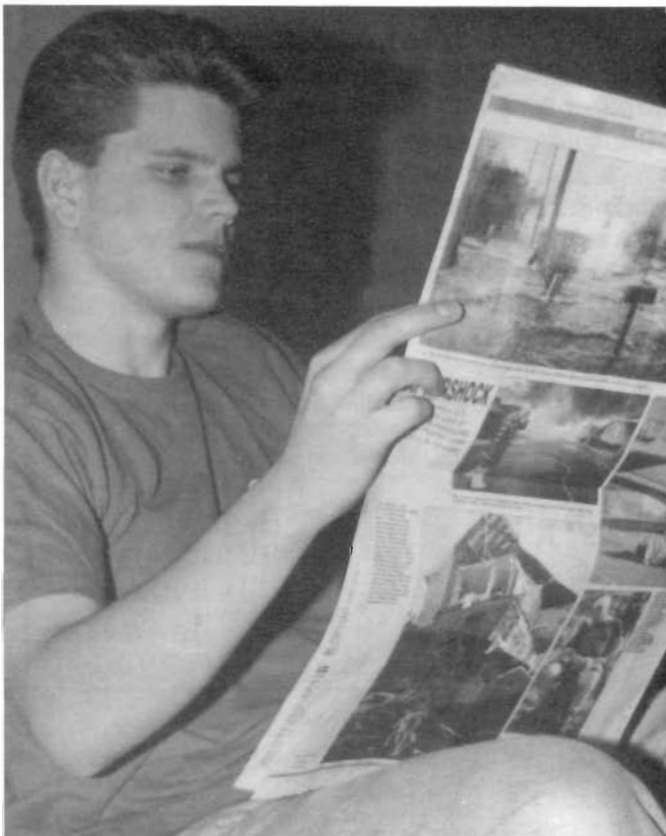




THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

March 8, 1994



**Free Lutheran Theological
Seminary and Bible School**



THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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CONTENTS

What is Life Like at the Seminary	p. 3
Augsburg Principles	p. 4
A Day in the Life of a Bible School Student	p. 6
Holy Encounters Along the Way	p. 9
He Heals the Broken Hearted	p. 16

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Jesus, the Great "I Am"

"And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6b).

Everlasting Father — what a strange name for a prophet to give a child who wouldn't even be born for 700 years, yet how appropriate when we realize it describes the God-man we call Jesus!

Jesus, the coming boy-child, is called Father. While much could obviously be said about what a father (or *Father*, as in *heavenly Father*) is, a space only permits one important observation. Every attribute of the heavenly Father throughout the Bible is present in *perfection* in Jesus Christ — and perfect in Him for all eternity, because He is *Everlasting Father*!

In the debate between Jesus and the Jews recorded in John 8, He explicitly states His eternal nature as Everlasting Father. He is none other than Yahweh in the flesh! In this chapter, the Pharisees were pitting mere upstart Jesus against venerable father Abraham. The dispute climaxed with their question, "Are you greater than our father Abraham? ... Who do you think you are?" (53).

How did Jesus respond? He made the amazing statement: "Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day: he saw it and was glad" (56). And then, following their astonished response, "You are not yet 50 years old and you have seen Abraham!" (57). The God-man named Everlasting Father said these absolutely shocking words: "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was born, *I am*!" (58). Father Abraham had died about 2,000 years *before* the upstart Jesus was even born, yet here He was claiming to be *before* Abraham! How did the Jews respond? They tried to kill Him: a radical response to a radical claim!

Light on the Way

Why the spontaneous attempt to stone Him? What was it about Jesus' simple declaration "before Abraham was born, I am" that pushed the Pharisees over the edge? True, His claim to have temporal precedence over Abraham must have been terribly upsetting. But couldn't they have somehow dismissed that as the ravings of a madman (twice already, in verses, 48 and 52, they had claimed He was demon-possessed)?

What was Jesus really claiming in His statement? Far more than merely claiming temporal precedence over Abraham, He was saying "I am none other than Yahweh: I, Jesus, am your God!" We may miss the point, but the Jews didn't. Instantly, the stones began to fly in a spontaneous attempt to kill him, for Jesus (in their view) had spoken words of the most reprehensible blasphemy imaginable! He was claiming *for himself* the sacred name God spoke to Moses from the burning bush when he said: "**I am who I am**. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: '**I am** has sent me to you.' ... This is my name forever" (Exodus 3:14-15).

Without doubt Jesus Christ is rightly named **Everlasting Father**, for **I am** is the personally claimed name of God, both Father and son! To both "**I am**'s," the Christian responds with the declaration of living faith "**He is**!" May God give us ongoing grace to keep on trusting in Jesus, our Everlasting Father who "is the same yesterday and today and forever."



— Rev.
Jerry Holmaas

What is Life Like at the Seminary?

The title of this article was the theme of a discussion recently held with three of the current students at the Free Lutheran Theological Seminary as well as a faculty member. The students taking part were Dan Klug, a senior from Fairbury, Nebraska; Tim Johnson, a middler from Pipestone, Minnesota; and Tom Schierkolk, a junior from Prairie Farm, Wisconsin. The participating faculty member was Dr. Craig Jennings.

Lutheran Ambassador: What kind of involvement have you had in congregations while in seminary?

Tim Johnson: Since last Palm Sunday I have been going out to Mondovi, Wisconsin to serve the congregation there. It's about a 120 mile drive one way.

Tom Schierkolk: I'm pretty involved with the Solid Rock congregation here in the Twin Cities. I serve as an elder.

Dan Klug: I have been the consummate rent-a-pulpit. I've been going to different places to preach almost every weekend. It has made me a better preacher and servant to see the different situations. The needs vary, yet God meets them through the power of His Word.

