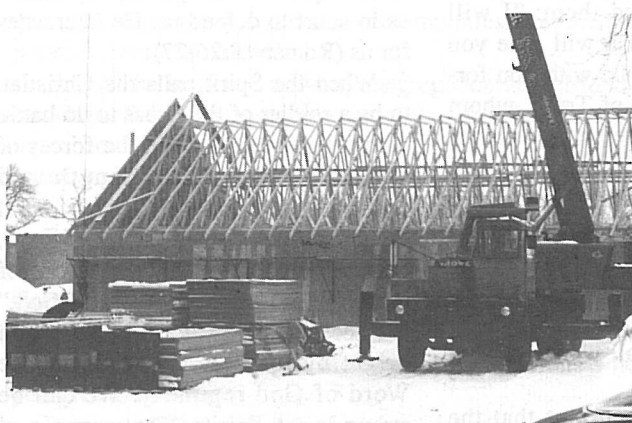


THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

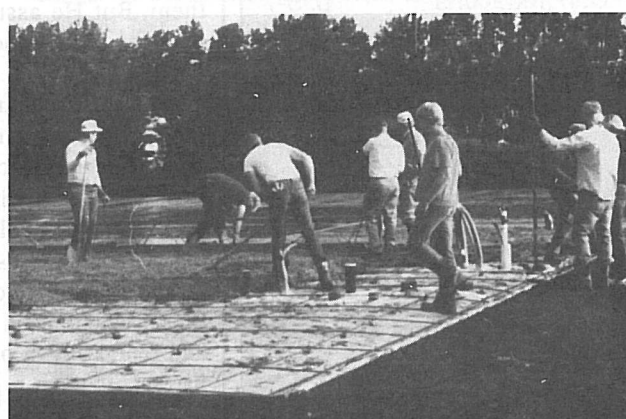
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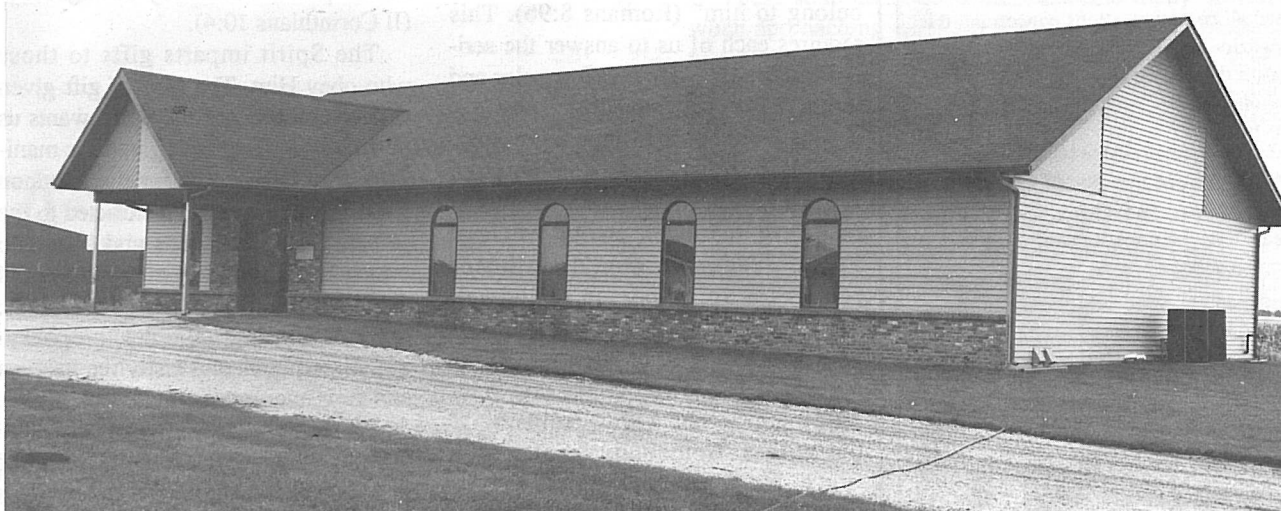
East Grand Forks, Minnesota



London, Minnesota



Larimore, North Dakota



Janesville, Wisconsin

AFLC Home Missions

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

October 29, 1991 • Vol. 29, No. 20

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Walking with the Spirit

When facing a major decision, did you ever say: "I would like to talk this over with ..."? Perhaps that person was a parent, a sister or brother, a trusted teacher or friend or maybe your pastor. How good it was to have a counselor to turn to for guidance, encouragement or even correction!

Jesus knew His disciples would face many occasions for decisions and actions that would require courage and wisdom. He warned them: "because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you" (John 15:19). The disciples felt like deserted orphans when Jesus told them He was leaving them. But He assured them: "I will pray the Father and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him or knows him; you know him for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you desolate" (John 14:16-18). Jesus went on to say that this Counselor, the Holy Spirit, would teach them in everything and remind them of all what the Lord had said to them.

This gift is so important that the Apostle says: "Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him" (Romans 8:9b). This requires each of us to answer the serious question: "Is He my Counselor and teacher? Do I listen to Him?"

The Holy Spirit is not a mere influence or spiritual force or an abstract. He is a Person in the Godhead, just as real flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). Jesus for God's purposes remains a Spirit-person to indwell every believer. Jesus says: "He dwells with you and shall be in you." So the renowned Dr. Jowett could say: "Our fellowship is not with a 'something' but with a 'Somebody;' not with a 'force' but with a 'Spirit;' not with an 'it' but with a 'Him.'"

