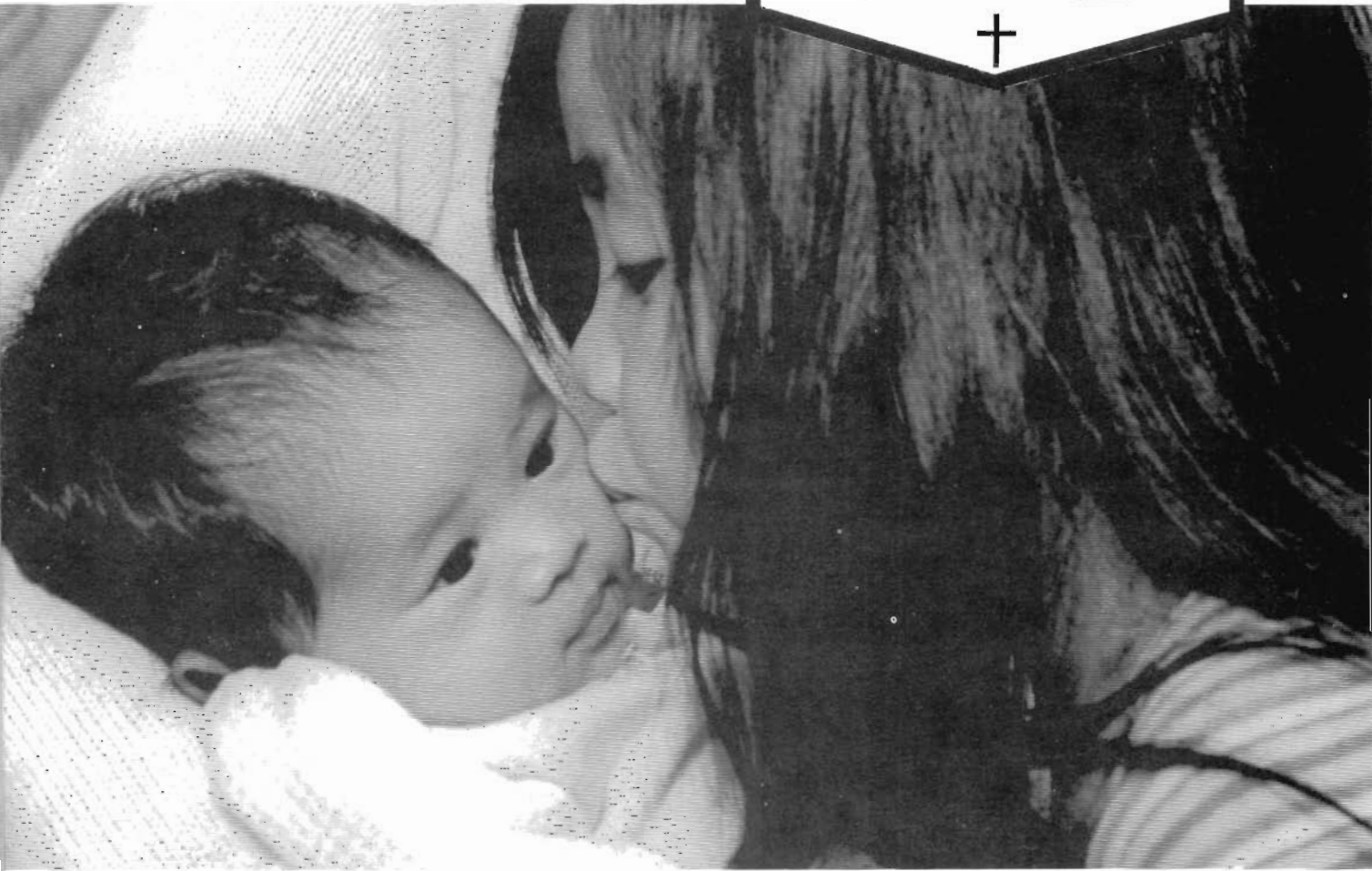




# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

January 19, 1993



*“The Work Of His Hand”*

# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

January 19, 1993 • Vol. 31, No. 2

## THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

is published biweekly (except for the second issue of July and the second issue of August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441.

## CONTENTS

From My Mother's Womb	p. 3
An Open Letter To A Grandson	p. 4
Thoughts From A Life-Chain	p. 6
Battling The Demon Of Death	p. 7
A Stewardship Challenge For A New Year	p. 12

Subscriptions: \$12.00 year, U. S.  
\$15.00 year, International

### Write to:

*The Lutheran Ambassador*  
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

Send all communications concerning this magazine to: Solveig Hjermstad, Assistant to the Editor, Box 423, Faith, South Dakota 57626. Phone (605) 967-2381. Fax (605) 967-2382.

USPS 588-620 ISSN 0746-3413

Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minnesota, and additional mailing office.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Lutheran Ambassador*, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441.

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

### Editorial Board:

Rev. Wendell Johnson, Chairman  
Dr. Francis Monseth, Secretary  
Mr. Robert Knutson

## Light on the Way

## God's Love In Action

As we continue to study Romans, it is interesting to note that the church at Rome, which was so lovingly addressed in the first chapter by the Apostle Paul, still needed the application of the Law regarding open sin! One might think it more appropriate to those outside of the church to receive such a letter.

But it reminds us that in every group, no matter how discriminating, you will find those who differ from the group view. In looking into the second chapter, we see that Paul isn't satisfied with pointing out gross sin. He has his eye on a few weaknesses of the saints as well!

The first sin he points out is an unloving, judgmental and critical attitude against sinners outside of Christ as well as against other Christians. This faces us all very vividly: if we are unloving, uncaring for the world around us, we too, shall be judged.

Perhaps you recall with a smile the humorous illustration told by Jesus when He said: "Before you begin poking at the little sliver in your brother's eye, take care of that big log sticking out of your head" (paraphrase). And while you pray for help with your own problem, quite possibly your criticism will turn to sympathy, then prayer for your brother's dilemma.

Paul, whether dealing with the saints at Rome or any of our churches, makes a very clear statement in 2:5. We are to guard against a hard and impenitent attitude toward our fellow men, as that builds God's wrath in the day of judgment. In fact in verse 8 we are told that if we are self-seeking (unloving — me first), and therefore "do not listen to the

truth," but rather follow wickedness, there will be "wrath and fury from God!"

