



# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

December 27, 1994



# Where is the hope?



# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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## Sing it!

You will find it on page 400 in our new *Ambassador Hymnal* or on page 431 in the old *Augustana Hymnal*. This gospel song is one of the many treasures that have come to us from Sweden's pietistic movement.

We do not know who wrote this hymn but we do know that the one who put the text to music was Oskar Ahnfelt (1813-1882). He was a singing evangelist, a "spiritual troubadour" of his day. E. E. Ryden writes in his book, *The Story of Our Hymns* that Ahnfelt not only "possessed the gift of composing pleasing melodies that caught the fancy of Swedish people, but he traveled from place to place throughout the Scandinavian countries and sang them to the accompaniment of a guitar."

No, we do not know who wrote the words to this hymn, but we can surely make it "our" song this New Year's Eve. We can sing it on New Year's Day and throughout the year. And please never sing only the first verse. If you must sing only one, sing the last verse! But best of all, sing all the verses with the guitar, the accordion, the piano, the organ, the auto-harp, the Norwegian string band, or just sing it only with your vocal chords! It is valid theology and valid Christian experience! Let us sing it together as "our testimony."

*I look not back; God knows the  
fruitless efforts,*

*The wasted hours, the sinning,  
the regrets.*

*I leave them all with Him who  
blots the record,*

*And graciously forgives, and  
then forgets.*

Philippians 3:13  
Psalm 25:7  
Isaiah 43:25

## Light on the Way

*I look not forward; God sees  
all the future,*

*The road that, short or long,  
will lead me home,*

*And he will face with me its  
every trial,*

*And bear for me the burdens  
that may come.*

Matthew 6:34  
Hebrews 13:5,6  
Jeremiah 29:11  
Matthew 11:28

*I look not round me; then  
would fears assail me,*

*So wild the tumult of earth's  
restless seas,*

*So dark the world, so filled  
with woe and evil,*

*So vain the hope of comfort  
and of ease.*

Matthew 14:22-32  
II Chronicles 20:29  
II Timothy 3

*I look not inward; that would  
make me wretched;*

*For I have naught on which to  
stay my trust.*

*Nothing I see save failures  
and short-comings,*

*And weak endeavors, crum-  
bling into dust.*

Romans 7:14-25  
I John 1:8,10  
Isaiah 64:6

*But I look up—into the face of  
Jesus,*

*For there my heart can rest,  
my fears are stilled;*

*And there is joy, and love, and  
light for darkness,*

*And perfect peace, and every  
hope fulfilled.*

Acts 7:55-60  
Hebrews 12:2,3  
II Corinthians 3:18  
John 1:14

— by Odell O. Kittelson

# Abounding in hope

*Now may the  
God of hope fill  
you with all joy  
and peace in  
believing, that  
you may abound  
in hope by the  
power of the  
Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:13

**H**ope. Some would challenge this word when it is used in a salvation context. Many years ago a seminary student was visiting a large evangelical church in the Twin Cities, and, as he was leaving, someone confronted him with a question: "Are you saved?"

"I hope so," was the theological student's response, inspiring the questioner to deliver a long lecture on the need for a know-so salvation, not a hope-so one.

This was exactly what the sly seminarian expected, and so he replied by reducing the well-meaning but hapless evangelist to a confused silence with such Scriptures as I Thessalonians 5:8 (the hope of salvation); Titus 3:7 (the hope of eternal life); and I Peter 1:3 (born again to a living hope).

The tactics are not recommended, but the lesson is a good one. Hope is a strong Bible word that deserves a prominent place in our language of faith ... which is itself, of course, "the assurance of things hoped for" (Hebrews 11:1).

A living hope is not a wishy-washy-wonder-if-I-might-be salvation, but a firm reliance in the God of hope who will never fail us. He is the faithful One, and our hope in Him is the anchor of our souls.

There are many reasons without and within that could cause our hope to be dimmed or even destroyed. How is it possible that a holy God would accept a sinner like me? Have I been deceived by a false hope? Yet it is during such times of human hopelessness that our Lord provides a dynamic potential for the true hope of the gospel to abound.

Hope. Some would challenge this word when it is used in an AFLC context. I receive many calls and much correspondence about problems in local congregations as well as within our church fellowship. The questions are often the same: "How is everything going? What do you think about our future as a church fellowship? Is there any sign of a solution to our problems?"

My answer might be: "I hope so." Yes, in spite of problems without and within, I am still hopeful, because we serve the God of hope. **Thine is the kingdom**, we pray, remembering that the Church is His possession, purchased by the precious blood of Jesus Christ, His Son. Our struggles, too, remind us that opposition is to be expected when God's work advances, and His amazing grace abounds as our weaknesses are exposed.

Our hope for the future as an AFLC does not rest in recruiting gifted people or reaching budget goals, nor is it grounded in statistics of present growth or surveys that point to future potential. The psalmist declares that our hope is **in** the Lord (39:7), as well as **from** the Lord (62:5). True Holy Spirit hope will never disappoint, for it always points us away from ourselves to the Christ of Calvary (Romans 5:5-6).

Join me in fervent prayer to this great God of hope, that He would grant to our church family a rebirth of solid scriptural hopefulness as we face the future confidently resting in Him!

**The  
AFLC  
faces  
the  
future**



— by Rev.  
Robert L. Lee  
President, AFLC



Great is Thy faithfulness,  
O God my Father!  
There is no shadow of  
turning with Thee:  
Thou changest not, Thy  
compassions, they fail not:  
As Thou hast been  
Thou forever wilt be.

— by Thomas O. Chisholm,  
AMBASSADOR HYMNAL No. 559

## A testimony of continued hope and blessings in Roseau, Minnesota

*Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose trust is the Lord, for he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extendeth roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit.*  
Jeremiah 17:7-8

These words from the prophet Jeremiah could describe the history of Rose Lutheran Church over these last 106 years. Hopefulness is a characteristic of this rural Minnesota-Canada border congregation through its ebb and flow of testings and blessings. A congregation will prosper whose trust is the Lord!

