

# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

May 19, 1987



**Our Saviour's Lutheran Church    Thief River Falls, Minnesota**

**Host to the 25th Annual Conference of  
the Association of Free Lutheran Churches**

*Conference Program, pages 3 and 4*

# at the MASTER'S FEET

## Spirit-filled, controlled and empowered

When I was a student at Seattle LBI, one of our instructors shared this thought with us during a class one day, "I'm a Spirit-filled Christian, but I have a problem; I leak. Therefore I have to come to the Lord each day and ask Him to renew me for service on His behalf by filling me again with His Spirit." Some may have a tendency to react to a statement like that and claim that such a comment suggests that God's grace is not sufficient for all times or that there is no power in a Christian experience that demands constant renewing." When we consider the comment made by the LBI teacher, do we not have to agree, though, that being Spirit-filled does indeed depend upon the grace of God and not on our ability to maintain strength?

Paul, in writing to the Ephesians, says, "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit . . ." (Ephesians 5:18 NASB). Some have seized upon this verse as a proof text against the use of alcohol, but let us examine the verse for what it really is, namely, a balanced explanation of what it means to be a Spirit-filled Christian. Paul is really making a sharp contrast here between the momentary pleasure of drunkenness and the eternal value of being under the control of the Spirit of God. He refers to drunkenness as dissipation, which means to scatter or squander, and admonishes us that instead of scattering or squandering our lives through living according to the flesh, we are invited to ask the Holy Spirit to invade our souls and control us. When Paul says that we are to be "filled" with the Spirit, he uses a "present imperative" that suggests ongoing action in the future. A literal translation, then, could be, "be in a constant state of being filled with the Spirit."

It's true, we do leak, and indeed we have to come to the Lord each day and ask Him to anoint us with His Spirit for service in this world. Pentecost was that miraculous day in Jerusalem when God sent His Holy Spirit to fill and empower the disciples, to guide into all the truth and to convict concerning sin, righteousness and judgment. The disciples soon discovered just how dependent they were on Christ's Spirit as they went out to do spiritual battle with Satan. Dr. Jacob Tanner speaks of the necessity of this daily renewal by the Spirit when he says, "The strength needed I have not in myself. At times

the fight makes me tired and disheartened. Sinful lusts stir within. My heart grows cold, my prayers are without life or even neglected. Unless restored, there would soon be no saving faith, no true love, no willing obedience."<sup>1</sup>

Paul reminds, too, in Romans 8:26, that in and of ourselves we are even too weak to pray as we ought, but that the Spirit intercedes for us with groanings that are too deep for words. Have you ever sat helpless before the Lord without even the words to say? At that point the Spirit is the one who "comes along side of us to help." By the power of the Holy Spirit assurance can be maintained during those moments and although we are weak God's Spirit is strong on our behalf.

The celebration of Pentecost, like Christmas and Easter, is the celebration of "Immanuel," God with us, and although we no longer see Christ visibly, we see Him more clearly than ever as the Holy Spirit fills us daily with His presence, guides us through the Word and empowers us for service.

<sup>1</sup>*The Senior Confirmation Book* by Dr. Jacob Tanner, Augsburg Publishing, Minneapolis, 1941, pages 110-111.

### THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

USPS 588-620 ISSN 0746-3413

is published biweekly (except for the first issue of July and the second issue of August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

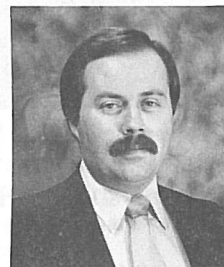
All communications concerning contents of this magazine should be addressed to: Rev. Raynard Huglen, Editor, Newfolden, Minn. 56738.

Layout design: Mrs. Wayne Hjermstad, Editorial Board: Mr. Sheldon Mortrud, Rev. Francis Monseth, Rev. Robert Lee.

Send \$10.00 subscription to THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Second-class postage paid at Wanamingo, Minn.

Postmaster: Send address changes to THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

Volume 25 Number 10



by Pastor  
Robert Lewis



## 25th Annual Conference

of the



## Association of Free Lutheran Congregations



### Wednesday, June 17

- 9:00 The Conference Committees meet for devotions, instructions and room assignments.
  - 8:00 The opening service of the Conference, with the sermon on the text by Rev. John Strand, Remer, Minn. The service leader is Rev. Jay Erickson, Fosston, Minn. AFLC President, Rev. Richard Snipstead, will open the Conference and appoint necessary Committees.
- Offering to General Fund.

### Thursday, June 18

- 9:00 Devotions.
- Report of the Credentials Committee.
- Adoption of the Conference agenda.
- Election of the Nominations Committee for the 1988 Conference.
- The President's Report.
- Report of the Chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee, Pastor Terry Olson, Valley City, N. Dak.
- Report of the Business Administrator, Mr. Ernest Miedema, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Report of the Director of the ARC, Mr. Robert Dietsche, Osceola, Wis.
- Financial Report, Miss Debbie Beaman, Minneapolis, Minn.

### Report of the Family Bible Camps

Osceola, Treasurer, Mr. Gary Modean, St. Paul, Minn.

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

Wilderness, Treasurer, Mr. George Hartman, Dalton, Minn.

### 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 No. 1 (Administration).

11:30 Prayer Hour. Leader: Rev. Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis, Minn.

2:00 Devotions.

Report of the Credentials Committee.

Elections:

President - 3-year term

Vice-President - 1-year term

Secretary - 1-year term

Selection of nominees to the Home Missions Committee - one layman; World Missions Committee - one pastor; Board of Trustees - one layman and one pastor's unexpired term.

Continuing discussion of Committee No. 1.

\*\*\*\*\*

Lincoln High School Auditorium  
Thief River Falls, Minnesota

Conference Theme: "His Kingdom is Forever"

Conference Text: Psalm 145:13



## SCHEDULE . . .

- Election of nominees to the Co-ordinating Committee - two laymen and one pastor to an unexpired term.
- Election of Committee No. 1 for the 1988 Conference.
- Report of Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Pastor Michael Brandt, Cloquet, Minn.
- Report of the Dean of the Seminary, Dr. Francis Monseth, Rogers, Minn.
- Report of the Dean of the Bible School, Pastor Donald Greven, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Report of the AFLBS Alumni Association, Miss Deb Anderson, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Report of Committee No. 2 (Schools).
- 5:30 The Schools Corporation Annual Meeting.
- 8:00 The Mission Festival Service conducted by the Women's Missionary Federation. Speaker: Pastor George Knapp.

### Friday, June 19

- 7:00 The Missions Corporation Annual Meeting.
- 9:00 Devotions.
- Report of the Credentials Committee.
- Continuing discussion of Committee No. 2.
- Election of Committee No. 2 for the 1988 Conference.
- Report of the Schools Corporation Annual Meeting.
- Report of the Chairman of the World Missions Committee, Pastor Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis.
- Report of the Director of World Missions, Pastor Eugene Enderlein, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Report of the Chairman of the Home Missions Committee, Pastor Herbert Franz, Dollar Bay, Mich.
- Report of the Director of Home Missions, Pastor Elden Nelson, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Report of the Chairman of the Commission on Evangelism, Pastor Verle Dean, Sedan, Minn.
- Report of Committee No. 3 (Missions and Evangelism).
- 11:30 Prayer Hour - Pastor Dyrud.
- 2:00 Devotions.
- Report of the Credentials Committee.
- Continuing Report of Committee No. 3.
- Report of Missions Corporation Annual Meeting.
- 5:30 Pastors' Banquet.
- 8:00 Laymen's Service. Leader: Mr. Paul Flaten, Newfolden, Minn. Speaker: Mr. Bernhard Nelson, Portland, N. Dak.
- Offering to Schools.

