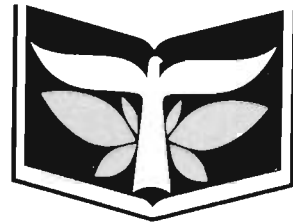


*Seek
first*

*His Kingdom
and His
righteousness,
and
all these things
will be given
to you
as well.*

Matthew 6:33



**THE LUTHERAN
AMBASSADOR**

November 9, 1993



THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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Warfare

Have you fought any giants lately? On my desk at home I have a smooth stone that I picked up in the Elah Valley in Israel. Every now and then I pick it up and let my mind wonder back a few hundred years when a smooth stone in the Elah Valley made history. The Philistine and Israeli armies faced off against each other on opposite hills with the Elah Valley between them.

Each morning and evening for 40 long days, a Philistine champion by the name of Goliath came out of the ranks to face the forces of Israel. Each day and night he would intimidate, threaten and defy King Saul's army. This was not an ordinary soldier the Israelis were facing. Goliath was a giant of a man measuring over nine feet tall. He was well protected with a bronze helmet, a 200 pound coat of mail, bronze leggings and he carried a bronze javelin several inches thick that was tipped with a 25 pound iron spearhead. Besides that, he had an armor bearer who walked ahead of him with a huge shield.

Three brothers were a part of the army facing this giant. These brothers left five brothers back home. The youngest was named David. Their father sent young David to the battlefield with provisions and to also return with news on how the brothers were getting along.

When David arrived at the battlefield he could not believe what he was seeing; Goliath the giant was defying the army of the living God! He offered to do battle with the giant. He had saved little lambs from the mouth of the lion and bear. He concluded that "the Lord who saved me from the claws and teeth of the lion and the bear will save me from this Philistine!"

After overcoming the resistance of his oldest military brother and the king himself, David went to do battle with the giant. Armed with five smooth stones, his shepherd's staff and a sling, David faced the giant.

He came against the giant with much more than five stones. Shouting to the giant he said: "You come to me

with a sword and a spear, but I come to you in the name of the Lord" (I Samuel 17:45). And then we read: "So David conquered the Philistine giant with a sling and a stone" (I Samuel 17:52). But indeed, his most important weapon was the power of the Lord.

Have you struggled with any giants lately? A man came into my office the other day tired of fighting with a giant. His giant was anger in his life. Another man came into my office tired of fighting his giant. His giant was alcohol. A young lady came weary of struggling with her giant of unfaithfulness. What taunts you morning and evening? The giant may be greed, pride, selfishness, immorality, hatred, lying or a foul mouth. Does that giant seem to defy your best human efforts to defeat him?

David could never have defeated the giant Goliath without the power of the Lord. You cannot win spiritual battles with human powers. You must call on the name of the Lord. In Ephesians 6:10-12 Paul declares: "Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

A few verses later (vs. 17-18) Paul tells us how to arm ourselves: "Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." There is victory in Christ's power! Thanks be to Him!



— by Rev.
Walter Johnson

Stewardship involves managing someone else's property. The Christian is a steward of both his life and his possessions, since both belong to God.

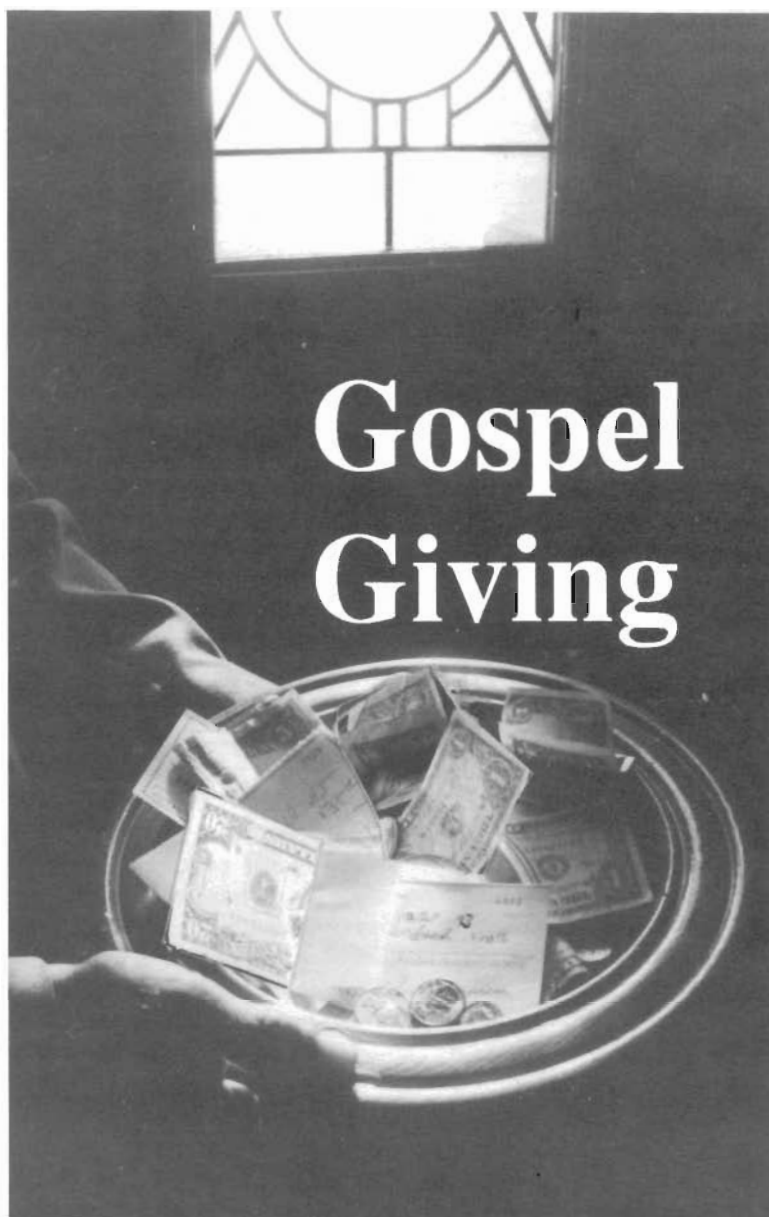
God has a great purpose for us to accomplish here on earth. That purpose is to proclaim the gospel so that mankind would come to faith in Christ and grow in their Christian life. His purpose should be our purpose and we should be committed to that end.

Money is power for good or evil. If we make it our servant, it will be a power for good. If we permit it to make us its servant, it will be a power for evil. It is a blessing or curse, according to the use that is made of it. It belongs to God, and should therefore, be used for the accomplishment of those purposes which God desires.

