



THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

May 31, 1994



**Making
the
most
of the
Summer**

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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Light on the Way

God's Glorious Servant

It seems to me that the word "servant" doesn't have much credibility today. To be a servant is to give up one's own rights and submit to a master; it is to take the lowly place, perform the menial and unpleasant tasks, and expand one's energy on behalf of others. In short, to be a servant is to be like Jesus ... and Jesus is not the role model our self-absorbed culture exalts. Least we go along with our culture and reject the servant role to which we are called, we who are Christians need to consider carefully God's glorious Servant, Jesus.

In the latter section of his book, the prophet Isaiah recorded four poems describing the Servant of the Lord (scholars have called them "Servant Songs"; they are found in chapters 42, 49, 50 and 53). It is the climactic fourth poem (53:13-53:12) that is our focus. In my estimation there is no greater description of our Savior Jesus and his salvation work anywhere in the entire Bible!

The first stanza of this Servant Song emphasizes the full reality of the Messiah: He "will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted" (52:13), but only *after* going through such incredible suffering that he wouldn't even look human (52:14). Yes, the coming One would be glorious, but before the glory would come intense agony and humiliation.

God's servant Jesus suffered for *our* sins, not His own. He took our place and paid the price we couldn't pay, thus purchasing our salvation. The truth of the Gospel shouts from the prophet's God-breathed poem! "Surely he

took up our infirmities and carried our sorrow ... But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray ... and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all" (53:4-6). Has the Good News ever been stated more wonderfully?

And what is just as astounding is this: everything he suffered for us, He endured *willingly and voluntarily*. "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth," (53:7). Only a Servant with incredible supernatural love would willingly become a sacrifice Lamb and voluntarily die for those who despised and rejected Him!

In our meditations about Jesus, the God-man who came as the perfect fulfillment of every one of Isaiah's Servant Songs, let us be vigilant to remember *both* His suffering *and* His glory. Let us celebrate His glory with a spirit of reverent awe and deep gratitude, never forgetting what preceded it: the cruel cross where He died a humiliating and horrible death for us, in our place.



— by Rev.
Jerry Holmaas

BIBLE CAMP MEMORIES

Everybody knows the number — Can you tell what it is? To the amazement of those 100 plus campers who had formed a large circle, one of the summer Ambassadors who had not heard which number we picked, now joined his team member in the center of the circle and proceeded to give the correct answer — the number five.

The year was 1963 and it was Labor Day weekend. I had looked forward with great anticipation and perhaps a bit of apprehension to my first overnight Bible camp experience. The youth retreat was for ninth grade through college age, and I was just beginning the ninth grade. Bethany Bible Camp was filled to capacity with over 125 campers registered. Having to use outhouses and carry water to wash with did not seem to dampen the enthusiasm, although I do remember it being a new experience for some of the women in our dorm.

In addition to skits and teaching us a new get-acquainted guessing game, the Ambassadors provided wonderful vocal and instrumental music. It was a thrill to be able to sing in the camp choir directed by Ambassador team member and seminarian Fran Monseth as we sang Samuel Miller's "When Jesus Comes in Glory."

The evening evangelist was Pastor Harry Molstre who challenged us through the Word to follow Jesus. I remember after the service he stood in the aisle of the chapel shaking hands with campers near the door. As he took my hand he pointedly asked me if I was a Christian. I was glad I could answer positively but have also been thankful he was concerned enough to ask about my spiritual condition.

Other highlights of camp included getting acquainted with other AFLC girls who were my age like Joann Moland (Miller) and Orpha Flaten (Schaffhauser), both of whom have been a special blessing in my life. More important, however, were the Bible study and discussion groups where the Word of God spoke to my heart. The evening camp fires were very meaningful, especially Saturday night as the staff constructed a cross which was outlined in flames out upon the water.

As the camp time came to a close, it was with anticipation that we looked forward to the first Luther League Convention which was to be held yet that fall, and it too was very special. The very next summer our entire confirmation class of 12 was able to attend our District Youth Camp, and those who had not previously done so, committed their lives to Christ that week.

Since that first camp experience, I have been privileged to be a part of many AFLC camps in five different states over the last 30 years. Each camping experience has been unique and pages could be written of wonderful messages from God's Word and of opportunities to share Him with others. As a staff person I have had no greater joy than that of praying with a seeking soul wanting to know God's mercy and forgiveness. Times and places change, but the Word of God remains the same, and His promises never fail.

I am grateful to God for pastors who encouraged me in my youth, to my parents who made necessary sacrifices and chose Bible Camp as a priority for their family, and to the many faithful people, who with the Lord's help, continue to make Bible camps happen. To God be the glory!

— by Mary (Rolf) Aadahl
Word of Life Lutheran Church
Upsala, Minnesota



Lake Geneva, Alexandria, Minnesota, 1970.

FAMILY CAMPS

Association Retreat Center — 715-294-2877

30th Avenue & King's Way, Osceola, WI 54020

Stand Firm in the Faith, Ephesians 6:10-20

July 3-9 — Evening speaker: Rev. John Skeie, New Hope, Minnesota; Bible teacher: Rev. Jim Johnson, Reva, South Dakota.

July 31-August 6 — Evening speaker: Rev. Michael Brandt, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Bible teacher: Dr. Craig Jennings, Maple Grove, Minnesota.

Wilderness Bible Camp — 218-532-7604

Lake Park, Minnesota

July 12-17 — Evening speaker: Rev. Paul Larson, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota; Bible teacher: Rev. Wes Langaas, McVie, North Dakota.

Galilee Bible Camp — 218-754-6321

Lake Bronson, Minnesota

July 10-15 — Evening speaker: Rev. Peter Franz, Cloquet, Minnesota; Bible teacher: Rev. Del Palmer, Thief River Falls, Minnesota; Youth teacher: Rev. Lynn Kinneberg, Mentor, Minnesota.

Big Sky Camp

Big Fork, Montana

What are you going to do with this man called Jesus Christ?

August 26-28 — Speaker: Rev. Ron Pierce.

AFLC Bible Camps

Western North Dakota/Eastern Montana District

Williston, North Dakota

Be Still and Know I Am God

July 10-14 — Evening speaker: Rev. Mark Molstre, Tioga, North Dakota; Bible teacher: Rev. Phil Haugen, Culbertson, Montana.

Family and Youth Camp

Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

In Touch with Jesus

July 24-28 — Evening speaker: Rev. Rodger Olson, Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

Orcas Island Camp

Orcas Island, Washington

Nailing Down the Basics

August 8-13 — Evening speakers: District pastors; Adult Bible teacher: Rev. Ken Moland, Kirkland, Washington; Youth Bible teacher: Rev. Craig Johnson, Eugene, Oregon.