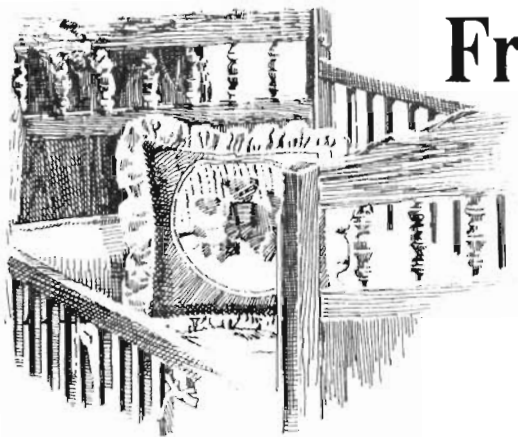
If we hear judgment upon us today, as we heard it upon "gross sinners" in chapter one, who is exempt? None! Even as God's children, our imperfections and lovelessness makes us deserving of God's wrath. Whether we are a Christian or a non-Christian, we are in need of mercy every day of our life.

How grateful we should be that our assurance of salvation is not based on our degree of sanctification, but upon the continuing mercy from Jesus Christ. That marvelous gift flows on all who depend, not on themselves, but on Jesus Christ.

As God's children, we need daily to turn from sin, seek God's grace, and in fact, live in a spirit of repentance and continual gratefulness for His everlasting love. Let us go forth, daily, boldly, gladly and assuredly His. We do this not because of our goodness, but because He cleanses all who confess their inability to cleanse themselves! The more we see of God's love at work in our lives, the more we will find of His love in our dealings with our fellow men. This occurs not as a "work" or legalistic requirement, but rather as grace or a work of the Gospel.



— by Rev.  
Lloyd Bjornlie



# From My Mother's Womb

**A**t the birth of our children, my wife and I seek a Scripture verse for the child as well as for the birth announcement. In each case we have seen God's unique provision. Take for instance our child born while I was attending seminary. We were at the end of Josie's ninth month. One Wednesday evening, we all went to the special Lenten service. The text read from the pulpit was Psalm 22. When the reader came to verses 9 and 10, our hearts leaped as God's Word spoke to us in light of the approaching event. "But you are He who took me out of the womb; you made me trust when I was on my mother's breast. I was cast upon you from birth. From my mother's womb you have been my God."

We talked about these verses at home that night and prayed in thanksgiving to God for the beautiful truth of His Word. It was then my wife announced she was having contractions throughout the evening. By early Thursday morning, we were holding baby Peter Samuel in our arms. Guess what verses went on his birth announcement?

Josie and I have strong and active convictions on the sanctity of human life. We see these convictions stemming from knowledge of God's Word and the beautiful experiences with our children in the womb and their coming forth from the womb. But even though the experiences are so meaningful, we know that the foundation of our convictions must be God's Holy Word.

What does God's Word say about life and abortion. Does God, who showed His great love and care for the world in Jesus Christ, also show concern on this issue? More directly, how does God look upon the child in the womb? Does He care for him too?

"God created man in His own image, male and female he created them," (Genesis 1:27). "Know therefore that the Lord has made us and

not we ourselves," (Psalm 100:3). Isaiah 64:8 reminds us that "we are the work of His hand." We are "created by Him and for Him," (Colossians 1:16). In Isaiah 44:24 we are taught more specifically, "God, the maker of all things, formed us from the womb." Job gets very descriptive of the divine process. He states how God poured him out like milk and curdled him like cheese. He clothed him with skin and flesh and knit him together with bones and sinews, giving him life, showing him kindness and love, preserving him with His care (Job 10:10-12). In Psalm 139:13-16 the psalmist declares that God "formed his inward parts, covered him in his mother's womb. God's eye saw his substance, being yet unformed."

God does care for the unborn. Jeremiah was even told that God knew him before God formed him in the womb (Jeremiah 1:5). Paul acknowledges that he was set apart by God before birth and called through His grace (Galatians 1:15). Yes, that care, that call of God to life with Him is for all even from the womb (Isaiah 49:1). I Timothy 2:4 tells us that our primary call is unto salvation in Jesus Christ.

And so we must agree with Scripture, as does medical science, that human life starts in the womb at conception. I therefore have to take God's command, "You shall not murder," to include abortion. We are not to shed innocent blood (Jeremiah 7:6 and Exodus 23:7). It is also interesting to note Amos 1:13, where God mentions that Ammon transgressed when he ripped open the belly of pregnant women.

Now what about the child conceived as a result of rape or incest? Shall the innocent child be killed for the sin of the parent? Deuteronomy 24:16 says "No." How about the deformed or handicapped; should they be aborted? Do we believe God makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing and the blind? Exodus 4:11 clearly says that He does. Can we, the clay, argue with the Potter? (Romans 9:20, 21). Truly, God causes "all things to work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose," (Romans 8:28). Paul reminds us in I Corinthians 1:27 that God uses what the world sees as foolish, wrong or weak to shame the ungodly. Proverbs 14:12 says: "There is a way that seems right to man but its end is the way of death." ◇

**"God the  
maker of  
all things,  
formed us  
from the  
womb"**

Isaiah 44:24



— by Pastor  
Paul Pillman  
Zumbrota, Minnesota

# An open letter to a Grandson

— by Odell Kittelson  
Dana Point, California

---

## MOTHER'S WOMB

What about those who perform abortions? They are cursed for taking pay to kill an innocent person (Deuteronomy 27:25). Proverbs 6:17 indicates how God hates those who shed innocent blood. We can take Jesus' words and say it would be better for them that a millstone be tied around their necks and be thrown into the sea, (Luke 17:2).

God's Word clearly says that abortion, the murder of the most innocent and helpless party involved, is not the answer in any circumstance. It is sin, an abomination. To God wrong is always wrong and never right.

And what are we who are followers of Jesus Christ to do? Ephesians 5:8, 11 calls us to walk as children of light, expose the deeds of darkness and proclaim and stand against the wrong of abortion. In doing so, we can also reach out in love to those who are struggling with this

Dear Daniel,

I have a copy of your letter before me; the one you wrote to Governor Clinton before the general elections in November. Your mother sent it to me knowing I would be pleased that you decided to do this on your own.

Have you received an answer from President-elect Clinton? Probably not. He is a busy man. It's true that he does have a lot of people working for him reading and answering his mail and sometimes they will call his attention to a special letter like yours. If the president were to answer your letter he would probably write you something like this:

"Dear Dan,

Thank you for your letter. I want you to know that personally I am not for abortion, but I do favor pro-choice. I believe that women should choose what she should do and not the government."

I am sure he would write you a nice letter.

But Daniel, I think your question and statement to Governor Clinton was a good one: "Why are you for abortion?" He made a decision as to what side of the fence he was on in regard to this national issue even though he probably would have liked to sit on the fence. Why did he decide to come down on the abortion side? Very likely because he thought this would help him get elected. There are many powerful groups that are for abortion, especially those that control the media, and they form a big block of voters. All of us have to make tough

---

issue. We come with the Gospel to the broken so that in confessing their sin, they might receive mercy and forgiveness in Jesus, (Proverbs 28:13; I John 1:9). Only by Jesus' love and power can women and men be freed from the guilt of the horrible sin of abortion, (Psalm 32:3-5).