We must give account to Him of how we have administered that which is His. We are to be honest in our earnings and obey God in our spending. God expects that a part of what He gives us shall be used to help others and to promote the work of the Kingdom. Your money is the fruit of your time, talent, and energy. By dedicating it to the Lord you are then dedicating part of yourself to Him.

In the fall of 1987 through the spring of 1988, a small group in Ottawa, Illinois, was meeting in homes for the purpose of fellowship, Bible study and prayer. Within the group there was a sense of leading from God that a mission church should be formed and that we should seek an "open door" for that opportunity. It was suggested that we contact the AFLC and proceed with arrangements for starting a new church. It was also suggested at that time that we take an offering (give a part of what He gave us) to cover the expenses we may incur. The results of that faith offering and subsequent offerings, together with obedience to God's leading, is a new church at 1611 Adams Street in Ottawa that is preaching, teaching and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We have been blessed with Bible based teachings of God's Word from the very first service which was led by Pastor Bob Lee and Pastor Elden Nelson. We continue to be blessed through the teaching and preaching ministry of Pastor Gary Jorgenson. The results of that gospel-based preaching has been gospel-based giving. II Corinthians 9:6-13 says "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver ... You will glorify God



by your obedience in acknowledging the gospel of Christ, and by the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others."

The gospel should control the stewardship of our giving. The good news is God loves me, Jesus died on the cross for me, I am forgiven, I am redeemed, I have eternal life, Jesus is my Saviour, Lord and friend!

In our giving we are saying thank you to God for our salvation. In our giving we are returning to Him that which is already His. In our giving we want that gift, and God wants that gift to be used to bring others to faith in Christ and grow in their Christian life.

— Stan Dale
Faith Free Lutheran Church
Ottawa, Illinois

The gospel
should
control the
stewardship
of our
giving.

What talents do **you** have? Jesus tells the Parable in Matthew 25 of the man who gave different talents: to one servant five, to another two and finally to the last servant, one. Technically, talents designated money, but they are commonly interpreted today as abilities and gifts. Obviously, we all have different talents, just as there are different parts of the Body of Christ.

Discovering Talents

By trial and error we start to discover what we can do, cannot do and where we may have a special gift to meet needs. This has been going on throughout our life in our family, church, school, work and community. We learn from our failures. We can start accepting ourselves as we recognize what God has entrusted to us.

Other people help us too. A lady in our church admired the singing of a new member and enlisted her for special music one Sunday. Singing a solo was a totally new experience. Today she sings regularly at various churches and has organized several community gospel concerts. It all started when someone else saw her God-given gift.

Professional sport teams send scouts all over the country to find talent. Are you a "scout" seeking new talent to serve the Lord? Leaders, nominating committee and pastors, are you "scouts" developing new talent in your church? Sunday School Christmas programs and Vacation Bible Schools are excellent opportunities for discovering, training and utilizing a wide variety of talents. Look especially for those with a heart for Jesus.

Being Faithful

Some are blessed with five talents. We are not to be jealous or envious. Nor are the gifted to be boastful or lazy. That servant earned five more talents for his master. To whom much is given, much more is required.

The servant with two faithfully went out to gain two more. We live in such a competitive society that he could have been very frustrated. My daughter made "A's" in high school with a lot of hard work. Her SAT score indicated she was more a "B" talent. Fearful that she might get sick striving for "A's," I urged her only to be faith-

Talented,

ful and be content with "B's." Taking that pressure off freed her to participate in numerous worthwhile extra curricular activities. She was faithful, got an excellent job, and now has talents to serve in the church too. Are you faithfully using the talents God has entrusted to you?

Some have very little talent and tend to bury it like the servant Jesus rebuked. Don't be comparing yourself with others, but rather be faithful with what you have. It's not so much "ability" as "availability." When I arrived at a new church, I discovered an old lady came to the church weekly to clean the bathrooms. Upon questioning her, she replied, "This is the only way I feel that I can serve the church." Well done thou good and faithful servant.

What about your pastor? Is he criticized for not having more talent in one

Why has the Lord blessed you?

Stewardship, Not Just \$tewardship

Mention the word "stewardship," and many people will reach for their wallets. Some reach to protect them, others reach to open them wide and share liberally. Perhaps the only picture that comes to your mind when the word stewardship is used, is one of someone coercing you to give financially.

The Stewardship Board of the AFLC has traditionally been the committee whose task is to encourage a life of stewardship that will include financial participation (II Corinthians 9:6-8).

The Stewardship Board recently met at the ARC to reorganize and refocus our vision. Because of unforeseen resignations from the board for health and personal reasons, the Stewardship Board has found itself unable to function for most of the past year.

Thus re-established, the board's desire is to encourage the careful management (stewardship) of our life in Christ in relation to our time, our abilities, and our prayer life as well as in relation to our financial resources.

We will seek to underscore scriptural principles that will guide, challenge and direct believers toward responsible stewardship.

In keeping with resolutions adopted at the 31st Annual Conference of the AFLC, we will encourage, "... a spirit of unity to pray and tithe for the ministry of the AFLC."¹ and "encourage congregations to prayerfully consider the tithe as a guide to the ongoing ministries."²

Also, pursuant to conference action, we will, to the degree that we are able, "work together with the various ministries of the AFLC to

Who Me?

area or another? It would not be Scriptural if he had all the talents in the church. Paul was often criticized. He responded in I Corinthians 4:1-5 that the Lord only calls us to be faithful. Pastor, are you faithful to the Lord, your family, your calling and God's people? Paul doesn't answer his critics. He knows the Lord will reveal our hearts and give the praise when he comes again.

Blessed to be a Blessing

We sing, "God Bless America" and it's often said, "God bless you." **Why?** Too often our motives are very selfish. We see so many gifted people wasting their talents for selfish gain, fun, and to take it easy.

When the children left home, a lady could have taken life easy. Instead she recognized her spiritual gifts of knowing Jesus, the Bible and prayer. Led by the Holy Spirit she developed new talents to make shut-in calls. What a blessing she was by making five to seven home visits weekly for about 20

years. As she is older now, it has been mostly phone calls to lonely people who are so easy to find. She has been blessed to be a blessing.

That was the covenant God made with Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3. The Jewish people throughout Bible times unto this century remember God is to bless them (and He has), but most have forgotten "... to be a blessing." Why has the Lord blessed you?

