

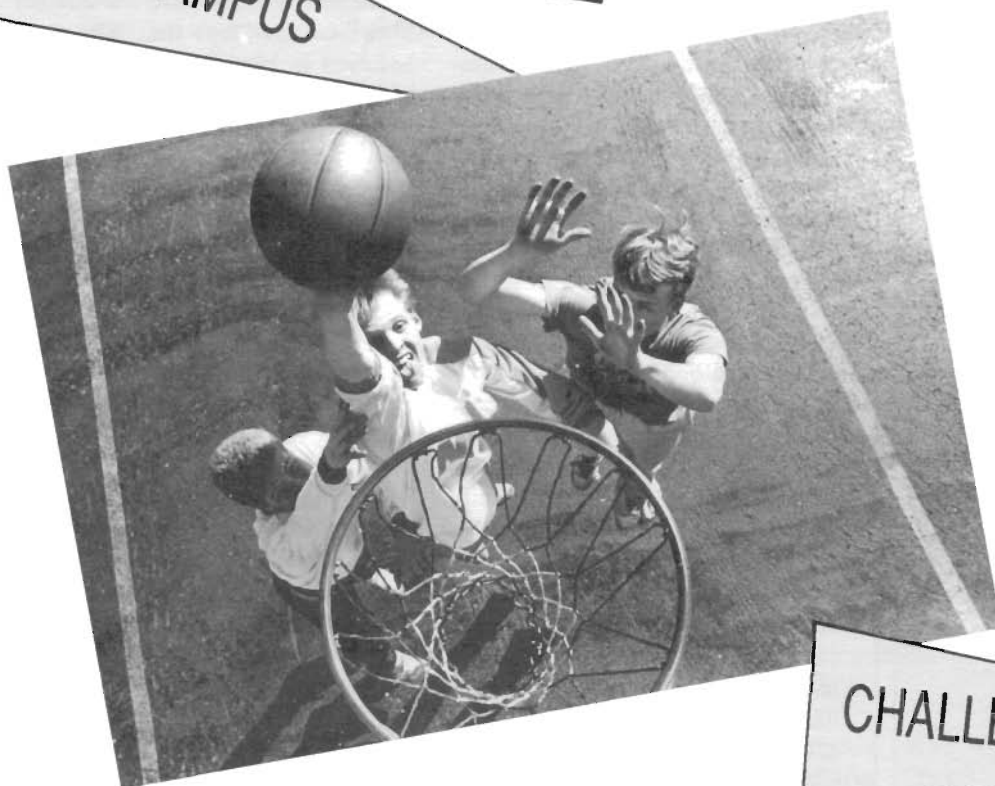


THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

February 16, 1993



THE CAMPUS



CHALLENGE



THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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Rev. Robert L. Lee, Editor
Mrs. Wayne Hjermstad, Assistant to the Editor

Editorial Board:

Rev. Wendell Johnson, Chairman
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There Is No Greater Valentine Than God's Love

On February 14, lovers young and old exchange endearments by card and gift. Our exchange also includes the extended family as well as friends. Valentine's Day was cause for a party in our country school, usually during the last hour of the day. Each student made their own valentine card box, complete with a card slot on the top.

The next shopping trip included a packet of cards which were carefully sorted and matched to the recipients. The program included goodies, usually homemade cookies. Nectar was prepared and served by our teacher.

At the close of the hour we were allowed to open our boxes. Oh what fun when some had a candy sucker attached! Then there were those that prompted some teasing. A great time was had by all.

St. Valentine, a Christian priest martyred on February 14, about 269 A.D. is regarded as the patron saint of lovers. The link appears to be accidental. Medieval Europeans had a notion that birds began their family way activities on this date, hence it would be proper for lovers to exchange cards and gifts on this day. (Our neighborhood chickadees are currently giving credence to this idea.) The custom became established and "Valentine" came to be applied both to the persons and their tokens of affection. (Encyclopedia Americana, Vol. 27, p. 860).

While St. Valentine and the customs of the day appear to be linked by chance, God's love for us is not accidental. Paul taught that God "... chose us in him" (that is, Christ) "before the foundations of the world," (Ephesians 1:4).

Light on the Way

The prophet Jeremiah wrote God's words to Israel, "I have loved you with an everlasting love," (Jeremiah 31:3)

Romans 5:8 teaches us about the eternal and all encompassing love of God in this day of grace. "But God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Jesus answered Nicodemus' questions regarding the gift of eternal life by reminding him of a historical event in Hebrew history. "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that whoever believes in him may have eternal life," (John 3:14, 15).

God's eternal love did not leave us with a dead savior. Peter said of the risen Christ in his Pentecost sermon, "and God raised him up again, putting to an end the agony of death, since it was impossible for him to be held in its power," (Acts 2:24). The Apostle of love wrote that our love for others is inspired by God's love. "We love, because he first loved us," (I John 4:19).

St. Valentine responded to God's love and chose to become a minister of the Gospel. It did cost him his earthly life, but not his eternal life. Jesus did promise, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the son into the world to judge the world; but that the world should be saved through him," (John 3:16-17).

There is no greater valentine than that which God is giving each day.

— by Rev. Henry A.E. Johansen

Reprinted from the West Central Tribune, Willmar, Minnesota.

The Campus Mission Field



become a missionary to a foreign land without ever leaving one's city or learning a foreign language. It has been well said, "Change the campus and you change the world."

But one might protest that it appears impossible to change the campus. College students of our land today seem caught up in a world of self-centered living. The college campuses are centers of immorality, drugs and alcohol. The majority of secular college professors are steeped in humanism. Many religion departments, even in private liberal arts colleges, are out to destroy students' "Sunday School faith" and replace it with a watered down version of Christianity that puts little stake in the authority of the Bible or the concept of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It seems impossible to change the campus. The campus will not listen, will it? Doesn't the Bible say that "the way of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing?" Are we not wasting our time and our breath trying to talk religion and philosophy with students and faculty whose heads are full of secular education? I think not.