Southern AFLC Family Camp — 817-766-6757

Wichita Falls, Texas

July 18-22 — Speaker: Rev. Todd Schierkolk, Evergreen Park, Illinois.

Pain: The Gift Nobody Wants by Dr. Paul Brand and Philip Yancey. Would you consider the gift of pain on your list of grateful gifts? As one of the leading physicians in the study of leprosy, a disease of the nerves, Dr. Paul Brand was given ample opportunity to gain insights about coping with and without pain. "I gained an ever increasing sense of awe and gratitude for the extraordinary way in which pain daily protects every healthy person" (p. 169). After learning the complexities of life without pain, Dr. Brand could say to those who suffer with pain, "Think of pain as a speech your body is delivering about a subject of vital importance to you. From the very first twinge, pause and listen to the pain and, yes, try to be grateful. The body is using the language of pain because that's

Have You Read?

the most effective way to get your attention" (p. 222).

Several things about the book would lead me to recommend it: The readability and tender tone, the universal theme of pain which unites all humans, and discovering the power and friendship of pain. It is written in a gentle and informal manner, almost like having a fireside chat with an old friend; one who is reminiscing over meaningful experiences and people who have positively influenced life.

Dr. Brand and Philip Yancey share the extraordinary complexities and beauty of the human body in clarity, simplicity and yet profound thoroughness, capturing the

reader's interest with many stories and life experiences.

— Nancy Green
Spencer Creek Lutheran Church
Eugene, Oregon

Biographies on the lives of many Americans furnish us with insights into the victories and defeats of those who have had a lasting impact on the lives of people. One such biography is *Billy Sunday and the Redemption of Urban America* by Lyle W. Dorsett, a Library of Religions Biography.

This biography divides Billy Sunday's life into three sections. In his early life, the book describes
(continued on page 6)

YOUTH CAMPS

Bethany Youth Camps

Bemidji, Minnesota

June 22-26 — Junior camp, ages 9-12; speaker: pending

June 26-30 — Senior camp; speaker: Kirk Meletzer, Moorhead, Minnesota.

Pickeral Lake

Sisseton, South Dakota

June 20-26 — Speakers: Rev. Jim Rasmussen, Park River, North Dakota; Rev. Brian Pearson, Arlington, South Dakota.

Galilee Youth Camps

Lake Bronson, Minnesota

June 22-26 — Youth Week (pre-teen through 13). Speaker: Rev. Jerry Moan, Minot, North Dakota.

June 26-July 1 — Teen Week (teenagers, including 13). Speaker: Evangelist Vern Baardson, Fargo, North Dakota; Bible teacher: Rev. Alan Arneson, Badger, Minnesota.

Eastern North Dakota

Cooperstown, North Dakota

June 19-24 — Speakers: Rev. Philip Haugen, Culbertson, Montana, District pastors; Counselor workshop: Rev. Dennis Gray.

Association Retreat Center Youth Camp

Osceola, Wisconsin

June 20-25 — Speakers: Dale and Karen Smith, White Earth, Minnesota.

Faith Haven

Battle Lake, Minnesota

July 31-August 5

CANADA

Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp

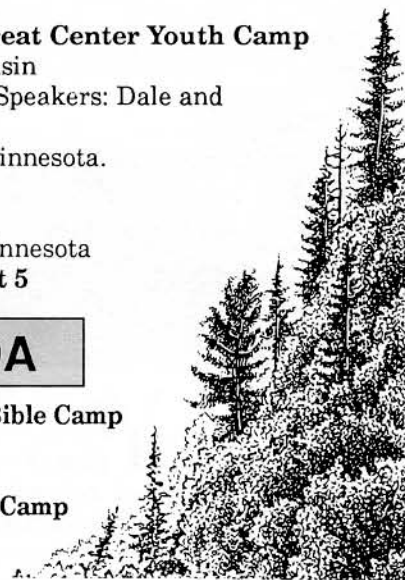
Elbow, Sask.

July 3-8

Simmie Lutheran Camp

Simmie, Sask.

July 10-15



Summer Ministries — Burdens or Blessings?

Atired teaching staff and Christian Education Board may view a summer ministry as a curse, but this writer believes it can be a bounty of blessings. A friend recently pointed out an article about lessons to be learned from geese. With the work load shared and others "honking" encouragement, every church can have a summer program with impact.

After deciding to do a summer ministry, your board needs to answer a few questions. Do you want weekly or monthly activities? Do you want outreach or "inreach"? Do you stay with separate children, teen, and adult studies or do you want to attempt some intergenerational studies and activities? Answering a few questions helps to clarify your vision. Try:

- Traditional week of Vacation Bible School
- Evening VBS for all generations
- Backyard Bible clubs at several homes
- Campfires
- Camp out (we've done this in our own church yard)
- Special meetings — tent meetings
- Joint project for missions, homeless, handicapped, elderly, singles ...

- Progressive dinners
- Theme potluck

I think it pays to remember: play breaks down barriers and can include all ages. For example, a relay race with balloons could begin with someone who can't, or would rather not, run, handing off to a preschooler, who runs to an adult, who tosses to an older child, who bounces it to someone who sits on it. Scavenger hunts and stories are also enjoyed by all. Make your own list and put your own twist to it! I'm sure God will shower the blessings.

The article on geese was in "Our Daily Bread" and stated that geese can go 70% farther in a group than alone. If we band together to do our share in a summer ministry, would it be 70% easier? Would we impact 70% more people? Would there be 70% more lives brought to the Lord? I'd like to be the first to encourage you to "Go for it!" and see what "70%" God has in mind for you.

— by Barb Satrom
Minnesota Valley Lutheran Church
Lakeville, Minnesota

Family Vacations, the Glue That Bonds



You are sitting near a crackling campfire on a star-lit night feeling the warm glow of the fire against your skin. Does that conjure up any memories? As you think about your family vacation time for this summer, are you looking forward to the time away or wondering if all the hustle and bustle of preparing is worth it?

I grew up in a family that loved camping. We liked to rough it. We would pull out the old station wagon and pack in our camping gear; you know, the standard tents, cots, sleeping bags, kerosene

lantern, extra wood, camp stove and pots and pans. For the Monseth family of eight, packing food was no small task either. We included suitcases packed with clothes for the entire clan for a week's camp adventure. Oh yes, then there are those items one can easily forget; mosquito lotion, silverware, matches, suntan lotion, salt and pepper and so on. Last, but not least, six very excited kids jumped in with two possibly tired parents.

