

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

June 3, 1986

Taking time to smell
the flowers

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

at the MASTER'S FEET

A father's blessing

Every child desires his father's blessing. We have all observed the pained look in a child's eyes when a blessing is withheld. Sometimes a man or a woman goes through life with the gnawing feeling, "My father never blessed me." That mark of incompleteness has been difficult for many to live with.

But what is a father's blessing? What is this that combines with a mother's prayer to nurture wholeness, both emotionally and spiritually? The word "blessing" in the Scriptures is used in three separate ways. Primarily, of course, it refers to God blessing man, as in Genesis 1:22. Also, we read in the Psalms that man is to bless God, as in Psalm 103:1,2. And finally, man is to bless other men, even those who may persecute him.

When a father blessed his son in the Old Testament, he bestowed great favor upon him. The father's role

was to be an instrument in God's hand to channel divine blessing. We see from this that the greatest favor a father can show to his children is to assure them of God's love and faithfulness. If a child knows that his father cares about him in this way, he will realize that he is indeed a blessed person.

One of the most beautiful blessings bestowed in Scripture is that of Jacob upon his son Joseph, as recorded in Genesis 49:22-26:

"Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a spring; its branches run over a wall.

"The archers bitterly attacked him, and shot at him and harassed him; but his bow remained firm, and his arms were agile, from the hands of the mighty one of Jacob (from there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),

"From the God of your father who helps you, and by the Almighty who blessed you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb.

"The blessings of our father have surpassed the blessings of my ancestors up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills;

"May they be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the hand of the one distinguished among his brothers."

From generation to generation

Certainly Jacob must have thought often about the blessing he had received from his father Isaac. He had lived in the benefits of God's promises as passed on to him by Isaac. Now in Genesis, chapter 49, he was able to give the same to Joseph. According to Jacob's own appraisal, in verse 26, the blessings Jacob enjoyed through his life surpassed the blessings of his ancestors. The idea, then, is that the fullness

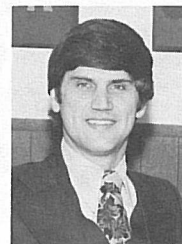
of God's blessings is to be multiplied and passed on from generation to generation. God's intention is that each new generation should know God's blessing in multiplied measure. Such should be the father's blessing.

I remember hearing Pastor Trygve Dahle talking to a young man about this responsibility of passing on a godly heritage. He said, "I knew your great-grandfather; he was a fine Christian; I knew your grandfather; he was a fine Christian; I know your father; he is a fine Christian; you had better not let it stop with you." That man is now a Christian and able to pass on a father's blessing to his own children.

God bless you, child

A number of years ago I visited a dear older saint in her home. After we had talked and read Scripture and prayed together, as I shook her hand in parting, I said, "God bless you." She replied, "O Pastor, that's the most wonderful thing anyone could say to me."

How exceedingly fortunate is the son or daughter who hears from a loving father's lips, "God bless you, child." As the father reflects on the abundant blessings of God's faithfulness, nothing is more important than to transmit that to his children. Thank God for fathers through whom God blesses us!



by Pastor
Kenneth
Moland

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THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

by Rev. Christian Oswood,
Hampden, N.Dak.

"Consider your call brethren" (I Cor. 1:26a).

All of us have many identities by which we are known. Some of us are farmers, others are factory workers, schoolteachers, store clerks, engineers, cooks, or nurses to name but a few of the professions or occupations in which we can be involved. There are those of us who are retired while others have not finished school and so have yet to enter the job market. Some of us teach Sunday School, serve as church organists, treasurers, trustees, deacons, choir members, or secretaries. There are people who are noted for their hospitality and friendliness, while others are more reserved, perhaps very quiet. About half of us are male, the other half female. Many of us live in large cities, others in open country.

Of all the various callings or situations in which we find ourselves, though, surely that of our family relationships ought to be considered among one of the highest and most important. All of us are related to other people biologically in some form or another. Everyone of us entered this world as a son or daughter. Most of us have brothers and/or sisters. The majority of us will be husbands, wives, mothers, and fathers, if we are not already.

Since this is so, it is very important for us to understand the nature of this high calling. We need to consider how we can rightly be involved in families. In order to do this, we should not just turn to human reasoning and logic, to the knowledge and wisdom of this world. We should turn primarily to the Word of God to see if it has anything to say about being a son or daughter, brother or sister, husband, wife, mother or father. Can the Scriptures teach us anything about family life?

Indeed, God does teach us about the family in His Word. The family did not begin with a human idea or notion, but it originated in the heart and mind of God, who at creation

made us male and female (Gen. 1:27). In fact, He performed the first marriage in the Garden of Eden as He created Eve and brought her to Adam (Gen. 2:22). It was the intention of the Lord of life that a man leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, that the two would become one flesh (Gen. 2:24). When we speak of the family, we are discussing something very near and dear to the heart of God. He is its originator, its source and creator.

"Can the Scriptures teach us anything about family life?"

As we look further in the Bible, we discover that not only did God bring the family into being, but it was His intention that He alone decide when and how it was to be dissolved, too. Death, not one's own free will, is to determine when its bonds are severed. One day a group of Pharisees asked Jesus if God permitted divorce. His response was, "For your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so . . . What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matt. 19:8,6). God, not our sinful free wills, is to determine when marriage is to end. This God does when one of the partners is taken by Him in death.

Another truth about the family is dealt with in the Sixth Commandment. Here we are told, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." This, of course, refers to moral uprightness in sexual matters, not only during marriage but also outside of it. In his explanation to this commandment, Luther said, "We should fear and love God so that we lead a chaste and pure life in Word and deed, and that husband and wife love and honor each other." Sex is a creation of God. He made it and He is to determine how it is to be used rightly.

When it is in His hand, it can be a beautiful and wonderful thing. Outside and apart from Him, it becomes a destructive and hurtful force.

In Ephesians 5:22-25, there is a lovely picture of what a God-pleasing relationship between husband and wife should be like. "Wives, be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior. As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her." Some would say that this gives the husband the right as a tyrant. Such is far from the truth. It is a call for each partner to give himself/herself totally to the other in complete surrender under the Lordship of Jesus. The wife is indeed to be

Pastor Christian S. Oswood

Christian S. Oswood was born in Seward, Alaska. He moved with his parents to the St. Paul, Minn. area at age two. He was confirmed by Rev. E.I. Dahle at Elmwood Lutheran Church, Minneapolis. He was graduated from Augsburg College, Minneapolis, and took his first two years of seminary at Augsburg, completing his work at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, after the merger. Ordained in 1964, he served ALC parishes at Vashon, Wash., Genesee, Ida., rural Benson, Minn., Jackson, Minn., and Maynard, Minn., before accepting the call to Zoar Lutheran Church, Hampden, N.Dak., where he began his work earlier this year. He is a member of the fellowship clergy roster of the AFLC. He married his wife, the former Charlotte Gerdeen, in 1964 and the couple has three sons, Mark, a student at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., Paul, a junior in high school, and Steven, in seventh grade.