Let us also lift up the sanctity of human life in our homes. We need to recognize that each child given to us is a gift from the Lord, (Psalm 127:3). I Corinthians 6:20 says that we were bought with a price. May each of our homes demonstrate this in teaching and in practice.

Psalm 139:13,14 exclaims from my mother's womb I am fearfully and wonderfully made; and so is each person! Praise God for life from the mother's womb.

(Note: an excellent pamphlet is "What Does God Say About Abortion?" Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, CO 80995.)

Governor Clinton  
 Why are you for abortion.  
 God is not happy with you, neither  
 am I. hope you don't become  
 president. By 741-9393  
~~SEVERE ROAD~~ Green Field Rd. Shorewood  
 ILLinois Dan 7 years old

decisions, don't we? Are we for or against stealing, lying, cheating, bad language, selfishness ... you know them. It's a long list. Abortion is simply one in this long list of wrongs that we must decide against. And, of course, we must not only be **against** the enemies of our soul but we must be **for** someone and something. We must be for God and for all that is good, beautiful and right.

You wrote in your letter: "**God is not happy with you.**" Always be brave like that Daniel! Long ago the prophet Nathan spoke out as you did. He used though, strong words to King David who had sinned. When King David heard the words of Nathan, he felt very sorry for what he had done and he repented.

Years later another great man of God, John the Baptist, spoke strong words like yours to another king who had sinned, King Herod. Herod hardened his heart, did not repent and finally had John the Baptist beheaded. Sometimes we can get hurt and even killed when we speak out like that. God will help us to be courageous.

You added: "**Neither am I.**" I believe your heart is like God's in this issue, Daniel. Always seek to think God's thoughts. Let your heart feel as God feels. The more we read, understand and obey the Bible, the more Christ-like we become.

You end your letter to Governor Clinton with this sincere statement: "**Hope you don't**

**become president.**" Well, Daniel, your hope didn't keep Clinton from being elected president. He got the most votes. Now what do we do? The Bible tells us to pray for our president and other leaders. So we must do that. The Bible also tells us to pay taxes and to obey our rulers. So pray, pay and obey. But there are times when authorities give orders that are clearly against God's orders. When this happens, then we must obey God rather than man. God will give us understanding in this matter. During this presidency that is pro-abortion, we can and must be fully pro-life and stand strong against those who kill pre-borns.

And yes, Daniel, to be pro-life means that we also love those who are already born, no matter how weak or ugly or poor or old or sick they may be. This even means grandpas who get old and weak and forgetful and can no longer wrestle with you. I know you understand this well. I heard that you told your mom that you didn't want any presents for Christmas. You want the money to go to help the starving Somalians. And just the other day your brothers and you decided on your own to each give \$15 birthday money to help someone who needed eye surgery. This makes God happy.

Well, I could write a lot more but this will be all for now.

I love you,  
 Your Grandpa Odell

## ABORTION FACTS:

- Every day in America, 4400 unborn babies are killed by abortion.
- Less than 2% of abortions are done because the pregnancy threatens the mother's life or resulted from rape or incest.
- There is no legal time limit on abortion.
- Abortion is legal for any reason.
- The abortion "repeat rate" is growing.



# Thoughts From A Life-Chain



— by David R. Johnson  
West Lisbon Evangelical Lutheran  
Morris, Illinois

That's the third time they've gone by! Our eight-year-old blurts out. Our eyes follow the contentious young pair on a motorcycle displaying a pro-abortion sign. They are obviously hoping to upset us and provoke an un-Christ-like reaction; or so I conclude and look around to see what response others will make to them. Some ignore them; others just smile back. I offer a silent prayer of thanks for the quiet Spirit of Truth evident here and wonder how the scene would differ if a thousand pro-abortion demonstrators converged on the town.

It's interesting to watch people's impression of our Life-Chain event. I'm glad we were assigned a spot close to the beginning. Our family is situated just far enough from the start of the chain to observe the drivers' and passengers' initial reaction to us and our signs. Most people display only apathy as they pass. I would have thought we'd provoke more emotion one way or another. *"Lord Jesus, we were asked to pray for those who see our message, but is this having an effect or are we wasting our time? Yet, Lord, the results are your responsibility; ours is but to be faithful witnesses to the truth."*

The light turns red and a pretty young woman brakes to a stop in front of us. Her eyes are locked straight ahead, refusing to let them

even glance in our direction. Perhaps she thinks that looking away would be perceived as guilt. How can she totally ignore us? Is it possible that even now, she could be planning to end a tiny life within her? Or is she afraid that just looking at us will betray her to some haunting, deeply buried memories? We wonder aloud. Given the thousands aborted daily and the millions since 1973, how many women we've seen today will sentence their little ones to death or are secretly bearing the scars of past abortions?

***"Father, let your love and truth reach those who think sacrificing their children will secure them a better life. Let those burdened by the guilt of past abortions find forgiveness and healing in your Son."***

A young couple drives by, seeming a little puzzled by the human billboards. Gazes fixed on our extended line, neither says a word. I imagine them making mental notations regarding this curious demonstration:

**First block:** Old, young, strollers, couples. Why are they doing this? Even church says it's OK.

**Next block:** There are some grandparents, singles. It's a cross section of the community quietly professing their beliefs. They don't look like the anti-abortionists on the evening news. Maybe pro-lifers aren't so different?

**Another block, and another ...** How much Father? If so many can stand up publicly, maybe I should rethink my own position. Could it really be a child? I wonder ...

I fantasize that the hearts and minds of that young couple can be changed by this simple event. ***"Dear Lord, use all who link together here today to bring uncommitted hearts and minds to choose life."***

The honking horn of a motor home jolted me. A sixty-ish couple signals their agreement with the "Abortion Kills Children" message. The thought occurs to me that abortion kills grandchildren, too. I recall faces of grandparents whose hearts may ache for grandchildren they will never know. A darker thought emerges. Have we seen grandfathers or grandmothers who pressured daughters to abort their own posterity? ***"O God, what judgment is America storing up one little life at a time? How quickly we decay when we separate from the Life! What darkness descends when we turn from the Light! As you call us to be salt and light, let this event be a few grains of salt to stave off social decay. Let it be a tiny candle to give light to someone in darkness. But we need more salt, more candles. Dear Father, send more."***

# BATTLING THE DEMON OF DEATH

**T**here is nothing good about abortion. Nothing. Abortion, whether legal or not, always equals death for the preborn child, and heartache for the mother. There are no winners, no celebrations, and no survivors. Yet, there are actually thousands of people who have committed their lives, energies and finances to fighting for a mother's "right" to kill her preborn child.

During the closing ceremonies of a conference of the National Abortions Rights Action League, Kate Michelman emotionally embraced key abortion activists, telling them how much she loves and appreciates them. As I watched the sickening affair on C-Span, it was amazing to realize that the only thing these women have in common is their commitment to a "choice" which means nothing less than death for "unwanted" children. The sisterhood of abortion is a fraternity of fatality.

