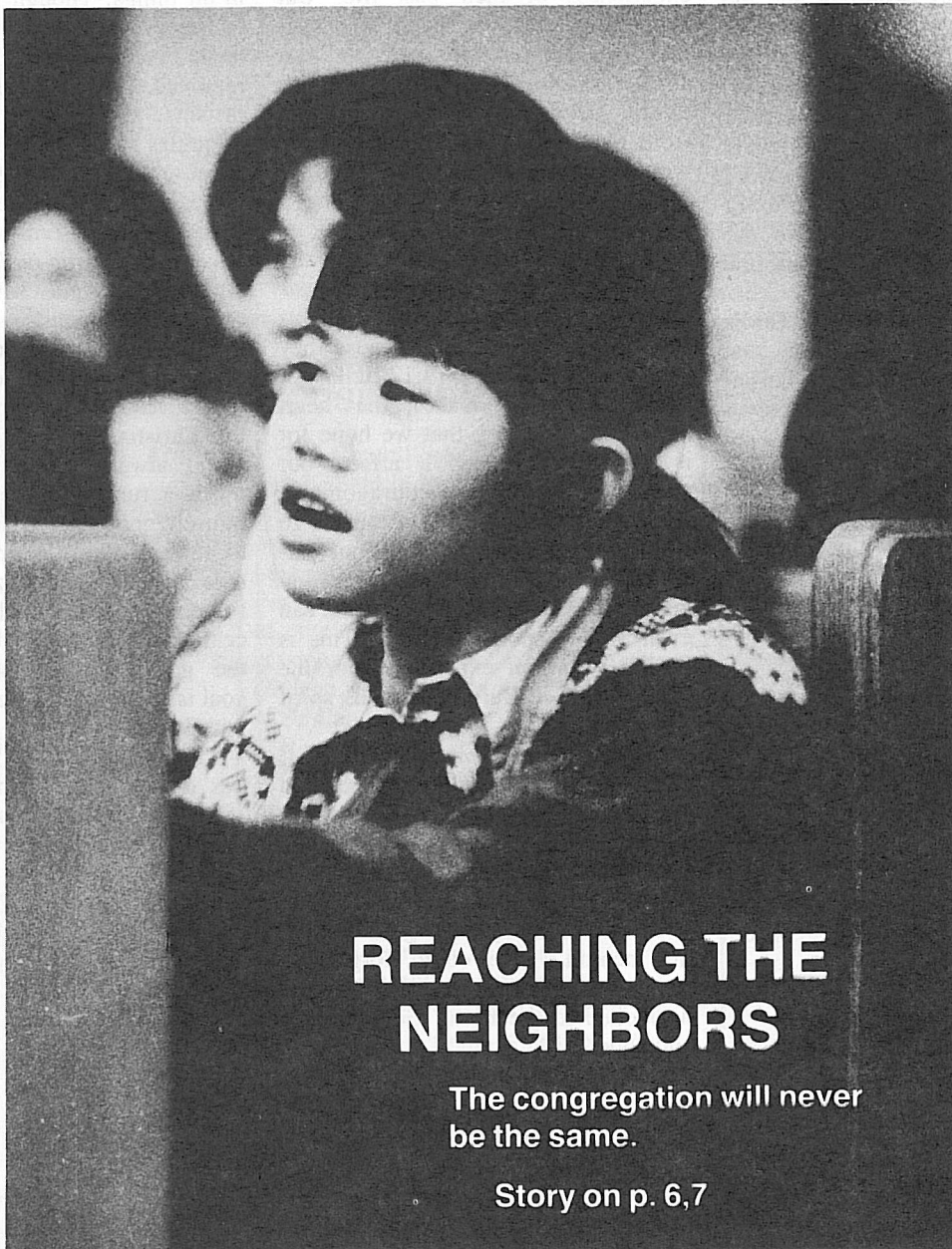


# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

December 31, 1985



## REACHING THE NEIGHBORS

The congregation will never  
be the same.

Story on p. 6,7

# at the MASTER'S FEET

## The Past and the Future

### Philippians 3:13-14

The month of January is named for the Roman God Janus. In the British Museum there is an ancient Roman coin with a picture of Janus on it. Janus has two heads — one looks back toward yesterday and the other looks forward to tomorrow. It appears to me that at New Year's time we are similar to the picture of this god, for we naturally look back at the events of our past year while at the same time we look forward to what the new year may hold for us. At New Year's we involve our thinking and our plans in both the past and the future.

An appropriate portion of God's Word to ponder at this time that involves both past and future is Philippians 3:13-14. To some people it may sound rather strange when Paul

writes, "Forgetting what lies behind." For there are some people who seemingly prefer to always live in the past no matter how sad their past may have been. They actually enjoy relating the many unpleasant experiences of their past life. But Paul states that he desires to forget the past. Which things of the past are we to forget? Surely God doesn't desire for us to forget everything from the past. I am certain that He would have us forget those things that would hinder us from living a happy, victorious life for Jesus.

*One of the things from the past that we do well to forget is our discouragement.* God would have us forget these experiences because they defeat us. Proverbs 13:12 tells us, "Hope deferred makes the heart sick." If something that we hope for is withheld from us, it affects our spirit, producing discouragement. When our desire to see things go well in the Lord's work is not fulfilled, it can become extremely disheartening. Such discouragements can even break a person's spirit. This is indeed a painful experience, for the Bible says, "But a broken spirit who can bear?"

Paul, a faithful follower of Christ, had known real discouragement in his life and work. In II Corinthians 11, he speaks of his imprisonments, beatings, stonings, shipwrecks, daily pressure of his work, etc. Nevertheless, he could say, "forgetting what lies behind." He could forget his discouragements in the past because he looked to the living God for help and hope.