What are some of the ingredients that contribute to this congregation's present growth and hopeful future? To understand the present, one must first review God's leading over the past 106 years.

"The story of the first congregation in Roseau County is one of adventure, struggle, faith, and victory," writes Audrey Jensen of Rose Lutheran. She continues, "Hardly had the early settlers built themselves shelter before they realized the need for the preached Word of God."

Building a church created many obstacles in those early days. Travel by horse was slow and roads were almost non-existent. In December 1895, Rose Church agreed to divide into two congregations;

# Starting out with confidence

**San Antonio  
congregation  
reflects  
new hope**

New Hope Free Lutheran Church in San Antonio, Texas, met for its first service on September 18, 1994, at the home of Dave and Barb Cory. Only two enthusiastic families were committed to accept the responsibility in this mission work. What boundless faith! These two families are joined by the families of Chaplain Tim Skramstad and Oskar Salge. The name of the new congregation truly reflects the new hope of seeing an AFLC congregation begin in San Antonio.

## God at work in the congregation

Of the first four new families who came to our worship services, three stated they had been looking for a new church home for two to three years. They now feel they have found it in the AFLC. Our services are presently held in the chapel of a Methodist Mission Home every Sunday evening beginning with Sunday school at 5 PM. This is to coordinate with the schedule of Rev. Michael Peterson of Good

# A history of hopefulness

the western part to retain the old name and the eastern part to be known as the Moe Church. The following spring, the Rose congregation built a church and a horse barn. The next year Rose became a part of a six-point parish. As congregations began in the area, many of their members had once belonged to Rose. Thus, Rose Church became known as the mother congregation to many others in the community. Rose now shares their pastor with Spruce Lutheran.

Throughout the years structural changes and improvements were made. The original handmade pulpit, baptismal font and altar are still in use. In May of 1993, construction began to enlarge the sanctuary, add a fellowship hall, kitchen and bathrooms. We are now handicap accessible and ready to meet the changing needs of the congregation as it grows.

As the congregation moved into its second century, a Worship, Service, Outreach Committee was chosen to study the needs of the congregation as it anticipated their building program. A survey was sent to each member and its results were given to the board and pastor as they discussed new directions of ministry.

In the mid 1980's, the congregation acted on a vision for starting an AFLC congregation in nearby Warroad. Rose nurtures a strong lay-leadership within the church. There is a sense of the "priesthood of all believers" among the

youth and adult laity. Rose is vitally concerned that the traditional Lutheran message of "justification by grace through faith" continues to influence the community. We are becoming sensitive to the fact that we are no longer a "churched" society. Many people are no longer asking the question, "What can I do to be saved?" Now the question people seem to ask is, "What can the church offer me to make my life work?" The challenge is to meet these individuals where they are in Christian love and guide them to meet Jesus in the Word and Sacraments. Rose continues its tradition of working together in unity of purpose and love and concern for its members and community.

Our congregation is known to not be the first to try the new. We traditionally move slowly and cautiously as fads come and go. While Rose has faithfully ministered to a growing membership, it has maintained its prayer and financial support for the AFLC's schools, missions and other ministries.

Philippians 1:5 summarizes the spirit of Rose Lutheran: "Thankful for (their) partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now."

Our congregation is blessed by the Lord. By His mercy, may we never cease to yield fruit!



— by Rev. Larry Severson  
Rose-Spruce Free Lutheran Parish  
Roseau, Minnesota

Shepherd Lutheran in Pleasanton, Texas who serves us as an interim pastor.

Our congregation has begun advertising in the local papers with an ad similar to the following:

## **WE BELIEVE IN**

The Inerrancy of the Bible.  
The Authority of the Bible, Biblical Morality, Personal Christianity.

## **IN OUR WORSHIP WE PRACTICE**

Simplified Liturgy, Traditional Hymns, Informal Praise Songs. Free Prayer.

*You are welcome to worship with us.*

We have hope in the Lord's power and help to provide a spiritual home not only for Lutherans, but for the unchurched people who need to know our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our community needs a Lutheran congregation filled with a positive, clearly biblical presentation of the gospel which leads to a personal relationship with Jesus as Savior. Nothing less can lead to personal assurance of salvation.

## **God at work in my life**

Unfortunately there are many people today who can relate to my testimony. I was born on a south Texas farm; the  
(continued on page 6)

# Traveling south this winter? Visit an AFLC church!

The annual AFLC Fellowship Dinner will be at the King's Table Buffet, 1526 E. Main, Mesa, Arizona, on Monday, February 13, 1995, from 11 A.M. - 2:30 P.M. Come early to enjoy the fellowship of friends, some old and some new. Invite and encourage acquaintances from other areas to attend! Everyone is welcome!



Shepherd's Church of the Valley, Murrieta, California.

## STARTING OUT

youngest of five children. My parents were honest, frugal, hardworking and faithful in church attendance. Sadly though, they had little knowledge of a living, personal relationship with Jesus as Savior. For me confirmation was just something we were supposed to do so we could go to communion.

By God's grace, my real confirmation came when I was about 15. One day my older brother came home for a visit and asked me if I was reading the Bible. I admitted I had not opened it since my Confirmation. A few days after he left, I decided maybe I should start reading an English New Testament rather than one in German. I became interested and soon realized I did not have Jesus in my heart and life. The law struck fear into my heart, but I kept reading. The Lord in His mercy reached my heart with His words of forgiveness and salvation in Jesus. While I cannot point to a day and hour when Jesus came into my heart, it was a gradual growth in knowledge and faith. Jesus became real and living to me. The Holy Spirit convicted me of sins and, by His power and Word, cleansed my life of profanity and worldliness. Now I was hungry for the Word, spiritual life and fellowship.

Yes, my parents were religious and well-meaning, but that did not save them. Too many of our churches in our land are filled with nice people just like my family.

Tragically, many never do experience a real Confirmation Day as I did.