Yet, when was the last time you read a negative report about the procedure of abortion in the newspaper, or saw an investigative report on television exposing what happens in the back rooms of women's "health clinics"? How many stories have you seen about the mental and emotional suffering of the mother who hastily had uterine "tissue" removed, only to realize all too late it was her own child she destroyed? The media have become so entranced by the siren song of "reproductive freedom" that they fail to see that abortion is a movement of madness.

Underneath the deceptive jargon and chants of "choice, choice, choice" lies the ugly face of the grim reaper. His prey is frightened mothers and their preborn young. His steed is a

populace so deceived that it doesn't recognize it's child, not a choice.

Enter the champions of life: pro-life activists who struggle against the demon of death with their prayers, their time and their energies. These men and women of valor are America's sidewalk counselors, crisis pregnancy center volunteers, maternity home workers, prayer warriors, and resources. They are people who open their homes to pregnant teens, make sacrificial financial contributions to pro-life efforts and lovingly help the poor or single pregnant women instead of passing judgment on her. Yet, how many news reports have you seen or read about the good work of the pro-life movement?

For over 20 years, we have often stopped death in its tracks, saving the lives of hundreds of thousands of babies and sparing their mothers from the agony and pain of abortion. Women everywhere who might have otherwise chosen abortion now swell with pride and self-esteem as they look into the faces of their children — who live because of our efforts.

Many less obvious societal benefits have occurred as a result of the pro-life movement, as well. Pro-life leaders have motivated thousands of previously inactive citizens to become participants in our democracy, strengthening our political process and demonstrating to our children the importance of working to preserve that which is of value.

Christians who for years avoided politics are now working on campaigns, voting in local and national elections on a consistent basis, becoming involved in many issues, and even running for office themselves.

The movement has also served to

raise the nation's consciousness about what abortion really is, challenging millions of Americans to look beyond slogans to the core of the issue, and to contemplate the value of human life. We have educated our nation on the development of the fetus, using images available through the technological miracles of in-utero photography and ultra sound.

Pro-life efforts have caused people to explore the options to abortion, and have filled the empty arms and hearts of desperate childless couples with precious babies which were on the brink of death. We have forced ourselves to come to grips with the realities of fetal abnormalities and birth defects, ever increasing our own levels of comparison and commitment to the service of others.

And as we have stood for the rights in the preborn, we have ended up on our knees like never before. We have become more aware of our own sins and shortcomings and have expanded our understanding of the power of prayer, the reality of personal responsibility and the depth of God's grace and forgiveness.

No, there is nothing good about the evil of abortion. But there is everything good about fighting for life. It is a noble and worthwhile war filled with selfless, brave warriors. As we continue to battle, we must never lose sight of the many victories won along the way.

— by Rebecca Hagelin

*Note: This article is reprinted with permission from the "Christian America" November-December 1992 issue. Christian Coalition, P.O. Box 1990, Chesapeake, VA 23337.*

# BUILDERS FELLOWSHIP

## A Kingdom Investment

### Purpose

Increase the equity and available loan money in the Church Extension Fund.

Generate interest money for the benefit of the Home Mission Fund.

### Plan

Build a membership of 1000 concerned AFLC friends.

Invest gifts in Church Extension with interest paid to Home Missions.

Keep all funds invested working in building AFLC congregations.

### People

Those who make a faith commitment of \$17.00 per month for a five year period.

**Join us and become a part of a growing BUILDERS FELLOWSHIP!**

For Further Information Contact:

AFLC HOME MISSIONS  
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, MN 55441  
(612) 545-5631

## 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** the Lord for the recovery of Pastor Marlyn Kruse from his recent heart attack, and **pray** for his continued healing.

**Pray** for Pastor Chris Oswood as he waits for a heart transplant.

**Pray** for the Free Lutheran churches in Brazil, who met earlier this month for their annual conference, and **praise** the Lord for the safe return to the U.S. of AFLC President Robert Lee.

**Praise** God for the new open doors to evangelical ministry in Mexico, and **pray** for Pastor Samuel Flores, Pastor Milton Flores, Pastor Dan Giles, and

Pastor Gabriel Mercado as they serve through the AFLC in this nation.

**Pray** for missionary David Abel and his family as they begin their furlough year, and as he begins his interim ministry in Osseo, Minnesota.

**Pray** for the evangelistic ministry of Pastor John Abel, and for the lay people whom he is training in many of our AFLC congregations.

**Praise** God for the generous outpouring of gifts to AFLC ministries from congregations and individuals during this final month of the fiscal year.

## Brazilian Students Share



**Ivone Braun**  
Bible School Student 1992

**H**! My name is Ivone Braun. Let me tell you a little bit about myself. I was born in the interior of the state of Espirito Santo, on Nov. 7, 1974. About a year later we moved to the city (Vitoria), where we have lived up to now.

My childhood was very happy and good. My family has always belonged to the Lutheran faith. As a young child I first went to church with my sister and later on with my whole family.

I had a good adolescence. Even though I went through a period of doubts, belonging to Christ and being involved in church activities helped me through it.

I studied Business Administration in a junior college and like the course, but do not plan to continue in that career. Whatever career I do decide on, I want to use it to serve my Lord.

I enjoy traveling and getting to know new places and making new friends. I like to swim and play volleyball. I enjoy music and play the piano.

I am studying at the Bible School because I decided I needed to dedicate this year to the Lord in intensive study of His Word. I also wanted to have new experiences. So far, this year has been very important to me. I am learning to live with many different people. I am acquiring new experiences for my future. My best experience is that I am learning to value my family and my church much more.

For the future I am planning to go to college and possibly study odontology. I ask that you pray for me that I may allow God's will to guide my future.

"For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith ... (Galatians 2:19-20 RSV).



## Reach Out To Those Within Reach

**A**nswer the call to serve Christ for two weeks in Northern Mexico. Participate in street ministry, evangelism and construction. Join in praise and worship with Mexican Christians. Families welcome.

The cost is \$400, which includes: lodging, food and transportation for two weeks.

Dates: Jan. 8-22, from Midwest;

Feb. 12-26 from Montana; March 20-April 3, West Coast; June is Youth Outreach.

If you would like more details about this exciting, life changing opportunity, phone (406) 755-4160 in evenings or the AFLC World Missions Department at (612) 545-5631.

—AFLC Partners in Missions Outreach



A children's class led by Leticia Flores. A major thrust for our Gospel work in both the cities of Celaya and Irapuato, Mexico, is toward the children.

### Joao Batista Rocha Bible School Student 1992

**H**i! My name is Joao Batista Rocha, I am 21 years old, and come from the town of Iretama, Parana.

I was born into a home that isn't Christian, and at a young age I became involved in sinful activities that the world said were pleasurable. I also had problems in school and dropped out



without finishing high school. I see that now as a great loss in my life. But the greatest loss happening to me was the loss of my soul.