*Another thing of the past that God wants us to forget is our sin.* He desires that we remember no more

our sins of this past year nor the sins of our entire life. No doubt for us who are Christians our saddest memories of 1985 are the times when we were stubborn of heart toward God and refused to obey Him in all things. Though it is impossible to begin the year over again and do better, yet we can have our sins removed. When we pray for remission of sins, God will blot out all our iniquities in the blood of Jesus. Then, because of God's grace, we can forget all our sins of the past.

*But at New Year's we can also have an optimistic outlook concerning the future.* Paul says that he is pressing (straining) on toward a wonderful goal. His glorious goal is the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. He is here comparing the Christian to a long-distance runner. It always amazes me to see how much a runner will exert and strain himself, how he is literally willing to suffer. Why? In order to win the race and gain the prize. The runner forgets what lies behind and concentrates only on what lies ahead — the goal. The Christian's ultimate goal is the crown of life (living forever with Jesus in heaven).

This New Year let us forget what lies behind and then press on in 1986 "toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."



by Pastor  
Einar Unseth

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Volume 23 Number 25

Some choose another lifestyle



When asked to submit an article on the two-fold topic of marriage and co-habitation apart from marriage, I realized that I knew considerably more about one than the other. It made me aware that the need is always there to be equipped in every area to minister to the needs about us. Those needs are many. I was grieved to read many of the reliable statistics regarding so-called live-in relationships. There are reasons why so many young people today are choosing this lifestyle over traditional marriage. We cannot afford to simply criticize or look the other way. Even good Christian parents are waking up in today's world finding out that a son or daughter has elected to pattern his or her life in such a manner. Also, it is no secret that the "holy estate of matrimony" is full of "holes" in our society. I've visited with no Christian who denies the problem of broken marriage relationships. Among clergy in our own AFLC who have differences of opinion as to divorce and remarriage, I have met none who do not agree as one that the need for real biblical truth as to marriage is absolute and essential.

I will begin with considering marriage as we must see marriage. One man, one woman, loving each other, together for a lifetime. Whatever

men may say or do, that was and is God's master plan. One of the finest books I have found on this subject is *Love Life* by Dr. Ed Wheat (Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich.) I give him credit here for some of the material I will relate to. Some areas I wish to develop are found in his book, but I will add from personal experience and the Word as well.

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"I've visited with no Christian who denies the problem of broken marriage relationships."

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The first is that "The idea of male and female was God's idea." As you read those first chapters of Genesis, you become aware that God chose to create our first parents as He did. How we need to realize again that this was God's plan, not some irresponsible decision left to chance. It was His design from eternity to do so. While God does have blessing and fulfillment for those who remain single by His plan, we must see that God's plan for one man and one woman to share their whole lives together was also His design. This is vitally important to us all, both if we are presently married, and also if we are not. It speaks of the need to examine closely our ideas about marriage as a whole. If I may share a bit from personal experience, one of the greatest deficiencies I see today in those I counsel for marriage is the

woeful lack of real prayer seeking God's direction to the life-mate of His choice. I can say with a grateful heart that as a young man I was challenged by both my parents and my pastor to follow the guidelines of Scripture in the areas of courtship and marriage. Those guidelines have not changed since Eden. The days and weeks and months of our courtship were filled with many times when we just sat and talked and prayed together. I can honestly tell you today that I wanted God's choice for a life-mate. I prayed for that person. I waited for that person. God answered that prayer. If you read this as a parent, I cannot urge you enough to counsel your children, from preschool on, to pray for God to give them His choice for a life-mate.

Secondly, "Marriage was designed by God to meet the first problem of the human race: loneliness." We must see marriage as God created and still affirm it as His master plan for humanity. Perfect man in a perfect environment with a perfect, unbroken relationship with God still was not complete. He needed a "helper." We do not see this relationship, then, as subservient, but complementary. Together they were "complete." Marriage thus became the relationship where God would work in both lives His perfect plan or purpose. Again, however, we must realize the importance of seeking and knowing God's direction prior to marriage. We must realize that it is not marriage itself that dispels loneliness, but the presence of God in the marriage. Unless He is kept at the center, intimacies will not be freely shared and loneliness will remain. ♦



**By Pastor  
John Rieth,  
Williston, N. Dak.**



## MARRIAGE...

Thirdly, "Marriage must begin with the leaving of all other relationships in order to establish a permanent relationship between one man and one woman." It is difficult in a society where failure in marriage is at such a high rate to speak of lifelong commitment without being labeled "unloving." When we emphasize the permanency of marriage it is by no means an attack on those whose marriages have ended in failure and who, subsequently, are hurting both emotionally and spiritually. We must not label that failure as "unforgivable." But, at the same time, we cannot adopt the attitude that present practice has made permanency seem "old fashioned." We suffer horribly today from the self-oriented, "me-minded" attitude around us. It has invaded Christian circles. I am troubled when I see sin glorified as though it is a virtue. While I do rejoice greatly when I see Christ enter and forgive and heal broken marriages and lives, how I love to see people like my own parents who this fall celebrated 51 years together. When we have anniversaries in our church that reveal God's idea of commitment, I thank Him for the example to me and to my children.

Several years ago I heard a speaker challenge me to go home and tell my wife that as long as the two of us lived, I would never divorce her. I did. How could I? That declaration (and you should make it, too!) was based on God's promise and ability to keep His Word, remembering that good biblical and Lutheran doctrine states that God's will revealed in His Word always carries His grace to fulfill it. We all can make such a declaration. Indeed, it is vitally important that you do so in the presence of your children. I remember when our oldest son, now 11, was in first grade. Several times he asked me, "Daddy, will you get a divorce?" My response telling him "no" was based on what I know as God's ability to keep.

I conclude this section and begin the second half of our topic with a challenge to each reader, whether married or single, whether you con-

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"Unless He is kept at the center (of marriage), intimacies will not be freely shared and loneliness will remain."