It is interesting now for me to look back on those days as I am a mother of four children. As a child, I did not see all the preparations, the lists, the late-night packing. I simply remember anticipating and counting the days until the big departure and finally climbing into the car at the last minute. Yes, it does require a substantial amount of planning to take a family vacation. The question is: "Is it worth it?" Any shadow of doubt in my mind quickly disappears as I realize there is no price tag on memories! It is worth it! Our family has those priceless memories to treasure always and I am thankful that my parents

HAVE YOU READ (continued from page 4)

the difficult times of growing up near Ames, Iowa, just after the Civil War. Billy played for the Chicago White Stockings, then was radically changed from his life of drinking and carousing when he came under conviction of sin and became a Christian. The middle section of the book explains the early days of Sunday's evangelistic ministry. The tent and tabernacle ministry concludes the book as Sunday became popular and struggled with the pressures to live a more extravagant lifestyle.

The author does not sugarcoat the doings of Billy Sunday and his family. There is an honest balance in presenting Sunday's ministry. I hope you will read it.

— Rev. James W. Asp
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Dickinson, North Dakota

Too Long a Stranger by Janette Oke is the ninth and latest book in her "women of the West" series. It is the story of Sarah and her daughter, Rebecca, living in a small frontier town. They are alone after the sudden death of their husband and father. Sarah is faced with the challenge of putting her life together and making difficult decisions.

This is an easy-reading and inspirational book which shows how God leads and provides. Sarah's life is changed as she sends Rebecca away to school and provides for her monetary needs. Rebecca returns a grown lady when she has finished school but also is now a stranger. How Sarah meets each challenge makes for interesting reading.

All of Janette Oke's books pro-

vide pleasant hours of reading and encourage the reader to lean on God and to let Him guide. These books are readily available in your local Christian bookstore.

— Jemina Mork
Hauge Lutheran Church
Kenyon, Minnesota

The Door in the Dragon's Throat by Frank Peretti (Crossway Books, Wheaton, Illinois, 1985, youth fiction 10-14) is a story which shows how powerful God really is over Satan and his forces. Archaeologist Mr. Cooper and his two children, Jay and Lila, are in the Middle East to investigate the door in the "Dragon's Throat."

The story begins when the pres-

took the time to show their love to us in that way.

As my husband and I build our own memories, we have chosen to carry on the camping tradition with our own family. Camping, of course, is not the only way to go when vacationing, but I highly recommend it! Staying in a hotel room makes it hard to duplicate the fun of roasting marshmallows beside a crackling campfire or relaxing to the chirping of crickets while snug in a sleeping bag.

During the last few years we have collected a beautiful assortment of snapshots which will forever be imprinted in our hearts and minds. Two years ago the twins learned to ride their two-wheel bikes while on our camping trip. Last year the children caught their first fish. Who cares if it was only two inches long; the excitement was unbounded!

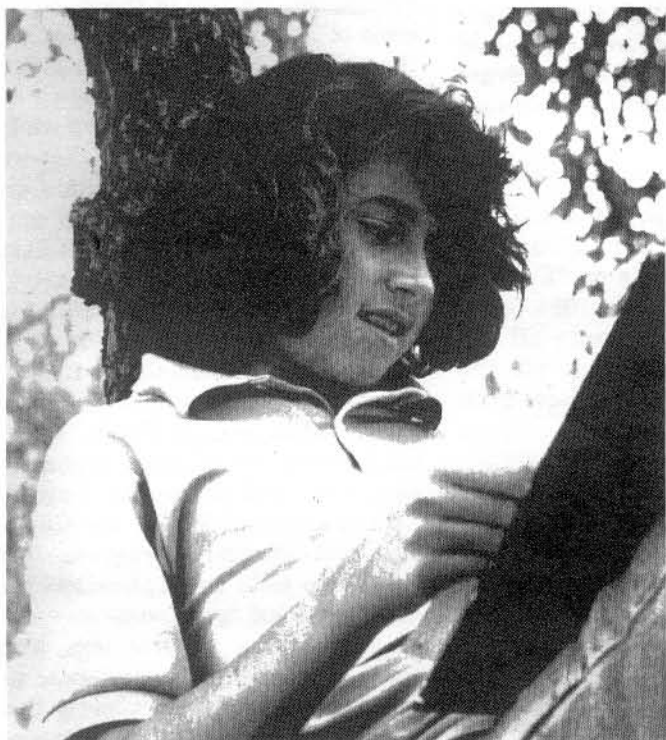
Of course, we experienced the first bee stings and the time when it rained the entire trip. My husband tells about the time when their family of seven took a road trip to Alaska. They had seven (yes, seven) flat tires along the way. These are all things we can look back and enjoy years later. Gary Smalley and John Trent address this in their book entitled, *Home Remedies*: "Shared experiences — with the

potential for shared trials — is the glue that bonds a family."

Vacationing in the great outdoors can also provide the opportunity to share the beauty of God's creation with our children in a way that is hard to duplicate in the ordinary events of a normal day. As it says in Deuteronomy 6:6-7: "And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up." Every day is a fresh opportunity for us as parents to teach our children from God's Word. Spending extended family time together, enjoying the beauty of God's creation, creates conversations which teach aspects of biblical truths that otherwise might never occur without such a clear application from nature.

Whatever your vacation style may be, it is important that we as families take time away from our normal schedule to simply be together. It may require extra effort and careful planning, but the rewards are priceless.

— by Naomi (Monseth) Halvorson
Emmaus Lutheran Church
Bloomington, Minnesota



ident of
Nepur hires
the Coopers
to explore
this large
u n d e r
ground cavern
that
often made
s t r a n g e
noises and
produced
s m a l l
e a r t h -
quakes.
Earlier
explorers
were either
killed by it
or had fled
for their
lives. The

Coopers were not afraid because
their God was greater than the
cavern.

This book is very exciting and
kept me on the edge of my seat. It
made me realize that Satan and
his forces are very real, but God is
greater than anything else and
can overcome. If you like stories
filled with danger and intrigue,
ending with a titanic class
between the forces of good and
evil, you would enjoy this book.
Others in this series are: *Escape
from the Island of Aquarius*, *The
Tombs of Anak* and *Trapped at
the Bottom of the Sea*.

Jonathan Anderson
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Cloquet, Minnesota

(continued on page 8)

HAVE YOU READ (continued from page 7)

It was the fact that Dr. Francis Monseth, dean of our AFLC seminary, is included in the footnotes that first interested me in a book entitled *The Rise and Fall of American Lutheran Pietism* by Paul P. Kuenning (Mercer University Press, 1988). It was the author's readable style and relevant subject, however, that captured my attention. Focusing on a neglected chapter in Lutheran history, Dr. Kuenning introduces his readers to Samuel Schmucker and the Franckean Synod, and suggests that they both offer a pattern for a "prophetic" social involvement today.