Ambassador: How have congregations been supportive of you while in seminary?

Schierkolk: I have received financial support which has been a big help.

Dr. Jennings: Along those lines, I would like to see our seminary return to the days of free tuition. It takes the students many hours of work to pay their bills and it detracts from

their studies. They almost have to ask the question at times, "Am I going to do the paper or earn money to pay the rent?"

Johnson: My home church has been very supportive financially and with their prayers.

Klug: I have had parishioners in my home church send me notes and letters. They welcome me when I go back and want me to take part in the service. They have a real vision of sending me forth. I wouldn't be able to finish seminary if not for them.

Ambassador: What are the financial costs of going to seminary?

Schierkolk: The tuition is a minimal cost. The cost of living in the Twin Cities, especially for families with kids, is what is hard. I'm afraid some prospective students haven't felt they could make it financially.

"They have a real vision of sending me forth. I wouldn't be able to finish seminary if not for them."

Ambassador: What does rent in this area cost?

Johnson: In our building, a two bedroom apartment is between \$500 and \$600.

Ambassador: How can congregations help?

Johnson: Congregations "adopting" seminarians isn't a bad idea. The Lord will provide. My wife and I had to quit our jobs when we came here and we have been amazed at how the Lord has blessed us. ◇



Seminary
prayer time

SEMINARY

Ambassador: What are the strengths of the seminary?

Klug: The stand on the Word; there is no question at the school on the inerrancy of Scripture.

Johnson: The emphasis on living faith and living out your faith; I remember being told: "no amount of knowledge makes you qualified to be a pastor, only your relationship with the Lord."

Schierkolk: The small size is also a strength. It gives you an opportunity to be involved.

Ambassador: What are some challenges facing the seminary?

"We need to always strive for proper balance of orthodox teaching coupled with practical life."

Dr. Jennings: We need to always strive for proper balance of orthodox teaching coupled with practical life. Both careful doctrinal understanding and a personal walk with the Lord are necessary. We have to be sure our practice flows out of correct doctrine.

Klug: The demands on the faculty's time from both the seminary and the Bible school limits their opportunities for writing and study. They are a wonderful resource that isn't being fully used because of time and financial limits.

Dr. Jennings: We have been asked to produce videos but we do not have the time or resources. The lack of time for further study to increase our teaching ability can be frustrating.

Ambassador: What are some prayer needs you would like congregations to know about?

Klug: I feel the faculty and students are a prime target of Satan and need much prayer.

Johnson: Satan works on the wife and children. We need to remember the Lord's work includes our families.

Schierkolk: Those of us with families need prayer as we struggle between spending time with our family and time with our studies.

Johnson: I enjoy seeing calendars from congregations and know they are praying for us.

Our people's churchly task in this land is great and difficult. It is the transition from state church to free church. Our people were prepared for this transition at home in the old land through the century that is just about to end. Since 1796, when the Lord raised up his precious tool, Hans Nilsen Hauge, and sent him out with the awakening call through all of Norway's folk and land, from valley to valley, from district to district, and until this time, there has gone out a spiritual airing with spiritual longing for liberty. The awakening by Hauge arose the people and woke them up out of sleep; in those days it happened after the words of the Lord, that the Lord raised up the humble and put down the great and the proud. The power of the movement showed itself in the fruit of the work it started in the Norwegian mission to the heathen. The movement which was awakened by God by His Spirit and power could not cease before it reached out to the ends of the world.

The immigration to our beloved and free land is destined to give the movement of spiritual freedom air and a way to progress. So many men and women are gathered here in a land where hindrances are broken and room opened, that it is expected and demanded that here should Norway's spiritual life carry its fully ripened fruit in a free congregation. Therefore, Augsburg was built, so that the Norwegian awakening should have a way and a work in the new land, and that the movement for freedom could arrive at its goal, a free congregation.

The Free Congregation

Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. The gospel brings forth the freest of all that is free, a child of God. It brings forth the free fellowship, the congregation. Christ did not organize any congregation. He gathered a congregation of disciples by His word, His work, His life. The congregation altogether is not come into being by laws and constitutions; it was born by the giving of the Spirit, it was shaped by the living body of Jesus Christ by his own hand, who took residence in his believers' hearts. Therefore, it is not a gathering of people, who by worldly power or superstitious fear is forced and driven to uphold a hated priestly caste; no, neither is

"Augsburg's principle is that God's thoughts are deep enough, and God's words are wide and broad enough to fill years of study."

AUGSBURG PRINCIPLES

congregation a gathering of ignorant and maybe immoral people, among whom the pastors should be teachers and task masters to hold the people in awe and strengthen civil order or princely might. No, the Christian congregation is people drawn together of free will and united by the Word of the Lord and the sacraments, one body who live in Him, and they in Him, God's housefolk and building in the Spirit. But in each place, where God's Word and Sacraments gather people in prayer and calling favor in faith and hope and love; there is God's congregation, hidden and shadowed by many ways and the frailness of the flesh; visible and shining by the witness of the power of the Spirit. Daily does it need the forgiveness of sins for itself, daily is it made clean by the blood of the Lord, so it can be without fault or wrinkle, daily it receives grace, so that it can be a city on the hill, which cannot be hid.

The Pastor's Training

We do not have contempt for the pastor's office, which some falsely say; otherwise, why should the seminary be the main cause for "the new direction?" If it were possible, the pastors should be first in work, first in suffering, wisest in guidance and quickest in action when it concerns the cause of God's Kingdom, examples for the flock and servants to the soul for their everlasting salvation. Their education should answer to this. Their call is to speak the gospel of Christ to souls and promote, lead and strengthen God's congregation in its work and battle.