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY . . .

subject to her mate, but he is to give himself as much to her as Christ gave Himself for the Church. Jesus went to the cross and died for His body, the Church. Surely no greater sacrifice can be asked of a loving husband. It is a sign of total giving and surrender. It is no wonder that the passage begins with the words, "Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Eph. 5:21).

"The birth of children brings with it a two-fold responsibility"

Out of this background, we can speak of children. When a husband and wife are blessed with sons and/or daughters, they are not to be seen as accidents of nature, by-products of the sex act. Rather, they are to be viewed as works of God. Psalm 127:3 declares, "Sons are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward." God told the prophet Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you" (Jer. 1:5a). Eve, the first mother, even though she had fallen into sin, realized Cain, her first son, was a gift from above as she announced at his birth, "I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord" (Gen. 4:1). She gave all credit to the Lord of life for the son that had come her way.

The birth of children brings with it a two-fold responsibility. First, there is the duty of the parent to the child. St. Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote, "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). Again, in Proverbs 3:12, we are told, "The Lord reproves him whom He loves, as a father the son in whom he delights." Parents are admonished to "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). Children are not to be encouraged to exercise their free will to do what pleases them. Like horses whose free will must be broken and replaced by the master's will in a loving and

gentle way in order to be useful, so, too, children need to learn that their free wills are to be shattered and replaced by the will of the Lord of life so that God's will, not their own, may be done through them. "Spare the rod and spoil the child" did not originate in *Poor Richard's Almanac*, but God's Word. "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him" (Prov. 13:24). All instruction is to be done in deep love and care, not in anger, for "the anger of man does not work the righteousness of God" (Jas. 1:20). Finally, parents, above all, should be an example of God-filled, God-controlled living to their children so that it might not be said of them as was said of Amon, King of Judah, "And he did what was evil in the sight of the lord, as Manasseh his father had done" (II Kings 21:20).

The other side of the coin is, of course, the duty of children to parents, which centers in the Fourth Commandment: "Honor thy father and mother." Proverbs 23:22 adds, "Hearken to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old." Malachi 1:6a tells us "a (wise) son honors his father." Not only are parents to instruct and care for their heirs. They are to be respected, loved, and esteemed by their children in return, so that their offspring are a joy rather than a sorrow.

Truly the lord through His Word tells us much about the family. Being a family member is not to be taken lightly. In fact, Jesus' words from the Sermon on the Mount, "You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matt. 5:48), apply to God's teaching about the family as fully as any other area of life. This lofty picture is to actually happen in reality, not just in words. How can this occur? There is but one way. We must confess our human inability to fulfill the sacred calling as members of a family. Then we are to flee to Jesus so He can put Himself within us to do and be in and through us what we will never

"Being a family member is not to be taken lightly."

be able to do and be for ourselves. As He tells us in John 15:5, "He who abides in Me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, *for apart from Me you can do nothing.*" God paints this lovely picture of family life and then drives us to the end of ourselves and our abilities, and to Jesus, that in Christ we may be the father, mother, son, daughter, sister, or brother that He wills. What is impossible for human beings of themselves is more than possible for God, as He is our wholeness (Matt. 19:26b).

How is it with you and me? have we seen God's beautiful picture of the family? Is it being fulfilled among us? If not, may we be driven to Christ that He may enter into us, take hold of us, and bring it about. Of ourselves we cannot achieve it, but by God's grace and mercies alone in Jesus, it's more than possible. May He indeed be our only hope and stay in this matter as in all else, day by day and moment by moment.

Grace Lutheran in Valley City, N. Dak., Holds Youth Retreat

On Presidents Day weekend, Feb. 16-17, the Grace and Zion youth group held a retreat at the Dakota Inn in Jamestown, N. Dak. The other churches in the Eastern North Dakota District were invited and 63 young people and 20 adult chaperones attended. Pastor Verle Dean of Sedan, Minn., shared the Word of God with us as well as a number of young people ministered unto us through skits, songs, dramas and testimonies. They sang, went swimming, bowled, ate and watched a very good film together. It was a time of excellent activity as well as a time for us to come aside to reflect on our spiritual life.

fellowship corner

HE CARES FOR ME

I was leaning forward across the car seat holding my father's head while my husband drove and my mother sat beside me in the back seat praying. I saw the color drain from Dad's face and watched him try to speak just before he breathed his last, dying in my arms.

I awoke with a start, here I was reliving those moments over and over, and along with the memory came the tormenting voice of Satan, taunting, "He wasn't saved. I have him now."

On a beautiful Sunday morning, May 1, 1977, my parents, my husband and I enjoyed a second cup of coffee after sending our six and one-half-year-old daughter off to Sunday School. Dad wasn't feeling very well as he had overdone the day before while planting trees. After church, he was intending on taking our three-year-old son fishing as a birthday treat, but his plan never materialized.

Suddenly Dad began to have trouble breathing, so he leaned against the open window to try to get more air. We tried calling the physician's assistant to see if he could prepare a shot that he had administered for the labored breathing before, but we couldn't reach him. I asked Dad if there was anything we could do and his answer was, "Just *pray!*", as we got in the car to go the 55 miles to the closest hospital. We dropped our son off at the neighbors and asked if they could pick up our daughter and watch them until we returned.

Before we had gone five miles, Dad's head fell to the side, so I leaned forward and across the seat to hold him erect. I was praying continually, but watching someone you love die is extremely draining emotionally, so as a release from tension I began to sing the chorus: "Thank You, Lord, for saving my soul; Thank You, Lord, for making me whole: Thank You, Lord, for giving to me Thy great salvation so rich and free." After I had sung it a couple times Dad opened his eyes,

looked at me and tried to speak, then slipped away.

The remainder of the day was an ordeal. We went to my oldest sister's home just outside of town and called my other two sisters and seven brothers. One of my brothers came to be with us and to comfort Mom as best he could. That evening I finished the calls to the relatives from a distance and to friends from our home. Several of the family would be going to make the funeral arrangements together the next day.

