

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

July 28, 1987



Thief River Falls TIMES photo

photo by S. Hjermstad



President Richard Snipstead



Pastor and Mrs. Oseias Camara, President of the Brazil AFLC

CONFERENCE REPORT ISSUE

at the MASTER'S FEET

Declaration of dependence

Would you mind taking some time for a bit of fellowship? What's new with you? That would come first. I would enjoy hearing what the Lord is doing in your life. Then, may I share my thoughts with you.

When Christians begin to fellowship, it doesn't take long before the words and thoughts are centered about Jesus Christ. Why not? That is the way it should be! The world is filled with unbelievers who enjoy visiting together and sharing their mutual woes. Why shouldn't the Christians be together to share their mutual joys? The joys come because of Jesus! The woes we share have the light of Jesus and His promises upon them. A time of fellowship with Jesus is just what we need every day. We would realize our "Declaration of Dependence" upon Him very soon.

When a person becomes a Christian, Jesus Christ becomes his/her Lord and Master. What a privilege it is to bear witness to that fact!

"Now I belong to Jesus,
Jesus belongs to me,
Not for the years of time alone,
But for eternity!"

N. J. Clayton

Our dependence is upon Him and we declare that fact with great release and thanksgiving. We know the source of our life and when we listen to His word and respond in prayer, we are enjoying the fullness of the Spirit.

In our nation we have the freedom to read our Bibles, pray, preach His Word and to enjoy the fellowship of that faith with others. A very interesting portion of Scripture is found in Matthew 16: 13-16. No doubt you have read this a number of times. We note it as follows:

"When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, 'Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?'"

"They said, 'Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'

"He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'"

"And Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the son of the living God' " (NKJV).

Knowing Jesus is of eternal importance. The blood of Jesus is the answer to the old enemy of sin which can cause us to be apart from God for all eternity. Knowing Jesus Christ as personal Savior can be a great personal comfort, but one soon finds out that Jesus saves people to convey the message of His salvation. Our fulfillment in life is not completely found in doing some special task or filling some special responsibility, but our fulfillment in life is realized when we are freely conveying to others the glorious good news of forgiveness and peace in Jesus! Seeing people come to personally know the Christ of his/her baptism is a fulfilling mission for some and the beginning of new life for others. What a thrill it is to realize a

friend coming through for Jesus! A pastor will pray for his Catechism students to truly confirm Jesus as Lord and Savior. A Sunday School teacher will teach diligently the Gospel in order to see the effects of that Good News in that young life. That question comes forth with clarity: "Who do men say that I am?" Are there those who could give that witness for Christ because of our witness?

Have you ever given some thought to how Jesus must have felt when He heard the response: "John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets?" These were very important people, but they were not Christ; they were messengers God had sent to call the world to prepare for the Christ. God gave them the message and the will to convey it with the fact of Christ and His salvation as the fulfillment. Certainly when those disciples heard these responses from different ones, they had the privilege and calling to share with those people who Christ really was. Oh, how important it was for them to know Christ in a real and personal way.

The convincing proof came as the disciples, led by the Spirit, realized in their own hearts who Jesus was. Isn't that what Jesus really desired? Is that not His greatest desire today? Our fellowship together, the time we spend at the place of prayer, the moments of meditation in His Word - all become facts of fellowship with Jesus! "In Him we live" that others may know Him - "whom to know is eternal life!"



by Pastor
Harvey Jackson

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President Snipstead re-elected at Conference



Our Saviour's
Lutheran Church
Thief River Falls, Minn.

Lincoln High
School, site
of sessions



—Conference photos by S. Hjermstad

In the largest Annual Conference in the 25-year history of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, Rev. Richard Snipstead, Minneapolis, Minn., was re-elected president by a majority of over 90 per cent. His next term will be his fourth.

Under church law, Pastor Snipstead needed a three-fourths majority on the first ballot to be re-elected, having served three consecutive terms. At least two candidates had to be nominated and Rev. Robert Lee, Minneapolis, AFLC vice-president, was the one man put forth. He was later re-elected vice-president for one year. The other candidates for that office were Rev. Harvey Jackson, Ishpeming, Mich., and Dr. James Gerdeen, Chassell, Mich.

Rev. Ronald Knutson, Canton, S. Dak., was re-elected secretary for one year over Rev. Bruce Dalager, Grand Forks, N. Dak., who had held the post for three years prior to the last election.

Total number of delegates at the Conference was 654. Nineteen pastors and lay people were registered as visitors. In addition, many others attended evening and Sunday services. The total number of persons who came to Conference could well be 1,000. The previous record for delegate registration was 496 in 1978, the year a new president was to be chosen following Rev. John Strand's decision not to ac-

cept another term if offered. That Conference was in Minneapolis.

Abortion

A statement on abortion was passed by the delegates, as a follow-up to ones adopted in 1977 and 1978. It also alluded to the resolution of 1980 which said that "we reaffirm the conservative stand taken by the AFLC based on the Word of God and His Laws concerning the moral issues of our day."

As originally presented to the delegates, the resolution asserted that unborn children are persons from the time of conception and stand under the protection of God's command against murder, but it also said, "abortion is not a moral option, except when it is medically necessary to save the life of the mother."

The last part drew spirited debate. A delegate moved that the exception be deleted. Further discussion took place before it was moved and carried that Committee No. 1 bring in a recommendation the following day on what should be done with Section C, with the help of Dr. Francis Monseth, dean of the Association seminary, and Dr. Peter Dyrud, M. D., a delegate.

When the committee reported back on Friday it was with the recommendation that Section C, the exception, be deleted. This was carried by a strong voice vote.

The resolution also urged support of pro-life groups such as Lutherans for

Life and prayerful support for the development of alternatives to abortion programs, providing for compassionate help for those in need.

India

The longest discussion of the Conference took place concerning a resolution on the relationship between the AFLC and Bible Faith Lutheran Church of India. The resolution affirmed the action of the World Missions Committee, which was the admission that an impasse exists in attempts to heal the breach with BFLC, and decreed prayer for God's guidance for future reconciliation "with India."

Rev. B. Rao Dasari, an AFLC clergyman and head of BFLC, took the podium and made a statement before answering questions from the floor. He brought greetings from India. He said that the church in India needs the Association. He spoke of being willing to work out an amicable relationship and stated that much of the responsibility for negotiation rested on him since he is in America and knows both languages.

A delegate asked Pastor Dasari why the church in India separated from the AFLC. Because, he said, the India church needed a broader base of support. There was too much restriction under the AFLC. But that doesn't mean we don't want you, he asserted. Pastor Dasari acknowledged that

REPORT . . .

BFLC has been accused of "stealing" Moriah Children's Home. Not so; it was a gift from the AFLC. He told of work being done among Hindus and Moslems.

Several delegates expressed confidence in the WMC and Rev. Eugene Enderlein, executive director of the AFLC World Missions, and that further consideration of the matter can safely rest with them. Pastor Snipstead closed the discussion by saying that the AFLC is not closing the door to BFLC of India.

Resolution No. 5, as finally amended, reads: "That we pray for God's guidance for future mission endeavors in India or other countries of the world."

The ARC

A resolution called for a committee to report to the 1988 Conference with a plan for solving the financial needs of the Association Retreat Center, Osceola, Wis.

Rev. Terry Olson, Valley City, N. Dak., chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee, shared some of the discussion which has taken place in the Committee. Does the ARC serve (well) the whole church? What are the priorities we have as a church? Approximately 23% of the General Fund currently goes to the ARC. If the present arrangement is continued, should the ARC be kept under the General Fund or stand on its own?

Mr. Robert Knutson, McVile, N. Dak., also a member of the Co-ordinating Committee, moved the amendment to the resolution which would call upon the special committee to be ready to report to the church through the *Ambassador* and other means by Jan. 1, 1988, so that the Annual Conference in 1988 can decide how the financial needs of the ARC shall be met. This carried.