The right theological student drinks of the Scriptures deep and clear and fetches there from the inspiration which carries his life's service, so that always, through the many small and great changes he sights ahead to the right goal: saved souls in Jesus' fellowship and the furtherance of the Kingdom over all the earth. Jesus made His disciples to be such students of Scripture in the years He had them by Himself. He spoke His words and did His works for His disciples, so that they could become His witnesses; He opened His scriptures for them, so their hearts became glowing and their spirits light and clear; and they

learned to love more, the more they could look into God's wonderful ways. This way the first missionaries and pastors were made efficient workers, who went out and proclaimed of Christ "reconcile yourself to God!" And no one doubts, that they were well prepared and fit for the work.

Augsburg's principle is that God's thoughts are deep enough, and God's words are wide and broad enough to fill years of study. The sword of the Spirit is sharp enough so that it does not need help from heathen learning and wisdom. Augsburg's witness is this, that he who shall be a witness about the salvation of the Lord must experience it in his own heart. Only by living experience is the living conviction won, which gives the message the right, hearty sound and tone. And we fear not, that such a student of scripture should become single-minded and tiring in his preaching, not able to "entertain his listeners." Or have any heard, that the daily bread becomes monotonous for the hungry? Surely if God's congregation should be satisfied and taken care of, then it happens not in any other way than by the gospel of Jesus Christ, and His lovely cross.

Therefore, all is of worth for a pastor's education that can be a help to penetrate into God's Word; and all is worthless that only can dull the heart and mind for the Lord's living truth. All is profitable to get an insight in the Word of the Lord and His plan of salvation, all is hurtful which does not contribute to it. This is the purpose for the pastoral service that souls can be fed and nourished by God's word, so every single believer and the whole congregation can grow in the knowledge of God's Son and reach ahead to complete maturity in Christ.

Therefore, the one who is best educated for pastoral service is the one whose heart is the more penetrated with God's love, and whose spirit is more enlightened by God's Spirit. And to that shall the seminary help to lead the students to the clear, fresh spring of God's words and teach them that it is better to pour from the spring of living water than the dirty wells of human wisdom.

Source: The Second Meeting of the Friends of Augsburg, 1894. Later it came out in a separate copy.

From Georg Sverdrup, *Writings*, Vol. III, pages 15-23. Translation by John Horn, Kalispell, Montana.

Cory Evenson and George Watts, both of Camrose, Alberta.



A Day in the Life of A Bible School Student

As a senior at the Association Free Lutheran Bible School, my day begins with breakfast around 7 a.m. and devotions at 7:45 a.m. Each student takes turns leading with Scripture and prayer following a schedule posted by the student chaplain. One junior leads devotions for the senior class and one senior leads devotions for the junior class.

Our first class begins at 7:55 a.m. and our last class ends around noon. The course of study for both junior and senior classes consists mainly of required classes. The number of times a week we have these classes depends on how many credits the class is worth. At the present time, (second quarter)

A recommendation

I've been involved with hundreds of young adults during the last ten years, and I'm amazed at the quality of change the Lord accomplishes in those who set aside some time for serious study of the Bible before going on to college or work. It's the most inexpensive school I know of (about \$3,000) and most students are able to pay their own way. I think the best thing that could happen for youth at Calvary is to have a bunch go to Bible school.

— Rev. James Johnson
Calvary Free Lutheran Church
Fosston, Minnesota

the required senior classes include a three credit course which is Ezekiel/Daniel, taught by Pastor Tjelta. The rest of our required courses are two credit classes: Denominational Differences, with Pastor David Abel; Doctrine II and Hebrews, with Pastor Greven; Reformation History, with Dr. Jennings; and Thessalonians/Pastoral Epistles, with Pastor Yeddo Gattel. We also have one credit electives which include: Choir, Choral Club, Gospel Teams and a couple others. The student body also meets for chapel first hour on Monday and fourth hour on Wednesday.

After the noon meal, students are basically free until curfew at 10 p.m. weekdays. Most students work to pay off their school bill. The Jewelmont van comes for me at 12:45 p.m. Jewelmont is a jewelry factory that has been hiring Bible school students for many years. At one time this year, around 30 students worked there. I work in the shipping department where we pack the jewelry and send it all over the country. I believe I have been blessed to have this job since the hours are good and we get back in time for supper.



Mrs. Marian Christopherson, the Choral Club director and piano teacher, is pictured with Alicia Schlenk, daughter of John '72 and Cindy '73 Schlenk, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.

Brent Hartsch, Ray, North Dakota.





The Association Free Lutheran Seminary and Bible School offices are now located in the Chapel Building. The phone number for both schools is now 612-544-9501. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Other Bible school students work in a variety of places such as restaurants, parts' warehouses and office supply companies. Many work at day cares for children and adults who are mentally and physically challenged.

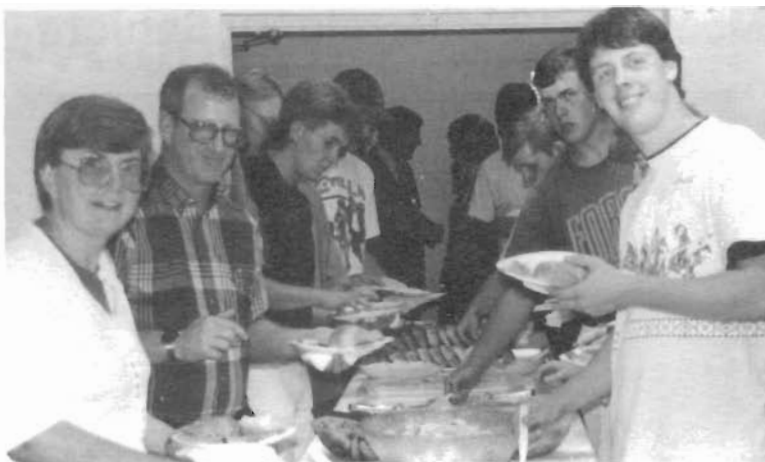
Working off campus is also a good opportunity to practice witnessing techniques taught in Personal Evangelism, a first year class which I had with Dr. Lombardo. Many people have received Christ as Savior as a result of this evangelism in the work place.