I was a declared enemy of the Gospel and when an uncle of mine became a Christian, I began to hate him. Now we could not go out together and party as we had before. But slowly he began to gain my friendship again, and through him I learned the plan of salvation in Christ for my life, and on the 23rd of January of 1992, I asked Christ into my life.

Some people were skeptical of my decision, so I decided to come to Bible School, to learn more of the Christian walk and become better prepared to defend my faith.

During this school year I participated in the activities at Lar Parana Free Lutheran Church where the pastor is Cleodo Fruhauf.

## New Educational Center To Open In Estonia

**T**he Tartu Theological Academy was recently officially registered as an institution of higher education by the Ministry of Education for the Republic of Estonia, according to a report received from Rev. Don Richman, who returned on December 22, from a trip to several former Communist countries in Eastern Europe.

The opening ceremony has been scheduled for the first weekend in February, and Lutheran Estonian American Friends (LEAF) has been invited to send an instructor to teach during the first two week session of classes.

The Academy, which will train religion teachers for the public schools of the country, was established with the encouragement and support of LEAF, a fellowship organized by eight Lutheran pastors who visited Estonia last March and were challenged by the potential created by a presidential decree opening the door for Bible classes to be included in the official curriculum of the nation's educational system.

Rev. Eenok Haamer, Lutheran pastor and theological instructor, will serve on the faculty of the new institution, located in the main university city of Estonia, and classes will meet temporarily in rented facilities.

AFLC pastors Martin Horn, Robert Lee, Mel Meyer, and Todd Olson were a part of the delegation that visited Estonia last March and established ties with the Lutheran Christians there, and are members of the LEAF board of directors.

A verse that reveals Christ and speaks to me is John 14:6 (RSV): "Jesus said to him: 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.'"

## CAMPUS

### From the Schools' Christmas Concert and Parents' Day



Seminarian Earl Korhonen at the organ and Dr. Craig Jennings, trombone, were a part of the faculty-student brass ensemble.

Pictured at right are Pastor Lyndon Korhonen and Joshua with Senator and Mrs. Tony Onen and Kristi, Cokato, Minnesota.



Dennis and Sharon Holmquist, Plymouth, Minnesota, with their son Nathan at the Parents' Day Banquet.



## FORUM

### A Time To Stand Up

There is a time to quietly pray in your closet (Matthew 6:5-6). But there are also times to stand up and exalt Christ on the street corner. The latter happened on December 1, when the 16 paintings of the Life of Christ were re-erected in Washington Park, Ottawa, Illinois, after a costly court battle against the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

Following a ceremony in the park,

over 500 people squeezed into the large "Pitsticks Pavilion" north of the city for a Freedom Celebration Banquet, featuring Dr. D. James Kennedy, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, as the guest speaker.

Separation of church and state is accepted as an American principle, he declared, but it comes from the former USSR constitution, not the U.S.A. Constitution. It was introduced into the American legal system in 1947 by the ACLU Emerson Case, and publicized by the late Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black.

Kennedy reminded his audience that President Thomas Jefferson and many others encouraged public schools to make the Bible their primary textbook along with Watts' hymnal. The Bill of Rights was to protect our freedom of religion and to keep Congress from restricting Bible reading, public prayer and a Christian influence in America.

But the ACLU and the courts have reversed this earlier interpretation since 1947 into what is known today as the separation of church and state, and now assume that government, schools and courts are to restrict religion and protect our children from its influence. Kennedy calls this "the Great Deception."

Over 100 years ago Americans changed their minds about freedom for slaves. The key man was Abraham Lincoln, who defended this proposition during the Lincoln-Douglas debate which was held in this same park in Ottawa. Will the December 1 celebration be a key to America's change? I'm suggesting and praying that it could be.

About five years ago the first non-communist political party held its first secret meeting in the former USSR. The location was a Lutheran church in rural Estonia. Some of the pastors visited that church last March. Minds

## AFLC Missions Conference

January 31- February 3

At the Campus, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd, Plymouth, Minnesota

### Seminary Given Grant

The Association of Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, has been awarded grants totalling \$6,100 from Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL).

A \$2,500 grant was designated to assist with travel and lodging expenses for pastors who participated in, or will participate in, continuing education courses offered by the seminary. The grant also will support honoraria for the teaching faculty.

A \$2,000 faculty development grant will provide financial assistance to five faculty members as they pursue further study and enhance teaching skills.

A \$1,600 grant will provide financial assistance to students pursuing their initial theological degrees.

The grants were awarded through AAL's Church Vocations enrichment Program.

were changed after much courage, prayer and sacrifice. The Bible calls this "repentance."

People realized that they were deceived, hopeless and enslaved, and they turned back to the Lord Jesus Christ. Godless communism has been replaced by governments now welcoming Bibles and the "Jesus" film into their public schools. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." I was there and saw it first-hand last March. The Light has come into the world. The darkness doesn't understand it, nor can it put out the Light that sets people free.

Personally, I'd like to see Christ return tomorrow. But when I think of my children and grandchildren, and the potential of America to change, I'm willing to sacrifice. In contrast to the former USSR, we only have to get back to our existing Declaration of Independence and the Constitution

### Music Can Only Express Worship: It Does Not Equal Worship

Three elements are needed in personal and corporate worship: Seeing God (internal); responding to God (internal); and expressing that response (external).

"Seeing God," discussed at length in a previous article, is that inner seeing of "enlightened heart eyes," described by Paul in Ephesians 1:17-18.

"Response" is simply the leap of a heart that realizes what it has seen! This is John 4:24 worship — "in spirit and in truth."

What we usually call worship is the third element — expression. This is the audible song, the prayer, the use of audible Scripture and expressions of praise. (Although we may have silent worship when we see God and inwardly respond without any outward expression.)

For the context of this discussion, these three need to stand together.

If seeing God stands alone, we have unfeeling and intellectualized worship:

If response stands alone, we may move toward emotionalism; and, if expression stands alone, we are in danger of becoming mechanical in our worship and in fact, at some point, it is not worship. It is performance.

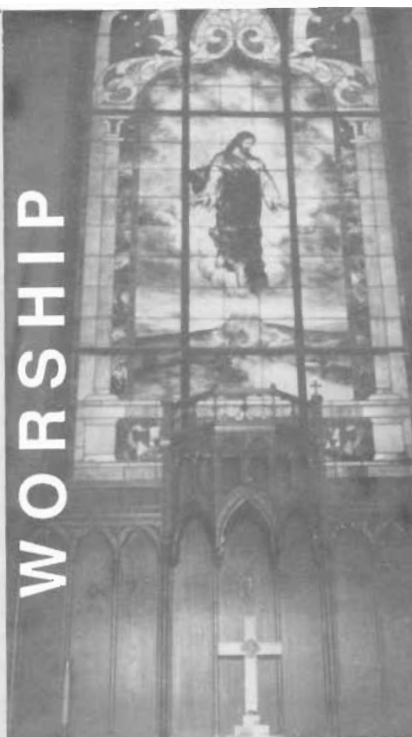
Since audible music comes into the picture at the point of expression, we see that worship and music are not synonymous. We can worship without music. We can also have lots of music, but no worship taking place. The presence of music does not guarantee wor-

ship. An easy way to understand this is to remember the last time you or I sang songs with distracted minds and uninvolved spirits.

