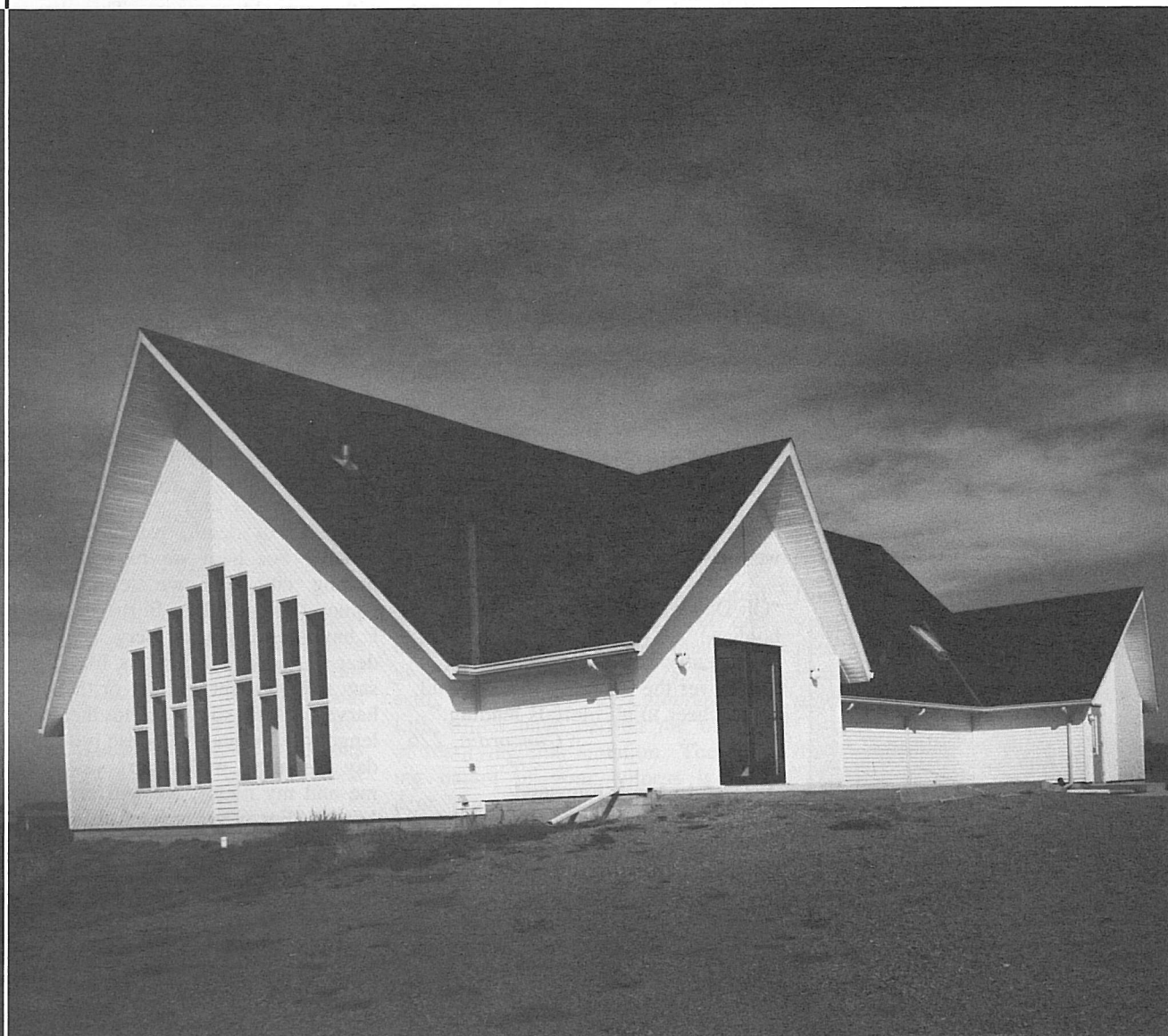


THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

December 18, 1984



Redeemer Lutheran Church, Canton, South Dakota
Story on p. 6, 7

MISSIONS USA: "We're here because of the Word"

—Canton layman at informational meeting, 1982

AT THE MASTER'S FEET

Lay Pastor Gustav Nordvall



God is faithful

At the Year's End

As the year comes to its end, we reflect upon it with some mixed feelings. There will be feelings of satisfaction and regrets, disappointments and gratitude. To each of us, any or all of these feelings will be a reality.

One thing is certain, our clocks and calendars could not hasten or delay the days of the year. They are only measurements of time, measurements important to man alone. The rest of creation moves along by the day and season, never stopping to evaluate or ponder. 1984 with her 366 days seemed so substantial at the beginning. Now it's history! Any

hour I've lost between some sunrise and sunset is lost forever. Whatever mistakes I have made, I cannot erase. Where I have failed, I cannot undo.

"Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is, that I may know how frail I am" (Ps. 39:4). What a comfort we find in Deut. 11:12: "The eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it (the land), from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year."

Each day is a gift of God and we are accountable to Him for how we use it. "It's not only the things you do but the things you leave undone, that will bring a bit of heartache at the setting of the sun."

But we are so thankful to the Lord for the days He has given, filled with His grace! We have had the opportunity to discover riches and joys that we had not known before.

"Oh Day full of grace, which we behold,

Now gently to view ascending;
Thou over the earth thy reign unfold,
Good cheer to all mortals lending."

Concordia, 226

A Time to Look Forward

As the last minutes are counted and the clocks strike at midnight, a shout will ring out throughout the land, "Happy New Year!" A new hope stirs within us! It is a time to leave the old and shake off things that bind. It is a time to forgive, to remember the good and the beautiful and to go forth with a new purpose. Emerson wrote these lines, "You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; you

shall begin it well and serenely, and with too high a spirit to be cumbered with your old nonsense. This day is for all that is good and fair. It is too dear, with its hopes and invitations, to waste a moment on the rotten yesterdays."

Confidence

After the death of Moses, God spoke to Joshua. He said He would be with him as He had been with Moses and that He would not fail him. "Have I not commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." The Lord will be with us! Those evils which never happened, don't let them pain you any longer! Appropriate His grace into your life!

In life or death, we have confidence. "For here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come" (Heb. 13:14). In the past year I have seen people very near and dear to me slip from this life. They saw their last springtime, or their last harvest. And so we echo the challenge of Joshua, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve . . . as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." "For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's." So in that confidence we face the unknown tasks joyfully and strive to spread happiness by helping a brother along the way.

Finally, I am thankful for the opportunity to visit with you, dear readers, through this page, to meet with you at the Master's feet. We wish you all a blessed New Year. God be with you always.