I know this was an area in my life I needed work on, and I have really learned a great deal. I have much more confidence in my witness than I did before I came to Bible school.

There have been some shocking things for me too. We think of this country as a place where everyone knows at least who Jesus is, but this is not the case. One fellow worker I know, had heard the name before, but did not know more than that!

Though many people work in the evenings, they are generally free for me. This is a time to study and enjoy the fellowship until evening devotions at 10 p.m. We have school

The AFLC Schools' faculty: Rev. Ralph Tjelta; Dr. Steven Lombardo, AFLTS Acting Dean; Dr. Craig Jennings; Rev. Donald Greven, AFLBS Dean; and Mr. Jerry Nelson.



Dinner after the opening service for the 1993-94 school year.

devotions, dorm devotions, floor devotions, and prayer partners on different days of the week.

Fellowship is one of the most important benefits of Bible school. Living in the dorms gives us a chance to have fellowship with other Christians. Whether it's discussion on a topic from class or just sharing what's on our heart, it's a great time of growth.

Sharing what God has done in our lives is vital. I have heard it said that if we continually take in God's Word and don't share it, our lives become stagnant. Gospel teams provide Bible school students with many opportunities. Many extra hours are put into these and other off campus ministries. Sometimes practice for these teams goes late into the night.

After a personal time of devotions, it's lights out for me, but as my roommate and I have found out, it's nearly impossible to get to sleep before midnight. So ends a typical day for an AFLBS student where the school's theme, "Coming to learn, Leaving to serve," is put into practice.



— by Lars Dyrud
AFLBS Senior
Thief River Falls,
Minnesota



Meet the 1994 Seminary Seniors Part II



Doug Wagley

Married to Ruth; three daughters, Catherine, Rachel and Martha.

Education: University of Arizona, B.A.; graduate language studies at Banaras Hindu University; Wheaton Graduate School of Theology, M.A.

My family and I have attended Solid Rock Free Lutheran Church in Osseo since the summer of 1990, and have truly enjoyed the fellowship. I have served as assistant to the pastor of a Baptist church. Ruth and I have served a mission for one year in India and have worked full-time summers with Campus Crusade for Christ. Immediately prior to coming to AFLTS, we were members of an inner city Chicago Missouri Synod congregation.

Personal testimony: I was saved in 1978 when the Lord worked a tremendous change in me and which He has kept me in ever since. Early in my Christian walk, I had an insatiable hunger and thirst for the Word, as well as a zeal for reaching the lost. Ruth was saved in 1977. She is a great encouragement to me as well as being a gifted fellow worker in the Lord. I became a Lutheran in 1985 while obtaining a M.A. in Theology at Wheaton. This was my first exposure to Luther's writings and the confessions. I was attracted to Lutheranism because of the stronger emphasis on the grace of God and the freedom of the believer than what I experienced while in Reformed circles.



Victor Young

Lyle, Minnesota. Son of Mr. and Mrs. David Young.

Married to Melinda Dickerson; one daughter, Amber.

Seminary experience: I have appreciated the exposure at the seminary to the Law/Gospel framework of preaching, evangelism and hermeneutics. Another highlight has been to have the opportunity to continue my Greek languages studies and to study Hebrew as well. I thank Professors Tjelta and Lombardo for their emphasis on the heart-warming experience and solid biblical preaching. I appreciate Dr. Jennings' depth of historical knowledge and Dr. Monseth both for being understanding in nature and serious in his doctrine.

I especially enjoyed the opportunity to be in full-time ministry for the year of internship. I have always enjoyed ministry to the elderly, and both evangelism and one-on-one witnessing. There were many open doors in these areas last year. I also grew in the area of youth work which was new to me. I found myself enjoying it. I am thankful for my year of internship at Elim Lutheran Church in Lake Stevens, Washington. Pastor Richard Gunderson and the other AFLC pastors in the area were role models and I am grateful for their input, friendship and seasoned experience.

Praise is like a plow set to go deep into the soil of believers' hearts. It lets the glory of God into the details of daily living.

— C. M. Hanson

Home congregation: Faith Lutheran Church, London, Minnesota, Einar Unseth, pastor.

Education: AFLBS; Mankato State University, B.S.

Special interests: music, reading, gardening, target shooting, aviation, swimming.

Personal testimony: I am thankful to God for parents who saw to it that I attended church and Sunday School. I thank God for a wife, who according to I Peter 3:1-2, witnessed to me, a backslider at the time, in a quiet, submissive and consistent manner. The Lord used her as an instrument by which the Holy Spirit convicted me and softened my heart. I was prepared for the visit of my caring pastor, Einar Unseth, who came to our home and led me back to a right relationship with Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1 is a very comforting and confidence building verse for many Christians as well as myself: "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus."

Seminary experience: The time at AFLTS has been a wonderful experience for me because of the Bible-believing pastor/teachers who have tutored me. Primarily it is the study of God's Word that has brought forth blessing after blessing and encouragement to my heart, soul and mind.

