

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

January 14, 1986

REVIVE
US
AGAIN

1986
AFLC prays
for the
fires of
revival.

254 O Jesus, Lord, to Thee I Cry

Eliza H. Hamilton

TAKE ME AS I AM 8 8, 8 6 and Chorus

Ira D. Sankey, 1840-1908

In slow tempo

1. O Je-sus, Lord, to Thee I cry; Un-less Thou help me I must die:
2. I help-less am, and full of guilt; But yet for me Thy blood was spilt,
3. No prep-a-ra-tion can I make, My best re-solves I on-ly break,
4. Be-hold me, Sav-ior, at Thy feet, Deal with me as Thou se-est meet;

Oh, bring Thy free sal - va - tion nigh, And take me as I am.
And Thou canst make me what Thou wilt, And take me as I am.
Yet save me for Thine own name's sake, And take me as I am.
Thy work be - gin, Thy work com -

CHORUS

And take me

My on - ly plea - Christ died for me! Oh, take me as I am.

LORD, SEND A REVIVAL



Lake Geneva
Family Camp,
1969.

at the MASTER'S FEET

God's shining face

Sitting at the Master's feet is a treasure for the people of God. Those who know His blessing seek often to be there and desire to experience afresh the goodness of their Savior.

Think along with me today about what it means to have God's face shine upon us. We hear the wonderful benediction often, perhaps every Sunday. "The Lord make His face shine upon you." Every pastor prays that his people will have the privilege of God's blessing through the week.

The "face" of God communicates His disposition toward us. While God the Father as a spirit does not have a literal face, the people of Israel were reminded often to think of God's countenance, that is, the expression one makes with a face. Furthermore, in the revelation of God's

Son, who dwelt among us in the flesh, Mary and Peter and countless others saw the face of Jesus. It is very appropriate, then, for us to seek the "face" of God.

Before we consider the character of God's face, think for a moment about the faces of idols, oftentimes angry, even grotesque. People of the world who have constructed these faces portray their gods in such a way to create fear and bondage. Likewise, in our society, the gods which so many worship lead to a bitter end. The gods of materialism and pleasure, for example, entrap their victims in a sinister slavery and ultimate ruin.

What a beautiful contrast is the face of God, which communicates to us perfect love, grace and an eternal purpose. Jesus stated the contrast in John 10:10, "The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly." Yes, the face of God shines upon us in Jesus Christ. The Gospel brings God's light and those who live in the Gospel know the shining face of God and they rest in His presence. Apart from Jesus, we could not look into the face of God, but because of His disposition toward us He makes His face to shine upon us.

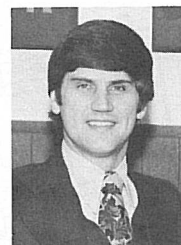
Take time to turn your face toward God, as the Israelites of old, returning from captivity. It was said of them, "They will ask for the way to Zion, turning their faces in its direction" (Jeremiah 50:5). They had turned their backs on God at one point, seeking to hide from His presence. Now they knew that their only hope was in His blessing and once again they trusted in God's grace. God caused His face to shine upon them.

Yet today many know nothing of God's blessing and continue to walk away from His presence. When they think of God, guilt and fear grip them, so they try to avoid such thoughts. They need to be converted, turned around by God, so that they might learn of His mercy.

For those who know the impact of these words of blessing, there is a great peace. The greatest thing is that these trusting souls realize that God is disposed to be merciful and forgiving. He is disposed to be gracious. Yes, God's disposition is not bent toward destruction, but toward restoration. This was Isaiah's discovery when he came into the presence of the thrice-holy God. While he sensed his own unworthiness in great measure, he experienced God's mercy in even greater measure. The face of God shone upon Isaiah. Such wonderful knowledge is for all who trust in God's mercy.

Finally, living in the brightness of God's presence also gives us joy in our daily struggle with sin. Although the battle with sin goes on in our own experience, the shining face of God reminds us that the darkness of the world was not able to overcome the light of Jesus, His Son. God's brightness serves as a daily reminder that the foe has been conquered.

The Lord make His face to shine upon you!



by Pastor
Kenneth Moland

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Volume 24 Number 1

Hebrews 11:1-3

A couple of weeks ago on TV, an individual was interviewed who had AIDS. He was asked, "How are you coping with your particular situation?" His reply was "I have faith in man to come up with a cure soon." His response was "faith in man." My reaction was, how thankful I am that my faith is not based on man but on the Lord God. This Lord God promises salvation, forgiveness of sins, eternal life and the promise of being a part of the new and coming kingdom to all those who accept His Son.

I suppose there will be those who say that this kind of disbelief is a good virtue to have or a superstition and it is not for today's modern man. Yet faith is a part of modern man's existence. He has faith in his employer that he will receive a paycheck from him for the work he has done. His faith is shown when he's flying that the pilot knows what he is doing, that the airplane is in good condition, that he will land in the right city, and that his luggage will arrive with him. Faith is a vital factor in modern man's everyday life.

The writer to the Hebrews is concerned with the object of our faith rather than the fact of faith. The writer to the Hebrews is concerned with a faith that has eternal significance to and value for life. This is a faith I hope I can apply in my life, that sees beyond the circumstances, disappointments, frustrations, discouragements and failures of life. It is a faith that can look beyond time and place to the author of eternal life, the Lord Jesus Christ. That's why he writes, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old gained approval. By faith we understand that the worlds

were prepared by the Word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible" (Hebrews 11:1-3).

Faith is a response to something that is produced in our hearts and lives. We are convinced by our daily experience that God is real, genuine and true. This Someone who gives us faith produces a response in our hearts and lives that cannot be denied or hidden if it's a true and sincere faith. The object of our faith is Jesus Christ and He motivates us to action. This is a life-changing motivation to allow Him to work to make our lives better, even though the circumstances in our life may make it rough to be a Christian. We continue on fighting the good fight of faith.

In our Wednesday night Bible studies here in Nogales, we're studying the book of Genesis. In chapters 4-11, we saw a witness to the past. The writer showed two lines of descendants from Adam — Seth, the godly line, and Cain, the ungodly line. In the line of the godly, we see individuals or "men of faith" who continue on being men of faith, even though the world in their day was becoming more and more ungodly. We know it was bad in their world when only eight individuals were saved from the judgment of God.

"Faith is a response to something that is produced in our hearts and lives."