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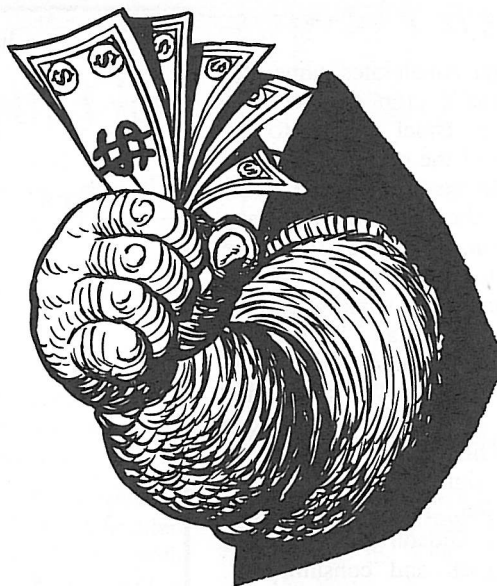
Volume 22 Number 24

"More" in '84—

DECIDE FOR '85



by Rev. Lyndon Korhonen,
Culbertson, Montana



If in these last few days of 1984 you were given the assignment to summarize the way you lived 1984, what word would you use to describe your lifestyle? Now be honest! How about the word "more!" It seems that the longer I live and the more I am honest with myself, I recognize within me the desire for more. After almost one and a half years in the ministry, my flesh is still battling for control every day. It wants what it sees. I believe the word "more" summarizes what the flesh really wants, no matter what area of our life we are dealing with.

The first example I have seen of how the flesh wants more is in little children. Our son is soon going to be two years old. He has been a joy to have in our family, but also he has taught me much about the flesh, that old nature that we are all born with. When we sit down at the table and his little eyes begin gazing over the meal, many times the first word that will come out of his mouth is, "More." I try to tell him that he hasn't had some first, so how can he have more, but he doesn't quite get the picture yet. We tend to laugh at our children and their ways sometimes, but how about when we look at your life this past year. What is the "more" you have wanted? How many times have you wanted more? Someone has said that boys and men never lose their desire for toys; the

toys just get bigger. Has this been a year where you have been content with the vehicle that meets your needs best, or has it been a year when the new model caught your eye and you found all sorts of reasons why you should have a new one? Of course, by now you have forgotten about the \$2000 dollars you wasted by having to buy it on the spot. You thought you couldn't live without it. Maybe it would be more honest to say your flesh could not live without it.

Now, I doubt whether it is only the males of the human race who have these desires for more toys. Women, has this been a year when you had to have your husband make more room in the closet for all your new garments? You just couldn't live unless you had that dress or blouse? Maybe the flesh couldn't live without it. Are we being too picky in our Christian walk when we start dealing with new clothes or new gadgets that we really don't need? I would say yes if we were the ones who owned our own lives. Maybe somehow in the busyness of everything we have forgotten that when we have Jesus Christ as our Savior, it means He is to be in control of all our life, including the way we spend the pay check.

Do we in the AFLC really take seriously what the Word of God says about how we are to live this Chris-

tian life? The Apostle Paul beseeches us by the mercies of God (Rom. 12:1) to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. Have we forgotten that Jesus Christ gave His life that we might live? God has given the most precious gift, which we are celebrating this time of year, to be our Savior from eternal destruction in hell. Oh, we don't have any rights to our own lives. As Christians we are God's property; we are to offer ourselves back to God as a living sacrifice. Someone has said that the problem with Christians being living sacrifices is that they keep crawling off the altar. That is the flesh; that's my flesh. When it costs something to stay on the altar for God to use me, it wants off the altar. Would you dare admit that you have that problem? You want more?

There was a man in the Old Testament who had the problem of wanting more. In this case it had to do with seeing more signs to really believe God had called him for the task. The man is our hero from Sunday School, Gideon. Gideon was used of God, but his desire for more led Israel away from God after his death.

The record begins in Judges 6. Israel was under the oppression of the Midianites. In verses 3 and 4, the

♦

"MORE" . . .

Midianites and Amalekites came and destroyed Israel's crop. In verse 7, the children of Israel cried unto the Lord because of the oppression of the Midianites. In verse 11, there came an angel of the Lord unto a man named Gideon. In verse 16, "The Lord said unto him, 'Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.'" Verse 17 says, "And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in Thy sight, then shew me a sign that Thou talkest with me." Gideon doubted, so he asked for a sign. In verse 21, the sign was given. The angel touched the present of Gideon and fire came out of the rock and consumed it. Now you would think one sign from God would be enough, but not so. Gideon, in the end of chapter 6 of Judges, asks for two more signs: One for the fleece to be wet and the other for the ground to be wet. What was the end of this mighty leader for God who had to have the three signs? After the battles were over, Gideon was asked to rule over the people. He resisted that and said, "The Lord shall rule over you" (Judges 8:23), but then he did ask for one thing from the people: their golden earrings from the Ishmaelites. Do you know what Gideon did with this gold? He used it to make an ephod (a garment of the high priest) and he "put it in his city, even in Ophrah: and all Israel went thither a whoring after it: which thing became a snare unto Gideon, and to his house" (Judges 8:27). Gideon made himself to be a

"Where is your desire for more things leading your children?"

kind of high priest by this ephod and it led Israel to spiritual adultery: devoting themselves to two gods rather than the one true God through God's high priest. Gideon started out asking for more signs from God and God gave them to him. Gideon had victories for God and was used by God, but in the end he led Israel away from God.

light on the way

"After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands"

(Rev. 7:9).

I want
to be
in that
number

We often sing: "How blessed is the little flock, Whom Jesus calls His own!" And this is not only a beautiful fancy, that these are blessed. The Bible reiterates this truth: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance" (Ps. 33:12). But it is always a source of sadness and regret that this flock is so little. Why not a great host? God is love, and He will have all men to be saved, and come unto the knowledge of the truth. Why do so many reject God's wonderful grace?

In the midst of sadness over this fact that the flock is so little we are reminded of the "great multitude."

Where will your desire for more things lead you? Where is your desire for more things leading your children? America is in debt up to its ears because we aren't satisfied with what God has given us. Our problem is usually not that we don't have enough money, but that we spend it for more clothes or gadgets that only too often take time away from God. Maybe you have had wonderful victories for God in the past, when your heart burned with a desire to serve Christ, but now there are quite a few things you would like to have, so the missionaries who are waiting to go out to the field will have to wait until you try to satisfy your flesh one more year. Do we not have enough money available for the work God

has called us to do in the AFLC? No, the money is available, God has blessed us. The problem is our fingers have become sticky and instead of passing on God's financial blessings to the areas of work, we are filling our garages and our closets with toys. Where is it leading us? The desire for more is leading us to spiritual adultery just like the desire for more in Gideon's life led Israel to spiritual adultery. Did you try and serve two masters in '84? Don't try it again.

Was it more, more, more in '84? That is gone, but '85 lies ahead. Decide for '85. Will you allow God to use you in building His kingdom or are you going to keep adding to your own kingdom here on earth?

The work of the Holy Spirit

It is the work of the Holy Spirit to persuade the sinner to look away from himself and his attempts at improvement, and to look to Jesus only; it is the Holy Spirit's work to create the belief in the heart of the sinner that he is acceptable to God solely because Christ has redeemed him; it is the work of the Holy Spirit to produce in the heart of a sinner that confidence in God that God will accept him and make him His child and forgive him all his sins solely for the reason that Jesus has died for him; it is the work of the Holy Spirit to persuade the sinner to believe that he is saved by grace only. And when the sinner believes this then the work of the Holy Spirit is being accomplished in him. It may well be that he is not conscious that the Holy Spirit is doing His work in him. The Holy Spirit does His work just the same regardless of whether man knows it is the Holy Spirit's work which is now being done and regardless of whether the Holy Spirit receives any credit for His work or not – if only Christ receives thanks for His work.

—J. N. Kildahl,

Ten Studies on the Holy Spirit,
Augsburg Publishing House.