This being the case, it is important that we establish our priority: **worship is primary; music is secondary.**

Colossians 3:16 takes on flesh meaning: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God." This kind of personal ministry and pleasing worship is going to be a work of the Spirit that starts inward and works outward. And the music rising out of such worship will indeed be a fair and glorious gift of God!

— Sharon Torgerson  
Mojave, California



with its Bill of Rights. We only have to turn back a couple of generations to the family values and morals that made America great. Is this a miracle too big for God? He is merciful, forgiving and waiting for us.

Maybe the events surrounding the Christian paintings in Washington Park will become as historic as Abe Lincoln's debate on changing people's minds and to change America. the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously reversed the ACLU by ruling to protect freedom of speech and reinstate the paintings on public property. This was a miracle. Let's anticipate more changing of minds.

"Glory, glory, hallelujah, His truth is marching on!"

— Pastor Mel Meyer  
Norway, Illinois

## A Stewardship Challenge For A New Year

*"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"*

—Matthew 5:14-16

*"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."*

—Matthew 5:14-16

The church's challenge goes on from year to year, but I believe that the challenge will never be greater than in 1993. Our Association of Free Lutheran Congregations is being challenged on both the home missions and world missions front. With continued unrest among Christians who are not being fed with the truth of the Scriptures, and who are asking for help to establish Christ centered, Bible believing churches, and the continued need of support for our missionaries, we must be willing to meet the challenge.

Our parish has been blessed beyond measure these past five plus years. During that time we have faithfully given our ten percent tithe to the benevolent fund of the association to which we belonged. But now we must be willing to answer the question: "Is that enough?"

If we are truthful, the answer must be "No!" I believe the time has come for us to step out in faith and take God at His Word. "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord almighty, "and see if I will not open the floodgates of

heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it," (Malachi 3:10). The challenge here is that this must begin with the individual. There are some who have not yet caught the spirit of giving from their hearts. If we wait to give on the basis of being able to afford it we will never catch the vision of what God can do through us.

First we must recognize that what we have does not really belong to us. We are only stewards who have been temporarily given the responsibility of caring for it. Everything we have really belongs to God. So when we withhold any of the tithe we are in reality robbing God. Therefore, I challenge everyone to seriously consider this, and begin 1993 by taking the tithe off first. In the Bible this is referred to as first-fruit giving. What one must acknowledge here is that God is only asking you to give in proportion to what you receive. If everyone gave the tithe to the work of our two congregations we would soon find that we would have enough, and to spare, to meet our congregational needs, including debt retirement.

I am aware that there are those who will take offense at what I have written here. But if you do, then know that you are also taking offense with what God has written in the Holy Scriptures. He has made it very clear that He expects us only to give as we have received, but that in so doing He will give us even greater blessings. And so the cycle begins with God and continues with you and me.

The church's challenge for 1993 has been issued. If we are as serious about being His disciples as we claim to be, we must prayerfully examine our commitment to His Word, and begin to "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse."

—from "The Voice,"  
January, 1993  
Rev. Raymond Klug,  
Fairbury, Nebraska

Apply Now

## 1993 FLY

The 1993 FLY TEAM (Free Lutheran Youth), sponsored by the Luther League Federation and the AFLC World Mission Department, will be going to Mexico in 1993.

The team will leave near the first part of August and will return in three to four weeks. Training will be just prior to the trip. The FLY TEAM to Mexico is open to all juniors and seniors in high school through young adult. Parents and other adults are encouraged to come. Actual dates will be announced later. The actual expense of this missionary project will be announced later, but estimated costs are about \$1,000 per person.

Congregations, WMF's and Luther

## Media Fellowship International Helps Christians In Media Careers

Helping Christians in the media find fellowship and support is the job of Media Fellowship International (MFI), a non-profit Christian organization based in California. MFI works to establish fellowship groups around the world for growth opportunities and encouragement for Christians in the media. MFI also provides outreach, a place where professionals can bring colleagues to hear a presentation of the gospel.

The Rev. Robert Reith, founder and executive director of MFI, began the national media ministry by chance. As a pastor in Seattle he was invited to meet with a professional athlete. That meeting grew into a Bible study with the Seattle Mariners. Shortly after, he was asked to hold chapels for the Supersonics. Within six months he was working with the two sports teams and holding Bible studies for business leaders downtown.

"I began to recognize the stress and



# Team to Mexico

Leagues are encouraged to assist in sending someone to Mexico this summer.

The first few days will be spent with Rev. Ted Kennedy at Nogales, Arizona. Then the team will fly into Mexico to meet missionary Dan Giles who will be their guide while there.

It is important to make your decision early. Application blanks are available from Rev. Eugene Enderlein, World Mission Director or Rev. Dennis Gray, Youth Director.

Rev. Enderlein and Rev. Gray will be meeting in March to consider applications for the team. At this time, no official deadline has been set, but it is an advantage to apply early.

problems of people in leadership positions," he recalls. He says that people in media seemed to be the most unreached group. "They were the ones that had the greatest impact in the community," he said.

Reith met with some media leaders in Los Angeles. When they wanted to meet again the following month, Media Fellowship International was born. MFI chapters are active in Los Angeles, New York, Washington, D.C., San Diego, San Francisco, Minneapolis, Atlanta, Topeka, and Vancouver.

In Hollywood, Billy Zabka, the adversary in the movie Karate Kid, has teamed up with Mark Clayman (the moon-Mac character from McDonald's "Mac Tonight" commercials) and together they host a MFI meeting every other Sunday night. More than 50 young actors attend their Bible study.

People in high profile media jobs have special needs, but also have unique opportunities to touch the lives of others. "No industry will have the impact that our industry will have," notes Reith.

