gary Skramstad, Forrest Swenson, Stephen Odegaard, Bruce Dalager, Roy Johnson and Lynn Kinneberg, the present pastor.

Willmar, Minnesota — Zion Lutheran Church voted on June 28 to officially disband the congregation in September. Organized in 1963 by former members of the Lutheran Free Church who were opposed to merger, Zion is a downtown area church that has experienced declining membership in recent years. The present pastor is Rev. Henry Johanson, who has served in Willmar since 1985.

Rev. Lyle Aadahl, Upsala, Minnesota, accepted a call from Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Kasson, and Zion Lutheran Church, Dexter, Minnesota. Pastor Aadahl resigned from Word of Life Lutheran in Upsala, where he has served since 1989. The Kasson-Dexter parish, currently served by interim pastor Jan Horne, will welcome their new pastor in August.

Address changes

Rev. Brian Pearson, 288 Sherman Avenue, Montgomery, IL 60538.

Rev. Tim Hinrichs, Ruthfred Lutheran Church, Patterson and South Park Roads, Bethel Park, PA 15102.

Rev. Jim Johnson, 1651 - 113th Avenue NW, Apt. 310, Coon Rapids, MN 55433; phone 612-767-2192.

Rev. Walter Johnson, 937 Swift Street, Shakopee, MN 55379.

Rev. Dan Klug, 23 Forrest Court NW, East Grand Forks, MN 56721.

Rev. Ray Klug, P.O. Box 182, Blackduck, MN 56630-0182.

Rev. Wes Langaas, 115 Apple Tree Court, Thief River Falls, MN 56701.

Rev. David Molstre, 3760 Germain, Camarillo, CA 93010.

Rev. Michael Peterson, Route 1 - Box 5K, Pleasanton, TX 78064.

Rev. Victor Young, 129 Lake Avenue North - Box 354, Spicer, MN 56288.

Bagley, Minnesota — The Message of Hope Free Lutheran Parish is looking for a full-time assistant to the pastor. Duties will include assisting with the youth work, some pastoral work and office work. The salary is negotiable. Send applications to Message of Hope Parish, Box 119, Bagley, MN 56621.

Rev. Fred Faughn, Paducah, Kentucky, has accepted a call to serve St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Metz, Michigan. St. Peter's Lutheran voted in June to affiliate with the AFLC. Pastor Faughn was received through colloquy with the Coordinating Committee onto the Fellowship Roster. He previously was affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS).

Rev. Gaylord Gartman, formerly of Warroad, Minnesota, has been removed from the Fellowship Roster of the AFLC, effective June 15, 1994.



Arlington, Washington — On May 15, Atonement Free Lutheran received four new families into membership. During the same service, two young people were confirmed. Pastor Richard Long is pictured in the upper left.

Frontier, Saskatchewan — Bethel Lutheran held a community service during a recent festivity which featured the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Musical Ride. Frontier, population 400, hosted 2,600 people during the weekend activities.

Elbow, Saskatchewan — Elbow Bible Camp will be the site of a week of AFLTS extension classes from September 26-30. Rev. Phil Haugen, Culbertson, Montana, will teach a New Testament class and a video on "The AFLC's History and Aims," taught by Rev. Robert Lee will be the courses.

PEOPLE AND PLACES—

Rev. James Winter, Calgary, Alberta, recently announced his resignation as pastor of Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, where he has served since his ordination in 1990. He and his wife, Lorene, plan to volunteer as short-term missionaries in Brazil, beginning in the fall.

Douglas Wagley, 1994 AFLTS graduate, has accepted a call from Bethany Lutheran Church, Spokane, Washington, where he will begin his ministry in late summer.

Rev. Alvin Magnuson, Aberdeen, South Dakota, resigned as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, effective August 31, 1994. Pastor Magnuson has served Grace since 1990. His future plans have not been finalized.

Rev. Jan Horne, Mount Morris, Illinois, is the interim pastor at Mt. Sion Lutheran, Kasson, and Zion Lutheran, Dexter, Minnesota. Formerly an ELCA pastor, Rev. Horne has been approved for call to an AFLC parish through

colloquy with the Coordinating Committee.

