



Blanket distribution in India.



THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

March 16, 1993



For God so loved
the world
that He gave His
only Begotten Son
that whosoever believeth
on Him
shall not perish
but have everlasting life.

John 3:16



Carolyn Dyrud with three children living at the
Miriam Home.



Entrance to Brazil's Campo Mourão campus.



Leticia Flores teaching a class in Mexico.

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Twice Mine

Romans 5:12-21

There once was a poor little country boy who had no store bought toys to play with so he whittled a beautiful sailboat. One day the cross winds snared his little boat out into the main stream. His special toy boat went down the river and out of sight.

Some months later the boy, with his father, was in the city downstream where he spied his boat in a store window. He excitedly entered the store to reclaim it. However the store owner said: "It's mine now. If you want it you have to pay for it."

The young boy went home, gathered all the money he had and hurried back to reclaim his boat. Leaving the store, he was heard to say as he clutched his beloved boat to his bosom: "You're twice mine! I made you and now I've bought you back!"

What a picture of God. He made us. But the cross-currents of sin snatched us from His possession. We have all drifted into the clutches of Satan who holds us for eternal ransom. But the ever loving Creator took all that He had to redeem us and bought us back into His loving arms. God met His own requirements of redemption by sending His only Begotten Son to buy us back unto Himself.

This redemption is not simply a "sentimental expression of love," but the actual fulfillment of the Law. Hebrews 9:25 tells us that when the sacrifice of atonement was made, "He appeared once for all ... to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself." When God the Father presents Jesus Christ as the sacrifice, it is adequate to atone for all our sins; an atonement adequate to redeem "every little boat" that wants to be redeemed!

When the little boy presented his money to the unfriendly storekeeper, was he justified in getting the boat back and in taking it home with him? Yes. In like manner when God the Father presents Jesus Christ as the sacrifice adequate to atone for all our sins,

Light on the Way

is He justified to reclaim us again unto Himself? Yes!

One might say: "Isn't God big enough, powerful enough to have barged into that store and commanded the return of His boat? To have "taken" it without redeeming it would have been trying to right a wrong with another wrong. God who is just, could not wink at mankind's sin. It had to be paid. And on the cross of Calvary, **Jesus paid it all!**

Dear friend, your sins are forgiven (past tense). As you walk and live as a child of God, God sees you as a perfect human being. You may see on your desk of life a bookkeeping ledger with a "balance due" of "eternal death." But also on your desk lies a check which says: "Payment in full," covering all your sins up until today, extending to next year and all your years to come. In fact, if you want to pursue the analogy further, a "Letter of Credit" lies on your desk addressed to your bank. This copy has already been acknowledged by your bank. The contents of this letter says: "Pay upon demand." His credit is good!

The Good Samaritan is a good illustration of Jesus Christ. This man attended to the wounds of the man in the ditch who had been beaten and robbed, then brought the injured man to an inn (the church). The Samaritan gave the inn keeper money to cover his expenses and concluded by saying: "When I come again, I will pay you whatever he owes."

Dear friend, your sins are forgiven. Peace has been made with God. It merely awaits you to claim it. Claiming is believing. Claim it today.



— by Rev.
Lloyd Bjornlie

A HEART

For Missions Fulfilled At Home

She admits she is interested in missions because she was born into it. Since she was one of ten children, bedroom space in their small northern Iowa farm house was at a premium. But in spite of their crowded conditions, a special bedroom was set aside for God's servants who were speaking in the community. The children enjoyed each guest and loved to listen to their missionary stories.

It was in the mid 1930s, and she was off to college. She met a special friend and clearly recalls the night he said to her: "I plan to go to the mission field; will you go with me?" She was delighted and knew her parents would be thrilled for her because of their love for missions.

Seminary years came and the Lord directed her beloved into the parish ministry and evangelism. But what about their desire to go to the mission field? After much prayer and asking God for His will to be done, they concluded that if God gave them children they would ask the Lord to use them as missionaries.

The first child was soon to arrive. This one would be their first missionary! That great day of hope and joy arrived. Then suddenly a difficult delivery turned into a nightmare. Both mother and baby daughter were paralyzed on their right sides. No hope was given for the baby so her father baptized her using only three drops of water. The young mother pleaded with God on her hospital bed. Only until she said: "Lord, your will be done" did she receive perfect peace. The third morning after the birth, a doctor walked into the room and with a smile announced that her little daughter's paralysis was all gone. She smiled in return and announced: "So is mine!" God truly is an awesome God! Both mother and baby left the hospital well.

Four years later, Peng Fre, President of the Church of China, visited in the home of this young minister. Their little miracle baby loved to sit on the lap of this man of God as he told her stories of the mission work in China. One time when he finished a story, she looked up into his eyes and said:

"I want to be a missionary just like you when I grow up." Twenty-four years later she and her husband left for Papua, New Guinea.

Two years after the oldest daughter left for New Guinea, another daughter and her husband began 20 years of Bible translation in New Guinea.

This former Iowa farm girl is a widow now. She is busy ministering to her neighbors in her highrise apartment building. The young people in her AFLC congregation walk away from a visit with her realizing they have been with a woman of God. Missionaries love to write to her because they receive her letters in return asking about specific prayer requests and how God has answered. Her joyful enthusiasm exudes even into her letters and missionaries are encouraged.

She encouraged me in a letter. Here is an excerpt: "I believe it is very important to pray for our children, even before they are born and to continue to pray with them. Read to them. They need to be taught about Jesus, His love for them and how necessary it is to obey. And they love to hear stories about missions.

Have you tried this in your home? I wholeheartedly believe in our Savior's command given in Matthew 20:19-20. This does not mean that all of us must go to the mission field, but all of us who profess to be Christians **must be involved** in one way or another. How can we expect our missionaries to fulfill their obligations if we don't support them in prayer, giving, writing letters, sending cards, boxes of clothing and toys for the children. There is so much we can do!