We have a desperate need for congregations with a clear beacon of the light of the gospel! People need Jesus as Savior and Lord. Our hope is in the Lord, and in Him we cannot fail! We covet your prayers with us and for us at New Hope Free Lutheran that God will guide and empower us by His Holy Spirit to reach many souls for His Kingdom.



—by Rev. Oskar A. Salge  
New Hope Free Lutheran, San Antonio, Texas

The author is a 1947 graduate of Western LBI, Los Angeles. He was placed on the AFLC Clergy Roster in 1993.

After nine years as a beekeeper in North Dakota and Minnesota, Pastor Salge served congregations in Minnesota and Texas. Much of his ministry in Texas involved Spanish-speaking congregations in Elsa, San Antonio, Edinburg and San Juan. He retired in 1979, but continued working with Hispanic children until 1986. Pastor Salge presently conducts services in two nursing homes. He married Edith Whitaker in Weslaco, Texas on November 28, 1939. They have three children and six grandchildren.



## SOUTHEAST

**Melbourne, Florida** - Abiding Word Lutheran, Rev. David Barnhart, 1 (800) 253-6922

**Savannah, Georgia** - Christ Lutheran, Rev. Paul Jecklin, (912) 925-3968

## SOUTH CENTRAL

**Oklahoma City, Oklahoma** - First Lutheran, Rev. Gerald Peterson, (405) 946-0626

**Springfield, Missouri** - Immanuel Lutheran, Rev. Vince Will, (417) 881-1020

**El Campo, Texas** - Faith Lutheran, Rev. Clyde Grier, Jr. (409) 543-1843

**Houston, Texas** - Crown of Life Lutheran, Rev. Gordon Waterman, (713) 351-8001

**Pleasanton, Texas** - Good Shepherd Lutheran, Rev. Michael Peterson, (210) 281-3009

**San Antonio, Texas** - New Hope Lutheran, Rev. Michael Peterson, (210) 281-3009

**Tulia, Texas** - Christ Lutheran, pastoral vacancy

**Weslaco, Texas** - Faith Lutheran, Rev. Norman Dornquast, (210) 968-2376

**Wichita Falls, Texas** - Christ Lutheran, Rev. Paul Nash, (817) 767-8827

## SOUTHWEST

**Camarillo, California** - First Lutheran, Rev. David Molstre, (805) 484-0426

**Palmdale, California** - Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran, pastoral vacancy, (805) 265-0104

**Murrieta, California** - Shepherd's Church of the Valley, Rev. Curt Emerson, (909) 672-7816

**Oceanside, California** - Community Bible, Rev. Orville Hiepler, (619) 731-0980

**Nogales, Arizona** - Triumph Lutheran, Rev. Ted Kennedy, (602) 287-5318

**Tucson, Arizona** - Body of Christ Lutheran and Living Faith Lutheran, pastoral vacancy, for information call Iris Myron, (602) 883-6633.

## Home Missions

### Home Missions Committee announces new director

The Home Missions Committee of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations is pleased to announce that Rev. Paul Nash has accepted the call to the position of Home Missions Director. Pastor Nash is currently serving a Home Mission congregation in Wichita Falls, Texas. He expects

to begin his new assignment on July 1, 1995.

Please pray for Pastor Nash and his family as they make the move to the Minneapolis area and this important transition in their ministry.

Please pray too, for Rev. Elden Nelson, the current director as he awaits the Lord's leading in his life.



Rev. Paul Nash



Rev. Elden Nelson

### Minnesota congregation becomes self-supporting

Faith Lutheran, London, Minnesota, recently became self-supporting. Organized seven years ago, it began receiving Home Mission subsidy the following year when Pastor Einar Unseth arrived as the first full-time pastor. For nearly four years they used the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle Greibrok as their worship facility.

In May of 1991, the first worship service was held in the new church. Faith now has 130 baptized members, with more to be added soon. Faith Lutheran is grateful for all the assistance received from our Home Missions

and now rejoice that another congregation can be the recipient of this help.

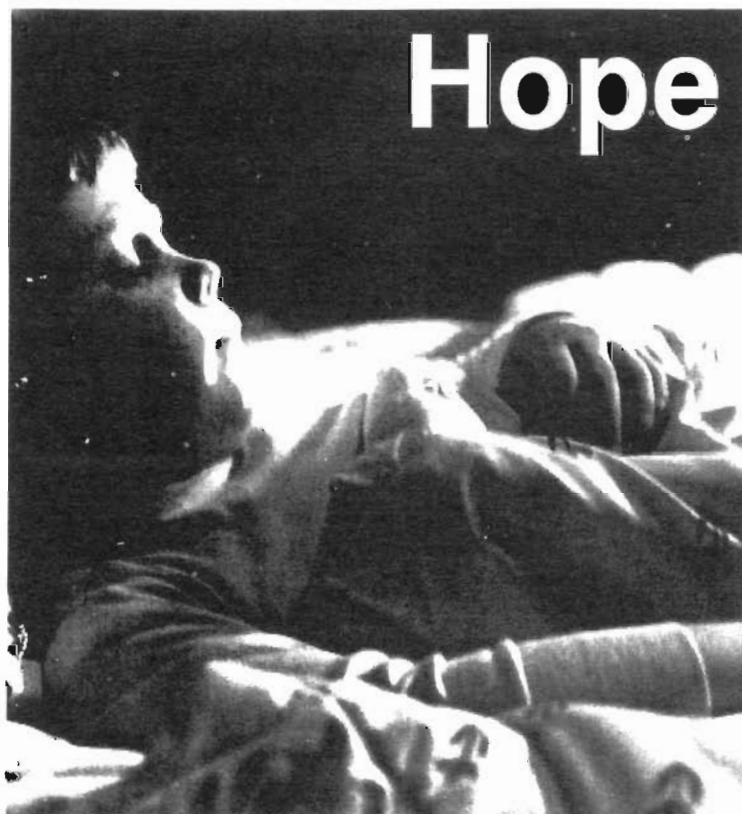
### Iowa congregation dedicates new sanctuary

Christian Free Lutheran, Wheatland, Iowa, dedicated their new sanctuary on November 13, 1994. Organized in 1987, the former Home Mission congregation will now use the original part of the facility as an educational unit. The congregation hosted the Illinois District Convention the same day beginning with registration at 2:30 P.M. Over 300 people attended the evening Dedication Service at which AFLC President Robert L. Lee officiated.