After the flurry of activity which had pretty well occupied me all day, the shock finally settled in. I lay in bed weeping, too emotionally wrought to sleep, and prayed, asking the usual questions of "Why?" and "What happens now?" Finally I dropped off to sleep only to relive the entire trip to town over and over. Seeing again the color drain from Dad's face and watching him try to speak to me before he died wasn't nearly as bad as hearing the taunts of Satan: "I have him now" and "He never asked for salvation and now it is too late!" My faith was being stretched to the breaking point and I cried to the Lord for help.

The Lord brought to mind some important facts for me to cling to. Dad had written asking for a booklet on "How to be Saved" and I believe he had asked the Lord into his heart just days before. In James 4:7, Scripture tells us to submit ourselves to God, resist the devil and he will flee from us, and Jesus had used the words, "Get thee behind me, Satan," so I did the same. Praise the Lord! He gave me sweet peace and I could rest in the promises of God: "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31); "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9); and "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In my

Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto Myself; that where I am there ye may be also" (John 14:1-3).

Satan did flee and the Lord gave me the strength to make it through the following days. He tried to present himself and his taunts one more time about three months later but I used the same Scriptures and he immediately retreated.

In looking back, I realize that I began a much closer walk with the Lord at that time. "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" became my theme verse and it reminds me that God truly cares for me!

Venoy Tenold
Reva, S.Dak.

NEED FOR PRAYER

We want to share a very special time we had in our church (Section Ten, Cumberland) last night.

Our pastor (Tom Baker) has set aside the last Sunday night in each month as our special prayer meeting night for revival in the AFLC and for other things the Lord lays upon our hearts.

God says in His Word: "If My people . . ." (II Chron. 7:14).

If we are truly "His people" through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and know Him personally as our Savior, then we can claim the rest of the verse.

We hope and pray we'll have special times of prayer in all of our meetings, Bible camps, WMF rallies, conferences, etc., and may He, the Lord, call out "His people" in each of our congregations for special times of prayer. Ephesians 3:20,21.

Mr. and Mrs. Orrin Nyhus
Almena, Wis.

"For everything there is a season . . ." (Ecclesiastes 3:1)



Letters to the editor

Too Concerned with Padded Pews?

It has been a little over a month now since our AFLBS choir came to Zion at Tioga to give their testimony in word and song. I just wanted to write and express what a joy it was to have these young Christians so filled with the love of Christ and so thankful for what God is doing in their lives through our Bible School at Minneapolis.

Sad to say we do not have many of this age group filling our pews on Sunday mornings. Somewhere between confirmation and marriage and then when there are little ones to be enrolled in our Sunday School, we find them absent at our worship service. How thankful we as members of our AFLC congregations should be for our Bible School and Seminary. But are we? I am convinced that if our schools and missions and, yea, our AFLC were really dear to our hearts, there would never be a problem of reaching our financial goals each year. If the *Christians* within our AFLC were giving 10% off the top of their gross income there would be no need to cut budget goals. Just think what could be done in Home and World Missions. How about a youth director and an evangelist to replace our dear departed brother, Pastor Pentti?

Are we too concerned with padded pews and new churches within our own congregations so that we are not willing to help those who are crying for someone to come and shepherd them in beginning a new home mission church or a group within our AFLC? Oh, that we might claim the promise in Malachi 3:10. Like Pastor Trygve Dahle used to say — "God's shovel is so much bigger than ours." How about going to our dictionaries to see what the word *tithe* means. Then going to our Bibles and see what God has to say about tithing and what ten per cent

means? He asks for ten per cent. Beyond that is sacrificial. Oh, that we might thank and praise Him for the blessings we have received through our AFLC and then take inventory to see "what am I giving?"

Grace Syverson
Tioga, N.Dak.

GOD'S SPRING

The magnetism of God's spring
Draws blood to branches, birds to wing,
And flowers split melody in air
To burst and spill their fragrance there.

Dale Stone
Maple Grove, Minn.

The Weakness of the Church

Is it not true that the weakness of the church today lies in the many members who call themselves Christians but live as though they were of the world, with a right to full participation in all its sins and pleasures? So, at least, it seems to me.

John P. Milton

Filled With God's Will

We must earnestly and diligently study the Word of God and pray not simply that we may learn to know the Will of God, but that we may be filled with it and always walk in His way and continue in it, and so seek strength and comfort.

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

A Pastor's Letter to his Confirmands

Dear Scott and Billie Jo,

Confirmation is *not* a Sacrament. There is nothing in the Bible that states that we must be confirmed. Nor is confirmation a graduation, where we leave behind such things as Sunday School, youth activities, worship services, attendance at special meetings, Bible study or any other events of the church. Neither is it a way of salvation where one would say, "I have been confirmed, therefore I am saved."

So what is confirmation? It is a rite of the church that follows a definite time in the study of God's Word and His plan of salvation for lost and condemned man through the atoning work of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Because of this instruction there is a greater responsibility to God, to follow His ways, believing on the Lord Jesus for personal salvation, forsaking the ways of the world, and being soul-winners and builders in the local congregation which we believe to be the right form of the kingdom of God here on earth. Because God's Word is eternal, you have only begun to learn the truths that He has set forth. From this day on, you have a lifetime to learn more, *if* you continue what you have begun.

To you, Scott and Billie Jo, we pray God's blessing, because we are placing our hope upon you for the continuation of the spreading of God's precious Word, for souls to be saved, for the saved to be growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Upon you today, as well as on all our youth we are placing that trust. Our prayer is that you will be faithful to that end.

In His Service,
Henry Johansen, Pastor
Zion Lutheran Church
Willmar, Minn.

home mission news

Atonement Lutheran

Arlington, Washington, is a small town of about 4,000. Nestled in the foothills of the North Cascades and only 12 miles from Puget Sound, it is blessed with more than its share of natural beauty. With its cluster of stores on Main Street, Arlington has the traditional look and feel of a small town. It's a place where, if you live here long enough, you can't walk down five blocks of Main Street without seeing someone you know. In fact, Arlington would be just another small town, slowly becoming a backwater, were it not for some important factors. The major seaports of Seattle and Everett are less than an hour away, making this area a popular spot for new industry. Arlington is also growing at a faster rate than it has at any other time in its history. The new industry and the nation-wide trend of the population to relocate to milder climates explain why. These factors and others combine to make Arlington a small but fast growing community.