We have a responsibility and accountability to the Lord in His Great Commission. Let us share our faith with the world!"

No, she has never lived or served on the mission field; but her life is missions.

— An interview by Solveig Hjermsstad with a lady who believes her life is only an instrument in God's hand and all that she has been and ever will be—to God be the glory.

Furloughs — From Frustration To

Throughout the centuries the Christian Church has provided her missionaries with furloughs. The year was 1715, a young German missionary to East India spent his furlough traveling in Europe where he aroused much interest in the mission. He spent time at Halle, where he met and greatly influenced a young Nicolaus Zinzendorf, who later became the father of the Moravian Missionary Movement. Protestant missionary history was radically changed because of Zinzendorf, who as a teenager, was deeply affected by missionary Ziegenbalg's visit with him while on furlough. Only eternity will tell of the effect that missionaries on furlough have had on individual lives as well as on the church.

What is it like for a missionary family to return to the U.S.A. after several years of absence? What are some of their joys, frustrations and needs? We asked retired missionaries George and Helen Knapp and their daughter, Carol, to share some of their memories after 32 years on the mission field including the time spent on furlough.

George —

Furlough — what is that? The dictionary says it is permission granted for a soldier to be away from his station for a determined length of time. Missionaries are soldiers of the cross so are eligible for furlough.

A furlough means time away from the stress and pressures of the battlefield, life in a different country and culture and time away from continually giving out.

Missionaries need a time of renewal physically and spiritually. Furloughs provide a time to relax and renew relationships with family. The children of the missionary couple need to return to the American culture and education system.

And finally the sending church needs personal contact with their representatives on the battlefield. These contacts are vital for knowledgeable prayer support and a renewed vision for mission work in the hearts of the home church members.

The length of time a furlough should be varies with the family circumstance and the type of work the missionary is involved with on the field. For example, if the missionary is pastoring a church and plans to return to the congregation, a shorter time (three to six months) would be desirable.

No matter what the length, a furlough should end with the missionary returning to the field with renewed inspiration and challenge.

Helen —

As a mother of seven, furlough brings numerous memories rushing through my mind. It meant the comforts of the higher standard of living that the U.S.A. enjoys. In Brazil we did not always live where there was electricity, running water, gas stoves, etc., so as a mother, I look forward to returning to those comforts.

Preparing for furlough was stressful. Questions nagged constantly. Where will we live? Will it be safe for the children? Where will they go to school? Will they be prepared academically for their classes? How will I adjust to the constantly changing life back home? The list could go on.

Packing for the furlough was a challenge. What clothes are suitable? We brought back many items that we never felt comfortable wearing in the States. If we were to do it again, I would bring back three changes of clothes; spend the first weeks resting and observing what people are wearing, then begin to purchase outfits one can mix and match according to the current conservative styles.

I continue to find interesting reactions here in



Carol Knapp and Rev. George Knapp.

Renewal

the States when I wear a simple flannel dress I made in Brazil. There it is common to make a new flannel dress as each winter season approaches. The Brazilian wears and washes it so often that by summer it is thin and usable in the hot season. So, if a simple flannel dress from Brazil is noticed here, imagine how one's clothes from five years ago and after hard wear in Brazil, draw attention to the missionary on furlough!

This situation is multiplied by the number of dependents in the family. I've often thought how wonderful it would be for the home church to take the missionary family shopping and pick up the tab.

The children had their own particular concerns. They often harbored fears of whether they would be accepted or rejected by their peers. Hair styles down to shoes were a concern. My children were mortified more than once by mother speaking Portuguese to a store clerk who could only stare blankly ahead.

Travel to the various churches was always a joy, yet it took its toll whether father went alone or with the family. One trip to the West Coast was made by train. We stopped along the way to visit congregations. By not having to drive ourselves, we discovered that trip to be less tiring.

I recall the blessings of attending winter Bible conferences, pastors' retreats, annual conferences and camps where we could sit back and replenish our spiritual reserves.

We knew it was a privilege to present the work of His Kingdom throughout the AFLC. We were challenged to consolidate the total picture of His work in Brazil. We sought to truthfully present the needs, both spiritually and financially. There continues to be the urgent need of more missionaries to take the Good News to spiritually needy peoples of the world! We are challenged to pray and live a pure life for Christ that He might call those to serve Him in sacrificial ways.

Yes, furloughs are anticipated, enjoyed, strengthening and encouraging; yet feared, expensive and stressful. There were the tearful goodbyes, then back to the field and one's life work. How has the ministry in the national church gone while away? Will there be repercussions from our absence? There were new places, new faces and new challenges and the thrill of serving God who cares for us and provides all we need for every day and situation.



Helen Knapp.

Carol —

My recollections of furloughs as a child are that we did a lot of traveling, enjoyed getting to know our grandparents and other relatives and visited many churches and people who asked many questions. I remember often having a feeling of being out of place since Brazil was home to me.

Perhaps my biggest concern I had during our furloughs was going to school. I was intimidated by the big schools and usually I knew no one there. Academically I did not have any difficulty in adjusting.

The highlights of our furloughs were taking the trips together as a family. I enjoyed seeing the United States during those summer months.

As a child, I often felt I was put on display when we visited churches. Meeting so many people was not always easy, yet there were memorable times too, that our family still recalls with pleasure. One time was a Sunday meal served by three wonderful ladies in whose home we had so much laughter together.

At one church a lady commented to me how wonderful it was that my parents were making a sacrifice by being missionaries. I thought, "What sacrifice?" To me it was only natural to live in Brazil and I looked forward to returning after furlough. Only now, as I grow older, do I understand the sacrifices they made leaving family and home to go to an unknown country and people. And now I can better understand that furloughs to them were very special times in their lives.

