

*One in
Spirit ...*

and

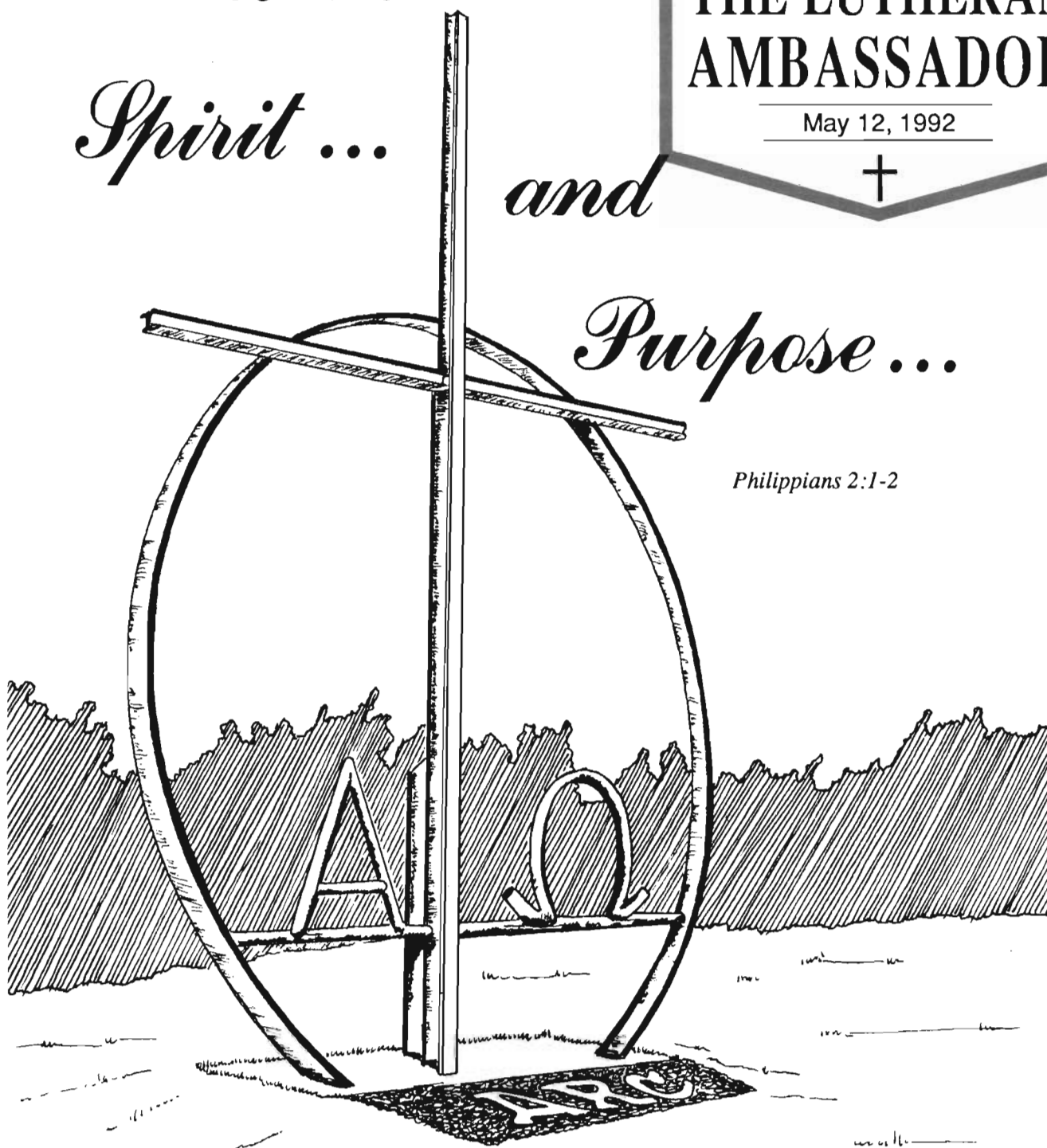
Purpose ...

THE LUTHERAN
AMBASSADOR

May 12, 1992



Philippians 2:1-2



*A.R.C. Annual Conference
June 17-21 AT THE A.R.C.*

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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June 17-21, 1992

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Cary Dietsche

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Rev. Laurel Udden, Editor

Mrs. Wayne Hjermstad, Assistant to the Editor

Editorial Board:

Rev. Wendell Johnson, Chairman

Dr. Francis Monseth, Secretary

Mr. Robert Knutson

Light on the Way

But For The Grace of God

One of the events that made a lasting impression on me in my junior high years was when a guest speaker, a man who made films of big game hunts, spoke to the entire school as we viewed some of his films. Before viewing one of the segments, he warned us that what we were about to see was unpleasant. In the foreground was a hunter with his back to us, rifle to his shoulder. Coming towards us and him at rapid speed was a large tiger. As we viewed this event in slow motion, we could count three shots fired from the hunter's semi-automatic rifle. The tiger never stopped. Impact, death, blood on the camera lens. All viewing were stunned. Our guest explained that this hunter in his excitement didn't properly use his gun sights, and paid with his life.

All of us can tell accounts where looking in the wrong direction or having clouded vision has had tragic results. This is true not only in the physical realm, but in the spiritual realm as well.

So as we have discussed the third article of the Creed in the last issue, we must see it is to God alone we look for salvation, even in regard to the work done in our own hearts and lives. Faith, new birth, the sustenance of the new life are gifts from God from beginning to end in total to which we contribute nothing (John 1:12-13; I Corinthians 12:6; Philipians 1:6; 2:12-13; Hebrews 12:2; Colossians 2:13; etc.). This is not to say that as Christians we do nothing or that our faith does not bring about works (James 2:14-26), but these contribute nothing to our salvation but rather are a result of God's saving grace in our lives. In regard to salvation both objectively and subjectively, it is deadly to have our eyes fixed anywhere but on the gracious work of God.

So what are the consequences when we look to ourselves, our works or

anything else? First, there can be no assurance of salvation. The better we get to know ourselves, the more we see our lack of faithfulness, our weakness, our ability to be self deceived. Questions begin to haunt us; "Is my faith strong enough? Is my repentance genuine? If I gave myself to Christ, why am I still doing the things I do?" Assurance can be found only in the faithfulness of God.

Second, the "Christian life" becomes legalistic. Our deeds become motivated by fear, guilt, concern for how others view us, etc. Living out of love and thankfulness to God can not happen.

Third, our testimony is ruined. While we may be different from the world on the surface, we appear only as judgmental and shallow to the worldly. The phrase, "but for the grace of God, there go I," must be more than haughty words before our witness will be taken seriously.