The Holy Spirit bears many names. "The magnificent array of titles" are too many to name here. A familiar

Light on the Way

name is the Counselor. He guides us and directs us, restrains and rebukes but also reminds and teaches us what Jesus taught and what is God's will. For example, He guided Paul in his mission work (Acts 16:6), and wants to guide us in all we do. Or as the Spirit of Truth (John 14:17), He makes the truth clear and living for us. As our Comforter (which literally means "with strength"), He imparts strength and courage. The Holy Spirit as our Paraclete (which means "One who walks alongside"), is often translated "Advocate," as a lawyer stands besides us in court to defend us. He intercedes for us (Romans 8:26-27).

When the Spirit calls the Christian to be a soldier of the Cross to do battle with a hostile world and the forces of evil, He gives him strength and courage (Acts 4:8; 7:51-56). Paul speaks of such battles in Ephesians 6, encouraging us to take "the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God." We need to keep that sword sharp and bright by reading and studying the Word of God regularly. We can be strong in the Spirit! "The weapons of our warfare are not worldly but have divine power to destroy strongholds" (II Corinthians 10:4).

The Spirit imparts gifts to those who obey Him. The type of gift given depends on the task the Spirit wants us to perform. "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." Many have been attracted to the gift of various tongues and know no other, but He offers many others. I Corinthians 12:1-11, lists gifts such as: wisdom, healing, miracles, prophesying, discernment and lastly the tongues and their interpretation.

We live in a day of many false teachings, likely the days Jesus warned us of in Matthew 24. We need the Counselor to gift us to discern the Truth. Pray that you may be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit into the Truth.

—Rev. Kermitt C. Grundahl

God has given to His people the command in Matthew 28:19 to "go and make disciples of all nations." People of the AFLC from its earliest days have recognized the need to be faithful to the Lord's command right here in the United States, as well as abroad. Thus it is the church's purpose to develop free, living Lutheran congregations where the Word is preached and taught in such a way that people repent of their sins and look to Christ alone for salvation.

The people of the AFLC, through the annual conference, have authorized the work of Home Missions and have put the program under the guidance of the Mission Corporation, made up of fifty members elected from congregations of the AFLC. The Corporation, in turn, elects the Home Missions Committee of seven members and entrusts them with the task of developing new congregations. In so doing, the Committee is responsible to give financial help, as well as encouragement and direction, so that every Home Mission congregation conducts its program as a Lutheran congregation and reflects the doctrine and pietistic position of the AFLC.

More than one-third of today's AFLC congregations have received financial help and/or encouragement and direction in organization and development of their congregations over the past 29 years. At the present time, there are 29 congregations designated as Home Mission projects. Nineteen AFLC pastors serve Home Mission congregations on a full-time basis and eight pastors serve Home Mission congregations on a part-time basis. Combined attendance at the worship services of the 29 Home Mission congregations totals about 2,000 people on any given Sunday.

It is true that no two Home Mission congregations are exactly alike. The size of congregation, background of the people involved, type of facility and location of the work, offer a wide range of variety to AFLC Home Missions. Home Mission congregations are found in the large metro areas of the U.S., as well as the small rural towns of the Dakotas and Minnesota. However, in spite of the distinct individualism of each congregation, there are some strong similarities. The most significant

"... it is important that all ... have a vision for the lost souls of men and be focused upon the Lord Jesus."



The Home Mission Partnership

Faith Lutheran Church, London, Minnesota

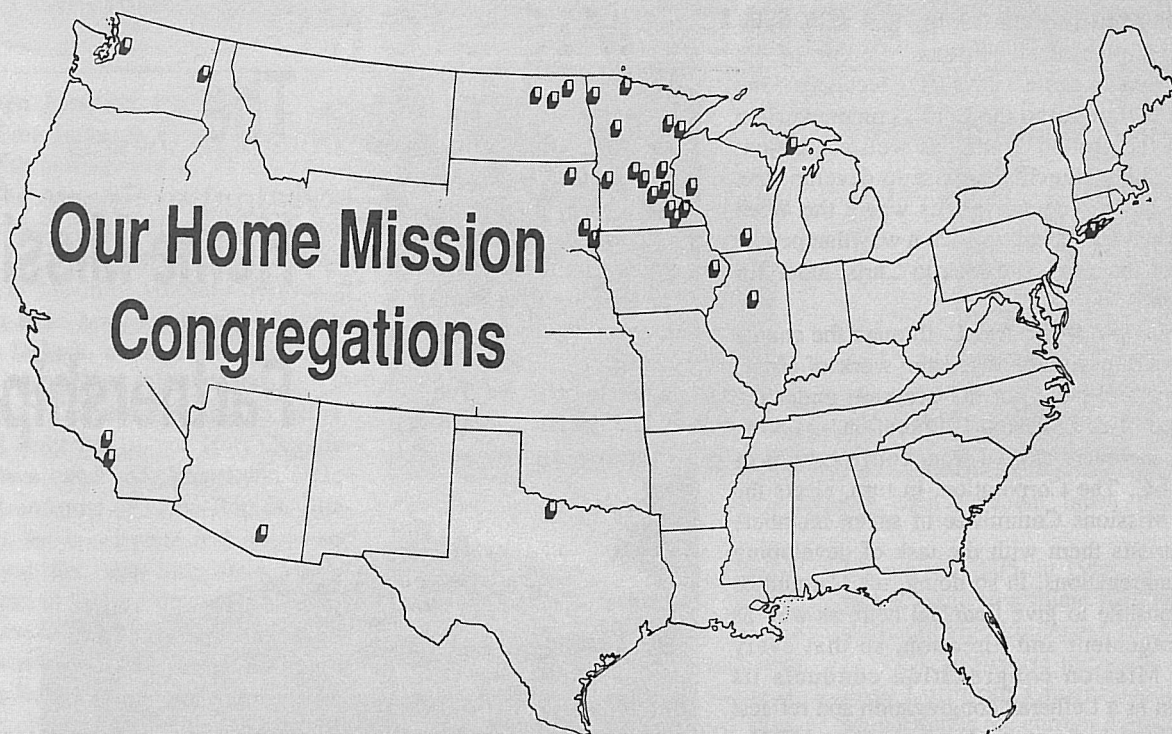
similarity is love for the Word. Hunger for the Word is what usually brings new groups together. Not only is there hunger but there is respect for the Word. It is held by the people of these new congregations as inspired, infallible, and inerrant. The second similarity grows out of this hunger and it is the desire for Christian fellowship. Fellowship is shared and enjoyed at every service and activity of the new congregation. The third similarity is outreach, and it is an outgrowth of feeding upon the Word and the encouragement of genuine Christian fellowship. People involved in a spiritually alive, healthy congregation enjoy sharing with their neighbors the blessings of their relationship with the Savior, and inviting them to join them at worship and other activities of their church. As a result, new people not only get involved, but they are confronted with the claims of the Gospel and many get saved.