— Rev. George and Helen Knapp,
Carol Knapp,
Willmar, Minnesota



At the dedication of the Miriam Infant Home, Rev. Robert Lee, AFLC President (left), presented a painting of "Christ And The Children" to the home on behalf of the U. S. churches. Missionary Jonathan Abel (to his right) translated.



The Miriam Infant Home.



The new women's dormitory at Campo Mourão.

AFLC President In Brazil

No Brazilian visa, no go." Those were the words Rev. Robert Lee heard at the Miami, Florida, International Airport Friday evening. That meant he had to wait for the Brazilian Consulate to open Monday morning. This meant three days and nights of waiting in Miami. As the old Brazilian saying goes: "patience or the land will kill you." Monday finally came. To his surprise, he was told that Brazilian tourist visas take at least 24 hours or more to process, but for \$60 he could get a **Brazilian Cultural Visa** right away. That's called "o jeito Brasileiro," (the Brazilian way, which means, "money can fix your problems quickly.") Rev. Lee had to be at the AFLC Annual Conference in Brazil that Friday, so he came to Brazil on a "cultural visa."

His days in Brazil went much better. The Paul Abels met Rev. Lee at the airport in Curitiba on Tuesday. He was taken around to the two churches, one preaching point, and the ARCA Retreat Center. On Wednesday morning they traveled to Campo Mourao to participate in the annual conference.

Friday afternoon, January 15, the AFLC President of Brazil Rev. Oseias Camara opened the 27th Annual Conference and AFLC President Rev. Robert Lee brought special greetings from the sister churches in the U.S.A.



Installation of Rev. Oseias Camara as president of AFLC — Brazil, and Rev. Cleodo Fruhauf, vice president. Missionary Paul Abel officiated.

stirring message from Revelation 2:1-5. The high note of the sermon was, "Have we lost our first love? Is your torch still burning?"

The Brazilian church members at the conference sensed a warm brother in the faith, rather than an aloof president that they imagined a president might be.

Saturday night, Rev. Lee presented a message from II Kings 7:3-11 about the four lepers who shared their "Good news" with all their fellowmen. That is our task as Christians.

Early Sunday morning a Communion Service was celebrated by the oldest AFLC missionary in Brazil, which is a tradition. This year, that privilege was passed to missionary C.J. Dyrud who is 50 years old. He is also the first AFLC missionary to have been graduated from our AFLC Seminary. President Robert Lee also helped Rev. Connely Dyrud celebrate the Communion Service as he too turned 50 years old recently. He is the first AFLC President to have been graduated from our AFLC Seminary.

At the Sunday morning worship service, President Lee spoke to a capacity crowd. At 11 a.m. the new Girls' Dormitory and Miriam Infant Home were dedicated. The speakers were government dignitaries from the city and President Lee presented a beautiful picture of Jesus with the children to the Miriam Home from the AFLC in the U.S.A.

This annual conference will be a memorable one for the Brazilian AFLC in many ways, but one of the most touching highlights was when the two AFLC presidents discussed the future plans of World Missions with the goal to work together in sending missionaries from both Brazil and the U.S.A. to Mozambique, Paraguay, Argentina, and other countries that open up to the AFLC. The Brazilian church is praying that the Lord would raise up willing workers from their midst who would say, "Here I am send me," even now, in this decade of the nineties.

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come," (Matthew 24:14).

— Missionary Connely J. Dyrud

1993 AFLC Missionaries And National Workers

Brazil

Missionaries — Rev. Connely Dyrud, Rev. David Abel, Rev. Paul Abel and Rev. Jonathan Abel.

National Workers — Rev. Pedro Simao de Abreu, Rev. Oseias Camara (President), Rev. Cleodo Fruhauf (Vice President), Rev. Carlos Eduardo Figueira, Rev. Nilson de Gomes Melo, Rev. Clovis Xavier Junior, Rev. Clerio Tesch and Rev. Iran Santiago de Goes Jr.

Mexico

Missionary — Rev. Daniel Giles.

National Workers — Rev. Samuel Flores, Rev. Milton Flores, Raul Hernandez R., and Gabriel Mercado.



India

National Workers — V. Benarji Raju (President), B. Yesupadam (Vice President), D. Satyanandam (Secretary), D. Martin Luther Shastry (Treasurer), K. Sadhu Mattaiah, T. Luke, P. Yesupadam, M. Prakasam, B. Krupanandam, E. Rayappa, A. Paul, N. Yesupadam, G. Gabriel, J. Jacob, G. Dyvavaram, N. Yesu, D. Jayarao, J. Dass, G. Jeevaratnam, K. Jacob, A. John, E. Vijayakumar, B. Karunamma, G. Vauramma, D. Sarojini, G. Halleluyamma.

Missions to the Military

CH Timothy Skramstad, CH Michael Crowell.

Mission Program Needs Your Financial and Prayerful Support

"We're making quite an affect on this entire town", commented Missionary Paul Abel last week. "We had 50 people out for Bible Study, and 60 young people out for Bible School."

As Pastor Paul Abel described what the Lord is doing in their town of Bateias (the State of Parana in Brazil), I thought to myself, "This is what makes missions so exciting! Reaching people who have never clearly understood the Gospel before is truly exciting."

Through each of our national churches, Bible School and Seminary, Bible Camps, Vacation Bible School, homes for children, and evangelistic teams, God is working in peoples' hearts to turn them to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You can have a very important investment in this great calling by supporting our missionaries, national workers, and expansion projects with your gifts and through your prayers.

During the last weeks of this past fiscal year, many faithful supporters responded with a grand display of love for missions, enabling our AFLC World Missions program to end the year at 86% of its budget. Praise be to God!