### Saturday, June 20

- 9:00 Devotions.
- Report of the Credentials Committee.
- Continuing discussion of the report of Committee No. 3.
- Election of member to the Commission on Evangelism - one layman.
- Election of Committee No. 3 for the 1988 Conference.
- Report of the Chairman of the Board of Publications and Parish Education, Dr. Mary Lindquist, Grand Forks, N. Dak.

- Report of the Director of Parish Education, Mrs. Ralph Tjelta, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Nominations for nominee for Editor of *The Lutheran Ambassador*.
- Report of the Chairman of the Youth Board, Pastor Allen Monson, Dickinson, N. Dak.
- Report of the President of the Luther League Federation, Pastor Curtis Emerson, St. Cloud, Minn.
- Report of Committee No. 4 (Publications, Parish Education and Youth).

11:30 Prayer Hour - Pastor Dyrud.

2:00 Devotions.

- Report of the Credentials Committee.
- Election of members to the Board of Publications and Parish Education - one layman and one pastor's unexpired term.
- Election of member to the Youth Board.
- Election of Committee No. 4 for the 1988 Conference.
- Election of the Colloquy Committee for the 1988 Conference.
- Report of the Chairman of the Stewardship Board, Pastor Robert Lee, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Report of the Chairman of the Board of Pensions, Mr. Norman Haugen, Murdock, Minn.
- Report of Committee No. 5 (Stewardship and Pensions).
- Election of member to the Stewardship Board - one layman and one layman's unexpired term.
- Election of member to the Board of Pensions - one layman.
- Election of Committee No. 5 for the 1988 Conference.
- Report of special committees.
- Election of one member to the Budget Analysis Committee - 3-year term.
- Report of Committee No. 1 as the Committee on General Resolutions.
- Invitations to the 1988 Conference.
- 8:00 Youth Night at the Conference. Leader: Pastor Curtis Emerson, St. Cloud, Minn.
- Offering to Capital Investments.

### Sunday, June 21

- 8:00 Communion Service.
- Leader: Pastor Ernest Langness, Ishpeming, Mich. Speaker: Pastor Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn.
- 10:30 Worship Service.
- Leader: Pastor Leslie Galland, Thief River Falls, Minn. Speaker: Pastor David Molstre, Fargo, N. Dak.
- Offering to World Missions.
- 2:00 Ordination Service.
- Speaker: Pastor Richard Snipstead, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Choral Union.
- Offering to Home Missions.
- Conference Committee:
- Pastor Richard Snipstead, President
- Pastor Ronald Knutson, Secretary





# Elections at the Annual Conference

## Officers to be elected

\*Designates incumbent

Nominations are made from the floor for the constitutional officers and there must be at least two (2) nominations for each position.

**President** (3-year term)

\*Rev. Richard Snipstead, Minneapolis, Minn.

(Having served three consecutive terms, the incumbent must receive a three-fourths majority on the first ballot in order to be re-elected.)

**Vice-President** (1-year term)

\*Rev. Robert L. Lee, Minneapolis, Minn.

**Secretary** (1-year term)

\*Rev. Ronald D. Knutson, Canton, S. Dak.

## 1987 Nominating Committee

Eastern North Dakota — Mr. Vernon Russum, Grafton, N. Dak.

Western North Dakota-Eastern Montana — Mr. Orville Qualley, Brockton, Mont.

South Dakota-Nebraska — Lay Pastor Rodney Stueland, Roslyn, S. Dak.

Northwestern Minnesota — Mr. Roger Peterson, Thief River Falls, Minn.

North Central Minnesota — Mr. Robert Broden, Fertile, Minn.

Southwest Central Minnesota — Rev. Robert Lewis, Abercrombie, N. Dak.

Lake Superior — Mr. Clifford Johnson, Esko, Minn.

Minneapolis — Mr. Marlin Benrud, Zumbrota, Minn.

Northern Michigan — Mr. Walter Peterson, Ishpeming, Mich.

Arizona — Rev. Terry Wold, Tucson, Ariz.

West Coast — Mr. Bud Haugen, Lake Stevens, Wash.

East Coast — Rev. Emerson Anderson, Cleveland, O.

## By the Conference

**Board of Publications and Parish Education**

(4-year term)

(To replace Rev. Ralph Tjelta, Blaine, Minn., who has resigned.)

(5-year term)

\*Dr. Mary Lindquist, Grand Forks, N. Dak.

**Commission on Evangelism**

(5-year term)

\*Mr. Arthur Arneson, Spicer, Minn.

**Board of Pensions**

(5-year term)

\*Mr. Lawrence Dahlgren, Lake Park, Minn.

**Stewardship Board**

(2-year term)

(To fill the unexpired term of Lay Pastor Roger Krueger, Wautoma, Wis., who resigned and who was temporarily replaced by Mr. Marlin Benrud.)

(5-year term)

\*Mr. Harvey Dyrud, Newfolden, Minn.

(Having served two consecutive terms, Mr. Dyrud cannot be re-elected.)

## By Corporations

**Co-ordinating Committee**

(1-year term)

(To replace Dr. James Gerdeen, Chassel, Mich., who has resigned.)

(5-year terms)

\*Mr. George Hartman, Dalton, Minn.

\*Mr. Robert Knutson, McVile, N. Dak.

**Home Missions Committee**

(1-year term)

\*Mr. Owen Myhre, Abercrombie, N. Dak.

**World Missions Committee**

(1-year term)

\*Rev. Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis, Minn. (Having served two consecutive terms, Pastor Dyrud cannot be re-elected.)

**Board of Trustees**

(1-year term)

(To replace Rev. Michael Brandt, Cloquet, Minn., who has resigned.)

(5-year term)

\*Mr. Kenneth Rolf, McIntosh, Minn.

**Youth Board**

(5-year term)

\*Rev. Allen Monson, Dickinson, N. Dak.

## AFLC Corporations

### Missions

The Nominating Committee of the Annual Conference will present two (2) names for every vacancy on the Missions Corporation. Nominations may also be made from the floor. The Conference membership will then by secret ballot choose one person for each vacancy and send those names to the Corporation for decision at its Annual Meeting on June 19. Members of the World and Home Missions Committees must come from the membership of the Corporation. Failure to be re-elected to the Corporation while serving on either Committee will automatically remove one from membership on that Committee.

The following are eligible to attend the Annual Meeting of the Corporation on June 19:

(\*Denotes World Missions Committee member; \*\*denotes Home Missions Committee member.)

**Terms expire in 1987:**

Mr. Martin Bjornson, Valley City, N. Dak.\*

Rev. Herbert L. Franz, Dollar Bay, Mich.\*\*

Rev. Henry Johansen, Willmar, Minn.

Dr. Lyle Mattson, Greenbush, Minn.

Mr. Kenneth Nash, Colfax, N. Dak.\*

Mr. Jerry Olson, Newfolden, Minn.

Mr. Vernon Russum, Grafton, N. Dak.

Dr. Wayne Sletten, Faith, S. Dak.

Mrs. Rodney Stueland, Roslyn, S. Dak.

Miss Judith Wold, Thief River Falls, Minn.

