

# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

July 9, 1991



## Annual Conference Review



# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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Center — Lunch time at conference.  
Lower Left — Mrs. Cliff Seldal pinned a corsage on Mrs. Richard Snipstead.  
Lower Right — Missionary Dan Giles.

Cover and conference photos by Solveig Hjermstad.

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

## True Fellowship

**W**e need fellowship to be happy and satisfied. Creation displays this need of fellowship: birds gather in flocks, wolves run in packs, cattle roam in herds, sheep gather in flocks, fish in schools and bees in swarms. Even evil men gather into gangs and mafia organizations to find kinship. Christians find kinship with fellow Christians.

We experience many fellowships in life. Our greatest fellowship arises from the fact we are created in the image of God. We are not gods, but we are akin to God, so that spirit meets spirit in our communion with God. Jesus taught, "God is a spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). God walked in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve and they had sweet fellowship with Him there. That fellowship was broken when they chose the way of the serpent, Satan. Driven from God's presence and the Garden, the heart of man has had a longing, conscious or unconscious, for the restoration of that fellowship. That restoration was made possible for all persons when Jesus Christ came to blot out the sin which stood between them. So the Apostle John could write in 1 John 1:3b: "And our fellowship is with the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ."

Stop for a moment to consider the greatness of being a living Christian, a person who has fellowship with God the Father and Jesus Christ His Son. We need to consider what kind of God this is with whom we claim fellowship. Many today seem to take God very casually and lightly. Some call Him "the old man upstairs," an old grandfatherly God who need not be feared, respected nor necessarily obeyed.

Moses, among men, had a unique fellowship with God. Exodus 33:11 records: "Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face as a man speaks to his friend." But He did not invite a familiarity which breeds contempt. One day Moses asked God, "I pray Thee show me Thy glory." The Lord

## Light on the Way

replied (Exodus 33:19): "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you My name, 'The Lord' ... but you cannot see My face, for you shall not see My face and live." However, God added, "Behold, **there is a place by Me where you shall stand upon the rock**; and while My glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with My hand until I have passed by." Fellowship with God is clearly a God-granted mercy. Let no man regard it lightly.

Isaiah writes, "I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple. Above Him stood the seraphim each with six wings; with two He covered His face, and with two He covered His feet, and with two He flew. And one called to another and said, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.'" If the mightiest of the sinless angels must cover their feet and their faces in His presence, with what deep humility and respect should we come before Him? We claim only the Blood of Christ as our covering to render us acceptable as we approach Him. Isaiah, though he was God's prophet of the day, and his people were called God's people, realized his unworthy condition in God's presence, and cried: "Woe is me! I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips." What a life-changing experience Isaiah found when he realized afresh the holiness of God! What an awesome claim John makes for all Christians when he says, "Our fellowship is with the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ!"

Let us then consider with what attitude we go into His presence to worship. Even we pastors, who proclaim His Word to others, find a deep need to have our lips cleansed often so we labor as those who are truly sent of God. No matter what our calling in life might be, let us live as in the presence of this Holy God!

— by Rev. Kermitt Grundahl



June 12-16, 1991

# Conference Faces Fiscal Concerns

**A**s we meet for this conference," declared AFLC President Richard Snipstead in his annual report, "one of the greatest concerns is that of financial shortfalls." These words during the opening business session on Thursday, June 13, correctly forecast the concerns that determined the focus of the delegates to the 29th Annual Conference meeting at the Association Retreat Center (ARC) near Osceola, Wisconsin.

Rev. Snipstead, completing the first year of his fifth term as president, called the church to cry out to God for revival, asking if it was not inconsistent with our profession of faith to be in such a situation. "We are Christians, living with eternity in view," he reminded the delegates, "and the ministries God has entrusted to us are not receiving sufficient support to complete the tasks committed to them. Surely we have lost our first love."

The budgets of the various AFLC ministries were carefully reviewed by the conference, due to a 25% shortfall for the last fiscal year, with most requests frozen, reduced, or receiving only modest increases. Two voice votes on the General Fund budget left the outcome unclear, and it was finally approved when a third vote was conducted by the raising of hands.

The delegates rejected the recommendations of the Budget Analysis Committee, however, concerning the mission budgets, accepting the request of the World Mission Committee to include sufficient funding for a second missionary couple to be sent to Brazil, and removing an eight percent reduction from Home Missions. These issues provoked much of the discussion during the Friday and Saturday sessions.



Prayer time at the annual conference.

## Elections

Rev. Robert L. Lee, Newark, Illinois, received 87% of the vote for vice president on the first ballot, and was returned to office for a seventh one-year term. The ecclesiastical method of balloting was also used for the office of secretary, and following the withdrawal of the incumbent, Rev. Ronald Knutson, over seventy names were selected on the first ballot. Rev. Richard Anderson, Lakeville, Minnesota, was elected on the fourth ballot for his first one-year term in the office.

The election of secretary marked the first time that the new system of voting, which was used for the third year, functioned without an incumbent, and the large number of names on the nominating ballot led to some discussion that perhaps the method is still not perfected. A motion was passed after the second ballot to eliminate all names lacking at least fifteen votes, in an attempt to speed up the process, and

four ballots were necessary before Rev. Anderson received a majority of votes cast.

New members of the Co-ordinating Committee include Mr. Philip Grothe, a Thief River Falls, Minnesota, businessman, who was elected for a five-year term. He succeeds Mr. Clifford Johnson, who was not a candidate for re-election. Rev. Wendell Johnson, Spicer, Minnesota, who served on the committee several years ago, was also elected to a five-year term, replacing Rev. Leslie Galland, current chairman of the board and part-time AFLC business administrator.

## New Churches and Pastors

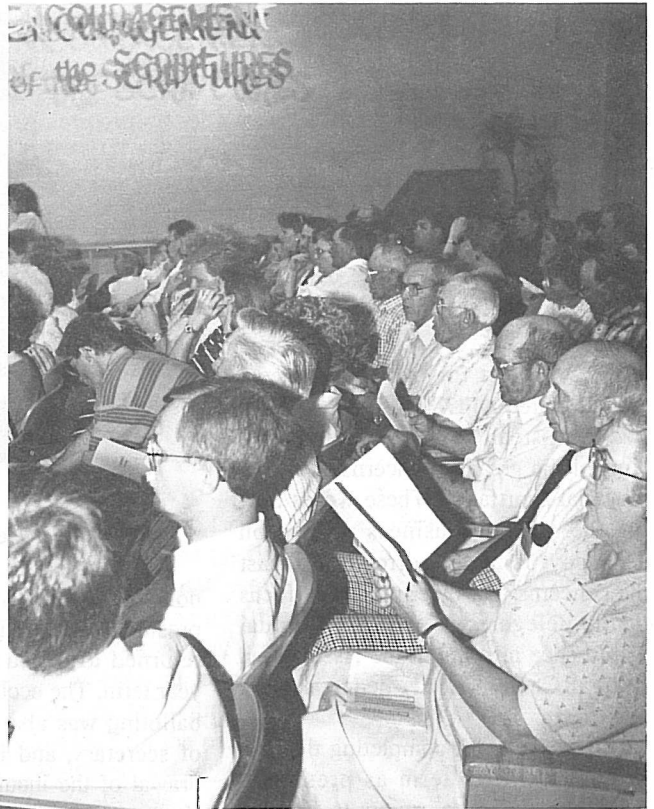
Six new congregations were welcomed into the AFLC at the annual conference: Faith, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota; First, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Immanuel, Springfield, Missouri; Salem, Salem, Alabama; Faith, Fairbury, Nebraska; Shepherd of the Valley, Palmdale, California. It is note-



Rev. Gerald Peterson, Oklahoma City, spoke from the conference floor, and Rev. Paul Larson, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota waited his turn. Both pastors are serving new AFLC congregations.