Last year the World Missions Committee found it necessary to cut all salaries and mission endeavors by ten percent. Because of the outpouring of generous gifts during December and January, the World Missions Committee has reinstated missionary salaries to their full extent, although all other areas continue under the policy of reduced funding.

Your opportunities to be a blessing to all the people of the earth are great in this new year of 1993. We are keenly mindful of God's purpose to His children as outlined in Genesis 12:3, "I will bless you and make you a blessing."

Please join me in faithful support of our mission endeavors by giving systematically and praying diligently. Thank you.

— Pastor Eugene W. Enderlein, Director

Brazil Congregation Begins A Labor Of Love



Rev. David Abel (standing) with Mother Hilka at the Casa-Car. Marcio is holding the book.

It was a warm night, but the cool ocean breeze reminded Marcio and Julio that the temperature would drop by morning. Time to find a safe and warm place to sleep until dawn — a place where older boys and the police would not bother them. The two brothers had been on the streets for about a year now; ever since their parents' drinking had caused the family to fall apart. Marcio, 12, and two years older than his brother, dug a hole in the warm sand while Julio opened up some cardboard boxes. They doubled up their legs under their over sized T-shirts and laid in the hole, pulling the cardboard over them. Now they were

protected from the breeze and dew.

"I'm hungry!" Julio complained. The scraps taken from the restaurant garbage hadn't quite filled him enough.

"Oh, go to sleep," Marcio mumbled. "I've still got a few 'cru zeiros' from watching parked cars. Tomorrow we'll go to the bakery and buy some fresh bread."

Not far from that Vitoria beach, in the back room of an evangelical church, a group of men and women were meeting ... "We talk so much of the Good News of God's love, but our churches don't seem very involved in sharing this message to the suffering

A Heart For Helping Others

world around us." Cleuzeny, who had once worked for World Vision and was now in the State Department for Social Services continued: "In our city we have over 1,000 children sleeping on the streets. I've prepared a program, approved by the Governor of Espirito Santo, where they will assist any group which will help them deal with this great social problem. We need the help of the evangelical churches."

Janet and I, along with other representatives from our Vitoria AFLC church listened attentively. How many times we ached seeing boys and girls walking through the streets begging, sniffing glue, or running from some crime.

"We need to do this!" was the reaction of Deacon Jose when he heard about the program. "Let's ask Hilka who's a widow and cleans the church if she would be interested in being the 'mother' in a home for street boys."

Hilka prayed about it. So did the whole church. God opened doors and a house was found to rent. In May of 1991, the "Casa-Lar" (House-Home) was dedicated with a special service which included the Governor's wife. Nine boys came to live at the home, including Marcio and Julio. They joined Adao, the smallest of the boys, who was abandoned after his father killed his mother; Saulo, whose body scars told the story of child abuse; Cristino, whose mother's prostitution sent him to the streets and others with similar stories.

The women's auxiliary was very busy during the first month. Most of the boys arrived with just the clothes on their bodies, so time was spent buying shoes, underwear and socks, as well as going through the boxes of clothes sent by AFLC churches in the



The construction is underway of a new infirmary adjoining the classroom building in Campo Mourão. Funds have been provided by Global Health Ministries.

States in order to outfit each boy. They ranged in age between 10 and 14 and it wasn't easy finding schools for all of them. Some didn't have birth certificates; others never went to school. By July one was in second grade, the rest in first. Of the original nine, one ran away and God sent three more, the last one we found sleeping on the roof of our church.

This ministry has been a labor of love of the Vitoria Church, involving all the members in some way or another. Janet Abel and Pastor Clovis have had Bible studies with them, sharing Jesus to some who have never heard. Jose and Ivete weekly pick up vegetables and fruit from member's markets to bring to the home. Growing boys do eat! Andrein, a school teacher, helps them with their homework. Edvard has been finding them part-time jobs, Sidney helps program activities for the weekend, while Laurinda sees that they get medical and dental treatment through doctors who also donate their services. On Sunday, Ana coordinates the involvement of the rest of the families who take boys home for the day, giving "Mother" Hilka a rest. The 1992 FLY team from the States also helped, painting the inside of the home.

The result of all this work is that the State considers our "Casa-Lar" the best run and least problematic of their homes. In 1992 they encouraged us to start a second home for children 3-8, offering to buy us a house for that purpose. Pastor Clovis and I spent months praying, looking and negotiating to buy a house. Four hours before my furlough flight to the U.S. we were still negotiating the final purchase of a house. In December, Missionary Jonathan Abel helped close the deal and a three level, seven bedroom house was purchased for \$32,000. In January, 1993, this new Casa-Lar was dedicated with the arrival of seven boys and three girls, under the care of Pastor Clovis and wife, Tania.

"Marcio, what do you want to be when you grow up?" I asked as he and Julio rode with me to the dentist.

"I'm not sure," he replied, "but I'd like to do something that helps others."

All These Years

Knowing Christ all these years yet not telling the lost
All these years as a Christian yet ignoring that cost.
All these years knowing joy, all these years spent in prayer
Yet never once to the lost have I gone to share.

Many of my friends, my relatives dead and buried
Could I not once His Good News have carried?
But I was too busy — "you know the kids!"
I had my work — God had His!
I told myself "It's the pastor's work you know!"
That eased my conscience but pleased Satan — God's foe!
For he wants **all** to think "There'll be time tomorrow!
You'll share with your friend — and then bring me sorrow!
Yes you'll do it I'm sure! But just for today — there's
too much on your mind. And that's just OK!"

I listened for years; I bought all those lies: as
I stood at the gravesides of friends who had died.
"It isn't **my** fault! They could have been saved!"
Yet never just once did a witness I brave!
And now hell is fuller — I just know it — it's true!
I ignored God when He said, "Witnessing means **you**!"