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sider yourself a Christian or not. We are systematically being swept along into a gradual acceptance of less than God's perfect standard for marriage. As more and more prominent Christians make headlines with their marriages dissolving, the tendency is to become fatalistic and at least subconsciously adjust our perception of marriage downward. It is neither good nor right to stand as the Pharisee and simply condemn. It is

equally as tragic when failure in a marriage is excused instead of confessed, explained away instead of forgiven. We cannot under any circumstances, in the midst of our caring and compassion for those who have gone through the trauma of divorce, adopt anything less than what the Word says. The overwhelming majority of marital failures today are linked to the sins of pride and selfishness.

In Dr. Wheat's book he has a chapter on agape love. I direct you to the seven characteristics of that love (page 120) as a transition to our area of discussion.

(1) Agape love means action, not just a benign attitude.

(2) Agape love means involvement, not a comfortable detachment from the needs of others.

(3) Agape love means *unconditionally* loving the *unlovable*, the *undeserving*, and the *unresponsive*.

### HIS PRESENCE CAME LIKE SUNRISE

I met God in the morning,  
When my day was at its best,  
And His presence came like sunrise,  
Like a glory in my breast.

All day long the Presence lingered;  
All day long He stayed with me;  
And we sailed in perfect calmness  
O'er a very troubled sea.

Other ships were blown and battered,  
Other ships were sore distressed,  
But the winds that seemed to drive them  
Brought to us a peace and rest.

Then I thought of other mornings,  
With a keen remorse of mind,  
When I, too, had loosed the moorings  
With the Presence left behind.

So I think I know the secret,  
Learned from many a troubled way:  
You must seek Him in the morning  
If you want Him through the day!

Ralph Cushman  
(*Youth's Favorite Poems*)



(4) Agape love means permanent commitment to the object of one's love.

(5) Agape love means constructive, purposeful giving based not on blind sentimentality but on knowledge: the knowledge of what is best for the beloved.

(6) Agape love means consistency of behavior showing ever-present concern for the beloved's highest good.

(7) Agape love is the chief means and the best way of blessing your partner and your marriage.

No Christian can tell God that he cannot demonstrate agape love. What God has required His grace supplies.

What does all this say to the vast numbers of people living together today, partaking of all the outward benefits of the marriage relationship without actually being married? While geographical location may have some bearing on these figures, it is estimated that from 18% - 20% of college students nationwide are co-habiting. This figure, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, has more than tripled since 1970. The figure today is figured around 2,000,000 strong. It isn't going to go away. It may affect your children and mine. Indeed, it already is. While I can sight numerous reasons for the increase of this lifestyle, it is born out of really only one cause, sin.

I believe if we can view the current trend in this area as one of many steps away from God's standard, we will understand more readily. While I do not quote her from a Christian perspective, Dr. Joyce Brother's article in the October 20th issue of "Parade Magazine" had some noteworthy facts. She echoes some of them from her book *What Every Woman Ought To Know About Love And Marriage*. Those interviewed listed reasons for their lifestyle as:

- (1) rise in the rate of divorce
- (2) emphasis on advanced education
- (3) employment problems
- (4) high housing costs

It is interesting to note that of those people who live together, the vast majority are under 30 years of age, or in retirement, the younger age group being the majority. Her article, from secular perspective, echoes what Scripture has always taught. The practice of co-habiting

is sinful not only in the sense that it violates the Sixth Commandment, but because it assumes so many other things that in real life simply do not happen.

For instance, studies clearly show that those who live together without marriage, yet indulging in the full lifestyle of marriage, do so on their best behavior. It has been shown that in the absence of the lifelong commitment that marriage represents, problems are not resolved, feelings are repressed, and what appears to be a closely-knit relationship is really very superficial. The argument is that marriage is simply an archaic ceremony without place or significance. The argument is that "love" is all that is needed. But as we examine the character of love previously listed and revealed personally and perfectly by Christ, we see that love cannot be love without that very commitment. Without it, it is the epitome of selfishness, and in our society both end up losers.

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"As a church, and as Christian families and individuals, we must hold God's standard high, . . ."

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The argument is also given that co-habiting is a good way to determine if this is really the "right one." Again, studies prove otherwise. Their findings only confirm what Scripture has said was true all along. One study of 2,150 men revealed that just over a third of the unmarried men who had lived with a woman married her. Almost two-thirds did not. Another researcher found that in a study of live-togethers from around the country, only nine percent had serious plans about getting married. He also found that the average time span of such relationships was only nine and one-half months. While I believe that both man and woman are losers in this relationship, those of you with daughters should know that in our society such a relationship will be more cruel on her. With an imbalance of over 7,000,000 men in our society, the tendency for a man is not to face problems in a live-in

relationship, but rather to simply change partners. Again, like it or not, the statistics are there to show that is exactly what is happening.

It is interesting to read some secular materials on this subject and to see how they point out major problems like lack of commitment. We can thank God that this lifestyle is seen by many even in non-Christian circles for the fallacy that it is.

So what is our answer? Certainly it is not to simply condemn and then stick our head in the sand because our children would never do anything like that. They may. But for the grace of God. . . No, it behooves all of us who profess to know Christ and the better way outlined in His Word to show by our homes and our marriages that this is in fact the best way to go. It can be shown, fortunately, from both biblical and secular perspectives that this lifestyle takes everything of value and leaves nothing in its place. It is part of the first half of John 10:10. The devil takes and takes and then leaves people spiritually and emotionally crippled and broken. As a church, and as Christian families and individuals, we must hold God's standard high, in love and concern. All the more reason not to compromise the areas mentioned at the beginning of this article.

This article has gone beyond what I had planned in length, but it has been difficult for me to quit. I close with sharing that I count it a great blessing to be happily married. Our 19 years of marriage have seen trials from finances, illness and a good measure of my own personal pride. But it shall stand. And by God's grace, so shall yours.