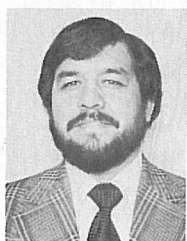
They were Noah, his wife, his sons and their wives. Noah's faith saved him from that judgment and condemnation upon mankind in that day and age. We can learn from Noah and his experience should give us a deeper and stronger belief. It should give us a more sure foundation in our faith. The only ones who were saved were the ones who were men of God who were obedient to Him and His commands, and who believed God when He said judgment was coming. Despite the circumstance of

FAITH

the past,
the present
the future

being the only ones who believed in God, they continued on because they knew that what God said was going to happen and the only means of salvation would be the "ark." Is there a parallel here for us? Yes, judgment is coming but the only "ark of salvation" is the cross of Jesus Christ. As the men of faith were good witnesses for God in their day and time, God was pleased and saved them. What can we learn from them that can be useful for our faith? As they continued in the faith, never denying, what does that tell us about what we should be doing in our own daily Christian lives? I know God gave them an "A" on their report card. He said to them, "Well done, good and faithful servants." God was the object of their faith, which motivated them to be "men of faith" in their day.

Secondly, we need to see a faith that rests in the present. With this faith we are able to see what others cannot see, a faith that gives us courage and strength to stand for God. The story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego is an example of a faith that gave them courage and strength to stand in their present



by Pastor
Ted Kennedy, Jr.,
Nogales, Ariz.

FAITH...

circumstance. The circumstance commanded them to bow down and worship the king, but they refused, and as a result they were put into a fiery furnace. They had faith! They believed God in the midst of their circumstances, even to the point that if God chose to let them die, they would still stand for Him. How did they get courage and strength to be like that? They got it the same way we do. Their strength and courage to stand in their present circumstance came by faith.

Another individual who comes to mind who was of great faith is Abraham. How did he get a faith like his? He got it by believing in God even when things seemed hopeless. By keeping his faith in God, he developed a great faith. He applied that faith that God gave to his present circumstances, believing in God, trusting in God, and committing his life to Him. Thereby God could work in his life in his present circumstances. What does that say to us about how we are viewing our present circumstances? Are we following Abraham's example, who is seen as a great man

of faith? We, too, I believe, can be seen as great men and women of faith in our present day if we are putting into practice what Abraham did, having faith that rests in the present.

Finally, we need a faith that is rooted in the past and rests in the present, but it is also realized in the future. The writer of Hebrews says, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for." Something that is hoped for is something that has not yet happened. I say, if it has already happened, we cannot hope for it. Hope is for something that is yet to come. It is the future reality. If we want to be a part of that future coming kingdom of God, we must realize that the future belongs to those who have faith. Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ gives us ownership of the future.

The future rests definitely in the hands of God. If we have a faith that is founded on the Lord Jesus Christ, then we definitely do have a glorious future. The Word of God gives us glimpses of what that future will be like. "...Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He

shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away" (Revelation 21:3-4).

This is a picture of the future for those whose faith rests and is founded on the object of faith, the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is as if the writer to the Hebrews says, "Those men back there lived by faith. It is now your time to stand on your own feet and in the power of God. It is time to take God by the hand and by faith to stand upon Him, to trust Him, to commit your lives to Him. And if you do, God will bless that kind of commitment of your hearts."

"Thank God" that my faith in His Son gives me examples from the past to model after, gives me strength and courage for the present and a marvelous future reality that I certainly will experience. And now that the New Year is here, may those be goals for our walk in faith.

GOD MEETS US IN OUR NEIGHBOR

Do not gaze up into the sky and say: If I could but once see our Lord God, how readily I should render him any service in my power! You are a liar, says St. John. Listen, thou wretched man, do you wish to serve God? You have Him in your home, with your servants and children; teach them to fear God and put their trust in Him alone, and love Him; go and comfort your sad and sick neighbors, help them with all your possessions, wisdom, and skill. Bring up your children that they may know Me, give

them a good and saintly schoolmaster; spare no cost with them; I shall reward you richly.

See that you do not fail to see Me. I shall be close to you in every poor and wretched man, who is in need of your help and teaching; I am there, right in the midst. Whether you do little for him or much, you do it unto Me. You will not give the cup of cold water in vain. You will receive fruit a thousandfold, not because of your work, but because of My promise.

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



GONE HOME



by Pastor James R. Gronseth

Rose Ivadelle Gronseth was born in Minneapolis, Minn., the 29th of September, 1923. She died in Faribault, Minn., on the 14th of October (1929) after brain surgery. She had not been well since she had a very hard case of pneumonia three years earlier. The operation seemed to have gone well, but 24 hours later she passed away.

Rose Ivadelle was one of those children who seemed to belong to another world. From her first day on earth there were those things about her that seemed to indicate that she would not live long among us. Until she had the pneumonia when she was three years old she was as healthy as any child could be. Always cheerful and happy and she loved very much to sing. We will never forget the time she awakened us at night, but then awake she lay in her little crib and sang until she fell asleep again. And in the morning the first thing we often heard from her crib was "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." Shortly before she was laid upon the operating table, she sang, "Jesus Loves the Little Children" and "Jesus, Jesus, Sweetest Name I Know," and then she read the word from the Bible which she read so often at home: "Suffer the little

children to come unto Me, for of such is the kingdom of God." Then she prayed for her parents, brothers and sisters. It became so empty in our home after Ivadelle left but the Lord's promise that "that which is sown in dishonor shall be raised in glory" became so much more precious than ever before.

The funeral took place in Rosedale church (Minneapolis) Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock, the 19th of October. Pastor O. H. Sletten preached in English and led the service. Pastor Claus Morgan preached in Norwegian. On behalf of the sorrowing family, my brother, Pastor S. O. Gronseth, Hudson, Wis., spoke. The congregation's choir, Pastor T. O. Burntvelde ("I Think When I Read That Sweet Story of Old") and Eleanor Jerstad sang very beautifully. The body was laid to rest in Lakewood's beautiful cemetery, and from her resting place which her Savior had sanctified she will rise to imperishable life. Her memory will always be a blessing to us.

Folkebladet, Dec. 25, 1929

Translated from Norwegian
(Ed. note: Rose Ivadelle was a sister of Mrs. Amos Stolee of Kenyon, Minn.)

the brook that sought the sea

By N. N. Ronning

The brook began like silver thread way up in the silence and solitude of the mountains. Where it came from I did not know. It heard the call of the distant sea and it started off on the long, long journey, alone and unafraid.

It slipped down a grassy slope with a light heart and a merry song, a mere whisper, which only the swaying bluebells could hear.