Our sadness is turned to deepest joy as we in hope lift our souls to gaze through faith beyond this life into the great beyond, where we see that the "little flock" has grown into a "great multitude." It is a countless host made up of "all nations, and kindreds, and peoples, and tongues." These are they who have left this world of conflict and strife, and have reached the perfect home of love and light. They are all saved, all blessed, all perfectly blissful – all one glorious, harmonious whole.

No, Christ did not die in vain for sinners. He has a glorious reward for His suffering and bitter death, for the sight of this bridal host will through all eternity requite His soul. How has this great host reached home? Only by washing their robes white in the blood of the Lamb. They came to God with their burdens of sin, and He removed their guilt. That, and that only, explains why they are now permitted to encircle His throne of Glory.

Are you going to be in that great white host?

Have you washed your robes in the blood of the Lamb? If your heart is grieved because of your sin, if you are longing for Jesus because you

cannot live without Him, if it is your heart-felt wish to be numbered with that "great multitude," then rest assured that you shall be there, even though you feel that you are most unworthy of all.

**Lord, gather us
there; let none we
love
Be missed in the joys
of heaven,
Vouchsafe Thou us
all a place with
Thee;
We ask through our
dear Redeemer."**

—Søren Dahl

(Courtesy, Tract Mission)

I SHALL NOT PASS AGAIN THIS WAY

The bread that bringeth strength I want to give;
The water pure that bids the thirsty live;
I want to help the fainting day by day;
I'm sure I shall not pass again this way.

I want to give the oil of joy for tears,
The faith to conquer crowding doubts and fears,
Beauty for ashes may I give away;
I'm sure I shall not pass again this way.

I want to give good measure, running o'er,
And into angry hearts I want to pour
The answer soft that turneth wrath away,
I'm sure I shall not pass again this way.

I want to give to others hope and faith,
I want to do all that the Master saith,
I want to live aright from day to day;
I'm sure I shall not pass again this way.

John W. Hutchinson
(*Youth's Favorite Poems*)

When we give to God

by Rev. Gordon Grage,
Brandon, Minn.

Just having been elected to our AFLC Home Missions Committee in June, the needs of our Home Missions have become very clear to me. Attending the All-Boards' meeting at the Association Retreat Center in September, I was reminded of the man, recorded in John 5, who had been an invalid for 38 years. He was by the Pool of Bethesda, waiting for the stirring of the waters. Jesus asked him, "Wilt thou be made whole?" He answered Jesus, saying, "Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming another steppeth down before me."

December has been designated by our AFLC as Home Mission Month. When budgets aren't met, the Home Mission Committee is confronted with the same sad fact as this man told Jesus. He had no one to put him in the pool. When people ask for help to start a new congregation, as the budget isn't met, that answer must be, that we cannot help you at this time.

In the area of giving, many of us pastors are guilty of not preaching on stewardship in the way we should. Many of us in our AFLC don't even like to hear a message on giving. Do you realize how much our Lord Jesus speaks about this matter of giving? In the New Testament, there are over 1,500 times giving is mentioned. That means one verse out of six in the New Testament talks about the Christian and his money. Nearly half the parables that Jesus told are about our relationships to possessions.

In I Corinthians 15, the Apostle Paul tells about the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and the great hope, the victory, we have in Him. He tells us, because of this, ". . . be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." Then he goes right into the 16th chapter without hesitation and says, "Now concerning the collection . . ." Paul had a concern for souls.

Look what happens when we give to God. It isn't just paying the bills or meeting the budget. Nor is it a matter of keeping our credit rating good. The offerings you bring to Jesus make possible the salvation of souls here at home. They make possible the sharing of the Gospel with the unsaved. They make possible the starting of new congregations here at home. They also make possible the training of another generation of pastors and teachers. The money you give to God makes possible the sending of missionaries to other countries. ". . . Ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

When we look at our Lord Jesus Christ and what He has done for us, we marvel at the victory that is ours now. Then, thinking of the joy that shall be ours in our home in heaven, and remembering that He has redeemed us, "not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death," we are moved to go on with new strength and joy to serve Him with all that we are and with all that we have.

from the pastor

To our friends in the AFLC,

Because our congregation is one of your newest mission outreaches, perhaps we should tell you a little about ourselves. Many of you have asked, "Where is Canton? Is it a big town? What do people do there?"

Canton is a city of nearly 3,800 people located 20 miles southeast of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on the South Dakota-Iowa border. It is a farming community with a strong Norwegian Lutheran heritage. Sprinkled generously amid the rolling hills of corn and soybean fields are dairy, hog and beef operations.

The people of Redeemer Lutheran Church are greatly encouraged by the interest shown by the people of Canton and the surrounding community in a new Lutheran church with a conservative emphasis. The Sunday morning attendance averaged about 90 persons during the month of October. New faces appear every Sunday. We seek to be a vehicle through which people can come to know Jesus as their personal Savior. It is the prayer of this congregation that God would bless us only as long as we remain true to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Redeemer Lutheran is a mission project of the entire AFLC. It is the gifts, contributions, loans and prayers of you, our AFLC people, that make such an outreach in southeastern South Dakota possible. God is blessing this work! We are excited and we praise Him! And we thank you, friends in the AFLC, for your part in this encouraging work!

Sincerely in Christ,
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Rodger D. Olson, Pastor

"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the Word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them who are sanctified.

Acts 20:32

New Home Mission church dedicated in South Dakota

Dedication services were held at one of the AFLC's newest Home Mission projects on Sunday, October 21, at Redeemer Lutheran Church of Canton. The beautiful new worship facilities were dedicated to the glory of God and to the work of the kingdom during the afternoon service. Rev. Elden Nelson, AFLC Home Missions Director, delivered the dedication message and officiated at the dedication ceremonies. A crowd of almost 200 people attended the service.

Redeemer Lutheran Congregation was begun in January, 1983, after several families in the Canton area contacted the Home Mission Board of the AFLC. An informational meeting had been held on December 7, 1982, to determine interest in establishing an AFLC congregation in the Canton area. There were 50 people in attendance at this meeting.

On Sunday, January 9, 1983, the first service of Redeemer Lutheran Congregation was held in a vacant business building in Canton. Rev. Nelson and Rev. Robert Lee, professor at the AFLC seminary, conducted the service. Thereafter regular Sunday services were held at the same location.

On Sunday, January 30, a business meeting was held at which time the congregation was officially named and organized and a steering committee of eight men was elected, with Ron Larson appointed as chairman. Rev. Lee and Rev. Kenneth Moland, Dean of AFLBS, ministered to the congregation on alternate weekends for the next 18 months.

During the summer of 1983 a five-acre plot of land on the west side of Canton was purchased with funds made available by a loan from the AFLC Church Extension program. On October 9, ground-breaking ceremonies were held, with church construction beginning that fall. On June 5, 1984, although construction was not entirely completed, the first service was held in the new structure.

On August 1, Pastor Rodger Olson and family began their ministry in Canton as the first full-time pastor of the congregation. Pastor Olson was officially installed at Redeemer Lutheran during the morning worship service on October 21. Rev. Elden Nelson, as a representative of the AFLC, officiated at the installation.



Pastor Rodger D. Olson

the one certainty

"I find as I grow older," said George Sverdrup not long before his death, "that I need fewer *certainties*. When I was younger, I wanted to be certain of many things. I wanted to be able to understand and explain all the ways of God in His dealing with men. Now I find that I no longer crave assurance as to *many* things. It is enough to know the love of God in Christ, and to trust that it will not fail us, either here or hereafter..."