Warm Hand

In his message to the Conference, Pastor Snipstead urged the delegates to reaffirm a resolution from the 1984 Conference which declared "our openness to pastors and congregations who seek fellowship with the AFLC and extend to those of like convictions who desire to be associated with a conservative Lutheran body such as ours a warm hand of fellowship."



Mr. and Mrs. Dale Finstrom, Buxton, N. Dak., Connie Grothe and Mrs. Elva Seidel, both of Tucson, Arizona, Mrs. Alvin Grothe, Astoria, Ore. and Rev. Raynard Huglen, New-folden, Minn.

The delegates did reaffirm that position and re-stated the necessity that pastors and congregations joining the Association must subscribe to the Lutheran Confessions and Luther's Small Catechism and be willing to adopt the *Fundamental Principles* of the AFLC. There was some discussion about what the Confessions include in the Association. Traditionally, they mean the three ecumenical creeds, the unaltered *Augsburg Confession* and Luther's Small Catechism.

Six former American Lutheran Church congregations were welcomed into the AFLC at the Conference. Three former ALC pastors were received on the fellowship roster, a preliminary step to being accepted on the clergy roster.

Budget

Delegates adopted a budget for 1988-89 of \$1,057,504, which was \$13,000 more than that proposed by the Budget Analysis Committee. The BAC, in

turn, had endorsed the requests made by the five chief funds of the AFLC.

The \$13,000 raise will go to World Missions. A pastoral delegate called upon the church to proceed with all haste in the world mission endeavor and saw the return of the position of executive director from part-time to full-time as of first importance. Understanding that the amount of \$13,000 would make this possible, he moved its inclusion in the budget and the Conference agreed. The 1988-89 goal for World Missions now stands at \$280,140.

A resolution was also passed directing the WMC to present plans at next year's Conference for replacing the two missionary couples who are closest to retirement (the George Knapps and John Abels).

Schools

Dr. Francis Monseth, dean of the Seminary, told delegates that 107 men have been graduated from the school in



(L. to R.) Pastors James Asp, John Skeie and Steve Lombardo were first time attendants. They are serving new AFLC congregations in Illinois.

its 23 years of existence. Rev. Michael Brandt of the Board of Trustees told the Annual Meeting of the Schools Corporation that an additional faculty member for the Schools will be named a year from this fall. Dr. Monseth added that the teacher will work in the area of Practical Theology in the seminary.

Rev. Donald Greven, dean of the Bible School, reported that 96 students began the 1986-87 school year. He told the Corporation that he anticipates a student body of about the same size this fall.

He expressed appreciation for the many years of service which Donald Hansen gave to the Schools. He has now retired. Appreciation was also expressed for the securing of a new dean of women, Mrs. Beulah Sunde, who began work on Mar. 1.

Home Missions

Rev. Elden Nelson, executive director of Home Missions, reported that 21 new congregations have come into being in this decade. In 1980 a goal of 30 had been set. He said, "We are right on target at this point in time."

Three Home Mission congregations moved into their own facilities in the past year. It was announced at Conference that Victory Lutheran in Park River, N. Dak., is beginning construction of its sanctuary this summer.

Seven congregations are presently in the process of calling pastors.

Parish Education

A resolution was passed encouraging the Board of Publications and Parish Education to make the position of director of parish education a full-time one. It is presently occupied by Mrs. Ralph (Katha) Tjelta.

There was considerable discussion on a resolution calling for AFLC people to be active in monitoring public school curricula. A delegate from Bismarck, N. Dak., told how a group there is doing that. A pastor stated that parents should read all the school material of their children. Another man called for the upholding of Christian teachers in the public schools.

Discussion moved over into the area of public libraries. They, too, should be monitored, said one. A lady from Williston, N. Dak., told of positive influence on a book buyer for the library which she had been able to exert.



Seminarian Milton Flores and Rev. Samuel Flores represented the AFLC Mexican mission work.

Another resolution called upon parents, deacons and pastors to take a more active role in assessing non-Association material used in education in the congregations.

Special Offering

The Stewardship Board recommended that the special 25th Anniversary offering in the Association this year be given to the Church Extension Fund. The CEF is a revolving fund available only to Home Mission congregations for capital improvements. Congregations borrow and repay with interest.

The 1986 Annual Conference encouraged the Stewardship Board to promote a special offering in the anniversary year. It may be given at each congregation's pleasure during 1987.

Salaries

Delegates sent word to the congregations to examine the salaries of their

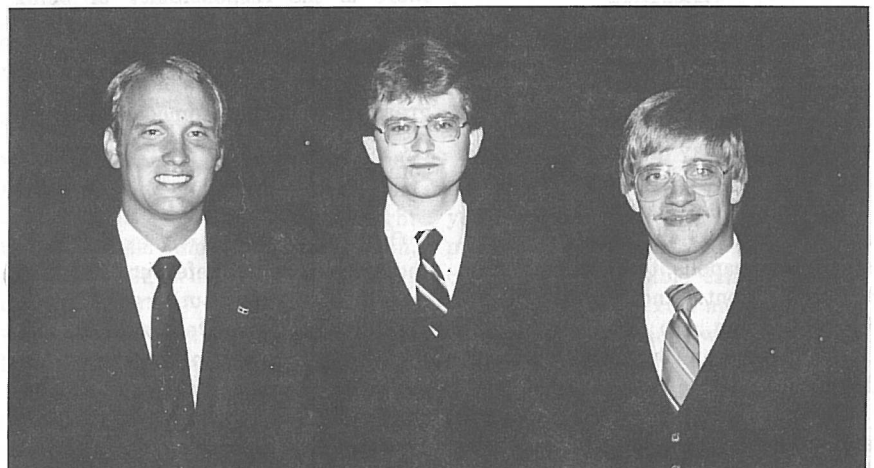
pastors, and benefits, to be sure that all fiscal needs are being met.

Opening Sermon

Rev. John P. Strand, Remer, Minn., preached the sermon at the opening service of the Conference. Rev. J. G. Erickson, Fosston, Minn., presided. Pastor Strand spoke on the Conference theme and text, "His Kingdom is Forever" (Psalm 145:13). He said that God has a great kingdom. It is most wondrous of all on earth. Jesus sent His few disciples out into the world. The task seemed impossible, but they had the sense of the presence of Christ.

Twenty-five years ago those who started the AFLC had nothing. Nine of the 17 pastors at the first Annual Conference in 1963 have died. They are in the Church Triumphant. Those of us who remain must build congregations, living congregations. The role of the

photo by F. Cherney



Ordained at Conference were: Stephen Snipstead, Lynn Kinneberg and Thomas Tuura.

*denotes re-election

President

(3 years)

Rev. Richard Snipstead, Minneapolis, Minn.*

Vice-President

(1 year)

Rev. Robert L. Lee, Minneapolis, Minn.*

Secretary

(1 year)

Rev. Ronald Knutson, Canton, S. Dak.*



Rev. Robert Lee

CONFERENCE ELECTIONS



Rev. Ronald Knutson

Commission on Evangelism

(5 years)

Mr. Clifford Johnson, Esko, Minn.

Youth Board

(5 years)

Rev. Allen Monson, Dickinson, N. Dak.

Board of Publications and Parish Education

(4 years)

Rev. Richard Anderson, Lakeville, Minn.

(5 years)

Dr. Mary Lindquist, Grand Forks, N. Dak.*

Stewardship Board

(2 years)

Mr. Alvin Nordvold, Zumbrota, Minn.

(5 years)

Dr. Wayne Sletten, Faith, S. Dak.

Board of Pensions

(5 years)

Mr. Eugene Nesland, Thief River Falls, Minn.