Blending Together

It may be commendable to serve in one calling for 20 years. But it's also Biblical to be training others that they too may serve. Often the Lord would have us try new tasks to interact with others and to grow spiritually. Some of you have been Martha's in the kitchen long enough and now the Lord is call-

Often the Lord would have us try new tasks to interact with others and to grow spiritually.

ing you to be Mary's at His feet in prayer.

No man is an island. We don't do our own thing. One of Paul's favorite phrases is "one another." With a wide variety of talents, we complement one another as a variety of members in the Body of Christ. No, your pastor does not have all the talents needed. What are your talents? How can they be blended with one another into the Lord's work? Many hands pulling together can move mountains to the glory of God.

Many people are earning various college degrees such as B.A. and Ph.D.'s. But the only one that really counts is a W.D. That's the degree Jesus gave in the Parable when He said, "**Well Done**, thou good and faithful servant, come and share the Master's happiness" 25:21.



— by Rev. Mel Meyer
Norway, Illinois

... the careful management (stewardship) of our life in Christ in relation to our time, abilities and prayer life as well as our financial resources.

develop materials that present the aspects of the ministries of the AFLC ..."³

Finally, we are resolved along with our fellow members of the AFLC, to "... more earnestly pray that God will bless our work for him in the AFLC, both spiritually and financial, so that souls might come to know Him as Lord and Savior."⁴

— Pastor Rob Lewis
Chairman, AFLC Stewardship Board

Footnotes:

¹Resolution #3 of Committee #5, the Committee on Stewardship and Pensions.

²Resolution #4 — Ibid.

³Resolution #5 — Ibid.

⁴Resolution #6 — Ibid.



Stewardship Board members are, left to right: Rev. Mark Antal, Leeds, North Dakota; Mr. Ralph Johnson, Upsala, Minnesota; Rev. Robert Lewis, Newark, Illinois; Mr. Roger Rasmusson, Pennock, Minnesota; and Mr. Joel Rogenes, Ely, Minnesota.

Making the Most of the Minutes

Picture two 21-foot trailers side by side on an acre of dirt with a covered deck between them. For the past year our family of four dwelt in two such trailers while we built a new home. During this period, we lived a no-frills existence; no TV, limited possessions and wardrobe, and a blow torch to thaw water lines. On Sunday mornings, when we were trying to get ready for church and squeeze into a four by three foot bathroom, we were a very close-knit family ("Too close!" my daughter says). But we also grew closer emotionally and spiritually with many of our modern time grabbers removed. Communication and reading became our daily major affairs.

Most of you will not have the trivial distractions of life forcibly removed, like we did. Your changes in time management will come by choice. I prefer the word "stewardship" rather than the word "management" when I am addressing Christians. God has directed us, as His own, in Ephesians 5:15-17: "Be very careful, then, how you live, not as unwise, but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is." Pastor Rick Long puts it this way, "We have to stop thinking of our time, as *our* time." God is surely not pushing us into a harried existence here, but one that is carefully executed with His will uppermost in the plans.

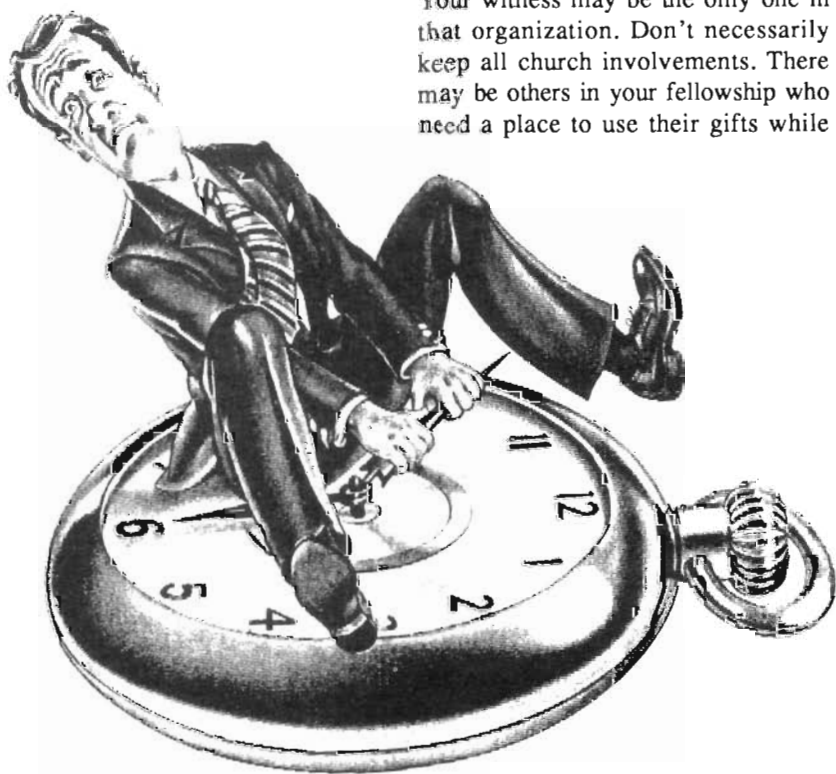
What mother hasn't been through some harried days? My week days this fall consist of teaching preschool, car pooling to soccer practice, delivering my daughter to violin lessons and orchestra, preparing for a ladies' Bible study, attending church functions and being a member of the community youth symphony board. If Christian mothers could speak face-to-face, we would find our situations comparable. Single parents feel the time squeeze even more acutely, and many dads are actively involved in their family's schedule as well. The question for each of us is, "Are we about the Lord's business in our busyness?"

I use the phrase "each of us" because God has a distinct and separate will for each one of us. Comparing your time stewardship to others can be a trap. Our household is managed quite uniquely. My husband, Tim, loves to cook. I generally do the clean-up. I love to mow lawns, do laundry and clean house. He's happy working on projects. It took us a number of years to accept the unique people God made us to be, — with differing gifts, likes and dislikes. What works for your family will be different from the family next door.

The Key is spending time in the Word and prayer every day. If we are regularly too busy for this encounter ... we will ultimately set ourselves up for a barren life, bereft of God's wisdom and power.

Do you sense God urging you to examine your use of time? None of us have "arrived" or have been perfected in every area of our lives. The joy of the Christian life is God's daily, gentle work within us. Allow yourself to laugh at your weaknesses while you bring them to the Lord. He will transform you, one step at a time.