There are a number of churches within the city limits which would make the casual visitor conclude that Arlington is a community of churchgoers. Appearances can be deceiving. Some local wags say that the white stuff you see on the mountains in this part of the country is not snow, but paper, the church membership cards people leave behind when they cross over the mountains. Skiers know that this is only an ugly rumor, but statistically Washington ranks near the top of the nation in unchurched people. Sixty-nine percent of the people in Washington are unchurched; that's four percent behind number one Idaho. (If you're wondering who has the fewest number of unchurched, it's Utah. North Dakota is number two at 23%) The area around Arlington is typical. On an average Sunday about ten percent of the population is in church. If you're wondering why this figure is different than the

number of unchurched in Washington, just remember that there is a difference between being "churched" and going to church. Arlington also has a significant number of Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, other cults and Christian fringe groups. These people are included in the "churched" category for statistical purposes. What this should be telling you is that Washington and the Arlington area is a mission field. Many have heard of Christ, but few know him. The need for the Gospel here is very great.

The people of Arlington are not so different than those you find in every part of the country. Perhaps there is a bit more of the independent spirit here in the West. Washington is one of the few states that continue to resist state income tax; that may say something. This part of the state was first settled by men who came to cut trees. When the trees had been cleared, many came to farm. They were Scandinavians mostly, but the early settlers were joined by many others, mainly of European extraction. There are still loggers and farmers, but most of the people work as laborers in the small factories and

cottage industries. Recreation plays a large part in the lives of the residents. The natural beauty and resources are not wasted on this population. In many ways the ideal life is possible in this part of Northwest Washington and many people are trying to live it, but there is no hiding the emptiness and the need for the Gospel that is in so many hearts.

This is the setting for Atonement Lutheran Church. Like many AFLC churches, Atonement began with a few people who were concerned and alarmed by what they saw happening in the Lutheran Church. With the help of Elim Lutheran in Lake Stevens, they made contact with the Association and a new congregation was started. The first service was on November 28, 1982, at the Pioneer Hall. Seventeen people attended. Pastor Richard Anderson, then of Lake Stevens, handled preaching duties. He was assisted by Steve Gunderson, now with Wycliffe Bible Translators, and then by David Rasmus. In November, 1984, Pastor Anders Mathre, then retired, took over preaching duties until the next July. Currently, Atonement is being served by intern Stephen Snipstead.

In its first three and a half years, Atonement, like any home mission church, has seen its share of difficulties. As you can see from the above, the congregation has never had a



Mr. and Mrs. Brad Sorenson and Brock with Steve Snipstead at the future site of Atonement Lutheran.

Concerned Christians Help Make '85 Biggest Year Ever for Bible Societies

NEW YORK, N.Y. (ABS) — Christians, in a strong show of concern for their sisters and brothers who were still waiting for copies of the Word of God, united to make it possible in 1985 for the world's national Bible Societies to distribute more Scriptures as a team effort than in any previous year.

According to officials of the American Bible Society, factors such as a deeper commitment on the part of churches and church agencies in many countries, more intensive efforts by volunteers who wished to share the Word with their neighbors, and greater reliance on local production facilities coupled with improved channels of distribution, were instrumental in bringing the global aggregate to a record 548,754,501 Scriptures.

That was a 6.2 percent increase over the 1984 total and only the third time in which the United Bible Societies partnership, to which ABS belongs, passed the half-billion mark since its founding 40 years ago.

Even as the fighting eddied around them, volunteer workers in Nicaragua were bringing hope and comfort through the Scriptures to people numbed by the upset in their lives. The dedication of these volunteers was evident as they reached out with over two million Scriptures in Nicaragua alone and it contributed towards an overall 302,480,147 distribution for the UBS region covered by the three Americas — North, South, and Central — including the Caribbean basin.

Donors to the American Bible Society through their generous support helped make possible over 147 million of those copies of the Word in the Americas region alone and 267,867,-002 around the world.

In Africa, where more people committed their lives to Christ in 1985 than on any other continent, a stream of printed and recorded selections from the Bible helped win new converts.

The Bible Societies of the African countries, undeterred by poor local

transportation and a local lack of supplies, set themselves high targets, so that 14,838,012 Scriptures were distributed by them throughout the continent.

In fact, in Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Rwanda and Sudan they even succeeded in passing their own goals.

Thousands of miles away Bible Society workers brought solace to the people on the Fijian island of Viti Levu while they were still reeling from the effects of two cyclones, providing Bibles and New Testaments while rescue workers dealt with the pressing needs for medicines and shelter.

It was a small effort in terms of numbers, but nonetheless a significant part of the dedicated effort which caused 220,568,892 Scriptures to be distributed by UBS-member Bible Societies throughout the Asia/Pacific region.

In 1985 it was shown in Europe once again how the Scriptures in contemporary wording can arouse the interest of many people who are otherwise passing by on the other side when it comes to the Bible. The language was Italian, and a new interconfessional translation published during the year succeeded in doubling the distribution of Bibles there.

Last year Scripture distribution in Europe reached 10,867,450, nearly 1.4 million more copies than UBS had recorded the previous year.

More than 700,000 of these were in the languages and countries of Eastern Europe, some of them in Russian Braille, while there was noticeable growth in distribution in the Middle Eastern countries, which are included in the European region of UBS.

Since it was founded 170 years ago, the American Bible Society has steadily expanded its Scripture outreach around the world, so that the Word may be readily available to people everywhere, in whatever languages they understand best, and at a price they can afford.

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN . . .

full-time pastor of its own. Several calls have been sent, but as of yet no one has accepted. The congregation has also been forced to relocate several times and its present situation is less than ideal. The loss of some important members through moves and tragic accident has also hurt. But despite these setbacks there is good reason for optimism.

The congregation has seen growth since its beginning despite losing members unexpectedly. This fall a Sunday School began for the first time. Even though it is small in numbers, the congregation has reached the point where a permanent home can be a reality. The members of Atonement have dedicated themselves to this and achieved far more than one might expect from their size. The location of the building site can only be described as God's provision.

The property is in the middle of one of the fastest growing areas in the county. In the next ten years a minimum of 500 homes will be going up within a two mile radius of the church. The congregation will be ideally located to become a center to reach out to the people of this area. The congregation had hoped to be in the middle of construction by the time of Annual Conference, but due to application procedures that must be followed, construction will likely not begin until after Conference. Warm Beach Camp is only ten miles from the property where Atonement will be locating and our congregation looks forward to extending their hospitality to all the conference visitors. We hope that many of you will have the chance to see what the Lord is doing in Arlington.

— Stephen Snipstead

editorials

TIME OF WAITING

Some of our readers will get this issue before the 1986 Annual Conference begins, some will receive it during Conference and others not until the annual meeting is over. Therefore, nothing of necessity concerning the Conference can be contained in this issue.