—Bernhard M. Christensen,
Fire Upon the Earth.

*We are in our Father's hand,
Wisely led at His command,
By His grace and to His pleasure,
We His keeping gladly treasure,
In the name of Christ, our Lord.*

**WE ARE
IN OUR
FATHER'S
HAND**

*Heirs with Jesus Christ above
Are we through our Father's love,
By His grace and to His pleasure,
We His keeping gladly treasure,
In the name of Christ, our Lord.*

*Sharing in His life and light,
Peace and glory, truth and might,
By His grace and to His pleasure,
We His keeping gladly treasure,
In the name of Christ, our Lord.*

N. F. S. Grundtvig
(Hymnal for Church and Home)

world mission news

Building purchased for India orphanage

"Without vision, the people perish"
(Proverbs 29:18).

A few years ago the people of the AFLC resolved at an Annual Conference to establish an orphanage ministry in India. Their sincere desire was to establish a ministry of mercy in this needy country and to combine this with a Gospel outreach. Also, to the government of India an orphanage ministry has "redeeming value" and gives credibility to our church's ministry with its country.

However, the goal was not an easy one to reach. First, valuable contacts needed to be made in India. This takes time. During the past five years Pastors Richard Snipstead (President of the AFLC), Eugene Enderlein (World Missions Director), and B. Rao Dasari (On-the-Field-Director), traveled to India to train workers, install pastors and evangelists, conduct services, and encourage the new members and friends of the Bible Faith Lutheran Church of India.

Secondly, the money needed to be raised to purchase a site for the BFLC Headquarters and Orphanage. Our people of the AFLC responded grandly during the Twentieth Anniversary year with generous offerings toward this worthy endeavor.

More time passed. Undergirding all of these preparations was the most vital ingredient of all: prayer. Our people prayed for God's timing in this endeavor, for enough funds to complete a purchase, and for God's perfect will in leading us to His choice of a land site.

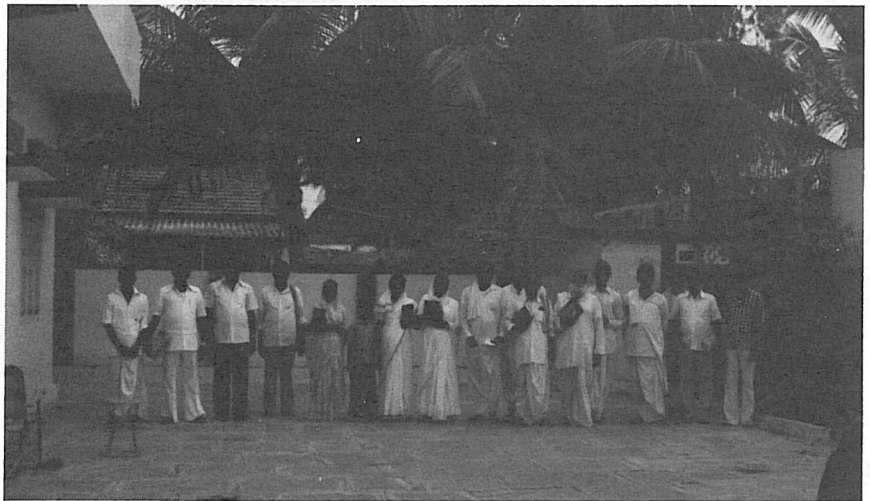
During the recent summer of 1984 God led Pastor Dasari to a fine plot of land on which is constructed a rather new nine-room building. By God's grace our BFLC has been able to complete the details for the purchase of this site. We are happy to

announce that we have taken possession of this land and building and will be using it for our India Orphanage. Thanks be to God!

This building was originally built by another Christian organization for an orphanage ministry; however, this organization had to pull back its outreach and concentrate in another area. It seems that God saved it for us.

The building is made of reinforced concrete, and the roof was reinforced to sustain two additional floors if needed. Six rooms have mosaic-tiled floors and three have slate floors. Lavatories are outside. City water runs adjacent to the property. However, a well is on the property.

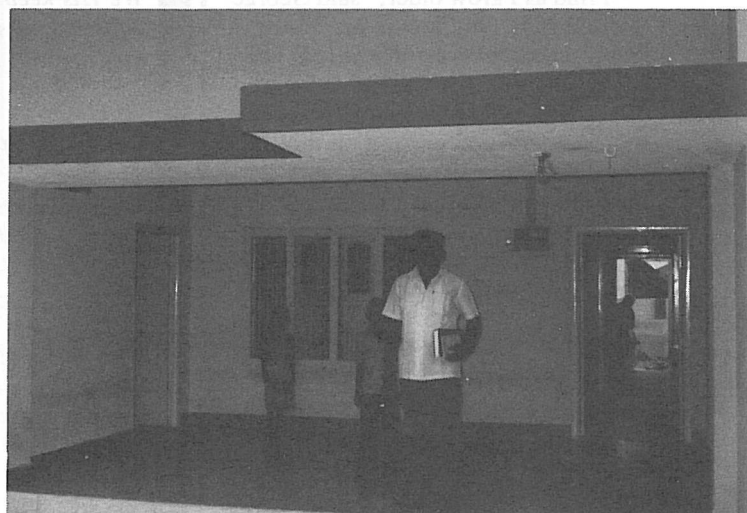
Our new site in India is located in the large city of Guntur, just two and
(Continued on p. 11)



Bible Men and Women



The Orphanage



The interior of the orphanage

editorials

THANK YOU, PASTOR NORDVALL

It seems but a short time since we were introducing Pastor Gustav Nordvall as our new devotional writer in the *Ambassador* and already it is time to say thank you to him and welcome another pastor as writer.

We are all grateful to Pastor Nordvall for sharing his insights into God's Word and recollections from his own life, and weaving them together into devotional messages which have been easy to read and soul-uplifting. Thank you for writing for us these past months.

At an age when many men leave active ministry, Lay Pastor Nordvall seems to go rather by the adage that it is better to wear out for the Lord than to rust out. He does have an idyllic spot from which to launch out in serving his two congregations, Oiland and Badger Creek. We speak of his lifetime home on the southern slopes of Minnesota Hill, half a mile from Canada, and northwest of Roseau, Minn.

Our new writer is another man who is not content to rest on his laurels even though he has surpassed the age of 65 also. He continues to find ways to be involved in the Lord's work and another new endeavor has come upon him, the writing of the devotional articles for the *Ambassador* in the first half of 1985. We are referring to Pastor Amos O. Dyrud of Minneapolis. Missionary to Madagascar for 20 years. Dean of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary for ten years. Teacher. Pastor. Current chairman of the World Missions Committee.

And those of us who know him much at all associate the devotional life with him. For that reason, too, we are glad that he has consented to be our writer in the series "At the Master's Feet" for the next six months, beginning next time. The Lord bless you as you share with us, Pastor Dyrud.

SO MUCH TO DO

With three months to go in the fiscal year of the Association, 51 per cent of the budget goal for benevolences had been reached with three-fourths of the time gone. That left the church with so much to do in a short time. When you read this there will be just over a month before the fiscal year ends.

We like how income this year has quite consistently run ahead of last year's in percentage of goal reached. That's good, but the needs are so great. There is so much to do.