The Apostle Paul went to the center of the city of Athens and conversed with the philosophers of his day (Acts 17:16ff). He recognized that in all their philosophy and religiosity there was something missing. They were religious in their own way, they were seekers. They longed to worship something, but they did not know what they were worshipping. They had an altar "to an unknown God." Paul took the opportunity to proclaim to them the true God and the need for repentance and faith in God's Son. Some believed in Jesus Christ as a result of his testimony there!

In my experience on college campuses, I have found that many students are amazingly open to talking about religious matters and considering the teachings of Jesus Christ. Why is this so? It is because they are at a great transition point in their lives. They are sorting out ideas and values on which to base the rest of their lives. And what they are taught in secular classes on the college campus leaves a void that mere education cannot fill. Derek Bok, president of Harvard in 1988 said: "Universities have gone too far in trying to provide value free education." Allen Bloom wrote a book "Closing of the American Mind." Its subtitle sums it up well: "How Higher Education Has Failed Democracy and Impoverished the Souls of Today's Students." Higher education is missing something — a basis for life and values. We

What is one of the most strategic and wide open mission fields in the world? I believe it is the college campuses of the United States. We have a mission field right next door to many of us. Several of our AFLC churches are in or near college towns. Opportunities are unlimited for ministry to college students.

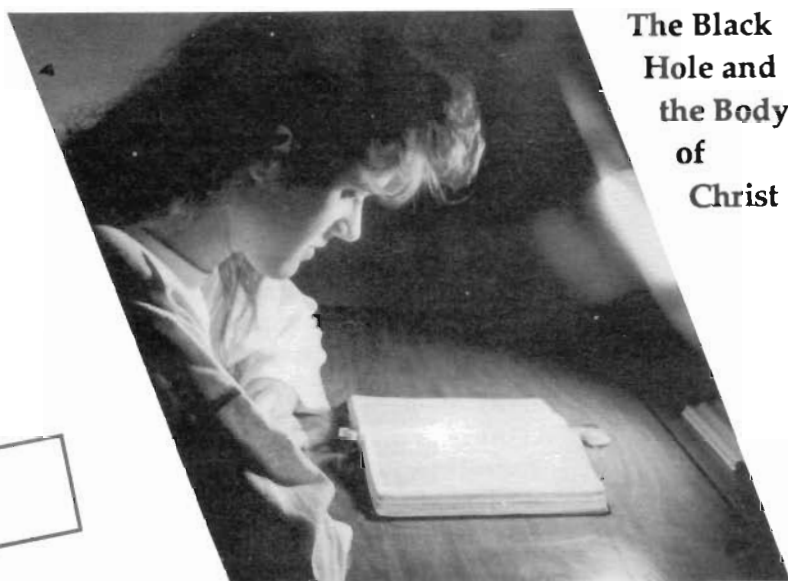
Why is the college campus such a strategic mission field? Because the colleges of America are the centers of learning that train leadership for many areas of our society, including the influential areas of education and politics. If we wish to make an impact on the next generation of leadership in our country we must reach out to the college campuses of our land with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Not only is there potential to impact our nation's future, but in this global society in which we live there is also great potential to impact the rest of the world through our own college campuses. At the university nearest my town, out of its 5,200 students, approximately five percent of them are foreign students. Many campuses have a much higher percentage. These foreign students are often individuals who, because of their high academic achievement in their own land, are sent to the United States for further training. Many of them will go back to their own countries and become leaders there. Therefore, reaching out to these international students is an opportunity to



— by Rev.
Lloyd Quanbeck
Northome, Minnesota

Church Ministry To College Students



The Black Hole and the Body of Christ

For many college students, the years spent in school become The Black Hole of church life.

You move out of the youth group, maybe move out of the town, you feel awkward with the couples and young families ... and when you dare to wander from the security of your campus fellowship or InterVarsity group, you feel like you're wandering through the Valley of Anonymity. Nobody knows you. You're out of place.

I was one of the lucky ones, though. My church connected. And a few of the things my church did can maybe help your church put a little light into The Black Hole for your college singles.

CAMPUS MISSION

who know Jesus Christ have the answer to the void on the college campus. We have the basis for a consistent world view and a perspective for this life that takes into account eternity as well.

But how can we make a dent in the system of higher education in our land? The same way as the Lord's work anywhere else, one individual at a time. It comes down to befriending students and faculty on a personal basis, sharing the love of Christ with them, and confronting them with the claims of Christ on their lives.

Jesus claimed to be the "Bread of Life." He claimed that those who drank of what He had to give them would never thirst again. He claimed the power to forgive sins and raise the dead. He said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me," (John 14:6). He claimed that He would one day judge the living and the dead. Those are radical claims that must be accepted or rejected by all who hear them.

We cannot ignore the mission field of the college campus and leave Jesus Christ out of the world of educated ideas. We must bring Him there. He can satisfy and bring answers like no one else can.

What can one do to begin to reach out to the mission field of the college campus nearby? Look for opportunities to befriend college students. Invite one over to your home for a meal. What college student in his right mind would

pass that up? Advertise need for help with odd jobs in a college newspaper. Invite a student to church with you. Consider starting a ministry in your church to college students. Encourage college students in your church to see the campus as a mission field. Help to train them to share their faith. Help them to sort out the challenges to their faith that they are confronted with in their field of study or their dorm situation.

There may be existing evangelical non-denominational parachurch organizations already actively being a witness to the campus nearby. Perhaps after examination you would encourage students to be involved in their ministries, such as in small group Bible studies in college dorms. Some of these organizations are very effective at training students and making a corporate witness on the college campus.