The Conference program has been printed twice, greetings and welcomes have been given, mention has been made of some matters to come before the delegates, and attention has been called to the need to fill various vacancies in church and corporation positions. Finally, prayer has been urged for the Conference and church members have been encouraged to attend it.

Now we are in a time of waiting. An annual conference is a time of course evaluation or finding. As mariners of old on the uncharted seas took their bearings and corrected their course or sailed straight on, so the Association is evaluating her course at Warm Beach this month (11-15). In a sense, the church marks time while many of the pastors and some lay people are devoting themselves to careful study of the questions, "Where are we now?" and "What adjustments, if any, should we make?"

In another sense, we cannot afford to mark time, counting out the cadence, "Left, right; left right," but getting nowhere. Take the matter of our prayer emphasis in the church for this year and next. There must be no slackening in prayer. Prayer isn't optional. It is the stuff of everyday Christianity. While no one will be heard for his "much speaking," if prayer is earnest and real, and poured out of a heart weighed down by its own helplessness, God will accept it and answer it. So prayer must go on whether one is at Warm Beach or having to stay home in Wadena or Eagle Butte.

Another thing which must go on is our gifts to God's work. Summer slumps hurt in finances. There could be half a dozen reasons why contributions slack off while "the living is easy." But the reasons and resultant hardship make it very hard for church work. Not only are gifts not given, but perhaps money will have to be borrowed at interest to keep the work going. Perhaps your pastor is at Conference. He should be. Maybe he will take a week of vacation afterward. Attendance may be down while he's away. It shouldn't be, but it might happen. Anyway, the gifts for AFLC work, likely a percentage of the offerings those Sundays, will be down.

The Annual Conference will give us new direction as to finances. But in the meantime, there is the need to keep on doing the best we can, if that is what we've been doing.

And the whole church program must be maintained. This is no time to slack off, or as we put it in the

vernacular, to "sluff off." Be in your regular place on Sunday morning and at the midweek prayer meeting. Work diligently in Daily Vacation Bible School, in Ladies Aid, in Luther League, in preparation for Bible camp.

A time of waiting, but not a time of indolence or laziness. Rather, let it be a time of waiting and working, even as we are to do as we await the great Day of the Lord.

THE BIBLE CAMPS

We mentioned Bible camps. They will soon be upon us. We wish that they could be publicized more in the *Ambassador*. But for some reason or other publicity is left to local newspapers and other promotion.

The AFLC strongly believes in the Bible camp movement. While we have no statistical information, we are quite sure that on a per capita basis the Association sends as many of her young people to camps as any other Lutheran church body, likely more than some.

If there is any criticism, it is that many children do their camping while in the elementary grades and junior high school, and not so many have the experience while in their senior high years. On the one hand, it can be argued that it is better to have the children come when they are young, even if they don't come later. On the other side, it can be said that if senior high youth are at camp, they will get more benefit spiritually from it.

Our churches will continue to encourage their young people to attend camp as many years as possible. Our churches will continue to present camps that are "Bible camps." Beauty of natural setting is good. Varied recreation can be desirable. But over and above all, AFLC camps will endeavor to bring Christ and young people together for life, service, purpose and hope.

It is commendable that Bible camps in which we are involved are usually reasonable financially. This is good and we can be glad that it has been possible to hold the line so well in this respect.

Something should be said about Family camps, too. The Association will sponsor two this summer: Galilee, Lake Bronson, Minn., July 7-13, and the ARC, Osceola, Wis., Aug. 4-10. Another AFLC camp is more adult-oriented, the Wilderness Camp, Lake Park, Minn., Aug. 13-17. Districts or local congregations may sponsor Family camps also.

May we encourage our people to make use of these opportunities as families. They can be deeply enriching experiences and will draw families even closer together in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pray for the Bible camp movement among us in 1986.

Our Hymn Study

Concordia, No. 235

Johann Rist, 1651

Tr. Unknown, 1866

**Tune: MY SOUL, NOW BLESS
THE MAKER**

Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812-1887

This hymn is by Lutheran pastor Johann Rist. It is an adaptation of another of his hymns, "I Will Praise the Lord," made shorter, from 12 to six stanzas. The unknown English translator reduced it further to these three. The original was based on Psalm 34.

"I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall be continually in my mouth . . . O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together" (Ps 34:1,3).

"Worthy art Thou, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for Thou didst create all things, and by Thy will they existed and were created" (Rev 4:11).

TEXT

"I sought the Lord, and He

answered me, and delivered me from all my fears . . . The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them. O taste and see that the Lord is good." (Ps 34:4,7,8).

This hymn of praise to God begins with a lofty salutation and then proceeds to cite His attributes and blessings, for which the author declares our gratitude and devotion. Consolation, refuge, goodness, faithfulness, power, grace, merciful, provider, caring, loving, Creator, our source of joy — these are some of words about God that evoke from us a gratitude so great it is unspeakable, a gladness never-ending, an undying devotion and a lifetime of service and praise.

The text is full of biblical substance; there is no dross, no filler, nothing extraneous. For an enlightening experience, compare this hymn to a typically tuneful but poetically weak Gospel song where the words are usually repetitious, stale and impotent, deficiencies that fall short in revealing the magnitude of God's blessings and attributes. We must

conclude that preference for the Gospel song is motivated by the music's charm, not the text.

For Johann Rist, see #105.

For Ludvig M. Lindeman, see #81.

— Don Rodvold



To Thee All Praise Ascendeth

O LORD!

O Lord!

What have I done to
deserve Your favor?

Why do You shower
blessings on me?

Words fail me here —
I cannot express

The gratefulness and
love my heart
extends to You!

Your plans are perfect,
without flaw,
holy.

How do I, just one person
on this earth, attract
Your sight?

How can You care for
me and mine?

For these unknown
mysteries, I thank You,
O Lord!

Lydia Louise Moland
for Rachel Marie Moland,
born, February 17, 1986

"Every breath you breath is a gift from God. I want you to always know how I love you and how God loves you. He has a perfect plan — just for you! I pray you'll live your life for Him."

(Ed. note: An older sister shares her thoughts upon the birth of a baby sister. Both are daughters of Pastor and Mrs. Kenneth Moland, Kirkland, Wash.)

Northwestern Minnesota District Camp Plans

Two weeks of camp are planned at Galilee Bible Camp, Lake Bronson, Minn., sponsored by the Northwestern Minnesota District of the AFLC, in 1986.

The Youth Camp, junior high and up, will be June 23-29. The cost is \$35. Rev. Tony Stockman, Cloquet, Minn., will be the evening speaker. The morning Bible hours will be taught by Mr. Tom Olson, seminary intern at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, Minn.