Fourth, to place credit on ourselves when it belongs to God is the essence of sin. This is certainly the reason for the fall of Mankind ("You will be like God"). When we view our commitment, our faith, or any other thing in our lives as though it was a work we have produced to help in salvation, we are "... fallen away from grace" (Galatians 5:4-6).

Truly, when our hope is in the faithfulness of God alone, we have reason for great rejoicing for while we are weak, "He is faithful that promised!" (Hebrews 10:23).



— by Rev.
Jon Wellumson

30th Annual Conference

of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

June 17-21, 1992

AFLC Retreat Center

Osceola, Wisconsin

Conference theme: "One in Spirit and Purpose"

Text: Philippians 2:1-2

Registration \$15 individual or \$25 per couple to be paid at the time of arrival. Note: Lodging and food pre-registration is separate.

Wednesday, June 17

9:00 a.m. The conference committees meet at The ARC, Osceola, for devotions, instructions and room assignments.

8:00 p.m. The opening service of the conference with the sermon on the text by Pastor Robert Lee, Newark, Illinois. The service leader is Pastor Steve Kneeland, Duluth, Minnesota. The AFLC president will open the conference and appoint necessary committees.

Offering to the AFLC.

Thursday, June 18

9:00 a.m. Devotions.
Report of the Credentials Committee.
Adoption of the Conference Agenda.
Election of the Nominating Committee for the 1993 Conference.
The President's Report.
Report of the Chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee, Pastor David Molstre, Palmdale, California.
Report of the Business Administrator, Pastor Leslie Galland, Eden Prairie, Minnesota.
Report of the Director of Development, Mr. Ernest Miedema, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
Report of the Chairman of the ARC Board, Mr. Clifford Seldal, DeKalb, Illinois.
Report of the Director of the ARC, Mr. Robert Dietsche, Osceola, Wisconsin.
Report of the Building Committee for the new Administration Building, Mr. Lloyd Carlson, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
Report on Progress on New Hymnal, Pastor Tom Olson, Cumberland, Wisconsin.
Financial Report

Report of the Family Bible Camps:

Osceola, Treasurer, Pastor John Rieth, Amery, Wisconsin.

Lake Bronson, Treasurer, Mrs. Don Balmer, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

Wilderness, Treasurer, Mr. Roland Peterson, Fargo, North Dakota.

Report of the Budget Analysis Committee.

Report of the Nominating Committee, (always in order).

Election of nominees for the Missions Corporation and the Schools Corporation.

Report of Committee #1 (Administration).

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour. Leader: Pastor Dale Mellgren, Tioga, North Dakota.

1:30 p.m. Devotions.

Report of Credentials Committee.

Elections.

President —

Vice-President — 1-year term.

Secretary — 1-year term.

Selection of Nominees to the Home Missions Committee — 1 layman; World Missions Committee — 1 pastor; Board of Trustees — 1 layman.

Continuing discussion of Committee #1.

Election of nominees to the Co-ordinating Committee — 2 laymen.

Election of a member to the ARC Board — 1 pastor.

Election of Committee #1 for the 1993 Conference.

Report of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Pastor Kenneth Moland, Kirkland, Washington.

Report of the Dean of the Seminary, Dr. Francis Monseth, Rogers, Minnesota.

Report of the Dean of the Bible School, Pastor Donald Greven, Minneapolis.

Report of the AFLBS Alumni Director, Kari Lane

Report of Committee #2 (Schools).

The Schools Corporation Annual Meeting.

5:30 p.m.

The Mission Festival Service conducted by the Women's Missionary Federation,
Speaker: Pastor John Abel, Brazil.

8:00 p.m.

Friday, June 19

The Missions Corporation Annual Meeting.

7:00 a.m.

Devotions.

9:00 a.m.

Report of the Credentials Committee.

Continuing discussion of Committee #2.

Election of Committee #2 for the 1993 Conference.

◇

SCHEDULE

Report of the Schools' Corporation Annual Meeting.

Report of the Chairman of the World Missions Committee, Pastor Einar Unseth, Glenville, Minnesota.

Report of the Director of World Missions, Pastor Eugene Enderlein, Minneapolis.

Report of the Chairman of the Home Missions Committee, Pastor Allen Monson, Dickinson, North Dakota.

Report of the Director of Home Missions, Pastor Elden Nelson, Minneapolis.

Report of the Chairman of the Commission on Evangelism, Lay Pastor Lyle Twite, Bagley, Minnesota.

Report of Committee #3 (Missions and Evangelism).

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour — Pastor Mellgren

Noon Youth Board Representatives meet — location, TBA.

1:30 p.m. Devotions.
Report of the Credentials Committee.
Continuing discussion of Committee #3.
Report of Missions Corporation Annual Meeting.

5:30 p.m. Pastors' Banquet

8:00 p.m. Laymen's Service. Leader: Mr. Jim Bjorgan, Minneapolis; Speaker: Mr. Gary Haug, Park River, North Dakota.

Offering to the AFLC.

Saturday, June 20

9:00 a.m. Devotions.
Report of the Credentials Committee.
Continuing discussion of the report of the Committee #3.

Election of member to the Commission on Evangelism — 1 layman.

Election of Committee #3 for the 1993 Conference.

Report of the Chairman of the Board of Publications and Parish Education, Rev. Wesley Langaas, McVie, North Dakota.

Report of the Director of Parish Education, Mrs. Ralph Tjelta, Minneapolis.

Report of Chairman of Christian Academic Education Board, Rev. Michael Crowell, Fort Hood, Texas.

Report of the Chairman of the Youth Board, Pastor Joel Rolf, Radcliffe, Iowa.

Report of the President of the Luther League Federation, Pastor Terry Wold, E. Grand Forks, Minnesota.

Report of Youth Ministries Director, Pastor Dennis Gray, Greenbush, Minnesota.
Report of Committee #4 (Publications, Parish Education and Youth Work).

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour — Pastor Mellgren.

1:30 p.m. Devotions.

Report of the Credential Committee.

Election of member to the Board of Publications and Parish Education — 1 layman.

Election of members to the Christian Academic Education Board — 1 layman, 1 pastor.

Election of member to the Youth Board — 1 pastor.

Election of Committee #4 for the 1993 Conference.

Report of the Chairman of the Stewardship Board, Pastor Marlyn Kruse, Mankato, Minnesota.

Report of the Chairman of the Board of Pensions, Mr. Eugene Nesland, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

Report of Committee #5 (Stewardship and Pensions).

Election of members to the Stewardship Board - 1 layman, 1 pastor (unexpired term)

Election of a member to the Board of Pensions - 1 layman.

Election of Committee #5 for the 1993 Conference.

Report of Chairman of the Colloquy Committee, Pastor Peter Franz, Cloquet, Minnesota.