Rev. Terry Wold, Murrieta, California, has been removed from the AFLC clergy roster at his own request.

Rev. Yeddo Gottel, Golden Valley, Minnesota, resigned as pastor of Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, where he has served since 1981, in order to begin a colloquy program with another Lutheran church body.



McVie, North Dakota — A surprise dinner was held last spring at New Luther Valley Church to honor Rev. Wesley and Donna Langaas on their birthdays. Pictured is the log cabin design quilt which was presented to them. Each white block of the quilt represents a family of the congregation. Pastor Langaas has since moved from the McVie-Bindford parish to serve in Thief River Falls, Minnesota.



Reva, South Dakota — New members at Slim Buttes Lutheran are Iver and Bev Heier and family and Greg and Pat Waldie and family.



Tucson, Arizona — Pictured are the charter members of Body of Christ Lutheran Church. This young Home Mission congregation is seeking to call a pastor along with their sister congregation, Living Word, after their former pastor, Rev. David Nelson, left to begin his missionary deputation work.



Lake Bronson, Minnesota — Pictured are the youth that gathered for the Work Retreat Day at Galilee Bible Camp May 7. The Northwestern Minnesota District youth officers organized the day filled with Bible study, painting, hauling shingles and a softball game. A local Lutheran Brotherhood branch assisted in the expenses.

Dreams can come true

We can now see it with our eyes. We can hold it in our hands. But I remember when it was only a dream.

A seminarian and some others had the dream that the AFLC could produce its own hymnal. They envisioned a book that combined the best of Lutheran and gospel hymnody along with other worship resources. They believed the need was real. The potential for producing something of true service to Christ's Church was great. If God wanted the project completed He was most certainly capable of providing all that was needed. They dared to dream.

Some saw the limited resources of our church body and little else. Others knew how potentially divisive the subject of church music can become. It seemed impossible that widespread agreement could be reached on what to include in such a book. It was thought the dream could never come true.

We praise God for giving some people the dream a number of years ago and then providing the means so the dream could now become a reality. We rejoice in the worship resource now available to us in *The Ambassador Hymnal*. We also should give thanks for the reminder we have been given of the importance of dreaming and having confidence in God.

It has been noted that often children beginning their educational experience in kindergarten have a great deal of confidence in their ability. When asked if they can draw something they quickly say, "Yes, of course." Later in their elementary years this confidence often disappears. The same children now question their abilities and do not believe they can do a thing. Some have seen this as an indication of a problem in our educational system. Children are being told what they cannot do without being given a vision of their potential.

We in the church must be careful we do not make a similar kind of mistake. The Apostle Paul was inspired by God to say, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13). The young person who wants to change the world for Christ should be trained and encouraged and not put down as naive and idealistic. The new Sunday school teacher who is excited about the opportunity to serve should not be showered with discouragement from those who have seen little fruit in their many years of labor and are convinced teaching those kids is a waste of time. The one proposing the new idea should not be immediately shot down with the missile labeled: "It has never worked here before and it won't work now."

A new hymnal in the AFLC did not come into

being years ago when it was proposed. Possibly, that was just not God's time. Now seems to be. The new teacher in your Sunday school may be God's person. The new idea may be God's plan. It may not have worked before, but it may work now. "All things are possible with God" (Mark 10:27).

It could have been me

It could have been my picture on TV this summer. There is no reason why not. It just happened that I was born in this country. I did nothing to earn it. Instead of being surrounded by more material things than is probably good for a person, instead of having the opportunity to eat more food than I should, instead of never knowing real hunger, I could have been born in Rwanda, Africa. It could have been my picture on TV as one of the over a million refugees that are suffering and starving this summer.

I do not cry very often, but I was moved to tears while watching the TV news and seeing, especially the children from Rwanda dying, simply because they do not have enough food and water. I look at the abundance I have and wonder how I could ever imagine that I am underpaid. I ask, "Why is it so different for me?" It would be disgustingly foolish and arrogant to think it is because I have worked hard and deserve all that I have. Have I worked harder than that African mother? Am I more deserving than that Rwandan child? Not at all. It is simply grace, God's undeserved favor, far above my ability to understand.