*When I was first asked to write about having hope for our children, I admit that the initial thoughts racing through my mind were negative ones. **Is there really hope** for our children in this fallen world? The direction that our society is heading and the rapid pace that it is taking is truly alarming. Some examples of this include: the issues of abortion and euthanasia; the deterioration of the family; the acceptance of any and all possible lifestyles; the violence in our neighborhood schools and homes; the attempts at*

*eliminating Christian principles and morals in some of our public schools and halls of government; the denial of the Christian heritage that our nation was founded upon; the gradual taking away of our rights and responsibilities as parents in bringing up our children. These are very depressing and sobering thoughts!*

*But praise God, these thoughts were only fleeting! As a Christian, God's Word assures me that "God has given us eternal comfort and good hope" (1 Thessalonians 2:16).*



# Hope for our children

past happiness, "when the Almighty was yet with me, when my children were about me" (Job 29:5). King Solomon said, "Lo sons are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them!" Psalm 127:3-5a).

We fervently pray for wisdom and guidance in nurturing them physically, emotionally, and spiritually. They are filled with a zest and enthusiasm for life that is contagious to us as parents. Each age is exciting. Their hopes and dreams, failures and triumphs are almost as real to us as they are to them. Romans 5:3-5 tells us that "more than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us."

## Blessings Given

I am so thankful for my Christian parents and grandparents who brought up my siblings and me in a loving and God-fearing home. Optimism always prevailed. We lived "awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). Their example continues to be a great inspiration to me and, I hope, to my children as well.

Judy and I have been so richly blessed by the five children God has given us. We delight in them and as Job recalled his

## Promises Made

Nevertheless, we are so frail and so prone to buckling under the wiles of Satan. We doubt and we worry and our greatest worries often center around our children. "I rise before dawn and cry for





Stephen Quanbeck, McVile  
North Dakota, at his cradle  
roll graduation last fall.

praise of His glory." I pray that God will help us and our children to live and serve for His honor and glory. "And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure" (1 John 3:3).

Proverbs 13:12 tells us that "hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life." Let us do as the psalmist David encourages: "Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4).

### Confidence Found

Another tremendous promise is in 1 Peter 1:3-4: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you." We can claim this promise. It is ours!

Over the years, one of my favorite verses is one that I pray would be branded on the hearts and minds of all our children and the children throughout the world: "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).

**There is indeed *Hope* for our children!**

— by Dr. Peter Dyrud,  
Medicine Lake Lutheran,  
Plymouth, Minnesota

help; I hope in thy words" (Psalm 119:147). God is faithful and He hears our prayers! We must daily commit our children to Him.

Hebrews 11:1 declares: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." We must continually put our faith and trust in our Lord Jesus Christ "because of the hope laid up for you in heaven" (Colossians 1:5). If we are separated from God, we have no hope according to Ephesians 2:12. May we all say with King David: "My hope is in thee" (Psalm 39:7), "that you may not grieve as others who have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13).

Ephesians 1:12 speaks to me of a beautiful promise and a stirring challenge: "We who first hoped in Christ have been destined and appointed to live for the

## BOOK REVIEW

**Depression and What to Do About It**, by Gerald F. Mundfrom (Mercy and Truth Publishers, Osceola, WI, 1994; 221 pp; \$6.00 plus \$1.05 postage. Order from the author at 312-235th St. Osceola, WI 54020-5943.)

An AFLC pastor has thoroughly revised his first book, *The Depressed Christian*, first published in 1983. Gerald Mundfrom has given us another helpful book for those who suffer from depression, the most common mental and emotional illness in the U.S. and Canada. He writes out of more than thirty years in pastoral

ministry and as a victim of depression, first while serving in the army during World War II and then twice while serving in rural parishes in South Dakota in the 1960's.

This is a practical, how-to-do-it manual for those who are depressed as well as those who have a sufferer in their family or friendship circle.

The author derives his insights primarily from Holy Scripture. He tries to bring hope and comfort in showing the right directions toward recovery as well as pinpointing many contributing stresses to depression.

Against this classical Lutheran emphasis on the theology of the cross, Mundfrom places today's "theology of glory" as one which almost exclusively emphasizes joy, happiness and love. These certainly are a part of the Christian life, but overemphasizing them can convey a wrong message.

This would be an excellent book for the Lenten season for both individuals and congregational groups. Pastor Mundfrom also offers a wide variety of inspirational books, pamphlets and cassettes.

— by Edward A. Johnson  
Cloverdale, Indiana

# This amazing missions moment

A year ago an alliance of five denominations in Romania united in a common effort to reach their country with the gospel. In cooperation with CBN they broadcast a series of children's programs on TV. Over a million letters came in as a result of that broadcast (out of a total population of 24 million). These letters requested Bibles or just said "thanks."

An analysis of the letters indicated that the programs had reached about 700,000 households. Last January, the alliance mailed 600,000 packets of six Bible lessons each. Later that month the response began and has averaged 3000 per day since. Indications are that these lessons are for the most part being used by whole families.

Dr. Dennis Kinlaw, former president of Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky wrote: "My response to this is one of incredulity. Where in human history has one seen such a hunger for knowledge about the gospel?" Reflecting on the fact that just a few short years ago Romania was ruled by a brutal dictatorship, the nation is now experiencing a measure of freedom, though it still is in social and economic trauma. Dr. Kinlaw continues: "Then I remembered the commission given to Jeremiah. It contained four crushing negatives before any word of promise. 'See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.' Could it be that when a culture or society allows itself to be built without its Maker at the center, it must come apart before it can be put together again the way God wants it?"