The Pre-Teen Camp will be in session June 29-July 3 and will cost \$25 per person. Both camps will operate under the theme: "Watch and Pray, That Ye Enter Not into

Temptation" (Matt. 26:41). Rev. Larry Haagenson, Newfolden, Minn., will speak each evening. Miss Rachel Mundfrom, who will be serving with Lutheran Bible Translators, will teach a mission hour each week.

More counselors are needed for the two weeks. Anyone interested should contact Pastor Leslie Galland, 404 Kendall Ave. So., Thief River Falls 56701, or Pastor Charles Knapp, dean, Karlstad, Minn. 56732. Counselors for the Pre-Teen Camp should be at least 18 years old. For the Youth Camp, a counselor should have been to the Association Bible School or be of equivalent age.

This month, on the 4th of July, we celebrate the freedom of our country. Let us remember that Christ freed us from sin that we might lead a holy life to the glory of God.

Hymn No. 23 (*Concordia*) — "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

— Mrs. Herbert Presteng

AT THE CROSS OF JESUS

There is love at the cross of Jesus, an everlasting love
That could leave the courts of heaven and the glory of God above,
That could come to a world of evil for the sake of the sinners lost
That could drain the cup of anguish and never count the cost.

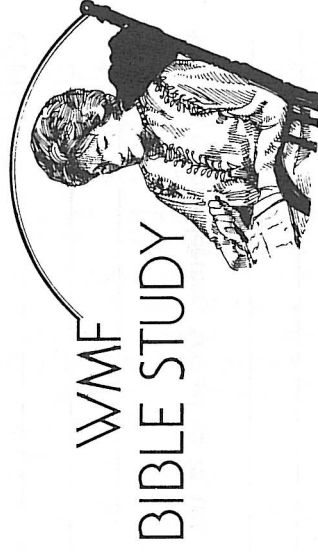
There is light at the cross of Jesus, though dark is the world around;
It was there He opened heaven, and the way to God was found;
It was there the tempest gathered and broke on His thorn-crowned head,
When He bore our stripes and sorrows, and suffered in our stead.

There is peace at the cross of Jesus, where God was reconciled,
Where we know our sins forgiven and hear Him say, "My child";
Where He bore the world's transgressions and all our debt was paid;
Where the weight of the Father's anger on His tender heart was laid.

There is life at the cross of Jesus, where the victory was won,
Where sin and death were conquered by the sinless, deathless One;
O grave, where is thy triumph? O death, where is thy sting?
For the Lord of life and glory passed through thy gates a King!

— Annie Johnson Flint

July, 1986



Lesson seven

KEY WORDS FROM GOD'S WORD

REDEEM

Hymn No. 282 (*Concordia*) — "Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven"

The word *redeem* means to regain possession by paying a price; to set free; to ransom; to rescue from sin and its penalties. Jesus Christ, as our High Priest, had to redeem sinful man. He had to give a ransom that was sufficient and acceptable to God. The redemption of a soul is so precious, costs so much, that all the treasures of this world are to no avail.

1. Man is always trying to reconcile his own relationship with God. What are some of man's attempts to restore this relationship?

A. I Pet. 1:18

B. Heb. 10:4

C. Mic. 6:7 _____

3. Who is our Redeemer, according to Isa. 47:47? _____

4. Whom has Christ redeemed? I Tim. 2:6; I Jn. 2:2 _____

5. What are we redeemed from?

A. Titus 2:14 _____

B. Hos. 13:14 _____

C. Job 6:23 _____

6. How is the believer freed from sin by the redemption of Christ?
Rom. 6:14 _____

7. How is the believer freed from death by the redemption of Christ?
Jn. 11:25,26 _____

8. How is the believer freed from the power of Satan by the redemption of Christ? Heb. 2:14 _____

9. What are we redeemed with? I Pet. 1:18,19 _____

10. Why did Christ redeem us? I Cor. 6:20; Titus 2:14 _____

Only those most inclined to trivial pursuit will remember that my only previous visit to our nation's capital was in September, 1971, and that at that time I spent only six hours there. I had been in New York City for a few days and en route to Philadelphia for a meeting took the side trip to Washington. In the six hours, afoot, I saw as much as any person has seen, I am confident, in that length of time, between the railroad station and Arlington National Cemetery.

But it was with eagerness that I accepted the opportunity to make a second trip to Washington and spend almost three days there. The occasion was the biennial Washington Insight Briefing, sponsored by the National Association of Evangelicals, April 21-24.

Briefly stated, the Briefing is arranged so that pastors and laity can go to Washington, get a fairly close look at how our government operates, hear some leaders in that government discuss current issues and get into some places the average tourist may not see. The group this year numbered about 112, much smaller than it ought to be for so fine an opportunity and yet very manageable for those in charge. I was perhaps the only Lutheran in the group.

Our hotel, also the site of most of our meetings, was located amidst various government buildings, south of the mall. It was southwest of the Capitol and southeast of the Washington Monument, White House, etc. The National Air and Space Museum was two short blocks to the north.

Robert P. Dugan, Director of NAE's Office of Public Affairs, hosted the Briefing. A former pastor and one-time candidate for public office in Colorado, Mr. Dugan is extremely knowledgeable about government, politics and public affairs.

Naturally, one pays more attention to persons of whom one has heard. It was interesting to see Vice-President George Bush in person at the old Executive Office Building, just west of the White House. He said something about the drug problem and what is being done to combat it. Since the Libya air strike had happened not long before, it came up again and again in the Briefing. Mr.

Revisiting the nation's capital

Three Days in Washington, D.C.

by Raynard Huglen

Bush emphasized very strongly that the U.S. will defend the lives of her citizens around the world.

Two other men whom I had definitely heard of were Senators Robert Dole, Kansas, majority leader of the Senate, and Wm. L. Armstrong, Colorado. These men were with us in the Hart Office Building where we had a breakfast.

Senator Dole is known for his extremely quick wit and he shared that with us generously. His humor was self-deprecating, that is, directed against himself. Yet he also seemed to show a very realistic approach to the political situation, that is, a pragmatism about legislative possibilities.

Without casting aspersions on others, Senator Armstrong is one of the openly Christian leaders in government today. He made random

remarks on a number of topics. He lamented the pornography industry and said there are people being honored today who are involved in it. He declared that 18 of the top 40 hit songs celebrate Satan or aberrant sex. When questioned about the 1988 race for the presidency, in which he is sometimes pictured as a candidate, Sen. Armstrong said, "If the Lord calls I will answer; if anyone else does, the line is busy."