At the bottom of the grassy slope the brook heard the murmur of another brook. They met and merged and went laughing and leaping down a shady glen. Waving ferns and graceful reeds grew in the wet soil, and birds and beasts of the forest drank of the sparkling water.

After heavy rains on the mountains the brook swelled into a turbulent current, but during the dry season it grew smaller and smaller. It began to fear that it was never to reach the distant sea.

Proceeding on its way the brook met and merged with many other brooks which came from other parts of the silence and solitude of the mountains. Together they went swirling down the white cascades till they finally became a roaring river.

Entering the valley the river grew wider and wider and flowed slowly between fertile farms. On summer days when the sky was cloudless, high and clean, it mirrored the lovely landscape. It liked to linger there, but the call of the distant sea urged it onward, ever onward.

As a little boy I was strangely drawn by some subtle power of the river as it flowed past my home. I would often slip away from my playmates to listen to the gentle swish-swash of the wavelets along the sandy

(continued on p. 8)

Life's joy

God gives us joy that we may give.
He gives us love that we may share;
Sometimes He gives us loads to lift
That we may learn to bear.

For life is gladder when we give,
And love is sweeter when we share,
And heavy loads rest lightly, too,
When we have learned to bear.

Author Unknown
(The Parish Voice, Kalispell, Mont.)

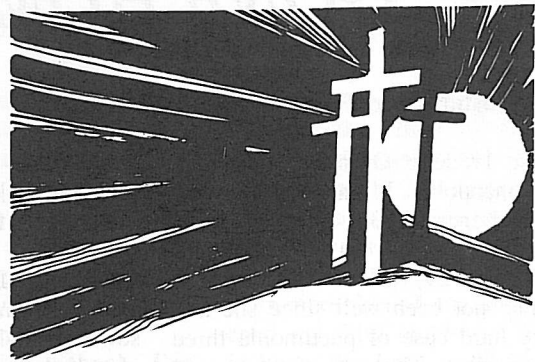
For this we thank Thee, Lord

For the days when nothing happens
For the cares that leave no trace,
For the love of little children,
For each sunny dwelling-place,
For the altars of our fathers,
And the closets where we pray,
Take, O gracious God and Father,
Praises this Thanksgiving Day.

For our harvests safe ingathered,
For our golden store of wheat,
For the bowers and the vinelands,
For the flowers up-springing sweet,
For our coasts from want protected,
For each inlet, river, bay,
By Thy bounty full and flowing,
Take our praise this joyful day.

For the hours when heaven is nearest
And the earth-mood does not cling,
For the very gloom oft broken
By our looking for the King.
By our thought that He is coming,
For our courage on the way,
Take, O Friend, unseen, eternal,
Praises this Thanksgiving Day!

Author Unknown
Free Lutheran Lamplighter,
Roseau, Minn.



The road of love

From Bethlehem town to Calvary
The Christ He took His way,
O'er roads that wound uphill and down
Our Lord went forth each day.
Prepared to do His Father's work
The plan of God divine,
No matter cost or grief or pain
"Thy will, O God, not Mine."

From Bethlehem town to Calvary
The Christ still leads today,
In spirit and in truth He speaks
And hears us when we pray,
"Thy will, O God, not mine be done.
All glory be to Thee!"
O let me walk that road of love
That leads to Calvary.

Newsletter, Dalton (Minn.) Parish

Just before I came to Jesus

Just before I came to Jesus
I was wandering deep in sin;
When I cried to Him for mercy,
He did surely take me in.
There I found what I was missing,
There I found my peace with God.
O, hear my friends, and do now listen
To His voice, despise Him not.

Chorus:
Farewell, world, with all that glitters;
Farewell, all the lusts of flesh,
For I've found that all thoust givest
Gives me nothing but unrest.

How I long to be with Jesus
In that promised land above,
There to meet all true believers
Saved by Jesus' precious blood.
There will be no traitors ever
In that land so pure and free,
There will be no battle ever,
All but joy for you and me.

Hear the battle cry of freedom,
Free in Christ we sure shall be.
Fight now faithful, all His soldiers,
Christ, His coming soon we'll see.
Fight for Him beyond the ocean,
Fight for Him throughout the land!
O, lift the cross, His royal banner,
He will draw to Him all men.

Submitted



His lamp I am

"Ye are the light of the world . . . let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:14, 16).

*His lamp am I
To shine where He shall say;
And lamps are not for sunny rooms
Nor for the light of day;
But for the dark places of the earth,
Where shame and wrong and crime gave birth,
Or for murky twilight gray
Where wandering sheep have gone astray,
Or where the lamp of faith grows dim
And souls are groping after Him.
Sometimes a flame we find,
Clear-shining, through the night
So dark we cannot see the lamp —
But only see the light —
So may I shine, His love and flame,
That men may glorify His name."*

Annie Johnson Flint

Prepare my heart

Prepare my heart to take the Bread,
And so remember Thee,
To think upon — the price You paid
To set my spirit free.

Prepare my heart to take the Cup
That speaks so graphically
Of bitter pain and cruel death
Upon Mount Calvary.

Without the Bread and Sacred Cup
I might forget the price
That Thou has paid so willingly —
The utmost sacrifice.

I'll take the Bread, and Cup, dear Lord,
That speak of love sublime,
And give myself afresh to Thee,
My life, my all is Thine!

Selected
(Newsletter, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Thief River
Falls, Minn.)

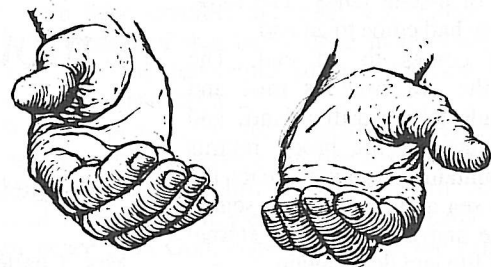
You prayed for me

You prayed for me. You did not know my need,
Or that my heart was very sore indeed,
Or that I had a fear I could not quell.
You sensed that with me all was not quite well.
And so — you prayed for me!

You prayed for me. My path had seemed so black,
And yet I knew there was no turning back;
Then, in my loneliness I felt God near,
And down the long, dark road a light showed clear,
Because you prayed for me!

You prayed for me. God did Himself attend —
Honored the intercessions of my friend;
And as your prayer, like incense sweet did soar,
He did, in love, on me a blessing pour,
The day you prayed for me!

Selected
(Faith Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn.)