There is a growing sentiment in the AFLC that a careful look must be taken at our work together and the goals we set. Goals seem to be outstripping performance by more than they should. It is good to have ambitious goals, but how realistic have ours been lately? That seems to be the question in people's minds.

If ever our boards and committees needed wisdom it is now, as they plan budgets for 1986-87. If ever the Budget Analysis Committee needed wisdom it is now, as it stands between the congregations and the next annual conference and makes recommendations.

But for the immediate future, these next few weeks, it is important that we as a church fellowship do the best that we can to give the monies our agencies are counting on getting because the conference, on faith, recommended certain goals. A shortfall will bring a message, to be sure, should that be what happens, and it will also hurt our AFLC work, how much depending on how large it is.

It is evident, too, that the congregations must do everything they can in the future to send in offerings earlier in the fiscal year. Quite a few congregations give the tithe or more of their Sunday offerings to benevolences. These churches especially are in a position to send in their gifts to the benevolent causes monthly or quarterly.

Be as generous as you can be, individuals and congregations, in supporting our AFLC work in these weeks to the end of January. There is so much to do—but it can be done.

YOUTH WORKER

A letter came across our desk this past fall urging financial support from the Luther Leagues of the project of securing a part-time youth worker in the AFLC. This would mean the separation of the youth worker position from that of the evangelist.

Annual conferences have supported the concept of a youth worker numerous times. Now it is a matter of getting the support and finding the right man for the job.

We want to encourage this goal and this search. Local Luther Leagues, get behind this effort. Put the youth worker item on your schedule of responsibilities, both for contributions and prayer. If there are 100 Leagues, the average gift needed would be \$50 per year to meet the modest objective of \$5000. Perhaps there are more than 100 Leagues.

Don't put off your decision on this. Act on it now. It is time to get going on the matter of a youth worker.

THRILLING NEWS

It is thrilling news that Bibles are getting into Russia and other Eastern European countries in greater numbers than in many years, yes, since Winston Churchill's "iron curtain" descended after World War II.

And they are not being smuggled in ala Brother Andrew, but will come in to Russia, for instance, with the approval of the authorities. (See ABS news release on the subject elsewhere in this issue.)

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Letters to the editor

OFF MY CHEST

Good to see Mr. Conservative writing some spicy editorials. Thanks. I'd like to comment on "What Kind of Life?" (Nov. 6 issue). You ask, "But are we getting near those who desperately need help?" I'm afraid many perish while Christians only "try to think this matter through" year after year! My conscience for the unloved led us to become foster parents some years ago. You can get close to the problem but not by some remote control. Are you willing to hug a youngster? Put your head on his and discover a week later you have head lice? You ask the clerk for something for it and she nearly drops dead. You massage the little head while he laughs. He's been so itchy and irritable. You didn't know why.

Or the social worker at her wits' end drives up with a girl. On New Year's Day. Her mother just tired of her. No place in the county for her. Help! Okay. She stays four years. We get paid \$70.00 a month for her. We're told by onlookers, "Foster parents do it for the money." In more bad conscience I send part of it away to support a Compassion Child. But it turns out our girl steals. Relatives quit coming so often. They can't stand the brats in your home. You don't go so often any more either because one aunt claims she's stolen her antique watch. You give her money so she won't have to steal. Merchants call, "You're kid is on the street again." Nice neighbor growls on the telephone, "Sure don't like that trash you're bringing into the community." You hope she won't become pregnant too soon.

You try. You think you've made progress. But the damage is so great to the child that who knows what's really happening. One wonders should she have been born? You see we're so incensed by abortion that we forget the depraved precedings and the ones responsible.

The child who finds himself homeless because of death and illness is fortunate compared to the ones who are "fruits" of violence and indifference.

On the spur of the moment I see a possible way our people could help more. What are Christians going into Christian schools for? Aren't they already the most blessed on earth? Are they going to create heaven? If you can afford private education, you can afford a needy child. Get out of that cozy sunlit haven and give it to someone who needs it. Christians

EDITORIAL . . .

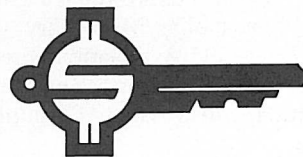
Further, the Slavic Gospel Association, Inc., informs us that it will assist in the "legal printing" of over 50,000 Bibles and Christian books in Eastern Europe. Assurance has been given that there will be no restrictions on distribution.

The old devil doubt comes and whispers, can this really be true? These organizations say it is so, speaking for what they know. They're moving ahead in faith and hope.

How do we respond to these opening doors in Russia, Eastern Europe and China? Do we ever get down on our knees and thank God? Remember the days when the Iron Curtain was so formidable? Yes, it still is, but there are some possibilities and for those we should praise God.

As copies of Scripture are distributed where there has been such a scarcity of the Bible for so long, they will be received as precious jewels and clasped as what they are, the Word from God. God bless the distribution plan. God bless the people who get Bibles for their very own. God make them radiant witnesses to others in societies which are still very difficult ones in which to follow Jesus.

And here in the U.S. and Canada, where we have our own Bibles, maybe many copies of it, let us take one of them in our hands and try to feel how those believers are feeling now as they get a copy of their very own, and let us say a prayer of thanksgiving for what is happening and also ask that our own devotion to the Word will multiply many fold.



HE HOLDS THE KEY

Christ alone knows the coming year. He holds the Key. There are many things He could tell us about it, but we cannot bear them now. He will lead us into it step by step. That is better than seeing the distant scene.

"I know not what the future hath
Of marvel or surprise;
Assured alone that life and death
His mercy underlies."

—Doran's Ministers Manual

should be doing battle, not living in retreats, nursing their little emotions along. Somehow the Jesus I know is out lifting people from the gutters, cleansing the filthy, not telling flanelgraphs all day to kids who can recite them backwards. Your light will shine brighter in a dark place.

I suspect that if you can't hug someone else's little misfit, can't house a questionable stray, can't have coffee with that illegitimate mother down the road (of course she didn't do it alone), you are not Pro-life at all no matter how inerrant you are!

But I must be a little kinder. To parents and grandparents grieving for your own families, do all you can to love them. I know what it's like to hear a child proud of decent grandparents when he has nothing good to recall about his parents.

I have written most severely about a harsh subject. But along the way, you hear the sobbing in the room above you at night. You could kick the parents, especially the father! You cry, too. It's not really you the child wants, but somehow you fill the gap. You can't live with a child and not learn to love.* They leave. Your memories remain. You pray. Once in a while you hear a word. Oh, and don't be too hard on the social workers. Like police, they see your quiet community from quite a different peep-hole.

Sure. Quit thinking. Get involved with someone. Jesus did! It cost His life!

*Some children learn to give love in return.

—Mrs. Gustav (Susan) Nordvall
Roseau, Minn.

ORPHANAGE . . .

one-half miles from the center of the city. The lot is 325' × 300' and is located in a rather new and very nice neighborhood.

We praise God for His blessings upon our AFLC mission outreach in India and for the open door of ministry which He has set before us.