To any of you who read this article, especially the young high school graduate or college student or member of the work force — to you who desperately want the satisfaction of a relationship like marriage, but aren't ready to make the commitment of marriage — I appeal. No matter how attractive society, your peers, and, yes, Satan makes this alternate style appear, understand that you can't afford the price that will be paid.

May God find us all seeking His way, the only right way either in marriage or outside of it.



a Minneapolis community is  
seeing Christ's love demonstrated  
in an AFLC congregation

## Focusing on neighborhood missions

**Photos and story  
by Mrs. Wayne Hjermstad**

In an era when inner-city congregations are struggling to survive and adjust to their rapidly changing communities, Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church is beginning to see what a joyful opportunity of service their changing neighborhood provides. Located five minutes from downtown Minneapolis, this AFLC congregation has accepted the challenge to expend personal time and energy in opening its doors to its neighbors.

Three years ago, Pastor Yeddo Gottle began delivering nearly seventy pounds of bread each Monday to

needy families surrounding the church. Pastor Gottle began serving Morgan Avenue Lutheran in 1981, about the same time Southeast Asians were finding neighborhood housing. Pastor Gottle found himself assisting in meeting special practical family needs.

Meanwhile, God was at work. A vision grew. God placed people at Morgan Avenue who would have a special part in His plan — people such as Mary Cross, Gary Lilleoien, Diane Lind, Patty Mattson, Reuben Unseth, and many others. The congregation realized they could not be satisfied to only send mission dollars to far away places, but their Buddhist neighbors provided an open door for

the congregation to demonstrate true Christ-like love for souls.

Today, after two years of Saturday morning club, up to seventy Southeast Asian children come to hear Bible stories, sing, play games and enjoy special outings. These children and their parents are observing the love of Christ lived out by their teachers and workers serving snacks and organizing clothes and household goods to be given away.

A monthly family service is held with the children encouraged to bring their parents to hear a message and enjoy a hot meal prepared and served by the Laotian women. There are over thirty Southeast Asian families



Ladies check out the clothes in the church basement.

Gary Lilleoien leads in singing.

in the community; most of them claim Laos as their homeland.

The friendship is growing. Over forty children attend the congregation's regular Sunday School classes. Morgan Avenue is praising God more and more for the privilege of sharing Christ with their Buddhist neighbors and friends. Several teens have accepted Jesus as Saviour as God's Word has been faithfully planted. Former AFLBS student, Gary Lilleoien, creates chuckles as he shares in Laotian. The family teaching Gary the language affectionately calls him their "son."

God's unique plan for Morgan Avenue does not end with the Southeast Asians. The congregation's Finnish heritage is well-known in the north Minneapolis community and in the AFLC. The opportunity to share the Gospel in the Finnish language continues today. Each Thursday afternoon prayer and Bible reading in Finnish echo from the church. Pastor Gottel, a German Brazilian, preaches in English and occasionally sings in Finnish. The group is growing spiritually and in reaching unchurched Finns. Projects for the church have been adopted by the group: such as a piano, new carpeting, a vacuum cleaner and more. The aroma from moiakka has filled the church basement, inviting the Finnish community into the church.

Morgan Avenue Lutheran will never be the same. "It's been eye-opening for our members as they see needs. Our people are more aware of their personal opportunities," commented a smiling Pastor Gottel. "We've seen many volunteering time, cars, and giving of their personal goods. Nobody has been driven from the church, much to the contrary," he added. "In fact, we're seeing young people come and get excited in serving the Lord. The enthusiasm is contagious!" God has been allowed to open eyes and hearts. Many nationalities fill the church's sanctuary as God's people reach out to their changing community. The love of Christ knows no boundaries — only the giving of oneself to needy souls God has placed in our paths and hearts.



Pastor Yeddo Gottel chats with a couple of neighbors.

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"God has been allowed to open eyes and hearts."

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Reuben Unseth, AFLTS student, takes time to get acquainted with a young friend.



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# world missions news

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Pictured with Pastor Samuel Flores of Leon, Mexico, are, left to right, Naomi Monseth, Priscilla Mundfrom and Todd Schierkolk. Not pictured: Terry Claus.

## Experiences never dreamed of

I had always wanted to go to a Spanish-speaking country so I could practice the language, but I never dreamed that in Leon, Mexico, I would see God work in me and in some of those around me, as I had never seen or experienced before.

An experience of the majesty of God. An experience of my own state. No comparison, only devastating contrast, leading to a thankful heart for the gift of life that He has given me. The people in the church in Leon showed visible respect for God's holiness.

A sincere appreciation for the material things that God has so graciously bestowed upon me. It is hard not to appreciate what I have after tracing so many pictures for Vacation Bible School and dreaming of a copy machine. It is also hard not to appreciate a lawnmower after cutting the grass with a machete.

As a direct result of a visit to a Mexican household where we were able to share the Gospel in Spanish, God has given me a desire such as I have never felt before to share my faith and the words that gave hope and life to me with others. To see the Spirit of God working in the way He was with Monica, a gypsy, and Luis, a young man caught up in

## Testimonies of the members of the Summer Youth Ministries Team to Mexico

### A better understanding

As I look back to the time spent with the 1985 Mexico Summer Youth Ministries Team, many cherished memories come to my mind. God opened my eyes to a better understanding of the mission field and he used the Mexican people to teach me in many ways.

He taught me gratefulness for the

several destructive influences, impressed upon me God's desire for the souls of the lost.

And finally, God gave me a deeper understanding of prayer as I witnessed a direct answer to the petitions of those supporting me at home during a time span of 15 seconds. Those 15 seconds could make an eternity's difference for several individuals. I realized more that prayer is not just something God wants us to do, but it is a powerful tool that has a very real impact on the salvation of the lost.