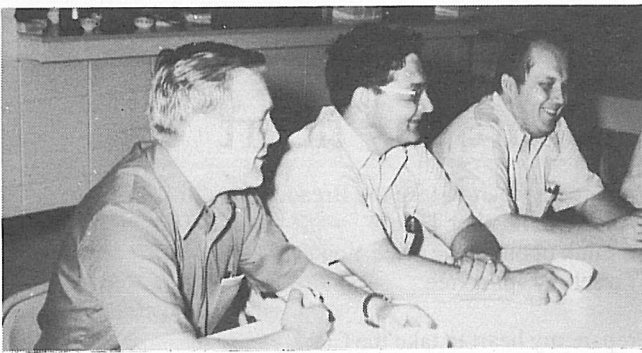
The blessed

"If there's anything I can do," That's what my neighbor
said, "Why just let me know."

*How blessed are those who
are wise and caring and feeling
Who do not need to be told what to do
Who do not simply offer to help
How blessed are those who do what needs to be done
And give what needs to be given.*

Selected

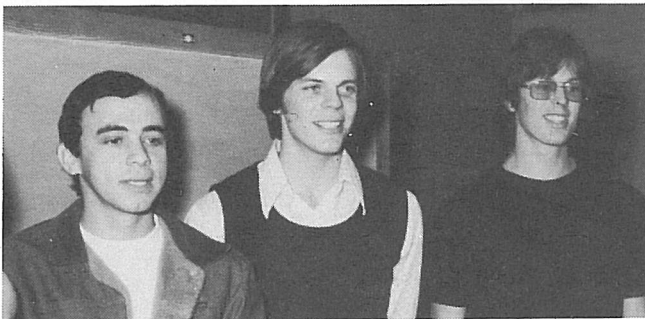




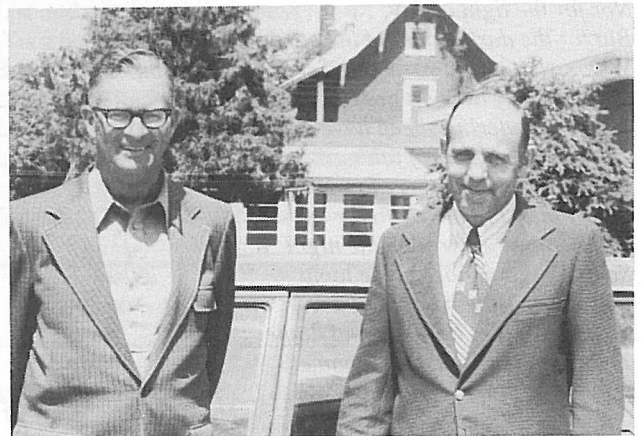
Pastors Howard Kjos, Jerome Nikunen, and Kenneth Pentti.



The musical Knapps.



Clemente, left, David and Jonathan Abel.



Reuben Nelson, left, and Neil Rudebusch of South Dakota at the Annual Conference in Thief River Falls, 1974.

SEA...

shore and to watch the swaying reeds in the ever restless current.

How far the river flowed before it reached the sea, I did not know, but the time came when I knew that the water of the brook finally washed the shores of distant lands. The long, long journey had come to an end.

Nothing comes to an end. The water of the sea rises as mist and forms clouds which drift inland, and thus the water of the brook returns to the mountains. Again it hears the call of the sea and starts off in search of it, alone and unafraid. The eternal mystery of life and death again.

The story of the brook is your story and mine. Whence we come, whither we go, we know not. Early in life we hear the call to go forth into the world of time and space, the world of mind and spirit. We touch other lives, experience is added to experience, thought to thought. There is the ripple of laughter, the rain of tears, the hope of becoming, the fear of failure.

But ever and anon, as the water of the brook returns to the mountains and is renewed, so the spirit of man returns to the scenes of the past, to be renewed. The eternal mystery of life and death and life again.

(A Memorable Morning)

A mother proposes . . .

a new set of three R's

Mrs. Charles A. Johnson, who has a son of 11 and lives in a village called Deerfield (state not known), has evolved three sets of standards which she feels every mother should inculcate in her child before he or she is five. All deal with respect.

1—Self Respect. This deals with toilet training and personal cleanliness, also self-discipline.

2—Respect for persons and animals. No hurting. No unnecessary touching of others or of their clothing.

3—Respect for property. Admire objects without touching. No jumping on furniture. No breaking. No stealing. No wandering into gardens and garages. Recognize a wastebasket and use it.

When to begin. The time you have is brief. It begins when a child learns to walk and ends when he starts kindergarten.

Mrs. Johnson says it requires "infinite patience, astute observation, and constant, gentle repetition. "Only you, the mother, (dad, too!) have the attributes, insight, and motivation to rear a child correctly before age five.

A mother asked a famous educator-doctor how she should educate her son, "How old is he, madam?" the eminent one asked. "Five," she replied. "Oh madam!" he replied indignantly. "Hurry right home to him. You have already wasted the five best years of his life."

Marcia Winn in *World-Herald*
(St John's and Grace Lutheran Parish,
Ohiowa, Nebr.)

editorials

THE BIBLE CONFERENCE

"Thy Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).

"Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law" (Psalm 119:105).

The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will again this year sponsor three Bible conferences during the winter season. The first one is in the center of a strong AFLC area. It will be held at Portland-Mayville, N. Dak., Jan. 31-Feb. 2. The second will be at DeKalb, Ill., Feb. 7-9, and the third is on the West Coast, at Kirkland, Wash., Feb. 14-16.

A conference has never been conducted as far east as DeKalb before. Much traveling will be involved for most of those who come from other places. But it is hoped that a good many Association congregations will be represented at DeKalb and that plus strong local support should make for a well-attended conference.

The conferences this year, at least in the Midwest, will be shorter and will be held on weekends. Instead of four days, they will cover three days. This change represents the Co-ordinating Committee's attempt to find a better format for the conferences. Association people traditionally go home for the weekends when conferences begin at midweek. It is hoped that when the conference is on the weekend only that people will take the weekend off so that they may attend it all.

The number of Bible studies will be reduced from five to four. There will be no topical presentations, but one hour will be given to discussion of practical matters concerning the AFLC work. Each conference will have a Women's Missionary Federation workshop over a meal hour.

The conference at Portland will include the installation of Pastor Eugene Enderlein as full-time executive director of World Missions of the AFLC. That will take place at the worship service on Sunday morning at 11 o'clock.