The cost of developing a new congregation is greater with each passing year. Twenty years ago, the average annual Home Mission subsidy was \$2,538 and in 1990, the average was \$11,881 per congregation. Giving to Home Missions by the people of the AFLC is clear evidence of a vision, as well as a commitment to



— Rev. Elden Nelson
Director of AFLC
Home Missions

Our Home Mission Congregations



Abiding Faith Free Lutheran, Ortonville, MN - Roy B. Johnson
 Abiding in the Vine, Pine City, MN - (Interim) Ralph Tjelta
 Abiding Savior Free Lutheran, Sioux Falls, SD - Michael Brandt
 AFLC, Canada
 Atonement Free Lutheran, Arlington, WA - Interim
 Bethany Lutheran, Spokane, WA - Doug Reitsch
 Christ Free Lutheran, Devils Lake, ND - Philip Rokke
 Christ Lutheran, Wichita Falls, TX - Interim
 Christ the King Free Lutheran, East Grand Forks, MN - Terry Wold
 Christian Free Lutheran, Wheatland, IA - Timothy Carlson
 Escanaba Free Lutheran, Escanaba, MI - Jerome Nikunen
 Faith Free Lutheran, Detroit Lakes, MN - Paul Larson
 Faith Lutheran, London, MN - Einar Unseth
 Good Shepherd Lutheran, Menomonie, WI -
 (Interim) Steve Lombardo
 Grace Free Lutheran, Edinburg, ND - James Rasmussen
 Grace Free Lutheran, Floodwood, MN - Emerson Anderson

Grace Lutheran, Aberdeen, SD - Alvin Magnuson
 Granite Free Lutheran, St. Cloud, MN - Interim
 Hope Free Lutheran, Rugby, ND - Henry Mohagen
 Living Faith Free Lutheran, Tucson, AZ - David Nelson
 Maranatha Free Lutheran, Coon Rapid, MN - Tonnes Pollestad
 Mt. Zion and Zion Lutheran, Kasson/Dexter, MN - Gordon Grage
 Shepherd's Church of the Valley, Murrieta, CA - David Skordal
 Our Savior's Lutheran, Chillicothe, IL - Richard Long
 Shepherd of the Valley Free Lutheran, Palmdale, CA - David Molstre
 Redeemer Free Lutheran, Canton, SD - Ronald Knutson
 St. John's Free Lutheran, Duluth, MN - Steve Kneeland
 Solid Rock Lutheran, Brooklyn Park, MN - Keith Quanbeck
 Trinity Free Lutheran, Janesville, WI - Kenneth Thoreson
 Unity Evangelical Lutheran, Massapequa, NY - Roy Warwick
 Warroad Free Lutheran, Warroad, MN - Paul Nash
 Word of Life Free Lutheran, Upsala, MN - Lyle Aadahl

HOME MISSION PARTNERSHIP

the task. Home Mission pastors and congregations often express their gratitude for both financial help and the prayer support they have realized. It is truly a blessing of God to have this partnership in the development of new congregations.

The cost of building has also increased greatly over the years. The Church Extension Fund, under the management of the Home Missions Committee, borrows money from individuals and congregations and then, in turn, lends it out to new congregations for building and/or purchase of property. At the present, nearly 100 individuals and 25 congregations have invested over two million dollars in Church

Extension. Their monies bear interest at a rate of seven percent, but even greater is the fact that these monies are being used in the development of Home Mission congregations, and so are an investment in things eternal. Another giving opportunity offered individuals and congregations is Builders Fellowship. A faith commitment of \$17 per month for five years builds equity in the Church Extension Fund and pays interest to Home Missions. So far, \$50,000 has been contributed to Builders Fellowship.

People, buildings and budgets are all a part of the work. However, it is most important that all involved in the Home Mission partnership have a vision for the lost souls of men and be focused upon the Lord Jesus. He has promised, "I will build My church."

HOME MISSIONS

Palmdale, California

"We Were Pleasantly Surprised"

Finding a church home that teaches and preaches the Word of God in a pure, yet loving and non-legalistic way is becoming more and difficult. Churches throughout this great nation of our are turning toward secular humanism, picking and choosing what part of the Bible they like and to which they will adhere.