REPORT . . .

pastor is to be that of a shepherd. He must preach the Law and the Gospel. He must guard the congregation.

Pastor Strand, who had led the church for 16 years, reminded his hearers that the Association is Lutheran. Her doctrines are Scriptural and if they are ever left, the best has been left. He said that we are concerned about revival. The late Vance Havner said that *repentance* is the New Testament word for revival. "Will the Association live?" asked Pastor Strand. "The only church that will live is a repentant church."

Ordination

Three young men, 1987 graduates of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, were ordained into the ministry of the Gospel at the closing service on Sunday afternoon. The men and their calls are: Lynn Kinneberg, Abercrombie, N. Dak., to Zion Lutheran, Wadena, Minn.; Stephen Snipstead, Minneapolis, to Faith Lutheran, Kalispell, Mont.; and Thomas Tuura, Cloquet, Minn., to Mt. Carmel and Trinity Lutheran Churches, McIntosh, Minn.

Rev. Richard Snipstead officiated and preached the sermon. He used Psalm 126:6 as his text. He said that the kingdom work is often thought of

as a planting and harvesting and what goes on between those activities. God has sent these three men into that work. The call is from God.

Pastor Snipstead said that to have a son go into the ministry, and to be able to ordain him, this is a special experience. But perhaps Stephen felt I was almost discouraging him as to the ministry, he declared. But the reason was that I wanted his call to be from the Lord. Steve is here today, he said, because of God's call.

We are but earthen vessels, Pastor Snipstead asserted, but we can be bearers of the precious seed. Further, there is the responsibility of being watchmen. Every soul is priceless. There will be tears of solemnity in the ministry, but also tears of joy. There is great joy in leading someone to Jesus. As we share of ourselves, he said, joy comes.

Next Conference

Only one invitation was extended for the 1988 Annual Conference and that was from Grace Lutheran Church, DeKalb, Ill., Rev. Dennis Gray, pastor. Delegates warmly accepted the invitation. No dates were given, but the Conference will begin on the third Wednesday in June.

The Conference will be held at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb.

Elections by Corporations

Co-ordinating Committee

(1 year)

Rev. Wendell Johnson, Stacy, Minn.

(5 years)

Mr. George Hartman, Dalton, Minn.*

Mr. Robert Knutson, McVile, N. Dak.*

World Missions Committee

(5 years)

Rev. Ted Berkas, Granite Falls, Minn.

Home Missions Committee

(5 years)

Mr. Owen Myhre, Abercrombie, N. Dak.*



Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Nelson, Grand Forks, N. Dak. were two of many delegates who were also at the 1st AFLC Conference.

1988 Annual Conference Committees

Nominating Committee

(It was first ruled at the Conference that only seven members would be elected to the Committee, but it was subsequently determined that the rule calls for one member from each district, the majority having to be laymen.)

Rev. Norman Tenneboe, Park River, N. Dak. (END)
 Rev. Lyndon Korhonen, Culbertson, Mont. (WND-EM)
 Rev. James Johnson, Reva, S. Dak. (SD-N)
 Mr. Philip Grothe, Thief River Falls, Minn. (NWM)
 Mr. Roy Quam, McIntosh, Minn. (NCM)
 Mr. Harold Erickson, New York Mills, Minn. (SWCM)
 Mr. Emory Risdall, Cloquet, Minn. (LS)
 Mr. Robert Dietsche, Osceola, Wis. (M)
 Mr. Kenneth Williams, Ishpeming, Mich. (NM)
 Mr. Orville Myron, Tucson, Ariz. (A)
 Mr. Alfred Tollefson, Astoria, Ore. (WC)
 Rev. Emerson Anderson, Cleveland, O. (E)
 Rev. Dennis Gray, DeKalb, Ill. (I)
Committee No. 1 (Administration)
 Mr. Bernhard Nelson, Portland, N. Dak.
 Mr. Dennis Christopherson, Amery, Wis.
 Rev. Walter Beaman, Sebeka, Minn.
 Rev. Kenneth D. Moland, Kirkland, Wash.
 Mr. Arnold Ingulsrud, Edmore, N. Dak.

Committee No. 2 (Schools)

Rev. Harris Van Someren, Drummond, Wis.
 Rev. Del Palmer, Everett, Wash.
 Rev. Rodger Olson, Fergus Falls, Minn.
 Mr. Harry Johnson, Chatham, Mich.
 Mr. Roger Peterson, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Committee No. 3 (Missions and Evangelism)

Rev. Wendell Johnson, Stacy, Minn.
 Mr. Leslie Kjos, Kalispell, Mont.
 Mr. Les Mickelson, Tioga, N. Dak.
 Mr. Kenneth Williams, Ishpeming, Mich.
 Mr. Herbert Presteng, Grafton, N. Dak.

Committee No. 4 (Publications, Parish Education, Youth Work)

Lay Pastor Rodney Stueland, Roslyn, S. Dak.
 Mr. Bud Haugen, Lake Stevens, Wash.
 Rev. Richard Gunderson, Lake Stevens, Wash.
 Mr. Guy Murray, Champion, Mich.
 Rev. Michael Brandt, Cloquet, Minn.

Committee No. 5 (Stewardship and Pensions)

Mr. Scott Vogsland, Grand Forks, N. Dak.
 Mr. Rick Franz, Minneapolis, Minn.
 Lay Pastor Lyle Twite, Bagley, Minn.
 Mr. Carl Moland, Fertile, Minn.
 Mr. James Rolf, Brandon, Minn.

Colloquy Committee

Rev. Robert Lewis, Abercrombie, N. Dak.
 Rev. David Molstre, Fargo, N. Dak.
 Rev. Michael Brandt, Cloquet, Minn.
 Rev. Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis, Minn.
 Rev. Emerson Anderson, Cleveland, Ohio.

Budget Analysis Committee

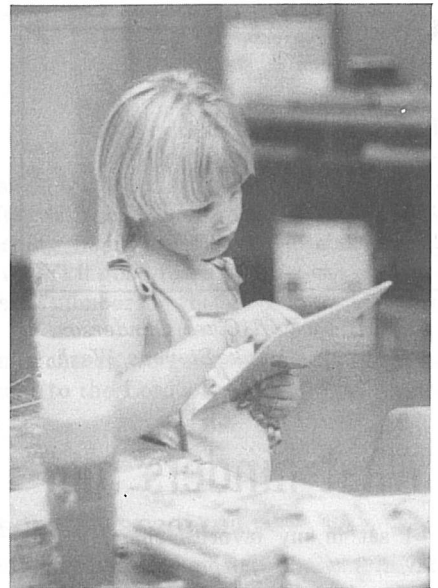
(3 years)
 Mr. Norman Haugen, Murdock, Minn.

A happy home is a good health resort.

A faultfinder is the most useless person in the world.

The dollars come when we take care of the dimes.

Frank Nelson



Leah Floan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Floan, Fertile, Minn. discovered the quiet refuge of the Conference bookstore.

Elected to corporations

The following were elected to membership by their corporations after nomination by the Annual Conference on June 18.

Schools Corporation

Rev. Martin Horn, Zumbrota, Minn.
 Mr. Dean Franz, Cloquet, Minn.
 Lay Pastor Rodney Stueland, Roslyn, S. Dak.