Election of the Colloquy Committee for the 1993 Conference.

Report of special committees.

Election of 2 members to the Budget Analysis Committee — 3 year term.

Report of Committee #1 as the Committee on General Resolutions.

Other Reports.

Invitation to the 1993 Conference.

WELCOME

It has been a year already since we gathered at the ARC for Annual Conference. The 30th Annual Conference will also be at the ARC, June 17-21. The welcome mat is out again to you who have been here before and to those of you who are first timers.

As we gather with the theme before us "One in Spirit and Purpose" may that also be our goal as individuals and as a church.

8:00 p.m. Youth Night at the Conference
Leader: Mr. Bob Halvorson,
Otsego, Minnesota.
Speaker: Rev. Brian Pearson,
Arlington, South Dakota
Offering to the AFLC.

Sunday, June 21

8:00 a.m. Communion Service
Leader: Pastor Lyle Aadahl,
Upsala, Minnesota
Speaker: Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck,
Northome, Minnesota.

10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Ordination
Leader: Pastor Steve Snipstead, Kalispell,
Montana.
Speaker: Dr. Craig Jennings,
Maple Grove, Minnesota.

Conference Committee

Rev. Robert Lee, President
Rev. Richard Anderson, Secretary

Elections For 1992 Conference

OFFICERS:

President

Vice-President (1-year term)

Secretary (1-year term)

Rev. Richard Anderson has served
one term.

ELECTED BY CORPORATIONS:

Co-ordinating Committee

(2 laymen, five-year terms)

Mr. George Hartman and Mr.
Robert Knutson have both served two
consecutive terms. They are ineligible
for re-election.

Board of Trustees

(1 layman, five-year term)

Mr. Kenneth Rolf has served two

consecutive terms. He is ineligible for
re-election.

World Missions Committee

(1 pastor, five-year term)

Rev. Ted Berkas has served one term.

Home Missions Committee

(1 layman, five-year term)

Mr. Owen Myhre has served two
consecutive terms. He is ineligible for
re-election.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Members

Mr. Ray Anderson, Grand Forks, North Dakota
Mr. Randy Pederson, Tioga, North Dakota
Mr. Daryl Nilsson, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minnesota
Mr. Roger Tollefson, Crookston, Minnesota
Mr. Harold Erickson, NY Mills, Minnesota
Mr. Clifford Johnson, Esko, Minnesota
Rev. Joel Rolf, Radcliffe, Iowa
Mr. Walter Peterson, Ishpeming, Michigan
Mr. Ernest Schneider, Wichita Falls, Texas
Mr. Dale Smith, Lake Stevens, Washington
Mr. Roy Cloughen, Babylon, New York
Mr. Merv Mathison, DeKalb, Illinois

District

Eastern North Dakota
W. North Dakota-E. Montana
South Dakota-Nebraska
Northwestern Minnesota
North Central Minnesota
Southwest Central Minnesota
Lake Superior
Minneapolis
Northern Michigan
Arizona-S. Calif.-Texas
West Coast
East Coast
Illinois

TO THE ARC

We include the following directions
to the ARC. You can come by way of
Stillwater and north from Somerset on
Wisconsin 35 to East Farmington. Or
you can come from St. Croix Falls to
Osceola and south on Wisconsin 35 to
East Farmington. You can also come by
way of Interstate 35. Exit at Forest
Lake, go east on Minnesota 97, then
north on 95 and cross the river at Osce-

ola. There is only one intersection in
East Farmington, 30th Avenue, go east
on 30th Avenue 2.5 miles to the ARC.

We invite you to attend conference
in the quiet country setting of the
ARC. You will enjoy God's creation
and handiwork and at the same time
do the work He has asked of us.
Come join us.

—Bob and Carol Dietsche

OTHERS:

Stewardship Board

(1 layman, five-year term)

Mr. Lynn Tharaldson has served
one term. (1 pastor, one-year unexpired
term of Rev. Roy Johnson)

Board of Publications and Parish Ed.

(1 layman, five-year term)

Dr. Mary Lindquist has served two
consecutive terms. She is ineligible for
re-election.

Christian Academic Education Board (1 layman, 1 pastor, five-year term)

Rev. Del Palmer and Mr. Joel Baker
not accepting re-election.

Youth Board (1 pastor, five-year term)

Rev. Keith Quanbeck has served
one term.

Board of Pensions (1 layman, five- year term)

Mr. Eugene Nesland has served one
term.

Commission on Evangelism

(1 layman, five-year term)

Mr. Irvin Schmitke has served one
term.

ARC Board

(1 pastor, five-year term)

Rev. John Keith has served one term.

SCHOOLS CORPORATION

Term Expires 1992 —

Rev. Martin Horn
Mr. Dean Franz
Pastor Rodney Stueland
Mr. Clifford Dyrud
Rev. Dennis Gray
Mr. Clifford Johnson
Rev. John Mundfrom
Rev. Paul Nash
Mr. Kent Quanbeck*
Mr. James Rolf

Term Expires 1993 —

Mr. Arne Berg*
Rev. Leslie Galland
Rev. Raynard Huglen
Rev. Craig Johnson
Rev. Gary Jorgenson*
Rev. Jerry Moan
Mr. Sheldon Mortrud
Mr. Ralph Peterson
Rev. Mark Molstre
Rev. Tony Stockman

Term Expires 1994 —

Mr. Don Carter
Rev. Bruce Dalager
Rev. Philip Featherstone
Rev. James Fugleberg
Mr. Wayne Floan*
Rev. Rodger Olson
Mr. Marlow Nash
Rev. Emerson Anderson
Mr. Emory Flaten
Rev. Ralph Rokke

Term Expires 1995 —

Mr. Art Arneson
Mr. James Bjorgan
Mr. David Borg
Mr. Loiell Dyrud
Mr. Sheldon Een
Mr. Eldon Hermunsle
Rev. Lyndon Korhonen*
Rev. Kenneth Moland*
Mr. Kenneth Rolf*
Mr. Dale Smith

Term Expires 1996 —

Dr. Philip Dyrud
Mr. Stanley Holmaas
Rev. Harvey Jackson
Mr. Tim Jones
Rev. Terry Olson
Mr. Roger Peterson
Mr. Orville Qualley
Rev. James Ritter
Pastor Lyle Twite
Rev. Terry Wold

*Denotes School Board Member

Astoria, Oregon
Cloquet, Minnesota
Kenyon, Minnesota
Moorhead, Minnesota
Greenbush, Minnesota
Esko, Minnesota
Eben Junction, Michigan
Warroad, Minnesota
McVile, North Dakota
Brandon, Minnesota