Our work continues to go forward in India. Some workers have been replaced by new workers. A very successful women's retreat was con-

Our missionary birthdays and addresses

birthdays

Abel Family (Brazil)

1. David March 3
2. Janet July 30
3. Tamara November 18 (1977)
4. Robert May 22 (1981)

Abel Family (Brazil)

1. John December 13
2. Ruby July 5
3. Nathanael October 31 (1960)
4. Priscilla March 18 (1962)

Dasari Family (India)

1. Bhushana Rao September 12
2. Karuna September 22
3. David December 5 (1966)
4. Paul October 18 (1968)
5. Esther October 23 (1971)

Dyrud Family (Brazil)

1. Connely March 16
2. Carolyn August 7
3. Shannon May 30 (1968)
4. Christina April 13 (1971)
5. Victoria May 30 (1973)
6. Chester September 8 (1975)

Flores Family (Mexico)

1. Samuel August 24
2. Esther February 23
3. Febe September 13 (1949)
4. Milton December 29 (1950)
5. Leticia April 17 (1954)
6. Aglae August 31 (1956)
7. Alba September 26 (1957)
8. Luddim April 20 (1970)
9. Heber November 22 (1971)

Knapp Family (Paraguay)

1. Charles September 13
2. Joyce April 27

ducted during the summer by Mrs. Dasari. The ladies of our churches in India are currently studying the Bible study course on principal characters of the Bible, a WMF study originally written by Mrs. Enderlein in 1972, and recently enlarged and translated by Mrs. Dasari. Mrs. Dasari is also working on the translation of more WMF Bible studies written by our own ladies.

Pastor and Mrs. Dasari and their children, David, Paul and Esther, ministered in India all summer, and are now in the United States. Pastor Dasari is visiting churches of our AFLC before he returns to India in January.

3. Rebekah November 9 (1979)
4. Rachel June 27 (1981)
5. Phillip March 12 (1984)

Knapp Family (Brazil)

1. George April 15
2. Helen February 24

Knapp (Brazil)

1. Carol January 28

addresses

Rev. David Abel

Caixa Postal 242
29100 Vila Velha, Espirito Santo
Brazil, SOUTH AMERICA

Rev. John Abel

Caixa Postal 414
Curitiba, Parana
Brazil 80,000, SOUTH AMERICA

Furlough Address

%Mrs. Edgel Hitterdal
P.O. Box 97
Hitterdal, Minn. 56552

Rev. Bhushana Rao Dasari

D. Satyanandam
5th Line Kannavarithota
Guntur (P.O.&D.T.)
Andhra Pradesh, INDIA

Minneapolis Address for Dasari Family

2760 Norwood Lane
Plymouth, Minn. 55441

Rev. Connely Dyrud

Caixa Postal 44
87300 Campo Mourao, Parana
Brazil, SOUTH AMERICA

Rev. Samuel Flores

Apartado Postal 756
Leon, Gto., MEXICO

Miss Carol Knapp

Caixa Postal 44
87300 Campo Mourao, Parana
Brazil, SOUTH AMERICA

Rev. Charles Knapp

Caixa Postal 843
CEP 85.890 Foz do Iguacu
Parana, Brazil, SOUTH AMERICA

Rev. George Knapp

Caixa Postal 44
87300 Campo Mourao, Parana
Brazil, SOUTH AMERICA

THE WOMEN'S PAGE



Officers of the Eastern North Dakota District WMF are Mrs. Karen Knudsvig, Mrs. Linda Mohagen, Mrs. Carol Haugen, Mrs. Grace Larson and Mrs. Beverly Flickenger.

N. Central Minn. Rally

Union Lake church of rural Winger hosted the Fall Rally on October 20. There were 74 ladies registered. Pastor and Mrs. Mark Antal, Bemidji, led the morning and afternoon Bible studies.

Mrs. Louella Karevold and Mrs. Clara Quam were elected to the vice president and treasurer offices.

Eastern Montana-Western N. Dak. Retreat held

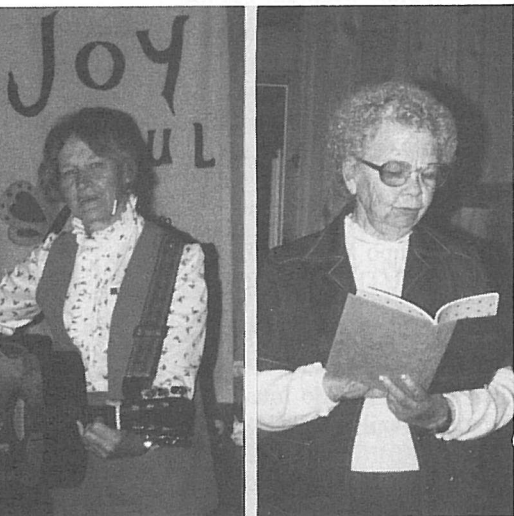
In the beautiful lodge at Upper Missouri Bible Camp, on October 19th and 20th, twenty-one women of the Eastern Montana-Western North Dakota District of the WMF came together for an event we won't soon forget. We've just experienced our first retreat, and what a blessing it was!

A local Christian woman led us to take a closer look at ourselves as individuals and to recognize that we each have worth, not because of what we do, but because of who we are. We are God's children and in His sight of great value. (We don't need to prove ourselves by rushing around like Marthas all the time!) "He loves us just as we are, but too much to leave us that way."

Sister Idelle Clark of Williston's Mercy Hospital staff, endeared herself to us in the thirty short hours she shared of herself and what she knows about God's Word. Through her expert teaching, she brought us new insight about many of the best known stories of Scripture. Her excellent film library enriched the study times.

The highlight came on Saturday afternoon. We viewed "In Remembrance of Me", which concerned the Lord's Supper and the disciples that shared it with Christ. The film depicted three of the disciples as people much like ourselves. This tremendous film prepared us for Holy Communion in a very unique way. The Communion service was led by Pastor John Rieth of Williston.

—Submitted by Mrs. LeVern Jorgenson



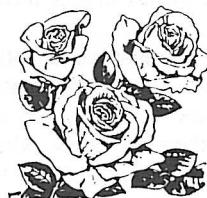
Mrs. Grace Syverson, Mrs. Chet Halvorson

Women's Missionary Federations

In memoriam gifts

Lester Lauks, Hilda Rose, Jesse Jones, Valley City, N. Dak.; Milton Back, Ray, N. Dak.; Ole Brua, Salma Ramse, McIntosh, Minn.; Anna Felt, Shevlin, Minn.; Annie Hartman, Gay Langsjoen, Dalton, Minn.; Eileen Gohrick, Ruby Martinson, Tioga, N. Dak.; Lena Tvinnereim, Roslyn, S. Dak.; Jennie Aasness, Wallace, S. Dak.

*Blessed
be their
memory*



CHRISTMAS

Christ—Have you tried Him? He will help you.

Heaven—Is not sold by a real estate dealer. It's free.

Rewarder—God will reward you according to your life.

Informor—God will inform you through His Word.

Savior—Jesus was born to be your Savior.

Truth—Jesus said, "I am the Truth."

Master—You can serve only one master.

Assurance—You can have blessed assurance.

Salvation—Is free to everyone.

Helen Swenson
Boscobel, Wis.

*O God our help
in ages past,
Our hope for
years to come*

Tune: Duke Street

Concordia No. 24
Isaac Watts, 1719



The Reformation in England followed the philosophy of Calvin rather than that of Luther. Like Luther, Calvin favored congregational singing; however, he sided with the more radical Zwingli, rather than Luther, as to the content of singing. He insisted that only the Scriptures, and primarily the Psalms, were suitable for Christian singing, and it should be in unison and unaccompanied.