Mr. Clifford Dyrud, St. Paul, Minn.*
 Rev. Dennis Gray, DeKalb, Ill.*
 Mr. Clifford Johnson, Esko, Minn.*
 Rev. John Mundfrom, Eben Jct., Mich.*

Rev. Paul Nash, Warroad, Minn.*
 Mr. Kent Quanbeck, McVile, N. Dak.*
 Mr. James Rolf, Brandon, Minn.*

Missions Corporation

Rev. Richard Gunderson, Lake Stevens, Wash.
 Mr. Henry Mohagen, Grafton, N. Dak.
 Rev. Tony Stockman, Brandon, Minn.
 Mr. Martin Bjornson, Valley City, N. Dak.*
 Rev. Herbert Franz, Dollar Bay, Mich.*
 Mr. Kenneth Rolf, McIntosh, Minn.
 Mr. Vernon Russum, Grafton, N. Dak.*
 Dr. Wayne Sletten, Faith, S. Dak.*
 Miss Judith Wold, Thief River Falls, Minn.*
 Mr. Kenneth Nash, Colfax, N. Dak.*

The 1988-89 Budget

This is the budget approved by the Annual Conference for the fiscal year 1988-89 in the AFLC. The figures for the present year are given in parenthesis.

General Fund	\$ 178,997	(\$ 208,000)
Schools	255,517	(251,894)
Home Missions	317,850	(280,000)
World Missions	280,140	(250,000)
Capital		
Investment	25,000	(25,000)
Total	\$ 1,057,504	(\$ 1,014,894)

I want to grow, Lord!

by Mrs. Richard (Clara) Gunderson,
Lake Stevens, Wash.

What hinders me?

I sat in my favorite chair, at my favorite window, from where I could easily view the mountains over the tall fir trees. The house was marvelously still — I could hear the quietness! I had risen early and would be able to watch God's great light awaken our world. I anticipated a blessing as I opened the Bible, first praising God with a Psalm and there by myself I even dared to praise Him with a song! I used to wish I could praise the Lord with new and different words — "Sing unto the Lord a new song," Psalm 33 says. This morning I understood that my song of praise *was* new because it was a *new* day with God's goodness and grace, His mercy and forgiveness freshly offered to one whose heart was eager to receive His riches.

Even through the closed window I could hear the birds and soon they were busy about their mysterious flight patterns, just being the flying creatures God intended them to be. "Lord," I prayed, "today I *want* to be all that You want me to be. I *want* to naturally choose the best, to think the good, to respond with Your love and understanding in all things. Now let the power of Your Word spring up within my heart and through Your Spirit may it be my strength today."

Another day has started and my quiet time has flown by quickly. The household noises have begun: a bathroom door closed noisily, the shower turned on and the radio turned a little louder to be heard over the splashing water. Next, the hum of the hair dryer competes with the continued noise of more showers, drawers and doors opening and closing. Yes, my family is

awake! My own greeting of "Good Morning!" is acknowledged with various degrees of eagerness, from a cheery "Good Morning, Mother!" to a grunt that means the same. I am no longer seated in my favorite chair, by my favorite window with the Bible in my lap and a song on my lips. No, I am now on the testing grounds of my faith. We are together, my family and I, and already I feel my peace slipping away as unkind words are spoken, criticism is offered instead of understanding, harsh reproof rather than gentle, firm admonition. We agreed, my husband and I, that our mealtimes would not be times of disciplining but often that ideal remains as only good intention. I don't want an argument at the table. I don't want cross words and sarcasm to be a part of our family give-and-take. I confess that over the many years of raising children the pressure, the heaviness of the daily disciplining has *robbed me of joy, hindering me from growing* in my Christian life.

Yes, our family's togetherness leaves much to be desired even in my own eyes, and as they each leave for school and office I sit and meditate over my quiet coffee-time. Let's see now, what did I read this morning that will help in this? Can I even remember what I read? I was reading in Mark, chapter 4, about the parables that Jesus was teaching and such a huge multitude was eager to hear His words that He was forced to sit in a boat on the lake and teach from that position. His words about the good seed had fallen on my eager ears just an hour before. I had privately responded in my prayer that I longed for the seed to produce richly—no, not the thirty- or sixty-fold, but the hundred-fold! I felt that the seed, God's Word, was falling on good soil, but through the tensions of family living I could see that instead of the fruit of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness and mercy, a crop

of thorns: irritation, anger, sarcasm and fretting was being harvested. I felt robbed of my peace and joy! I thought back to Martha, that irritated and overburdened woman with whom I so often identify. Like Martha, just now Jesus gives me a choice of what I want to triumph in my life: thorns or the fruit of the Spirit. Will it be the old nature responding? How can that be when God's Word declares that I am a new creation in Christ? Yes, I *want* to naturally make the right, the good choices, and therein lies my struggle. I do have to make the choice myself.

It saddens me that my automatic responses to daily situations, whether at home with family or with others, is so often not the fruit of the Spirit, especially my reactions of irritation, fretting and worry. I see that they have become a habit. I allow my own irritations to control me. Even as I express these thoughts and frustrations of weakness in my Christian life, the Spirit draws me to the Book of Hebrews, chapter 12. What an encouragement it is to have such straightforward, uncomplicated advice to my seeking: "...lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of faith..." I hear the Spirit saying to me, "No, Clara, your struggle is not unique; why, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin such as many of My children have had to do. Look at them in chapter 11, My 'heroes' as you call them. They gained My approval through their faith, keeping their eyes fixed on the promise of an eternal reward. Lay aside the sins that hinder you from living a life of joy and peace. Don't allow the worries of the world to choke out My Word in your heart, and so rob you of victory in this area."

MATERIAL CROWDED OUT

We regret that considerable material has been crowded out from this issue because we have wanted to present as much of the story of the Annual Conference now as possible. We will try to

accommodate as much of that material next time as we can. There will be only one issue in August, that of the 11th.

Thank you for your understanding.

The Editor

editorials

A GOOD CONFERENCE

The 1987 Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations set an attendance record by a good margin. The numbers on that are found in our lead story today. There were several reasons for the large turnout.

First, it was the 25th Anniversary Conference and being held in the city where the AFLC began. Second, it was a presidential election year, which traditionally brings more people out. Third, there had been an emphasis on having every congregation represented by a lay delegate. That didn't come to happen by a long way but when the facts are in it will likely be found that a larger percentage of congregations were represented than ever before. Fourth, the addition of new pastors and congregations to the church, plus the current unrest caused by the three-church merger, brought out more folks. If we may add a fifth reason, and we hope this is a valid reason for larger attendance, too, Association members are taking an increasing interest in the work of the congregations together, what we sometimes call the "common work."

The Conference's biggest news was the re-election of President Richard Snipstead. It wasn't a surprise that he was re-elected, but the majority of over 90 per cent must have been a very encouraging thing for him. It shows that he has the solid backing of the church. The election shows that the Association was in no mood to make a change in leadership at this time even though the other candidate was the also popular and capable Rev. Robert L. Lee of the School's faculty and AFLC vice-president. Pastor Snipstead is involved in considerable contacts with pastors and congregations pondering their futures in light of the merger mentioned above. It is good that he can continue uninterrupted in that. Let us uphold him in prayer as he carries the heavy duties of the presidency into his fourth term.

New people were in evidence at the Conference. The Association is growing. The largest single area of growth is in Illinois where five congregations (two since the Annual Conference) have affiliated with the AFLC. Next year's Conference will be in DeKalb, Ill., and then it will be possible to meet more of these new friends and co-workers. At the Conference in Thief River Falls it was good to see a good mix as to ages also, the young, middle-aged and older. The youth service on Saturday night had a better number of young folks present than usual, testimony to the support given by the Northwestern Minnesota District, for one.

Our Saviour's Lutheran and Rev. and Mrs. Leslie Galland, host congregation and parsonage couple, are to be commended for their excellent work in taking care of the Conference needs. All exigencies were anticipated. Facilities and meals at Lincoln High School were excellent. Delegates also patronized other eating places and other businesses in Thief River Falls, leaving no small economic impact from a group of over 600 people. Thief River's newspaper, *The Times*, gave us perhaps the best pre- and post-conference coverage we've ever had.