Binford, North Dakota
Eden Prairie, Minnesota
Newfolden, Minnesota
Eugene, Oregon
Ottawa, Illinois
Minot, North Dakota
Lake Park, Minnesota
Portland, Minnesota
Larimore, North Dakota
Brandon, Minnesota

Lake Stevens, Washington
Grand Forks, North Dakota
Pukwana, South Dakota
Fargo, North Dakota
Fertile, Minnesota
Fergus Falls, Minnesota
Colfax, North Dakota
Cloquet, Minnesota
Newfolden, Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Spicer, Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Cokato, Minnesota
Thief River Falls, Minnesota
Newark, Illinois
Wahpeton, North Dakota
Cokato, Minnesota
Kirkland, Washington
McIntosh, Minnesota
Lake Stevens, Washington

Middle River, Minnesota
Newfolden, Minnesota
Ishpeming, Michigan
Wyndmere, North Dakota
Valley City, North Dakota
Thief River Falls, Minnesota
Brockton, Montana
Bloomington, Minnesota
Bagley, Minnesota
E. Grand Forks, Minnesota

World Mission Finances and New Policies

The financial gifts to World Missions during 1991 and early 1992 did not meet the budget. In fact, expenditures exceeded receipts. The WM Committee has been dealing with major financial concerns and is determined to address these matters. Simply stated, we must live within our means.

Because the actual cash flow to World Missions is severely limited during the first half of the fiscal year, with the majority of support coming in during the last half of the year, we have "robbed Peter to pay Paul" in order to keep our missionaries on regular salaries and support our approved areas of ministry.

World Missions has never borrowed money from an outside source, but during this past year we had to borrow from our own funds that were designated for specific mission projects. These major projects did eventually receive their funds.

World Missions currently has a debt to Church Extension and we are paying interest on that as any borrowing congregation would do.

The WM Committee made the major decision that we must reduce our spending. Although the 1991 Annual Conference prayerfully and enthusiastically approved an increase to the WM Budget for this fiscal year, **no increases** have been made over the past year.

Another major decision is to pay all expenditures within our control at 90% of last year's figures. In other words, everything is cut by 10% — all salaries, missionary deputation, board travel, etc. — other than fixed items outside of our control, such as overhead to AFLC, rent and medical expenses.

We will work at providing our congregations and individual supporters with a breakdown of the categories of missionary support and projects. Rather than just looking at an overall World Missions budget, we would like our people to see the specific needs

within World Missions, such as each missionary family's salary and benefits.

Through their congregations and directly to the WM office, our people may give gifts specifically toward the support of a missionary family or a budgeted area of our mission work. Specific details will be explained in more detail soon.

All new missionaries and current candidates will need to have their full support pledged before they are called and sent to the mission field.

There are numerous questions to resolve as we move in this direction of our World Missions outreach. It is our prayer that this plan of **Designated Giving** will involve our people more directly with our missionaries and the national churches. We hope that personal ties of friendship and prayer support will result in this partnership as individuals and families at home serve as the **senders** and **equippers** for our missionaries on the field.

MIRIAM INFANT HOME

The Miriam Infant Home and women's dormitory are under construction on the campus of our Schools at Campo Mourao, Brazil. The original intent was that these two projects would be built simultaneously, one by the Brazil AFLC and the other by our own U.S.A. AFLC. Initially the financial goal for each building was set at \$20,000.

The national church in Brazil has succeeded in raising their needed funds, along with donating of materials and labor for the completion of these buildings. Because of the rising cost of materials, labor and the economic condition in the country, the cost of completing the Miriam Infant Home has risen to \$25,000.

Through the generosity of many individuals and congregations of our AFLC the \$25,000 has been received by the World Missions Department. We are anticipating the soon completion of the construction of the Miriam Infant Home and the women's dormitory. Praise be to God for these much needed provisions!

MISSIONS CORPORATION

Term Expires 1992 —

Rev. Richard Gunderson
Mr. Henry Mohagen**
Rev. Tony Stockman**
Mr. Martin Bjornson
Rev. Herbert Franz
Mr. Vernon Russum*
Dr. Wayne Sletten
Miss Judith Wold
Mr. Kenneth Nash
Mr. Ellis Olson

Term Expires 1993 —

Rev. Mark Antal
Rev. James Asp
Mr. Bob Christian
Rev. Lawrence Dynneson
Mr. Emory Flaten
Rev. Peter Franz
Rev. Philip Haugen
Rev. Rodney Johnson
Rev. Steve Kneeland
Rev. Einar Unseth*

Term Expires 1994 —

Mr. Paul Flaten
Rev. Alvin Grothe**
Mr. Owen Myhre**
Rev. Ted Berkas*
Mr. Truman Rolf
Mrs. Gerald Knudsvig
Mr. Don Hansen
Rev. Paul Larson
Rev. Jeff Swanson
Rev. John Skeie**

Term Expires 1995 —

Mr. Philip Grothe
Mr. Robert Halvorson
Mr. Arley Hartsoch*
Rev. Orville Hiepler
Rev. Ted Kennedy, Jr.*
Dr. Lyle Mattson
Mr. Randy Sommer*
Mr. Eldor Sorkness
Rev. Thomas Tuura
Mr. Kenneth Williams*

Term Expires 1996 —

Rev. Richard Anderson
Mr. Robert Dietsche**
Rev. Amos Dyrud
Mr. Harold Erickson
Mr. Halvor Knapp
Rev. Dale Mellgren
Rev. Allen Monson**
Rev. Steven Mundfrom
Mrs. Aini Myking
Mr. Joel Rogenes

*Denotes World Missions Committee Member.

**Denotes Home Missions Committee Member.

Lake Stevens, Washington
Towner, North Dakota
Brandon, Minnesota
Valley City, North Dakota
Dollar Bay, Michigan
Grafton, North Dakota
Faith, South Dakota
Thief River Falls, Minnesota
Colfax, North Dakota
Eden Prairie, Minnesota

Brussels, Belgium
Brooklyn Park, Minnesota
Newark, Illinois
Nogales, Arizona
Newfolden, Minnesota
Cloquet, Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Stanley, North Dakota
Duluth, Minnesota
Glenville, Minnesota

Newfolden, Minnesota
Astoria, Oregon
Abercrombie, North Dakota
Wallace, South Dakota
McIntosh, Minnesota
Buxton, North Dakota
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Detroit Lakes, Minnesota
Kalispell, Montana
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Thief River Falls, Minnesota
Otsego, Minnesota
Ray, North Dakota
Valley Center, California
Nogales, Arizona
Greenbush, Minnesota
Chillicothe, Illinois
Sand Creek, Wisconsin
McIntosh, Minnesota
Ishpeming, Michigan

Lakeville, Minnesota
Osceola, Wisconsin
Minneapolis, Minnesota
New York Mills, Minnesota
Kandiyohi, Minnesota
Tioga, North Dakota
Dickinson, North Dakota
Sebeka, Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Ely, Minnesota