If you're just starting this process, I suggest finding a place of solitude to pray over each of your priorities, activities and involvements. Don't automatically eliminate all "secular" activities. Your witness may be the only one in that organization. Don't necessarily keep all church involvements. There may be others in your fellowship who need a place to use their gifts while



you need to cut back. God will show you as you seek Him. Set long- short- and medium-term goals with prayer, and evaluate them prayerfully every three to four months. Consider your spiritual disciplines, family needs (including dates with your spouse), opportunities to witness, areas of service, friendships, physical health, home management, and recreation as goal topics. In your weekly and monthly to-do lists, seek to include something to move you towards these goals. Sometimes Christians flinch at setting goals because we want to see ourselves as Spirit-led. However, even the simplest things in life would not be accomplished without setting goals. Remember, we are seeking God's goals and his guidance in this process.

The key to your daily time walk in the Lord is spending time in the Word and prayer every day. If we are regularly too busy for this encounter with the living God, we will be stopping growth, hurting our work for the Lord, possibly protecting ourselves from confronting areas of need and ultimately setting ourselves up for a barren life, bereft of God's wisdom and power. Jesus may direct us away from our schedules to refresh us or call us to a new work for Him. Accept the interruptions and changes as a gift from Him.

It can be a spiritual thing to begin organizing your home. When my home is orderly, I feel an immense weight lifted from me. Good books are available in your Christian bookstore to help with the nitty-gritty details of reorganization.

On our property we are now ready to roll-out the trailers. We have been moving in since July, painting and repairing furniture as we go, and finishing the last details on the house. I get the feeling we may be doing this for years to come. Our accountability to God for the use of our time is unending as well. I am thankful it is Him I am accountable to, and that He provides the power to do all that needs doing.

— by *Cathe Erhardt*
Elim Lutheran Church
Lake Stevens, Washington

The Association Retreat Center



Plan for Family Camp Next Summer

Family Bible camp at the ARC is a wonderful place to spend a week with my grandchildren and for them to be with their cousin in spiritual surroundings. What truly excites me is their desire to return each year even now when some are in high school. To God be the glory for those blessed with a vision for the ARC back in 1977.

— *Aini Myking*
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Bible camp is one of the highlights of our year by year walk with Jesus. It is a joy to meet the staff of the ARC and the many friends we have made through the years. Christ is the center of it all as He brings about a fellowship of believers found only this side of heaven. May our Lord continue to bless us with this privilege until He calls us home.

— *Hand and Berdeen Peterson*
Ishpeming, Michigan

ARC Family Camp means becoming brothers and sisters in Christ with God's people from all walks of life that come together seeking and sharing one common desire; to serve Christ (Colossians 3:23-25). Not only is there comfort and blessing from feeding on God's Word all week, but also to share trials and prayer requests with these friends. Thank you ARC friends and staff for all you do for one of our most precious weeks during the year!

— *The Stewart Vachal family*
Williston, North Dakota

I have been to the ARC Family Camp every year since it began. Each year it is special. It is such a joy to see the young families as they come. All ages have the opportunity to study the Word and together we grow in the knowledge of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

— *Anna Dahle*
Spicer, Minnesota

Going to Bible camp can give you a lift,
For a week you can concentrate on God's greatest gift — the Lord Jesus Christ!

Come to Family Camp — your heart will overflow,
Give time to God's Word — love in your family will grow!
We truly do appreciate camp and we look forward to coming back again.

Rev. Harvey Jackson,
Ishpeming, Michigan

Fact finding trip into Mexico — The AFLC World Missions Committee is sending four men on a fact finding trip into Mexico. On November 13, Al Brazier, Badger, Minnesota; Ken Williams, Ishpeming, Michigan; Vernon Russum, Grafton, North Dakota; and Missions Director Eugene Enderlein, will begin a seven to ten day trip to Leon and Aguascalientes. They plan to drive through Mexico to determine whether or not the Partners in Mission Outreach bus could make the trip to those communities.

Plan a Mission Weekend — On October 2-3, Christ Lutheran Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, sponsored a Missions Fest. Speakers were Rev. Eugene Enderlein, World Missions Director, and missionary candidates Todd Schierkolk and David Nelson. It was a significant time of fellowship and getting acquainted with the new AFLC friends in that region of the nation. According to Pastor Enderlein: "I'd love to see more area Mission Fests throughout the country. It's a great opportunity to acquaint people with AFLC World Missions. Our office will work with any area to help plan a successful missions weekend."

Real People, Real Needs,

Go into all the world is a clear command from our Lord Jesus Christ. How do we become a "Global Christian?" How do we lift our vision outward to the people of our globe?

Just think about your concerns. You have a heart concern for people who are dear to you ... perhaps you first think of your family members and your extended family. Then your thoughts go to dear friends, your pastor, your church council members, Sunday School teachers, youth and others come to mind. Each one is dear to you. You try to stay in touch with their heart concerns, health needs and prayer burdens. That's good!

Those very same concerns can transfer to people all around our globe. Read our missionary prayer letters with care. When you read missionaries Dan and Debbie Giles letters, write down some names of special people they mention who are showing interest in the gospel as they share with them at Aguascalientes, Mexico. Write down the names of our Mexican national pastors, Rev. Samuel Flores, Rev. Milton Flores and Rev. Raul Hernandez. Pray for their lovely, faithful wives, their extended families and their outreach to our Mexican brothers and sisters.

Take time with the missionary letters from Brazil. As missionaries Connely and Carolyn Dyrud tell us about the soon to come summer activities in Brazil, write down the prayer requests for Bible camps and retreats, the need for new students to the Bible school and seminary, and for their own family members, three of whom are far from Mom and Dad as they work and attend school in the U.S.A. Pray with Pastor Connely Dyrud as he ministers with our faithful Brazilian national pastors to build strong congregations in Brazil. Pray for those national brothers and sisters and let their names and faces become precious to you.

I trust you listened with care as missionaries Paul and Becky Abel shared their lives in Brazil as they traveled to your church or special event during this furlough time. Let your outward look become stronger as you remember the congregations in Brazil that they serve and the outreach ministries within them, such as the Bible

Thank you,

Pastor Lee

With the October 12, 1993 issue, Pastor Robert Lee closed his work as editor of *The Lutheran Ambassador*, something he had been doing for just over three years. The AFLC owes him a hearty thank you for this service well performed.

He has had several formal relationships with the paper over the years: member of the editorial board and assistant editor, as well as editor. There was a brief interlude when he went to Helmar, Illinois to serve the AFLC congregation there, but when the undersigned retired from the position, Pastor Lee was chosen to replace him as editor. The choice was a good one.

When unexpected events thrust him as vice president into the presidency of

the Association in March of 1991, there was a dilemma as to what to do about the position of *Ambassador* editor. He was asked to and was willing to continue until the term of three years was up and a new editor was selected. That has now come to pass.