As I think back on the oneness of spirit we had with the believers in Mexico and the strong bonds that were formed there; as I dwell on that which God has revealed to me and on how it will affect the future, both mine and that of all those involved in this trip, I can only thank the glorious God who made it all possible and hope that some other young persons might be able to let God touch their lives in a similar way as they reach out to people through a Summer Youth Ministries Team.

Todd Schierkolk

privileges and blessings we have in the United States. The church in Leon has many, many needs and yet the people have such a spirit of joy and contentment.

He also taught me through the children. Helping with VBS was such a rewarding experience! The children had such a respect for their teachers and their love for Jesus was clearly evidenced through their eagerness to hear God's Word. A child's simple trust in Jesus can teach us so much.

The love and closeness between families and church members also impressed me. One can never be too giving, I learned.

The time spent in Mexico went by too quickly, but it was an experience I'll never forget. Is the Lord calling you to go? Listen to Him! The needs of the mission field are many. Matthew 9:37, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few."

Naomi Monseth

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## Be not anxious

*Therefore we should leave all care to Him. The work we do and the pains we take are not contrary to faith, but are useful for the training of the flesh; but anxiety is contrary to God. The woman should mind the children, run the house, and wait for God to show what is His Will for her. Similarly, the man should work and commit himself to God. God will not desert him. He has promised that very clearly. All that we achieve with our anxiety is that we stand in God's way and hinder His work in us.*

*Martin Luther  
(Day by Day We Magnify Thee)*

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# editorials

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## THANK YOU, PASTOR UNSETH

How quickly the time goes by. Pastor Einar Unseth of Bismarck, N. Dak., has already completed six months of writing, with this issue, for our devotional page, "At the Master's Feet." Now he will be free of those every-other-week deadlines and will have some extra hours to devote to his busy schedule as a pastor in North Dakota's rapidly growing capital city. Steady progress has been made in Calvary Lutheran Church, a congregation Pastor Unseth started "from scratch" eight years ago next summer. And the progress has been spiritual as well as numerical.

Thank you, Pastor Unseth for your devotional articles. They have been consistently edifying and inspiring. You have the knack of inserting illustration from life that fit the situation. They are windows that let in more light. Your writing has shown us the Lord, His power and desire to help us along life's way. May He bless you in the parish work that is yours and in the other ways in which you are involved in kingdom work.

Our new writer for the *Ambassador* series will be Pastor Kenneth Moland of Kirkland, Wash. We are grateful that he has consented to take on this responsibility as we continue to feature Association pastors in this devotional ministry.

Pastor Moland needs no introduction to most of our readers. He travelled into most areas of the Association with Bible School choirs during the eight years he was dean. He is one of a handful of men who have visited so widely throughout our church. So as he writes his articles he will be able to visualize where our people live and our readers will be able to picture him as one whom they know. He serves Redeemer Lutheran Church in beautiful suburban Seattle. May the Lord bless his ministry there and his service of writing for our devotional benefit.

## CHAIN LETTERS

It had been along time since we had received any chain letter until one arrived in early October. We did not make copies and forward them but kept the letter

for seed for a possible *Ambassador* editorial. It is too bad these letters get started and then are perpetuated. It is best to place them in a circular file, which we shall do now with ours.

Belief in chance and fatalism has no place in the Christian mind and spirit. God sends some happenings into our lives, others He permits to come, none of them to destroy us, all of them to have a salutary effect on our souls if we will permit that. If it is of a chastening nature, that may not seem good to us at the time, but if we trust God through it, in retrospect, that is, as we look back, we will see that God meant it for good.

Stand firm on God's Word, do your work diligently unto the Lord, resist the devil and you will prosper spiritually, the way that matters most of all. And God will provide in all material needs.

## ONE MONTH TO GO

Would you spend a little more time than usual in studying the Church Subsidy (not a good term, we think) report for the AFLC found in this issue of the *Ambassador*? It is for the period ending November 30, a month out of date as you read this.

It is expected that December income will be good also because not all special Thanksgiving offerings are likely reflected in the totals shown at the end of November. That is, not all the offerings reached our business office before the books for the month had to be closed.

But the report is a sobering one. Income and percentage of goal reached are behind those of last year at the same time.

We are an overwhelmingly rural church. Rural areas are hurting right now. Some of our people weren't able to harvest all of last fall's crops. That doesn't help. The cost-price squeeze for farmers is tough.

May the Lord help us to rally to the challenge before us. Consider how important it is that all phases of our work receive full support. This is a time of testing for us. Let us not fail the test. Give what you can now for AFLC Schools, Missions and other expenses. God bless you.

## a New Year's prayer

*"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there by any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting"*

*(Psalm 139:23,24).*



Pastor Peter and Judy Franz and Sarah in 1983.

## AFLC Minot woman wins homemaker award

(Slightly abridged from Minot, N. Dak., *Daily News*

by Tanya Watterud

Twenty-month-old David Franz grasped the back of his rocking chair, sat on his knees and pointed out the living room window at a roaring snowplow. "Tractor," he said, looking toward his mother and pointing again. "Tractor."

"Yes, that's a tractor," Judy Franz, replied as she cuddled 3-year-old Sarah in her lap. There soon will be one more child to cuddle in the Franz home. Judy is expecting a baby in early March.

"I've always wanted to be a wife and mother," said Judy, 30. "The home has always been a top priority to me."

That philosophy helped her earn the North Dakota Full-time Homemaker of 1985 award, presented today

by members of Minot's Eagle Forum.

This is the first year the award was given by the national Eagle Forum, a pro-family organization, and a full-time homemaker from every state, Puerto Rico and Canada won the awards.

Catherine Sutherland, public relations director for the national group headquartered in Alton, Ill., listed some criteria for the award.

Each recipient must be a full-time homemaker, and must live in a traditional family setting where the husband is the breadwinner and the wife is the homemaker. She must have at least one child at home under age 18, and must not have earned more than \$500 in income in the past year.