ARC CORPORATION

Term Expires 1992 —

Mr. Dave Osland
Mr. Glen Hodnefield
Mr. Dennis Jacobsen
Mr. Arden Jacobson
Mr. Larry Johnson
Mr. Kevin Nessa
Mr. Stewart Vachal
Rev. Jay Eberth
Rev. Brian Davidson
Rev. John Rieth*

Term Expires 1993 —

Mr. Jim Boe
Mr. Harlan Clark
Mr. Steve Johnson
Mr. Bill Buck
Mr. Richard Schauland
Mr. Merle Jacobson
Mr. Cliff Seldal*
Rev. Joel Rolf
Rev. Robert Lee
Pastor Ken Thoreson

Term Expires 1994 —

Mr. Steve Walters
Mr. Rod Kjersten
Mr. Tim Kjeseth
Mr. Erling Langness
Mr. John Presteng
Dr. Peter Dyrud
Mr. Luis Valdez
Mr. Allen Anderson*
Rev. Keith Quanbeck
Rev. Rob Lewis

Term Expires 1995 —

Mr. Ralph Beyer
Mr. Halvor Knapp
Mr. Lee Schierkolk
Mr. Gordie Newell
Mr. Harry Johnson
Mr. Don Berge
Rev. Richard Long
Rev. Tonnes Pollestad
Rev. Brian Pearson
Rev. Michael Brandt*

Term Expires 1996 —

Mr. Allen Delzer
Mr. Roger VanSomeran
Mr. John Kyrola
Mr. Jerome Stulen
Mr. Ivar Berge
Mr. Jim Ray*
Mr. Ralph Johnson
Mr. Brad Folsland
Rev. Tom Tuura
Rev. Peter Pergstedt

*Denotes ARC Board Member.

DeKalb, Illinois
Radcliffe, Iowa
Burlington, North Dakota
Champlin, Minnesota
Amery, Wisconsin
Garden City, Iowa
Williston, North Dakota
Wyoming, Minnesota
Rice Lake, Wisconsin
Amery, Wisconsin

Ottawa, Illinois
Amery, Wisconsin
Upsala, Minnesota
Sinai, South Dakota
Marquette, Michigan
Amery, Wisconsin
DeKalb, Illinois
Radcliffe, Iowa
Newark, Illinois
Beloit, Wisconsin

Yorkville, Illinois
Roseau, Minnesota
Amery, Wisconsin
Ishpeming, Michigan
Grafton, North Dakota
Plymouth, Minnesota
Maple Grove, Minnesota
Clear Lake, Wisconsin
Champlin, Minnesota
Newark, Illinois

Hopkins, Minnesota
Kandiyohi, Minnesota
Prairie Farm, Wisconsin
Cumberland, Wisconsin
Chatham, Michigan
Fargo, North Dakota
Chillicothe, Illinois
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Arlington, South Dakota
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Shoreview, Minnesota
Amery, Wisconsin
Forest Lake, Minnesota
Spicer, Minnesota
Fargo, North Dakota
Cloquet, Minnesota
Upsala, Minnesota
Oldham, South Dakota
McIntosh, Minnesota
Stacy, Minnesota

ARC News

Praise

— Plumbing fixtures to the new addition to Manna Inn have been donated.

—The ARC staff has been encouraged to see over 400 youth attend retreats within a two-week period. May God's Word continue to accomplish His will in each teen's life. As the AFLC Snow Daze ended, about 17 youth were seen in a large circle with their arms around each other, covenanting together in prayer.

Needs

—Ceramic tile for walls and floors of bathrooms and additional carpet for existing dining hall.

Remember

Memorial Day Weekend

Work-Retreat

May 22-25, 1992,

At the ARC,

Osceola, Wisconsin

(715) 294-2877

It is FREE but please pre-register!
Work, play, fellowship, worship—for
the whole family.

A Request For Help

The Home Missions Committee of the AFLC met by conference call on Tuesday, April 21, to consider a request from the Canadian AFLC for financial assistance to a new work at Camrose, Alberta. The committee's response to the request was "No, we are sorry, but there just aren't finances available." One of the committee members said "My heart really wants to say yes, but we just can't when there isn't money."

Since the first of February, Home Missions has borrowed \$38,000 in order to pay out monthly subsidies. The committee passes this information to you, the people of the AFLC, with the plea to give a special gift so that the indebtedness can be eliminated and that there will be money available for the new work in Canada.

Your prayers and gifts in regard to this urgent matter are greatly appreciated.

Youth News

Greenbush, Minnesota — United Luther League hosted a "Lock In" on April 24-25. Other area Luther Leagues were invited. The guest speaker was Mike Palkie. The topic was on relationships, specifically dealing with parents — teens — opposite sex. A Josh McDowell video was also shown.

Minot, North Dakota — Bethel Luther League President Bryan Wola writes this about their group:

"Our youth group meets every Wednesday night and has a Bible study following Confirmation classes. We have approximately six young people in our group. Our Bible study lasts for about 40 minutes and the remaining 20 minutes we enjoy an activity. Recently we went bowling and then out for pizza. Another time we went to a roller skating party along with other youth groups in the area, including those from Stanley. We are planning more activities and hope that our group will grow in attendance as well as to grow spiritually."

Reva, South Dakota — Over 30 youth gathered at Slim Buttes Lutheran Church on April 11-12 for the District Retreat. The well-organized weekend led the teens into serious discussion centering on the theme, "Relationships."

Fly Team — On June 1, 1992, 12 AFLC youth will begin a week of training at the AFLBS campus. After the week of orientation, the youth will fly from Minneapolis to Rio de Janeiro. The group, led by retired missionaries George and Helen Knapp, expect to return on July 17. The youth scheduled to go are: Lars Dyrud, Thief River Falls, Minnesota; Ruth Gunder-son, Lake Stevens, Washington; Heidi Hinderaker, Radcliffe, Iowa; Terry Kjersten, Roseau, Minnesota; Becky and Rachel Monseth, Rogers, Minnesota; Mark Nessa, Garden City, Iowa; Kellie Olsen, Culbertson, Montana; Wendy Qualley, Brockton, Montana; Katrina Schierkolk, Prairie Farm, Wisconsin; Sarah Sorenson, Estelline, South Dakota; and Jeremy Vance, San Jose, California.

Our President Writes

FIRST OF ALL

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

Our heavenly Father is the God of surprises and it is a strange and surprising experience to find myself preparing an article for a different page of *The Lutheran Ambassador* from the editorials. My life seems like a series of surprises since the Lord led me to Estonia in March, climaxing on my second day back in the United States (recovering from a massive case of jet lag, by the way) with the announcement of our president's resignation. An election to the vice presidency of any organization is usually a harmless experience, but suddenly, under heart breaking circumstances, I found myself called upon to fill the office of president until the annual conference.