As I look back on life I see much success
But I'm sad cause I know I didn't give God my best.
Yes I gave Him my seat for a warm pew it's true
I gave from my pocket when offering was due.
I taught the kids well when a teacher was at need
I cooked and I baked — so many did I feed.

But nothing compares with the gift of God's Son.
And when I think of soul winning: I can't name a one.
All of these years yet never a Word
I bet they'd have listened! I know they'd have heard!

Why did I keep silent? Why didn't I speak?!
God promised a Spirit of power — not meek.
I could have you know! There **was** really the time!
But I acted as if sharing Christ was the crime!

I let worry destroy any testimony I'd given;
instead of in faith saying "In Christ you're forgiven!"

I'm now on my death bed and yes I know Christ!
But that I've never shared Him just ... doesn't seem right!
All these years — oh a Christian I've been!
Too late comes **this** dawning — that silence ... is sin.

— by Rev. Lynn J. Wilson
Roslyn, South Dakota

You, too can help others by faithfully supporting the work of the AFLC World Missions in Brazil. This work is producing a strong mission minded church which is carrying out ministries such as the Vitoria homes for street kids. Pray and support your missionar-

ies. Now more than ever we need you to stand behind us so that the work in Brazil might continue to reach out and share the love of Jesus, challenging Christians to service and giving boys, like Marcio a new vision of the future.

— by Missionary David Abel

This year at the Association of Free Lutheran Bible School, 71 out of the 107 member student body are involved in a gospel team. Six of the groups are music teams that vary in size from four to 18 members. Another group is a puppet ministry for kids and another is an urban ministry team that shares and teaches a growing number of Native American children weekly. Mr. Jerry Nelson serves as the coordinator for the teams.

The following are four testimonies from team members:

Urban Ministry — to the Native Americans in North Minneapolis.

Being a member of the Urban Ministry Team this year has changed my outlook on life. It has opened my eyes

AFLBS Outreach Teams

to see the needs of the lost urban class and the great need to minister to them. The children we work with are starving for love that only can be found in Christ. They soak it up as they begin to realize there is hope beyond broken homes and the pain and emptiness of their lives. The need for people to serve in urban ministry is endless. We feel so limited on our team. The challenge is there and all that is needed is a willingness to go where God leads. He can change peoples' lives through us resulting in a great joy and purpose in our own lives as we serve to make a difference for eternity.

—Bethany Hinrichs

FOUND Men's Quartet

To merely say: "It is a blessing to be a part of a gospel team ministry," is a tremendous understatement. When I think of the part of my AFLBS experience that has meant the most to me and taught me the most, I think of gospel teams. God opens many hearts and enriches many lives through these teams with perhaps the greatest influence being on the members themselves. I can see the changes occurring on our team not only musically, but spiritually and emotionally as well. I am increasingly aware of how unworthy we are to bear the message we do, yet in grace God chooses to use us. We



Kingdom Seekers, back row, left to right: Sheena Dahl, Lisa McClenahan, Jennifer Mohagen, Kristin Schierkolk, Sarah Modean and Holly Vachal. Front row: Beth Jackson, Mialee Selen, and Delise Soderholm.



Spirit Song: Lori Polzin, Christy Skogarboe, Julie Peterson and Nikkie Kjersten.



Found, clockwise: Kyle Torfin, Dana Coyle, Mike Franz and Jon Bylka.



Agape, back row: Dan Strelow, Eddie Britz and Greg Miller. Front row: Melissa Rieck, Julie Halverson and Heather Champeaux.

thank Him for this privilege and this call. We pray that by this grace, God will further His Kingdom through the ministry He has given to us (Ephesians 3:20-21).
—Dana Coyle

AGAPE

the puppet ministry team

Our six-member team devotes practice time to animating little stuffed cotton polyester creatures in an attempt to communicate in a different way the biblical messages. We are enjoying a growing sense of unity in spite of our unique personalities that enhance the puppets. The more fun we have behind the stage, the more effective the puppets will be in communicating. We are a relatively new team and have not gone out a lot. However, when we have, we are encouraged to keep working and trusting the Lord to speak to hearts through our ministry with puppets.
—Eddie Britz

KINGDOM SEEKERS

an AFLBS gospel team

Matthew 6:33 serves as the theme verse for the nine-girl gospel team. We selected this verse as a testimony of our lives. As we have been able to go out to other churches to share, it has been encouraging to see the Lord at work. It is truly overwhelming to realize that He uplifts others through the song and testimony He has given to us. "But seek ye first His Kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."
—Sarah Modean



A New Song, back row: George Watts, Lars Dyrud, Todd Rice, Brant Wardner, Adam Pemble, Nathan Loken, Matt Meisch and Brad Nelson. Middle row: Leanne Helwig, Jennifer Onnen, Jennifer Pals, Kathy Schindel, Debbie Kirk, Miriam Miekelsen. Front row: Stacy McCarlson, Angi Jacobson, Mandy Keinanen and Kim Huffman.



A Grateful Heart, back row: Victoria Dyrud, Jeremy Holm, Bryan Wolla, Alan Twedt, Nathaniel Olson, John Welsch, Jami Berg, Jon Robinson and Chrystal Albrecht. Front row: Allean Christenson, Tara Briese, Janelle Mellgren, Stacey Thorson, Tove Lill Gilje, Ruth Gunderson, Gail Martin and Becky Monseth.



Urban Ministry: Amy Prischman, Bethany Hinrichs, Vicki Iversen and Brian Ario.



Fortress: Kerm Nash, Kristin Onnen, Heidi Dyrud, Stephanie Johansen and Mark Edwards.