1991 AFLTS graduates manned the registration table.



A standing room only crowd filled the auditorium for the opening service at which Rev. Michael Brandt, Cloquet, Minnesota, preached.

worthy commentary on the growth of the AFLC to see that all six are located in different states.

Congregations have also been organized in Oceanside, California, and Pine City, Minnesota.

The Fellowship Roster of new pastors in the AFLC includes the following: Rev. Lloyd Bjornlie, Rev. Bill Goodman, Rev. Craig Jennings, Rev. Wayne Juntunen, Rev. Raymond Klug, Rev. Todd Olson, Rev. Gerald Peterson, Rev. Donald Voorhees, and Rev. Paul Zietlow.

#### Christian Academic Education

Considerable discussion and debate took place on Saturday afternoon following three resolutions based on the report from a committee chosen by the Board of Publications and Parish Education in response to a resolution from last year's conference to "research the possibility of starting a ministry of Christian Academic Education for those congregations interested in starting Christian education programs as a part of their ministry."

The first resolution, calling for a



Martha Rearick, Indianapolis, Indiana, and Karen Knudsvig, Buxton, North Dakota.

"Christian Academic Education Board" to be created, was approved, and a slate of seven candidates was elected. The second resolution, however, recommending the establishment of at least one AFLC-supported High School within the next five years, was amended to refer the matter to the consideration of each district.

A third resolution, encouraging *The Lutheran Ambassador* to inform people of the value of Christian Academic Education, was amended to include "the value of Christian witness and influence in public education."

#### World Missions

The conference was informed that four couples have applied for missionary service in Brazil, one of which, Jonathan and Tamba Abel, plans to move to the field by the end of the year after six months of deputation. Included in the new budget, as mentioned above, is provision for sending another of the couples next year.

Missionaries Connely and Carolyn Dyrud, who spoke and sang during the Thursday evening WMF service, introduced a new ministry of the Brazil mission to the conference, the Miriam Infant Home, for which a special offering was received following the service. It was also announced that the national church has adopted the goal of establishing forty new congregations in communities with a population of at least 100,000 by the year 2000, and to begin work in Paraguay by at least 1995 and in Argentina by at least 1999.

Our senior Brazil missionary, Rev. John Abel, who reached the age of retirement this year, has to agreed to



the board's request that he and his wife, Ruby, return to the field on an interim basis for at least one more year to assist with the schools in Campo Mourao.

Rev. Daniel and Debbie Giles, AFLC missionaries to Mexico, are spending their furlough year in the United States, and were in attendance at the conference. They requested special prayer for the congregation in Aguascalientes, which is being served in their absence by a non-AFLC missionary.

The report of the World Mission Director, Rev. Eugene Enderlein, noted

that we are currently supporting 25 Gospel workers in India. A federal judge has been asked to dismiss the lawsuit relating to this missionary endeavor, and his decision is expected soon. An additional lawsuit initiated by Rev. Bhushana Rao Dasari in the state court still remains to be settled.

#### **The Lutheran Ambassador**

The conference approved a recommendation by the Co-ordinating Committee to increase the subscription cost of *The Lutheran Ambassador* by one dollar per year, to a total of \$12. A similar increase was approved last year, the first since 1982. The reason

given for the latest increase was a \$29,000 deficit that has accumulated over several years, as well as the recent postal hike.

#### **Ordinations**

The ordination service on Sunday morning, June 16, was led by Dr. Francis Monseth, Dean of the Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, and the message was presented by Rev. John Abel, (the father of one ordained).

The new pastors are Jonathan Abel, called by the World Mission Committee to Brazil; David Nelson, called to Living Faith, Tucson, Arizona; and Tonnes Pollestad, called to Maranatha, Coon Rapids, Minnesota.

#### **Registration**

The final report of the Credentials Committee showed that 490 delegates registered for the annual conference, including 342 lay people and 148 pastors. Five of these were registered as visitors.

This total indicated a decline in attendance from the previous year, when 541 delegates were registered at Bloomington, Minnesota, for the second largest conference in the history of the AFLC.

#### **Invitation**

Rev. John Rieth, Vice Chairman of the ARC Board, extended an invitation to return to the retreat center for the 1992 Annual Conference. It was received with gratitude and referred to the Co-ordinating Committee.

### **1991 Annual Conference Election Results**

**Vice President:** Rev. Robert L. Lee, Newark, Illinois (1 year)

**Secretary:** Rev. Richard Anderson, Lakeville, Minnesota (1 year)

**Co-ordinating Committee:** Mr. Philip Grothe, Thief River Falls, Minnesota (5-years); Rev. Wendell Johnson, Spicer, Minnesota (5 years)

**AFLC Schools Board of Trustees:** Mr. Wayne Floan, Fertile, Minnesota (5 years); Rev. Kenneth Moland, Kirkland, Washington (5 years)

**Home Missions Committee:** Rev. John Skeie, Morris, Illinois (5 years); Rev. Tony Stockman, Brandon, Minnesota (3 years)

**World Missions Committee:** Mr. Arley Hartsoch, Ray, North Dakota (5 years)

**Stewardship Board:** Mr. Matt Myre, DeKalb, Illinois (5 years); Mr. Lynn Tharaldson, Lakeville, Minnesota (1 year)

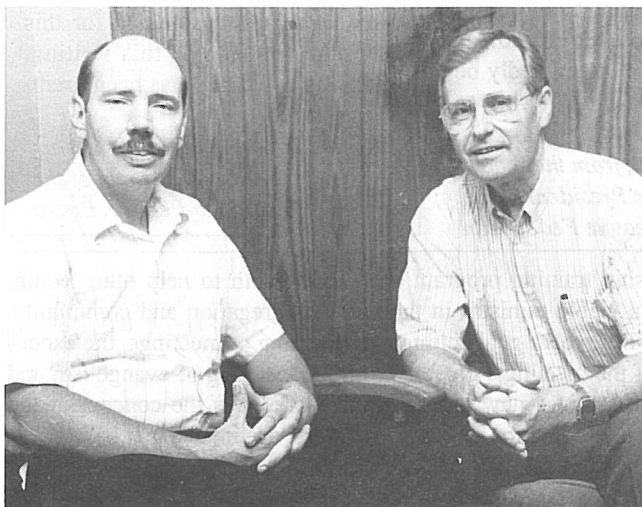
**Youth Board:** Mr. Farrell Erickson, Badger, Minnesota (5 years)

**Board of Publications and Parish Education:** Rev. Richard Anderson, Lakeville, Minnesota (5 years)

**Pension Board:** Rev. Frank Cherney, Hatton, North Dakota (5 years)

**Commission on Evangelism:** Rev. Peter Franz, Mankato, Minnesota (5 years)

**ARC Board:** Mr. James Ray, Esko, Minnesota (5 years)



New Home Missions Committee members are Rev. Tony Stockman, Brandon, Minnesota, and Rev. John Skeie, Morris, Illinois.