One of the lessons for me to learn during this time of transition is that God's "first of all" may be different from mine. On temporary leave from my parish in Illinois, now I find myself sitting behind a desk that could literally become buried in the sheer volume of letters, receipts and other documents, with a phone that rings on a regular basis and a calendar filling up with commitments. Conference planning is a high priority, too, as well as opportunities to visit with other staff personnel, students and guests.

My "first of all" ought to be appointments and agendas, meetings and memos, it might seem. But God's "first of all" is a call to prayer. His Word stresses that Christians need to put a priority on *being over doing*, and the time we spend *with* Him more than the time spent *for* him.

One of the great blessings of my brief service in the president's office has been the outpouring of prayer support from pastors and congregations. My wife and I are so thankful to each one who has taken the time to write or call with words of encouragement and promises of prayer, and this is true for all of us here at headquarters, too.

Observers of past revivals tell us that a prayer awakening often precedes these seasons of refreshing, and it is my prayerful concern that our present humbling as a church family would also create within us a renewed spirit of repentance and faith in God's grace alone.

"As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you" (1 Samuel 12:23).

— Robert L. Lee
AFLC President

Six of the twelve FLY Team members.



COMING TOGETHER IN THE POWER OF THE BLOOD

Ephesians 2:13, 19-22

One of the greatest pains a person can experience is the pain of not being included of being “left out,” or rejected. Until recently, I was serving a congregation in South Dakota, and I remember vividly a conversation I had with a young man who was passing through town who was “down on his luck.” Due to a rather severe stuttering problem, our conversation, which might have lasted a few minutes, took an hour. Dealing with “transients,” as some of you know, requires using some discretion. Whether due to this man’s sincerity or my being gullible (I still believe the former) a meal and motel were arranged for him. He looked at me and tried to say something, but couldn’t get it out. So he took a pen out of his pocket and wrote on a napkin in big letters: “Thank you!” And then he continued to write: “My mom used to keep me locked in a closet when I was little.” As we continued to talk he indicated that this was behind his stuttering problem; and also that he had been trying to get in touch with his parents for several years. He had written many letters, but had never received a response to his efforts. **The pain of rejection and being left alone is a pain which cuts deep. It’s a pain inflicted all too frequently.**

As Christians living amidst non-Christians; being “in” the world, but not “of” the world, we face many temptations to live our lives according to what is acceptable to the world. The sad thing about this is that our acceptance or our rejection is then based on how well we live up to other people’s expectations. Think about that and see if it isn’t true. If there is somebody we really admire and look up to, our actions are often determined by what we think is acceptable to that person, instead of by what we know to be right. And when it comes right down to it, we aren’t even able to live up to other people’s expectations of us. We might be accepted for awhile, but it is only a matter of time before we fall short in our attempts. This is why the Word of God in Ephesians 2 is such good news:

Verse 13 — “But now in Christ Jesus you who were formerly far off (rejected) have been brought near (accepted) ...”

By what? By how well we have lived up to someone else’s expectations? Or even by how well we’ve lived up to God’s Commandments? No!

“... By the blood of Christ!”

It may be helpful to understand that Paul wrote this letter during a time when the Jewish Christians were having a very difficult time accepting the fact that God was offering salvation to the Gentiles as well. Paul may have had in mind a vision of the temple in Jerusalem. This temple was divided into different “courts.” The innermost court (the Holy of Holies) was where the glory of God was revealed over the Mercy Seat, and could be entered by the High Priest only once a year. Outside of this was the court of the priests; then came the court of the Israelites, and even further out was the court of the women. Finally, way back away from the Holy of Holies, separated even from the men of Israel by a barrier of women (who were not held in high regard in that day or in that culture) was the court of the gentiles. And posted on a low barrier which separated this court from the women’s court were signs which warned of death to any gentile who tried to advance any closer to the Holy of Holies.

And now, Paul comes out with this radical news that “In Christ, you who were formerly far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” God gave this same message on the day His Son paid the ultimate sacrifice for our sin. The curtain which separated the Holy of Holies was torn in two from top to bottom. **There are now no barriers which can keep up away from God. Even the power of sin has been broken by the blood of Jesus.** Sometimes this message seems so radical that we have a difficult time living by it, as did the early Christians.

The AFLC is going through dark and difficult days. We are suffering a lot of hurt; there is undoubtedly some anger and bitterness. There are feelings, perhaps, of being betrayed, and natural inclinations to reject in return. Pain deserves pain, right? Or does it?

As members of the AFLC, what is expected of us at such a time as this? Being new to the AFLC, I make
(continued on page 13)

Women of Wisdom and The Word

Life Response

When was the last time you worshiped God with praise and thanksgiving? Have you ever so abandoned yourself to God that you spontaneously sang a new song to Him? (You can count singing in the shower if you want to.) Are you afraid of change in your worship services?

To Sum it Up

Colossians 3:16 teaches the perfect balance we must have in our worship. The preaching of the Word of God is preeminent. That Word reveals to us the truth and the truth elicits from us a thankful, enthusiastic response!

The Woman of Samaria

Study Verses: John 4:20-24

In last month's study, Jesus offered **living water** to the woman of Samaria. However, the woman first needed to be confronted with her sin. In an effort to distract Jesus from talking about her sin, the woman brought up the subject of worship. Jesus explained what true worship involved. It is a **living worship**.

"Worship is the believer's response of all that he is — mind, emotions, will, and body — to all that God is and says and does. Warren W. Wiersbe ("Real Worship," p. 27)

The focus of Our Worship

What does worship mean to you? Does it mean that you worship at a certain time, in a certain place, or according to a certain style? What really is important? Jesus challenged the Samaritan woman's view of worship.

1. To whom is our worship directed? John 4:23
2. What did the woman believe was the most important aspect of worship? v. 20

The place of worship was an ancient dispute. The Samaritans believed that the true place to worship was on top of nearby Mount Gerizim. On the other hand, the Jews worshiped on the temple mount in Jerusalem.

3. What did Jesus say? v. 21-24

The Samaritans rejected all of the Old Testament except for the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible). Therefore, they worshiped in ignorance (v. 22). The Jews accepted the Old Testament, but they lacked the spirit. God said of them, "... they honor me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me." Jesus said both forms of worship are incorrect.

Enthusiastic heresy is heat without light. Barren orthodoxy is light without heat.

Worship God in My Spirit

Worship must come from within us.

4. What preparations can you take before you worship God in your spirit? I John 1:9
5. To worship God in spirit you must _____ on Him. Psalm 19:14
6. What should be the focus of your meditation?