The dual roles of president and editor could not long continue, nor should they. As president we understand that Pastor Lee will contribute a column for the *Ambassador*, something both of his predecessors had done with more or less frequency. The editor will write the editorials from his own perspective and with the readers having the knowledge this is not the church president communicating. Both voices are needed and welcome.

Real Prayer

World Missions

Camp Retreat Center called the ARCA. It was in the care of Janet Gray and faithful national Christians during Paul and Becky's absence.

Hear Missionaries David and Janet Abel as they travel or minister at Solid Rock Free Lutheran Church in the Twin Cities. Let the names and details of people in Brazil become real and special to you as you take them to your heart as your friends. Consider missionaries Jonathan and Tamba Abels special outreach to homeless boys and girls in Brazil while building a strong local church. Pray for them and their little daughter and the people they talk with and help.

Take some time to write down the names of our national pastors in Brazil. They each have families who are very dear to them. They have graduated from our Bible school and seminary in Brazil and now are our partners in the mission outreach. They need God's strength and wisdom as they witness, preach and oversee churches.

Take out a map of the world and look at India. Consider our faithful workers in that densely populated land. Although you may find their names difficult to pronounce, God knows just who you are referring to as you pray. Their resources are very limited, their vision for preaching and teaching to lost souls is strong. They need you. They rely on your prayers. Take them to your heart and pray for their families, their health, their long travels, and for boldness to share the gospel in a land dominated by Hindus and Muslims.

Becoming a global Christian is not a mystical, intellectual process. Dear friends, it becomes easy when we allow God to place upon our hearts the very real needs of very real people around the globe.

Just imagine the impact that concerted prayer effort can have upon these friends in other lands! If every pastor and every congregation ... if **you** ... will pray for each of these far away friends and ministers by name — God is going to do great things!

— *Pastor Eugene Enderlein,*
AFLC World Missions

Pastor Lee writes well and clearly, factors which brought him to the task in the first place. He has a fine sense and knowledge of church history. That is true in regard to the AFLC. Not all *Ambassador* readers know that Pastor Lee was one of those present at the constituting convention of the non-merged church (later the AFLC) in Thief River Falls, Minnesota in October, 1962. He was then a 19-year-old college student. His very good credentials also includes service as a young student pastor in quite a few congregations in the Midwest and the West Coast. His interest in and knowledge of church history reaches well beyond that of the AFLC. We can be glad that this will not be lost to us as a church

even though he is no longer editor.

Pastor Lee has been ably assisted these years by Solveig Hjermstad as assistant editor. Together they have produced a very attractive, readable and informative paper for us, always Christ centered, which is the main objective and desire. Mrs. Hjermstad continues in her position and provides the continuity needed as we become acquainted with a new editor.

Thank you, Pastor Lee, for your faithful and capable service to and through our church magazine.

Now may I speak a word of warm welcome to our new editor, Pastor Craig Johnson. He, too, has revealed a gift for writing. May his work as editor be a joyous one, a labor of love, as he



Rev. David Abel at the fall WMF rally at Tabor Lutheran Church, Webster, South Dakota.

Attention Pastors and Sunday School superintendents — The Paul Abel family has prepared a video presentation in six parts that can be used for Mission Sunday presentations during the 1993-94 school year. Each segment is 10-15 minutes long and includes parts of their depuration program of puppets, slides, songs and sharing. A video presentation about Brazil and the Abel's work in Curitiba is also included on the tape. A copy of this video is yours upon request for \$10. Contact Ken Hokkanon, 2372 30th Avenue and Kings Way, Osceola, WI 54020; phone (715) 755-3131.

Add a personal missionary touch to your Mission Sundays this year!

seeks to interpret our church to us and challenge us to greater faith in and love for Christ. The Lord bless you, Pastor Johnson. Thank you for being willing to be our new editor.

— *Rev. Raynard Huglen*
Newfolden, Minnesota
Ambassador editor, 1961-1990

Home Missions

Wanted: Snowbirds to come to Texas — Get out of the cold and join us in warm and sunny Texas! Help us meet the growing needs in several Texas communities. We need your presence and prayer! For more details contact Home Missions Director, Rev. Elden Nelson at (612) 545-5631 or Rev. Paul Nash at (817) 776-6757.

Help Home Mission Congregations Support a Pastor

Give a one-time gift or make a monthly pledge for the first year of a call.

- Lamb of God, Topeka, Kansas
- Redeemer, Cambridge, Minnesota

Partners in Planting

AFLC Home Missions
3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

Washington Congregation Becomes Self-Supporting



Atonement Free Lutheran Church, Arlington, Washington, organized in 1983, is the most recent home mission congregation to become self-supporting. Atonement's first full-time pastor was Rev. Frank Cherney, 1987-91. The church was built in 1988. In 1992, Rev. Richard Long began his ministry and continues to serve in that northwestern Washington community.



Dexter, Minnesota — Zion Lutheran Church recently received 19 new members into their fellowship. The congregation dedicated their new building on September 19 after their original structure was destroyed by fire during the summer of 1992. Rev. Gordon Grae is the pastor.

Partners In Prayer



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

Pray with Monroe Free Lutheran Church, Monroe, Washington, as they earnestly seek the Lord's direction regarding the purchase of property and future pastoral ministry.

Praise God for the Life in Christ Crusade at Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, in October. Many Bible school students received Christ as Savior or recommitted their

lives to the Lord during the meetings with Evangelist Vern Baardson.

Pray for Redeemer Free Lutheran Church, Cambridge, Minnesota. They have a special burden to see more boys and girls coming to Sunday School.

Pray for Springs of Living Water Church congregation in Aguascalientes, Mexico, in their need for their own property and building.

Pray for the schools' Board of trustees as they call a faculty member to fill the position of Rev. Phil Haugen.

Pray for guidance for the Brazilian national church as they continue to develop a relationship with a church group in Mozambique. Besides seeking direction for a ministry in Mozambique, the Brazil AFLC is burdened for Paraguay and is praying for a missionary/national pastor outreach team to begin a ministry in that South American nation.

It is a beautiful fall in the Baltic States. The leaves on the trees are brilliant shades of yellow and orange. The tall pines seem to loom larger against the clear blue sky. The crisp, cool days and fresh sea air provide invigorating walking to one's destination. Truly, God's handiwork in nature is wonderful! If this world can be so inspiring and uplifting, how utterly beautiful heaven must be in the presence of our great God!