At The Cross

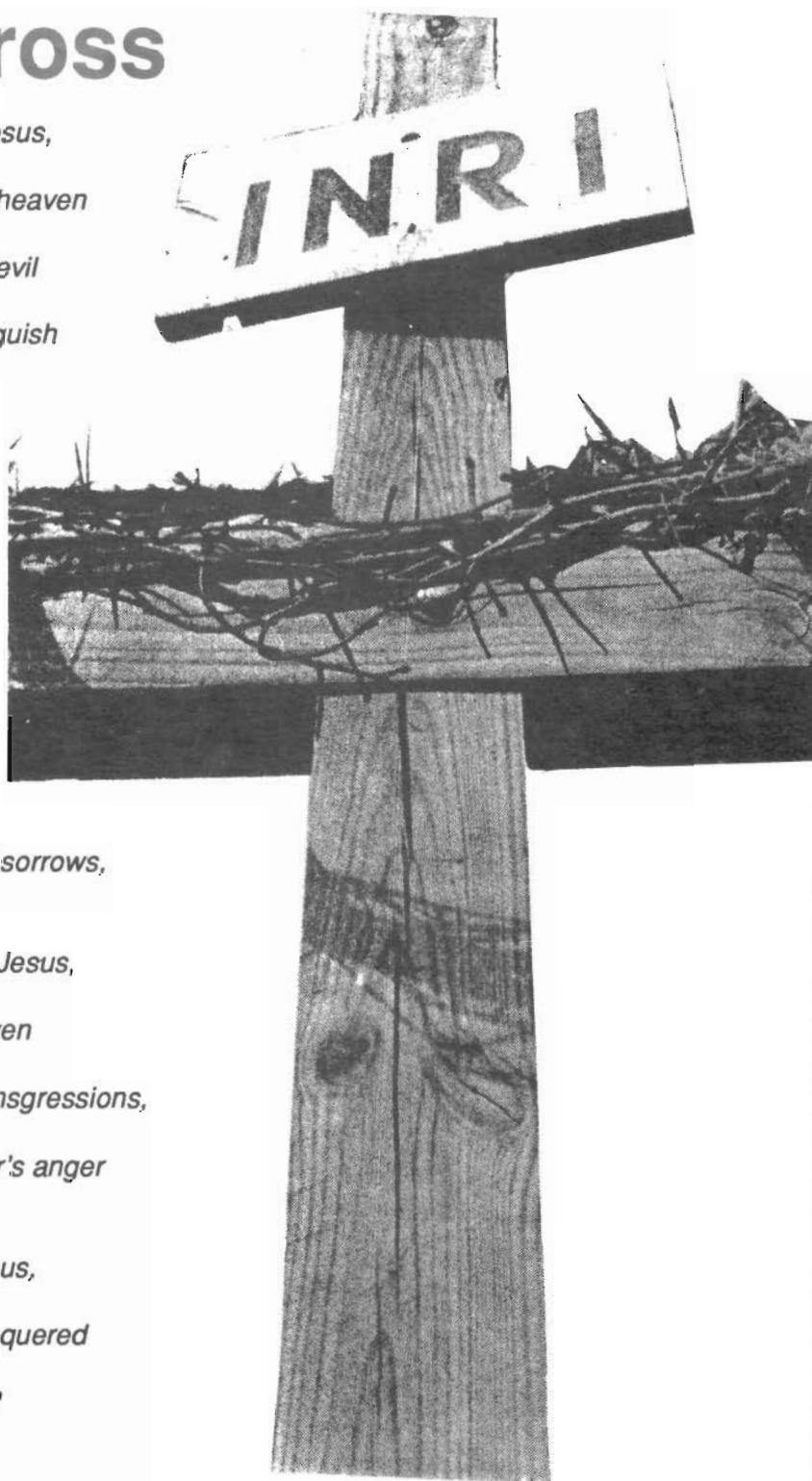
*There is love at the cross of Jesus,
an everlasting love;
That could leave the courts of heaven
and the glory of God above;
That could come to a world of evil
for the sake of sinners lost.
That could drain the cup of anguish
and never count the cost.*

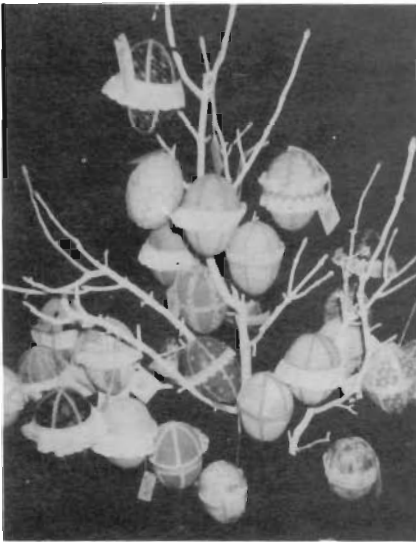
*There is light at the
cross of Jesus,
though dark is the world
around,
It was there He opened
heaven, and
the way to God was
found;
it was there the tempest
gathered
and broke on His thorn-
crowned head,
When He bore our stripes and sorrows,
and suffered in our stead.*

*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





Brandon, Minnesota — Chippewa Lutheran WMF selected a special way to minister to AFLC missionary and chaplain families. Decorated eggs with a missionary family name inside were placed on a tree. WMF members took an egg home and returned it filled with a gift at their Christmas party. The eggs were then mailed. As the egg symbolizes new life in Christ, Chippewa WMF wants missionaries to know that they are being prayed for as they share the message of new life in Christ.

Minneapolis District WMF — Faith Lutheran, Shakopee, will host the Spring Rally on April 17. Mrs. Katha Tjelta and Mrs. Janet Abel will be the speakers.

WOMEN'S RETREAT AT THE ARC

April 30 - May 2

"In Touch With My World"

Speaker — Joyce Harley

Silent Auction, bring baked goods or crafts. Proceeds to the ARC.