Mr. Michael McCarlson, Webster, South Dakota, a member of the Co-ordinating Committee and Mr. Wayne Floan, Fertile, Minnesota, a new member of the Board of Trustees.

The theme of our annual conference has already been before us for some time. We are gathered for conference to experience the "Comfort of the Scriptures." The objective of that comfort is to lead us to "hope." How blessed it is for the believer to have hope. Our great hope is "the appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds." The hope of Christ's soon return is the touchstone for our motivation for Kingdom service in the short life span God has given to each of us. What a difference it would make in our lives, and in the outreach of our Church, if we could share the objective of Abraham as recorded in Hebrews: "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

We are living in a crisis time in the history of mankind. All about us (are) the clear signs that this old world cannot survive if this present course is maintained. Earlier this year the attention of the world was focused on the war in the Middle East. Even the secular press was writing about the war as the possible Armageddon. Christians were excited, and sensing that we are definitely near the end. But suddenly the war was at an end, and our soldiers are coming home. The flurry of news reports and even Christian periodicals are no longer maintaining the same posture on the urgency of the time. We do not hear Christians speaking as openly about the nearness of Christ's coming. Are we allowing ourselves to slide back into the old routines? Can we continue to live and go about our business as though we are going to be here forever? When Jesus comes we will leave behind all "these things" that we strive for so diligently. What have we invested in for eternity that will be waiting for us on the other side?

As we meet for this Conference, one of the greatest concerns is that of financial shortfall. Is it not inconsistent with our profession of faith to be in such a situation? We are Christians, living with eternity in view, and the ministries God has entrusted us with are not receiving sufficient support to complete the tasks committed to them. Surely, we have lost our first love. The desperate need among us is that we cry out to God that He would revive us!

—Rev. Richard Snipstead,  
from *The President's Report*

God has blessed us richly in providing the necessary funds, enabling us to plan for the construction of our new administration building. It has been a great joy to witness the loving response of so many, with gifts ranging in size from "the widow's mite" to the largest gifts ... gifts pledged and given total 75% of the estimated cost of the building ... We now pray that the balance of funds needed would come so that it would not be necessary to loan any monies. God is able to provide!

—Mr. Clifford Johnson, *Rise Up and Build Committee report*

Our youth need all the prayers and encouragement we can give them in Christ, that they might know, grow and stand firm in Christ. —Rev. Joel Rolf, from the report of the Youth Board Chairman

"Teach me Your way, O Lord, and I will walk in Your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear Your name" (Psalm 86:11). This is the theme for next month's biennial National Luther League Convention meeting at Estes Park, Colorado. ... (July 15-19). This will undoubtedly be the single largest AFLC gathering to date.

—Rev. Terry Wold, from the report of the President of the Luther League Federation

Part of the leadership training program is to train youth to help other youth, thereby giving them a viable ministry in the local congregation and community. Leadership training will involve goal-setting, the planning of meetings, the execution and evaluation of the meetings, together with the teaching of evangelism and outreach. The concept is not a new one to youth work. It is the concept of the youth "owning" their own ministry. It is not, therefore, a ministry that is "run" or "dominated" by adults. It is one that belongs to the young people. It is one of equipping them for ministry and discipleship.

—Rev. Dennis Gray, from the report of the Youth Resources Director

I see a need for evangelism in two ways. (The) first is that every person born again in the AFLC become(s) an evangelist by putting to full use the gifts of the Holy Spirit given them, witnessing to what Christ has done in your individual life. Along with this, (we need) the pastors who will, without fear, preach the whole Gospel, pointing out over and over ... that there is a heaven to gain and a hell to flee, and that everyone must be born again.

—Pastor Lyle Twite, from his report as Chairman of the Evangelism Commission

## Conference

It was hoped that the hymnal would be available by the 1992 Annual Conference. However, since we slowed down the process to get greater quality and since securing copyrights and final editing are monumental projects, 1993 is a more realistic date. If we pray and have the special blessing of Jesus, it might come sooner if He so wills.

—Rev. Thomas Olson, report of the Hymnal Committee

We also maintain a fund to help needy pastors or widows who at some time or other may find themselves in need of assistance. This fund is called Help In Service (HIS). Each October, an offering is taken, which is designated for this fund. At the time of this writing, \$2,000 in assistance has been granted to a family ...

—Mr. Eugene Nesland, from the report of the Chairman of the Pension Board



With deep gratitude to God for His abundant provision, AFLC Schools met all expenses and obligations for fiscal year 1990-91. We thank God for faithful supporters who continue to see the value of church-based and church-supported Christian education.

The board is also moving ahead with plans to increase our faculty by restoring the full-time music faculty position, which has been vacant for the last six years.

—Rev. Kenneth Moland, from the report of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees

## Quotes

Home Mission efforts and funds have reached out into twelve states and Canada in the year past. Thirty-four congregations have received assistance by way of finances and advice.

When climbing a steep grade, a plateau is a welcome sight. It offers opportunity to look back and appreciate the progress thus far. It gives time and place to plan for what is ahead and it allows for adjustments. We have needed such a time following the rapid growth over the past several years. Adjustments are being made in the area of finances and in supplying pastors to new congregations. However, we must not be content to remain on this plateau. The great commission is ever before us, lost souls are all around us, and time is limited. We must press on!

—Rev. Eldon Nelson, from his report as Director of Home Missions

The task before the Stewardship Board is to **inform** and **instruct**. ... Biblical stewardship — relationship with the Lord. May what breaks the heart of God break our hearts. May we see the fields ready for harvest and enter that harvest with all diligence. Surely the night will soon be upon us when all harvesting will cease. That which was not reaped will be lost. The faithful steward will hear "well done, good and faithful servant."

—Rev. Marlyn Kruse, from the report of the Chairman of the Stewardship Board

Gerhard Frost writes, "The act of teaching is the art of getting out of God's way. The best teacher is he who most truly transports each individual into the presence of God ... Let us stress the Speaker and His right to speak." The Ambassador Sunday School curriculum is designed and, we hope, prepared so that God can speak and apply His saving and sanctifying grace through His Word. Only the God of our salvation can lead us into the way of salvation. It is best when we get out of the way and wait on Him.

—Rev. Wesley Langaas, from his report as Chairman of the Board of Publications and Parish Education

It has been encouraging to have 153 AFLC congregations using The Ambassador Sunday School Series. ... Our ministry remains the same: to provide Biblical, Lutheran teaching/devotional materials to assist in the spiritual development of all of our AFLC congregations.

—Katha M. Tjelta, from the report of the Director of Parish Education

... How good to find in our Lord renewed strength and true encouragement! It is in "waiting on the Lord" through His nourishing Word that we are enabled to press on. The promises of God, centered in His forgiving grace in Christ, are what sustain us. Through these gracious promises, the Holy Spirit strengthens our faith. We are helped to look above the circumstances of life to the One who holds us securely in His gracious care.