Since our last report, we have traveled to Estonia for a week of classes at the Tartu Theological Academy. It was good to meet again with Pastor Eenok Haamer, the school's director, as well as faculty and staff people. There are now 60 students enrolled in the four-year program of this new school. I taught Bible doctrine to the new students four hours daily. It is encouraging to see how God has given such an earnest desire to study His Word that they in turn might teach the Scriptures to the school children of Estonia. We enjoyed many meaningful discussions with students between and after classes.

There is a tremendous need for more Christian literature in the languages of these former Soviet states. Very few Christian publications are available. At the same time, so many people appear to be ready to read anything they can get their hands on. Book stores and book stands seem to be everywhere. On the buses and trains, many are reading books and newspapers.

Baltic Bulletin

No. 2

In response to this need, the leaders of the Tartu Academy are planning to begin a large Christian family magazine. The first edition is stated to be released in December and will provide Bible-based spiritual help to its readers. Pray for the needed finances to print this first edition and pray for the consecrated and gifted editor Evar Post. *(Editor's note: the complete financing has been provided.)*

We expect to return to Tartu every five or six weeks to teach during the scheduled sessions of the academy. We are so grateful for this special opportunity. There is a very close bond of fellowship with these dear people.

Classes have now begun at the new Deaconal Institute in Latvia. I will be teaching the 38 students systematic theology during both semesters and an English language class for beginners. Most of the institute students are recent graduates of "middle school" (high school) which is similar to our own AFLBS. They have come from all parts of Latvia to prepare to serve as full-time deaconesses (parish workers) and deacons (lay assistants) in the Latvian Lutheran Church. There is real potential to permeate the church with renewed spiritual life as these students take their places in Christian ministry.

The founders and directors of the institute, Pastor and Mrs. Guntis Disler, have a deep concern that the graduates be thoroughly grounded in the Scriptures so they can be truly effective in their future service. Pastor Disler serves on the pastoral staff of the Dome Cathedral in Riga, the largest Lutheran congregation in Latvia. Mrs. Disler is a Greek and New Testament professor and was a member of the theological faculty at the main university. She and 12 other members of the faculty resigned last spring because of the inroads of liberalism.

The government gave the institute a large house in Jurmala. It has been remodeled for use as a classroom, library and offices. An additional large brick building was recently given which will be remodeled to serve as a combination dormitory and classroom facility. It will permit the acceptance of many more students. Good News for Israel has a part in prayer and financial support for this new school.

Lord willing, we will write more next month. God is answering your prayers for us in every special ways. How good and gracious He is to us all!

— Dr. Francis Monseth
AFLTS Dean

Pray for the healing of two AFLBS students Heidi Bergstadt, Forest Lake, Minnesota, who has a broken ankle and Michael Hernberg, Frontier, Sask., who suffered a knee injury.

Praise God for the completion of the church building for Faith Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. The three-year-old Home Mission congregation dedicated their building on October 3.

Praise God for the open door for Shepherd of the Valley Free Lutheran Church, Palmdale, California, as they

begin an outreach to the Juniper Hills community. Rev. David Molstre has begun conducting worship services in Juniper Hills along with continuing the ministry in Palmdale.

Pray that there might be a resolution of lawsuits in India which would free the World Missions Committee to investigate possibilities of greater ministry.

Pray for the new Buelah, North Dakota group currently receiving weekend service from area AFLC congregations. They are looking for direc-

tion from the Home Missions Committee regarding their next step.

Pray for the four seminary interns Kevin Olson, Camarillo, California; Randy Nelson, Deshler, Nebraska; Mickey Peterson, Thief River Falls, Minnesota; and Earl Korhonen, Lake Stevens, Washington.

Praise God for the evangelism programs at congregations in Arlington and Lake Stevens, Washington.

Pray that the seed would fall on good ground as the gospel is shared.

WOMEN

The Illinois District WMF met at West Lisbon Lutheran Church on October 2 for their rally. The theme was "Amazing Love." Three ladies gave their personal testimonies of trials in their lives and how God saw them through them. These ladies were Sandy Timmons, Sandy Lehmann and Jeanne Jorgenson, all from the district. One hundred and one women attended.

The West Coast District WMF met for their rally at Elim Lutheran Church in Lake Stevens, September 18. The theme was "Serve In Joy" from John 15:11. The morning speaker was Bonnie West, the National WMF first vice president. Rev. Richard Long, Arlington, Washington spoke in the afternoon. Sixty-eight women registered.



West Coast District officers: Linda Carter, Loretta Grothe, Lola Lindell and Pat Tuengel.

The North Central District WMF rally was held October 2, at the Dovre Free Lutheran Church in Winger. The theme was "God's Love, Our Response," from I John 4:7. Ninety-four ladies heard Pastor Alvin Sather, Bemidji, speak on the day's theme.

Everett, Washington — Calvary WMF President Gladys Hollum, presented an Honorary Membership pin to Vivian Forsberg. Vivian has recently returned to the Philippines for another term of missionary service with Wycliffe Translators.

Fall Rally Review

The South Dakota-Nebraska-Kansas District WMF met at Calvary Free Lutheran Church, rural Webster, South Dakota, on September 18. The theme was "Trust and Obey." Local pastor Lynn Wilson led the morning Bible study on the theme. Missionaries David and Janet Abel shared during the afternoon session.

The Eastern North Dakota District WMF commemorated their 30th anniversary at their fall rally on September 25. The rally was held at Ny Stavanger in Buxton, where it all began 30 years ago. The theme was "Come into His Presence with Thanksgiving," from Psalm 95:1b-2a. Pastor David Abel was the speaker.

Dorothy Presteng, Betty Nelson, Carol Nelson and Rev. John Abel shared about the early days of the WMF and missions. Registration totalled 122.



Jonathan, Melissa and Janet Abel at the rally in Webster.



Ladies from Spokane and Ferndale during a coffee break at the rally in Lake Stevens.

New Banner Catalog Available

Christ Lutheran WMF of Wichita Falls, Texas, has just published a new Banner Catalog. More than 50 designs are available in Christmas and Advent, Lent and Easter, patriotic, AFLC logos, communion, baptism, Thanksgiving, wedding, missions, salvation, commitment, prayer and various other church year themes. Special custom orders for events with your theme may also be ordered.

Completed banners are available as well as the kits which you can finish with glue and scissors. Monies are used for mission projects and the outreach of the Home Mission congregation, Christ Lutheran Church.

For your catalog, please send name and address to Christ Lutheran WMF, Route 6, 4300 FM 1954, Wichita Falls, TX 76301. Those who signed up for a catalog at the last annual conference will receive this new edition in the mail.