I was disappointed that Senator Ernest F. (Fritz) Hollings of South Carolina could not keep his appointment with us. While we weren't told the reason, I suspect it was because the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law was being argued before the Supreme Court that day. I learned that more people attended that hearing than had been at a similar hearing in a long time. (By the way, I ate my noon lunch that day in the cafeteria of the Supreme Court).

The Hart Office Building (named for the late Senator Philip Hart of Michigan) is one of three for senators, and the newest. You may remember that it received some harsh criticism when it was completed a few years ago, but I found it very acceptable. Our breakfast was served on the eighth or ninth floor from which we had a good view of the Capitol dome two or three blocks away and could see in the far distance the Lincoln Memorial.

On Wednesday afternoon after the session at the State Department, I had the opportunity to walk over to the Lincoln Memorial, which was about due south. It was a cool day for late April, but the Memorial never fails to stir one's spirit. There is a hush as tourists look up at the figure, seated, of one of our greatest presidents.

The Vietnam Memorial, close by, is unique in that one does not stand and look at it from any one point, but it is seen by walking along the 246.75 feet of it. Unfortunately, I didn't have time to linger, but moved right along, scanning the names grit-blasted into the granite from Bangalore, India. As I walked on I was overwhelmed by all the names. There are 58,022 of them. I found the



The Vietnam Memorial Statue by Frederick Hart.

WASHINGTON, D.C. . . .



The Vietnam Memorial, looking northeast

Memorial very impressive. That includes the three-figure statue at the southwest end. Sculpted by Frederick Hart, the figures are so life-like and show the vigor and strength of the men who were sent to fight in that "conflict."

At the Hart Office Building breakfast, we had the privilege of hearing the chaplain of the Senate make some remarks. Earlier that morning he had escorted Evangelist Billy Graham to the Senate where he had given the opening prayer that day. Billy Graham began his Washington Crusade the following Sunday, his first there since 1952, I believe.

Chaplain Richard Halverson, a North Dakota native, born in Pingree, I think, is a Presbyterian. He told us that he is convinced the single greatest reason for failure in government is the failure of God's people to pray for it. He said that in many churches he visits he hears no prayer for leaders. He read I Timothy 2:1-4 for us. Some forces, he declared, are relentless in their wish to drive religion from government life. It is by prayer that we resist these forces. Concerning prayer for government, he asked us, "Have you prayed for the Supreme Court?" He challenged us to do so. Failure to vote is an

abdication of the people's sovereignty, the chaplain stated, but failure of Christians to pray is even worse. Many people want prayer in the public schools, he asserted, but few (men) pray with their families at home. I was impressed by this older pastor who ministers to the members of the Senate and their families.

It was encouraging to see and hear several Christian Congressmen, as well as other Christians in government. One of them is Rep. Robert McEwen of Ohio, who in his remarks to us on the last morning in the Rayburn House Office Building showed his knowledge of the story of Daniel and Darius. He took us on a personal tour of the Capitol. Because he was with us, we were allowed to go on the floor of the House of Representatives. We sat in seats where House members sit. The Congress was in recess that day as it was Yom Kippur, a high Jewish holy day.

I didn't get to greet him, but I find it interesting that my father, who has been gone many years, now, baptized one of the present members of the House, Rep. Martin Olav Sabo of Minnesota's Fifth District. Mr. Sabo represents an urban district but was born and raised in northwestern North Dakota and grew up in Writing Rock Lutheran Church, south of Alkabo, which Dad served temporarily and right at the time when young Martin was born. Martin Sabo was a high school Luther Leaguer in the Williston District when I came there to serve in my first pastorate.

One evening a panel of four members discussed the 1988 Presidential campaign. The strengths and weaknesses of most possible candidates with any chance of being considered for nomination were debated. I felt it was all done very fairly. Bob Dugan asked us, at the end, to participate in a straw poll. I believe the question was stated this way: Who do you think would be the strongest candidate the Democrats-Republicans could nominate in 1988? We could name someone from each party. The winner for the Democrats was Senator Gary Hart of Colorado. For the Republicans it was Jack Kemp, a Representative from New

York.

I took time to visit the Air and Space Museum one afternoon for a couple hours. There was so much to see and so little time to do it in. There were many school children, young children, there. A man told me that schools in New England were on spring vacation and that accounted for much of it. Some schools elected not to send children to Washington this year due to the terrorism scare, but I can report that all around the government area there were just lots of children sightseeing.

It was a thrill to see Lindbergh's *Spirit of St. Louis* and to realize again that the "Lone Eagle" flew to Paris with no direct forward vision because he sat behind extra gas tanks. I saw the Wright Brothers' first airplane that flew, various space capsules, etc. The mass of materials available was overwhelming. I have yet to visit a museum of any size where I could do justice to it.

But let me tell you about something which spoke to me very dramatically, although simply, in the Museum. One room was devoted to astronomy. In one display case the size of the earth was shown in relation to the sun and other stars by means of recognizable round objects. The earth was shown as a beebee, the sun as a tennis ball. One star was as large as a basketball. It was stated that there are stars much larger than that, even as large as "this gallery." Now what was meant by "gallery," I'm not sure. Was it the display case, or the whole room? At any rate, our earth, yes, even our sun, are absolutely dwarfed by other heavenly bodies. I did not see any mention of God in that room, but the song came to my mind, "How Great Thou Art." How great Thou are, O God, to have created this immense universe that my finite mind just cannot comprehend. And yet that God cares about you and me and wants us to be His children and has made it possible for us to be that through the atoning work of His Son Jesus.

More could be written, but I must stop. It was good to meet people in our group from all over the U.S. There were a few others from Min-

News from Ishpeming, Michigan

From April 16-19 Pastor Francis Monseth, dean of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, was our spring Evangelism Series speaker at Hope Lutheran. He had an excellent morning series of Bible studies on the Inerrancy of Scripture, the Deity of Christ, the Doctrines of Repentance and Faith, and the Distinctives of Biblical Lutheranism. In the evenings he spoke on the theme "Portrait of a Living Congregation," based on I Thessalonians. We thank God for the privilege of having Pastor Monseth with us.

On April 16, Pastor Connely Dyrud and his wife Carolyn, missionaries

to Brazil, shared with us in word and song, telling of the outreach they have in Brazil. The Dyruds were also visiting other congregations of our district and sharing at the WMF spring district rally on the 19th.

Pastor Harvey Jackson

Personalities

Rev. Roy Warwick, pastor at Grace Lutheran, Aberdeen, S.Dak., since 1979, has resigned effective June 30. His future plans are not known at this time.