Four ladies presided at the grand piano and organ in the auditorium in shifts. All preludes were good, but the one preceding the opening night service is especially to be commended. And wasn't it good to be without the applause for the special musical numbers in the services for the most part?

We trust that as a church we go forward with renewed zeal and commitment to the Lord's tasks which fall under our responsibility.

ABORTION RESOLUTION

Passing a resolution on abortion was not a new thing for an Association Annual Conference. It had been done at least twice before and hinted at another time. But this was the first time any exception regarding abortion had made it into a resolution, as far as we recall.

And the exception didn't survive, as may be noted elsewhere in this issue. Section C would have permitted abortion to save the life of a mother. The Conference struck the exception loudly, in a voice vote, leaving a resolution much like those of the past, perhaps aimed chiefly at abortion as a means of birth control. The world, in reading the resolution, will think of it that way, but those who know the history of it will remember what was left out at Thief River Falls.

We think this is a resolution to which there must be a minority report. Some will hold that they will not be bound by a statement that, by omission, doesn't permit the saving of a mother's life ahead of that of her fetus when all medical judgment indicates she cannot live unless the pregnancy is terminated. We aren't speaking of frivolous determinations when there is no life threat, but of that where the situation is real and desperate.

Our resolution, with its omission, places the AFLC in league with the Roman Catholic Church and few other churches. While some may dispute it, there is evidence that the RCC does not permit termination of pregnancy even though both mother and child (fetus) will die. If both die, their souls are saved from sin which would send the mother's soul to hell and the child's to limbo. Roman Catholics have sometimes even baptized miscarriages.

The resolution on abortion encourages support of "responsible pro-life groups" such as Lutherans for Life. A representative of Lutherans for Life tells us that the organization does permit the "tragic exception" to abortion of our Section C and where a life threatening condition exists a choice may be made between lives, the mother's or the fetus'. The representative said that he knew of only one other church which takes a stand such as ours, with the stricken clause, the Roman Catholic Church.

We admire the RCC for its pro-life stand on abortion, as well as some other moral issues and AFLC people have worked together with her members on the abortion question

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EDITORIALS . . .

particularly. But there is a minority report on this issue and not all Association people will feel conscience-bound by the intent of the striking of Section C in the abortion resolution passed in Thief River Falls.

INDIA

One of the Conference's most dramatic times came on Saturday morning when Pastor B. Rao Dasari asked for the floor, was given it and proceeded to talk about the troubles that have beset our brief mission venture in the great sub-continent of India. He answered questions, too, and we respect him for that and wish even more time could have been spent on the issue. But there were those who felt enough time had been given and enough said.

As the situation stands, there is no mission work for us in India, but the Bible Faith Lutheran Church is led by an Association pastor, Rev. Dasari. The BFLC wants the support of the AFLC but offers no plan for official Association representation on the U. S. board, Bible Faith Lutheran Ministries to India, for the work, even though AFLC individual members may be on that board now.

Let us make a couple observations for what they are worth. First, the break by BFLC with the AFLC was not made in the right way. We don't know exactly what the legal arrangement was between the BFLC and the AFLC. Yet, we can be sure that the AFLC understood it to be a binding agreement between brethren, with each side having obligations. The BFLC felt that the orphanage, Moriah, was given to it as a gift. The AFLC, while turning it over in name to BFLC, still felt that in spirit, if not by legal definition, it was theirs together. Then BFLC unilaterally declared formal connection with the AFLC over. It broke trust with us and in any human relationships this is a difficult matter and no less in a church affair.

So that's the first problem confronting us. We can't go on to point B until we feel good about point A, the trust factor. If somehow we could go back to pre-Feb. 20, 1986, when BFLC declared its independence from the AFLC, and take a look at the needs and hopes of BFLC, and they are large, and our commitment to the work and work something out *together*. But in order to do that there must be mutual trust. That doesn't exist now.

The second observation is that it is difficult for the AFLC to support the church in India when it has no voice in the operation of BFLC, officially. Our people are reluctant to give official support without official representation. The argument may come, isn't the AFLC already doing that by her support of the World Relief Commission of the National Association of Evangelicals? There seems to be a point there, but it is a little different to support relief efforts without having voice than being along in an evangelization endeavor with its primary emphasis on the Word and not being in the day-to-day operation of it.

It all goes back to the first point, trust. Our people want to help the work in India. Pastor Dasari made it abundantly clear that the church in India needs us, that he needs and wants us. But how can we work together unless there is trust?

We are like two people who love each other but have had a falling out. We love BFLC and Pastor Dasari. They love us and feel a debt of gratitude toward us. What can be done to effect reconciliation? Pastor Snipstead said we are not closing the door on the Bible Faith Lutheran Church of India. We are glad for that. May the Lord guide the World Missions Committee and Pastor Eugene Enderlein, our executive director, as they confront this question. The Conference has left the ball in their court, where it belongs.

And may we urge much prayer about this situation. Ask the Lord to help both sides to work out a good solution.

Congregations received into the Association

First English, Lostwood, N. Dak.
Our Savior's, Drummond, Wis.*
Granite, St. Cloud, Minn.
Gausdal, New London, Minn.
Christ, Wichita Falls, Tex.
Bethlehem, Morris, Ill.
West Lisbon, Newark, Ill.
Our Savior's, Chillicothe, Ill.
Victory, Park River, N. Dak.
Helmar, Newark, Ill.
Fox River, Sheridan, Ill.

*Our Savior's was formed largely from members of Faith and Moland Lutheran congregations, Mason, Wis. The latter continue as AFLC congregations but under new pastoral leadership.

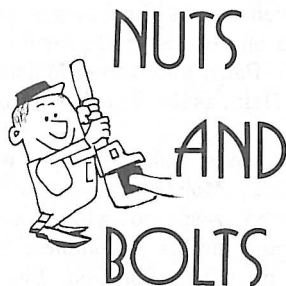


Missionaries, former missionaries and those who have lived in or visited the Brazil field gather for fellowship. This has become an annual event at Conference.

WHERE THEY CAME FROM

Here is the list of delegates and visitors at the 1987 Annual Conference by state and country as given by the registration committee. The number of visitors is shown in parenthesis.

Arizona—7; Illinois—13 (2); Iowa—10; Kansas—2; Michigan—18; Minnesota—332 (1); Montana—11; North Dakota—185 (1); Ohio—1; Oregon—5; South Dakota—23; Washington—17; Wisconsin—20 (1); Canada—6 (3); Brazil—2; Mexico—2.



Our AFLC Youth Board has taken action to ask several of our Bible School and Seminary teachers to prepare videos. These videos will be oriented to youth work in the Association and will be available for use by local congregations. They were distributed at the Luther League Convention July 13-19, at the Association Retreat Center. Now the videos can be obtained by writing 1121 South First Street, DeKalb, Illinois 60115.

Content will be on Bible study and Bible study discussion, Luther League administration and youth needs.

July is Youth Month in the Association. By now every pastor should have received a Youth Month poster and a suggested order for a Youth Month service. This year's poster was done by Lay Pastor Kenneth Thoreson from Beloit, Wisconsin. We thank Pastor Thoreson for his help. You can use the Youth Sunday order of service for a morning service and an evening service.

Our congregations and their Luther Leagues are encouraged to take a special offering for AFLC youth work in July. This offering is in order at any other time as well.

In mid-August all pastors will receive Bible studies for use in their teenage Bible studies. The first quarter of studies has been written by Pastor Henry Johansen, who serves Zion Lutheran in Willmar, Minnesota. We want to thank Pastor Johansen for the work he has done on these studies.

In the last *Ambassador* we considered teen suicide. Many of our high

school and junior high youth have known someone who has taken his life in some way. It is a sobering thing for them and for all of us. Suicide has become the leading cause of death among teenagers. Accidents take second place. Easily, a number of the youth who died in accidents were suicides.