Tracing the activism of Schmucker and the Franckean to its roots in German Lutheran Pietism, the book seeks to recover a heritage to which the AFLC looks as a vital part of our own church life. Although one will probably not agree with all of the conclusions, I believe that we may well benefit from the author's excellent research in broadening our appreciation of this period in American Lutheran history, and would do well to consider how to apply the lessons of the past to modern concerns in church life today.

— Rev. Robert L. Lee
AFLC President

Shepherd of the Hills, by Harold Bell Wright is a Christian classic written one hundred years ago. It tells the story of the need for peace.

The story takes place in the Ozarks. A stranger makes his way into the countryside and becomes a friend of all the country folk. He shares his intellectual character while their simple idealistic life gives him the peaceful atmosphere he needs. Not until the end do they ever find out who this man really is. This is delightful reading for teenagers through adults.

— Stephanie Johansen
AFLBS Senior
Bismarck, North Dakota

Roaring Lambs, A Gentle Plan to Radically Change Our World by Bob Briner (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House 1993). Are you ready to be challenged to be a player rather than a spectator? This book asks some disturbing questions? "Where are all the Christians? Who speaks for Christians in America today? What strategy is your own church pursuing to provide the salt in areas of local public policy? What are your methods of 'speaking' to people outside the four walls of your church? How does your church respond to media distortions, misconception, and misinformation about Christians and their motives? The call is for rational, cogent, well-crafted presentations of positive alternatives gleaned from the Scriptures."

Bob Briner says, "Despite the fact that roughly 80% of Americans

claim to believe in Jesus as the Son of God, we're not doing so hot ... Despite all the fancy buildings, sophisticated programs and highly visible presence, it is my contention that the church is almost a nonentity when it comes to shaping culture. In the arts, entertainment, media, education and other culture-shaping venues of our country, the church has abdicated its role as salt and light."

Roaring Lambs gives us some positive ideas about being salt in the world. It stresses the need for Christians to do more than criticize evil. We need to replace the evil with something better. The book ends with a chapter on "Action Steps" which outline numerous things we can and must do if we, as Christians, are to have a real effect on the culture around us.

— Rev. Bob Rieth
Director of Media
Fellowship International
Bothell, Washington

letters to the editor

To the Editor:

Do we, the AFLC, truly have a vision for evangelism and should that vision include full-time evangelists? Upon reading the various

To the Editor:

I wish to express a sincere thanks to Pastor John Strand for his excellent article on "Evangelism" in the April 19, 1994 issue. We certainly appreciate all the good work he has done for the AFLC. There would not have been an AFLC if it had not been for Pastor Strand's hard work.

Too many in the churches today are not hearing the true gospel and are not concerned for their salvation. They prefer a church that throws their soul a bone instead of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Bernell Baalson
Mt. Vernon, Washington

evangelism articles in the April 19 issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador*, the answers to this question differ. One answer suggested that we do not need full-time evangelists while another answer suggested that we do need full-time evangelists. Certainly many individuals and congregations do desire to see lost souls come to Christ for their salvation. The real question is, "What is the best way to accomplish this?"

Paul charges Timothy in II Timothy 4:5 to "do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry." Without a doubt, this charge applies to all pastors and lay people. Evangelism is a way of life for the Christian and not just a program. But Paul also tells the Ephesians (in 4:11) that God "gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers." Clearly this verse indicates at least four sepa-

Nominating Committee Report

The following have been selected by the committee for service on AFLC boards, and have agreed to the ballot. Some nominees declined, and no names are listed as a result. Additional candidates may be chosen by the committee when they meet on June 15, or nominated during the conference from the floor.

Coordinating Committee

5-year pastor's term: Rev. Les Galland, Eden Prairie, Minnesota, pastor of King of Glory Lutheran Church; Pastor Vincent Will, Springfield, Missouri, Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

2-year unexpired layman's term: Marlin Benrud, Goodhue, Minnesota, member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Zumbrota, Minnesota.

AFLC School Board of Trustees

5-year layman's term: Sheldon Een, Minooka, Illinois, member of Helmar Lutheran Church, Newark, Illinois.

World Missions Committee

5-year pastor's term: Rev. Ted Kennedy, Jr. (incumbent) Nogales, Arizona, pastor of Triumph Lutheran Church; Rev. Stephen Mundfrom, Sebe-ka, Minnesota, pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church of Blue Grass.

5-year layman's term: Kenneth Williams, (incumbent) Ishpeming, Michigan, member of Hope Free Lutheran Church.

Home Missions Committee

5-year pastor's term: Rev. Tony Stockman, (incumbent) Brandon, Minnesota, pastor of Chipewa Lutheran Church; Rev. Richard Anderson, Lakeville, Minnesota, Tentmakers, Inc.

5-year layman's term: Robert Dietsche, (incumbent) Osceola, Wisconsin, member of Amery Free Lutheran Church, Amery, Wisconsin.

Parish Education Board

5-year layman's term: Mrs. Rodney (Barbara) Stueland, (incumbent) Kenyon, Minnesota, member of Hauge Lutheran Church; Mrs. David (Marilyn) Jacobson, Binford, North Dakota, member of Bethany Lutheran Church.

4-year unexpired layman's term: Mrs. Gary (Charlotte) Qualley, Brockton, Montana, member of Faith Lutheran Church.

2-year unexpired pastor's term: Rev. Harris VanSomeran, Winger, Minnesota, pastor of Dovre and Union Lake Lutheran Churches (beginning July 1994); Rev. Jon Wellumson, Williston, North Dakota, pastor of Emmanuel Free Lutheran Church.

ARC Board

5-year layman's term: Allen Anderson, (incumbent) Clear Lake, Wisconsin, member of Amery Free Lutheran Church, Amery, Wisconsin; Brad Folsland, Oldham, South Dakota, member of Calvary Free Lutheran Church, Arlington, South Dakota.

Commission on Evangelism

5-year layman's term: Clifford Johnson, Esko, Minnesota, member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cloquet, Minnesota; Paul Peterson, Kenyon, Minnesota, member of Hauge Lutheran Church.

Christian Academic Education Board

5-year layman's term: Mrs. Les (Jan) Galland, Eden Prairie, Minnesota, member of King of Glory Lutheran Church.

Youth Board

5-year layman's term: Marshall Nessa, (incumbent) Cloquet, Minnesota, member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church; Erling Langness, Ishpeming, Michigan, member of Hope Free Lutheran Church.

Stewardship Board

5-year layman's term: Roger Rasmussen, (incumbent) Pennock, Minnesota, member of Zion Free Lutheran Church, Willmar, Minnesota; Victor Parsons, St. Paul, Minnesota, member of Victory in Christ Free Lutheran Church.