Judy, the wife of the Rev. Peter Franz of Bethel Free Lutheran Church, Minot, is a humble winner. "I know how I want to raise my children, but to be consistent is hard," she said.

Many parents have books that they read for guidance in raising children. "My book to follow would be the Bible," she said. "The Bible says so much about the family and raising kids and discipline. I am so thankful to be able to be home and raise the kids the way I feel they should be raised," she said. "I thoroughly enjoy it. That could be my career for my lifetime."

Peter and Judy were married July 14, 1979, and Judy, a graduate of Duluth Area Vocational Technical Institute in Duluth, Minn., worked as a licensed practical nurse before Sarah was born. Then they decided Judy should stay at home. Peter still was attending Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary in Minneapolis and the family lived off money earned from his part-time job for a year. They never were in need of anything, Judy said, and she credits God for that.

"God has proved Himself so faithful to us time and time again," she said. "He's taken care of our needs so I'm able to stay at home."

The family has cut back on spending because they have only one income, but it wasn't hard to do, she said. "We don't feel that material possessions are going to make our children happy. What they need is the love and security of a home."

Judy said her mother was always

at home when she was growing up, and that meant a lot to her. She wants to be there for her children, too. If she does start a career outside the home again, it won't be until all her children have left home.

"So many women feel that staying at home is not an important job to do," Judy said. Some feel guilty that they are not contributing to their community if they don't have other jobs. That's not true.

"I think that when you have a strong family unit, you're going to have a strong nation," she said. When families break apart, the nation is weakened. Helping to build a strong family is a great contribution to a community, she said.

Many couples struggle with the question of whether the mother can stay home and they can live on one income. Judy said some absolutely can't, but others can.

She studied their financial situation. When she added up all the costs incurred if she worked outside the home, including child care, buying formula instead of breast feeding, disposable diapers instead of cloth, food that is faster to make but more expensive, and extra gasoline for transportation, she found they wouldn't make much more if she worked. She decided her children were more important than the money and decided to stay home.

"The older I get, the more happy I am that I'm staying home," she said. "The kids grow up so fast, and I'll never have these years back again."

Judy believes all women have the ability to be good homemakers. "I think God made women special just for that."

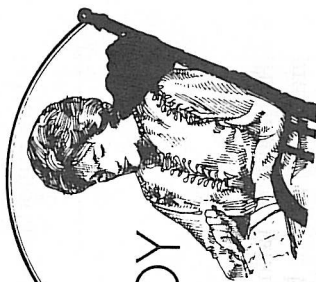
Judy said taking care of her children and her husband are the most important responsibilities of a full-time homemaker. She reads to her children, plays with them, and spends a lot of time with them. But husbands need attention too. "It's easy to be so busy with the children that he can be neglected," she said. "He needs attention just as much as the kids do."

One of the ways he gets that attention is: "I like to make Dad's coming home a special event every day," she said. "I want home to be a place that he wants to come to."



WMF

## BIBLE STUDY



### Lesson Two

#### KEY WORDS FROM GOD'S WORD FAITH

Hymn No. 269 (*Concordia*) — "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

We are studying KEY WORDS in our Bible studies this year. We need to have a positive attitude as we try to learn more about what God would have us know. There are things in the Bible that we do not understand. But we believe that through the help of the Holy Spirit we can gain insight into God's Word.

God asks of us only an open heart and an open mind so that He can reveal Himself and His truths to us. We do not have to understand everything; God says, "Only believe" (Mk. 5:36).  
Our word for the month is Faith.

1. According to Heb. 11:1, what is the definition of faith? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Not only is man born without trust or confidence in God, he also cannot by his own powers understand or appreciate the message of the Gospel or take possession of it by faith. I Cor. 2:14; 1:23 What then produces faith? I Cor. 12:3b \_\_\_\_\_

F. (v. 11) By faith Sarah \_\_\_\_\_

G. (v. 17) By faith Abraham \_\_\_\_\_

H. (v. 20) By faith Isaac \_\_\_\_\_

I. (v. 21) By faith Jacob \_\_\_\_\_

J. (v. 22) By faith Joseph \_\_\_\_\_

K. (v. 23) By faith Moses \_\_\_\_\_

L. (v. 31) By faith Rahab \_\_\_\_\_

Closing Hymn, No. 289 (*Concordia*) — "God Is Faithful, He will Never,"

3. How important is faith? Lk. 7:50; Rom. 5:1; Rom. 1:16, 17 \_\_\_\_\_

The value of faith, though, does not lie in faith itself, but in what it grasps or holds. It is like the empty hand that reaches out but can only receive what is given it.

4. What are the results of true faith in the life of a Christian?

A. Jn. 3:36 \_\_\_\_\_

B. Acts 10:43 \_\_\_\_\_

C. Rom. 5:1 \_\_\_\_\_

D. Is. 26:3 \_\_\_\_\_

5. What does God use to create faith in the heart? Rom. 10:17; 1:16 \_\_\_\_\_

6. What are the enemies of our faith?

A. Jas. 1:14; Rom. 8:7, 8 \_\_\_\_\_

B. Mark 4:19; Rom. 12:2 \_\_\_\_\_

C. Lk. 8:12; II Cor. 11:3 \_\_\_\_\_

7. There are many enemies, sins and temptations which seek to destroy our faith in Jesus. How shall we overcome and grow in faith? Heb. 12:1, 2 \_\_\_\_\_

8. As we close our lesson, turn to Heb. 11 and finish the sentences concerning the triumphs of faith, recorded as examples for us. (Copy the main thought from each verse.)