Whether you support an existing ministry, start one in your church, or just reach out to college students individually, be encouraged that God can use you as you seek to follow His leading in ministering to the nearby mission field of the college campus.

The author serves Northome Lutheran Parish. During his years as a student at Moorhead State University, he was involved in student leadership in the local chapter of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. For three of his years at seminary, he served on the staff of IVCF at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota.

A Sweet Spirit and a Handshake

If there was one thing I recall about the church I attended during college, it was its warm spirit of love. A church with living Christians vibrates with love — and that's appealing, especially if there's enough to go around for a group of college students. There were people who hung around after the service, asking some questions of me, joking around, taking an interest. That was because they **had** an interest in me. After all, I, too, was part of the body of Christ, and a part of them. A church that welcomes young people is a church that has a future!

Jobs, Jobs, Jobs

A recently elected governor in our area listed the three greatest priorities of his new administration: "Jobs, jobs, jobs." The same holds true for holding college students.

My wife, Linda, became involved in the local AFLC church in her college town only when she took advantage of the opportunity to teach a Sunday School class in the church. Like her, many college students don't want open arms alone — they want jobs.

During my second year of college, our church youth director asked me to begin helping with our senior high youth. I stood by his side for three years and learned by watching and — on occasion — filling in for him as a teacher. I found a job, a circle of friends in the church, and a place in the body of Christ.

How About Lunch?

Like many students, my hours were short. I attended class for 15 hours, studied for 20 hours, worked about 25 hours and helped in the church ten more every week. But one slot was always open — lunch.

Every once in a while, the youth worker who recruited me as a helper broke into my schedule by driving out to campus and buying lunch. Another busy pastor I know would spend a whole day at the local campus, setting

up half-hour meetings at the student union. He said it relaxed him — and, not incoincidentally, he found his church peppered with college students on Sundays.

The Disciple Maker

During my junior year at the university, one of my pastors approached one day and told me he had been praying for three men he could lead through a discipleship study for the year. "Would you be one of them?" he asked.

I was just waiting for something like that! I longed to be taught by an older Christian man, and so, every Monday morning, his blue Honda pulled up into my driveway (there was no way I could miss!) and he took me to a fine dining establishment (okay, it was McDonalds). He bought me breakfast, taught a 30-minute lesson, and traded questions and answers with me. During those 30 meetings, I learned more than I did in a half-decade of his sermons. I also became a disciple.

Who Me: Start a Young Adults Fellowship?

I admit it; beginning a young adults fellowship is difficult. I struggled along for three years as co-leader of a young adults group that waddled between four and ten. Students get married, have babies (passing immediately from the Black Hole when the

water breaks) and young adults imagine (incorrectly) that the group will be full of depressed, mokey singles seeking a marriage partner.

But it's worth the effort. One couple started a group that attracted 20 or 30 for Bible study and volleyball for two years in my college church. Friendships and connections to our church were established that lasted for years. Several of those young adults are now leaders, workers and board members in the church — and a few found Christ as Savior.

Maybe some of these ideas can encourage your church to reach out to students feeling out of place in your fellowship. We can't allow the gaps and valleys to stand untouched. Jesus wants to reach them all — even the hard-to-reach ones. That's why the Bible says in Colossians 1:28, "We proclaim Him, admonishing **every** man and teaching **every** man ... that we may present **every** man complete in Christ."

So go fill the hole — The Black Hole of the ministry. And welcome a college student back into the Body of Christ.



— by Rev.
James L. Johnson
Fosston, Minnesota

Jesus tells us in the Sermon on the Mount that we are the salt of the earth. And he challenges us not to lose our savor—our saltiness. This means—among other things—that we are to be active in the world as his representatives. We are to get out of the saltshaker and into life itself. Not to be trodden down, but to be zestful witnesses to Jesus as Lord and Savior, as the one who alone gives life and meaning to a dying world.

—Rebecca Pippert

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For more information on how to donate a complete UNIT or a half UNIT or to begin raising animals or crops for missions, contact AFLC World Missions, 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard, Plymouth, MN 55441 or call (612) 545-5631.

CAMPUS COMMENTS

Walking with Christ on a Christian College Campus

Suppose you are a student attending a Christian college! Would the experience be a bed of roses or some kind of nightmare? I believe it to be a good experience overall after considering its disadvantages and, of course, advantages.

Although there are certainly non-Christians on campus, the overwhelming influence is from the Christian faculty and students. It is a safe haven where you do not have to deal with affronts to Christianity. Your friends have Christianity in common with you and, therefore, encourage you in your walk with Christ rather than pull you down.

At the same time they share the same basic values and world view as you do. At my school, Wheaton College, everyone must sign a statement upon admission saying they will not do things that some consider to be immoral, such as drinking, smoking, adultery, etc. Most students abide by their pledge, although there is a minority who ignore it. Unless you select to be in this group, practically no negative peer pressure exists. It is refreshing not to constantly struggle with certain types of temptation.

I have learned much about Christian traditions other than my own and have gained more respect and appreciation for them. Although we are a strongly evangelical school, in some of my classes we have discussed other view points, including non-Christian ones. All my classes, no matter what subject, are taught within a biblical framework.

In the midst of this atmosphere, disadvantages exist. One detriment is that we tend to get too isolated in our own Christian utopia; forgetting that we are called to be witnesses to the world. It is true that we are in the process of getting prepared to go out into the world, but many of us will be shocked and perhaps unprepared when that time does come. We can become so accustomed to our generally upper middle class White Christian society that we may have trouble dealing with people dissimilar to us. Also we may be unable to ward off the temptations that have been shielded from us while at school.