## MISSIONS CORP. . . .

### Terms expire in 1988:

Rev. Mark Antal, Bemidji, Minn.  
 Rev. Fred Carlson, Wadena, Minn.  
 Lay Pastor Verle Dean, Sedan, Minn.  
 Mr. Emory Flaten, Newfolden, Minn.  
 Mrs. Oscar Folden, Minot, N. Dak.  
 Rev. Peter Franz, Minot, N. Dak.  
 Rev. Philip Haugen, Minneapolis, Minn.\*\*  
 Rev. Wesley Langaas, McVile, N. Dak.  
 Rev. Rodney Johnson, Spicer, Minn.  
 Rev. Einar Unseth, Bismarck, N. Dak.\*

### Terms expire in 1989:

Mr. Paul Flaten, Newfolden, Minn.  
 Rev. Alvin Grothe, Astoria, Ore.\*\*  
 Mr. John Arlen Johnson, Sacred Heart, Minn.  
 Mr. Owen Myhre, Abercrombie, N. Dak.\*\*  
 Rev. Norman Tenneboe, Park River, N. Dak.  
 Rev. Ted Berkas, Granite Falls, Minn.  
 Mr. Truman Rolf, McIntosh, Minn.  
 Rev. Ernest Langness, Ishpeming, Mich.\*  
 Mrs. Gerald Knudsvig, Buxton, N. Dak.  
 Mr. Donald Hansen, Minneapolis, Minn.

### Terms expire in 1990:

Rev. Walter Beaman, Sebeka, Minn.  
 Mr. Lester Davidson, Ortley, S. Dak.  
 Mr. Dale Finstrom, Hatton, N. Dak.  
 Rev. Gordon L. Grage, Underwood, Minn.  
 Mr. Arley Hartsoch, Ray, N. Dak.\*  
 Rev. Ted Kennedy, Jr., Nogales, Ariz.  
 Rev. Robert Lewis, Abercrombie, N. Dak.  
 Rev. David Molstre, Fargo, N. Dak.  
 Rev. Larry V. Severson, Roseau, Minn.  
 Mr. Kenneth Williams, Ishpeming, Mich.

### Terms expire in 1991:

Rev. Richard Anderson, Lakeville, Minn.  
 Mr. Robert Dietsche, Osceola, Wis.  
 Rev. Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis, Minn.\*  
 Mr. Harold Erickson, New York Mills, Minn.  
 Rev. Dale Mellgren, Tioga, N. Dak.  
 Rev. Allen Monson, Dickinson, N. Dak.  
 Mrs. Aini Myking, Minneapolis, Minn.  
 Rev. John Rieth, Williston, N. Dak.  
 Mr. Joel Rogenes, Ely, Minn.\*\*  
 Mr. Doyle Watson, Kirkland, Wash.

## Schools

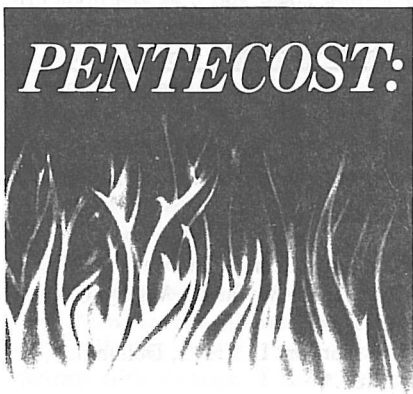
The Nominating Committee of the Annual Conference will present two (2) names for every vacancy on the Schools Corporation. Nominations may also be made from the floor. The Conference will then by secret ballot choose one person for each vacancy, sending the names of these persons on to the Corporation for decision at its Annual Meeting on June 18. Members of the Board of Trustees must come from the membership of the Corporation. Failure to be re-elected to the Corporation while serving on the Board will automatically exclude one from membership on the Board.

The following persons are eligible to attend the Annual Meeting of the Corporation on June 18:

(\*Denotes member of the Board of Trustees.)

### Terms expire in 1987:

Mr. Ole Borseth, Williston, N. Dak.  
 Mr. Clifford Dyrud, St. Paul, Minn.  
 Rev. J. G. Erickson, Fosston, Minn.  
 Rev. Dennis Gray, DeKalb, Ill.  
 Mr. Clifford Johnson, Esko, Minn.  
 Lay Pastor Roger Krueger, Wautoma, Wis.  
 Rev. John Mundfrom, Eben Jct., Mich.



## for the salvation of souls and encouragement of believers

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled

with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language . . . And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:1-6, 21).

What an exciting day Pentecost became for the disciples and the others privileged to witness the outpouring of the Holy Spirit! People from all nations were gathered together during that



by Rev.  
 Todd Klemme,  
 Faith, S. Dak.

Rev. Paul Nash, Warroad, Minn.  
Mr. Kent Quanbeck, McVile, . Dak.  
Mr. James Rolf, Brandon, Minn.

**Terms expire in 1988:**

Mr. Arne Berge, Binford, N. Dak.\*  
Mr. Stanley Holmaas, Newfolden,  
Minn.  
Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden,  
Minn.  
Rev. Donald Greven, Minneapolis,  
Minn.  
Mr. Sheldon Mortrud, Fargo, N. Dak.  
Rev. Gary Jorgenson, Stanley, N.  
Dak.  
Mr. David Russum, Lake Stevens,  
Wash.  
Mr. Ralph Peterson, Portland,  
N. Dak.\*  
Rev. Leslie Galland, Thief River  
Falls, Minn.  
Mr. Donald Jacobson, Binford, N. Dak.

**Terms expire in 1989:**

Mr. Donald Carter, Lake Stevens,  
Wash.  
Rev. Bruce Dalager, Grand Forks,  
N. Dak.  
Rev. Philip Featherstone, Pukwana,  
S. Dak.  
Rev. James Fugleberg, Ferndale,  
Wash.  
Mr. Wayne Floan, Fertile, Minn.  
Mr. Raymond Jacobson, Wadena,  
Minn.

Rev. Rodger Olson, Fergus Falls,  
Minn.\*  
Mr. Marlow Nash, Colfax, N. Dak.  
Rev. Frank Cherney, Arlington, Wash.  
Rev. Emerson Anderson, Cleveland, O.

**Terms expire in 1990:**

Mr. Art Arneson, Spicer, Minn.  
Rev. Michael Brandt, Cloquet, Minn.\*  
Dr. James Gerdeen, Chassell, Mich.  
Mr. Eldon Hermunslie, Wahpeton,  
N. Dak.  
Mr. Arlo Kneeland, Summit, S. Dak.  
Rev. Lyndon Korhonen, Culbertson,  
Mont.  
Rev. Kenneth Moland, Kirkland,  
Wash.\*  
Mr. Kenneth Rolf, McIntosh, Minn.\*  
Rev. John P. Strand, Remer, Minn.  
Rev. Terry Wold, Tucson, Ariz.

**Terms expire in 1991:**

Dr. Philip Dyrud, Middle River, Minn.  
Mr. Charles Hanson, Amery, Wis.  
Rev. Harvey Jackson, Ishpeming,  
Mich.  
Rev. Mauritz Lundeen, Aberdeen,  
S. Dak.  
Rev. Terry Olson, Valley City, N. Dak.  
Mr. Orville Qualley, Brockton, Mont.  
Rev. Philip Rokke, Greenbush, Minn.  
Mr. Alfred Tollefson, Gearhart, Ore.  
Lay Pastor Lyle Twite, Bagley, Minn.  
Mr. Ronald Willand, Ferndale, Wash.

Still more, does  
it not prove  
His divinity that  
He is able to take  
such a weak and  
faltering faith as  
the women and the  
disciples had at  
this time, and  
convert it into the  
faith that brought  
thousands to their  
knees on  
Pentecost, and  
that in less than  
three centuries  
conquered the  
Roman empire?