A large number of youth do not feel they have anything to live for. Increasingly, more youth see no purpose for life. They are confronted by problems and concerns which take away the joy of life. Some see the way their parents have traveled and begin to feel that is all life will give them. They feel misunderstood by parents, teachers and the church. They do not feel they are being listened to. Not too few teens have a poor self image. There are those who lack direction in their lives.

The whole style and approach to youth has changed. The old traditional ways have given way to what is called progressive education. Traditional values are no longer being taught as they once were. There are no absolutes anymore. Christian values are not promoted. Creationism is not taught in school. There are no absolutes for life.

I feel that our young people are asking for these values. I believe they need direction in their lives. They want that direction. They are idealistic and realize that things are not what they should be. This is one reason some youth join cults. It is because in the cults they often get the direction they need for life.

We realize one very important thing. The traditional and Christian values will instruct our teens in the way they should go. One thing those traditional values did, they worked! Teens taught the traditional values of Scripture will, as they walk with the Lord Jesus Christ, learn the ways of God. They will have joy in their lives and their lives will have direction and purpose.

There is a second concern youth have today. This is not unrelated to the above discussion. We have been facing a morality crisis today. There are many teenagers who are sexually active. I

believe the number continues to grow. Our youth are pressured into becoming sexually active. If you love someone, you are asked to prove that love by being sexually active. In fact, such is demanded by some. We live in the time of trial marriages. One man asked, "How do you get to know the other person unless you live with that person?" He had been taught this. It is sad to hear such things.

Face it, many teens are sexually active. Even Christian youth have fallen prey to such thinking.

Some think they are getting away with it. However, when youth or anyone becomes sexually active, against God's law, they will feel unclean, guilty and separated from the Lord Jesus Christ. The Catechism tells us that sinning against the body in this way will affect both body and soul more than any other sin. It could very well be that youth who take their own lives have been involved sexually in ways that they know are wrong.

The church needs to continually address itself to the need for sexual holiness and purity among all of its people. God gave us the Commandments so we might have the best of all possible lives. All who refrain in total abstinence have true happiness and joy. This comes when teenagers and all of us refrain from using our bodies in improper and ungodly ways. God has given us the Lord Jesus Christ to satisfy our every need. He fills the void within all who follow Him. He fills the void within us. The world cannot fill this void in the way Jesus fills it. Worldly things will never do it!

We need to have open and frank, non-judgmental discussions with our youth, discussions which will take place first at home, then in the local congregation, at Bible camps and retreats, about the sexual morality of the day. These discussions will give youth direction as they point to the desires of God for their lives. These will show them that they can have joy and happiness as they follow Jesus.

Pastor Dennis Gray
Youth Resources Director

Other Conference sermons

(See the main Conference report on page 3 for the reports on the Opening Sermon and the Ordination Sermon. The Women's Missionary Federation Convention report has the summary of the sermon on the Mission Festival night by Pastor George Knapp.)

Friday evening

This was in the form of a laymen's service. Mr. Paul Flaten, Newfolden, Minn., was the leader. The speaker was Mr. Bernhard Nelson, Portland, N. Dak. He said that he decided upon receiving the invitation to speak that he had to be willing to be willing. He asked, who is this God whose kingdom is forever, according to the Conference theme and text? He referred to the 8th Psalm for his answer, where the Maker of all things is pictured.

Mr. Nelson quoted from Luther's Small Catechism. He pointed out that idolatry, the putting of something before God, is primarily a heart attitude. God tolerates no presumption. We must recognize everything as His gifts, he said.

Mr. Nelson quoted from Psalm 81 and Hebrews 11, the faith chapter. He asked if we dare to follow and to suffer. Yes, for the Lord is our strength! He closed by reiterating the old truth that we are saved by grace, not works, so that no one should boast (Eph. 2:8, 9).

Saturday Evening

Mr. Tom Olson, a seminarian, filled in for Rev. Curtis Emerson as leader of the Saturday night youth service. The message was brought by Rev. Dennis Gray, DeKalb, Ill., newly appointed youth resource advisor in the Association.

Pastor Gray took Ephesians 2:1-17 as his text and spoke on "The Past, Present and Future Life of the Christian." The past life, he said, was a life of being dead in sin and to God. Before we became Christians we liked it that way, if we could get away with it. Before Christ we had no power to resist evil; guilt was pushed into the subconscious. Hell is the destination of life apart from Christ. There is no way, truth, life or shepherd in hell.

Jesus is all of these, Pastor Gray declared. When spiritual eyes are opened, we begin to prefer the things of God. This change is accomplished through the blood of Jesus. He said that a man once asked, "When did I become a Christian?" The answer given was, "I can't say, but if you believe in Him (Jesus) now, you are one."

There is meaning in life, Pastor Gray told his audience. And anyone who is a Christian is the church of today. The present is glorious for the child of God and so is the future. The manger is empty, the cross is empty, the tomb is empty, but you and I don't have to be empty, Pastor Gray said. Christ can fill the void. He receives the prodigal.

Communion Service

In the only Conference service to be held in Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Rev. Ernest J. Langness, Ishpeming, Mich., conducted the service of Holy Communion on Sunday morning at 8 o'clock. Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn., brought the meditation.

Pastor Huglen spoke on the 3 Cs of the Lord's Supper. The first C stands for Confession (of sinfulness and of

Christ); the second C is Commemoration (we remember Jesus' sacrifice for us); and the third C is Communion (with fellow Christians and with Jesus).

Sunday Worship

Rev. Leslie Galland, host pastor to the Conference, was the liturgist and introduced one of his predecessors in Thief River Falls, Rev. David Molstre, Fargo, N. Dak., as the preacher for the service.

The day's text, Luke 12:13-21, was used by Pastor Molstre. It is the story of a man who prospered, who planned more storage for his abundance, but who took no account of God. Pastor Molstre pointed out three fallacies shown in the text.

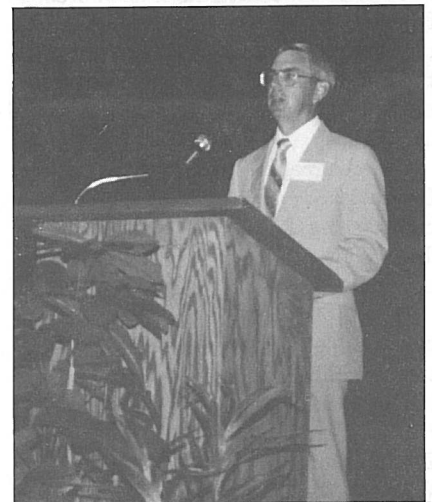
First, there was a false and foolish theory of ownership. The man thought he owned what he had. In reality he owned nothing.

Second, there was a false and foolish sense of peace. People will find security either in goods or in God. A man was asked upon choosing a cemetery lot for himself, "Have you found a resting place for your soul?"

The third fallacy was a false and foolish sense of security. The foolish man thought in terms of years; God said, "This night!"

Pastor Molstre asserted, we insure what is temporal and leave unprotected what is eternal. To be rich toward God is the positive side of the three fallacies mentioned. Be rich where it counts, he urged.

photo by F. Cherney



Chaplain Timothy Skramstad, Fort Ripley, Manhattan, Kans., brought greetings to the delegates.



Mrs. John Mundfrom, Eben Junction, Mich., Mrs. Lyle Forde, Arlington, Wash. and Mrs. Stan Miller, Grand Forks, N. Dak.

The Prayer Hours

The three prayer hours, Thursday to Saturday, 11 a.m., were led by Rev. Amos Dyrud, a retired dean of the Association seminary. His meditations were brief Bible studies on three well-known Psalms, 51, 25 and 34. God's people see themselves in the Psalms, he said. Psalm 51 is a prayer for forgiveness and renewal, followed by the desire for consecration. Psalm 25 is devotional in nature, its verses being those of supplication and contemplation. The last Psalm, 34, is one of deliverance, Pastor Dyrud declared.