When we came into the mission church of Shepherd of the Valley in Palmdale, California, we were pleasantly surprised to find traditional Lutheran theology. The Word from the pulpit was and is pure and teaching in the Bible classes sound and informative.

When we started attending Shepherd of the Valley in November, 1989, there were seldom more than eight adults and ten children. We met in a public school gymnasium.

Now, thanks to Home Missions and the hard work of laymen here and even volunteers from the Midwest, we meet in our own chapel.

Home Missions has helped us financially and spiritually. We now have over 20 adults and 20 children attending Sunday School class; and we have 15 to 20 adults meeting on Wednesday evenings for Bible study.

Worship service attendance has increased from under 20 to occasionally over 100.

We are encouraged and helped to grow by expanding our Christian knowledge and gifts. Pastor Molstre is training and encouraging the lay people to take a more active roll in all phases of Christian behavior. The men actively lead the congregation in worship, Bible studies and prayer. The women actively support all phases of the ministry, particularly outreach and prayer. Our music and choir are considered by some to be the best in the Valley.

We have a long way to go. California is not like the Midwest. It is a highly mobile society, requiring a special kind of Christian patience to understand. But, thanks to Home Missions for their outreach and vision in seeing where Christ wanted a new church and with the direction of the AFLC Mission Board and financial support of the Association, we now have the opportunity to grow in Christ.

We, from Shepherd of the Valley, want to express our gratitude to you, the AFLC missions, for starting this Christian opportunity and our heartfelt thanks for your continued support.

—Bob and Mary Rowe
Shepherd of the Valley
Lutheran Church
Palmdale, California

Duluth, Minnesota

"Welcome From The Very First Time"

I grew up in a wonderful Christ-centered home. Church and the people there were a very important part of my life. I attended church, Sunday School, Luther League, Bible studies, summer Bible camps and am a graduate of our Free Lutheran Bible School. It was at a Bible camp one summer that I made a commitment to Jesus. I learned then how important it was to have someone in my life who I could count on, someone who was with me all the time and someone who cared for me very much.

After we had our own children, it was important to me that they, too, have the same opportunities I had to hear about God and learn to know Him. We joined St. John's Free Lutheran Church three years ago. I know our children are hearing God's Word and that little seeds of truth are being planted in their hearts, which will stay with them forever.

St. John's has meant so much to me the past three years. We were made to feel so welcome right from the very first time we attended this church. We could sense that these people had a real love for others. Their focus was on



Shepherd of the Valley is located on 1½ acres off one of the busy four lane avenues in Palmdale.



On June 30, 1991, the new church in Palmdale was dedicated. There was also a baptism during the service.

DULUTH

sharing God's love with others and giving of themselves in so many ways.

I feel that I've grown in my faith and even been stretched on occasion. In a small congregation, everyone has to help out. Sometimes we find ourselves doing things we don't feel qualified to do or that we feel we aren't very good at. I believe it's important to keep our focus on Jesus and He will give us what we need when we need it. Our job is to be willing to be used by God. The people at St. John's are a wonderful example of this and have been a real inspiration to me. I know God is working in our little Home Mission church and I'm glad that my family and I can be a part of it.

—Arlene Eeden

*St. John's Free Lutheran Church
Duluth, Minnesota*

Rugby Congregation has Permanent Home

Hope Free Lutheran Church of Rugby, North Dakota, purchased the former First Presbyterian Church building. Hope Free Lutheran, a Home Mission church, has been renting this building in Pierce County built in 1897. The church has been maintained very well and is needing very little immediate repair. A new furnace is being installed in preparation for winter.

Wichita Falls, Texas "Adopted"

In our day of uncertainties in both the political and economic realms, and closer to home, as we think of the spiritual needs of people and the lack of funds to carry on the work, we need to be reminded of these words: "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things." Sometimes we forget these words of Scripture, and allow the "big, dark picture" to rob us of our joy in the Lord! Let me relate one example of how we can "keep the focus" of Philippians 4:8.

As pastor of a Home Mission congregation, I can safely say that we as a congregation have our "ups and downs. There are times when we really wonder about where we are going and how we are going to get there! Take for example our need for funds to fin-

ish our Sunday School rooms and help get this important ministry established. We had some children, we had some teachers, and then God provided the means. Amery Free Lutheran congregation (actually their Sunday School) "adopted" us as a project! Their prayers, their special offerings, their concern and enthusiasm, has made it possible to complete our Sunday School rooms (even as I write, carpet is being laid in the last room). We now have a very attractive and God-honoring facility for our Sunday School ministry. I know that they would not want the glory for this, but we are sure thankful that they honored the Lord in obedience to His promptings! I can't help but think that this kind of personal "one-on-one" concern is what will



Carlyne Holm, Home Missions office secretary.

Hope Free is encouraged with the purchase and is looking forward to growth going into the fall schedule. The church is in the process of calling a full-time pastor. Hope Free Lutheran is now being served by lay pastor Henry Mohagen.



Hope Free Lutheran Church.