L.S. Keyser

blessed event. Many people heard the Word of God. We hear much of the United Nations, based in New York, where people from many nations gather in hopes of working out the various secular issues before them. But the gathering of nations at Pentecost became a time where the Word of God was fulfilled: "Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, 'And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed'" (Acts 3:25).

God desires all to be saved (I Tim 2:4). The Word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit draws people unto God:

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be

sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the Gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God . . . He called you by our Gospel, and to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:14-17 and II Thess. 2:14).

Pentecost becomes a time when we can praise and thank God that He desires the salvation of souls. Pentecost also became a time where God poured out the Holy Spirit to comfort and encourage the Christians until they are taken home to glory. It also became a time where the Holy Spirit helped and still helps believers bring glory and honor to Jesus Christ.

When Peter preached his powerful sermon, it was for the salvation of

"Pentecost becomes a time when we can praise and thank God that He desires the salvation of souls."

souls. Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, declared: "But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters will prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: and on My servants and on My handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy. . . ."

The Bible declares that "they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and  
cont. on p. 10



## Dr. Iver B. Olson

Dr. Iver B. Olson, former dean of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary and teacher in both Association schools, passed away on Sat., Apr. 18, at Augustana Home, Minneapolis, Minn. He was 81. He had suffered from Alzheimer's disease for some years.

Iver Olson was born near Hankinson, N. Dak., on Feb. 27, 1906, to Mandius and Bertha Kaardal Olson. As a very young child he emigrated to Canada with his family and grew up on a farm near Strongfield, Sask. He was confirmed in Skudesnes Lutheran Church, Loreburn.

He was united in marriage to Myrtle Langness on Oct. 7, 1933. The couple had two sons, Magne and Merlin and two daughters, Jeannette and Inez. Following graduation from Augsburg College, Minneapolis, in 1935, he taught at Oak Grove Lutheran High School, Fargo, N. Dak., for several years. He was graduated from Augsburg Seminary in 1939 and ordained into the ministry of the Lutheran Free Church the same year.

Iver Olson served the Sand Creek parish in Wisconsin from 1939-44. He taught at Augsburg College and Seminary from 1944-64. He received a Master's Degree in Scandinavian Studies from the University of Minnesota in 1945 and a Doctor of Sacred Theology Degree from Maywood, Ill., Theological Seminary in 1957.

For several years Dr. Olson served as a part-time chaplain at Lutheran Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis. He was author of a book, *Baptism and Spiritual Life*.

From 1966-71 he was acting dean and dean of AFLTS and also taught in Association Free Lutheran Bible School. Dr. Olson and his wife spent 1971-72 in Norway, where he spent part of that time teaching at Fjellhaug Mission School in Oslo. Upon their return to the U. S. he did additional teaching in the AFLC schools for some years.

For many years Iver Olson wrote weekly sermons for *The Western Viking*, a national Norwegian language newspaper published in Seattle, Wash. He served as a translator for several

local publishing companies. One of his translations is *Spirit and Power* by Ludvig Hope, published by the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation in 1959. He was a translator for Lutheran World Federation Conferences in Minneapolis and Helsinki, Finland.

His funeral service was held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 3751 17th Ave. So., Minneapolis, to which he and his wife had belonged for many years. The service was conducted by Rev. Carl A. Jensen, who also preached the sermon. James R. Gronseth was the organist. Scripture was read by Rev. Martin J. Olson, his pastor when the family belonged to Trinity Lutheran in Minneapolis, who, in addition to English readings, read the 23rd Psalm in Norwegian. The soloist was Mr. Donald Rodvold, a long-time colleague of Dr. Olson at the Association schools. He sang "Den Store Hvide Flok" (Behold a Host Arrayed in White) and

"How Great Thou Art." Greetings were brought by Rev. Richard Snipstead, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, and Dr. Paul Sonnack, who was a colleague of the deceased at Augsburg. Audience hymns were "For All the Saints," "Children of the Heavenly Father," and "Beautiful Savior."

Burial was in Running Valley Cemetery near Colfax, Wis.

Dr. Olson is survived by his wife, sons, Magne, Park Forest, Ill.; and Merlin, Kingwood, Tex.; daughters, Jeanette Locke, So. St. Paul, Minn., and Inez Schwarzkopf, Minneapolis; nine grandchildren; and two sisters, Margret Johnson, Campbell River, B. C., and Jennie Olson, San Francisco, Calif. Four brothers and two sisters preceded him in death.

Blessed be his memory.

(See the Editorial "Dr. Iver Olson" on page 9.)



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# editorials

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## PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

For the third time in her history a point in the *Rules for Work* in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will have to be used in reference to the election of a president.

It is Rule 7e, which states: "The executive officers after having served three (3) consecutive terms can be elected for additional terms only by a three-fourths majority vote."

The rule has also come into play in regard to the offices of vice-president and secretary, the other two offices to which the rule applies.

The rule has always been interpreted to the effect that if an incumbent fails to secure the three-fourths majority on the first ballot he is removed from further consideration for that office that year.

By Sept. 30 this year Rev. Richard Snipstead, AFLC president, will have served three consecutive terms. Therefore, Rule 7e applies to the election at this year's Annual Conference in Thief River Falls. The election is to take place on Thursday afternoon, June 18.

Nominations for executive or constitutional officers come only from the floor. There must be at least two of them. Then Rule 7e takes effect, in regard to the presidency this year, requiring a three-fourths majority (on the first ballot) if the incumbent is to be re-elected.

We call this to your attention so that there is no misunderstanding as to what is involved in this particular election.

Rule 7e will not apply to the elections for vice-president and secretary this year.

## DR. IVER OLSON

When a larger history of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations is written, Dr. Iver Olson, who passed away April 18, will be shown to have a significant place in her history.

We cannot research in the time at hand, and therefore recount, all that was involved in the early years of our seminary's existence that made Dr. Olson a rock of strength to a fledgling institution, but had he not agreed to come to Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary when he died, 1965, the young school might have died "a-borning."

It was, after all, the second year of operation. Dr. Olson, long-time professor at Augsburg College and Seminary, was a link to the Lutheran Free Church roots of the AFLC. He joined a small faculty which was racked in successive years by the loss of at least three faculty members in internal rows, not of his making.

Dr. Olson had to add to an already heavy teaching load and assumed the position of acting dean or dean, as the case may have been, for the years 1966-71. It was in those years especially that he played an invaluable role at our seminary. He was solid and steadfast, qualities we will always associate with him. Some men might have thrown up their hands and left in the midst of adversity. He stayed and added stability. Pastor John Strand, then president of the AFLC,

must have thanked the good Lord many a time for the support of Dr. Olson in that area of our work.

I share the distinction with very few, if any, in the Association of knowing the name of Dr. Olson's father, Mandius, before I knew there was an Iver Olson. It came about this way. We lived in Saskatchewan in the 1930s. Iver Olson had left his Canadian home and was living and working in the U. S. But I often heard my pastor father and my mother speak of Mandius Olson, a prominent layman-preacher in another parish in the church district.

I was young then and cannot specifically remember Mr. Olson, except for his name, but Mother reported that I said that I liked to hear that man (Mandius Olson) preach. No doubt he was a warm-hearted speaker and Dr. Olson said that his father told many stories in his preaching and that could well account for a young lad liking his speaking.