—Dr. Francis Monseth, from his report as Dean of the Seminary

Philippians 3:12-14 gives us three words that encourage us for the challenge before us in the 1990s ... Focus, Forget, and Forging Ahead.

—Rev. Allen Monson, from the report of the Chairman of the Home Missions Committee

I recently heard a statement that reminded me that budgets are not fundraising tools, but rather statements of how money will be spent if it is received. All areas of our AFLC are faith missions, including the Bible School. We are dependent on the gifts of the people of God to survive.

—Rev. Donald Greven, from his report as Dean of the Bible School

World Evangelization, the proclamation of the message of salvation through Jesus Christ to all of the world, beginning in our Jerusalem and reaching out even to the uttermost place is the primary task of the church. This is not the assignment or purpose for any small, select inner circle or group; this is the task for all of God's people. This is a responsibility to be shared by all!

—Rev. Eugene Enderlein, from the report of the Director of World Missions

Yes, doors are open for our spreading the message of Jesus Christ. Coupled with the open doors is the availability of missionary candidates now. Four committed Christian couples are now ready to answer God's call to go as missionaries of our AFLC.

Prayer is not an escape from responsibility; it is our response to God's ability. Let us devote ourselves to praying that God will continue to provide open doors and that He will deliver us from our adversaries so that many more souls may be won for Christ.

—Rev. Einar Unseth, from his report as Chairman of the World Missions Committee

# Elections to Corporations and Committees

## Schools Corporation (5 years)

Dr. Philip Dyrud, Middle River, Minnesota  
Mr. Tim Jones, Wyndmere, North Dakota  
Mr. Roger Peterson, Thief River Falls, Minnesota  
Rev. Harvey Jackson, Ishpeming, Michigan  
Mr. Stan Holmaas, Newfolden, Minnesota  
Rev. Terry Olson, Valley City, North Dakota  
Mr. Orville Qualley, Brockton, Montana  
Pastor Lyle Twite, Bagley, Minnesota  
Rev. James Ritter, Bloomington, Minnesota  
Rev. Terry Wold, East Grand Forks, Minnesota

## Missions Corporation (5 years)

Rev. Richard Anderson, Lakeville, Minnesota  
Mr. Robert Dietsche, Osceola, Wisconsin  
Rev. Steve Mundfrom, Sebeka, Minnesota  
Rev. Amos Dyrud, Crystal, Minnesota  
Mr. Harold Erickson, New York Mills, Minnesota  
Rev. Dale Mellgren, Tioga, North Dakota  
Rev. Allen Monson, Dickinson, North Dakota  
Mrs. Aini Myking, New Hope, Minnesota  
Mr. Joel Rogenes, Ely, Minnesota  
Mr. Halvor Knapp, Kandiyohi, Minnesota

## Association Retreat Center (ARC) Corporation

### — 1-year terms:

Mr. Dave Osland, Sycamore, Illinois  
Mr. Glenn Hodnefield, Radcliffe, Iowa  
Mr. Dennis Jacobsen, Minot, North Dakota  
Mr. Arden Jacobson, Oakdale, Minnesota  
Mr. Larry Johnson, Amery, Wisconsin  
Mr. Kevin Nessa, Garden City, Iowa  
Mr. Stewart Vachel, Williston, North Dakota  
Rev. Jay Eberth, Wyoming, Minnesota  
Rev. Brian Davidson, Rice Lake, Wisconsin  
Rev. John Rieth, Amery, Wisconsin

### — 2-year terms:

Mr. Jim Boe, Ottawa, Illinois  
Mr. Harlan Clark, Amery, Wisconsin  
Mr. Steve Johnson, Upsala, Minnesota  
Mr. Bill Buck, Sinai, South Dakota  
Mr. Richard Schauland, Marquette, Michigan  
Mr. Merle Jacobson, Amery, Wisconsin  
Mr. Cliff Seldal, DeKalb, Illinois  
Rev. Joel Rolf, Radcliffe, Iowa  
Rev. Robert Lee, Newark, Illinois  
Pastor Ken Thoreson, Beloit, Wisconsin

### — 3-year terms:

Mr. Steve Walters, Yorkville, Illinois  
Mr. Rod Kjersten, Roseau, Minnesota  
Mr. Tim Kjeseth, Amery, Wisconsin



Directors of the Association Retreat Center, Bob and Carol Dietsche.

Mr. Erling Langness, Ishpeming, Michigan  
Mr. John Presteng, Grafton, North Dakota  
Dr. Peter Dyrud, Plymouth, Minnesota  
Mr. Luis Valdez, Maple Grove, Minnesota  
Mr. Allen Anderson, Amery, Wisconsin  
Rev. Keith Quanbeck, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

Rev. Rob Lewis, Newark, Illinois

### — 4-year terms:

Mr. Ralph Beyer, Hopkins, Minnesota  
Mr. Halvor Knapp, Kandiyohi, Minnesota  
Mr. Lee Schierkolk, Prairie Farm, Wisconsin  
Mr. Gordie Newell, Cumberland, Wisconsin  
Mr. Harry Johnson, Chatham, Michigan  
Mr. Don Berge, Fargo, North Dakota  
Rev. Richard Long, Chillicothe, Illinois  
Rev. Tonnes Pollestad, Coon Rapids, Minnesota

Rev. Brian Pearson, Arlington, South Dakota  
Rev. Michael Brandt, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

### — 5-year terms:

Mr. Allen Dalzer, Shoreview, Minnesota  
Mr. Roger VanSomeren, Amery, Wisconsin  
Mr. John Kyrola, Forest Lake, Minnesota  
Mr. Jerome Stulen, Spicer, Minnesota  
Mr. Iver Berge, Fargo, North Dakota  
Mr. Jim Ray, Esko, Minnesota  
Mr. Ralph Johnson, Upsala, Minnesota  
Mr. Brad Folsland, Oldham, South Dakota  
Rev. Tom Tuura, McIntosh, Minnesota  
Rev. Peter Bergstadt, Stacy, Minnesota

## Christian Academic Board:

Rev. Michael Crowell, Wichita Falls, Texas  
Rev. Del Palmer, Thief River Falls, Minnesota  
Rev. Ralph Tjelta, Blaine, Minnesota  
Mrs. Bev Enderlein, Plymouth, Minnesota  
Mrs. Karen Haugen, Cokato, Minnesota  
Mr. Joel Baker, Bloomington, Minnesota  
Mr. Chuck McKeen, Lakeville, Minnesota