The Bible conferences represent wonderful opportunities for folks to come aside (we shy away from the expression "come apart") for study and Christian fellowship. From past experiences we can say that the spiritual food is excellent. The physical food is also good and the fellowship, well, it is pleasant to the soul. Winter isn't the easiest time for some people to get away from home and business, but if you can get to one of these Bible conferences, you'll be the richer for it.

Support the conferences in prayer. These are opportunities for the Holy Spirit to work through the Word. Pray for rich blessings upon these efforts. The Lord bless the host congregations and pastors for their hospitality and work.

"IN THE ARMS OF GOD"

Another in a line of terrible air tragedies in 1985 took place just over a month ago when 248 U.S. soldiers

plus crew members crashed to their deaths at Gander, Newfoundland, on a charter overseas flight bound for Fort Campbell, Ky. A memorial service for them was held on Dec. 16 at Fort Campbell. President Ronald Reagan participated and gave a tribute. As Commander in Chief he felt the loss deeply and said the whole nation did so.

President Reagan is often thought of as the evangelicals' president. That is, he espouses various moral causes dear to the hearts of evangelicals. Be that as it may be, we feel that he mis-spoke when in his tribute he stated that "they (the 248) are now in the arms of God." In other words: they were U.S. soldiers; they were on duty; they died involuntarily in a plane crash; they went home to be with God.

We want to be very careful. We may be misunderstood, but surely this is not evangelical theology. We mean, it is taking too much for granted to take any random collection of 248 Americans and state that they are all prepared to meet God. Very likely some of the 248 were prepared for eternity and some were not. We don't mean to be unkind, but it is wrong to assume too much.

In a funeral or memorial service it is seldom the duty of any pastor to consign the departed to damnation. Those judgments belong, of course, ultimately to God. At the same time, these are times when a pastor must not give false comfort the other way either. And there is a great deal of that being done in our time. Certainly it can give the remaining some temporary solace, but it's a dangerous thing to do.

It must not be taken for granted that because someone is in the military service of one's country that he has thereby become a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. Would to God that it were so. In fact, some have made their peace with God, others not. It is the same in every category of society. It is having a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ that counts. Jesus is the Way (John 14:6).

We mourn the loss of the 248 and the crew at Gander. We hope they were ready to meet their Maker. But *they* had to be doing more than hoping when the terrible crash snuffed out their lives. They had to be consciously trusting Jesus Christ.

SORRY, YET NOT SORRY

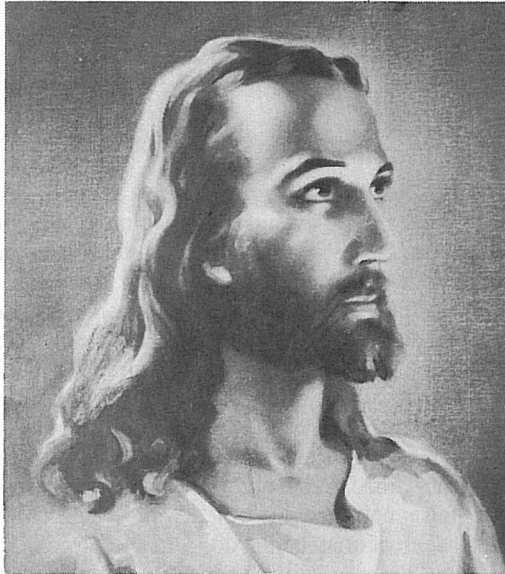
We are sorry that this our third attempt at a scrapbook issue is not quite as true a scrapbook issue as the previous two.

And yet we aren't sorry because the more regular material we are committed to carry in this issue is very worthy and needs no apology. There is just less scrapbook material than we had first thought there would be.

We have gathered some bits and pieces of things together, along with some pictures from out of the past.

a home without a Bible

“What is a home without a Bible?
‘Tis a home where day is night,
Starless night, for on life’s pathway
Heaven can shed no kindly light.



The word “*church*” is mentioned 114 times in the New Testament. It is God’s instrument for calling, gathering and preserving His people by the Holy Spirit in the means of grace.

S. C. Eastvold

“True repentance involves dissatisfaction with your repentance.”

C.O. Rosenius

editorial . . .

We hope you’ll enjoy these efforts in this the first of 24 issues in 1986.

This will be an interesting year, what with the preparation beginning for a year of evangelism and, we pray, revival in the AFLC in 1987. But, Lord, let revival begin *now* and let it continue long after these two years are gone.

What is a home without a Bible?
‘Tis a place where daily bread
For the body is provided,
But the soul is never fed.

What is a home without a Bible?
List and ponder while I speak,
‘Tis a home with a Bible in it,
But not opened once a week.
Lost-The Bible-lost! its teaching,
Lost! to live by-lost! to die by,
Lost! What’s lost? The way to heaven.”

Gateway Gospel Mission *Beacon*

What America needs

A LEADER like Moses, who refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, but was willing to go with God.

ARMY GENERALS like Joshua, who knew God and could pray and shout things to pass rather than blow them to pieces with atomic energy.

AN ADMINISTRATOR like Joseph, who knew God and had the answer to famine.

PREACHERS like Peter, who would not be afraid to look people in the eye and say, “Repent or perish” and denounce their personal as well as national sins.

MOTHERS like Hannah, who would pray for a child that she might give him to God, rather than women who are delinquent mothers of delinquent children.

CHILDREN like Samuel, who would talk to God in the night hours.

PHYSICIANS like Luke, who could care for physical needs and introduce their parents to Jesus Christ, who is a specialist in spiritual trouble.

A GOD like Israel’s instead of “dollar god,” the “entertainment god,” and the “auto god.”

A SAVIOR like Jesus, who could and would save from the uttermost to the uttermost.

Sunny-Hope News, Stacy, Minn.

At church next Sunday

If I knew you and you knew me,
How little trouble there would be.
We pass each other on the street,
But just come out and let us meet,

At church next Sunday.

Each one intends to do what's fair,
And treat his neighbor on the square,
But he may not quite understand
Why you don't take him by the hand

At church next Sunday.

This world is sure a busy place,
And we must hustle in the race.
For social hours some are not free
The six week days but all should be

At church next Sunday.

We have an interest in our town,
The dear old place must not go down;
We want to push good things along.
And we can help some if we're strong

At church next Sunday.

Don't knock and kick and slam and slap
At everybody on the map,
But push and pull and boost and boom,
And use up all the standing room

At church next Sunday.