The influence of John Calvin on the Church of England resulted in pale and impoverished hymnody in England until the time of Isaac Watts nearly 200 years later. Because Watts was able to break the paralyzing reign of Old Testament Christianity, he is regarded as "The Father of English Hymnody." Ironically, it was his paraphrasing of the Psalms that won for him the title. It was done with fidelity to the spirit and teaching of the Psalms, but in the language of the completed redemption, the resurrected Christ, with the color and expression of the New Testament. This was a great departure from the severe and long-standing rule that the Psalm must be literally and meticulously rendered when sung.

It began while Watts was an 18-year-old voicing his displeasure with the psalm-singing in his father's church. There were no hymnals and the old practice of "lining-out" the Psalms was used (a layman would read a line of a psalm and the congregation would sing it.).

(Historians have commented on the conditions of which Watts was critical. It seems the laymen clerks were not at all equipped or qualified for their responsibility, resulting in disinterest and humorous, embarrassing and irreverent behavior, including casual conversation or sleeping and snoring during the psalm-singing.)

The young upstart was challenged by his father to write something better so Isaac wrote a hymn which was

sung at the service the following Sunday night:

Behold the glories of the Lamb
Amidst His Father's throne;
Prepare new honors for His Name
And songs before unknown.

The hymn prophetically introduced evangelical hymnody to Christian worshipers in England. It met with such favorable reception that within two years the youthful poet had written 200 hymns, nearly all based on or paraphrases of Psalms. How fortunate for the Church that his ability was directed toward the creation of Christian hymns.

The *Concordia* is accused of being too provincial (too Scandinavian, too German). Actually, about two-thirds of its hymns are of English or American authorship. Of these, 11 are Watts'.

"Give to Our God Immortal Praise" is based on Psalm 136.

The other Watts hymns are:

35 From All that Dwell Below the Skies

132 Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

142 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

164 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

178 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (also 183)

184 Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed

290 God Is the Refuge of His Saints

320 O That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

375 Begin, My Tongue, Some Heavenly Theme

379 How Shall the Young Secure Their Hearts

All that is known of John Hatton, composer of "Duke Street," is that he was born in Warrington, England, lived part of his life on Duke Street, Lancaster, and probably died in St. Helens where church documents record his funeral service.

"Duke Street" is used four times in the *Concordia*: 24, 164, 203 and 416.

—Don Rodvold

*Give to our God immortal praise!
Mercy and truth are all His ways;
Wonders of grace to God belong:
Repeat His mercies in your song.*

*Give to the Lord of lords renown,
The King of kings with glory
crown:
His mercies ever shall endure,
When lords and kings are known
no more.*

*He built the earth, He spread the
sky,
And fixed the starry lights on high:
Wonders of grace to God belong;
Repeat His mercies in your song.*

*He sent His Son with pow'r to save
From guilt and darkness, and the
grave:
Wonders of grace to God belong;
Repeat His mercies in your song.*

WHAT CHRISTMAS 1983 MEANT TO ME

I feel an inner peace within myself which I never had before and that is because I finally accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior during Pastor Herbert Franz's evangelistic service in October, 1983, here at Hope Lutheran, Ishpeming, Mich. My wife had asked me many times over the past few years to go to church with her but I would say no, that I believe in God, what more do I need? But that night in October, I got up off the couch, put my coat on and went with her. She could hardly believe it. I told her that something kept telling me to go and hear this man preach. On the second night I went to the altar to make my commitment to the Lord. I could feel the Lord's presence as I came forward and poured out everything to Him. I feel so much better now (no more turmoil inside) and I feel that I can cope with my problems much better as I can always count on the Lord to help me and guide me.

Time is running out. Pastor Nash (our former pastor) said in one of his sermons that the Doomsday clock was set at four minutes before the hour and now CBS says it is now set at three minutes before the hour. I would like to say to all of you who have been praying for your unsaved loved ones — never give up. Some day it will happen as it did to me because our Lord is a living, loving and forgiving Lord, and loves us all and died on the cross for our sins.

It took 49 years for me to accept the Lord. He may not give you the same time He gave me. I asked Pastor Nash one day how many years before Christ came was it prophesied in the Old Testament and he said about 2000 years and now it is almost 2000 years since He came.

In closing I want to thank God for all His blessings. May you all have a blessed Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Paul W. Dreis
Ishpeming, Mich.

HOMECOMING

Homecomings are happy times marked by excitement, hugs and reminiscing. During the weekend I was impressed with the similarities between our AFLBS Homecoming and our homecoming some day in heaven. First of all, not everyone comes at the same time. People started arriving on campus Thursday night and kept coming even after the festivities began. In the same way, some people leave this life earlier than others and although I may not understand, I can be comforted knowing that I will see them again some day.

I also realized that at homecomings I don't know everyone, but we are united by our common love and loyalty to our school. Homecoming is a time to meet new people and start new relationships, and heaven will be the same way. All people will have a common love and loyalty to Christ and a common name — Christian.

My final thought is a sobering one. Not everyone comes to homecoming. And not everyone will be included in that glorious homecoming in heaven either. The invitation is given to all, but many won't come. My prayer is that the Lord would "be my vision" in all my life so that others would see Him in me and come to know Him, too, and be a part of the wedding banquet in heaven some day.

Denise Tollefson
AFLBS Student

Im memoriam

Key: The name of the town is the address of the deceased. Following that is listed the name of the deceased, age, date of death and the church in which she held membership.

MINNESOTA

Newfolden

Mrs. Selma Fisher, 87, Nov. 13, Westaker

(Mrs. Fisher was the grandmother of Pastors Ralph and Philip Rokke.)

Russian Christians to get Bibles

NEW YORK, NY (ABS) — The American Bible Society announces that 10,000 Bibles in Russian are expected to arrive in Moscow for distribution by the end of the year.

The cost both of production in Stuttgart, West Germany, and of taking them by road to the Russian capital, is being borne mainly by the United Bible Societies, the world partnership of Bible Societies to which ABS gives major support.

When the 10,000 Bibles are ready, a truck will transport them to Moscow, where the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the USSR, has been given official permission to import them.

Inter-Term announced for AFLTS

Rev. Francis W. Monseth, dean of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, has announced that Rev. Elden Nelson, Home Missions Director of the AFLC, and Rev. Richard Snipstead, president of the Association, will be the teachers at the 1985 Inter-Term session in Minneapolis, Minn.

Pastor Nelson will teach the first two weeks, Jan. 7-18, on "Principles of Church Growth" and Pastor Snipstead will lecture on "History and Aims of the AFLC" in the second section of the Inter-Term, Jan. 28-Feb. 1. Opening devotions at 8:40 begin each class day and the final morning class ends at 11:50.

The registration fee is \$15. There is no credit hour charge for AFLC pastors and laity, as well as present AFLTS students. A limited number of rooms are available in the dormitories at \$3 per day. Reservations for those should be made with the Bible School office (612-544-9501). Meals can be obtained at the school cafeteria.

For further information, please contact Pastor Monseth at 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441 or call 612-545-5631.

news of the churches

from here and there

Dalton, Minn.—Missionary John H. Abel of Brazil spoke at the joint parish Thanksgiving service at Tordenskjold Lutheran. An offering was given to World Missions.

Tioga, N. Dak.—Rev. Paul Nash, interim pastor at Zion Lutheran, spoke at two special services at Beaver Creek Lutheran, rural Ray, Nov. 26-27.