## 1992 Annual Conference Committees

### Nominating Committee

#### — Eastern North Dakota:

Mr. Ray Anderson, Grand Forks, North Dakota

#### — Western North Dakota-Eastern Montana:

Mr. Randy Peterson, Tioga, North Dakota

#### — South Dakota-Nebraska:

Mr. Irvin Tryggstad, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

#### — Northwestern Minnesota:

Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minnesota

#### — North Central Minnesota:

Mr. Roger Tollefson, Beltrami, Minnesota

#### — Southwest Central Minnesota:

Mr. Harold Erickson, New York Mills, Minnesota

#### — Lake Superior:

Mr. Clifford Johnson, Esko, Minnesota

#### — Minneapolis:

Rev. Joel Rolf, Radcliffe, Iowa

#### — Northern Michigan:

Mr. Walter Peterson, Ishpeming, Michigan

## — Arizona-Southern California-Texas:

Mr. Ernest Schneider, Wichita Falls, Texas

## — West Coast:

Mr. Dale Smith, Lake Stevens, Washington

## — Eastern:

Mr. Roy Cloughen, Massapequa Park, New York

## — Illinois:

Mr. Merv Mathison, DeKalb, Illinois

## Committee No. 1 (Administration):

Rev. John Mundfrom, Eben Junction, Michigan  
Rev. Lynn Wilson, Roslyn, South Dakota  
Mr. Tom Caouette, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota  
Mr. Oliver Landsverk, Fosston, Minnesota  
Mr. Alfred Tollefson, Astoria, Oregon

## Committee No. 2 (Schools):

Rev. Harvey Jackson, Ishpeming, Michigan  
Rev. Del Palmer, Thief River Falls, Minnesota  
Mr. Gerald Berg, Greenbush, Minnesota  
Mr. Roger Tollefson, Beltrami, Minnesota  
Mr. Ralph Peterson, Portland, North Dakota

## Committee No. 3 (Missions)

Rev. Paul Larson, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota  
Rev. Tom Tuura, McIntosh, Minnesota  
Mr. Todd Peterson, Thief River Falls, Minnesota  
Mr. Wayne Floan, Fertile, Minnesota  
Mr. Joel Rogenes, Ely, Minnesota

## Committee No. 4 (Publications, Parish Ed., Youth):

Rev. Leroy Flickinger, Newfolden, Minnesota  
Rev. Brian Pearson, Arlington, South Dakota  
Mr. Albin Haugen, McVie, North Dakota  
Mr. John Kyrola, Forest Lake, Minnesota  
Mr. Doug Wagley, New Hope, Minnesota

## Committee No. 5 (Stewardship and Pensions):

Rev. Charles Knapp, Karlstad, Minnesota  
Rev. Larry Haagenson, Buxton, North Dakota  
Mr. Bill Buck, Sinai, South Dakota  
Mr. Dwight Jacobson, Dickinson, North Dakota  
Mr. Roland Meyer, Paxton, Illinois

## Colloquy Committee:

Rev. Peter Franz, Mankato, Minnesota  
Rev. Harvey Jackson, Ishpeming, Michigan  
Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minnesota  
Rev. John Strand, Remer, Minnesota  
Rev. Terry Olson, Valley City, North Dakota

## Budget Analysis Committee (3-years):

Mr. Jim Boe, Ottawa, Illinois  
Mr. Lloyd Carlson, Eagen, Minnesota

## National WMF Officers:

### — Second Vice President:

Mrs. George (Helen) Knapp, Willmar, Minnesota

### — Treasurer:

Mrs. Ed (Jan) Preitauer, Fergus Falls, Minnesota



# Conference Prayer Resolutions

## Praise and Thanksgiving

- for the past years of rich fellowship that we have experienced through His love and guidance, and for bringing us together at the ARC for the annual conference.
- for the "encouragement of the Scriptures" that we experience.
- for six new congregations: Faith, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota; First, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Immanuel, Springfield, Missouri; Salem, Salem, Alabama; Faith, Fairbury, Nebraska; and Shepherd of the Valley, Palmdale, California.
- for all of our AFLC congregations.
- for the various activities of the church at large during the past year (installations, dedications, anniversaries, etc.).
- for the men being ordained into the Christian ministry.
- for Rev. Richard Snipstead and his labor of love in leadership for the AFLC.
- for the new pastors on the clergy roster: Rev. Erwin Brandt, Rev. Peter Bergstadt, Rev. Willard Conradson, and Dr. Howard Franzen.
- for Mr. Ernie Miedema and his twelve years of faithful service as Business Administrator and Director of Development.
- for the people who have supported the Building Fund campaign.
- for the hard work and dedication of all members of the "Rise Up and Build" committee, and for the members of the Administration Building Committee and their diligent efforts in bringing us to the point where we can soon begin construction.
- for the dedication of Pastor Tom Olson and Pastor Brian Davidson and others who have worked faithfully on the Hymnal Committee.
- for calling our schools into existence and preserving them by His grace.
- for our Board and Faculty who are training men and women in sound doctrine and preparing them for work in God's kingdom.
- for our schools' uncompromising

"With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints." Ephesians 6:18

stand on God's Word in the conditions of this present day.

- for the good enrollment and near record graduating class of the Bible School.
- for answered prayer (in supplying Dr. Craig Jennings as a new faculty member).
- for faculty, choirs, and Gospel teams who have served in congregations.
- for the uniqueness that each student has brought into our fellowship.
- for the Bible School Alumni Association and its director, Kari Lane.
- for the seminary graduates who have been added to the growing list of partners in the Gospel.
- for the various opportunities for continuing education for pastors and laymen.
- for years of service of Mrs. Jeff (Lisa) Holman as seminary secretary and librarian.
- for the privilege of proclaiming the Gospel both here and abroad.
- for His mercy in the speedy resolution of the Gulf Crisis, and for the special "open doors" of opportunity provided our military chaplains during the crisis.
- for what has been accomplished (during 25 years in Brazil).
- for those who have served as short-term workers and teachers, especially for Sonja Dahl, Janet Gray, and Todd and Barb Schierkolk.
- for the Miriam Infant Home at Campo Mourao.
- for the Tom Baker family, the three men ordained at the Brazil annual conference, and the three new men at the seminary in Brazil.
- for the work and workers at Leon, Aguascalientes, Irapuato, Celaya, and Obregon, Mexico.
- for the efforts of groups from California, Montana and Arizona, who went to Mexico to help construct a church building.
- for Abiding in the Vine Free Lutheran Fellowship, Pine City, Minnesota; and Neighborhood Bible Church, Oceanside, California, our two new mission churches for this year.
- for the efforts of our Board of Parish Education.
- for Rev. Robert Lee, Mrs. Wayne

Hjermstad, and all who contribute to *The Lutheran Ambassador's* content and production.

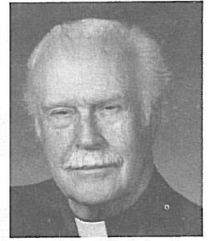
- for the time and service rendered by the members of the Youth Board, Pastor Dennis Gray, and the Luther League Federation officers.
- for providing Mr. Robert Halvorson for the position of assistant youth director and for the 1991 Cornerstone Gospel Team.
- for the faithful and dedicated work of the Stewardship Board this past year and for their continued effort in making available stewardship materials for local congregations.
- for the dedicated and faithful service of Dr. Wayne Sletten on the board.
- for the blessings received at the annual conference.
- for the wisdom and working of the Holy Spirit.
- for His inerrant Word that never changes.
- for the loving hospitality which was extended to us by the staff at the ARC.
- for the dedicated help from the Amery Free Lutheran Congregation and others who contributed to the well-being of the conference.
- for all those who shared God's Word so meaningfully through the spoken Word and music during conference.