Anonymous

The Lutheran Messenger

not compromising with sinners

It would be easier to become a hermit, no doubt;
but would it help the kingdom of God as much as
if you are "a witness in the world," careful to
keep yourself unspotted from the world while you
testify to the world of the power of Jesus to save
from sin?

John P. Milton



Salem Lutheran Church, Radcliffe, Iowa.

No Time For God ?

NO TIME FOR GOD?

What fools we are to clutter up our lives
with common things,
And leave without hearts' gate the Lord of
life, and life itself - - -

NO TIME FOR GOD?

As soon to say not time to eat or sleep or
love or die, take time for God,
Or you shall dwarf your soul, and when the
angel of death comes knocking at your door
A poor mis-shapen thing you'll be to step
into eternity.

NO TIME FOR GOD?

That day when sickness comes or troubles
find you out, and cry out for God,
Will He have time for you?

NO TIME FOR GOD?

Selected

What Bible School means to me . . .

The following excerpts were written by first-year students at Association Free Lutheran Bible School just a few weeks ago. They reveal the great and varied work that God is doing in the hearts and lives of the students there. No clearer explanation can be given about the importance of Bible School than by those who are there themselves.

For some, Bible School has been the place where they have come to know Christ as their personal Savior for the first time. "It meant my salvation, for which I am ever thankful."

—"Bible School has really changed my life. When I came down I didn't have salvation, but because of the will of Christ and from this school, I've gotten to know Christ and accept Him as my personal Savior. I'm so thankful our Association has this school to grow in the Word and love for Christ."

For many others, the few months spent at AFLBS have been a time of personal growth in their spiritual lives, as expressed in the following testimonies:

—"Bible School has done much for me even in the short time I've been here. Through studying the Word I've been learning so much about what I believe and I have a deeper appreciation of what Jesus has done for me. I can see how God has been working — changing attitudes and

bringing about spiritual growth in my life. It's just exciting to see how much God will change me through the next two years at Bible School. My desire for the next year and a half at school is that God would mold me into the girl He wants me to be and that He would be able to use me in His kingdom's work."

—"While at Bible School, I've grown in my faith. I've learned more about Jesus, and have come to love Him more."

—"Bible School has impressed upon me even more the importance of that personal time spent alone with God each day. We are saturated with Biblical truths in classes and surrounded by wonderful Christians to fellowship with, yet the time alone with God is so very important. I am so thankful for Bible School and I pray each day that God will help me to make the most of each day spent here."

—"Being here has really helped me to grow spiritually because of all there is here: teachers who are concerned and want to take us into God's Word, and also many friends who will always listen to you whenever you need them. I do not regret being here and I pray that I can continue to seek and do God's will."

—"This time spent at Bible School

has been very rewarding and uplifting. Through the study of God's Word and class discussion, the true message of the Gospel has become clear to me and I have a closer (more intimate) relationship with Jesus Christ."

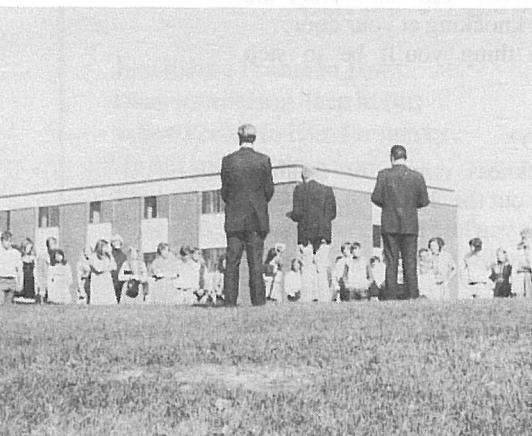
—"Bible School to me means to learn more about Jesus. It has strengthened my faith in Him. I have come to know the Lord much better and I have met a lot of good Christian friends."

—"To me, Bible School has revealed my personal need to let God have control of everything in my life. I know now that Jesus really is all that I need."

—"I came to Bible School because I wanted to be grounded in the Word of God. I don't know exactly what I expected, but I have received so much that it has become more than I could have wished for. Right now, I am striving to grow in the Lord through my own personal devotions and through what I learn in the classes."

One aspect of Bible School that is so beneficial and uplifting to many of our students is the Christian friends they meet here. For many, it is the first time that they have experienced true Christian fellowship among their peers.

—"Bible School has really opened



Groundbreaking for the Boys' Dorm, AFLBS, 1973.



up my mind to the words of the Bible. I have never wanted to study the Bible like I do now. It has opened up so many things that I thought I really knew about, but actually didn't. This has given me a new desire to keep studying God's word. The fellowship with Christian friends has also been very great. I never realized that there could be so many people who really, truly, loved God and want to share Him. This has helped me grow spiritually and emotionally. Friends are friends forever when the Lord's the Lord of them. I know these friends are forever and I praise God for that."

—"I have met many new Christian friends, friends God has given me and I'll have for the rest of my life."

—"During the last quarter of Bible School, I have found many good Christians. I have learned that you need good Christian friends to help you along with your Christian life, to encourage you and to help you. I am very glad I came to AFLBS. I know this is where God wants me."

But Bible School is not just a place to come to receive. God also has been giving our students a burden for the souls of others, as these testimonials reveal:

—"God has been very faithful to me. I love Him and He is a very special friend of mine and He will always be. God has and is preparing me to be able to witness to my family that they may come to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior."

—"Bible School is helping me to stand up for Christ and be a better witness for Him every day. It is stabilizing my faith in Him."

—"The one area in my life that has been helped by Bible School is in witnessing to others. God has given me so many opportunities to witness to others at my job and it's been such a blessing. I have not always used the opportunities God gives me, but each day God gives me confidence to be a witness."

—"Bible School has given me a conviction and a desire that I've never had before to share Christ with other people. It has shown me how very important the Word of God is. And how faithful He is! I've learned myself exactly what needs to be done to have a right relationship with God and also I've learned how powerful prayer and His Word are. Deut. 6:4-7 are really meaningful to me. My greatest desire in life right now is to do God's will and to seek *that* first. But most importantly, now I feel more assured of my salvation than ever before."

Prayer, too, is an aspect of the Christian life that is experienced at AFLBS. In dorm devotions, with prayer partners, and in class devotions and chapel services, students are learning this vital area of the Christian life, as expressed by another student:

—"Christ has become so much more real just even in the past few days and I see Him answering prayer.

It's so exciting to know that He really is there and He loves me — even me!"

The last two quotes in the "AFLBS testimony time" summarize so well what Bible School can and does mean in the lives of many of our students.