Roseau, Minn.—Several laymen and pastors took part in the "Life Victorious in Christ" series of meetings at Norland Lutheran, Salol, in the absence of Evangelist Kenneth Pentti, who could not be present due to recent surgery. The meetings were held Nov. 25-28.

Minneapolis, Minn.—Rev. Elden Nelson, Home Missions Director of the AFLC, spoke at the Sunday evening service at Rosedale-Faith on Oct. 7.

Brandon, Minn.—A Scandinavian Christmas festival was held at Chipewa Lutheran on Dec. 9. Rev. Joseph Aarhus was the speaker.

Badger, Minn.—Students from grades 8-12 in Badger Creek Sunday School put on a program for residents of the Nursing Home in Greenbush in November.

Stacy, Minn.—"Forgiven That Others Might Know" was the theme of a missionary conference held at Sunnyside Lutheran, Nov. 2-4. Rev. and Mrs. John H. Abel, Brazil, and Rev. Eugene Enderlein, World Missions Director of the AFLC, were the guest speakers.

Newfolden, Minn.—From the parish paper for Westaker and Bethania congregations: "A religion small

enough for our understanding would not be big enough for our needs."

Ferndale, Wash.—Jim and Marian Dixon of Action International Ministries showed slides of the Philippines at Triumph Lutheran on Sunday, Nov. 4. The couple will be returning to the Islands soon.

Churchs Ferry, N. Dak.—Antiochia Lutheran has set June 9, 1985, as the date on which its centennial will be observed. Former pastors John Rieth and Eugene Enderlein have agreed to be present for the festivities.

Mason, Wis.—Confirmation pictures from the past are wanted at West Mason Lutheran. Some people on pictures on hand are still unidentified.

Thief River Falls, Minn.—Terry Wold, son of the congregation, was ordained into the AFLC ministry at Our Saviour's Lutheran on Nov. 25. His father-in-law, Rev. David Molstre, Dickinson, N. Dak., preached the sermon at the service. Pastor and Mrs. Wold are serving Living Faith Lutheran in Tucson, Ariz.

Kalispell, Mont.—Faith Lutheran Church will mark the 15th anniversary of the beginning of its work (first service) in festivities on Jan. 19 and 20. Rev. R. Snipstead, AFLC president, will speak at the Sunday night service.

Lutherans hear life concerns at convention

CHICAGO—More than 500 participants from 16 states and the District of Columbia gathered here at suburban LaGrange-Countryside November 2-4 to consider a range of life-related topics during the third annual convention of Lutherans For Life, the pro-life organization with membership open to all Lutherans.

During an opening session President Ronald Reagan greeted the convention participants via a videotaped message. Reminding that over one million abortions are performed each year (16 million since 1972), Reagan said, "It is groups like Lutherans For Life which have carried the burden of rectifying this situation. The caring nature of your witness is evident," the President said, "and your work deserves more than just thanks and support."

On another videotaped message, Dr. Ralph Bohlmann, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LC-MS), assured the group of "... my own personal support of your efforts and actions. You serve the cause of Christ at a crucial juncture of human history," he said, "and the pastors, teachers and congregations of the LC-MS are deeply indebted to you for the fine job of educating and sensitizing you do

about the sanctity of life. Thanks from the bottom of my heart."

Congressman Henry J. Hyde from Bensenville, Ill., completing his fifth term in the U.S. House of Representatives, addressed the convention Saturday. Hyde is noted for introducing annually since 1975 an amendment which prohibits federal funding for Medicaid-financed abortions.

"I take great strength and renewal from people who are as committed as you," Hyde told the convention. "We need people to be politically involved in the pro-life movement because any pro-life legislation or discussion in Congress is directly attributable to the movement at the grassroots."

Noting that the law gives more protection to a blade of grass than to an unborn baby, Hyde encouraged heightened efforts for a human life amendment to overturn the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortions.

At the infanticide forum, presenters dispelled the notion that abortion and recent "Baby Doe" cases (where newborn babies are denied medical treatment for life-threatening conditions) are not related life issues. They also stressed the importance of peer support and public and private help for parents with mentally-handicapped infants.

Personalities

Rev. Lars Stalsbroten, the AFLC's oldest pastor at age 97, has moved with his wife to Mount Vernon, Wash. 98727, from Woodburn, Ore. Their full address is Park Village, 2725 East Fir, Space 18, Mount Vernon.

The gift of salvation

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Second-class postage
paid at Minneapolis, Minn.

If we become poor in spirit,
so that we no longer are
too proud to accept the gift
of God without money and
without price, then we shall
be prepared for salvation,
for salvation is the gift of
God through the Word that
was made flesh.

F. W. Hammarsten

THE NIGHT WHEN CHRIST CAME

T'was the night Christ came, and through the church all
around,
Hardly a person who was ready could be found.
Their Bibles were closed, they did not care,
In hope that the world would bring them their share.
The members were all hardened, all smug in their efforts,
While visions of worldly things danced in their hearts.
But Ma and her Bible, and I with mine,
Had been waiting for that Eastern Star to shine,
When out of the sky I heard the trumpet thunder.
I looked up from the Word in awe and wonder,
And then Thessalonians I recalled like a flash,
With the trump of God the dead will rise fast,
Then we which are alive here yet below,
Shall experience the rapture in a moment or so.
When to my amazement what did appear,
But a magnificent Angel, and His heavenly gear,
With a golden girdle, and feet of fine brass.
I knew in a moment, it must be Christ Jesus.
More rapid than eagles, in the clouds He came,
And He beckoned, and commanded and called us by name:
Now Wanda, now Lori, now Timmy and Sonya,
Come Clarence, come Barbara, come Joel, Charlotte,
Lola.
To the top of the heaven, to the top of the rise,
Now come away! Come away! *Come all ye wise.*
As the five virgins whose lamps were not dry,
When the Savior comes, they will mount to the sky,
So up to meet the Father in courses we flew,
With our hearts full of joy, and the Holy Spirit, too.
And then in a twinkling, I heard around the throne
The playing and singing of each saintly song.

As I moved my head and was turning around,
In the midst of the throne, my Savior I found.
He was dressed in a robe, from His head to His foot,
And His hair was snow-white, the opposite of soot.
On His right hand, seven stars were hanging,
And He looked like the sun in its strength shining.
His eyes—how they blazed! His feet how they gleamed!
A sword in His mouth, a voice like a roaring stream!
A Lamb now Lion, a Babe now King!
Worthy to be slain, now worthy to reign!
This High Priest of Heaven, had been to the earth,
Had lived among men and experienced its dearth.
His mother was Mary, His father God Almighty.
In the temple at twelve, reading Scriptures just rightly,
Had been born in a manger, but died on a cross,
And had risen again to save the lost.
In the last days, He was revealed through John,
He spoke to the churches on and on:
“I have a few things against thee,” He did warn:
“Thou hast left thy first Love, and have grown lukewarm.”
“But I love you,” He said, “and I rebuke and chasten;
Be zealous therefore, and to repent, please hasten.”
Also this He said in the book of Revelation,
“There is judgment coming and the great tribulation.”
And earlier He said in the book of Matthew,
“Be ready, and watching, for I am coming for you.”
And now, dear reader, on the night when Christ came,
Did the Lord and Savior call your name?

Dr. James C. Gerdeen
Chassell, Michigan