How then should I respond to the pictures I see? The answer to that question is between each individual and God. For all of us we should be moved to prayer for those who are hurting as well as greater thanksgiving and amazement at the blessings that have been showered upon us. An honest consideration of what we have and what we need must be made, leading to us giving, not just what we feel we must to soothe our conscience, but what we can in the way that will be most effective. And then let us consider if God would have us give of ourselves, to leave our land of abundance and our comfortable surroundings, and go and serve Him in some way in some part of this hurting world. May Jesus say of us, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink ... I was sick and you looked after me ... Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 9:35, 36, 40).

Hindu priest makes decision for Christ after seeing "Jesus"**BANGALORE, India (EP) —**

Recently, in an Indian village four hours outside of Bangalore, a local Hindu priest became a Christian after giving permission for the "Jesus" film to be shown on the temple wall.

The priest, who was also the town mayor, joined the crowd of more than 500 to watch one of the first showings of the film in the Lambadi language. At the close, he was among the dozens who raised their hands to indicate their desire to know Jesus.

"You are welcome here," he told them repeatedly, inviting the "Jesus" film team to come again and show the "Jesus" film.

Often called the "cave people" of India, the Poojari tribe emerged only a few years ago from their dark dwellings to live in mud huts. They recently came in unexpected contact with the outside world through the "Jesus" film, the first film they had ever seen.

Considered among the most remote tribes in India, the 500 Poojari viewers that night had never before heard of Jesus Christ, according to Paul Eshelman, director of the Jesus Film Project. "Whole families came to Christ, and person after person told me that no one had ever before come to tell them about Jesus," said Eshelman.

Between now and the year 2000, 24 mission agencies and denominations in India will be working to bring the story of the one true God to people groups throughout the vast nation. These Christian organizations have joined the India Project to show the "Jesus" film to the nearly one billion people of India, and to work cooperatively to plant churches that will continue to nurture those who choose to become Christians.

The film is being shown in 34 Indian language translations by 210 film teams. Approximately

75% of India's masses understand one of those languages.

RIBERALTA, Bolivia (EP) —

A Bolivian missionary team is building a boat to be able to reach 22 river towns with the gospel, according to Christian Aid mission. Serving Jesus Christ Mission (SJCM) recently learned of a number of communities near the Brazilian border that had never been reached with the gospel, and decided to add another boat to their fleet of four gospel boats in order to contact those communities. The five-ton boat is being built by the missionary team. "Our ambition is to preach the gospel in even the most remote places in our nation," said Eliodoro Loras, director of the ministry. Loras began the ministry in 1971 when he bought his first boat from retiring Canadian missionaries. The four other gospel boats travel several Bolivian tributaries to the Amazon River.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) —

Former all-star baseball pitcher Tim Burke is the first inductee into the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) Fatherhood Hall of Fame. "The way Tim Burke is living his life is a perfect example of how we expect fathers to treat their children — as their number one priority," said Dr. Wade Horn, NFI director. Just before starting his ninth year in the major leagues, Tim Burke retired from a

successful baseball career to spend more time with his wife and four children — three of whom have special needs. Burke said, "This honor means a great deal to me, more than most awards. I was blessed as a young man, and the Lord gave me baseball talent. But there's no greater blessing than my wife and four children. To be honored for being a good father, that's the most important 'all-star' team I've ever been named to."

WHEATON, ILL. — In response to requests from the Clinton Administration and other private voluntary organizations, World Relief has taken on responsibilities as the lead humanitarian agency assisting Haitians taken to Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba.

Along with World Relief, several agencies are providing counseling, literacy and job training programs and tracing services to the 16,500 Haitians at Guantanamo Bay who fled Haiti by boats, and World Relief is coordinating the work of all the agencies.

World Relief is also providing immediate care for the thousands of orphans among Rwandan refugees in eastern Zaire. World Relief is working with CEBZE, the Community of Baptist Churches in Eastern Zaire, to secure land for the orphans as well as children who have become separated from their families in recent refugee exodus.