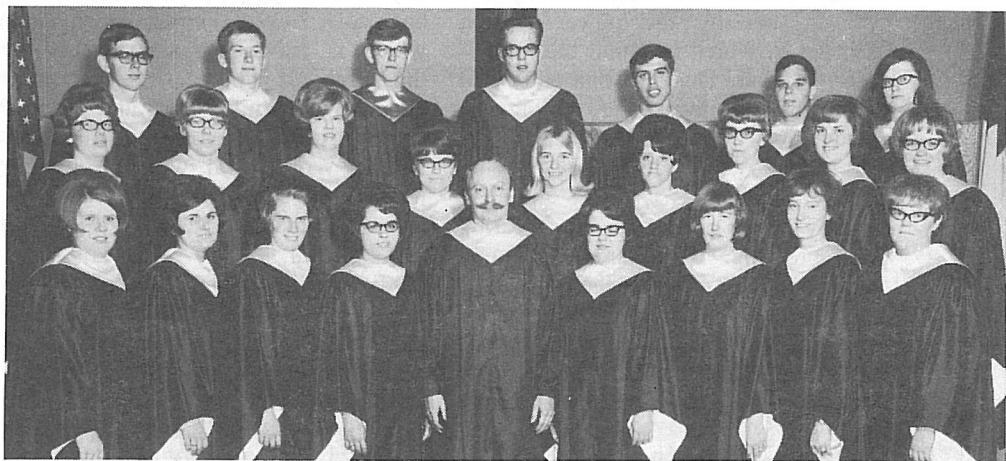
—"Bible School, for me, has been everything I wanted it to be. I have a Christian environment that makes learning so much easier than public school. What I am learning (I feel it is the greatest task) is how to share the Gospel with people who need it. I've made lasting friendships. I'm learning how to figure out God's will for my life. I have good Christian role models to help guide me and help me build on my personal relationship with Christ. Bible School, so far, leaves me wanting more knowledge, more friends, more blessings from God. Yes, instead of attending AFLBS one year like I planned, I will continue my education here for another year."

—"I was only planning on one year but I am now planning on the full two years at AFLBS. I love it."

I trust that these spontaneous testimonies of what God is doing at AFLBS will stir your hearts to give thanks to the Lord for his goodness, and to remember our students and faculty daily before the throne of grace, that this good work in the lives of our youth will continue all the days of their lives.



Jean Swanson, current Women's Resident Head.



First Don Rodvold choir, 1967-68.

Gospel knowledge is power

At a recent Bible study at church, Paul's letter to the Colossians was being studied. We noted that as Paul speaks of the power of the Gospel, he writes that "it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing" (1:6). The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. When it goes forth it bears fruit spontaneously. The fruit it bears is faith in the hearts of those who receive it and a corresponding love for other believers.

Jesus said that anyone's believing in Him was the work of God (John 6:29). This faith that God works in us is a product of the glorious message of the Gospel.

He also told His disciples that a sign of their discipleship would be their love for one another (John 13:35). Love for one another springs forth from faith so surely that anyone who lacks love by that proves that he does not have faith (1 John 3:10).

The Gospel bears fruit of itself, by its own inherent power. The same is not true of us. Paul indicates to the Colossian Christians that he prays that they, too, might be "bearing fruit. . . and increasing" (1:10). He tells them, however, that their fruitfulness and growing is accomplished by means of the "knowledge of God." We do not bear fruit by our power, but by the power of the Gospel in which is found the knowledge of God. The Christian is blessed with the privilege of revealing the power of God through fruit-bearing.

Gospel knowledge is power. God does not leave His people deficient in any power needed for fruit-bearing and growing. If we are ever found deficient it is never because He fails to supply us, but rather because we do not let Him fill us with the knowledge of His will that is so effective a means for making us bear fruit and grow.

If there are empty spaces in your knowledge, you will be devoid of

Horses uncontrolled

In my early teens when I had learned to drive and handle a team of horses, Dad sent me off to the woods to haul home a small load of cordwood. I knew that Dad always put more of a load on the front of the rack close to the horses as they could pull more that way, so I did just that! The trouble was that I put too much up front on the rack. It was all right on level ground, but I had to go down a hill. As I started down and had to pull the reins to hold the horses, the back end of the rack lifted off the rear sled and was teetering on the front sled, ready to overbalance forward. I had to let the horses race down the road unrestrained. To make matters worse, there

was a curve below the hill and with the horses racing, uncontrolled, it was a miracle that the load did not tip and land on top of me. I can still see Dad standing by the house terrified as we raced by. From the house the barn was up hill, so they slowed down and stopped when they came to the barn door. I came through it unharmed, but it could have been a tragedy. A miracle indeed by the grace of God! Who can doubt the promise of God: "Behold, I send an angel before thee, to keep thee in the way . . ." (Exodus 23:20)?

George R. Nelson, Sr.
Almelund, Minn.
(from "Miracles")

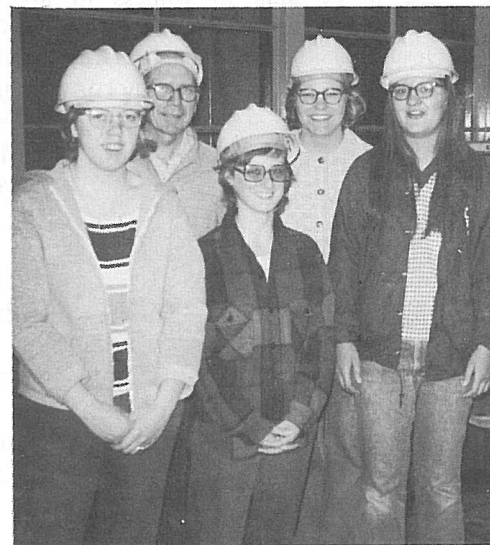


Members of the Medicine Lake WMF and a food pantry, 1974.

power in those areas to bear fruit or grow. Lack of fruit and growth in any area of your life can be traced back to a lack of knowledge of God which is leaving you powerless in that area. If you desire to see a change from fruitlessness and stagnation to fruit-bearing and growth, look to the Word from which you can receive the knowledge of God's blessed will in Christ Jesus.

Like Paul, I pray "that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit and growing by the knowledge of God."

Pastor Bruce Dalager
Trinity Newsletter,
Grand Forks, N. Dak.



AFLBS Choral Club members on tour at Ishpeming, Mich.

Former Valley City minister compiles book depicting "fever" of ancestor

By Brenda Halvorson
T-R Feature Writer

"O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done."