Since we are not being confronted and challenged by non-Christians, we can tend to not think about anything other than our own spiritual condition. Complacency and apathy are a real enemy. Daily we are bombarded with Scripture, chapel services and Bible Classes. We can easily slip into an attitude which takes this tremendous privilege for granted. It is not uncommon to find many students with cynical attitudes.

I don't think Christian colleges must be the only choice for Christians. However, Christian schools do provide an atmosphere conducive to spiritual growth which builds a foundation in Christ and His Word. There can be no greater preparation for a life of service to Christ in whatever profession you choose.

—by Gina Lombardo
Wheaton, Illinois

The writer is a senior at Wheaton College. She is majoring in history and currently plans to attend law school in the fall. Gina is a member of Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Plymouth, Minnesota.

CAMPUS COMMENTS

There is Life After Bible School

The transition from Bible School to the University of Minnesota has taught me many things about myself and about life after Bible School. In particular, this transition experience can be characterized as an on going didactic exercise in relationships and priorities.

My first day at the university brought a pronounced declaration that the days of Bible School were over. As the professor began lecturing on eigenvectors and matrix operations, I wanted to raise my hand and remind him that he forgot to start the class with prayer and devotions. No praise hymns were sung, no Scripture passages exegeted, no cross references read. I realized instantly that my time spent reading and studying the Word was going to drop drastically, but I am still learning from the effects of that change.

The most significant effect was a challenge to my relationship with God. Without constant focus on the Bible and its application to my life, my focus began to turn inward. Concerns about meeting deadlines, making good grades, and planning my future were replacing thoughts about God and His goodness. Rather than facing a steady bombardment of truths from the Bible, my faith was opposed by doubts, disbelief and confusion from my teachers and classmates. In an atmosphere of tolerance and "open mindedness," (much the opposite of the sheltered life at Bible School) sin and compromise made open attack rather than merely lure from the shadows.

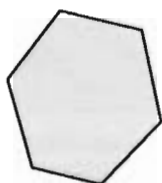
Even more challenging and exciting in my relationship with Christ was a wide open door to witnessing opportunities. Though it is not always easy to be open and vulnerable to others, numerous occasions to reveal Christ's love occur each week. Little things such as praying before lunch, a good attitude toward classes and diligence regarding school work have proven to be just as strong a witness as spoken words. To

be perfectly candid, however, I often fail miserably to rise to this challenge that God provides daily. Thanks be to God that He isn't finished with me yet!

Another effect of the transition from Bible School to college was a growing awareness of the importance of fellowship. If you are in Bible School, take advantage of the dorm devotions, meals, and every opportunity you have to be a friend to others. The one thing that I miss most since I graduated from Bible School is the availability of fellowship at any time of the day. Between classes, work, studying and conflicting schedules, it is difficult to find ample opportunity for fellowship. Many Bible School graduates with whom I have spoken, share the same need and desire for fellowship. Out of that need, in fact, a Bible study was formed recently, among many former AFLBS students. Meeting and sharing together in Christ's love has been very encouraging to me.

A third effect of the transition to college involved my priorities. Rather than studying the Creator through His Word, I am now studying His creation and the laws that govern and explain its complexities. As I strive to attain the full potential that God has given to me, I often lose sight of why I am striving. The secular college environment directs one's focus toward self-oriented goals rather than the goal of bringing glory to God. It can be competitive and quite conducive to selfishness. I often find myself allowing homework and urgent matters concerning my future take precedence over more important matters. I was reminded recently when my father suffered a heart attack that very few things in this life are truly important. One day when all grades, diplomas and occupations pass away, only our relationship with God and our family and friends will be important. Only what we have done in Christ's Name will last. Only that we were known by Christ will be essential.

— Steve Kruse
Minneapolis, Minnesota
AFLBS Class of 1991



Finding God's Plan for the Future

In 1989 I was a student at the Association Free Lutheran Bible School studying the Scriptures four hours a day, five days a week. It was an intense two years of searching and getting to know a personal God and finding His plan for my life.

After graduation I spent many hours praying over my future decisions and finally enrolled at Thief River Falls Technical College in the Aviation Department. Because I had always been interested in airplanes, I felt that this would be a field I would enjoy and find challenging. And since the first day I can definitely say that I have always been challenged in some way, whether it be mentally, physically, or spiritually.

My first year in the Aviation Department there were 93 students enrolled, two of whom were females. Most of the students had little or no moral values, which was a difficult atmosphere to adjust to after being sheltered in a Bible school with Christians for two years. However, the entire year became a year of growth for me. I made several friends and had many opportunities to share my faith.

I can remember one student in particular who was very bitter towards God. It showed in his attitude and everyday actions. Secretly I hoped that I wouldn't have to talk to him, but God had other plans. We were placed together as working lab partners. Eventually we became good friends and he would ask me nearly every time we met if I was praying for him.

Because of my busy schedule and night classes, I was unable to attend

any Bible studies beyond Sunday morning services. Fortunately a good friend, Wayne Peterson, who lived in the area, would encourage and pray with me. As a college student with an incredibly busy schedule, I quickly discovered how important it is to have encouraging Christian friends.

After my first year of college I took a year off, worked in Minneapolis and married my Bible School sweetheart. When we were ready to move back to Thief River Falls in order for me to continue my aviation degree, impossible obstacles stood in our path. We prayed earnestly and were amazed at how God opened the doors for us! We were able to be released of an apartment lease in Minneapolis, enroll in an opening in the technical school which had been previously closed and find a new place to live all within a week! God's hand really moved and confirmed in our hearts that we were headed in the right direction.

Today I am finishing my third year at the technical college. In 1994 I will graduate with a double associate degree in Aviation Mechanics and Avionics. My wife, JoyAnn, and my son, Benjamin, are a constant encouragement to me. As a family we are thankful we can be involved with an AFLC church. I teach Sunday School and my wife is involved with a Bible study group called "College, Career, and Couples for Christ." I can testify that no matter what struggles you face, God will always be there waiting to show His plans for your future.