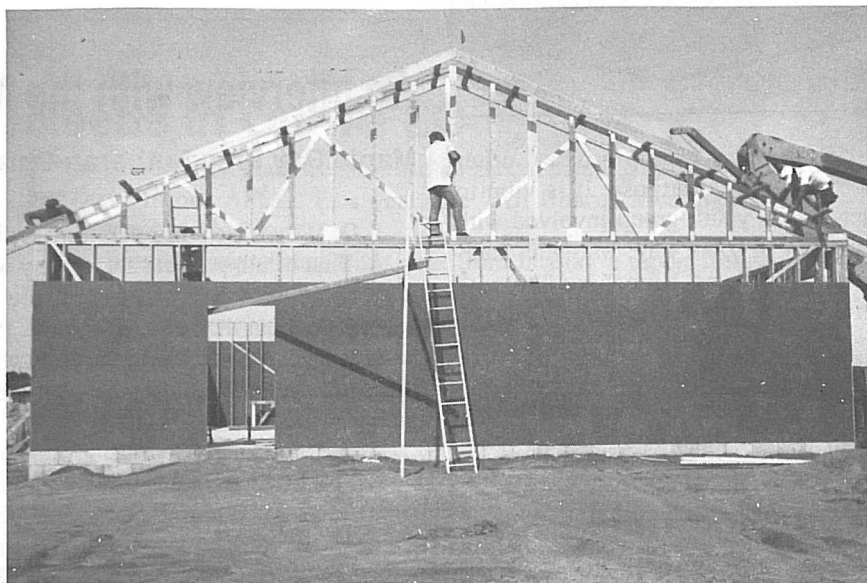


Representatives of Hope Free Lutheran received the abstracts as the Presbyterians were given the check for the building.

make our AFLC come through hard times! If every congregation (including us in new mission congregations) would capture the "personal vision" of helping other congregations, it would go a long way to further the Kingdom! After all, the AFLC is not an entity unto itself, it is **congregations** that work together! The AFLC work cannot go on without **congregations** that commit themselves to meet the needs!

I pray that the example of Amery Free Lutheran might speak to us all. We can become personally involved in the work of sister congregations. And, especially, that we might **pray** for one another!

—Rev. Michael Crowell
Christ Lutheran Church
Wichita Falls, Texas



Abiding Faith Free Lutheran under construction.

Ortonville, Minnesota

"The AFLC Offered an Alternative"

The decision to join Abiding Faith Free Lutheran Church was a decision based upon faith, truth and understanding.

Together with my wife, Sherrie, and our son, Brandon, we had visited numerous churches of various denominations. Some were stale and cold, unconcerned. We had visited one church for almost one year and yet the pastor did not know our names. The lay people didn't even visit with us. We were at the door of their church searching and they shut the door.

We were all disappointed with the churches we had visited. Sherrie and I prayed and discussed our alternatives.

After struggling for a long period of time, we visited the new Association Home Mission church, Abiding Faith. As typical of a small church, everyone noticed the new family. The members approached us with warmth and concern. We began to attend regularly and with our attendance, we realized that our faith had been strengthened. God's plan was slowly being revealed.

The AFLC offered an alternative. Our pastor has never missed a Sunday sermon without saying "We as Christians have a duty to live God's Word seven days a week, 24 hours a day. We as Christians must spread the Word of

God." This message has been delivered every Sunday with solid Biblical reasoning.

Our faith brought us to our congregation and truth has set us free to enable us to understand the real meaning of Christianity. All of us must remember daily our duty to live and spread the Word of God.

Since joining Abiding Faith, we have had the opportunity to share our God-given gifts in ministry; whether teaching Sunday School, serving on committees or boards, or sharing musically, we have experienced God's blessings in so many ways. It is a real delight fellowshiping together with God's people at Abiding Faith Free Lutheran and we look forward with great anticipation to God's blessing in the future as we seek to serve Him.



—Ronald R.
Frauenshuh, Jr.
Abiding Faith
Free Lutheran
Ortonville, Minnesota

Our forefathers believed that men everywhere without Christ were in imminent danger of facing the wrath of God. Our modern world has largely lost this urgent note in salvation. We need to restore it even in our AFLC. If we don't, our AFLC is not fulfilling its ministry. If we as an AFLC believe in the lostness of the human soul without Christ and we have the message to give to people who are groping for reality and life, we are guilty of criminal neglect (spiritually speaking) if we do not give them that Word of Life. You and I know that thousands of people today are not hearing the Word of God in all its truth and power. Many of these people in our cities and towns are calling to us to "Come over and help us." They want the truth. We are indebted to these people because we have the spiritual food.

—Rev. Herbert Franz

An Interview with the Maple Bay Puppet Team

Maple Bay Free Lutheran Church, Fertile, Minnesota

Here is an example of a Luther League with a purpose. It is vital to have your youth group involved with ministry in some way! May this interview Rev. Lynn Kinneberg had with his youth group spur your group to start a similar ministry or to launch out into another area of service.

— Rev. Dennis Gray
AFLC Youth Resources Director

The National Luther League Officers



Front: Matthew Greven, Devotional Life Secretary; Martina Johnson, Secretary; Earl Korhonen, Treasurer. Standing: Mark Johnson, 2nd Vice President; Pastor Terry Wold, President; Nathan Monseth, 1st Vice President.

T-shirts for Sale

The 1991 Luther League Convention, Estes Park, Colorado, is over. The effective work of the Holy Spirit continues in the hearts and lives of those who attended.

Also remaining are a few T-shirts.

Heavyweight gray \$10 (XL only), jade \$6 (L & XL only), white \$6 (XL only).

Orders will be filled on a 1st come, 1st served basis. Postage and handling are included.

Order from: N.L.L.F., 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441.