Board of Pensions

5-year layman's term: Tony Onnen, Cokato, Minnesota, member of Good Shepherd Free Lutheran Church; Al Tollefson, Astoria, Oregon, member of Bethany Lutheran Church.

rate offices including the office of evangelist and the office of pastor and teacher. Hence, Philip is called "the evangelist" in Acts 21:8, and we are told in Acts 8:40 that Philip "kept preaching the gospel to all the cities." This included preaching inside and outside of the Christian churches.

Scripture answers all our questions in regards to the best way to reach lost souls for Christ. We (pastors and lay people) are to do the work of an evangelist. We are also to fill the office of evangelist with those whom God has given to us and so gifted. This would include the full-time preaching

and teaching of the gospel from city to city both inside and outside of our churches.

The fields are white for harvest. Should we not use all that God has given us to reap the harvest?

Seminarian

Timothy L. Johnson
New Hope, Minnesota

We Saw the Needs, We Felt the Love

Last March, 12 lay missionaries spent three weeks touring Brazil with veteran missionary Rev. John Abel. It was a wonderful trip which taught us much. We returned home with an understanding and burden for missions in ways never before possible.

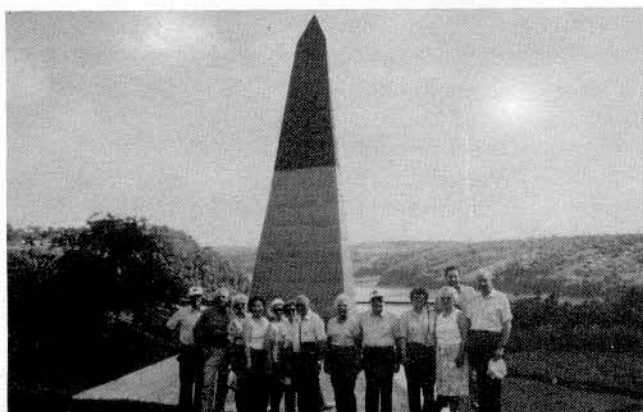
The most exciting part of the trip was the 14 AFLC churches,

Bible school and seminary campus and the children's homes which we visited. The spirit in each of the churches was infectious. Though we could not understand Portuguese, we could understand their enthusiastic singing. We witnessed their smiling faces and attentive ears to the messages being given. Their love towards one another was obvious and even to us their guests!

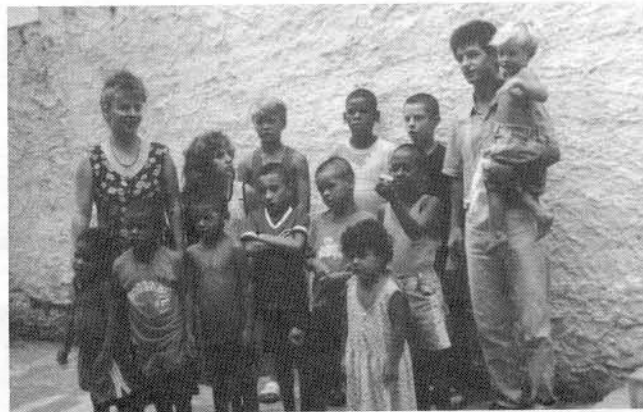
When we visited the orphan home and the home for street boys, they came running to us as

though to say: "We know you have a love for us because of the love that is shown us right here!"

There are today only three U.S. missionary families from the AFLC ministering to these hundreds of people in Brazil. The strength and wisdom of the board and the missionaries has been the ability to use Brazilian Christians in all the churches. Local pastors serve congregations among the most impoverished. Their churches are not cathedrals, but very simple worship centers where



Members of the March tour group to Brazil are shown standing at the point where three nations converge: Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay. They are Rev. John Abel; Rev. Lloyd and Eleanor Bjornlie, Fergus Falls; Rev. Bill and Bergit Goodman, Bemidji; Ray and Harriet Bester, Farmington; Cliff and Lucy Carlson, Rosemount; Walt and Dorothy Kranz, Minneapolis, all of Minnesota; Yaeko (Kitty) Carr and Jackie Thackeray, both of Astoria, Oregon.



Pastor and Mrs. Clovis Xavier Jr. and family with the street boys outside the home in Vitoria.

A View of Brazil

Ah, I can still see Brazil, the lush green forests, beautiful flowers, waterfalls and grand butterflies mingled with rustic elegance and extreme poverty. This was the backdrop for a tour of Brazilian countrysides and mission fields 12 of us took with Rev. John Abel for 19 days in early March.

After spending our first two days touring in Rio de Janeiro, we flew to Curitiba to visit Rev. Paul and Becky Abel. They live in a picturesque, country setting and are developing a Bible camp as well as their church work.

It was a treat to have Becky and her children take us shopping in the local marketplace. Her daughters, Joanna and Christina, were a special help because of their knowledge of the language and money. The meat market was especially

interesting. Cut meat was kept in coolers on one side of the room while live chickens squawked in crates across the way.

We saw several fabric stores. In visiting with women later, I found that most sew extensively and dream of owning sewing machines someday. Their handiwork was beautiful. At times, I reluctantly wiped red soil from my shoes on hand-crocheted rugs I would gladly have used as wall hangings in my own home.

For me, one of the highlights of the trip was our next stop, Foz do Iguaçu. There, majestic waterfalls are located at the point where Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay meet. The shining sun, blue sky, mist-filled breeze and the roar of white water and foam declared the awesome power of our God.

We drove in the Bible school bus to the peaceful setting of the Bible school, seminary, Miriam Infant Home and the home of Rev. Connely and Carolyn Dyrud in Campo Mourão. On the next Sunday morning we visited a country church

Christ is proclaimed. His love is very evident!

We returned home with a clear vision of the needs in Brazil. Yes, the nation in many ways is as advanced as the U.S. streets are filled with Brazilian made Fords and Chevys, young people carrying boomboxes and wearing the latest in jeans. Crime and inflation are rampant. Skyscrapers are popular because they have safer security systems. We often think of Brazilians or people of other nations being so different from us

that they really are not significant. It takes a trip to their homeland and into their homes to realize they are just as we: sinners in need of the gospel. But they are immersed in their own culture and winning them is not easy.

We also came back with a great burden for the missionaries. They need daily intercession from those of us here in America. Their task

needs our prayer and financial support especially during these inflationary times. They need our personal interest and concern shown by letters and even phone calls so they do not feel like life is passing them by with no one noticing.

— by Rev. Lloyd Bjornlie
Fergus Falls, Minnesota



At the church in Foz de Iguagu, Pastor Abel interprets the testimony of a recent convert.

served by a national pastor 50 miles from the Dyrud's. The students from the Bible school went along in their bus. March is the beginning of the school year so it was Rally Day for them. The school year lasts through November with summer vacation being in December, January and February.