Of course the answer to Dr. Kinlaw's question is yes. With the severity of law, God brings judg-

ment which chastises and disassembles, but then in even greater measure He brings the gospel of Jesus Christ with which He rebuilds, heals and saves. All of Eastern Europe bears testimony to this reality. Though we see disheartening confusion in many countries (especially the former Soviet Union), at the same time we hear the stories of how the gospel is being so eagerly sought **and received!** Just before writing this I talked to Rebecca Dislers, co-director of the Diakonal Institute in Riga (Jurmala), Latvia. She was overjoyed as she reported that two members of the national parliament had just requested that she contact the president of Latvia. These two parliament members attended the evening Bible studies led by AFLTS Dean, Dr. Francis Monseth while on a teaching sabbatical in Latvia last year.

Last August, a team of five young adults under the sponsorship of EEMN went to the city of Poprad-Velka, in the foothills of the beautiful High Tatra Mountains in Slovakia. They went at the invitation of the local pastor, Jozef Vereschek.

The team often recited the theme of this mission: "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men. And immediately they left their nets and followed Him" (Mark 1:17,18). After joining two of the interpreters, Karin Roikova and Silvie Scarcecova from the Czech Republic, the team began working with a newly formed Lutheran youth group, made up mostly of ones who had until recently been atheists. (Karin and Silvie are currently studying in the U.S. with support from Maranatha Free Lutheran, Glynndon, Minnesota.)

Another mission of the team was to witness on the streets in the city to invite people to the

**Missionary Candidates David and Sarah Nelson**, moved into the vacant parsonage at Upsala, Minnesota, the end of November where Pastor Nelson is serving Word of Life Lutheran until their departure to Brazil around the first of March 1995. The Nelsons were commissioned for missionary service on November 20, 1994 at Emmaus Lutheran, Bloomington, Minnesota. The government papers needed for serving as missionaries in Brazil have recently been approved. The Nelsons expect their second child in January.

**Missionary Candidates Todd and Barb Schierkolb and Tim Hinrichs**, will be attending a three-week, pre-field orientation seminar in Colorado Springs, Colorado, this January. The Mexico-bound Schierkolbs will return to their congregation in Evergreen Park, Illinois, before leaving for language school in May 1995. Pastor Hinrichs will continue his deputa- tion until his departure to the Czech Republic also in May.

church. Soon after arriving, Graig Kveen, AFLBS 1988, and now a member of Emmaus Lutheran in Bloomington, Minnesota, was walking beside the mountain stream that flowed beside the parish center and church. He wondered who God would lead him to. He soon saw two young men fishing. He struck up a conversation with them. The conversation with Paul and Martin led to friendship and the friendship became the bridge over which he could share the message of Jesus. They became frequent attendees at the various meetings and activities at the church. That friendship continues to flourish and the Lord is at work in the lives of Paul and Martin as He is in the process of making them fishers of men.

Before leaving Europe, the team went to Hungary where

# The AFLC looks to Africa

The AFLC in the U.S. and Canada is looking to Africa through the eyes of her daughter church in Brazil. The view may be blurry at first; like getting used to new glasses. But soon our spiritual eyesight will begin focusing on the fields white unto harvest in Mozambique.

At times we may become overwhelmed as new areas of work in world missions almost seem mysteriously unfolding before us. The Lord truly moves in mysterious ways.

During recent years, the AFLC in Brazil was challenged to see the fields ready to harvest in other parts of the world. Our mission students at the seminary and Bible school in Campo Mourão prayed that the Lord would open doors for the Brazilian church.

In 1992, Rev. Vicente Gauche of Mozambique, wrote to the AFLC-

Brazil, asking for more information. He had been praying for years that the Lord would lead them to a conservative Lutheran church. His nation had come through great civil wars and most of the infrastructure had come apart. His former synod had joined the World Council of Churches and he and a small group of followers did not want to be a part of it. They became independent.

The Lord had answered the

humble prayers of our Christians. This reminded me of Peter receiving the Macedonian call in Acts 10:1-43. I thought, "How could all this be happening after all these years in Brazil?" But God's timing and the prayers of the righteous availeth much.

Our correspondence with Mozambique increased as prayer requests were shared and information exchanged. Bibles are (continued on page 12)



Church members greeting each other after a service.

they met with Bulcsu Szell (his story was in the August 23, 1994 *The Lutheran Ambassador*). He and his colleagues are urgently requesting people who can help them reach their country for Jesus and to establish a Bible School that the Lord can use to train up a Christ-centered and Bible-oriented membership for their Hungarian Lutheran Church.

We have received a request from another country in Eastern Europe for conservative, evangelical teachers for their seminary.

This is the similar vision of the church in the Czech Republic, who are eagerly awaiting the arrival of Rev. Tim Hinrichs. Pastor Hinrichs, a 1994 AFLTS graduate, is currently on deputation in preparation for his work in the Czech Republic beginning next May.

After World War II, President Harry Truman asked General George Marshall to develop a program that could transfer

large amounts of resources to Europe to help rebuild their devastated nations as quickly as possible. The Marshall Plan succeeded beyond all expectations. We now need a spiritual Marshall Plan for Eastern Europe! With the deployment of significant numbers of people and the provision of necessary resources, we can help provide a Christ-centered and Bible-based evangelical leadership in Lutheran churches committed to fulfilling the Great Commission in that part of the world.

As one person put it: "The sudden and astounding revolution in Eastern Europe and the former

Soviet Union, prompted by the Spirit of God, has brought unbelievable freedom and an opportunity for the Word of God; probably unparalleled in Christian history. It **compels** every serious Christian to ask: 'What ought my role be in this historic missions moment?'"

If you would like to receive the quarterly newsletter of the East European Missions Network or for other information, please call or write 10800 Lyndale Ave. South, Suite 120, Bloomington, MN 55420, (612) 881-3554 or fax (612) 884-7894.

—Rev. Don Richman  
Bloomington, Minnesota

## MOZAMBIQUE

scarce in their nation because of the wars. So earlier this year, our Brazilian church sent a box of Portuguese Bibles, New Testaments, Catechisms, hymn books and tracts to their three churches.