Except for hearing Iver Olson speak at a Luther League convention in Badger, Minn., in the early '40s, I became acquainted with him when I enrolled at Augsburg College in 1946. He was my teacher in Norse I. Teaching such a class must have been a challenge, for some of the students could speak Norwegian well, some of us had some vocabulary and others, you might say, knew nothing.

In the seminary I had him as a teacher in a good number of courses, largely in the field of Systematic Theology (doctrine), which was his specialty. In our seminary he also taught in the fields of Church History and Practical Theology. He was very knowledgeable in church history, particularly in that of Norway.

As a teacher he was respected for his wealth of knowledge. He is also well remembered for his droll humor which he interjected here and there in his lectures. As a person he was soon recognized by those who met him and visited a while as a raconteur or story teller. And the stories might come from Norse mythology, pioneer days, church history or what have you.

He taught in the Association Bible school as well as the seminary and he enjoyed the Bible school connection very much, too. He really retired twice, coming back after the first one to do more teaching in the Schools. Teaching kept him young.

I heard him say that he was impressed with the wives the seminarians had, almost in the sense that he was surprised the men had done so well.

Dr. Olson helped us out in Parish Education, too. On one or two occasions he came to Fargo, N. Dak., as guest speaker to help us in our District Instructors' Training Sessions (DITS). His "homey" and thought-provoking presentations were a great help.

He served for a time on the Stewardship Board of the AFLC.

His students and *Ambassador* readers will remember one or another of these talks or written stories: "How Does Your Garden Grow?", his first deposit in a bank in Saskatchewan, and the mirror he received for Christmas while a small boy living in a sod house in Canada.

## PENTECOST . . .

began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." How unfortunate it is when certain denominations base their theology on a verse or two of Scripture rather than the whole of Scripture! Certain denominations (more or less cultic in attitude and behavior) even heretically claim that unless one "speaks in tongues" one will not enter heaven. Groups as these miss the point of Pentecost. Granted, a supernatural event occurred. People spoke in tongues. But they spoke in other tongues so that the other nations could hear the Gospel.

Acts 2:6-11 reminds us: "Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and

strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God."

Since God desires all to be saved, one of the points of Pentecost was to preach repentance and to proclaim the good news of the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus Himself declared in the Great Commission: "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, 'All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, *I am with you always, even unto the end of the world*'" (Matthew 28:18-20), emphasis mine).

Peter's Pentecostal sermon was for the salvation of souls. When Pentecost occurred and the Holy Spirit was "poured upon all flesh," Christ then became present in the person of the Holy Spirit. We have the promise that Christ will always be with us even to the end of the world. When one responds to the Gospel by the grace of God with the power of the Holy Spirit, he or she then receives Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, one also receives the Holy Spirit, and God, since they are

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**"The Holy Spirit  
teaches us, guides us,  
helps us . . ."**

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the Trinity. Some denominations mistakenly claim that one first receives Christ, then later, if one prepares himself, he receives the Holy Spirit as if being saved comes in an "installment plan."

But the Bible declares, contrary to certain denominational groups, that "as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name" (Jn. 1:12). The Holy Spirit then helps us as Christians to live the Christian life that God has called us to live. The Holy Spirit teaches us, guides us, helps us in time of need, helps us to pray, and helps us to bring honor and glory to Christ:

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My Name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you . . . When He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into

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## EDITORIALS . . .

Dr. Olson was born just across the North Dakota line near Hankinson. The family belonged to Ferkingstad Lutheran Church north of Hammer, S. Dak., a congregation I later served as pastor. The Olson family moved to Strongfield, Sask., while Iver Olson was less than a year old, but I had relatives of his at Ferkingstad and knew others in the area.

Dr. Olson had planned to write during his retirement. He spoke of a book on dogmatics or doctrine, which could be used in our Schools. I looked forward to articles for the *Ambassador*. I would like to have seen him do a history of the various strains which go to make up the Association, with a special view to the spiritual movements. But, apart from the article in a Christmas issue about his gift of a mirror (Christmas issue, 1981), none of this came to be as the disabling disease sapped his powers. We should so much have liked to have had his abilities for a while longer.

Dr. Olson was a man of three countries. He was born in the U. S. and it was where he spent his working life and retirement years. He was an American. But his Canadian ties were very strong. It was the land of his childhood. He grew up in a very fine evangelical and pietistic congregation, Skudesnes. I suppose he enjoyed few things more than the summer trips he and his beloved wife Myrtle would make up

to Saskatchewan where they would visit with his "home folks." He said that for years he always intended that upon death he would be buried in Canada (Skudesnes), but some years ago came to realize that because of his long time in the U. S., that would be his final resting place.

Thirdly, he had a love for the land of his ancestors, Norway. He made several trips to Norway. He and his wife spent the year there, 1971-72, while he taught at Fjellhaug Mission School in Oslo. Iver Olson did much to promote remembrance of the fatherland of his people through the Stavangerlag and other means. I have long felt, and been sorry, that he never got the recognition for his contributions in these areas and that others who perhaps had done less, and had less knowledge of the "old country" were "knighted," given medals or whatever, ahead of him.

The death of Iver Olson leaves an empty space against the sky. We must not forget what Dr. Iver Olson did for our church especially when he "stood in the gap" during some trying times. Much gratitude also goes to his gracious wife who faithfully shared life's experiences, the good and the bad, with him.

— Raynard Huglen



all truth . . . Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with the groanings which cannot be uttered . . . No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost" (Jn. 14:26, 16:13; Rom. 8:26, I Cor. 12:3).

We can praise and thank God for Pentecost, where we are reminded that when Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior, we are given the grace and power to go out and be a part of that Great Commission to declare the Gospel to every nation just as Peter and the other apostles did. We can praise God that the Holy Spirit works through the Word to draw people unto salvation and that the Holy Spirit encourages believers; Pentecost reminds us of God's gracious acts.



Does this mean that we are always to be doing some definitely religious work, as it is called? No, but all that we do is to be always definitely done for Him.

—*Frances Ridley Havergal*

#### IN MEMORIAM

Key: The name of the town was the address of the deceased. Following that is listed the name of the deceased, age, date of death and the church in which he or she held membership.

#### MINNESOTA

Roseau

**John Flaa**, 82, Apr. 15, Rose.

**Mrs. Louis Corneliusen**, 87, Apr. 16, Norland, Salol.  
Newfolden

**LeRoy "Buddy" Knutson**, 62, Apr. 20, Westaker. Mr. Knutson was a former member of the Schools Corporation of the AFLC.

Received by Mrs. Oscar Folden, Minot, N. Dak.

## A letter from China

Feb. 20, 1987

Dear Aunty,

How glad I was when I received your parcel of music tape. I love music, especially hymns, because they express the voice of thanksgiving and petition in my prayers. I enjoy very much the peace in my heart when my need is spelled out in music to my Heavenly Father, trusting that the best for me will be granted through His love. Meanwhile, it is in singing hymns that I hear Him speak to me in a tender voice, showing me the righteous path and consoling my wearied heart. Your tape of hymns is really a favorite to me. How I should thank you for your gift.

Recently I have been thinking of the late Rev. W. Winter, because in him I see a good example of the life of a Christian who, despite all the hardships and obstacles, had consecrated his whole life and been so submissive to the Lord that he willingly carried his cross of affliction to the last moment. Last month I chanced to go to Saam-kong, Linnan County and, by the way, I paid a visit to the vestige site of the former leper asylum. All at once, Rev. Winter's splendid image haunted my mind, bringing to my memory the story of how Christian spirit was channelled through the work of caring for those crippled and despised lepers. Then I was confronted with the problem of how to evaluate one's life. Our dear Lord left the world when He was only 33 years old, and He had no landed estate and wealth, as was mentioned in the Bible: foxes have burrows and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of man has nowhere to lay His head. The only and most precious property of His was the cross, the symbol of suffering, blood shedding and sacrifice on His part, and salvation, love and blessings for sinners of the world. Rev. Winter faithfully followed the trend of love and sacrifice of the Lord, as did numerous Christians, each bearing his own cross, following Christ in their lives. I thank God for the knowledge that the meaning of life consists not in procuring what we can from the world, but in giving out and sharing with others the

blessings and salvation God has bestowed upon us through Christ.