Participating in church services half a world away with fellow believers of another language and culture was incredible and humbling. God's Spirit has no boundaries and we are all alike in our need for Him. I was struck by the enthusiasm of the national pastors and the sincerity, love and caring nature of all the age groups. They love to sing and we are all alike in our need for Him.

On that same Sunday evening we went to the church served by Rev. Dyrud, the largest of the four congregations in Campo Mourão, where they combined for a Rally Day celebration. Because so many people are poor, a lot of them walk, some several miles, to get to church.

Once gathered, we spent an evening singing and praising the Lord. After the service a 40 kilo (about 80 pounds) cake and punch was served. It must have been about eight feet long and was the largest I had ever seen.

At the end of this long, but rewarding Sunday, one of my traveling companions, Kitty Carr, and I stopped for a moment to thank the Lord for all we had experienced on this great trip. We gazed up at the heavens and were able to pick out the Southern Cross twinkling down at us. What a wonderful day!

We flew to our last stop, Vitória, to visit Rev. Jonathan and Tamba Abel. This beautiful city, which was founded in 1520, has many historical sights. It is also the home of two street boy orphanages and has the largest AFLC church in Brazil.

The street boys enjoyed having visitors and flocked around us whenever we were near. During one visit they discovered my sunglasses and everybody took a turn trying them on.

We visited the church Jonathan serves and saw where it is being enlarged. As I waited out front for those who were taking a closer look inside, a sow and six piglets wandered down the center of the street in search of shade. I was struck again that Brazil is a country of contrasts: the rich and the poor, the modern and the rustic.

Brazil was unforgettable and I have endless scenes to replay in my mind. I was blessed to see some of the work our missionaries are doing. They are working hard and need our encouragement and support to continue to move forward in the Lord's work. I wish others could take this same trip and see first hand these loving and needy Brazilian people.

"Participating in church services ... was incredible and humbling."

— by
Jackie Thackeray
Bethany Lutheran
Astoria, Oregon



Cornerstone, a Free Lutheran Youth team: Jana Gertenrich, Kim Huffman, Jeremy Holm and Jeremy Vance.



Before a concert, choir member Stephanie Johanson, Bismarck, North Dakota, visits with Charles Sever, Dupree, South Dakota, about life at AFLBS. Sever plans to attend Bible School in the fall of 1994.

1994 Summer Itinerary for BARNABAS Teams

Barnabas XXI

May 31-June 3: Training week at AFLBS campus.

June 4-10: Our Saviour's, Argyle, Minnesota; Westaker, Newfolden, Minnesota.

June 11-17: Zion, Tioga, North Dakota.

June 18-24: Beulah Free Lutheran Mission, Beulah, North Dakota.

June 25-July 1: Minnesota Valley, Lakeville, Minnesota.

July 2-8: The ARC Family Camp, Osceola, Wisconsin.

July 9-15: Living Word, Eagan, Minnesota.

July 16-23: Abiding Savior, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

July 24-29: Christ the King, Pipestone, Minnesota.

July 30-August 5: The ARC Family Camp, Osceola, Wisconsin.

August 6-12: Word of Life, Upsala, Minnesota.

August 13-19: Hope Lutheran, Northome, Minnesota.

August 20-26: St. Olaf, Montgomery, Illinois.

Barnabas XXII

May 31-June 3: Training week at AFLBS campus.

June 4-10: Gruver, Texas.

June 11-17: Christ Lutheran, Tulia, Texas.

June 18-24: Amarillo, Texas.

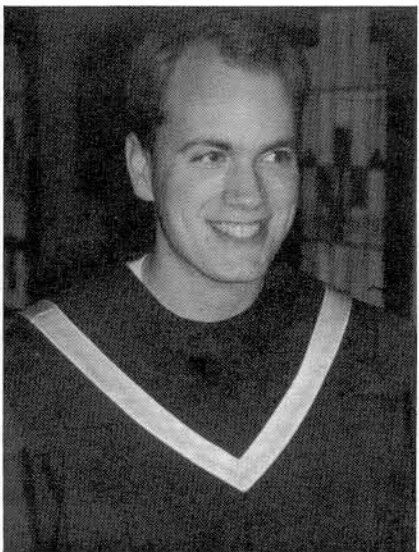
June 25-July 1: First Lutheran, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

July 2-8: Faith Lutheran, El Campo, Texas.

July 9-15: Christ Lutheran, Wichita Falls, Texas.

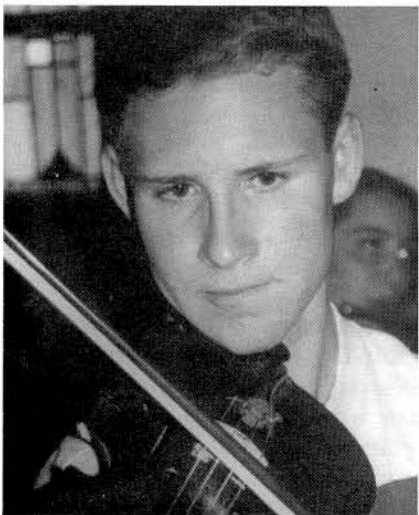
July 16-23: Southern Family Camp.

July 24-29: Neighborhood Bible, Oceanside, California.



Alan Twedt, McHenry, North Dakota.

Spring Choir Tour



Jeremy Zeltinger, Bismarck, North Dakota.



AFLBS Choir on tour last spring to the West Coast. Excellent quality cassette tapes of this year's choir are available for \$8. Contact the AFLBS office at 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Mpls. MN 55441.

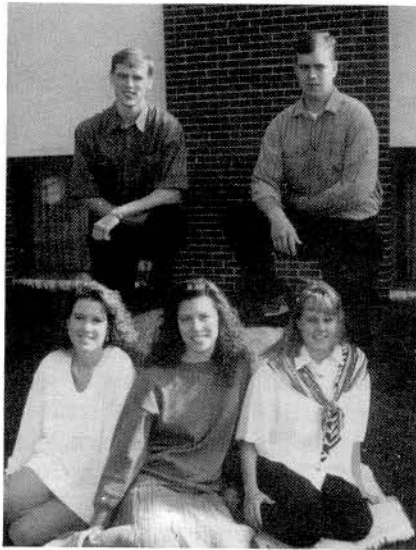
Brazil '94 Summer Youth Ministries Team

Seven FLY Team members expect to leave Minneapolis on June 3, and arrive in Curitiba, Brazil the next day. After three days of orientation with missionaries Paul and Becky Abel, the team will begin tract distribution, youth work, painting and cleaning at the ARCA and at the AFLC congregations in Campo Mourão and Vitória.