Last June, the AFLC Central Church of Campo Mourão, had their first missionary conference and sent a generous monetary gift to the Mozambique church. The Central Church wants to have a missionary conference every year from now on.

We continue to see much prayer and interest in our Bible school and seminary for this African nation. Maybe the Lord will call one of our Brazilian pastors who will answer, "Here am I, send me."

We ask the AFLC in the U.S. and Canada to pray with us for this new open door. How can we all get involved? How can we all work together to spread the gospel in Africa? May the Lord's will be done.

— by *Missionary Connely J. Dyrud*  
*Campo Mourão, Brazil*

### Facts about Mozambique

**Location:** Southeast Africa. It faces Madagascar.

**Language:** Portuguese — as in Brazil. It was governed by Portugal from the 1500's until 1975. Bantu is spoken by most tribal people.

**Population distribution:** 90% of the people live in rural areas.

**Capital city:** Maputo, population of 1,300,000. It is a leading African sea port.

**Religion:** 75% of the people practice traditional African religions such as Spiritism, etc.

**Climate:** Southern hemisphere as is Brazil.

**Economy:** The book *Operation World* calls it "the world's poorest country."

## Uncle Bob wants you

### Recruiting ARC Supporters

*But Moses' hands were heavy. Then they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other. Thus his hands were steady until the sun set. Exodus 17:12*

**T**his is a remarkable incident in the history of God's people. They are on the way to the Promised Land. Moses and Joshua are seeking to be faithful to Jehovah. Yet, once again they are facing a seemingly impossible situation. Joshua went out to fight. Moses stood faithfully holding up the staff of God. Both were in the battle. In the midst of it all Moses grew weary. At that vital moment, God moved Aaron and

Hur to **stand in support**. It made the difference. Joshua and his men overwhelmed the enemy. Then God said, "Write this in a book as a memorial." Moses built an altar and named it, "The Lord is my Banner." He said, "The Lord has sworn; the Lord will have war against Amalek from generation to generation."

Today we still fight this battle and; praise God, we experience His presence and victory!

The Association Retreat Center near Osceola, Wisconsin, has a twofold part in this battle. First **we are supporters** of those in the battlefield. We seek to aid congregations, districts and Christian organizations in their mission. Director Bob Dietsche and his staff want to provide the best setting and support needed.

Secondly, we need Aarons and Hurs to stand with us. In 1994, we decided not to request a subsidy from the AFLC Annual Conference. It was not that help is unnecessary, but instead we desired to pursue a more personal commitment. We are in the battle too. Our hands begin to grow heavy and sink. **We need support**. That is why we have established an army of **ARC Supporters**. These are individuals who will pray daily for the personnel and the ministry opportunities and give at least \$100 a year to fill the gap between our event revenue and ongoing expenses. We thank God for those already committed, faithful and informed soldiers.

Please write the ARC at 2372 30th Ave. and Kings Way or call (715) 294-2877 and enlist as an ARC Supporter today. We want and need YOU! May His banner be raised to His glory to the furthering of His Kingdom.

— by the ARC Board  
*Cliff Seldal, Chairman*

### It takes more than people to go!

Partners in Missions need funds for construction projects in Obregon, Mexico.

\$1,500 for this winter's building projects.

\$2,500 still owed on Gabriel Mercado's car.

\$3,100 debt remains on the Mission's \$17,000 bus.

Mission trips scheduled:

December 27-January 10

— from Pipestone, MN

January 26-February 9

— from Ishpeming, MI

Late February-early March

— from the West

For more information contact the World Missions office or

Al Brazier

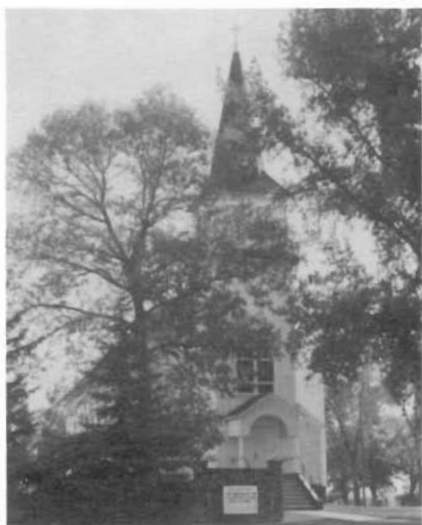
Rt. 2 Box 338

Greenbush, MN 56726

(218) 782-2456



## Minnesota congregation joins AFLC



Grong Lutheran Church of Rolag, which voted last fall to withdraw from the ELCA, was approved for membership in the AFLC by the Coordinating Committee at their November meeting. Organized in 1872, the congregation has its roots in the former Lutheran Free Church and joined the ALC at the 1963 merger. Rev. Merle Knutson, a retired AFLC pastor, has been serving Grong for the past several months on an interim basis. Pastor Dale Finstrom, Glyndon, will also be assisting with the ministry in this new AFLC congregation.



**Park River, North Dakota —** Pictured is Rev. Elden Nelson, the AFLC Home Missions Director, with Rev. James Rasmussen and Allyn Axvig burning the mortgage for Victory Free Lutheran Church this last fall.

## Schools receive matching gifts and grants

Last fall the Association Free Lutheran Bible School and Seminary received their third quarter IMPACT /IMPACT PLUS money from Lutheran Brotherhood. The Bible School received \$1,365 from fifteen gifts and the Seminary received \$1,100 from eleven gifts. The IMPACT/IMPACT PLUS Pro-

grams match Lutheran Brotherhood members' gifts of \$25 to \$100 per year to Lutheran institutions of higher education nationwide.

Another fraternal benefit society, Aid Association For Lutherans, has awarded AFLBS a \$5,400 grant for financial assistance of 20 Bible school students for the 1994-

95 winter academic quarter. A \$1,070 grant also from AAL, will support the enlistment of volunteers to serve as congregational representatives for AFLBS.

AAL's Lutheran Elementary School Grant Program has given \$500 to Medicine Lake Lutheran Academy, St. Louis Park, Minnesota, for the 1994-95 school year. The funds may be used for consultants, speakers and resource materials.