## Petitions

- that God would enable us to continue to faithfully reach out to an anxious world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- for the successful conclusion of the new Administration Building project.
- for more laborers and for our seminary.
- for the meeting of specific needs such as the tiling in the basement of the girls' dormitory, as well as the maintenance of the cook's house.
- for AFLC missionaries, pastors and leadership, and other AFLC congregations (using a "prayer card" file listing all such prayer needs).
- for the national church in Brazil as they seek to reach their goal of doubling by the end of the decade by the grace of God.
- for a speedy resolution to the legal action against the AFLC.
- Home Missions as we seek to fulfill the vision of further growth.
- for every aspect of the 1991 Luther League Convention and those who work with young people throughout the year.

Cameron Townsend, the founder of Wycliffe Bible Translators, had a favorite saying about the life of a missionary: *"Living from hand to mouth is not so bad when it's God's hand!"*

# The Progress of the Pilgrim



—by Dr. Howard B. Franzen  
Hastings, Nebraska

## To Eternal Life

**W**e have been examining the traumas, the crises, the conflicts, that are the constant companions of the Christian during the course of her or his life. Since this is the last article on matters dealt with in John Bunyan's book, "Pilgrim's Progress," I would assure you that on his life's journey from Lost to Saved, Bunyan's main character, Christian, did arrive at the Celestial city. He was saved. At one point in his life, Christian asked his friend, Hopeful, what he understood about Jesus Christ. Hopeful told him that, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He is the end of the Law for righteousness to every one that believes. He died for our sins, and rose again for our justification. He loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood. He is our Mediator between God and us. He ever liveth to make intercession for us."

John Bunyan in his unique style of writing gives us a plain statement of Jesus and Jesus' role. Bunyan declares Jesus' role as Mediator. Here Jesus is portrayed as the Apostle John saw Jesus as a Mediator, an advocate, a defense lawyer, as one who "stands in the way" between the sinner and God

the Eternal Judge. As Mediator Jesus covers our sins and as our advocate (I John 2:1), pleads our case and obtains for us an acquittal. Our sins are forgiven and we have the assurance of eternal life. I used the words "stand in the way" as they apply to Jesus' role as Mediator. Now I wish to use the term "stand in the way" to represent the basic problem of people and their relationship to God: namely, the danger of the wrong thing standing between them and God.

This was brought to my attention this spring at my granddaughter's university graduation at which the featured speaker stated that the aim of the school was to have the student challenge the traditional. During my college teaching days, I also taught my students to challenge the traditional. If this were not done, there would be no scientific nor inventive research. However, challenging the traditional carries a danger of rejecting the traditional in favor of the new. The aim of the challenge is to integrate, to synthesize the traditional with the new. Without this fusion, yesterday's beliefs and faith system become today's agnosticism. If this be the case, then instead of growing through my challenge, I am now less and less certain of more and more things in life. Challenge then becomes a barrier between us and God.

Christian in Bunyan's book grew in his faith not because he challenged the absolutes of life, but rather the absolutes of life challenged him. He accepted the ultimate Truth of life. He agreed with it and integrated it into his life. As he dealt with each crisis he eliminated one more barrier between him and God. One less thing stood in the way.

The church has pointed out to us, regarding the quality of life, seven personality characteristics which have been called the Seven Deadly Sins. They have also been called the Seven Capital Sins because they are of primary importance and inevitably spawn a whole litter of other sins. These sins are Pride, Covetousness, Lust, Anger, Gluttony, Envy and Sloth. Not a pretty list, is it? But misery loves company. We all have them.

These deadly sins, if not resolved and confessed to Jesus, then stand in the way between the sinner and God. They become seed ground for agnosticism by which you do not know what you believe, and atheism by which you deny your beliefs. The Seven Deadly Sins do not mediate, they separate! You cannot thumb your nose at God and come out alive. Yes, one may challenge tradition if one has Jesus for Mediator. For the Christian, born again and saved by the blood of Christ, challenge provides growth. With the gulf between humanity and God provided by the unconfessed Seven Sins and their "offspring," challenge means spiritual and eternal death. Then challenge of tradition, challenge of one's faith, the Bible, eternal Truth, stand in the way between God and the challenger.

For you who have followed the Progress of the Pilgrim, I hope some insights have been gained. Now let nothing else stand in your way between you and your God except Jesus, your Mediator. Amen.

from a  
counselor's  
study



**OUR HELP COMES FROM THE LORD**

19. Note that the storm beats on both houses equally. Does a firm foundation assure us that we, and our children, will be exempt from the storms of life?

20. What are some of life's storms?

21. Who is master in the midst of our storms? Mark 4:35-41

**Our goal should be to give our children such a firm foundation that their faith will not even be shaken by the storms which will inevitably come.**

22. As we build on God's Word, this Word gives continuing strength. Psalm 37:31; 119:11, 105

23. The Word also comes to us through the sacraments. The Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ as a means of imparting comfort and strength to His own. John 6:56; 1 Corinthians 10:16

24. There is forgiveness for past failings. Psalm 130:3, 4

25. Read Psalm 46:1 and Romans 8:35-39 as promises for troubled times.

**"As you come to Him, the Living Stone...you also, like living stones, are built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood..."**

— 1 Peter 2:4, 5

Next month we will study **"THE HIDDEN TREASURE — THE VALUABLE PEARL"**

HYMN SUGGESTION: **"HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION"**  
(Concordia #202)

## Wise and Foolish Builders

Jesus concludes His Sermon on the Mount with this parable. He sought to impress upon His listeners the fact that He and His Words were foundational in all spiritual building. He was not speaking to merely entertain His audience.

Our Lord has compared the Christian life to a growing seed. Here He compares life to building a house, an illustration from everyday experience. Jesus was a carpenter; His earthly father was also a carpenter. He speaks of two men who built houses; and of a sudden, fierce storm, a frequent occurrence in Palestine.

This parable is recorded in Matthew 7:24-27 and Luke 6:46-49.

*We are all builders. We are personal builders. We are home builders and we are church builders. What kind of foundations are we laying?*

### WE CAN BE WISE BUILDERS

1. It is not enough to merely hear God's Word. What must our response be if we desire to be wise builders?

2. Who is working as we hear and read the Word? John 16:13

What are the words of warning found in Ephesians 4:30 and 1 Thessalonians 5:19?

3. What foundational thing does the Spirit through the Word work in us first of all? Romans 10:17

What results from a true and living faith? James 2:14-17

## THE PARABLES OF JESUS

4. How did Christ show His concern for children? Mark 10:13-16

5. What command did He leave with us? Matthew 28:18-20

6. In view of this command, what is the responsibility of parents, baptismal sponsors, and the Christian congregation? John 21:15c; Ephesians 6:4

**"Infant baptism is a comfort beyond any other, but it is also a responsibility beyond any other."**

— Luthardt

7. Is it possible to remain in the covenant of baptism? Philippians 1:6; Jude 24; Hebrews 7:24-25; Romans 8:27, 34

8. When does a person baptized as a child publicly confirm the covenant of his or her baptism?

In connection, read Matthew 10:32 and Romans 10:9, 10.