They expect to visit the various congregations and enjoy some sightseeing trips along the way

before returning to Minneapolis on July 19.

This year's team includes: Sonja Dahl, Winona, Minnesota; Wesley Dahl, Felton, Minnesota, AFLBS; Rebekah Emerson, Sartell, Minnesota, AFLBS; Stephanie Johansen, Bismarck, North Dakota, AFLBS; Naomi Clair Pollestad, Blaine, Minnesota; Melissa Rieck, Shakopee, Minnesota, AFLBS; and Jeremy Larson, Buffalo, North Dakota, AFLBS.



FLY Team, Jeremy Larson, Wes Dahl, Becky Emerson, Stephanie Johansen and Melissa Rieck. Not pictured: Sonja Dahl and Naomi Clair Pollestad.

July 30-August 5: Good Shepherd, San Diego, California.

August 6-12: Shepherd's Church of the Valley, Murrieta, California.

August 13-19: First Lutheran, Camarillo, California.

Barnabas XXII (no picture) members are alumni Marybeth Enderlein, Matt Greven and Kermit Nash and AFLBS senior, Julie Peterson.



Barnabas XXI, left to right: Sara Hove, Deb Kirk, Nathan Loken. Not pictured: Jon Bylka.



Majesty, left to right: Jeff Cross, Walter Rolf, Kristi Christian, Michell Deubner and Kris Jenson. The 1994 itinerary includes helping with VBS in Milford, Illinois; White Earth and Angora, Minnesota; Brockton, Montana; Calgary, Alberta and Ferndale, Washington; They will counsel at camps in Cooperstown, North Dakota; Bemidji, Minnesota; Orcas Island, Washington and Saskatchewan, Canada.



Ambassadors, left to right: Andy Britz, Lars Dyrud, Rachel Dahl, Kristen Onnen and Christine Staffon. Watch for local announcements of the team coming to your area.

Chassell, Michigan — Maranatha Free Lutheran Church hosted special meetings during April 10-17 with Rev. Harvey Jackson, Ishpeming, Michigan, speaking on the theme: "Living With Eternity in Mind."

Rev. Edmundo Hassenteufel, Fresno, California, and **Rev. Franklin Rutherford**, St. Paul, Minnesota, were removed from the AFLC Clergy Roster by action of the Coordinating Committee at their recent meeting. Both Rev. Hassenteufel, who has been accepted on the roster of another Lutheran church body, and Rev. Rutherford, who has been out of the active ministry for over four years, would be eligible for reinstatement upon application.

Rev. Gordon Grage, Dexter, Minnesota, submitted his resignation as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, rural Dexter, and Mt. Sion Lutheran Church, Kasson, Minnesota. Pastor Grage has served the parish since 1991.

Ishpeming, Michigan — Hope Free Lutheran Church hosted special meetings April 17-20, centered on the theme: "Life of the Church in the World Today." Rev. Vincent Will, Springfield, Missouri, was the guest speaker. On April 24, the congregation hosted the Northern Michigan District Spring meeting and began a week of mission emphasis throughout the district. Missionary David Abel spoke.

Rev. Gaylord Gartman, Warroad, Minnesota, resigned as the pastor of Warroad Free Lutheran Church where he has served since last summer.

Rev. Dale Mellgren, Spokane, Washington, resigned as pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church and accepted a call to serve Trinity and Mt. Carmel Lutheran parish of McIntosh, Minnesota where he began his new ministry at the end of May.

Rev. Alvin and Loretta Grothe, Astoria, Oregon, will be celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary. The children invite you to an open house on June 26 from 2-5 p.m. at Bethany Free Lutheran Church in Astoria. If you would like to send a greeting, please send it to Susan Boyovich, P.O. Box 982, Astoria, OR 97103.

Mentor, Minnesota — Maple Bay Free Lutheran Church will be celebrating their 100th anniversary on July 2-3. Saturday's events will begin with a prayer brunch at 9 a.m. followed by reunions, rehearsals and refreshments throughout the day, ending with a Praise Service in the evening. On Sunday the morning worship service will be at 9:30 a.m. followed by a dinner and the 2 p.m. anniversary service.

The Lutheran Ambassador editor, Rev. Craig Johnson, Eugene, Oregon, can be reached via electronic mail on America On Line at **CraigJN** or on Prodigy at **MXNU82A**.

Daniel Klug, AFLTS senior seminarian, has accepted a call to be the pastor of Christ the King Free Lutheran Church, East Grand Forks, Minnesota. He plans to be ordained on July 10 at his home church in Fairbury, Nebraska.

Special Offering

An AFLC 2000 debt retirement offering will be received during the opening service of the Annual Conference on Wednesday, June 15. Congregations as well as individuals are encouraged to share in this offering by bringing special gifts to the conference.

Hymnals for Sale

Bethany Lutheran, Bemidji, Minnesota, will sell approximately 50 *Concordias* and 50 *Worship and Service* hymnals for \$5 each or offer price. Call (218) 759-4730.

Two New AFLC Congregations Accepted

St. Andrew Evangelical Lutheran Church, Churubusco, Indiana and **Maranatha Free Lutheran Church**, Willmar, Minnesota were received by the Coordinating Committee at their April meeting. Churubusco is a "bedroom community" near Fort Wayne, and St. Andrew, a new congregation, is located west of town in a growing lakeshore community and is served by Rev. Robert Schemm. Maranatha is also a new congregation, organized earlier this year by former members of another AFLC church, and currently is served by seminarian Michael Hogan. Services are held in the Kandiyohi Center, and possible future plans include the purchase of property for a church building in a developing area on the east edge of Willmar.

World Mission Update on Missionary Candidates

The AFLC World Missions currently has two families preparing to go to Brazil and Mexico. If your congregation has yet to meet the Nelsons and Schierkolks, contact the World Missions office at 612-545-6472.

Rev. David and Sarah Nelson are working full-time doing deputation. In June they expect to attend the Annual Conference in Valley City, North Dakota and a Missionary Candidate Orientation Program in Minneapolis, sponsored by the World Mission Prayer League.

Rev. Todd and Barb Schierkolk continue to serve in Evergreen Park, Illinois, with plans to begin full-time deputation in the fall of 1994. Tentative plans are to begin language school in Edinburg, Texas in January, 1995. Due to the expected arrival of their baby in June, attendance at the Annual Conference in Valley City is indefinite.

It takes a congregation

In the gospel of Matthew, chapter 18, we see Jesus surrounded by great riches. He is with a little child. He shows how He values children by saying, "Whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea" (Matthew 18:5, 6). The message is strong and powerful. Showing love to children is showing love to Jesus. Causing them to sin has terrible consequences.