My internship year at Emmanuel of rural Wamamingo, Minnesota, and Hauge in nearby Kenyon, has been invaluable for hands-on training in ministry. There have been heartaches at times and heavenly joys at other times. Through it all, the Lord has been faithful, I am more than confident that He will be with me as I leave the nest and go into full-time ministry (Psalm 27:1).

Holy Encounters Along the Way

It was mid-November, 1993. The EEMN Slovak team composed of AFLC Pastor Ken Thoreson, Janesville, Wisconsin, and his son, Leif; Mr. Don Fladland, Director of the Lay Ministry Training Center; and my wife, Mavis, and myself had just finished two weeks of great ministry opportunities in churches throughout Slovakia. Our next destination was Riga, Latvia, where we would spend time with Dr. Francis Monseth and his family. On the way we would stop in northeastern Czech Republic to meet briefly with our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Selesian Lutheran Church where we had visited last spring.

We learned an important biblical principle that much, life-changing ministry occurs along the way. Along the way Jesus touched many lives. Traveling through Samaria, He met the woman at the well. Leaving Jericho, he met blind Bartimaeus. On the streets of Jericho, He spoke to Zachaeus. These encounters with Jesus were life-changing. Their stories have become marvelous lessons of how Jesus works in people's lives.

Along our way last fall, we checked into the hotel in Komonl Lhodka, Czech Republic, where a conference on Confirmation education for Eastern Europe was being held. After a hectic evening of sharing Bible messages and renewing friendships, we returned to our hotel. Before I could get to my room, I was stopped by a friend who introduced me to Sandra Gintere from Riga, Latvia. She already knew about East European Missions Network. She quickly got to the point. Would we find someone who could help them establish an effective Confirmation program for the Lutheran Church of Latvia? We agreed to meet a few days later in Riga where I could introduce her to Dr. Monseth.

We are now praying for the right

person who can go to Riga with love for the people and sensitivity toward their situation, and can help them design a Bible-centered Confirmation ministry for the Lutheran Church of Latvia.

On November 22, I stood at the hotel entrance waiting to meet Pastor Stanislav Peitak. Five minutes before my 8 a.m. appointment, a young pastor from neighboring Hungary approached me. "How do you evangelize?" he asked. "I need to start an evangelism ministry for my church." I remembered 30 years earlier when I was a new missionary in Brazil. I knew little about evangelism, but God put two men in my life who helped me enormously: Pastor Jack Aamot, now the director of LEM and Jim Peterson of the Navigators. Among other things, they showed me the "Bridge Illustration" which I have used around the world since.

I nervously looked around for Pastor Peitak, but saw no sign of him. I invited the young Hungarian to sit down in the lobby with me and in my best German, I led him through "The Bridge." I explained how man is separated from God and how the cross is the bridge. It is only by the cross that we can be brought into fellowship with God. I emphasized the importance of asking people: "Where are you on this illustration?" An hour later we finished with prayer, shook hands and the young pastor left.

I looked up and saw Pastor Peitak walking toward me apologizing for being an hour late because of problems with his mother's furnace.

When I explained to him how God used his delay in giving me time with the young pastor, he was overjoyed. Subsequently, I have written to Pastor Szell Bulesu, a leader of EKE, an evangelical group of Hungarian pastors who have a vision for reaching their country for Christ. I asked them to encourage this young man and invite him into their fellowship. Truly an encounter along the way can become more fruitful than what we planned on doing at our destination.

These are not isolated experiences, rather they are a small sample of what God is doing in Eastern Europe and around the world. They illustrate a comforting missions principle — the real missionary is the Holy Spirit. He goes ahead and, through circumstances sovereignly arranged by God, prepares the hearts of people. He does the work. He has been there before we arrive, He carries the burden of mission. When we are faithful we will be led to the people He has prepared for His Word.

Indeed, the Holy Spirit has gone before us in a massive way in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. He has prepared tens of thousands of people for the gospel Word of Salvation in Jesus Christ, crucified and risen. Simultaneously He is calling people to join the army of those who will meet them "along the way" with the Word of life and hope. Perhaps He is calling you?

Blessed are those who pray or those who pray and give support so that others can go to the divine encounters prepared for them along the way. Blessed are they who willingly respond to God's call to go and to trust to Him the fears and uncertainties we face as we make that decision.

— Rev. Don Richman
Director of EEMN

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**The real
missionary
is the Holy Spirit.**

World Missions

A Mexican journey

A desire to find bus routes and projects for the Partners in Missions outreach program inspired four men to travel to Mexico this past November. Mr. Al Brazier of Greenbush, Minnesota supplied the van for the trip with the rest of the expenses being paid for by the four participants. Those making the journey, along with Mr. Brazier, included AFLC World Missions Director Eugene Enderlein and World Missions Committee members Vernon Russum and Ken Williams.

The trip originated in Minnesota. Visits were made along the way with members of the AFLC congregations in Wichita Falls, Pleasanton and Weslaco, Texas. Time was spent also with AFLC military chaplains Mike Crowell and Tim Skramstad and their families.

The first part of the week was spent in Aguascalientes. Pastor Dan and Debbie Giles and their two children are the American missionary family serving in that city. Assisting in the work are Mike and Judy Weak.

After three days in Aguascalientes, the men traveled to Leon and the home of Pastor Samuel Flores. visits were also made to the congregations in Irapuato and Celaya. Pastor Raul Hernandez serves in Irapuato while Pastor Milton Flores is in Celaya.

The Sunday of the trip saw the visitors from America participating in an early church service in Leon and then traveling to Aguascalientes for another service later that same morning.

It was described by Ken Williams as "a really great and gratifying trip."

Coming next issue:
Meet missionary candidate
Todd Schierkolk.