9. Discuss the following means by which we "hometeach" our children:  
By our words

By our example

Are our concerns biblical? or worldly? Matthew 18:6

Remember Moses' counsel to the Israelites in Deuteronomy 11:18-20.

10. What is the admonition of I Corinthians 3:10-11?

Is foundation-laying an easy task?

12. What reassuring message do we find in the parable for those whose spiritual house has been built on the person and words of Jesus Christ?

### **WE MAY BE FOOLISH BUILDERS**

13. Why do some builders neglect something as important as a good foundation?

14. Why do some neglect the foundations in building spiritual houses? Might the same reasons (q. 13) apply?

15. As people build their lives today, what are some foundations of sand?

16. In the parable, what happened to the house without a firm foundation? Note the descriptive word-picture.

17. Is the "crash" always visible? Does it always take place in this life? I Corinthians 3:12-15

18. Are we neglecting foundation-building in our children? Discuss how the following give them only "sand" on which to build:

◦Bible lessons that avoid controversial, but scriptural, (e.g. Lutheran) teachings

◦Unscriptural literature and lyrics

◦Worldly-type music

◦Poor example by teachers and church leaders

***We are building for eternity. Are our children being taught foundational truths? or mainly entertained by teachers and musicians?***

# About the Miriam Infant Home

The World Missions office has received numerous inquiries about the Miriam Infant Home, orphan support, and adoption of children to the United States.

Let me attempt to answer these questions on the basis of the best information we have.

We are grateful for those individuals and organizations that have expressed the desire to support individual children on a regular basis. Some individuals have already responded to the testimonies of children in past issues of the *Ambassador*.

The Miriam Infant Home in Campo Mourao, Brazil, is more correctly identified as a foster care home, rather than an orphanage. The children may be deserted or their circumstances may have required their removal from their home setting. They are cared for physically, spiritually, and emotionally by

our nationals in Brazil. The home is actually administered by the Brazil AFLC. The children are kept at the home until the authorities make arrangements for the placement of these children in suitable surroundings.

U.S. citizens, residents outside Brazil, can adopt Brazilian children. Brazil has rather flexible requirements for foreign adoption. Singles, living alone or with blood relatives, are considered.

Adoptive families must be approved by qualified adoption agencies or governmental entities in their home country.

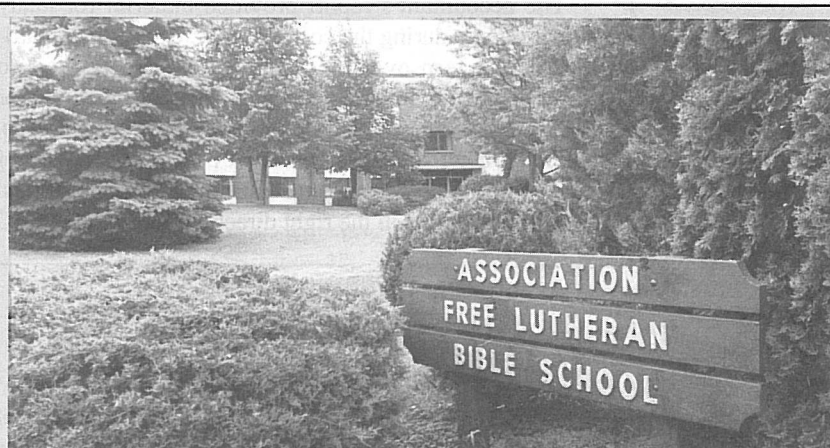
Applicants must be at least 21 years of age. Couples do not have to be married a specific number of years, but must prove marital stability. There must be a minimum of 16 years difference between the applicant and the adoptive child.

Both parents must travel to Brazil. The length of time in Brazil varies from 30 to 60 days. The adoption is finalized before the child leaves Brazil.

Preference in adoption is given to Brazilian families. There are many middle-class Brazilian families on the waiting list in the area served by the Miriam Infant Home; therefore, adoption outside of Brazil is not possible at the present time.

A number of children have already been ministered to at the Miriam Home and are now placed in stable, home settings. Because of the nature of this ministry, support designated for the children would pass from child to child as they passed through the home.

—Rev. Eugene W. Enderlein  
World Missions Director



## It's a growing season at AFLBS.

Register now while there's still time.  
Fall Quarter begins September 9, 1991  
3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441  
(612) 544-9501

## Ordination Anniversaries

**Ten Years:** Charles Knapp, Marlyn Kruse, Rob Lewis, Frank Rutherford

**Twenty Years:** Lloyd Bjornlie, Fred Carlson, Eugene Enderlein, Dennis Gray, Allen Monson, David Skordahl, Roy Warwick

**Thirty Years:** John Skeie



Rev. Laurel Udden, New Hope, Minnesota, is pictured with his nephew, lay pastor Paul Pillman, Zumbrota, Minnesota. Rev. Udden retired from full-time ministry on July 1, 1991, the same day his nephew began serving as a pastor.





The pre-school class. During the conference the ARC staff held classes for children and teenagers.



Joshua Picek, Pukwana, South Dakota, discovered a cool and quiet place to make paper airplanes while his parents, Bill and Merna, participated in conference business. The bleachers were a new addition to the Tabernacle.

### 1992-93 AFLC BUDGET

General Fund	\$ 295,450
Parish Education	62,385
Schools	358,160
Home Missions	433,616
World Missions	409,715
Capital Investments	30,000
The ARC	<u>20,000</u>
	\$1,609,326

### A CONFERENCE OF CONTRASTS

The 1991 Annual Conference has come and gone, and it is time to look back and consider the interesting contrasts that characterized this year's gathering.

The weather provided us with a wide-range of contrasts, from sweltering heat to a torrential downpour that almost made the ARC an ark indeed! The cooler temperatures that accompanied the rainfall, however, made most of the sessions in the crowded tabernacle quite tolerable. Several power failures plunged us into darkness for short amounts of time, leading one lady to comment when the sound system was silenced that perhaps she was not supposed to speak to the resolution after all!

The foremost issues of the conference, as expected, seemed to focus on fiscal concerns. The Thursday sessions saw the delegates review with surprising scrutiny the budget request of the General Fund, which was only passed after a vocal opposition made the outcome of two initial votes uncertain. The Co-ordinating Committee's proposal to eliminate the ten percent subsidy presently provided for the pastors' insurance program was soundly rejected, and the chairman of the committee was defeated for re-election.

The accountant's report provided material for many conversations during the coffee breaks, especially regarding his concern over the ARC deficit. There was no response to the conference from either the ARC Board or the Co-ordinating Committee regarding these concerns, but some members privately stated that this is an area of confusion and perhaps misunderstanding between boards. It should be a step in the right direction now for the ARC

## From the ARC

You came — you saw — and we're so grateful to all of you for coming and sharing in the excitement of conference. We are thankful for all the good help we had throughout the week and the weeks preceding conference time.

But there is still much to be done. Manna Inn has to be completed, tables and chairs purchased, repairs for campers bath house, more electrical outlets and spaces for campers. These are just a few of the projects to be completed in the near future.

There is a verse of scripture that says "Owe no man anything but to love one another," Romans 13:8. It is the desire of the ARC Board to do just that. We want to have the funds in hand so these projects can be paid for as they are completed.