Rev. Philip Rokke will conclude his ministry at Faith Lutheran, Lake Alma, Sask., at the end of June. He has been there since 1983. He resigned in order to accept the call to United Lutheran, Greenbush, Minn., and will take up his work there in mid-July.

Mr. Todd Klemme, 1986 graduate of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, has accepted the call to the Faith (Bethel) — Eagle Butte (Emmanuel), S. Dak., parish and will begin his work there on August 1.

Mr. Jeff Swanson, another graduate of AFLTS this year, will become the new pastor at Stillwater Lutheran Church, rural Kalispell, Mont., sometime this summer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOOKS AVAILABLE

Old hardcover Augsburg Sunday School books will be given away to any church that can use them. Content is good even though all the books are not in the best condition, but they would be a good start especially for a new church without the funds to purchase new materials at the present time. Grade levels range from primary through confirmation. If you are interested, contact Bethel Lutheran Church, Culbertson, Montana 59218, c/o Pastor Lyndon Korhonen.

ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

AFLC Benevolences
February 1 - April 30

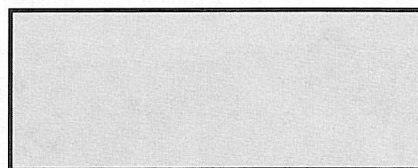
FUND	TOTAL BUDGET	REC'D IN APRIL	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% OF TOTAL*
GENERAL FUND	\$ 208,000.00	\$ 18,219.15	\$ 32,932.39	16
SCHOOLS — (AFLTS)	115,278.00	6,223.16	14,159.39	12
— (AFLTS)	173,200.00	10,715.63	23,116.92	13
HOME MISSIONS	265,000.00	15,945.35	36,964.79	14
WORLD MISSIONS	298,000.00	14,970.47	39,181.90	13
CAPITAL INVESTMENT	25,000.00	603.28	1,820.68	7
TOTALS	\$1,084,478.00	\$ 66,677.04	\$148,176.07	14
1985-86	\$1,109,382.00	\$ 53,685.13	\$148,528.06	13

*GOAL 25%

WASHINGTON, D.C. . . .

nesota, someone from Bismarck, N.Dak. My roommate was an Ev. Free Church pastor from Barrington, Ill.

There is much history in Washington. One senses a feeling of being an American, and proud of it, in a special way. I am glad to be reminded that there are many high-minded people, yes, and some Christian people in government. Let us care about government whether we are Americans, Canadians, or whatever. Let us pray for it. This is true at every level. The Washington Insight Briefing was very worthwhile.



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.

MINNESOTA

Roseau

Marie Voll, 91, Oct. 2, 1985, Norland

Henry Broten, 74, Oct. 14, 1985, Rose

Dora Cecelia Margaret Westling, 64, Nov. 21, 1985, Roseau

Donna Mae Lisell, 43, Jan. 22, Rose

Christian Tollefson, 92, Feb. 1, Rose

Gunder A. Qualey, 73, Apr. 2, Norland
Campbell

Theodore (Ted) Aasness, 74, Apr. 13, Calvary, Fergus Falls (Six of Ted's children attended AFLBS, namely, Richard, Elaine, Owen, Glenda, Joyce and Arlin).

For Sale

Roneo-Vickers 770 mimeograph, excellent condition, purchased new 5 years ago.

Cost: \$1,800. Asking price: \$1,200

For further information contact:

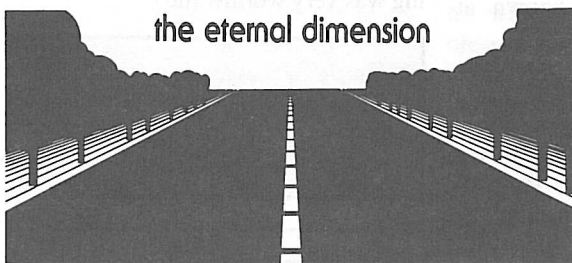
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REVIVAL: Our Nation's Greatest Need

Recently I heard it said that the greatest need of our nation at the present time is for revival to come to her churches. The person who said that also said that unless revival comes to our churches, there is no hope for our nation's survival. The person who said these things was Dr. Richard Owen Roberts. No doubt many would not agree that the church is so important to our nation's welfare. They do not see the problem as one of the individual heart. But the Bible and historical experience teach us that a nation is always what her people are. A.W. Tozer claimed that a nation can never rise any higher than its religion and a religion can never rise above its concept of God.

If the god of our nation is our own intellectual abilities and potential, then our nation can never rise any higher than that. If the god of our nation has become things (materialism), as many say is true, then our nation can never rise any higher than things. However, if our God is the God of the Bible, Who describes Himself in great terms like holiness, righteousness, justice, power, knowledge, compassion and mercy, then we have a God Who is capable of

lifting our desires and aspirations much higher than they generally are in our day. Then we have a God, the contemplation of Whom will draw us from our mediocrity or worse into His greatness and glory.

The same Bible which reveals this God also teaches that all life (physical and spiritual) has its source in God. The true Church, which the Bible describes, is made up of people who have bowed to this God as their God, and have allowed Him to become their Savior. It is these people to whom God has imparted His life. They are the ones whom Jesus called the light of the world and the salt of the earth. Our nation will always have great need of a church which is truly moral light and salt.

In this respect, the Church is failing in our day. When we consider our national moral situation presently, we conclude that the great need of the hour is for a powerful spiritual work of God to be done in our nation's churches. The Bible has many accounts of such times of divine visitation in times of moral decay in the past. Church history also yields many examples of the same thing. When those times come, great good comes

to society. The early history of our nation was greatly affected by such visitations. In what is known as the Second Great Awakening, which took place around 1800, Yale College was transformed from a place of scoffing unbelief and open sin to a place which graduated pastors and preachers with convictions deep enough to touch many lives and to influence them Godward.

We, in the church, may desire that our nation return to better ways from a moral point of view, but the real question is whether we want any such improvement in the church. Are we willing to let go of the things in our lives which are not godly and let God bring His things and ways into our lives? That is what is known as repentance and it is still true that people who need revival need repentance. The church of Laodicea surely needed revival and the Lord stood knocking at her door ready to bring it to them. That's how near they were to revival. The same Lord knocks on our doors today. Certainly, we need revival and that's how close we are to it. Will we be willing to open our doors sometime during this year in which we say we are praying for revival. *On the day that we open the doors, we will begin to hear reports that revival has come to our churches.* May that day not be far away.

— Emerson Anderson