A. (v. 3) By faith we \_\_\_\_\_

B. (v. 4) By faith Abel \_\_\_\_\_

C. (v. 5) By faith Enoch \_\_\_\_\_

D. (v. 7) By faith Noah \_\_\_\_\_

E. (v. 8) By faith Abraham \_\_\_\_\_

## Women's Missionary Federation

### *In memoriam gifts*

Carl G. Nelson, Roseau, Minn.  
Alice Erlandson, Dalton, Minn.  
Alvin Young, Dalton, Minn.  
John Symons, Hayden Lake, Ida.  
Valeria Seidel, Williston, N. Dak.  
Ole Foss, Williston, N. Dak.  
Alvin Hersel, Tioga, N. Dak.  
Myrtle Sundhagen, Tioga, N. Dak.  
Oscar Meyer, Valley City, N. Dak.

*Blessed are  
those who die  
in the Lord*



We live in deeds, not years;  
in thoughts, not breaths,  
In feelings, not in figures on a dial.  
We should count time by  
heart-throbs. He most lives  
Who thinks most, feels the  
noblest, acts the best.  
Life's but a means unto an end;  
that end  
Beginning, mean, and end to all  
things—  
God.

—Philip James Bailey

*Life is so generous a giver, but we,  
Judging its gifts by their covering,  
Cast them away as ugly, or heavy, or hard.  
Remove the covering, and you will find beneath it  
A living splendour, woven of love, by wisdom, with power.*

*Welcome it, grasp it, and you touch the  
Angel's hand that brings it to you.  
Everything we call a trial, a sorrow, or a duty,  
Believe me, that Angel's hand is there the gift is there,  
And the wonder of an overshadowing presence.*

*And so, at this time, I greet you,  
Not quite as the world sends greetings,  
But with profound esteem and with the prayer,  
That for you now and forever,  
The day breaks, and the shadows flee away.*

*Fra. Giovanni - 1530  
Submitted*

# THE WOMEN'S PAGE

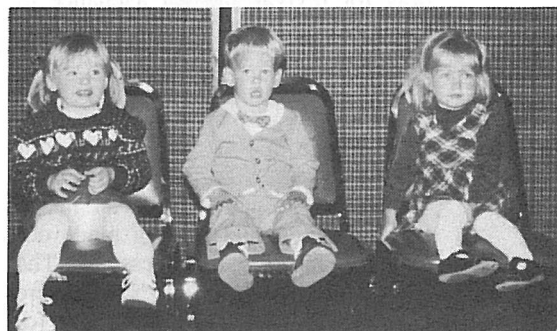
## Cradle Roll

Amery Free Lutheran Church Cradle Roll honored Jamie Stewart, Kellen Marson and Kassie Christopherson as recent graduates.

Babies recently honored at Amery are: (L. to R. seated) Mrs. Laurie Stewart and Aaron; Mrs. Jackie Rosenbush and Jamie; Mrs. Lois Van Somerin and Kyle; Mrs. Tim Kjeseth and Megan and Nicole; (standing) Mrs. LeAnn Marson and Kelsey; Mrs. Retha Nelson and Timmy; Mrs. Tom Kjeseth and Courtney and Mrs. Rosalie Dietsche and Lindsay.

### Lost at the ARC Family Camp

1 pair new brown shoes, slip-ons, size 12, mens. If you have discovered this extra pair of shoes in your house, the original owner would love to have them returned. Contact The Ambassador, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Mpls. Minn. 55441.



## Fall Rallies

### North Central District

The Maple Bay Free Lutheran Church hosted 93 ladies on October 26. Rev. Walter Beaman, McIntosh, and Mrs. Barbara Johnson, Badger, were the day's speakers on the theme from Psalm 1, 19:18.

New officers elected were: Mrs. Robert Broden, president; Mrs. Fern Aamodt, secretary; and Mrs. Clarice Dahl, Cradle Roll Secretary.

### South Dakota District

The Fall Rally was held at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Canton, on October 15. "The Christian's armor - Jesus Christ," focused the attention of 45 ladies registered for the day. Pastor and Mrs. Charles Knapp were the guest speakers and provided special music along with Pastor and Mrs. Roger Olson.



## Bismarck church encouraged by meetings

We as Christians seek after and pray for revival and for a chance to share our faith with friends and unbelievers. This opportunity came to us at Calvary Lutheran Church in Bismarck, N. Dak., November 3-7, when Pastor Herbert Franz was our guest evangelist.

At each service the special music and congregational singing made our hearts ready for the message. The testimonies of the young people were also an inspiration to all of us, for they, too, prepared our hearts to "receive the Word with all readiness of mind."

Under Pastor Franz's direction we "searched the Scriptures daily." There were tears of sadness shed the evening he concluded his messages, for He had shared so extensively of himself and of the importance of being prepared for eternity. Thus he endeared himself to those who came nightly to hear the Gospel messages. And the people of Bismarck did come regularly to hear, with an average nightly attendance of 77.

The Holy Spirit's call was noticeably evident to the non-Christians who attended. They were presented with the glories of heaven, the reality of hell, and the choice which lies before them.

The Christians were challenged to prepare themselves for the judgments of the Lord and to reach out in love to the people around them by sharing what Christ had done for them.

These special services were an excellent means of outreach. They helped our congregation to become both more well-known and better accepted in the Christian community.

We thank the Lord our God for His favor which has rested upon our services and for the people who were drawn closer to Jesus through them. It is our prayer that God will continue to establish the work which He has begun in our midst. We shall continue to pray for revival and for opportunities to share the Gospel.

Gladys Schuler  
Connie Johansen, Correspondents

### ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

#### CHURCH SUBSIDY February 1-November 30

FUND	TOTAL BUDGET	REC'D IN NOV.	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% of TOTAL*
General Fund	\$ 213,910.00	\$ 16,218.49	\$125,325.90	59
Schools — AFLTS	108,041.00	7,002.42	48,473.98	45
AFLBS	179,198.00	9,400.13	79,704.50	44
Home Missions	271,233.00	13,605.98	117,983.17	43
World Missions	307,000.00	15,112.16	189,078.59	62
Praise Fund	30,000.00	913.66	15,185.74	51
TOTALS	\$1,109,382.00	\$ 62,252.84	\$575,751.88	52
1984-85	\$1,003,095.00	\$ 95,826.86	\$605,875.39	60

\*Goal 83%

## Housing information for DeKalb Conference

The Grace Lutheran Congregation of DeKalb, Illinois, wishes to invite the members and friends of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations to the Eastern Bible Conference. The Conference will be held at Grace Feb. 7-9.