1. Q. Why have a puppet ministry in our congregation?

A. First of all, puppets are an easy way for youth to reach out to other people. It's a lot easier — especially if you are a shy person by nature — to witness from behind a curtain than go face-to-face. Puppets are also unique in that they can be blunt and yet the people get the point without being upset. We can also reach people of all ages with puppets. We have even ministered in the local nursing home with puppets.

2. Q. How did your youth group come about having a puppet ministry?

A. Our pastor asked us if we would be interested in doing something a little bit different as a youth group and suggested the idea of puppets. We made a puppet stage and purchased a few puppets to begin with. We bought some tapes and videos to learn how to do it all right. We started with simple scripts and worked our way up to a musical entitled, "Take a Stand."

3. Q. How did you get started in going to other churches?

A. That was easy — it was all by word of mouth. We just invited our friends and their families to our first program in our church and then they invited us to put on family night and Lutheran League programs in their own churches. Churches are always looking for something for their Sunday night programs. We try to go out once a month and put on a program.

4. Q. What contribution has the puppet ministry made to your youth group as a whole?

A. Having a puppet ministry has helped us to meet on a more regular basis. It has also gotten more people (parents as well as youth) involved and brought us closer together. And it is teaching us that we need to cooperate — to work together.

5. Q. What has been the highest (for you) of the youth's puppet ministry so far?

A. Putting on the programs in other churches. (Unanimous.)

6. Q. What has been the most difficult thing for you to learn in working with puppets?

A. Memorizing the scripts. Keeping my arms up over my head for so long a time. Being serious at the right time.

7. Q. What impact do you think that the puppets and puppet ministry has had on the younger kids in your church?

A. The younger kids really like the puppets and don't want to miss any time we put on a program in our church. They pay real close attention to everything and sit through the whole program. They remember just about everything that the puppets say and do — which is funny because they are so "squirmly" in church. The older ones are anxious for the time when they are old enough to begin working with the puppets.

8. Q. What word of advice would you give another youth group that has an interest in starting a puppet ministry?

A. Do it — it's great! Be ready to practice a lot!

The officers and advisors for our youth group are as follows: President, Elizabeth Pederson; Vice President, Paula Larson; Puppet Team Manager, Karen Larson; Secretary, Benjamin Floan; Treasurer, Peter Colligan; Devotional Life Secretary, Karen Larson; Ushers, Peter Larson, Joseph Ness; Advisors, Ken and Phyllis Pederson, Brent and Sherri Colligan, Pastor Lynn Kinneberg.

Mission Congregation Has a Special WMF Ministry

Christ Lutheran WMF ladies, Wichita Falls, Texas, wish to express thanks to each one of you who have purchased completed banners or banner kits from us. Because of you, this project (which is one year old since this past August) has given us over \$1,000 to spend on various ministries to further God's kingdom. We praise God for this! Your money has gone towards the following projects: Church Extension, Home Missions, World Missions, ARC Manna Addition, AFLTS Emergency Fund, WMF General Fund, Miriam Infant Home, Brazil Boy's Home, Banners and Bibles for Giles and Christ Lutheran Vacation Bible School.

Also, because of you, we have a great time of fellowship each Monday night when we work on these banners. Devotions and prayer is also a part of that night. We feel we must take every opportunity to further the spreading of God's Word. The Lord is the One who gave us the idea for the banner project and He is the One who gave us our abilities; therefore, we must make Him a priority at all times.

We wish to continue this ministry for years to come, according to God's will and plans. By so doing, we need your **continued** support of prayers and **orders!**

For any who still have not received a brochure, please send a business-sized self-addressed stamped envelope to Christ Lutheran WMF, 4300 FM 1954, Route 6, Wichita Falls, TX 76301.

We are in the process of offering some new banners. If you are interested, please do the same as above and ask for our new banners flyer.

Philippians 1:3, 4 "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all in view of your participation in the Gospel from the first day until now."

Pictured is a Monday night session at Christ Lutheran Church.

Our President Writes

Needs In Our AFLC

For a number of years we have had an annual meeting of all the boards which serve in our AFLC. This year, the "All Boards Meeting" was held on September 19.

Our program was changed this year from hearing a report from each of the boards, to a time of sharing various concerns and also what might be done to meet those concerns. We spent a very profitable morning.

A total of 21 concerns were mentioned. I cannot begin to enumerate all of them here, but I am choosing a number of them to share with our readers. I am sure that many of you will concur with these concerns.

Two of the concerns mentioned can be shared together. There is a lack of prayer on the part of individuals and in our homes and in our churches. We have need for a revival in our church. We must be faithful to the Word. It is the Word that will lead us to pray. God's promise is "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (II Chronicles 7:14). Revival tarries, because of a lack of prayer! Revival must begin in me!

Another need expressed for our AFLC is the lack of a clear vision for the lost. We will link that need to another one, a renewed vision for Home and World Missions. God wants His people to have a clear picture of "who are lost." When we recognize that there is salvation in Christ alone, we will also realize that all outside of Christ are lost. The burden for lost souls comes only when God can speak to the heart that will listen to Him. The response to "who will go for us?" will send us to witness to our neighbors and friends. It will deepen our concern for spreading the Gospel at home and abroad. When God has His way in our lives, there will also be an increased joy in giving.