## letter to the editor

Dear editor,

Before the year ends, I would like to call attention to the fine and unusual record of service rendered by Mr. Kent Quanbeck, McVille, North Dakota, to our church fellowship through his board memberships.

It has been noted earlier this year that he completed ten years on the Board of Trustees of our Schools in 1994. Needless to say, the time period was one of great challenge in the building up of our Seminary and Bible School.

Forgotten by many, or never having been know, is the fact that Mr. Quanbeck served on the Board of Publications and Parish Education for 12 years, 1964-76. He served a three-year term, then one of four years and another of five,

when the terms were lengthened.

It was my privilege to be on the latter board with Mr. Quanbeck for 11 of those years and so had the opportunity to observe the spirit and ability of this man. It was at that time that the first tottering steps were taken in developing the *Ambassador Sunday School Series*. Mr. Quanbeck always had good insight and counsel. From personal experience he knows what works in the local congregation.

It seems to me Mr. Quanbeck represents the very best in the Christian laity of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Thank you, Kent, for all the good work so far.

Rev. Raynard Huglen  
Newföden, Minnesota

## Lutheran Brotherhood grant to the AFLC Home Missions

Over the past 18 years the Home Mission Department of the AFLC has received financial assistance from Lutheran Brotherhood to help with pastor's salaries in new Home Mission work.

During 1994 Home Missions received \$40,000 and the funds were distributed evenly between the following congregations:

Christ Lutheran, Wichita Falls, Texas; Shepherd of the Valley Free Lutheran Church, Palm-dale, California; Shepherd Church of the Valley, Murrieta, California; and Servant of the Savior Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



## PEOPLE and PLACES



**Glydon, Minnesota** — Pictured are the new members recently received at Maranatha Free Lutheran Church.

**Warren Swanson**, Canton, South Dakota, has accepted a call to serve as the licensed lay pastor of the rural Ottawa, Illinois, parish (Freedom and St. Petrie). The Swanson family moved to Illinois in December and he has already begun his new ministry.



**Bethel Park, Pennsylvania** — The Father-Son Banquet for Ruthfred Lutheran was held on October 20, 1994. Pictured are some of the younger men with the featured speaker for the evening, Neil O'Donnell, quarterback of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

**Shakopee, Minnesota** — Faith Lutheran chartered a Pioneer Club last fall under the direction of Pam Olson. This outreach program on Wednesday nights has been effective in bringing in many unchurched kids from the community.

**Pastor Roger Krueger**, Wau-tona, Wisconsin, is providing interim service for Trinity Free Lutheran in Janesville, Wisconsin. Trinity is an AFLC Home Missions congregation.

## Deaths noted

**Mrs. Birdeen (Maybelle) Holt**, 90, died on November 17, 1994. Her funeral service was held on November 20 at Calvary Free Lutheran Church, Fosston, Minnesota, where she was a charter member, long-time organist and Sunday School teacher. She will also be remembered for involvement in district and national AFLC activities, and for many years as counselor, cook, etc., at Bethany Bible Camp near Bemidji, Minnesota. Preceded in death by her husband in 1980, she is survived by one son, three grandchildren, and a host of friends.

**Petra Hanson**, 87, passed away last summer while visiting in Norway. **Melvin Christian-son**, 96, died on October 8. Both of these people were long-time faithful members of Calvary Lutheran in Everett, Washington.

**Rev. Arnold E. Windahl**, 91, passed away on November 10 at his home in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Pastor Windahl served parishes in Webster, Minnesota; Newark, Illinois; Kenyon, Min-

nesota; Williston, North Dakota; and Goldfield, Iowa. He traveled for the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement from 1952-57; was the Board Chairman with the Latin American Lutheran Mission, 1946-62, and traveled with his brother William from 1957-61. Many fondly remember the ministry of song and word of the Windahl Brothers. He was active in the Hauge Innermission and served as editor of *The Morning Glory* for many years. Preceded in death by his first wife, Esther in 1990, Pastor Windahl is survived by his wife, Ruthe, four children, a foster daughter, and three step-children, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Earl Huebner**, 76, passed away on September 10, 1994 at Bushnell, South Dakota. He was born on May 16, 1918 at Pipestone, Minnesota, to Virtus and Elsie Heyerhoff Huebner. He married Mae Lelleid on April 11, 1942 in Colman, South Dakota after which he joined the U.S. Army Signal Corps. After leaving the

service in 1945, he and his family lived in Orlando, Florida, where he owned an implement business until his retirement in 1982.

In 1987, he and his wife moved to Gainesville, Missouri, where he served as pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church (AFLC) in Mt. Home, Arkansas, until July 1994. Mr. Huebner was a Gideon; a volunteer instructor for the Florida Division of Corrections for 17 years; served on the board of the Southern Missouri Office on Aging and the Good Samaritan Board; and worked as the Director of the Sheltered Workshop in Missouri. He was awarded Citizen of the Year in Ozark County in 1992 and earlier this year, was honored by the Missouri State Legislature for his volunteer work.

He is survived by his wife, Mae, three children and five grandchildren along with one sister and one brother. Funeral services were held at Colman Lutheran Church in Colman, South Dakota.

## Here is the hope

**“W**here is the hope?” asks the songwriter. It is the same question asked by many in our day. Pessimism is the dominant mood. This is especially the case with the present twentysomething generation. They are described by author George Barna as the most disillusioned and disheartened generation our country has seen in a long time. They have grown up in broken homes and violent neighborhoods. Stories of fallen church leaders and crooked politicians have become common place. Cynicism is high and expectations are low. Some see them as the first generation in our nation’s history that anticipates life will be worse for them than it was for their parents. “Why should we have hope for the coming year?” is the thought on people’s minds.

It is understandable that those who do not know Jesus as Lord and Savior are pessimistic about the future. They do not have a relationship with their Creator. God’s great love for them is not realized. Security in His care has not been found. They are not prepared for the return of the King of Kings. They ought to be concerned.