Our church is located at 1121 South First Street, just off the Illinois Tollway. DeKalb is a city of over 33,000 people and is famous for many different industries. The inventors of barbed wire lived here. DeKalb is famous for the Elwood House, which is the home of one of the chief manufacturers of barbed wire.

Grace Congregation came into the Association when Pastor Gary Skramstad served here. We are looking forward to hosting the Bible Conference. We are looking forward to having fellowship with each one who comes.

If you need housing, there will be some rooms available in the homes of the members and friends of Grace. A listing of motels and room rates is given. You may call our pastor,

Dennis Gray, or our congregational president, Mervin Matthison at 756-2531 or 756-5079 (area code 815).

We invite each of you to come. The WMF will be meeting on Saturday, February 8. Further details of this important meeting will be coming. Call or write Grace Lutheran if you have need of assistance. I John 1:3 and 7.

#### List of DeKalb Motels:

The DeKalb Motel (815-756-5411)  
(20 rooms)  
1815 E. Lincoln Highway (No. 38)  
1 bed \$21.50  
2 beds \$24.49 each plus tax  
Each additional person in room - \$3.00

The Georgetown Motel (815-756-1451) (62 rooms)  
1321 W. Lincoln Highway (No. 38)  
Single \$25.00 plus tax  
Double \$30.00 plus tax  
3-4 person in room \$33.00 plus tax

Golden Harvest Motel (815-758-3482) (37 rooms)  
Route 23 (coming into DeKalb from north or from Genoa, Illinois)

# 1985 AMBASSADOR SCHEDULE

Here are the deadlines for *The Lutheran Ambassador* for 1986. All those who plan to submit material during the year should pay special attention.

In addition to the emphases listed, others may be added as the year progresses.

Monthly WMF Bible Studies (except for December) will usually appear in the first issue of the month before they are to be used.

Please send all materials to the Editor at Newfolden, Minn. See the full address in the masthead on page 2. WMF material, however, should be sent directly to Mrs. Wayne Hjermstad at 7821 Zane Avenue No., Apt. 105, Brooklyn Park, Minn. 55443.

Thank you.

PLEASE SAVE FOR REFERENCE!

<i>Date of Issue</i>	<i>Editor's Deadline</i>	<i>Special Emphasis</i>
January 14		Scrapbook Issue
January 28	January 4	
February 11	January 18	Patriotic
February 25	February 1	Lent
March 11	February 15	Easter
March 25	March 1	
April 8	March 15	
April 22	March 29	Mother's Day
May 6	April 12	Pentecost and Pre-Conference
May 20	April 26	Pre-Conference
June 3	May 10	Father's Day
June 17	May 24	
July 15	June 21	Conference Reports
July 29	July 5	
August 12	July 19	Parish Education
September 9	August 16	
September 23	August 30	
October 7	September 13	
October 21	September 27	Reformation
November 4	October 11	
November 18	October 25	Thanksgiving
December 2	November 8	Advent
December 16	November 22	Christmas
December 30	December 6	Year's End
January 13, 1987	December 20	Beginning of 25th Anniversary Year

Single \$21.92 with tax  
Double (2 people, 1 bed) \$24.98 with tax  
2 People, 2 beds, \$27.47 with tax  
Additional person in room, \$3.33 each

Holiday Inn (815-758-8661)  
1212 W. Lincoln Highway (No. 38)  
(140 rooms)  
Single \$33.00  
Double \$39.00

2 Double beds \$41.00 - 1 person  
\$47.00 - 2 people  
King \$47.00, 1 person, or \$53.00, 2 people

Motel 6 (815-756-6605)  
116 W. Lincoln Highway 38  
1 person \$17.95 plus tax, without TV  
2 persons \$21.95 plus tax  
3 persons \$23.95 plus tax  
4 persons \$25.95 plus tax

Prices are subject to change by the date of the Conference. Tax includes Illinois sales tax and a DeKalb city tax.

## Housing information for Portland Conference

The Central area Bible Conference will be held in Portland and Mayville, N. Dak., Jan. 31-Feb. 2. The Friday evening and Sunday services will be held at Valley Lutheran Church in Portland, located two blocks south of the bank. Saturday conference sessions will be at Mayville State College. Mayville is two miles east of Portland.

Rev. Kerwin Sletto, pastor of Valley Lutheran, announces the following information about housing for the conference. Housing is available at the college dormitory. For a single room (one person) the cost including linens will be \$12 per night. For two persons in a room the cost is \$7 per person per night. For the convenience of the college, we need to know by January 22 if a room is desired. You can send your reservations to Pastor Sletto. His address is:

Rev. Kerwin Sletto  
718 Ives Street  
Buxton, N. Dak.  
Call: 701-847-2353

Other Accommodations Available:

Mayville Hotel  
(701-786-2861)  
543 S. E. 3rd St.  
Mayville, N. Dak. 58257  
1 person - \$19.71  
2 people - \$24-28.08  
3 people - add \$3.00

Hillsboro Inn  
(701-436-5501)  
I-29 Interchange  
Hillsboro, N. Dak. 58045  
1 person - \$22.88  
2 people - \$27.04-31.20

Sunset View Motel  
(701-436-4532)  
Highway 81 North  
Hillsboro, N. Dak. 58045  
1 person - \$17.00  
2 people - \$21.00  
3 people - \$25.00

Hillsboro is about 20 miles south-east of Mayville and 22 miles from Portland.

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