—by Steve Dahl

Thief River Falls, Minnesota

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope," (Jeremiah 29:11).



Missionary David Abel, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.



Rev. Don Voorhees, Pleasanton, Texas, and Dr. Arnold Hagen, Camrose, Alberta.



Rev. Laurel Udden, New Hope, Minnesota, and Rev. and Mrs. Orville Hel...



Minnesota, and Rev. Jeff Swanson, Helmar,



The Seminary Chorus at the Wednesday evening banquet.



Pastor Alvin Magnuson, Aberdeen, South Dakota, and Rev. Gerald Mundt, from, Osceola, Wisconsin.



One of the six workshops available, "Personal Evangelism for Pastors' Wives," led by Mrs. Barb Skeie, Plymouth, Minnesota.



Rev. and Mrs. Harvey Jackson, Ishpeming, Michigan, and Mrs. Audrey Gilmore, Oceanside, California.



Mrs. LaVonne Johnson, Ortonville, Minnesota, and Mrs. Audrey Gilmore, Oceanside, California, Wisconsin.

1993 AFLC Pastors' Retreat

One hundred thirty pastors and wives registered for the annual retreat held January 19-21, at the Association Retreat Center, Osceola, Wisconsin.

Introducing AFLTS Seniors



Alan Arneson

Spicer, Minnesota

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Arneson

Married to Lisa Boe

Home congregation: Green Lake Lutheran Church, Spicer, Minnesota, Wendell Johnson, pastor.

Graduate of: Association Free Lutheran Bible School, Willmar Community College and Moorhead State University.

Special interests: Tennis, gardening, camping and downhill skiing.

Personal testimony: At the age of seven I came to know Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. At about the same time my parents came to trust Jesus as Lord and to experience the forgiveness of sins through Christ. From this time on I had the privilege of growing up in a Christian home and attending a wonderful Bible-based evangelical church, Green Lake Lutheran. I believe it was this Christian-based nurturing that kept me from straying from Jesus during my high school years. I was not always the best witness for Christ. However, He continues to remind me that His grace is sufficient for me and that power is perfected in weakness (II Corinthians 12:9). I praise God that His grace and the forgiveness of sins is all I need. My faith continues to grow because of Christ.

Seminary experience: While in seminary I have come to a deep appreciation for the preaching of the Word of God. God's Word clearly conveyed is my primary responsibility and the

best counsel I can give to sinners. I praise God for the solid stand on the Word of God that I have and that the seminary teaches.

During my seminary years I have had many opportunities to preach the Word in congregations. I served an entire year in a rural Dexter, Minnesota congregation which was a challenging and rewarding experience. My internship was in the beautiful State of Washington at Elim Church with Rev. Richard Gunderson. In seeing various doors of ministry, I am impressed that the Word of God extends to all corners of the earth. It is my duty to preach and teach this truth. Colossians 2:6-7 has challenged me to continue throughout my ministry to keep it Christ centered. "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed and overflowing with gratitude."

Study God's Word. Seek His will. Check us out!



3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55441
(612) 544-9501

A little foggy about your future?



IMPACT Programs Aid Seminary

The Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary in Minneapolis has recently received \$2,500 from Lutheran Brotherhood's IMPACT/IMPACT PLUS Programs, (Inviting Member Participation in Aiding Lutheran Colleges and Theological Seminaries). The latest payment covers 25 gifts of Lutheran Brotherhood members made during the fourth quarter of 1992.

The IMPACT/IMPACT PLUS Programs match Lutheran Brotherhood members' gifts of \$25 to \$100 per year to Lutheran institutions of higher education nationwide.

Since the beginning of the IMPACT matching gift program in 1979, \$69,923 in IMPACT/IMPACT PLUS funds has been received by Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary.



The 1992-93 AFLBS Choral Club, Mrs. Marian Christopherson, director.



The 1992-93 AFLBS Choir, Mr. Jerry Nelson, director.

THE HOLY LAND STUDY PROGRAM

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Deposit of \$250 due in full in March. Payable to Rev. Todd Olson, 8 Elbon Drive, Pipestone, MN 56164. (507) 825-5958.

Patrons Needed

The 1993 Bible School yearbook is under construction! Ruth Gunderson and Nicky Kjersten are the co-editors. They are assisted by Tara Brieese, Eddie Britz, Sheena Dahl, Brent Hartsoch, Leanne Helwig, Becky Monseth, Dan Pentti and Lori Polzin. The advisor is James Molstre.

The yearbook is primarily a public relations tool for prospective students and Christians interested in the work of our Bible School. The CONQUEROR is a non-budgeted ministry so individuals, businesses and church organizations who desire to be patrons are needed. A patron may select to have his/her name printed in the yearbook or remain anonymous. All patrons will receive a complimentary copy of the CONQUEROR '93. This copy is meant to express gratefulness as well as be a tool to promote the ministry of AFLBS. Above all, may it be a reminder to pray for the students and faculty.

Because of the escalating costs of publishing the yearbook, we are asking patrons to donate \$50 or more to help defray the cost to print the book. If you are interested in helping in this way, please make your check payable to **AFLBS Yearbook** and mail to AFLBS, 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard, Minneapolis, MN 55441. Responses must be received by May 1, 1993.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Single Adult Ministry

In this issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador* I am offering suggestions on a singles ministry which may very well be neglected in our AFLC. In my own congregation I have not done enough to make our single young adults feel welcome. It is my feeling that United Church in Greenbush should embark on an even more profitable ministry to single adults.

So far, we have recognized them on Sunday mornings. We try to keep up on what they are doing. This includes graduations and employment opportunities as well as wedding bells. Sometimes it is possible to get some quality time in together.