In the verses in Matthew, Jesus is not speaking primarily to the parents of the children, but to His disciples, and, ultimately, to all of us. He uses the words "whoever" and "anyone" indicating that each of us has a role. Yes, parents most definitely have the primary responsibility in caring for their children and helping them to grow to be the people God desires for them to be. That does not change the fact, however, that the rest of us in the family of God also have a part to play. It is easy to say, "They ought to do something about their kid." That may be true, but let us ask the question, are we doing something? Are we praying for them regularly, encouraging them, being a role model for them?

Many may respond by saying, "I don't work well with kids." Not everyone is called to work directly with young people. Some are maybe given the gift of not being distracted with a host of other responsibilities so they can focus their time and energy on prayer. If the thought of being alone in a room with ten people who are younger than most of your suits makes you break out in a cold sweat, don't worry about it. It is okay. Get a list of the kids in your congregation, find out their needs and pray for them on a regular basis.

Another thing a person can do who wants to be involved in the lives of young people is to take an interest in what they are doing. Simply going to a young person's ball game or track meet, band or choir concert, horse show or fair exhibit, can be very important and meaningful to the youth. It doesn't take great talent to go and watch, but it can make a significant difference. The young person will very likely appreciate that someone cared enough to take some time and show some interest in what they are doing. Sadly, many youth today feel no one has time for them or interest in them. Someone who shows interest will usually have a much better chance of sparking interest in the good news of Jesus they want the youth to hear.

Leave it at home

We had just hit our first shots on the ninth hole and were walking to our golf balls when I heard it. It was coming from the bag of the man who had joined our group on the last hole. It was some kind of ringing sound. He opened up his bag and pulled it out. It was a phone! On the golf course! When he got to his ball, he put the phone back in his bag, picked up his ball and said goodbye.

Of course there is nothing in the Bible that says, "You shall not have a phone with you on the golf course," but it does not seem right to me. The reason many of us go to a golf course is to get away from the normal working routine and its pressures and have a little fun and relax. A phone is not something that helps me relax. It is something I want to leave at home.

Jesus extends the wonderful invitation to "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest" (Mark 6:31). In accepting that invitation, some things should not be carried along. A load of sin and guilt keeps dragging behind us, disturbing our souls. Our sin and guilt has been nailed to the cross of Christ, and it need no longer be part of our luggage (Colossians 2:14).

The rules we think we must keep, the things we feel we must do to be acceptable to God, are a burden we try to carry. We can't find rest for our souls because we are wondering what more we have to do for God to be pleased. Take comfort in the good news that we are acceptable to God when we are in Christ. The baggage of trying to make ourselves pleasing to God can be cast aside because of the good news of what we are by faith in Jesus (II Corinthians 5:21).

We try to relax but we can't. The worries and fears about the future tug at our minds and hearts. God urges us to not be anxious but to enjoy His peace (Philippians 4:6, 7). The Greyhound Bus Line invited us to leave the driving to them. God says we can leave the pressures of life to Him.

Are you having trouble relaxing? Are you carrying along something that should not be part of your luggage? Jesus says, "Come to me ... and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord" (Acts 3:19).

The Last Word

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

Second-Class

Gospel Presented Via TV to Millions in India

VIJAYAWADA, India (EP) — Easter in India brought the gospel over the television airwaves through a production of Gospel Association of India (GAI). The program is estimated to have reached more than 400 million people with the gospel message.

The program is aired through the national Indian television channel, a medium used by GAI at Easter and Christmas in past years.

The Easter program follows a February crusade in Vijayawada that saw more than 15,000 people making decisions for Christ. Some 45,000 people gathered under tents the final day of the crusade, despite heavy rains in the region.

In India, a country of 875 million people, only 2.5% profess to be Christians.

Olympic Evangelism Campaign; Largest Ever in Norway

LILLEHAMMER, Norway (EP) — As Norwegian winter athletes hung up their skates and skis and celebrated a record haul of Olympic medals, Christians in the country began looking toward their next challenge — in the summer.

With the close of the Winter Olympics, organizers of the largest-ever evangelism campaign in the country announced plans to capitalize on the "new wave of missionary interest" raised in the country.

Around 600 Norwegians were joined by 200 Christians from other parts of the world — including as far away as Fiji — for a three-week Olympic Outreach organized by Youth With a Mission.

Some 100 people were estimated to have made commitments to Christ through the gospel dramas and evangelism among crowds at the three Olympic sites in Hamar, Gjøvik and Lillehammer.

The Winter Games campaign "planted a lot of good seeds for the future," said American evangelist Ken Henderson, who teamed up with YWAM for the event with his wife, Solveig (Larson), a Norwegian Christian recording artist.

"Norwegians really have a love for truth and are wholesome people and when they really get turned on to Jesus they make wonderful Christians — there is a real gifting within the Norwegians for missions," he said.

DURHAM, N.C. (EP) — An evangelistic newspaper published as a ministry to Mainland Chinese students studying in the U.S. is reaching some of the more than 40,000 Chinese students. "Right now it's impossible to send missionaries to China," explained Wayne Mitchell, president of Churches Serving Internationals (CSI), which publishes *The Mandate*. "But God in His mercy has arranged for these students — the future leaders of their nation — to go overseas to learn about His Kingdom."

PHOENIX, Ariz. (EP) — At age 30, basketball star A.C. Green is still a virgin, and proud of it. Green, a bachelor who encourages young people to practice sexual abstinence before marriage, told *Charisma* magazine he believes his celebrity status gives him an opportunity to be a godly example for young people. "I know kids need a role model," he said. "I'm reluctant to put myself on a pedestal, but I'm not ashamed to

take a stand for Christ." Professional athletes face sexual temptation, admits Green. "I hear the locker room talk about the latest sexual conquests, but I don't let that weaken my resolve to remain sexually pure," he said. "I have chosen to follow God's standard, and I've communicated my stand to my teammates."

COLUMBIA, S.C. (EP) — A candidate for Attorney General in South Carolina has drawn fire from a pro-life group for his advocacy of abortion as a way to reduce the "supply of criminals." Candidate Dick Harpootlian told the *Christian News and Herald* that illegitimate births in the black community feed the criminal population. "We have to do something to stop that supply of criminals that are coming through our courtrooms. ...we're seeing kids with kids. They're not going to abstain, and unless someone is willing to adopt it, they need instructions on other alternatives, including, but not limited to abortion." Sheila Massey, statewide coordinator of African Americans for Life, issued a statement criticizing Harpootlian for advocating "the genocidal killing of our race." Massey said, "At a time when we need elected officials to promote unity and love of mankind, we have politicians who want to literally exterminate a people."

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