Please register by April 16th

Association Retreat Center
30th Ave. and King's Way
Osceola, Wisconsin 54020
(715) 294-2877



Eagan, Minnesota — The Women's Missionary Sewing Group of Living Word Lutheran Church sent 16 boxes to Brazil and 11 to Mexico during 1992. The boxes contained clothing, handmade quilts, slippers and baby booties. Pictured are (seated) Margaret Quinn, Agnes Platt and Virginia Kusnerek. Standing are Harriet Stewart, Gladys Williamson, Hanna Upmanis and Florence DeJay. Not pictured is Verna Wallin.



East Grand Forks, Minnesota — Christ the King WMF presented honorary memberships to (L. to R.) Arona Skogerboe, Amy Rud, Lorraine Peterson, Doris Matt, Nancy Gorman, Melva Roed and in memoriam to Lillian Robidoux.

"It was an honor and a privilege to present honorary membership to these ladies. As I pondered the way that each one has touched my life, I marvel at the 'completeness' of the body of Christ. Each one of them possesses unique characteristics and talents to share with those around them. One of the ladies is a prayer warrior — anytime of the day or night, another has remained steadfast throughout many trials, another a faithful worker, another a gentle calm amidst the turmoil, another a listening ear and still another lady a helper in time of need. How marvelous our God is, and how faithful.

"We at Christ the King are blessed to have them as teachers and encouragers in our lives. Titus 2:3-5 sums up well their faithfulness to God and to us."

—Judith Konerza

PEOPLE and PLACES

Rev. Thomas Tuura, McIntosh, Minnesota, has resigned from the Trinity and Mount Carmel Parish in order to accept a call to Grace Free Lutheran Church, DeKalb, Illinois. Tuura, who has served in McIntosh since 1987, will begin his ministry in DeKalb in May.

DeKalb, Illinois — Clifford Jerde, 86, went home to be with the Lord on January 4. Mr. Harry Halverson, 78, joined him on February 17. Both men were longtime leaders at Grace Free Lutheran Church.

Camarillo, California — First Lutheran Schools received over \$8,000 from the efforts of volunteers who help at Luther's Attic throughout 1992. The congregation operates a Christian Day School and a Preschool.

Plymouth, Minnesota — Medicine Lake Lutheran's Lenten services are focused on the theme, "Lift High the Cross." Speakers for the services include: Rev. Donald Greven, Rev. Amos Dyrud, Dr. Steve Lombardo, Rev. Eugene Enderlein, Dr. Craig Jennings, Rev. Elden Nelson and Dr. Francis Monseth.

Camrose, Alberta — The 1993 Annual Conference of AFLC-Canada will be hosted by Solid Rock Church on April 2-4. Rev. Robert Lee and Rev. Elden Nelson will represent the U.S. church at the conference.



Stanley, North Dakota — Our Savior's Free Lutheran Church dedicated their new addition to the church on January 24. Rev. Robert Lee, AFLC President, brought the messages at the morning worship service and at the afternoon dedication service. The new addition includes 11 large Sunday School rooms, two bathrooms, a furnace room and a larger fellowship area. Pictured with Pastors Rodney Johnson and Robert Lee (row two, second and third from left), are the Our Savior's Church Council members.

Partners In Prayer



"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).

Pray for pastors considering calls to Home Mission churches as well as to established congregations.

Praise God for the privilege to minister to the needs of the numerous children being sent to the new facility of the Miriam Infant Home in Brazil.

Pray about the economic conditions in both Mexico and Brazil, as both are experiencing runaway inflation.

Pray for congregations in Ortonville, Dexter, Cokato, and Beltrami, Minnesota, as they complete their buildings and for the congregations in Duluth and Detroit Lakes, Minnesota as they prepare for construction.

Praise God for a second fellowship now holding Bible studies in a new area of the city of Aguascalientes, Mexico, served by missionary Dan Giles. **Pray** that the doors might be open for the Gospel in this neighborhood.

Pray for Pastors Greven, Haugen and Lombardo as they travel each weekend to serve Home Mission congregations.

Praise God for the open door in India. **Pray** for the 26 Indian pastors, evangelists and Bible women who are serving over 30 congregations and preaching places.

Pray for wisdom for the World Mission Committee as they seek to find suitable housing for missionary Paul Abel and family when they return for furlough later this year.

Praise God for faithful service of Rev. Phil Haugen on the AFLC Schools faculty for so many years, and **pray** that he would guide the Board of Trustees as they seek to call a new professor.

Pray for AFLC President Robert Lee and his family.

Pray for our nation and its leaders, that the Lord would send a spiritual awakening upon us.

AMBASSADOR Hymnal

\$125,000

Final \$50,000 for printing and binding to be raised by pre-sales.

\$75,000

Pre-press costs. Raised by donations. Hymnal available 12-18 months after this amount is raised.

\$5,000 raised so far.

**Donations are
needed**

THE MISSION DEBT

Debt is a distasteful word to most of us, a necessary evil to be endured but not encouraged. Debt is a negative condition to be tolerated only temporarily, and all should be conscious of its dangers.

At the last annual conference some of us became aware for the first time that AFLC World Missions has been paying interest since 1990 on a loan that exceeds fifty thousand dollars. It was intended to be only a temporary solution to a serious cash flow problem, and yet until recently, no definite plans were in place to repay it.

A heart burden for world missions is often an accurate barometer of spiritual health, and it is certainly the last area of our ministries that we want to see operating in the red. The reality of our mission debt needs to be seriously confronted and decisively cancelled before we are ready to consider the challenges of sending forth new missionaries or responding to the call of new fields.

The debt needs to be discharged because we have a greater debt that is due. This account is beyond our ability to repay, for it cannot be reduced to dollars and cents. "I am a debtor," Paul writes in his Letter to the Romans (1:14).