There is a real need for an organized single adult ministry in our local AFLC congregations! We have single adults who come home every once in a while for breaks, holidays and vacations. How do we minister to them?

Any ministry that we do must be a positive ministry. It must be something they can expect to happen on a regular basis. This would be an event especially geared to them. Plan together but expect that it will take the organizational skills of yourself or someone else to begin with. Later, it can be turned over to your single adults for their direction. As a youth leader you should remain partially involved in the organization and planning.

Special precautions should be made for the group and events to not appear to be for "losers." Sometimes single

adults get that impression. They think because they are not married others view them as losers.

Your ministry should offer single young adults opportunity to be involved in the total ministry of the congregation. It should be something they can do for people both younger and older. It should also include times for them to be able to minister to the community as well.

Of course, you will want to offer times when they can minister to each other. This is important. As in any youth ministry, we must offer opportunity for fellowship and growth in Christ. It should include discussions and Bible studies. Times when nothing is planned but conversation and that all important ingredient — food, are vital to a healthy group.

Young adult ministry should be integrated into the local congregation and not separate from it. All young people, no matter what age, need to feel part of the congregation. It is too easy to isolate them. Be alert for opportunities to involve them.

Your young, single adult ministry should have a balance between the social and spiritual. I felt bad about our recent single adult event. We went Christmas caroling and invited young married couples to join us. After the caroling, we simply went home. We missed a great opportunity for a time of fellowship while enjoying some food.

While the ministry needs to be a part of the congregation, it also needs to be separate. They want to meet people. They desire to spend time with old friends of both genders. They will want to meet potential mates. **Relationship building is essential to this ministry as it is with all youth work.**

Our young adults need to be encouraged in their Christian walk. It is not easy to be a student in our colleges today. The challenges in the work place are numerous. As maturity comes in Christ, so will involvement in the local congregation. Christian sin-

gles want to be involved. You must be led by the Holy Spirit as to when a group is ready for this involvement.

Suggestions for a ministry with single adults:

1. Visit them in their school or in the place where they live.
2. Take them out for lunch.
3. Get acquainted with those they know at school, work or back home.
4. Write letters regularly. Inform them of what their friends are doing (even if they might know!) It shows your interest in them when you keep track of everybody.
5. Organize a meeting with your college or Bible school students right on the campus.
6. Organize local events they can attend. Contact key single adults and ask them what they think and get them to invite others.
7. Have a pizza party, and ice cream social, a New Year's party, a softball team, etc.
8. Use them in your Vacation Bible School, summer Sunday School or Bible camp.
9. Call ahead for an appointment and enjoy one-on-one conversations. These can be in your home, your office, at their homes, out for dinner, etc.
10. Have them put on a program for your teenagers. They might talk about how they decided to go to college, Bible school or technical school. Have them describe the workplace, living with roommates and paying the bills!
11. Invite the men and women who are in the armed services to share their experiences with the youth.

These last two ideas also are good topics for discussion in a single adult meeting.

Use them or lose them! This applies to high school students also. There comes a time when young people must express their Christian life and faith.

May the Lord use you, pastors and lay people, to lead our young adults into a greater maturity in Christ by using them in your church and community!

— by Rev. Dennis Gray

"There is a real need for an organized single adult ministry in our local AFLC congregations!"



Winger, Minnesota — Dovre Free Lutheran recently added Nicholas Johnson and Molly Olson to their Cradle Roll.

There is no better exercise for your heart than reaching down and helping to lift someone up.
—from *Spencer Creek News and Views*



Freeman, South Dakota — Salem Free Lutheran WMF hosted an Advent brunch. Mrs. Lois Oscarson, Wahpeton, North Dakota, spoke and displayed her quilts and banners.

Love is a gift of God

It is far more precious than any material thing one could ever hope to possess. It can't be purchased, for along with all of the best things in life, it is free. Its magic can change a dreary world into a heaven on earth. Its radiance is beyond human power of description. It is not restricted by race, creed, or public opinion and has nothing to do with physical appearance, for "beauty is in the eye of the beholder." There is no fault or shortcoming that love cannot overcome with charity and understanding. It does not imprison, but rather, in loving one is set free. There is no limit to what love can accomplish, for its depth finds qualities that otherwise would remain undiscovered. It is the most beautiful, the most absorbing, and the most rewarding thing in life and by far the most important. For love is truly a gift of God.



Binford, North Dakota — Bethany Lutheran recently graduated Andy Adrian and Melissa Berge from their Cradle Roll. Amber Ohlhauser was enrolled as a new member.

The 1993 Association Retreat Center Schedule

February 19-21 — Men's Retreat

March 19-21 — Jr. Camp Retreat (New!) Ages 9-12, Dawson McAllister video series, "A Walk to the Cross"

April 30-May 2 — Women's Retreat, Joyce Harley speaker. Joyce is a KTIS radio personality, speaker and singer. She'll be giving a mini-concert Friday evening.

May 28-31 — Memorial Day Work Retreat

June 21-26 — Jr. Camp, "Expanding Your Horizons"

July 4-10 — Family Camp, first session

August 1-7 — Family Camp, second session. We are planning a Parish Education Seminar at BOTH Family camps. If you are involved in your church Sunday School you will want to attend. No extra fees for those attending family camp.

September 17-18 — Fall Youth Retreat grades 7-12 (tentative)

PEOPLE and PLACES

Rev. Philip Haugen, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, has accepted a call to serve the Culbertson, Montana, parish (Bethel and Faith), beginning July 1. He is currently professor of Exegetical Theology and Greek instructor at the AFLC Seminary, as well as a New Testament instructor in the Bible School, and has been a member of the faculty since 1977.