My innermost being shows an ever increasing thirst for church fellowship, but under the present circumstances such spiritual need of mine can hardly be satisfied. That's why I used to recall to my memory the days when Rev. Winter and I spent our time in meditation and communion in Christ. Perhaps that was the most memorable hour I ever had. How I wish that I could meet you again, to spend our time in worship and prayers as we did in the days we met in Shao Guan. I pray that my wish be granted through His love and mercy. I wish I could retire from hospital work sometime later and by that time I could be free to submit my time and strength to God's disposal.

Wei-yee is studying English and English Bible very hard. Also he is studying geography with the help of the tape you sent him, for which he is very much grateful to you.

I have been studying the first book of the Old Testament, the Creation, since the beginning of the year. From the story of Adam and Eve I know how God loves human beings. The reason why He forbade eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil is that He wants humans to keep away from learning bad things, for the motive to sin originates from the knowledge of evil, and from sin comes fears, anger, envy, hatred, hardship and sadness. That Cain slew Abel, the first dreadful crime of man against man, proves God's words to be only too true. There are lots of things mentioned in the Bible which are beyond my comprehension. I pray that God enlightens me as I endeavor to search after His truth. In my search for truth I'm expecting your help.

Hope to hear and learn from you.  
With love,

Fun-chee-Wong

(Ed. note: Some readers may recall an account of Mrs. Folden's visit to China, which was printed in a Christmas *Ambassador* some years ago, in which she met her "relatives.")

# *I want to grow, Lord!*

by Mrs. Richard (Clara) Gunderson,  
Lake Stevens, Wash.

## What hinders me?

He stood there, weak in spirit, sightless in vision, a man who once walked proudly, towering over all others because of his immense strength. He must have been deeply humiliated to return to Gaza, once the site of his great strength, now a prisoner with eyes gouged out, bound in chains and, worst of all, his hair shaved off.

Oh, Samson, before conception you were chosen by God for the express purpose of ending Israel's bondage to the Philistines. You *knew* your great strength came from God. What happened to you? When did you begin to take credit for what He was doing through you?

Yes, he stood there before them, his captors. But now there is a difference about this man. It's not his eyes; he is still sightless as a boy leads him; it is his hair! His hair, the outward sign of his vow to God, has been growing during his prison stay. And at last he has called upon the source of his strength, the Lord God, and while the Philistines praised their god in their false security, Samson's God delivered him by His own great strength.

*Taking credit for God's gracious gifts to me, combined with working in my own strength* are hindrances in my walk with the Lord that force me to identify with Samson. I don't like to. I'd rather see myself in a better light than that.

But this is the Pentecost season in our church and even as the Lenten season leads me to acknowledge my sin and view my suffering Savior, and as Easter morning brings joy in the hope of resurrection, the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit makes me face the reality that power, strength, ability, wisdom, understanding and

knowledge are the results of the presence of the Holy Spirit in my life.

It's true that God's purpose for Samson was at least partially fulfilled because in the end thousands of Philistines were killed, the bondage of the Israelites was being broken. However, Samson's life ended in horror and dishonor as he also was crushed along with his enemies. I wonder. Did the Lord not trust him with more power? Seeing his name in the list of great heroes of faith in Hebrews 11 makes me realize he was a forgiven man at his death. Yes, forgiven, but not victorious in his walk with God.

Since coming to the West Coast I have been made aware of a teaching called the New Age Movement. There are other names by which it is called, among them is the name the Human Potential Movement. In reading (and I confess that I have only *begun* to do so) about this movement I have learned that they wrongly teach that anything the human mind can believe or conceive, it can achieve and, as one author suggests, then we must be gods. While this is obviously wrong, arrogantly, blatantly so, I wonder how to put it into perspective with how I feel (and wrote in my first article in this series) regarding my own worth. It seemed to me that in attempting to get away from a low self-esteem I am being encouraged by the Human Potential Movement to think of myself as highly as I can. Yes, to esteem myself as potentially perfect. And then the sky is the limit in what I can achieve.

Wouldn't I, then, be denying Philip-

pians 4:13, which says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"? Ah, that's the very core of this deception! The New Age Movement leaves Christ out and lets *me* in, taking full credit for the gifts, the power, the wisdom, the knowledge, the abilities that are the results of the presence of the Holy Spirit in my life!

Oh, Samson, you lived your life so willfully! When did you begin to see the strength within as your own? Was it a subtle change, coming slowly, even as the hair on your head grew longer? I see you deceived by your own wants as you dishonored your parents, gratifying your own flesh. You were so clever with your riddles! So brave with the lion as you tore him apart with your bare hands, as the Spirit of the Lord came upon you!

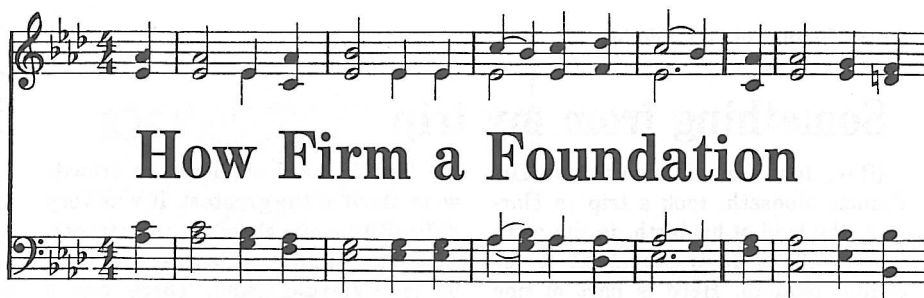
Of course, there is another alternative, another side of the coin. I can resist the promptings of the Spirit of the Lord, ignoring the power available to me *in* Christ Jesus. Power *was* given to Samson. I see a war within myself between assuming the credit, being pleased with myself for what I have done or not utilizing the very gift Jesus promised to His disciples upon His ascension. By His authority I shall do greater things, He said! I find within myself a good feeling when I have yielded and been used by God. Oh, the line must be very fine at times between pride and humility!

O, Lord, the Source of my strength, let me see the difference *through the work* of Your Spirit.

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"And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, which is given unto us" (Romans 5:5). The real fruit that we look for in a young convert is love; . . . Even in the heart of China you will find if a man is converted he will love his enemies. The love of God is in that man's heart.

—D.L. Moody



## How Firm a Foundation

*Concordia*, No. 202

"K" in Rippon's Selection, 1778

Tune: ADESTE FIDELES

John F. Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1761

"But now, thus says the Lord, your creator, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, 'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you: I have called you by name; you are Mine! When you pass through the waters, I will be with you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you'" (Is. 43:1, 2).

"I will never desert you, nor will ever forsake you" (Heb. 13:5). (See also II Tim. 2:19.)

How firm a foundation,  
ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith  
in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say  
than to you He hath said,  
Who unto the Savior  
for refuge have fled?  
Who unto the Savior  
for refuge have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee,  
O be not dismayed,  
For I am thy God,  
and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee,  
and cause thee to stand,  
Upheld by My righteous,  
omnipotent hand,  
Upheld by My righteous,  
omnipotent hand."