Teacher Needed in Brazil

Janet Gray, who has served in Brazil as a teacher for missionary children, will be returning to the United States immediately. Her departure from the work in Brazil leaves a pressing need unmet. Pray for the work and ministry of the Paul Abels, the ARCA, nationals of the work in Bateias and Miss Gray. Inquiries for short term mission service should be directed to the World Missions Office in Minneapolis.



Pastor Flores is standing outside of St. Andrew the Apostle Chapel in Leon. The chapel was built in loving memory of Rev. Kenneth Pentti, AFLC evangelist.



Mr. Ken Williams, Rev. Eugene Enderlein, World Missions Director; Mr. Al Brazier; Mr. Vernon Russum with the Missionary Dan Giles family and friends.



Outside the Gethsemane Chapel in Celaya, far right, Pastor and Mrs. Milton Flores with their new son, Milton.

Partners in Missions Office moved

Partners in Missions Office has moved to northern Minnesota from Kalispell, Montana..

The new address is Mr. Al Brazier, Route 2, Box 338, Greenbush,

MN 56726.

The mission bus just returned from a trip into Mexico during February 11-25. Another group is expecting to make the mission trip later in March.

Romans 12:1

I Peter 2:9-13

We are to have "honorable conduct" that will glorify God. Our example has to be such that unbelievers realize that we are this way because of Jesus Christ. We have to be ready with a word for our Savior.

When Aaron and his family were appointed as priests, they were still sinful men, so they needed to make a sacrifice of atonement for their sins. It had to be continually repeated. When they died, their priesthood was over. Not so with Jesus! Hebrews 8:1 says: "We have a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens."

MAKING IT PERSONAL:

This month, let us think about our holy priesthood and what it means to be a living sacrifice. Let us not be conformed to this world. Let's offer to God all our praises for what He has done in our lives through our Savior and High Priest, Jesus Christ.

"Thank You, Jesus, for Your atoning work in my place. Thank You for the privilege of being in Your holy priesthood — to bring others before You in prayer, to reach out to them with Your Holy Word, and to lead a life that can be used as an example. It is only through You that this is possible."

PRIESTS

Have you ever considered what it means that we are "a holy priesthood?" What kind of sacrifices do we offer? How can we do this? In this lesson we will compare (1) the men God chose to lead in the spiritual life of the Israelites, (2) the great High Priest, Jesus Christ, and (3) believers as a Holy Priesthood.

CHOSEN BY GOD

I. A. Family of Aaron

a. Who were chosen by God to be priests? Exodus 28:1

b. For what purpose? Exodus 28:41

c. For how long? Exodus 29:9b

B. Jesus Christ

a. Who gives this honor? Hebrews 5:4-6

b. Hebrews 3:1-2a: What is Jesus called?

Notice what we are called:

C. Believers

a. Ephesians 1:4

Discuss what this means.

b. 1 Peter 2:5 _____

Discuss each phrase. How can we be a holy priesthood?

SANCTIFIED

2. A. Family of Aaron — Exodus 29:44 _____

B. Jesus Christ — John 10:36. What does Jesus say about Himself?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

C. Believers — Hebrews 10:10 _____

To “sanctify” has a two-fold meaning: (1) set apart and (2) to make holy. Discuss how we are sanctified. (For extra study, look up the word in your concordance!)

REQUIREMENTS

3. A. Aaron’s family

Exodus 40:13-15 _____

Ezra 2:62 _____

Leviticus 21:21-23 _____

(Anointed; registered genealogy; no defects.)

B. Jesus Christ

John 1:1 and 14 _____

Hebrews 7:26 _____

1 John 3:5 tells us that “He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.”

C. Believers

Galatians 3:26 _____

Ephesians 4:24 _____

Discuss how we become “a new man.”

CLOTHING

4. A. Aaron’s family

Exodus 28:2 _____

Psalms 132:9a _____

B. Jesus Christ

Psalms 93:1 _____

Psalms 104:1-2 _____

C. Believers

Ephesians 6:10-17 — Describe the armor of God and what it does for us.

DUTIES

5. A. Aaron’s family

Hebrews 5:1-4 _____

B. Jesus Christ

Luke 19:10 _____

Matthew 5:17 _____

Matthew 20:28 _____

Hebrews 2:14 _____

Hebrews 7:24-25 _____

Oh, the mercy of God, that our sins, genealogy, or imperfect bodies don’t keep us from becoming holy priests. All are covered under Christ’s blood.

A Time to Rest: The 1994 AFLC Pastors' Conference

Pastors found cold weather but warm encouragement from God's Word at the 1994 AFLC Pastor's Conference at the Association Retreat Center (ARC) in Osceola, Wisconsin, January 18-20.

The conference began with a Holy Communion Service led by Rev. Mel Meyer of Amery, Wisconsin with the message being given by AFLC President Rev. Robert Lee. The next day began with the first of three Bible study hours that were led during the conference by Rev. Martin Horn of Astoria, Oregon. Rev. Horn spoke on the Sabbath rest that is found in Christ. He encouraged the pastors to, "while living in a world of unrest, find rest in the objective reality of how God sees you."

Rev. Jerry Holmaas of Chassell, Michigan shared a study on Genesis 39 entitled "Nothing, Yet All, is Changed." At the same time the pastors' wives who were in attendance

met separately to hear Mrs. Audrey Gilmore of Onalaska, Wisconsin speak on "Protecting Your Pastor-Husband." Two different sessions were devoted to dealing with some of the tragic aftermath of sexual abuse and harassment, led by Rev. Terry Olson of Valley City, North Dakota, and Dr. Howard Franzen of Hastings, Nebraska.

The Wednesday evening banquet saw 117 in attendance. The speaker was Rev. Tom Brock of Hope Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota who shared on the present state of Lutheranism and the "Crisis in the ELCA."