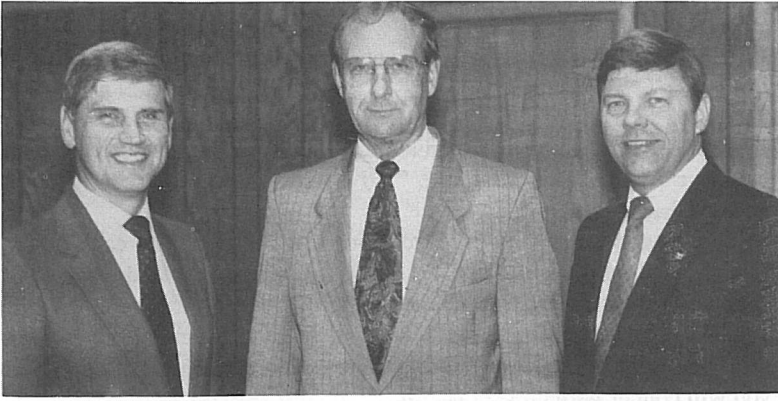
The last area of need that we can address in this article was expressed as a need for unity of purpose. We can accept one another's ways of reaching souls. We are brothers in Christ, and God works in different ways to accomplish the task of saving souls.

We trust that we have provided food for thought, and in fact, that it will become much more than that. May God continue to work out some of these needs in our own hearts.

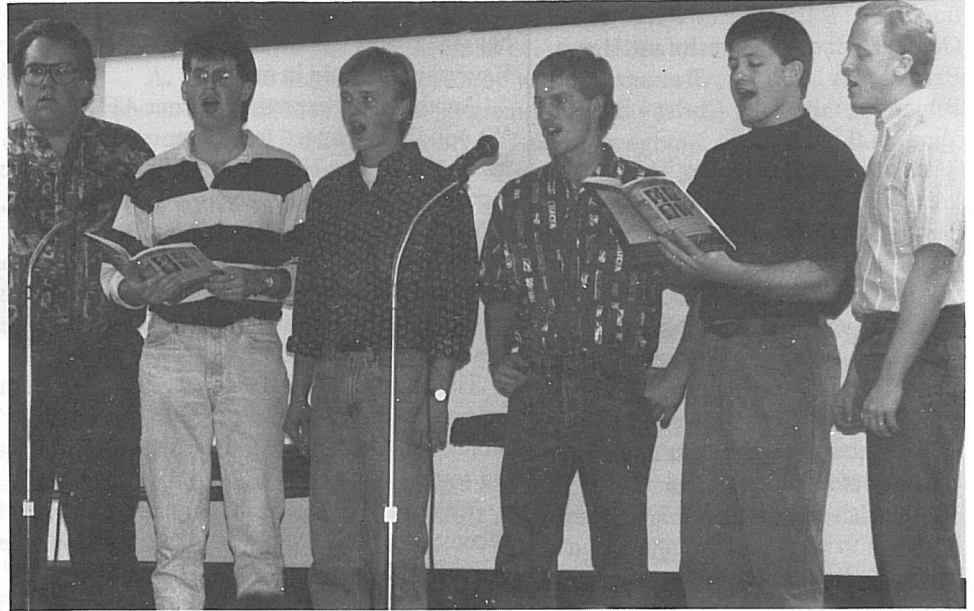
A complete listing of all the expressed needs is being compiled and will be sent to all pastors and board members.

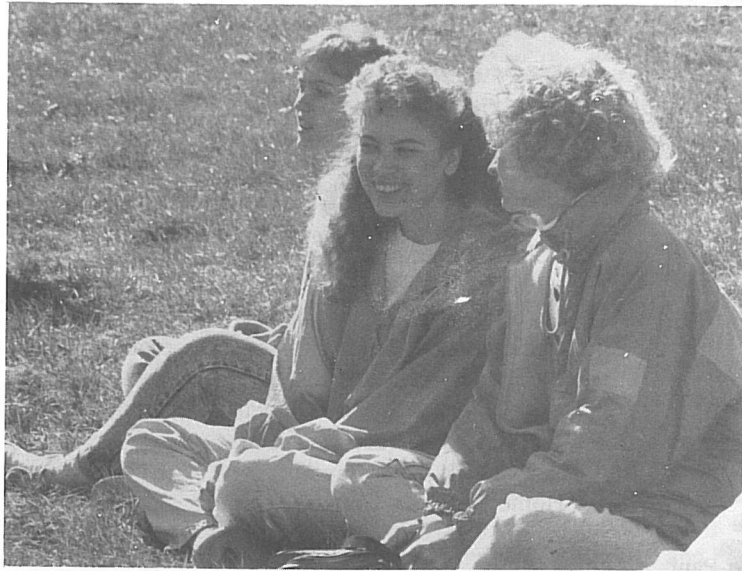
—Rev. Richard Snipstead





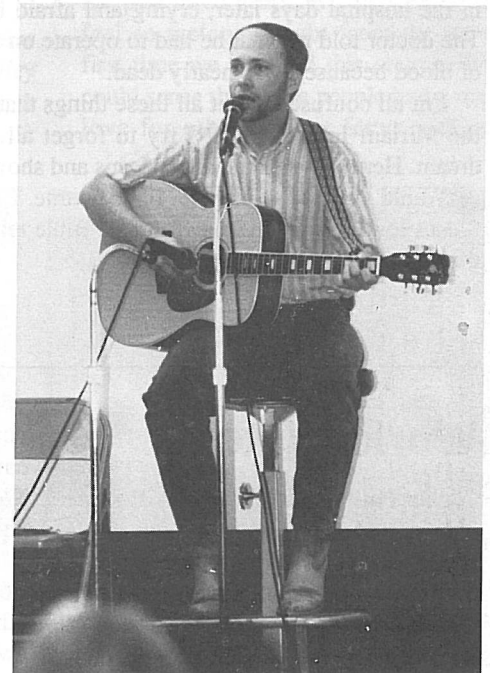
AFLBS's three deans: Rev. Kenneth Moland, Rev. Richard Snipstead and Rev. Don Greven.