"When thro' the deep waters  
I call thee to go,  
The rivers of sorrow  
shall not overflow;  
For I will be with thee,  
thy troubles to bless,  
And sanctify to thee  
thy deepest distress,  
And sanctify to thee  
thy deepest distress."

"When thro' fiery trials  
thy pathways shall lie,  
My grace, all sufficient,  
shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee;  
I only design  
Thy dross to consume,  
and thy gold to refine,  
Thy dross to consume,  
and thy gold to refine."

"E'en down to old age  
all my people shall prove  
My sovereign, eternal  
unchangeable love;  
And when hoary hairs shall  
their temples adorn,  
Like lambs they shall still  
in my bosom be borne.  
Like lambs they shall  
still in my bosom be borne."

"The soul that on Jesus  
hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not  
desert to his foes;  
That soul, tho' all hell  
should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never,  
no never forsake!  
I'll never, no never,  
no never forsake!"

This hymn is another example of how an unknown author has given to the Church a truly great vessel for service. The number of those who have found its comfort and strength is infinite. It was a favorite of Robert E. Lee, Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson, all of whom had it sung at their funerals. Andrew Jackson requested it when he lay dying, as an expression of his trust and faith. "There is a beautiful hymn," he said, "on the subject of the exceeding great and precious promises of God to His people . . . I wish you would sing it now."

A former United States Army general tells how the hymn, sung to the tune "Adeste Fideles," was rendered one

Christmas morning in Cuba: The Seventh Army was encamped on the hills above Havana on Christmas Eve of 1989. At midnight a sentry from 49th Iowa gave his call, "Twelve o'clock and all's well!" Then a voice began singing, "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith . . ." Soon the whole regiment was singing. Then the 6th Missouri added its voices, and the 4th Virginia, and all the rest until, there on the long ridges above the city where Spanish tyranny was threatening to enslave the New World, the entire army was singing, "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God and will still give thee aid" (Is. 41:10).

How much more suitable is this hymn, so full of Scripture, than some so called Gospel song that has no Gospel, set to a silly ditty that has no dignity, which, because of its "Christianity-made-easy" content and catchy tune and rhythm, was used as a method to entice people to its source, a "fun" church. Clergymen and Sunday school teachers who disdain spiritual treasures like this in favor of music to charm people are performing a disservice to both the Church and those they beguile.

Rippon's Selection (1787) was a very famous British hymnal of 588 hymns intended as an appendage to *Dr. Watts' Psalms and Hymns*. "K" is the only indication of the author's identity. Dr. Rippon was a Baptist pastor.

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ADESTE FIDELES appeared with "Come Hither, Ye Faithful" in John F. Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, a manuscript collection of hymns. (See #125.) Because of the strong and natural association the tune has with the Christmas carol, better music for this hymn is FOUNDATION, an anonymous American tune that is more sober and steadfast, lending itself perfectly to this magnificent text. — Don Rodvold



## Something from my trip

(Rev. John Loland, an uncle of Dr. Francis Monseth, took a trip to Norway, the land of his birth, in the summer of 1936. He wrote about it for church readers. Here is part of one installment.)

The trip back went through a little of Sweden and then over to Denmark. Stopped in Copenhagen a day and took the opportunity to visit among other places Thorvaldsen's museum. It is almost incredible how much that sculptor has been able to create through his talent. There is, so to say, a whole museum of his work. Travelled on down through Denmark to Berlin, Germany, where I also stayed for a day. It so happened that I came to Berlin at the time the Olympic games were being held there and I will say that the city was crowded and all was very festive. I arrived on the next to

the last day so I suppose the crowds were about at the greatest. It was very difficult to move about on the streets. All the hotels were filled, so I was put up in a private home. There was a young boy there who was very willing to go with me around the city and to show me some of the most important things, so he was with me from morning to late at night, and greater friendliness couldn't have been met with by anyone. I was almost astounded by such helpfulness and friendliness; but now I have read in papers later that Hitler is said to have commanded his people to treat all tourists with friendliness. Perhaps that order was especially with view to the Olympics. That young boy spoke very glowingly of Hitler.

*Folkebladet*,  
Sept. 9, 1936

## An interruption in the prayer

(An unknown, to us, writer shares an important truth about prayer.)

There is a good thought in the little story we heard the other day. There was a little boy who had talked with his grandmother about serious things before he went to bed. Then he was going to pray his evening prayer and kneeling by his grandmother's side, he began:

"If I should die before I wake — If I should die before I wake —"

"So I pray," whispered Grandmother softly. "Go on, Donald."

"Wait a moment," broke in the boy, got up and hurried out and went down the stairs. In just a little while he was back, took his place and continued his prayer where he had stopped. When he had gotten into bed Grandmother asked him why he had interrupted his prayer.

"I thought about what I said, Grandma, and therefore I had to stop," he explained. "I turned over Ted's army, you see, and stood all his tin soldiers on their heads, just to see how he would be angry and scream early in the morning. But when I thought: 'If I should die before I wake,' I didn't want him to find them that way. I didn't want him to remember forever that I had done such a thing."

There are many things that seem to be funny if you should continue to live, but you wouldn't want to do them if you should die before you wake.

"That was right, my dear," Grandmother said with a tender, quavering voice. "People wouldn't be hurt if a good deal of our prayers were interrupted so that we could make right what is wrong."

*Folkebladet*,  
Sept. 16, 1936

(Translated from Norwegian)

## A servant of the Lord departs

(Rev. H. J. Villevik, in 1936, writes of the death of Pastor Ingebrigt Tollefsen, who was the father of Mrs. T. O. Burntvedt and the second Mrs. P. A. Strommen. Here in preliminary remarks he speaks of the aging of life and the look toward the life beyond.)

Those who yet live and who went out as pioneers on the church frontiers grow old and sit alone with memories of those exciting times.

The fields of work are in younger hands and the afternoon sun is sinking further and further toward the western horizon. Young life rushes by and the elderly are partly forgotten.

Then one day a message comes; he has passed away, she is gone, momentary attention from modern life, a little piece in the paper, a silent mound of earth hides what was left of the old earthly tent which has been laid aside and life picks up again its old restless pace. And then, how good to know that the old worn out tabernacle isn't everything. The spirit went out from that dwelling place which could no longer serve it and moved into a new home.

That is what happens when a true

disciple of the Lord dies. It is moving day; it is the day toward which all Christians look in anticipation. What does it matter if one is perhaps already forgotten by his contemporaries? It is moving day to the place with the many mansions which the Lord has so wonderfully called that home which He prepares for His own. And when the home is ready so also is the pilgrim ready for it and so he moves to occupy.

Thus it was also for our recently departed friend and brother in the Lord, Pastor I. Tollefsen. He longed for that home and waited for it with patience.

With his departure a rich and valuable life in God's service ends.

*Folkebladet*,  
Sept. 9, 1936

### SEMINARY INTERNS PLACED FOR 1987-88

Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary has announced the following internship placements for 1987-88:

Tim Carlson, Tioga, N. Dak. (Zion),  
Rev. Dale Mellgren, pastor.

Michael Crowell, Cloquet, Minn. (St. Paul's), Michael Brandt, pastor.

Lynn Wilson, Valley City, N. Dak. (Grace and Zion), Terry Olson, pastor.

Reuben Unseth, Chassell Mich. (Maranatha), Dr. James Gerdeen, pastor.