The final message on Thursday morning was brought by Rev. Joel Rolf of Radcliffe, Iowa. It was an encouragement to pastors to "Remember Your Calling." The wives met separately again under the leadership of Mrs. Cheryl Skordahl of Dalton, Minnesota. The confer-

ence concluded with an AFLC Forum. The forum was highlighted by the sharing of what Rev. Lee described as "an encouraging financial report." He also urged pastors to sign up themselves and invite others to sign up as well to be a part of the AFLC Vision 2000 Prayer Shield.

On the Monday evening and Tuesday prior to the Pastors' Conference the Home Mission Pastors met for a retreat at the ARC. The speaker was Mr. Wendell Amstutz of the National Counseling Resource Center in Rochester, Minnesota. His topic for the sessions was "Ministry to Those Wounded in the Spirit Wars."

The Pastors' Conference was followed by the first meeting of the District Council. Representatives from each district were invited to meet with Rev. Lee to open better lines of communication and help the headquarters' office keep in touch with the needs of the pastors.



Rev. Christian Andrews, Larimore, North Dakota, and Mr. Steve Papillon, Emmaus Lutheran Church staff member, Bloomington, Minnesota.



Rev. Kenneth Wilsdon, Kalispell, Montana.

California vacation

Housing free for pastor and his family.

Golf course house in beautiful San Diego County.

Conditions: a promise to enjoy and relax in world's greatest vacation land; preach on Sundays; available June 12 for three weeks or more.

For more information, call 619-731-0980.



Mrs. Audrey Gilmore, Onalaska, Wisconsin.

Keith Quanbeck, Wheatland, Iowa, is working with Media Fellowship International; a Christian ministry with leaders in professional entertainment and the media industry. MFI has 20 groups in the U.S. and Canada with plans to start groups in more areas. Keith's focus will be in the Midwest.

Linda Odegaard, Tioga, North Dakota, continues to struggle with respiratory problems and is now on oxygen. Linda is the wife of Rev. Stephen Odegaard, the pastor of Norman and Beaver Creek Lutheran Church parish, rural Tioga.

Rev. Ernest Langness is currently a resident at the Norlite Nursing Center, 701 Homestead, Marquette, Michigan 49855.

Houston, Texas — A new AFLC congregation, Abiding Love Lutheran, is meeting for worship on Sunday evenings in the community room of the Lookwood National Bank in the south Houston suburb of Friendswood. Contacts may be referred to the pastor, Rev. Gordon L. Waterman at (713) 351-8001.



Zumbrota, Minnesota — Our Saviour's Lutheran Church accepted 21 new members recently. Pictured are all but one of the new members. Rev. James Molstre is standing back row, center.



Coon Rapids, Minnesota — Pictured are the nine new members who joined Maranatha Fee Lutheran Church recently. Organized in 1989, Maranatha is a Home Mission congregation in the northern suburb of Minneapolis-St. Paul and is served by Rev. Tonnes Pollestad.



Freeman, South Dakota — Salem Free Lutheran Church recently received five new members. They are pictured with their pastor, Rev. Mike Klenner, far right.

Partners in Planting Congregation is Adopted

Presently there are three congregations in the Partners in Planting Program of the AFLC Home Missions. These congregations are in Cambridge, Minnesota; Beulah, North Dakota; and Topeka, Kansas. The program is designed to provide aid to the congregation in order to call their first pastor.

The following is a copy of a letter sent to Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Topeka from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Fargo, North Dakota:

"After receiving information regarding the Partners in Planting Program, our (missions) committee decided we would encourage our congregation to take an active part in pledging financial and prayer support. We also decided we would like

to focus on one church and chose yours. People responded and, as a result, a portion of your monthly support comes from Fargo.

As we remind our congregation to pray for you, we thought it would be good to know of any specific needs or praises. We would be very interested in knowing how it is going for you. Also, we thought it would be fun to receive a newsletter if your church has one ..."

In Christ,
Carol Collins

If you or your congregation is interested in participating in this Partners in Planting Program, contact Rev. Elden Nelson, Home Missions Director, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55441; phone 612-545-5631.

Newark, Illinois — West Lisbon Lutheran Church sponsored a "Love Your Neighbor to Life" seminar on Saturday, February 5. The five-session seminar consisted of a practical, warmhearted approach to personal evangelism.

London, Minnesota — Faith Lutheran Church hosted the District Bible Conference at a day-long conference on February 26. The theme was "Revive Us Again" from Psalm 85:6. AFLTS Acting Dean Dr. Steven Lombardo was the guest speaker. This was the first conference organized by the newly named Central Tri-State District, formerly called Minneapolis II, with 15 congregations in Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota.

Proper Preparation

Many things do not get covered in seminary training that a pastor needs to know. I never had a class in "Copy Machine Use." No one ever told me how to go through a line at a potluck without offending someone by ignoring their dish and, at the same time, avoid eating at one meal all the calories you need for the month. I don't remember receiving instruction in how to go on a hayride or snowtubing with the youth group and bring everyone back in one piece.

It is tempting to think seminary and Bible school instruction should consist of giving students a list of "do's and don't's," tell them to memorize it and live accordingly. The problem is the list will never be complete. Christians in the next decade, if Jesus does not return by then, will have to address issues that we cannot even imagine today. If their instruction simply consisted of being given a list, what will they do?

I am very thankful for the training I received at the Free Lutheran Theological Seminary. I was taught not just what the teachers believed the Word said, but how to study the Word for myself. I was told not just what they had decided, but how to make decisions myself under the guidance of God and His Word. A frequent phrase I remember was, "You have to come to your own conclusion as to what this portion of the Word says." That phrase would be followed by an example of how to study the Word to determine its meaning and make application of it.