The Christian community can share the general public's obsession with celebrities, often with disastrous results. MFI provides Christian fellowship in a confidential setting, letting

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations				
3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441				
AFLC Benevolences - February 1 - December 31, 1992				
FUND	TOTAL BUDGET	REC'D IN DECEMBER	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% TOTAL
General Fund . . . . .	\$295,450.00	\$22,393.62	\$181,048.67	61
Schools - (AFLTS) . .	149,535.00	10,031.59	78,346.98	52
(AFLBS) . .	208,625.00	12,914.42	110,734.03	53
Home Missions . . . .	433,616.00	40,212.98	264,052.07	61
World Missions . . . .	409,715.00	40,320.13	295,200.44	72
Capital Investment . .	30,000.00	2,464.36	18,004.30	60
Parish Education . . .	84,385.00	4,435.23	63,841.70	76
ARC . . . . .	20,000.00	636.14	6,884.69	34
<b>TOTALS . . . . .</b>	<b>\$1,631,326.00</b>	<b>\$133,408.47</b>	<b>\$1,018,112.88</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>1991 - 1992 . . . . .</b>	<b>\$1,537,681.00</b>	<b>\$118,719.40</b>	<b>\$ 954,878.02</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Goal 92% *For gifts to be credited to this fiscal year they must be received by January 31, 1993.</b>				

## Mrs. Olga Monseth

Olga Annette Monseth, 86, Fergus Falls, Minnesota, passed away December 5, 1992, at the Lake Region Hospital. Mrs. Monseth was the widow of the late Rev. Fritjof B. Monseth, a leader in the beginning years of the AFLC.



media figures check their celebrity status at the door and relate to one another as people.

The outreach emphasis of the group can be seen in this statistic: 80% of first time MFI participants are not involved in a church, but after a year, most are.

Reith said that the most exciting part of the ministry of Media Fellowship is "individuals whose lives changed," as a result of a friend sharing the gospel with them through a door opened by MFI. "To see how the Lord changes lives is really what it's all about," he said.

Born June 6, 1906, at Ashby, Minnesota, she was the daughter of Bodel and Cecelia (Asleson) Anderson. After graduation from Lutheran Deaconess School of Nursing, Minneapolis, she worked as a nurse in Minnesota and Oklahoma.

On October 24, 1936, she married Rev. Fritjof Monseth, who served churches in New York City; Zahl, North Dakota; Superior, Wisconsin; and Valley City, North Dakota. In 1968, the Monseths moved to Minneapolis where he taught at the AFLC Schools. Rev. Monseth died July 11, 1969, and within a year she moved to Fergus Falls, becoming the Director of Nursing at Broen Home, a position she occupied for some time.

She was a member of Calvary Free Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, where she was active in the ladies group and other church activities.

She is survived by a daughter, Rhoda (Rev. Erling) Huglen of Roseau; a son, Dr. Francis (Ellen) Monseth of Rogers, also in Minnesota; 11 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; a sister, Lillian Miller of Alexandria; two brothers, Walter (Evelyn) Anderson, Kirkland, Washington, and Rev. Walde-mar (Thora) Anderson, Fergus Falls.

Funeral services were held at Calvary Free Lutheran Church on December 9. Burial was at Hemmes Lutheran Cemetery, Minneota, Minnesota.

Blessed be her memory.



**Greenbush, Minnesota** — United Free Lutheran Church, which has had a chime choir since 1990, plans to add an octave soon. The original chimes were given in memory of Mrs. Melvin (Irene) Melby. Current members of the choir are Carol Waage, Kathy Swenson, Corena Green, Jill Dvergsten, Eileen Melby, Marilyn Gray, Carlene Waage, and Rachel Green, director.

**Rev. David Abel**, AFLC Missionary to Brazil, began a one-year furlough last month upon arrival in the United States. He and his family reside at 6110 - 73rd Avenue North, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443. The World Mission Committee has released him for a six-month interim ministry at Solid Rock Free Lutheran Church, Osseo, Minnesota. During this time he will be available for limited deputation, especially Sunday evening and midweek services.

## Ohio Church Chooses AFLC Affiliation

**A**biding Savior Lutheran Church, located in North Royalton, a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio, voted unanimously on November 29, 1992, to terminate its relationship to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and affiliate with the AFLC.

This was the second vote taken by the congregation, in accordance with the ELCA requirements, and was preceded by meeting with the area bishop.

The Ohio church's decision to

change affiliation was made after months of study, including a session last April with Rev. David Barnhart, who represented the AFLC Co-ordinating Committee at the time.

AFLC friends are encouraged to pray for the Abiding Savior congregation during this transition, and, when traveling in the area, to attend worship services at the church, located at 4000 West Wallings Road in North Royalton. The phone number is (216) 237-6454.

**Rev. Alvin Grothe**, Astoria, Oregon, currently serves as the interim pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church, Spokane, Washington.

**Rev. James Asp**, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, has been serving as the interim pastor of Grace Free Lutheran Church, DeKalb, Illinois, since September.

The new address for **Rev. Gilbert Schroeder** is 135 Marvin Lane, Delaware, Ohio 43015.

**Rev. Marlyn Kruse**, Mankato, Minnesota, suffered a heart attack on Sunday, December 20. After treatment in a Minneapolis hospital, he is recuperating at home for an expected eight-week period.

**Fairbury and Deshler, Nebraska** — "Free trip to the Holy Land!" is the headline of an article in the January newsletter of the Abiding Word and Faith parish, introducing a new mid-week study series entitled, "The Land of the Bible." AFLC Seminary Intern Tim Hinrichs will use maps, charts, slides and ancient artifacts as he leads these special classes.

**Wallace, South Dakota** — In an attempt to remember the less fortunate during the holiday season, members and friends of Calvary Lutheran Church brought donations to their annual Christmas Eve service for the food shelves of "Needs Anonymous" in Webster and the Salvation Army in Watertown.

**Plymouth, Minnesota** — "A Church Family Christmas," a holiday musical, was presented by the choirs of Medicine Lake Lutheran Church on Sunday evening, December 20. The congregation, which is served by Pastor John Skeie, is blessed by the ministry of four musical groups: Alleluia, the senior choir, directed by Rev. Don Greven; Jubilate, the teen choir, directed by Angie Lombardo; Hosanna, the children's choir, directed by Mary Jo Dyrud; and the Cherub Choir of preschoolers, directed by Mitchell Johnson.



**Mankato, Minnesota** — "Abortion Kills Children," "Jesus Forgives and Heals," and "Adoption Not Abortion," were the three slogans that lined the streets of many American cities on October 4, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Madison Avenue in Mankato, was no exception. Over a thousand pro-life supporters, including 30 from Word of Life congregation, stood proudly along 14 blocks displaying these messages of truth that need to be proclaimed loudly and clearly in our country. They report, "The beautiful, warm autumn day was a blessing as many motorists were on the streets enjoying the Indian summer weather. A few passersby gave thumbs down and showed their disapproval of the messages they were forced to notice but so many more showed their approval by waving, honking, smiling, nodding and giving us the thumbs up sign. It was an exhilarating, yet sobering feeling to defend the innocent in such a prayerful, peaceful and public manner. We trust the Holy Spirit's work in the hearts of those who were convicted by the messages. We thank God for the faithful who put in their time and effort to organize this much needed and special event and we look forward to an even longer life chain next year if Roe vs. Wade is not overturned."