Small group prayer was a part of each half hour session.

Special musical numbers were by Pastor and Mrs. Richard Snipstead, Thursday; Pastor and Mrs. Wendell Johnson, Friday; and Pastor and Mrs. Bruce Dalager, Saturday.

DEVOTIONAL LEADERS

Brief devotional moments preceded each business session of the Annual Conference. Here are the leaders and their Scripture texts.

Thursday morning — Rev. John Skeie, Morris, Ill., Acts 2:37-47. Thursday afternoon — Rev. Stephen Odegaard, Kent, Wash., Rom. 8:28, 34-39.

Friday morning — Rev. David Hinrichs, Cokato, Minn., Is. 40:25-31. Friday afternoon — Rev. Steve Lombardo, Newark, Ill., Josh. 1:8.

Saturday morning — Rev. Mark Antal, then of Bemidji, Minn., Matt. 28:16-20. Saturday afternoon — Barnabas Team, Ps. 37:23-25.



Conference can even be a time for family reunions. Mr. and Mrs. Norris Fugleberg, Roseau, Minn. are pictured with three of their children. (L. to R.) Mrs. Vonne Coyle, Mankato, Minn., Tom, Roseau, and Rev. James Fugleberg, Ferndale, Wash. Another daughter, Mrs. Carol Johnson, Minneapolis, attended the WMF convention.

Excerpts from the Conference Reports

Co-ordinating Committee

Our Conference theme, "His Kingdom is Forever," is taken from Psalm 145:13. As we look back over the past 25 years we are thankful to God for His mercy and grace. We have a good and great God! His faithfulness is beyond deserving! It is, therefore, our duty to praise, extol, and bless our God for His glorious work in our midst. From generation to generation we should declare His mighty work. In the midst of our brief existence, we are thankful that "His Kingdom is Forever and His dominion endures throughout all generations."

Rev. Terry Olson, Chm.

Business Administrator

We are also happy to report that the main building has now been hooked up to the water main of the City of Plymouth. This building was still operating from the original well in use at the time we purchased the property. Through the years we have had a considerable amount of costly problems with it. This project cost about \$20,000. We now have the two dormitories, three houses and main building on city water. So that project is complete.

Mr. Ernest Miedema

Association Retreat Center

We are encouraged by "Gifts in Kind" toward the work of the ARC. Gifts such as two cars and two trucks from the Amery congregation, carpet

from Radcliff, paint from Amery, Kenyon and Portland and video equipment from a company in Rockford, Minn., to name some of the larger gifts.

Mr. Robert Dietsche, Director

Board of Trustees

Our schools were founded to train students in the inerrant and infallible Word of God. These schools would thereby serve the congregations by training pastors and lay people. Our Lutheran heritage in God's Word has been faithfully taught. Our future is bright, bright as the promises of God's Word, as long as we remember the foundation of our beginnings. Jesus Christ, our Founder, and the unshakable foundation of His Word give us hope for tomorrow. We remember the past; we press on into the future.

Rev. Michael Brandt, Chm.

Dean of the Seminary

It is of course one thing to hold in theory to the "sure word" and another thing to actually teach it as such. From the beginning of the Seminary's existence, the Bible has been the very heart of the curriculum. Every course continues to be permeated with attention to the Word of God. The goal of such undivided focus is that every graduate "be able to give instruction in sound doctrine." The Christian ministry is viewed as fundamentally a ministry of the Word, whether in preaching, teaching or counseling. Therefore, there can be no substitute for intensive study of the Bible in order to become thoroughly acquainted with it and to effectively communicate its contents in faithful distinction and delivery of Law and Gospel.

Dr. Francis Monseth

Dean of the Bible School

We are grateful today for the vision and obedience of this gathering over twenty years ago to begin a school for the specific purpose of studying and applying that eternal Word to the daily life. Through the years, students have discovered that through their studies at AFLBS God has enriched and deepened their spiritual lives, revived them, and given them the foundation

EXCERPTS . . .

upon which to build their future. Yes, there are those who can testify that it was at Bible School that they came to know Jesus as their personal Savior! We give thanks today — first to our God who has made all of this possible through the living Word, Jesus, and the written Word. We also give thanks to all (many of whom are gathered here today) who through the years have been obedient to the vision of such a Bible school, and have faithfully supported in prayer and gifts this part of the kingdom's work.

Rev. Donald Greven

AFLBS Alumni Association Director

The idea to start a Bible School some twenty years ago to some probably seemed impossible. There were many apparent obstacles, such as no faculty, no classrooms, no dorms and no students. We as alumni are thankful that to God all things are possible. Because of His wonderful works and you as faithful stewards the Bible School was opened up that fall of 1966 with 13 students. The number of students who have attended the school and now make up the Alumni Association are over 1,000. On behalf of the Alumni Association, I would like to thank you as an Association for your concern and desire to see youth instructed and grounded in God's Word.

Deb Anderson

World Missions Committee

We acknowledge with sincere appreciation the gifts of money that you have given to the work of World Missions this past year. For this we thank God and you. No doubt, some of you have given sacrificially. May all of us learn to do so. God is honored by His loyal faithful servants who have learned the better way of laying up treasures in heaven rather than on earth.

Rev. Amos Dyrud, Chm.

World Missions Director

We are to walk circumspectly, that is accurately, carefully and well. It is the fool who plunges ahead without looking in any direction, but the wise person looks with care at all circumstances and opportunities and thus redeems the time. We are to redeem the time by

The abortion resolutions

Committee No. 1 referred to three previous Conference resolutions in its report to the 1987 Annual Conference. They are given below and are followed by the resolution passed by this year's Conference.

1977

"Inasmuch as the government of the beloved United States has allowed the use of abortions* as a means of birth control, and whereas the indiscriminate taking of a human life, including that of a human fetus, is against our understanding of the Word of God, be it resolved, that the Annual Conference of the AFLC stands opposed to abortion as a means of birth control. Be it further resolved, that each congregation and individual within the AFLC be

trusting Christ as Savior while we have the opportunity (II Corinthians 6:2) . . . The doors to many countries are still open before us, but they will not always be open. The hearts of the people of the world are open as never before. This is an important, strategic hour, our hour. Will we act like fools and waste the time on worthless things, or will we be wise and redeem the time?

Rev. Eugene Enderlein

Home Missions Committee

May the Lord inspire us as an AFLC to heed the call of people who call out to us for spiritual help: "Come over and help us." Paul said we are constrained by Christ's love to do something for these seeking souls. May we not be found guilty of the sin of neglect when we are asked to give an account of our ministry one day at the judgment seat of Christ.

Rev. Herbert L. Franz, Chm.

Home Missions Director

Time marches on. Days remaining to carry out the Great Commission are known but to God. We live in a world of unrest and change. The needs are great, and the doors are opening to us here in the homeland. With millions in need of Christ, we might sometimes think that personnel and finances are

cont. on p. 16

encouraged to protest in writing to their respective legislative officials."

*The resolution came from committee with the term "therapeutic abortions" in it. The word therapeutic was stricken by the Conference.

1978

"Be it resolved, that we continue to oppose the sins of abortion and homosexuality and that our position upon those two subjects be as follows:

Inasmuch as the government of the beloved United States has allowed the use of abortions as a means of birth control, and whereas the indiscriminate taking of a human life, including that of a human fetus, is against our understanding of the Word of God, be it resolved, that the Annual Conference of the AFLC stands opposed to abortion as a means of birth control. Be it further resolved, that each congregation and individual within the AFLC is encouraged to protest in writing to their respective legislative officials. Whereas, due to the increased moral decay of our society, specifically regarding the gay rights movement, we heartily support those who on the basis of the Bible oppose homosexuality. Be it further resolved, that we offer the hand of Christian love to those homosexuals who wish to be helped by God's power: We have love for the sinner but hate the sin."