Rev. Wendell Johnson, Spicer, Minnesota, suffered a heart attack on January 15. He was treated at a Minneapolis hospital, released five days later, and will recuperate at home for an expected six to eight weeks.

Rev. Tim Hurley, Salem, Alabama, who was hospitalized in Madison, Wisconsin, after a serious diabetes attack on his way to the pastors' retreat last month, returned to his home during the next week where he is recuperating.

Chaplain Michael Crowell, Fort Hood, Texas, has been re-deployed to Kuwait due to the renewed tension in the Persian Gulf region, and his length of service there is currently unknown. Mail would be appreciated, and may be addressed to: CH Captain Michael Crowell 517727717 HHC/1-9 Cav. 3D BDE, 1CD CMR 66500 APO, AE 59855-6500.

Pastor Gene B. Smith, Osceola, Wisconsin, has accepted an invitation from the ARC Board to serve as chaplain for the retreat center staff. He is a 1971 graduate of the AFLC Seminary.

Marlene Eide, Williston, North Dakota, has accepted an appointment as office manager for U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan in Washington, D.C. Mrs. Eide, a member of Emmanuel Free Lutheran Church, Williston, previously served as a Williams County Commissioner.

Rev. Keith Quanbeck, formerly of Osseo, Minnesota, was removed from the AFLC clergy roster by action of the Co-ordinating Committee on January 18, 1993, "reluctantly with sorrow," in compliance with the 1985 conference decision that stated that no divorced men shall be pastors in the AFLC.

Rev. Lloyd Bjornlie, Winger, Minnesota, who has served the Dovre and Union Lake congregations since 1989, announced his plans last month to retire from parish ministry this coming summer.

Pastor Martin Christensen, Badger, Minnesota, accepted a call from Bethel Lutheran Church, Elbow, Saskatchewan. A native of Canada, he has served the Badger parish (Badger Creek and Oiland) since 1988.

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

AFLC Benevolences - February 1 - January 31, 1993

FUND	TOTAL BUDGET	REC'D IN JANUARY	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% TOTAL
General Fund	\$295,450.00	\$25,940.24	\$206,988.91	70
Schools - (AFLTS) . .	149,535.00	12,823.81	91,170.79	61
(AFLBS) . .	208,625.00	14,605.60	125,339.63	60
Home Missions	433,616.00	36,168.37	300,220.44	69
World Missions	409,715.00	56,929.91	352,130.35	86
Capital Investment . .	30,000.00	1,471.28	19,475.58	65
Parish Education . . .	84,385.00	8,080.92	71,922.62	85
ARC	20,000.00	463.53	*7,348.22	37
TOTALS	\$1,631,326.00	\$156,483.66	\$1,174,596.54	72
1991 - 1992	\$1,537,681.00	\$190,751.64	\$1,150,639.66	76
Goal 100%				

*This total represents mostly undesignated gifts that were sent to the Minneapolis office and then divided between the funds by percentage.

Partners In Prayer



"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).

Praise God for the fellowship and instruction at the Home Mission Pastors' Retreat and Pastors' Conference last month.

Pray for Pastor Tim Hurley, Pastor Wendell Johnson, and Pastor Marilyn Kruse as they recuperate after hospitalization.

Pray for congregations at Spokane, Washington; Warroad, Minnesota; Canton, South Dakota; Badger, Minnesota; DeKalb, Illinois; Dannebrog, Nebraska; Osseo, Minnesota; Boscobel, Wisconsin; Eben Junction, Michigan; Lakeville, Minnesota; and Winger, Minnesota, as they seek to call a pastor.

Praise God for the generous outpouring of gifts from congregations and individuals to all AFLC funds last month.

Pray for missionary David Abel and family as he begins his furlough year with a six-month interim pastoral ministry at Solid Rock Church, Osseo, Minnesota. Also, **pray** for the Paul Abel family as they prepare to return to the U.S. in May for a furlough.

Pray for new open doors of opportunity in 1993, both at home and abroad.

Praise the Lord for comfort during times of sorrow.

Pray for Evangelist John Abel as he continues his two-month series of meetings and training session in AFLC congregations on the West Coast.

Pray for U.S. President William Clinton as he begins his term of office.

THE CAMPUS CHALLENGE

The college and university campus could well be one of the greatest challenges to be confronted by evangelical Christianity in our generation.

Christian students who opt to study at one of the secular institutions of higher learning can usually expect open and often hostile opposition to even basic tenets of the faith like the existence of God. How well are our congregations equipping our youth to stand?

Nor are church related institutions the sheltered spiritual environment that many expect. A 1987 book based on a national study of students in Christian liberal arts colleges and seminaries (*Evangelicalism: The Coming Generation*, by James Davison Hunter) strongly suggests that fundamental changes are taking place in the thinking of young adults in the areas of family values, morality, work ethic, and theology, so that the coming generation of conservative Protestants "may bear little resemblance to the evangelical world of previous generations." How well are we equipping our youth to survive these more subtle struggles?

Thousands of international students study in the United States and Canada every year, providing evangelical churches with a mission field that has come to us, filled with young men and women who promise to be the future leaders of their countries. How well are we reaching them for Christ?

Thank God for Christian faculty and students whose eyes He has opened to see the wonderful mission field around them. Thank God for local congregations and para-church ministries that He continues to challenge and use as His messengers on campus. Ask Him, too, if there is a special way in which He wants you to serve ... but be careful! Your prayer might be answered.

WOUNDED SOLDIERS

There is a brief paragraph elsewhere in this issue that refers to a recent action of the Co-ordinating Committee removing one of our young pastors from the clergy roster "reluctantly with sorrow."

It is not the intent of this editorial to publicize all the details of this sad development, but simply to state that his marriage ended last fall when his wife was granted an annulment, less than four months after the wedding. There were no Scriptural reasons for the dissolution of this relationship, and efforts to reconcile the couple were in vain.