Valley City, North Dakota — Grace Free Lutheran WMF recently honored Ilene Kjelland and Fae Krueger. Pictured with the honored members is WMF President Evelyn Emberson



(center). The Grace WMF also held a special Cradle Roll program. Pictured is Mrs. Terry Grothe with Michael Borg, Matthew Jordan and Hannah Morehouse.



Mentor, Minnesota — Maple Bay Free Lutheran Church enrolled three babies in their Cradle Roll program and graduated six children. Pictured are the new enrollees with their mothers.



Bruce, South Dakota — Grace Lutheran WMF honored three of their quilting ladies. Pictured are Fredia Holter, Benice Nelson and Cecelia Holter. The WMF also recently graduated four children and enrolled four babies into their Cradle Roll program.

One Day Jesus Knocked

—by
Cindy Mehus

One day Jesus knocked on my door.
I looked out my window and thought,
"What is He standing there fore?"
When He came in He said, "It's been
A long time since we've had a talk."
I answered, "I know Lord. It is my fault.
I'm sure glad you came up my block.
I've been so busy running here and there.
I had no time left over with You to share."
Jesus said, "That's OK I understand,
I just wondered if you needed anything
I could led a helping hand."
I said, "Lord that's just like you
To have mercy on me.
When I should be scolded.
You give me love so free."
Jesus said, "That's why I let
Them nail me on the cross.
I took your place,
So you wouldn't be lost.
With tears in my eyes I said
"Lord please forgive me.
I'll never take You for granted
Like the way it used to be."
Jesus came over and knelt beside me.
He looked into my eyes with His
Love so deep.
He put His hand on my shoulder
And I began to weep.
He said, "Don't cry my child.
I love you the way you are.
You are special to me.
With My help you'll go far."
I've never been the same since
That very special day.
Every day that I live
I don't forget to pray.
So if you hear a knock at your
Door in the middle of the day,
Just ask yourself,
"Did I forget to pray?"

PEOPLE and PLACES

Badger, Minnesota — Badger Creek Free Lutheran Church and Oland Free Lutheran Church sponsored a parish rummage and bake sale with all proceeds going to the purchase of Pastor Gabriel Mercado's car needs in Mexico and the publishing costs of the new *Ambassador Hymnal*. Aid Association for Lutheran matched the \$500 dollars raised.

Ishpeming, Michigan — On September 26-29, Rev. Jerry Holmaas of Chassell, Michigan shared in a "Fall Festival of Faith" at Hope Free Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ishpeming. The morning Bible studies were from the book of Habakkuk.

Thief River Falls, Minnesota — In October, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church began a Wednesday evening Bible study series entitled: "When the Pressure's On" from the life of Elijah. During October 17-20, the congregation hosted special meetings with Rev. Ray Klug, Fairbury, Nebraska.

Rev. Mel Meyer, Noway, Illinois, has resigned as pastor of the Fox River Lutheran Church where he has served since 1989. He will begin an interim ministry at Amery Free Lutheran Church, Amery, Wisconsin, in November.

Suicide Seminar Scheduled

Because of a special grant from AAL Branch 9226, United Free Lutheran Church of Greenbush, Minnesota, is offering a one day seminar on suicide prevention.

The seminar is for adults and mature youth interested in stopping suicide among pre-teens and teens.

It will be at the church Saturday, November 19, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will include dinner. There is no charge for the meeting conducted by Mr. Steve Lansing of the National Counseling Resource Center in Rochester, Minnesota.

There will also be a free seminar for youth on Sunday, November 20.

For information call (218) 782-2249 or 283-2246.

Dalton, Minnesota — Mr. Bert Crabbe, a first year student at the Lutheran Brethren Seminary in nearby Fergus Falls has been recruited to serve as a youth worker in the Dalton parish. The New York City native has worked with teens in his home congregation in Staten Island and currently hopes to go into youth work after completion of seminary studies.

Fairbury, Nebraska — Faith Lutheran Church hosted the first annual Nebraska-Kansas District conference on October 2. The day-long Saturday meeting featured the theme: "Rekindle My Fire, Lord." Rev. David Barnhart was the speaker.

Michael Nelson, formerly of Eden Prairie, Minnesota, began serving Bethel Lutheran Chapel, White Earth, Minnesota, and Elbow Lake Lutheran Church in Elbow Lake on October 1. The congregations are a ministry of the Northern Lutheran Mission, an independent faith mission based in northern Minnesota.

Dr. Rudy Skogerboe, East Grand Forks, Minnesota, spoke at AFLC "Come Back Home" rallies in Tulia, Amarillo, Wichita Falls, Bellville, Houston and San Antonio, Texas during October 28-November 2. Dr. Skogerboe also provided inspirational trumpet music with Laurie Nash of Wichita Falls playing the piano.



Dannebrog, Nebraska — St. Peder's Lutheran Church was featured on CBS Sunday Morning with Charles Kuralt. The October 3 showing was a five minute segment of Roger Welsch's "Postcard from Nebraska." The impressive altar and pulpit carved by a Danish craftsman named Jes Smidt, was highlighted. The feature also showed the congregation during a Sunday morning service and the former "folk school" which operated for 50 years across the street from the church.

IMPACT Monies Received

The Association Free Lutheran Seminary and Bible School has received their third quarter gifts from Lutheran Brotherhood's IMPACT/IMPACT PLUS programs, **Inviting Member Participation in Aiding Lutheran Colleges and Theological Seminaries**. AFLTS received \$675 from eight gifts and AFLBS was given \$1,240 from 13 members.

The IMPACT/IMPACT PLUS programs match Lutheran Brotherhood members' gifts of \$25 to \$100 per year to Lutheran institutions of higher education nationwide. Since the beginning in 1979, \$77,583 has been received by AFLTS and \$156,733 has been channeled to AFLBS.

AFLBS Calendar

November 16 — Men's basketball begins

November 25-26 — Thanksgiving vacation

December 9 — Women's basketball begins

December 11-12 — Parents' Weekend

December 12, 4 p.m. — Christmas Concert

December 18-January 2 — Christmas vacation

February 6-9 — Missions Conference

KEEPING BUSY

A self-employed businessman was telling about all the high-tech equipment in his office. It was a necessity of life in the '90s. It was to make everything so much easier. Now he says he is spending more time at work than ever before in order to pay for all his time-saving devices.

At the beginning of the 1980s people talked about how much leisure time Americans would have, thanks to advances in technology. The reality is, however, that now in the '90s the average work week has actually increased. We are becoming a people with many time-saving devices, but very little time.