With your prayer support and financial contributions, we trust that all things will be done by next year's conference.

By the way — wasn't it great to be safe and dry in the ARC when the floods came!

— Cliff Seldal, Chairman, The ARC Board

to have a separate corporation, and fiscal clarification will be expected at the next annual conference.

The fiscally cautious mood of the first day of conference provided an interesting contrast to the decisions during the next two days, especially concerning missions. The delegates voted for a World Missions budget that would send two new couples to Brazil, and rejected an eight percent reduction of the Home Missions budget. A significant percentage of discussion during the conference centered on these areas of ministry, witnessing to the strength of the missions commitment that continues to characterize the AFLC.

Our conference of contrasts could also be seen in the discussion concerning Christian schools. Strong sentiments were expressed in favor of public school education, countered by equally fervent support for "Christian academic education." The proponents of home school education were not involved in the debate, but could have provided an even broader range of opinions. One resolution called for *The Lutheran Ambassador* to inform our people concerning these issues, which will be considered (with fear and trembling) for the future.

The theme of the annual conference was "The Encouragement of the Scriptures," and the spirit of the conference was an encouraging one, in spite of the contrasts ... perhaps even because of them. The face of our fellowship is a changing one, and a vital function of our yearly conventions is to frankly and freely discuss our differences in love, to the end that the Holy Spirit might bind our hearts together in one accord.

## A SLIP OF THE TONGUE

It was only a slip of the tongue in Pastor Les Galland's report to the conference as chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee, but the delegates recognized the change in wording as an important reminder.

Concerning the budget request of the committee, the report stated that the final decision is to be made by the conference, whereas Pastor Galland read that the final decision is to be made by the conscience!

This slip of the tongue needs to be remembered in relationship to all of the budget requests. The Home Mission budget, for example, increased by conference to eliminate an eight percent reduction proposed by the Budget Analysis Committee, is the same budget approved by conference for the past two years ... of which only seventy percent was received last year.

Conferences can set budgets, but only the consciences of individual Christians can determine if they will be met. The mission budgets especially were adopted this year with a real sense of commitment, but the test of this commitment will come now as the people who attended the conference go home and pass it on to their congregations.

## ABOARD THE ARC AGAIN IN 1992?

One of the benefits of our annual conferences is the opportunity to visit the different states and communities where the AFLC is located, as invitations to host the conferences come from various congregations each year. People are able to attend when the conference meets in their area who normally do not make the trip to distant states, and their ties to the national church family are strengthened. It is a good system that has served us well for almost a century, throughout the lifetime of the AFLC and the Lutheran Free Church (except during the final years of the LFC when most of the conferences met in Minneapolis).

This is why it was a surprise to receive an invitation to the ARC for the second year in a row, which would mean that the conference will be held for three consecutive years in the Twin Cities area. Why were there no other invitations? Surely there are communities that have adequate convention facilities, even if our attendance has grown too large for a church auditorium.

There are certainly valid economic reasons for returning to Osceola again next year, so that the conference expenses can profit one of our own ministries. There are personal reasons, too, for the ARC staff and the Amery congregation are terrific hosts. But it is also possible that the expense in terms of church-wide participation may be too great.

Perhaps the invitation will have to be accepted due to the absence of another. But one would hope that such a drastic change of practice for the AFLC might not be adopted without conference discussion and approval.

## A NECESSARY REMINDER

One reminder regarding our annual conferences is always in order. This year it was a missionary, Rev. Dan Giles, who called it to our attention.

"We are not a synod," he noted, and reminded us that all of our resolutions are only recommendations to the congregations. Reading from the Fundamental Principles, he stated that "agencies found desirable for conducting the joint activities of congregations, such as conferences, committees, officers, etc., cannot in a Lutheran free church impose any obligations or restrictions, exert any compulsions, or lay any burden upon the individual congregations, but have the right only to make recommendations to, and requests of, congregations and individuals."

It should not be necessary for each resolution to be prepared in such a way that the word "recommend" is always included. This is assumed in a free association. But sometimes we can assume too much, especially since many of our new members are accustomed to a synodical convention with considerable authority.

Thank you, Pastor Giles, for the reminder. Someone needs to say it, perhaps more often than we realize.

# The Last Word

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR  
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

Second-Class

## To All People Everywhere

*"Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed Christ to them" Acts 8:5*

Philip was a deacon and colleague of Stephen who was stoned to death. We read in Acts 8:1, that after the death of Stephen "a great persecution arose against the church ... and they were scattered ..." Philip went to a city in Samaria. He preached Christ to them, prayed with them, healed them in the name of Christ and a great revival followed in that city. So great was the spiritual movement that it came to the attention of the apostles, who had remained in Jerusalem to take care of the new, persecuted church. Soon, however, John and Peter made a trip up to Samaria to see first-hand the work God was doing among a despised people.

There are some interesting and significant factors in the above text. Philip was a layman and, later in the Book of Acts, it tells us a little about his family. At the time of the above text, he must have been a very young man, probably recently married.

Some twenty-plus years later we find the Apostle Paul on his return from this third missionary journey, stopping off in Caesarea and visiting Philip and his family. Philip is now called "the evangelist" and referred to as one of the seven original deacons in Acts 21:8. He now has four grown daughters who are virgins and who serve the Lord as witnesses. It is said of them "they prophesied."

But now look back to young Philip many years earlier. He was on the run from persecution in Jerusalem. Can you visualize him and his wife fleeing with their little family toward Samaria, leaving almost everything behind and taking the babies into a strange country? They were on the run, yes, but not from God. Rather with God, they looked for open doors to preach Christ. Philip and his wife had determined to look for a safer place to raise their family. However, they had no intention of going about as secret agents of the

Lord. They made the sacrifice of moving, setting up a new home, relating to a new culture, all with the intention of sharing Christ.

The second significant factor I see in the text is that Philip, a layman, is the first recorded person to began sharing the Gospel outside of Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit, in His book the Bible, has found it important to have Dr. Luke record this fact. How then can you lay people ever feel justified in saying: "It's the clergy's job to witness, to evangelize and to make disciples!" From this and other recorded incidents and commands, I believe we can confirm that to be a witness unto **Him** is every Christian's job and principal purpose in life.

A third significant factor is this: Philip, a Jew, was sharing the Good News (Gospel) with the Samaritans who were cultural enemies of the Jews.

What a clear testimony to the love of Christ. The Master in John 4 took time to witness to a lonely Samaritan woman by a well, even though His disciples found the whole incident quite upsetting at the time. So, Christian friend, think of those groups or peoples, perhaps living near you, or in a certain part of town, or overseas who need the saving Gospel message.

Will you allow the love of Christ to break down the barriers and use you?



Rev. John H. Abel  
Missionary-  
Evangelist

### Help Wanted: Two Positions Open

Permanent part-time cook for the Association Free Lutheran Bible School. Also, a full-time housekeeper for the residence halls.

Please contact Rev. Les Galland, Business Administrator, 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard, Plymouth, MN 55441, (612) 545-5631.

### The Lutheran Ambassador Summer Schedule

Our readers are reminded that there will be only one issue per month published during July and August.

The next copy of *The Lutheran Ambassador* that you receive will be dated August 6.