The debt is due today. It is based on what we have received from our Lord, and repaid at His command on His behalf to others. There are those who have not heard the Good News ... peoples, tribes and nations to whom the name of Jesus Christ is not known. There are lands where the doors of opportunity have long been locked and now are open wide. There are difficult doors, too, that sometimes seem only barely open, to places where the Word has long been heard, to those whose hearts have grown cold and hard.

Let's deal with our debts in gospel freedom as we gladly pray and provide for those who go in our place to deliver the lost and dying through the Word of Life. Let's deal with our debts in grateful surrender as we pray, "Here am I. Send me!"

THE CHALLENGE OF MOZAMBIQUE

O "Desafio Mocambicano" (The Challenge of Mozambique), were the Portuguese words that headlined a large bulletin board display at the annual conference of the AFLC-Brazil in January. Articles from mission magazines and newspapers about the

African nation, some illustrated with photographs, covered the exhibit from one end to the other.

There is a unique bond between these two nations, since both share a common history as colonies of Portugal, as well as a common language today. This creates a unique opportunity for missionary outreach from Brazil, where missionary work is well established, to its African "cousin," where evangelical missions have been extremely limited.

There is also a unique need, for according to an international index Mozambique has the highest level of suffering of any country in the world. "The Church Around the World" (November 1992) bulletin insert announced that over one million people were killed during recent years of war, 2.5 million were uprooted from their homes. More than 3.5 million are in need of immediate food and water to survive. Millions are thirsting for the Water of Life.

Contact has been established with a Lutheran pastor laboring along the western border of this suffering land, who invites us to share in his ministry. The Brazilian church has a burden to become a missionary church, not only a mission church, and is counting the cost of what can be done to accept the tremendous challenge of assisting this pastor as well as the possibility of sending others to serve with him.

It would be important to insure that this work is worthy of commitment and support, and this cannot be accomplished apart from a personal survey of the field by representatives of the church. The Brazil AFLC does not have the resources for such a preliminary venture, and help from friends in the United States would be necessary.

Is it responsible to even mention this invitation to our readers? Is it reasonable to consider new open doors in light of the need to better serve our current mission fields and to erase the mission debt mentioned above? No, it is not, if our reliance rests only on our own abilities and resources.

Yes, we will accept the call to be responsible stewards! No, we will not make decisions that fly in the face of the reason that God has given us!

Yes, we will gladly and gratefully commit ourselves as a church to erase the debt that encumbers us and stand ready to enter the exciting new doors that He opens before us!

AFLBS Alumni Tournaments April 16-18, 1993

At the AFLBS Campus and N. Hennepin Community College. Please pre-register by April 9th. Send to Joel Erickson, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Plymouth, MN 55441

"Renewal in Christ" II Cor. 4:16-18

The Co-ordinating Committee approved a resolution on February 15 to raise the annual subscription rate for *The Lutheran Ambassador* to fifteen dollars (\$15), effective April 1. This will apply to all subscriptions that come due after this date.

The reason for the increase is a growing deficit, in spite of subsidies from our various ministries, as well as a recent price increase from our printer.

Enjoy The Ride

The Brazilian friend I was traveling with told me to sit near the front of the bus so that I could see the sights. We were in one of the less developed areas of Brazil, in the State of Rondonia. Our bus ride from the major cities of the south had taken 36 hours. Now we were going from the state's major city to one of the smaller, outlying towns. The bus trip was four hours long on dirt roads.

The bus driver was trying to make time but a small truck in front of him was not cooperating. The truck stayed in the middle of the road and made passing an impossibility. The bus driver let his displeasure be known, but the driver of the truck didn't seem to care. Then, the opportunity arose, and the bus went for it. He squeezed himself between the truck on the right and the bushes on the left, with hardly an inch to spare. Before he got all the way past the truck, however, he turned the wheel sharply to the right, I couldn't see the truck, but I could hear bushes being run into and the bus driver gleefully rejoicing. The thought went through my mind, "If we crash and die out here, my body will just rot in the bushes and no one will ever know what happened to me."

We don't have to be on another continent to feel like we are on a wild bus ride about which no one knows or cares. We can be in a crowded room, full of people who speak our language, and yet we may feel that our presence isn't noticed. The harsh reality is that type of feeling is occasionally pretty accurate. Our comings and goings, our joys and sorrows, often matter little to many of the people around us. The Bible tells us a wonderful truth, however. Where we are and what we are doing matters a great deal to God. The writer of Psalm 139 was inspired by God to say: "O Lord, You have searched me and You know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; You

perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; You are familiar with all my ways." His watchful, loving eye sees us when we are in the crowded room or on the faraway dirt road. His strong, caring hand can protect us whether we are in our home or on the other side of the globe.

God's familiarity with all that we do is a comfort to the one trusting in Christ but a frightening warning to the one foolishly trying to hide. Maybe your family has no idea what magazine or movie you are watching, but God does. Your church may be totally unaware of what you are doing and where you are going, but it hasn't escaped God's attention. He knows not just the story we tell to others, but the real truth. Don't try to run from God. Come to Him, admitting the truth, repenting of your sins, receiving His forgiveness.

Life can seem like a wild, and often lonely ride. We wonder if anyone is paying attention to where we are and where we are headed. Be encouraged!

Wherever you may travel, you need not travel alone. God is interested in what is going on in your life. He wants to go with you every step of the journey. Our activities may not receive the world's spot light, but they are of great importance to our loving, heavenly Father.

At times, on bus rides, we may wonder about the driver. We need not have that fear, however, about this ride called life. We can trust in Jesus as our Lord and Guide, God says in Isaiah 41:10: "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Be sure that Jesus is the One at the wheel of your life. Then go forward and enjoy the ride.



—by Craig Johnson

"Do not fear, for I am with you ..."