Life Response

Do you find it difficult to meditate daily on God's Word? We discover deep truths and encouraging promises from God's Word, yet, why is it difficult to develop this daily discipline? Has this ever happened to you? — Just when you start to pray or read God's Word — a child interrupts you; you think of the activities you must do that day; the telephone rings; you get sleepy. Why do you think that happens? I Peter 5:8

Why do We Worship?

7. What does God seek from His children?

John 4:23

Psalm 29:3

If God desires that we worship Him, it follows that He will **respond** to our worship.

8. Why do we gather together to worship every Sunday? Psalm 46:1

9. What should your attitude be towards corporate worship? Psalm 122:1

10. If it isn't important **where** you worship, couldn't you do so while walking in the woods? (Or maybe on a golf course?) Why or why not? Hebrews 10:25

Life Response

How do you "prepare" yourself for worship? By staying out late on Saturday night? By yawning through the service? Do you think God wants your best when you worship Him? Are you willing to give your best?

Worship God in Truth

11. What should be the **foundation** of your worship? Psalm 145:18; 86:11

Worship is a response built upon **truth** (God's Word). In a worship service, the primary way you receive the truth is through the preaching of the Word.

Ways to Worship

There are many ways to worship God. In the Psalms there are innumerable verses that tell of worshipping God with praise, thanksgiving, singing, shouting, the playing of instruments, raising of hands. (Psalm 150)

The Augsburg Confession held that worship forms need not be uniform. "It is sufficient," states Article VII, "... that the Gospel be preached in conformity with a pure understanding of it and that the sacraments be administered in accordance with the divine Word."

We worship God when:

- a) Romans 12:1
- b) Hebrews 13:15

WMF ANNUAL CONVENTION

June 17, 1992 at the ARC

Osceola, Wisconsin

Theme: "A Vessel for His Glory" — II Corinthians 4:5-6-7

Wednesday, June 17

- 9 a.m. — Registration and coffee.
- 9:30 a.m. — Prayer Service
- 10 a.m. — Bible Study, Leader, Mrs. Steve Lombardo;
Memorial Service and Business Meeting.
- Noon — Luncheon
- 1:30 p.m. — Speaker — Rev. Elden Nelson
- Morning and afternoon offerings for Home Missions and
WMF General Fund.

Thursday, June 18

- 7 a.m. — Ladies Breakfast
- 8 p.m. — Mission Festival Service, Speaker, Rev. John Abel;
Offering, World Missions.
- Singing and special music at all sessions.
- This is your invitation to come for worship and fellowship together.

AFLTS Receives Funds

Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary in Minneapolis, Minnesota, has recently received \$2,575 from Lutheran Brotherhood's IMPACT/IMPACT PLUS programs, Inviting Member Participation in Aiding Lutheran Colleges and Theological Seminaries. The latest payment covers 27 gifts of Lutheran Brotherhood members made during the first quarter of 1992.

The IMPACT/IMPACT PLUS programs match Lutheran Brotherhood member's gifts of \$25 to \$100 per year to Lutheran institutions of higher education nationwide.

Since the beginning of the IMPACT matching gift program in 1979, \$64,188 in IMPACT/IMPACT PLUS funds has been received by Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary.

TOGETHER

this next suggestion without complete knowledge of our history: **Perhaps this church, at no other time in her history, has been in such desperate need of Paul's message** as he goes on to express in Ephesians 2:21-22:

"In (Christ Jesus) the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit."

As His Church, we recognize that the standards which the world accepts cannot be the standards which we accept. Sin must be acknowledged for what it is, and it must be dealt with. But at the same time, we must keep in mind that every member of this body is a sinner, and that it was "while we were yet sinners (that) Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). We've been brought low. We've been humbled. We've been reminded again that in our own power we cannot stand. And now the Lord of this Church is calling us to join together as one, and God is reminding us once again that it is only as we stand

in His love and forgiveness that we will rise and be that holy temple in which he dwells. Even in our weakness, He is telling us that He can and will use us to His glory and make us strong.



— Rev. Thomas Gilman
St. John Lutheran
Church of Schwer
Milford, Illinois

Rev. Thomas R. Gilman was born in 1958, in Cameroon, West Africa, to Rev. Richard and Leila Gilman. He spent his early school years in eastern South Dakota and southwestern Minnesota. He attended Golden Valley Lutheran College and Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota, graduating from the latter with a B.A. degree. In 1987, he graduated from Luther-Northwestern Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. For the past five years he has served an ELCA parish in Beresford, South Dakota. Pastor Gilman and his wife, Patricia, have three children: Sara, 10; Matthew, 6; and Laura, 3. Earlier this year, the Gilmans moved to Milford, Illinois, where Pastor Gilman began serving St. John Lutheran of Schwer. He is currently a member of the AFLC Fellowship Roster.

Everett, Washington — Calvary Lutheran Church held an informational meeting in Monroe, Washington, on March 26. The meeting was held to both inform interested people about the AFLC and to see if there was enough interest to continue with church planting in that area. Nineteen people attended. Another meeting was scheduled for April 30.

Rev. Don Richman, pastor of Emmaus Church, Bloomington, Minnesota, will be attending two special events in Europe this month. The first, a pro-life conference, will be held in Frankfurt, Germany, and the second will be a special reformation observance in Ostrava, Czechoslovakia. Both contacts are related to L.I.F.E. (Lutheran International Fellowship for Evangelism), a fledgling fellowship that Pastor Richman has organized to encourage evangelical Lutheran pastors especially in the former Soviet bloc countries.

Mondovi, Wisconsin — Morningstar Free Lutheran Church, the latest AFLC congregation to be established, meets every Sunday in the First Financial Bank building at 9 a.m. Dr. Steve Lombardo, AFLC Schools, presently serves as interim pastor for both the Mondovi and the Menominee congregations.

Rev. Harry Gimberg, DeKalb, Illinois, resigned as pastor of Grace

Lutheran Church on Sunday, May 3, and at his own request has been removed from the AFLC clergy roster.

Mrs. Richard (Leone) Snipstead, New Hope, Minnesota, and **Mrs. John (Jan) Rieth**, Amery, Wisconsin, both passed away on Tuesday, April 28. Complete obituaries will appear in a forthcoming issue.

Two congregations were recently accepted by the Co-ordinating Committee into the membership of the AFLC. The first, **Telemarken Lutheran Church**, rural Goodridge, Minnesota, is a former ALC church that has been independent for several years, is served by Pastor Raynard Huglen. **Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**, Tulia, Texas, the latest congregation to be accepted, comes to the AFLC from the World Confessional Lutheran Association (WCLA), and the pastor, Rev. Joseph Schultz, has been placed on the fellowship roster.