In Memoriam

Key: The name of the town was the address of the deceased. Following that is listed the name of the deceased, age, date of death and the church in which he or she held membership.

WASHINGTON

Everett

Paula Ostby, 96, May 6, Calvary.

Harald Stortro, 79, June 2, Calvary.

NORTH DAKOTA

McVile

Mrs. Wilma (Arthur) Quanbeck, 86, June 10, New Luther Valley.

MINNESOTA

Thief River Falls

Hilding Bergh, 79, July 6, Our Saviour's.

1980

"Be it resolved, that we reaffirm the conservative stand taken by the AFLC based on the Word of God and His Laws concerning the moral issues of our day."

1987

"Whereas, the 1977 Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations resolved to oppose therapeutic abortion as a means of birth control and to encourage each congregation and individual to protest in writing to their respective officials; whereas, the 1978 Annual Conference resolved to continue to oppose the sin of abortion; whereas, the 1980 Annual Conference reaffirmed the 'conservative stand taken by the AFLC based on the Word of God and His Laws concerning the moral issues of our day;' and whereas, the destruction of millions of lives by means of abortion which began with the 1973 Supreme Court decision still continues; therefore be it resolved, that the Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations affirms that a.) the unborn children are persons in the sight of God from the time of conception (Job 10:9-10; Psalm 51:5; 139:13-17; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:41-44.); and b.) the unborn children stand under the protection of God's command against murder (Genesis 9:6; Exodus 20:13; Numbers 35:33; Acts 7:19; 1 John 3:15)."

(See the editorial "The Abortion Issue.")

Personalities

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Olson, Willmar, Minn., celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on June 7 with an open house at Spicer, Minn. Mr. Olson is a former member of the Stewardship Board of the AFLC. Congratulations.

Rev. Mark Antal has resigned as pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church, Bemidji, Minn., to accept a commission as chaplain in the U.S. Army. His last service at Bemidji was on July 12. He began chaplaincy school at Ft. Monmouth, N.J., on the 19th and on Sept. 8 will begin service ministering to new recruits at Ft. Jackson, S. Car. Mrs. Antal and children will join him at that latter time.



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church provided classes and recreation for children during the Conference days. The church's academy bus transported the children.

Northern Michigan Family Camp

The northern Michigan District Family Camp will be held Aug. 24-28 at Lake Ellen near Crystal Falls, Mich. Evening speaker will be Rev. Robert L. Lee, faculty member of the Association Schools in Minneapolis, Minn.

The dean of the camp is Rev. Michael Klenner, P.O. Box 58, Pelkie, Mich. 49958. Or call 906-353-7317 for further information.

Rev. Jay Erickson has resigned as pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church, Fosston, Minn. He and his wife Harriett will be moving to their home at 2345 Jonquil Lane No., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441, in retirement.

Rev. Gilbert Schroeder, who has served the Tioga, N. Dak., rural parish (Beaver Creek and Norman) since 1980, has resigned and will be leaving the parish this summer. He will not be accepting another call at this time.

Rev. Wayne Hjermstad has accepted the call to Victory in Christ Lutheran, Maplewood, Minn. He had been preaching at the church for nine months. He and his family reside at 1277 Ross Ave., St. Paul, Minn. 55106.

Miss Rachel Mundfrom is in Grenoble, France, to study the French language before going on to her station in Africa.

Next time there will be a report on her commissioning service in Grand Forks, N. Dak., on June 7.

PASTOR DAVID MOLSTRE WILL SPEAK AT FAMILY CAMP

Pastor David C. Molstre, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Fargo, N. Dak., will be the evening speaker at Family Camp at the Association Retreat Center, August 10-16.

Pastor Molstre is the son of the late Rev. Harry Molstre, who was with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations almost from its very beginning until his death in December, 1981.

Pastor David Molstre is a 1967 graduate of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary and has served as parish pastor in Grafton and Grand Forks, N. Dak., Minneapolis, Minn., Thief River Falls, Minn., and Dickinson, N. Dak., prior to coming to Fargo. Pastor Molstre also served as the evangelist for the AFLC for several years.

Pastor Molstre is married to the former Sandra Carlson of McIntosh, Minn., and they have five children. His daughter Renita is married to Pastor Terry Wold, serving in Tucson, Ariz. Mark is serving his internship from the Association Seminary in Houghton, Mich., and James and Steve have been attending NDSU in Fargo, where they are involved in the football program. Matthew is at home.

The second week of Family Camp at the ARC, near Osceola, Wis., will be held August 10-16. Send your registration of \$2 per person or \$5 per family to: ARC, Rt. 1, Box 92, Osceola, Wis. 54020.

Some people take a stand for Christ, and never move again.

EXCERPTS . . .

our greatest needs; but let us not forget that our greatest need as individuals and as a church is to keep our eyes fixed on the Savior, to be in and stand firm upon the Word of God, and to obey Him.

Rev. Elden Nelson

Commission on Evangelism

I ask you to pray for us in this next year, that we are able to use our own men, who are called to preach the Gospel to every creature in our AFLC. I am so glad that we have this church body. And we have a great God that has led us for twenty-five years to victory, in His precious name.

Lay Pastor Verle Dean, Chm.

Board of Publications and Parish Education

During the past year the Board has been primarily occupied with curriculum revision. It is humbling to recognize and acknowledge the delays involved in this process. We were all new to such work, but trust that with experience we will gain efficiency. It has been a greater task than we had realized. All who have worked in the revision process have given far more than would be expected of them in their positions. A conservative estimate of time spent in the revision process, including planning, writing, preparation of activities and art work, and editing, is approximately 150 man-hours per lesson.

Dr. Mary Lindquist, Acting Chm.

Director of Parish Education

Another area of growth is that of visuals, newsletter and workshops. A

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list of companies that make videos available to churches for purchase or for rent will be available from the Parish Education office. Perhaps some videos will be purchased by our department and will be made available to the congregations for a minimal rental fee of \$5.00. The original Martin Luther film, on VCR cassette, is now available from our office for a rental fee of \$5.00. This would be suitable to be used in a class studying the history of doctrine in our church.

Katha M. Tjelta

Youth Board

I pray that the Lord would revive us according to His Word, that we might see the importance of living daily "according to His Word." May God richly bless and strengthen each one of you as you seek to lead, guide and encourage young people in the Word of God.

Rev. Joel Rolf, Chm.

Luther League Federation

...Let us be careful that we don't only blame our systems of education on the public level. We need to also analyze our education at home and at church. Have we taken the time and the effort to teach and train our young people in the way they should go? Has youth work taken a back seat in our churches to that which seems at the present time to be more important? We can always have a church without an active youth work, but can the church survive in the future without an active ministry to youth?

Rev. Curtis Emerson, Pres.

Stewardship Board

1986 was a year of prayer emphasis for our AFLC congregations. We were encouraged to pray for revival in our midst. There are probably many other explanations that could be suggested, but it would be tragic if we failed to observe that this same year of prayer emphasis also witnessed the best response to our AFLC financial needs since 1980-81.

Rev. Robert L. Lee, Chm.

Board of Pensions

The Pension Board set up a fund for the purpose of giving assistance to retired pastors, pastors' widows or pastors with specific needs due to circumstances beyond their control.

The churches in the Association set aside a Sunday in the fall of the year for a special offering designated to this fund. We are grateful to God for good response.

Mr. Norman Haugen, Chm.



Pastor Del Palmer, Everett, Wash., Mr. and Mrs. Bud Haugen, Lake Stevens, Wash. and Mr. and Mrs. Al Tollefson, Astoria, Ore.