The committee, acting on the premise that there is no distinction between annulment and divorce, felt compelled to remove him from the roster in compliance with a decision by the 1985 Annual Conference to amend a resolution stating that "no one that has been divorced and remarried shall be a pastor in the AFLC," to one stating that "no one who has been divorced" shall be on the clergy roster. The amendment, which generated considerable discussion, was finally adopted by a ballot vote of 145 to 77. Comments in the conference report included concerns about adding to Scripture, the possibility of pastors who might be innocent victims of divorce, and the danger of following the practice of Hollywood.

Some who attended the conference will recall the hope expressed that we might never experience any of the tragic situations that were suggested as possibilities. But we did not escape, and the committee was compelled to respond.

Above all, the AFLC seeks to be faithful to God's Word, not to tradition. It is in accordance with the Word that we set a high standard for pastors, one that must be governed by both compassion and conviction. Our people are not in complete agreement concerning this recent application of the standard, and further discussion can be expected.

Lovelessness may be one of the most deadly heresies, and it is crucial that the pain of one pastor (and his former wife) not be forgotten in the midst of hard decisions and honest disagreement. He is our brother, whether or not his name is included on the clergy roster, and he needs our love and prayers.

Let's not be guilty of shooting a wounded soldier.

Rev. Dr. Francis Monseth, Dean of the AFLC Seminary, was the first guest professor at the new Tartu Theological Academy in Estonia, February 1-12, teaching "Fundamentals of the Christian Faith" and a Bible overview course during a two-week seminar for public school teachers who seek certification as religion instructors and for pastors desiring refresher courses. He also visited with church officials in Riga, Latvia, to discuss the establishing of a new seminary for German-

speaking Lutheran churches in this Baltic republic and Russia. The trip was sponsored by LEAF (Lutheran Estonia American Friends), who provided financial support for the opening of the academy. Rev. Robert L. Lee and Rev. Charles Eidum are the co-chairman of this fellowship.

Two other AFLC pastors are planning to minister in Eastern Europe during the next couple of months. **Rev. Todd Olson**, Pipestone, Minnesota, will be in Estonia on March 19-29 con-

ducting two "Churches Alive" small group discipleship seminars, the second of which will be co-sponsored by the Tartu Theological Academy and LEAF. **Rev. Don Richman**, Bloomington, Minnesota, will travel to Silesia, a region of the new Czech Republic, on April 13-26, for a pastors' conference. Pastor Richman, director of the Eastern European Mission Center, hopes to encourage the creation of a fellowship between U.S. pastors and the Silesian Lutheran Church, similar to LEAF.

The Last Word

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

Second-Class

Welcome!

Bill decided to check things out at the church across from the university campus. He was wearing his usual attire: blue jeans, a T-shirt and no shoes. No one said anything, but people in this well dressed, middle class congregation were a little uncomfortable. Bill walked down the aisle looking for a seat. It was pretty crowded on that Sunday morning. By the time he got to the front he still hadn't found a place to sit, so he did what he was accustomed to doing at other places he went; he sat right down on the floor. An elderly man in his Sunday best walked down the aisle towards the barefoot college student. People watched, tense with anticipation as to what would happen. When the man reached Bill he lowered himself down and sat next to him on the carpeted floor. There the well-dressed senior citizen and the scruffy looking young man sat, worshipping the Lord together.¹

Restaurants often have a sign saying: "No Shoes, No Shirt, No Service." A sign may not be visible, but nevertheless, some seem to believe that similar restrictions exist regarding entrance into the kingdom of God. "A man who strolls into church with jeans, a T-shirt and no shoes; will he get 'service,' will he get attention from the holy God?" As the elderly man at the service demonstrated and as the Gospel boldly declares; Yes! Most definitely!

In the Gospel of John, chapter one, we read of Jesus shocking the disciples by who He chooses to show interest in. He initiates a conversation with someone who would not at all be considered child of God material. Her gender was wrong, her ethnic background was wrong and her behavior, both past and present, most certainly made her unacceptable. She had been married five times and was now living with a man who was not her husband. The disciples were shocked when they found Jesus talking with her, and they didn't even know the whole story. Most wouldn't want to be seen with her.

Jesus, however, treats her as someone of value and reveals to her some of the most profound truths found in the Bible. While others wouldn't let her into their house, He lets her into the kingdom of God.

It is a sad and tragic mistake to think that a person has to be all cleaned up and looking pretty before they can come to God. The outside appearance may not meet some standards of acceptability. The past may be anything but beautiful. The present lifestyle may not be one you would want young children to emulate. Still, Jesus says, "Come, you are welcome, your presence in the family of God is greatly desired." Instead of a sign listing all the necessary qualifications, the motto is: "Come as you are, and become what you have never been before."

It is the height of foolish pride to think we can make ourselves fit to come into the presence of God. We must come as we are, for we can come as nothing else. Our attempts at improvement and change all fail miserably. Then, the incredible invitation is given, "Come ... Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crim-

son, they shall be like wool," (Isaiah 1:18). Though we have spread filth all over our lives, Jesus makes us sparkling clean.

Maybe you have a bad reputation. Maybe you don't but you deserve one. Jesus wants to sit by you. He would like people to know that you belong to Him. Maybe you have a past full of failed relationships. Jesus would like to invite you to become a valued part of His family. He paid the price at the cross so that you can get in. Forgiveness of our sins and eternal life is a gift that none of us deserve but all of us can receive by faith in Jesus Christ. Be sure you have received it today.

¹Rebecca Pippert, "Out of the Salt Shaker," (Downers Grove, Il. InterVarsity Press, 1979) p. 177, 178.



—by Rev.
Craig Johnson