—*The Book of Common Prayer*

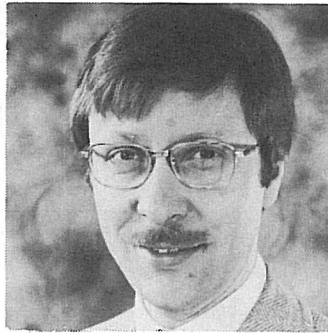
Robert Lloyd Lee took "the fever of life" as the integrating theme for his book "Fever Saga," the story of his great-grandfather's life in Norway and in America.

"I see it in my dad and myself, the same itchy feet, as Dad calls it," says Lee. He refers to it in his preface, "The burden to write a book can even be called a fever."

Lee was pastor of Grace Free Lutheran Church in Valley City and Zion Lutheran Church in Green Township from 1972 to 1979.

In that year Lee and his father Lloyd traveled to Norway to the Valley where Thronnd Helgeson Opdahl, Lee's great-grandfather, lived until he emigrated to America.

Lee's theme chronicles three "fevers" of Thronnd's. First, to emigrate to America; second, to homestead his own land and become truly



"American," forsaking his language and nationality; and third, to leave Minnesota and seek his fortune in the Alaskan gold fields.

But Lee's fever began when he was "a small boy sitting on Grandma's lap, listening to her stories of the days when she was a child, too, . . . listening and remembering."

Grandma was Anna Sophia Opdahl Lee, a daughter of Thronnd Opdahl.

Other relatives of Opdahl live in Barnes County. Some near Litchville and Marion are descendants of Thronnd's brothers Helge and Anders; some near Sanborn are descendants of Thronnd's sister Ingeborg Myhre. These siblings are part of the story of *Fever Saga*.

Lee describes his book as "a work of historical fiction."

"The dialogue is mostly fiction, of course, but the locations, the incidents, are factual," Lee says.

Although the dialogue is fictional, the expressions used, the rhythms of the Norwegian brogue, are easily recognizable to anyone who has lived in a Scandinavian community.

For example, someone has received a letter from a cousin in America, and is sharing information about the country. Another person answers "Nei, Ole, do you expect us to believe such a story? Have you been into the ale even on Sunday then?"

Lee weaves into the story the folk tales, the superstitions, the medical remedies, that add color and authenticity to the storyline. Many people will remember the remedies, the superstitions from their own histories.

The emotional reserve, the reticence, associated with people of Norwegian heritage is dealt with throughout the book. One example is when Thronnd, Ingeborg and Helge are leaving for America, bidding farewell to their mother and younger siblings.

"It was the last chance for them to express their love for one another, to put the fullness of their hearts into words. But the words remained unspoken."

"The emotions that welled so close to the surface were an embarrassment to them. They looked down rather than meeting one another's eyes, and hurried to be on their way . . . They would never see Mother nor home again."

Lee describes this taciturnity again when in 1873 grasshoppers completely destroy the crops on Thronnd and Gunild's Minnesota homestead.

Thronnd says not a word as he goes back to his field work and the phrase Lee uses is particularly moving, "Dreams do not make any sound when they die."

Although this is the story of one man, it is the same story that could be told of many Norwegian-American pioneers.

Valley City (N. Dak.) *Times-Record* (*Fever Saga* may be purchased at selected book stores at \$6.98 a copy.)

Personalities

Rev. Richard Snipstead, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, is on a trip to the Brazil mission field and will be returning to Minneapolis on the 21st. Mrs. Snipstead is also on the trip, her fare having been paid by friends.

Address of **Rachel Mundfrom**, who is in training with Lutheran Bible Translators, is SIL, 7500 W. Camp Wisdom Road, Dallas, Tex. 75236.

Rev. and Mrs. Connely J. Dyrud and family arrived back home to Thief River Falls, Minn., from Brazil on furlough, Sun. Dec. 15. They were met at the airport in Grand

Forks, N. Dak., by a number of family and friends, including Mrs. Dyrud's mother, Mrs. Myrtle Hove. After a supper at the home of his sister, Leola Furman, the group motored to Thief River Falls where the Dyruds will be living this next year at 322 S. Conley, the home of Mrs. Hove.

CORRECTION

We regret that the following error appeared in the January WMF Bible Study (Dec. 3), on the fourth page of the study, last paragraph. The first sentence of the paragraph should have read, "Truth is intolerant," not "Truth is tolerant."

The 1986 Bible Conferences

Theme: Pray as Jesus Prayed
Text: John 17 (The High Priestly Prayer)
Conference Hymn: "Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright" (*Concordia*, No. 28)

Portland-Mayville, North Dakota

January 31-February 2

Speaker — Rev. Lyndon Korhonen, Culbertson, Montana

Bible Teacher — Rev. Bruce Dalager, Grand Forks, North Dakota

The evening and Sunday morning sessions will be held at Valley Lutheran Church, Portland, two blocks south of the bank.

The Saturday morning and afternoon sessions will be held at the Classroom Auditorium of Mayville State College.

The WMF workshop will be at noon on Saturday.

The installation for Rev. Eugene Enderlein as full-time executive director of AFLC World Missions will take place at the Sunday morning worship at 11:00.

DeKalb, Illinois

February 7-9

Grace Lutheran Church, 1121 South First Street

Speaker — Rev. Laurel Udden, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Bible Teacher — Rev. Francis Monseth, Minneapolis

The WMF workshop will be at the noon hour Saturday.

Kirkland, Washington

February 14-16

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 11611 N.E. 140th Street

Speaker — Rev. Herbert L. Franz, Cloquet, Minnesota

Bible Teachers — The pastors of the West Coast District

A district meeting will be held on Saturday afternoon.

PRAY! COME!

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While I Live

*Give me flowers while I am living,
So my eyes can feast on them here,
For my eyes will not see the blossoms
That you may place on my bier.*

*Give me a smile while I'm living,
Let me a friend in you find.
When I'm laid in my coffin,
It's much too late to be kind.*

*Love me while I am still living,
My heart does hunger for love.
When the earth has covered my casket,
Nothing remains — but God's love.*

*Do not weep over my coffin;
Those tears will not bring me peace.
You should much rather have spared me
My tears — and so brought release.*

*So short is the time we are living
Our lives upon earth, day by day.
So let us abundantly scatter
Love and joy on each other's way.*

*Author Unknown
Translated from Norwegian by
Mrs. Jennie Helland, McVile, N. Dak.*