The Bereans are described in Acts 17:11 as of noble character because they "examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." Having people like that in a congregation and a classroom can be a little frightening. They challenge us. They want to see biblical support for our positions. It is not enough to simply say, "That is what we have always believed" or "this is how it has always been done." They want to know, "What does the Bible say?" They ask the questions we should be asking.

We may think it would be nice to have people who would just listen to what we say, agree and go on their way. That is not good for the teacher or the student. We who preach and teach are to be encouraging our listeners to follow the example of the Bereans, both for our sake and for their's. People are to be taught to dig into the Word themselves and mine its jewels. Martin Luther translated the Bible into the language of the day so the

common man could read it and learn its truths. Some thought that was dangerous. "What if the unlearned man reads the Word and comes up with a wrong interpretation and believes it to be truth?" It must be remembered, however, that the sincere seeker of truth never reads the Word without a teacher. The Holy Spirit opens up the Word and reveals its truth to the scholar and the school boy. Let them all read. Let them struggle with the issues. Let them dig into the Word themselves. Our confidence rests in God.

Our Bible school and seminary do not teach students everything they will ever need to know. They, instead, should teach how to be lifelong students of the Word. Schools cannot tell students everything they will ever need to do. They are effective, however, when they show a student where to go — the Word of God — and who to lean on — Jesus Christ — in every step of life's journey.

Keeping in Touch

At our Bible school and seminary weekends have traditionally been a time to travel. Faculty members and seminarians are often filling pulpits. Bible school students are visiting congregations as members of gospel teams and sharing in song and testimonies. It takes time away from study and adds expense to an already tight budget. Yet, I believe it is worth it.

The first fundamental principle of the AFLC is, "According to the Word of God, the congregation is the right form of the kingdom of God on earth." We believe in the centrality of the congregation. The heartbeat of our church body is not in our headquarters but in the local congregations scattered throughout the world. The seminary and Bible school exist to serve the congregation. It is important, therefore, that they continually remain in touch with the ones they are here to serve. Time dedicated to study is important, but study without congregational involvement is not healthy for the student or the church body.

I hope invitations to students and faculty members to be a part of congregational life will continue to flow. Those of us who are a great distance from the schools need to be sure to take advantage of the opportunities when they are available. The students need to be in touch with the ones they serve now so they can be better prepared for even greater service in the future.

**WMF Annual
Convention
"Life with a Purpose"**

**Come Together at
Valley City, North Dakota
June 15-19**

**AFLC Annual
Conference
"Stand Firm in the Faith"**

Testimony of a Bible School Graduate He Heals the Brokenhearted

My world, as I knew it, had just crashed. The marriage that I had endeavored for, worked hard at and had believed in for so long, had just been pulled out from under me. I was facing a divorce!

It was the end of a relationship that I had thought was a close one. The new world that I was suddenly thrust into was totally foreign to me. The phrase, "single parenting" took on a whole new meaning. I had joined the ranks. It was a position that I had never considered or even dreamed of and certainly not one in which I wanted to be in!

Having been raised in a loving atmosphere with strong Christian parents as my example, divorce was never an issue among us. It was not a subject that I took lightly and was not an option to even consider when we were married.

My personal faith, church, and my family had always been first in my life. My parents had instilled in me a deep respect for the Word of God. Because of that, I chose to attend AFLBS in 1976. The two years at Bible school reinforced those spiritual and family values that were already engraved in me. While at Bible school, I began dating my husband-to-be. Together we wanted to show and teach our children all these things by being an example to them.

The impact of the divorce was tremendous; not only on myself, but to our three children, other family members, friends and our church congregation. There were normal reactions and emotions of rejection, anger, hurt and guilt. It was a period of time that I was at my lowest; having stumbled and fallen hard. Psalm 145:14 promised me that "The Lord sustains all who fall, and raises up all who are bowed down." Even though I was down and very confused, my faith

was still there and Jesus had hold of my hand. He never let go! He gently reminded me of another verse I had known and is quoted so often at Bible school. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your path straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6). There was so much that I did not understand; my life being very unsettled and my path crooked; but Jesus promised to make it straight again as long as I was focused on Him.

My concerns were many! I had three children to support physically, spiritually and emotionally. My main concern was for their spiritual and emotional well-being. Having been taught that God is a fair, just, and loving God, I was able to find peace within myself, having the assurance that I was still acceptable to Him. This lesson was difficult to learn. With His grace and strength I could teach my children that we are all loved by God and that we are His children just as any other child of God.

God proved His love and protection over and over. Our needs were continually met through the love and help of my family, friends, and church. Though jobs can be scarce in our small town, a job was readily available to me. In seven years, I have never been without one. My desire to attend college was fulfilled

with grants and scholarships. The schooling has opened doors for better employment.

Emotional healing was a slow and continual process. The children were unable to fully grasp and understand what was happening to our family. Security was needed most. This came through their own faith in Jesus. We continued to go to church and received needed, loving support there as well as from family and friends.

One Sunday, my children and I sang a short chorus for the service. It was a simple song with only three verses and each verse repeats one sentence throughout the verse. They are as follows:

1. "The joy of the Lord is my strength.
2. He heals the brokenhearted and they cry no more.
3. He gives them living water and they thirst no more."

The chorus was simple, but the impact was tremendous. It was a time of healing. Jesus loves us; broken as we are. He is our strength and only hope. He died for us so that we could live; and He came to die because of a messed-up world. He died for people like me — even though I messed-up, I can rise triumphant in Him!

— by Sue Boyovich
Bethany Lutheran Church
Astoria, Oregon

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

Second-Class