## The Eagan Bible Conference

Living Word Lutheran Church, Eagan, Minn., David Barnhart, pastor, was the host to one of the 1987 Bible Conferences held this past winter. More than 200 people from around the central and southern parts of Minnesota, along with others from neighboring Wisconsin and Iowa congregated under the theme "Revive Me, Lord."

Pastor Barnhart led the evening services and Pastor Herbert Franz spoke under the theme "The Church In Revival," using I Thessalonians 1 as his text. He stated that all churches in the AFLC should pattern their lives after the church of Thessalonica. The Thessalonians had right doctrine and a Spirit-filled life and they gave up all their idols to serve a true and living God. Pastor Franz concluded his message by talking about several marks of a church in revival, including the bearing of fruit and being a witness both in lifestyle and in word.

On Saturday evening, Pastor Franz spoke on revival, from II Chronicles 7:13-15. Speaking on "Spiritual Famine," he stated that spiritual famine can lead to "spiritual drought" and that can progress to "spiritual pestilence." In a challenging message to the Christian, Pastor Franz said, "If you want to be the kind of Christian that God can bless and use, *get into the Word.*"

All day Saturday Dr. Francis Monseth, dean of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, led the Bible hours and his talks centered on the theme "Revive Me, Lord" using Psalm 119:153-160 as a basis of instruction.

The WMF held a luncheon on Saturday.

Those attending the conference left challenged, renewed and revived in the Lord.

*James Ritter,  
Seminary Intern*

## Personalities

Rev. John Reith, who has been pastor of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Williston, N. Dak., since 1980, has resigned in order to accept the call to become pastor of Amery Lutheran Church, Amery, Wis.

## Reflections on the life of Missionary M.G.C. Vaageness, Sr.

1888-1987 (abridged)

Travel to Madagascar was by steamboat. Travel inside Madagascar was by walking, or by canoe, or by "palanquin." The latter was a covered conveyance used in India, China, Madagascar, and other countries, borne by poles on the shoulders of four men, and carrying a single person. He and his wife wore pit helmets whenever they were outside to prevent sun stroke. Early pictures of mission gatherings show all of the men and women in pit helmets.

The Lutheran Free Church mission center was at Manasoa, Madagascar. A wide river separated Manasoa from towns to the west. A mountain range prevented travel eastward. So the usual means of travel was to cross the river. I remember seeing a picture of his car being pulled across the river by twenty men with long ropes. They would have to drain water out of the transmission and rear axle routinely. Later the missionaries kept one car on the east side of the river near Manasoa and another on the west side of the river, near Bezaha. This added considerably to the life of transmissions and rear axles. A bridge was built across this river in the late 1960s, so now it is easier to get to Manasoa.

Morris indicated that the only real sacrifice he made as a Madagascar missionary was separation from their children. In 1934 their son Carl left for mission school in Fort Dauphin. The distance from Betroka Station to Fort Dauphin was about 250 miles. Because of very poor roads, it was rare that a first-grader got back home except for 3 months of summer holiday.

In 1936, Morris, Jr. went to first grade in Fort Dauphin. That same year their two daughters died suddenly at home in Betroka. Morris and Hanna Vaagenes were all alone.

In 1941 the family came home on furlough. They landed in New York City just two days before World War II began. They were unable to return to Madagascar until 1946, when the war was over. Their sons said that those years in the U. S. A. with their parents were precious.

In 1946 an opportunity came for the parents to return to Madagascar. This was a very sad time for the boys, Carl and Morris. They were on their own in America. Many tears were shed at that time. Only a mission family can understand the sacrifice of leaving children in America.

At that time the boys needed summer work. My mom and dad, Tarkel and Elaine Ose, asked them to work on our farm at Thief River Falls, Minn. The boys were very dependable and Mom and Dad sort of owned them as their own children. Morris would sing as he milked cows on our farm. I can still remember that beautiful deep bass voice.

Morris, Sr., was our pastor at Satersdal Lutheran Church from 1941 to 1943. I can remember two things in particular: I remember his slides of Madagascar when they were pulling the car through the river west of Manasoa. That memory stuck with me, and 33 years later I walked across that river east of Bezaha, Madagascar.

The second thing that stands out is his sermon on "lucky" days in the native religion. When a child was born, the parents were required to check with the local medicine man if it was a "lucky" day. If the child was born on an unlucky day, the parents had to put the child on an ant hill. To prove how unlucky the child was, the ants would come and consume every ounce of flesh on the little body.

But Malagasy mothers love their little children just as much as American mothers. Sometimes the mothers would refuse to let their children die. The people of the village would then forcibly take the baby out to the ant hills, and keep the mother from recovering her little treasure. One of the very first things that happened was the Gospel message freed the natives from this harsh custom. (This story made an indelible impression on my mind over 40 years ago.)

*— Rev. Roger Ose,  
Minneapolis, Minn.*

(Pastor Ose was also a missionary in Madagascar until forced home by a health problem.)

## Youth at Family Camp

One of the very important activities at Family Camp is the work with the youth of the junior and senior high age group.

Most Bible camps are strictly for youth. These camps are further divided into age groups so that youth of each age group are alone for the week of camp. These camps surely have their place and have been a blessing in the lives of many young people through the years.

Family Camp offers a unique variation in the fact that all age groups are present at the same time during the week at camp. The children up through 6th grade stay in the facilities with their parents. The youth of junior and senior high, however, stay in dormitories much as they would in a regular youth camp. They have their sessions in Bible study, discussions and other activities in the morning with those of their own age group. One of the morning sessions may be a mission hour where the junior and senior high and the adults are all together.

The afternoon is free for recreation and relaxation. Then in the evening everyone is together for the evening service often followed by an afterglow around a bonfire.

Comments from the youth in junior and senior high is that they like this set-up as they are together with everyone during the week and yet they are separate for their own classes and other activities. Churches often bring in busloads of young people to a family camp and have this as their youth camp for the summer as they feel there are real advantages in this arrangement. There is no generation gap when we are together in the Lord. It is here that many young people make a real and sincere commitment of their hearts and lives to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The youth program of Family Camp is a very vital part of the total program for the week. Remember we have two weeks this year of Family Camp at the ARC, June 29-July 5th and August 10-16th. Send your registration of \$2 per person or \$5 per family to: ARC, Rt. 1, Box 92, Osceola, Wis. 54020.

*Committee*

(Ed. note: Family Camp at Lake Bronson, Minn., July 6-12, will also have a program for youth.)

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## Rose Church to be featured

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Mr. Clarence N. Erickson

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March 11, 1987

Dear Mr. Erickson:

*I am sure you will be happy to know that your church will be featured on "U.S. Farm Report" the weekend of May 23 & 24 on over 140 independent television stations as well as 7,000 cable systems throughout the United States.*

*I'm not sure exactly what day or time you see our program, but be sure to watch it during that period.*

*Thank you for your interest, and we hope you continue to enjoy our efforts on "U.S. Farm Report."*

*Sincerely,  
Lottie Kearns  
Associate Producer  
Farm Service Department  
U.S. Farm Report*

(The church referred to is Rose Lutheran Church, an AFLC congregation, and the oldest Lutheran congregation in Roseau County. Next year the congregation will observe its centennial. The TV program indicated above may be seen in the Roseau area on KYHI, Channel 11, on Sundays at 7:30 a.m.)

He who believes that he is saved by his own merit or good works is not saved at all. He has but the righteousness of those concerning whom Christ said that "except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no wise enter into the Kingdom of Heaven."

Bernhard Christensen  
(Fire Upon the Earth)