Things should be different with the child of God. Those who know Jesus know who is in charge of the universe. We know we are loved to such an extent that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Death is known to be a defeated foe. The one who loves us is the one whose plans will prevail in the end. Because of Christ we are ready for the future and all eternity.

In spite of all the wonderful truths found in the Bible about who God is and who we are when we are in Christ, Christians at times still resemble a man with the best built sailboat in the harbor who never goes to sea because he is convinced his boat will sink. The unsinkable promises of God’s Word will not fail us in the coming year. We can fully lean on Him, and rest assured that He will hold us up. We can have confidence that He already has plans for us for the coming year; plans to prosper us and not to harm us, plans to give us hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11). We serve the God for whom nothing is too hard (Genesis 18:14), nothing is impossible (Luke 1:37). Because of Christ, we can be people who anticipate good things to happen in the coming year.

We have the best boat in the harbor, yet we get afraid at times because we focus more on the waves than we do on what we have in Jesus. Yes, persecution is guaranteed (II Timothy 3:12). We will not be immune from trouble in the coming year. It may be greater than we care to know, but God will be greater still. We can set sail, knowing that God will bring us through whatever storms we may face.

## The Right Goals

**T**he soccer player kicked the ball hard. It went sailing past the goalie’s outstretched hands and into the net, scoring a point. The only trouble was, the player mistakenly kicked the ball in the wrong direction and scored for the other team. It is important to be heading towards the right goal.

As we begin the new year, a time for setting goals, it is necessary for us to have the right goals in mind. Often our goals involve doing and achieving. Could it be that God would have us set goals that are more focused on being and becoming?

As we plan for the year ahead we tend to focus on the things we would like to accomplish, projects we want to start and maybe even finish, victories we wish to gain. While goals of that nature can be very good and appropriate we must strive to insure that the goals of being the child of God we are in Christ and becoming more like Jesus do not get neglected.

The Bible tells the Christian, “You are light in the Lord. Live as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8). May our aim in the new year be to live as what we are because of Jesus.

“All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another,” Jesus said (John 13:35). May our goal for the new year not be to prove we are right and win all our battles, but to become more loving. Treating one another with Christ-like, sacrificial love is the way we will show the world that we belong to Jesus.

“Blessed are the meek ... Blessed are the peacemakers” (Matthew 5:5,9). “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:2,3). Instead of striving to increase our power and influence in the new year, let us desire to grow in gentleness. May our goal for the new year be to treat one another with more kindness, humility, patience, forgiveness, and meekness knowing that true might comes from a gentle spirit. Let us have a concern in the new year for unity. Let us work hard at getting along with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We do not have to set the goals and reach them in order to become God’s children. When we have repented of our sins and trusted in Jesus, we are His children. By faith, because of what Jesus has done, we are acceptable to God. Let us have the goal of living as what we are and showing the world the good news of what God has done.

## Go and tell

In this last article of my series, I want to encourage you to become a soul winner. A lost and hurting world needs each of us to go and tell the good news.

When Jesus physically left the earth, He gave a command to His disciples and to all of His future followers. Matthew records Jesus' words: "Go and make disciples of all nations." This final charge was His mission transferred to you and me. Every Christian is called to share the good news of Jesus in our actions and our words. We need to always keep before us the distinctive features of Christ's final mandate given in Matthew 28.

### The Authority for the Mission

We have all the authority we need to fulfill the mission Jesus has given us. Matthew 28:18 describes His authority. He taught with authority. He exercised authority in healing and the forgiveness of sins. He has authority over Satan. Indeed all authority in heaven and on earth belong to Jesus Christ!

This authority is objectively found in Jesus but it subjectively needs to be applied by us. It is of no avail unless we call upon His authority when sharing with others about Jesus. Many people are afraid to share the gospel for fear of rejection. They feel they have no power to do it. The authority of Jesus is like the gas that needs to be added to a car to make it run. We are the vehicles God uses and He supplies the power through Jesus. We simply need to ask Jesus in prayer to help us.

### The Activity for the Mission

We are commanded (28:19,20) to "go and make disciples." In order to become a disciple, a follower of Jesus, people must first become Christians. I understand that as a pastor I need to preach

from the pulpit for the conversion of people. However, I also understand that I must model evangelism in my own life. I want to say to you pastors that your people will do what you do more than they will respond to what you say they should be doing. Be a soul winner if you want your people to be soul winners.

All Christians need to be concerned about people coming to faith in Jesus Christ. Right now I am in the process of building a relationship with a man who does not know Christ. We have gone hunting together, our families have been together and talk on the telephone on many occasions. I am praying for his salvation and trusting that the authority of Jesus to save people, along with the activity of befriending him, will lead to his coming to faith in Jesus along with the rest of the family. The activity for the mission Jesus gave to us is going and telling. Most people will not walk into our churches asking what they must do to be saved. We are to go to people and tell them about Jesus.

### The Ability for the Mission

Finally, we have a promise from Jesus (28:20) that He will always be with us, even to the end of the age. Jesus promised His presence to help us win people to Himself. He certainly has all the authority in the world to convert people, however, He has

gone into the presence of God the Father until His Second Coming. How can I tap into that authority? The ability for our mission is given in this promise of His presence and that promise is realized in the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit of God living in us is the One who gives us the ability to share the good news. Call on the Holy Spirit through prayer and He will answer.

### How Can I Tell People about Jesus?

I keep sharing with my congregation that telling people about Jesus is not as complicated as we often make it. Let me suggest three simple steps for sharing Jesus with people. First, pray that the Lord Himself would open doors for you to share about what Jesus has done in your life. Second, build relationships with unbelievers. Invite an unsaved neighbor over for coffee. Get involved in community activities where you know not everyone you interact with is a Christian. Regularly and specifically pray for the people the Lord is leading you to. Finally, be prepared to share the good news with them. Get literature such as Billy Graham's little pamphlet, "Steps to Peace with God." Read through it and be ready to simply lead someone through it. Then wait to see how God opens doors for you to go and tell the good news of Jesus!

— by Rev. Todd Olson