Rev. Lloyd Weiland, Stanhope, Iowa, has resigned as pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, rural Jewell. His future plans are not known at this time.

Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Baker — After much prayer and intense discussion involving the World Missions Committee, Pastor Thomas Baker and the Brazil Field Conference, the decision has been made that Pastor Baker and his family will not return to Brazil.

As you know, the Baker family had been called home to Pennsylvania from Brazil because of the severe ill-

ness of Pastor Baker's father. During this same time, Mrs. Patti Baker also underwent major surgery and has completely recovered, for which we thank the Lord.

Pastor Thomas Baker has graciously resigned his world missions call, and expresses his sincere thanks for the privilege of representing the AFLC and the Lord in Brazil. He is thankful for the prayers and support of many people, and has promised his support for the work of AFLC World Missions in the future.



Lay Pastor W. Burton Rygh, Roseau, Minnesota, passed away on Saturday, April 18, 1992, after a lingering illness. Pastor Rygh was born on January 20, 1922, in Egeland, North Dakota, to Knute and Julia (Harby) Rygh. He married Gladys Olson in 1943. They operated a dairy farm near Wannaska, Minnesota, where he became an active lay leader in the community. Throughout the 1960s and the first half of the 70s he preached in the Greenbush and Roseau area churches. In 1976, he became the full-time pastor of United Lutheran Church, Greenbush, Minnesota, until his retirement in 1985. Pastor Rygh was preceded in death by his wife in 1988. Funeral services were held April 21, 1992, in Roseau.

Survivors include two sons, Paul Rygh of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, and Marvin Rygh of Bismarck, North Dakota; two daughters, Joanne (Mrs. Bruce) Gunderson of Karlstad, Minnesota, and Naomi (Mrs. Robert) Ruud of Roseau, Minnesota; 11 grandchildren; two sisters, Dorothy Carlson of Roseau, and Ruth Holmgren of Portland, Oregon; and a brother, Glen Rygh of Roseau.



Oceanside, California — The Neighborhood Bible Church has moved from the Roosevelt Middle School to a much larger facility at Alamosa park Elementary School. Pictured is the new auditorium and Pastor and Mrs. Orville Heipler with two Sunday School classes outside the newly rented facility.

HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

How beautiful it is to have a part in a wedding of two people, especially two young people, entering into Holy Matrimony. Family and friends gather to wish them the best in their marriage. There are wonderful hopes and dreams by the bride and groom. Everyone wishes them a happy and blessed life for as long as they both shall live.

Reality in today's world shows us that too many marriages don't last that long. There is nothing more tragic than a marriage that has "gone sour." It leads a person to ask about a marriage: "How long will it last?" God wants it to last for a life time. Sin so often destroys that goal with disastrous consequences for all involved. Pastors will counsel and give good advice from Scripture. Family and friends often give helpful advice and support. What can we in the church as pastors, family and friends do to help a couple in their marriage? When does training for marriage begin? These are questions we can and ought to ask ourselves to help one another in this greatest of all human relationships.

As I sat in church on Easter Sunday as a worshipper and not as a pastor, a thought came to me. The Easter season is such a blessed time — the message, the choir anthems, the congregational singing, special musical numbers, dramatic presentations and everything else that makes it such a special time. A person has to be pretty much asleep and insensitive to the Spirit of Easter to not be touched again by the message that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. That is the greatest news mankind has ever heard. "He who lives and believes in Me shall never die," (John 11:26). Then Jesus adds: "Do you believe this?"

The Easter season is a glorious and blessed time. Its message gives hope when we think there is no hope. Yet like the hopes and dreams at a wedding we need to ask: "How long will it last?" How long will the assurance and conviction of the Easter message remain with us in our everyday life? How quickly will we become "bogged down" and defeated in our walk here on earth?

It will be almost a month since we celebrated Easter when you read this. How long did that sense of victory last: if indeed it was ever there in the first place? Faith and trust in the risen Lord Jesus Christ is not just a passing feeling. Oh there can be strong feelings at times, but it must be a very personal and deep conviction and trust in the Lord if there is to be any lasting effect from the Easter message.

In a few weeks we will be celebrating Pentecost. This celebrates the coming of the Earnest, Seal or Guarantee of our inheritance in Christ (Ephesians 1:14). The Holy Spirit came that first Pentecost and it is only by the indwelling of the that same Holy Spirit in the life of the believer that will preserve the victory of Easter in daily life. "But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 15:57). It is Christ's death and resurrection that made it possible for the Holy Spirit to come. It is the Holy Spirit that completes the work of Christ in the heart and life of the believer.

The permanency of marriage and the effectual working of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer is intertwined. Marriage is given as the example of our personal relationship to Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:32). May your personal relationship to Christ be the sealing of your marriage relationship as well as your relationship with others in your daily life.

FORGIVENESS

Recent events within our fellowship have pointed out the need for understanding and forgiveness. We will look at such topics in future issues. These might be: "Forgiveness — what is it? Why is forgiveness necessary? Who needs forgiveness? What is the result of true repentance and forgiveness? What happens when there is no forgiveness?"

It would be good to see what Scripture tells us about forgiveness. "That repentance and forgiveness of sin should be preached in His name to all nation, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:47).



*Rev. Laurel Udden
New Hope, Minnesota
Interim Editor*

Evergreen Park, Illinois — Ebenezer Lutheran Church became actively involved in the sending of missionaries Jonathan and Tamba Abel to the Brazil field. On April 16, the Abels, along with members of the con-

gregation, loaded a container (about the size of a tandem trailer) with the Abel household furniture along with numerous boxes of blankets and clothing donated by congregations throughout the AFLC. This is the first time a

new missionary family has shipped their belongings via a container rather than barrels or crates. By loading the container in the Ebenezer parking lot, it could be shipped from Chicago and save a large sum of money.

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Second-Class

A WORD OF WELCOME

One of the special privileges that is open to all AFLC people is the opportunity to attend the annual conference. The business of the church, including reports and resolutions, will claim a significant portion of our sessions, but Christian fellowship, prayer and the preaching of God's Word remain central.

The 1992 Annual Conference marks the 30th anniversary of our organization, which is a cause for celebration. But it also follows one of the darkest hours in the history of the AFLC, and so our joy is shadowed by sorrow.

The theme for this year's conference is: "One in Spirit and Purpose" (Philippians 2:1-2), and it is clear that God was guiding in the choice. We cannot be content with "business as usual" at such a time as this, for the Lord desires to transform the pain and sadness in our hearts into a right spirit of repentance and renewal.

Come prayerfully. Come expectantly. Come prepared to receive what the Lord wants to do in your heart, life and congregation.

—Robert L. Lee
AFLC President

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