God's Word calls on us to make "the most of every opportunity" (Ephesians 5:16). We are to use well the limited time we each have on this earth.

Teaching people how to make good use of their time may increasingly become more of a challenge to the church than instructing them on properly using money. Some people can easily give money but they have no time to spare. The trouble is the money can not replace the time. A check is not the same as a sympathetic ear. A room full of toys does not impact a young person's life in the same way as an uninterrupted afternoon.

Congregations need to make sure they are helping people make good use of their time and not becoming part of the problem. A full calendar in the newsletter is not necessarily a sign of a healthy church. The impression can be given that people must be rushing from one activity to another in order to be truly spiritual. Cancellations should probably be made in some church schedules so that time can be freed up for people to do things which are truly effective and of eternal value.

The Lord calls on us to be still and know that He is God (Psalm 46:10). He also says that His sheep listen to His voice (John 10:16). How much time do you spend being still and listening to God? It is easy to become consumed by the to-do list. Spending a significant block of time in quiet prayer and meditation on God's Word seems like such a foreign concept in our task-oriented, get-it-accomplished culture. So many "good" things call for our time. Let us not get so busy doing them that we sacrifice the best: the wonderful privilege that can be ours, of listening to and talking with our loving heavenly Father.

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

When Americans were asked in a survey why they skipped church, one of the most common responses given was: "Churches don't care about you, all they want is your money." It would be easy to dismiss this as evidence of a spiritual problem. That may very well be the case. Let us also ask, though, what type of message are we giving about money? Are people getting the impression that their pocketbook is more important to us than their soul?

The Bible calls on us to not simply give people "what their itching ears want to hear" (II Timothy 4:3). We are to declare without compromise that all we have belongs to God and is to be used under His direction. Let us also remember, though, that we have good news to proclaim about money. It is not something we need to rush after like the rest of the world. Our heavenly Father takes care of His children. We need not worry. We can trust in His promise and "seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33).

We encourage individuals to fear not, God will provide. Do we remember and apply that same truth to our congregations and our church body? Do we tell individuals to not be preoccupied with finances but then, as a group, let money dominate our thoughts and concerns? God supplies the needs of congregations as well as individuals. We can rest confidently in His care.

In our congregation the most well attended service of the year is on Christmas Eve. The decision was made to not take an offering at that service. It could be seen as passing up a good opportunity to get help in paying the bills. We wanted to surprise people. We wanted them to know that our interest is not just in their money but in them. We want them to hear about a gift that has already been paid for. Its value far surpasses anything money can buy. It can make financial concerns seem rather trivial in comparison. It's the gift of a relationship with our Creator; a gift that brings true riches and real security.

Laguna Nigel, California (EP) —

The most widely translated film in the history of the motion picture industry the "Jesus" film has released its 250th language version in the Yao language in Malawi, Africa. "Little did I think, back in 1978 when we first produced the film, it would be so widely translated and reach so many for Christ," said Paul Eshleman, director of the project since its beginning. The Yao language group consists of 1.1 million speakers, and about 95% of the tribe speaking the language is Muslim.

Montreal, Quebec, Canada (EP)

— Students learning about urban missions rolled their sleeves up this summer for first hand experience of different ways to share the gospel.

Participants in this year's Operation Nineveh summer missions program in Montreal found themselves picking up garbage in two of the city's most run-down neighborhoods. Working alongside members of local churches, over 70 volunteers from the U.S., Switzerland, and Canada spent a day each week in the community clean-up project.

Leaflets distributed around the area told residents about the "tidy teams," and city authorities arranged for special collections of the rubbish. Local businessmen expressed their thanks for the work.

"A lot of those taking part came from pretty well-to-do, middle class Christian homes, and have never really seen poverty close-up before," said Youth With A Mission's Pierre LeBel, one of the organizers of the unusual missions experience.

"Standing on a soapbox preaching at people as they go past doesn't work in this culture; people don't want to be confronted anonymously. We need to look for practical ways of developing relationships that can lead to the opportunity of sharing the gospel more fully."

In addition to the weekly clean-ups, participants in Operation Nineveh — a joint event between YWAM and Operation Mobilization — also helped stage a free neighborhood barbecue, and handed out food to some of the city's homeless. Besides the ministry experience,

summer missionaries attended seminars on developing urban mission plans.

"We hope that they went home with a bigger vision for the cities, and perhaps with some new strategies and models of ministry — not to copy, but perhaps to adapt for their own particular community," said LeBel.

New York, New York (EP) —

Someone has been altering pedestrian crossing signals in New York City, replacing the familiar "Walk/Don't Walk" wording with other messages, such as "Conform/Consume" and "Why?/Why not try?" A signal outside the Cathedral of St. John the Divine directed pedestrians to "Repent" and "Sin." City officials warn that the person doing the tampering faces criminal charges if caught.

Nairobi, Kenya (EP) —

Through the generous gift of a seven-year-old Austin, Texas girl, Baptist missionaries in Nairobi have received encouragement that money can't buy. A single dollar bill mailed by Caroline Nelson was folded into a magic marker-written note that said, "To help the poor people of the world." Nelson sent her gift to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, where it was applied to the board's MANNA project, and assigned to the feeding program in Somalia. Missionaries in Kenya working with the Somalia program were notified of Nelson's gift, and were pleased by the encouragement. "We go months without hearing the words 'please' or 'thank you,'" said one missionary. "And we're always aware we could be the next target of attacks on Ameri-

cans. It gets hard some days to remember why we're here."

Alan Grossmann, 31, a missionary for Lutheran Bible Translators serving in Monrovia, Liberia, was shot and wounded by burglars breaking into the LBT office around midnight on September 22.

Grossmann was shot once in each upper leg with the bullets passing through without striking any bones, veins or arteries. He was treated at a Monrovia clinic operated by another Christian mission and is reported to be in good condition.

The three burglars escaped and have not been apprehended. Crimes like this have apparently increased in Monrovia due to the civil unrest that has plagued the country in the past three years.

Al and his wife, Becky (nee Tegtmeyer), are working on Bible translation in the Bandi language. They arrived in Liberia last October just a few weeks before renewed fighting erupted near Monrovia, causing the evacuation of all LBT personnel. The Grossmanns returned to Liberia earlier this year.

On the morning of Sept. 22, Becky Grossmann had given birth to the couple's first child, Luke, and had returned home that same afternoon to their apartment adjoining the LBT office. She and the baby were not harmed in the incident.

LBT currently has seven adult missionaries and four dependents living in Liberia. At the present time plans call for the Grossmann family to remain in Monrovia.