## NEW BATTLEFIELDS FOR LIFE?

The result of the recent election for president of the United States has caused pro-life Christians to wonder if the struggle against abortion will be waged on different battlefields from the past decade or so.

President-elect Clinton made a promise during the campaign to make the abortion issue a "litmus test" in all of his appointments, especially to the Supreme Court, which if fulfilled could undermine all of the progress that has been made in the political arena under the last two administrations. Although election returns revealed both gains and losses for pro-life advocates, some legislators have the perception that this position is now a "kiss of death," and one can expect to hear more announcements from those who suddenly see no contradiction in the strange alliance of a personal pro-life conviction with a public pro-abortion commitment.

The war is over on the legal battlefield, wrote one syndicated columnist, and now the opponents of abortion must concentrate their efforts in the battle to change peoples' attitudes. Thus, according to this point of view, the site of the struggle has moved from the courtrooms and polling places to the homes and churches.

I disagree. First of all, the foundation of a Christian pro-life commitment has always been the firm conviction that changed hearts are the answer to a changed society, and so this is not a new battlefield by any stretch of the imagination. "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation ..." (II Corinthians 5:17). Our primary ministry continues to be the proclamation of law and gospel, not picketing or petitioning or propagandizing.

Secondly, let's not assume that something is over until it's over. The U.S. Supreme Court decision in the Roe vs. Wade case did not signal the end of a struggle, but the beginning of a massive public reaction to the devaluation of human life that this decision represented. It does not take a prophet to predict that the recent pro-abortion victories could well unleash a powerful new wave of pro-life activity and renew a movement that may have grown complacent in recent years.

Finally, the people of God are called to fervent prayer. Closed doors have opened as godless governments were overthrown and "iron curtains" destroyed ... all in answer to prayer. The words addressed to God on bended knee will have a greater influence than long letters to legislators. We have not done all that we can do when we have neglected to pray.

May this **Sanctity of Human Life Sunday** witness a renewed confidence in the power of prayer as pro-life Chris-

tians continue to shine as lights on every battlefield of our day in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, holding fast to the Word of Life which still has the power to make all things new!

## CHRISTMAS EVE REVIEWED

Did you have a Christmas Eve service in your church this past holiday season? If so, it may have been your most important outreach to the unchurched in the entire year!

This is the opinion, at any rate, of several observers of modern church life and trends as reported several months ago in an Illinois newspaper article.

Christmas Eve, according to these pollsters, is the time when most unchurched people are likely to consider attending a service, and their conclusion seems to be supported by attendance records of many denominations, even those for whom this type of service is not a tradition.

What does this mean for our congregations? It suggests that consideration should be given to scheduling Christmas Eve services, if you do not already do so, and that careful planning and preparations, as well as publicity, should be given a high priority. If this service is not achieving the desired outreach, then consideration should be given to the possibility that one or more of the above elements is lacking.

One can almost hear some Christians protesting that Christmas Eve is a family time for them, not to be interrupted by adding the obligation of attending another service to an already full schedule. But when we remember all of the hopeless and hurting people who do not belong to the Family of God because they have not met the Christ of Christmas, then our protests can be transformed to prayers for others and a willingness to reach out to them in His name.

There is no doubt that exceptions will be discovered to the careful conclusions of these observers, and some congregations may disagree on the basis on their own experiences in outreach. But let's not fail to look at the potential of Christmas Eve evangelism, nor forget the multitudes for whom the holiday is far from a "holy day," the lost souls for whom the Babe of Bethlehem came.

## 1993 Dates To Note

**AFLC Annual Conference**  
DeKalb, Illinois — June 16-20.

**Luther League Convention**  
Estes Park, Colorado — June 28-July 3.

**Family Bible Camps**  
The ARC — July 4-10  
Lake Bronson — July 11-17  
Wilderness Camp — July 13-18  
The ARC — August 8-14

# Getting A Grip On Guilt

**T**he man called himself "Baffled in Los Angeles." He had a problem and he hoped Ann Landers had a solution. During the LA riots of April 1992, he and some friends got "carried away with all the excitement." They joined the crowd and looted a dry cleaners. While there, he saw this great leather coat and he went to grab it. At the same moment, "Wanda" reached for it, too. She got the coat and he got a date. By December, they were making wedding plans. The problem is: What do they tell people who ask, "How did you two meet?" Baff wondered: "Should we tell them the truth? Should we lie? We aren't criminals. We both work and have no police records."

Ann told him he should have a criminal record as a result of that type of behavior. She also said: "As for your question, sorry, pal, I'm fresh out of cover stories."

We have all done many things that we don't really consider criminal. Sin sounds like such a nasty word to use to describe them. Maybe we feel like "Baff." We work hard, we have no police record: We simply, at times, join the crowd and get caught up in the excitement of the moment. It is not something we think we should be punished for, but it isn't something we want a lot of people to know about. We search for a nice cover story to make it all look good.

God knows the truth behind every cover story. In I John 1:8 it says: "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves." Verse 10 of that chapter says, "If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him (God) out to be a liar." You may not have a police record. Every human being, however, has a criminal record in God's holy court of justice. No advice columnist can provide a means for explaining the record away. We offer excuses but the fact remains: we are guilty of sin.

How to deal with guilt is a question

that plagued "Baffled in Los Angeles" and that plagues us. Many suggest that we deny it or cover it up. God says to confess it. Confession means to simply face the facts. It is saying, "Yes, I did it and it was wrong." It has no "buts." Many confessions begin well, but they are ruined by a "but they hurt me first," or "but you don't understand how much stress I was going through at the time," or "but everybody acts that way." Guilt isn't dealt with by excuses. It is dealt with by God when we confess to Him our sin and admit to Him it is our fault.

In between the two verses mentioned above, God provides us with the answer to our problem with guilt. It is a more wonderful solution than we could ever imagine. The Lord says in I John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He (God) is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." Because of Jesus' death on the cross in our place, God wipes away our sin (Acts 3:19). The Lord no longer considers us guilty when we are in Christ. Even though the deeds were terrible, the blood of Jesus is greater and we are forgiven and purified.

The lady called the telephone counseling center. She had committed some serious sins and doubted that God could forgive her. I asked her to find I John 1:9 in her Bible and read it aloud.

## Coming Next Time

AFLC Issue  
with  
updated listing of  
AFLC Congregations

We talked about the meaning of confession. She believed she had done that. Then, I said, God will do what He has promised. She started to cry as God gave her assurance that her sins were forgiven. The stains of her guilt were washed away.

What kind of guilt are you dealing with? Don't deny it, but confess it. Don't excuse it, but admit it. Come to Christ with it and find the solution. Experience His forgiveness, and rejoice in the fact that He can clean up our lives.



— by Rev.  
Craig Johnson