**The 25th Anniversary
of the
Association
Free Lutheran
Bible School**

October 11-13, 1991



AFLC Home and World Missions Prayer and Praise

World Missions

Prayer Requests

1. That the church in Aguas (Mexico) will remain steadfast while the Giles family is on furlough.
2. Resolve of the legal action against the AFLC.
3. Missionaries, Chaplains and families, health, safety and ministry.
4. National workers in Brazil, India and Mexico.
5. Baker family in language school in Londrina, Brazil.
6. Pastor Michael Crowell and family as they move into the full-time military chaplaincy.
7. Needed funds to continue in the work.

Praise

1. Safe return to Brazil of Janet Gray (teacher to Paul Abel children).
2. Approval of documentation for the Baker family visas.

"The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much." James 5:16b

Home Missions

Prayer Requests

— Pray for finances needed to meet commitment and end year without debt.

— Congregations calling:

- Arlington, Washington
- Wichita Falls, Texas
- St. Cloud, Minnesota
- Rugby, North Dakota

— Pastors beginning new calls:

- Gordon Grage — Dexter/Kasson, Minnesota
- Mike Brandt — Sioux Falls, South Dakota
- Tonnes Pollestad — Coon Rapids, Minnesota
- David Nelson — Tucson, Arizona
- Roy Warwick — Massapequa, New York

— Home Missions Committee, Director, and Office Secretary

Praise

— Thanks for provision of facilities at:

- London, Minnesota (new construction)
- Janesville, Wisconsin (new construction)
- Rugby, North Dakota (purchase of existing building)

— Safe and fruitful summer ministry of Barnabas XVII.

— For the safe arrival of Josiah David, son of David and Sarah Nelson of Tucson, on September 20.

From the Miriam Infant Home

Hi! My Name is Rosana

I'm three years old and my Mommy was 13 years old when I was born. That is why Grandma took care of me with all my aunts and uncles living together. We were very poor. One day when Mommy was gone, my step-Daddy abused me. I hurt all over so much that I passed out. I don't remember anything, but I woke up in the hospital days later, crying and afraid because I didn't know where I was. The doctor told me that he had to operate on me three times and he gave me a lot of blood because I was nearly dead.

I'm all confused about all these things that happened, but the judge took me to the Miriam Infant Home. I try to forget all that happened to me. It's all a bad dream. Here they tell me about Jesus and show His love.

Would you please pray for me by name. I'm very scared of a lot of things. But, "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong; they are weak but He is strong."

Happily in the Infant Home,
Rosana



Julia, a worker at the Home with Rosana.

World Watch

Sao Paulo, Brazil (EP) — If some had suggested two decades ago that a Brazilian Christian should consider missions, "we would laugh," says Silas Tostes, director of Antioch Mission of Brazil, today the leading non-denomi-

national mission agency in Latin America. "We just thought of Americans and Europeans as missionaries. We didn't think that Brazil could become a missionary force."

All that changed in the early 1970s, however, when Barbara Burns, an American woman, "had this vision of awakening the church to do missionary

work," Tostes said. In the following two decades, her vision became a reality.

Antioch Mission, founded from that original vision, now runs a Bible school and supports 45 missionaries in 15 countries around the world. Antioch also operates an outreach to street children in Sao Paulo, and arranges for adoptions for these unwanted children.

AFLC Seminary Receives Grant

Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL), Appleton, Wisconsin, has awarded three grants totaling \$5,100 to Free Lutheran Theological Seminary in Minneapolis, a seminary of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

The first grant of \$2,500 has funded two courses in theology for parish pastors. An "institute in theology" course

was conducted for two weeks this summer, which offered an overview of each major theological discipline. In January, guest instructors will teach programs in their area of expertise during a three-week inter-term course.

The seminary will receive a \$1,300 grant to provide financial aid for seminary students who are pursuing initial theological degrees during

the 1991-92 academic year.

A faculty development grant of \$1,300 will be used to provide financial assistance for three faculty members to develop new teaching skills.

The grants were awarded through AAL's Church Vocations Enrichment Program. A total of \$450,000 in AAL grants have been awarded to 15 Lutheran seminaries across the country this year.



Construction has begun on the Administration Building. Pictured is the huge hole in front of the current Headquarters building. Volunteer construction labor is needed immediately. Call Headquarters at (612) 545-5631 if you can help!

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

AFLC Benevolences - February 1 - September 30

FUND	TOTAL BUDGET	REC'D IN SEPTEMBER	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	%* TOTAL
General Fund	\$ 276,830.00	\$12,841.81	\$118,116.88	43
Schools - (AFLTS) . .	151,900.00	7,530.57	54,333.83	36
(AFLBS) . .	193,950.00	9,400.31	75,124.91	39
Home Missions	433,616.00	23,810.61	170,586.13	39
World Missions	373,715.00	16,404.63	157,364.60	42
Capital Investment . .	25,000.00	1,187.39	14,979.92	60
Parish Education . . .	62,670.00	3,559.26	20,667.43	33
ARC	20,000.00	766.57	5,523.60	28
TOTALS	\$1,537,681.00	\$75,501.15	\$616,697.30	40
1990 - 1991	\$1,441,565.00	\$43,844.32	\$567,571.47	39
*Goal 67%				

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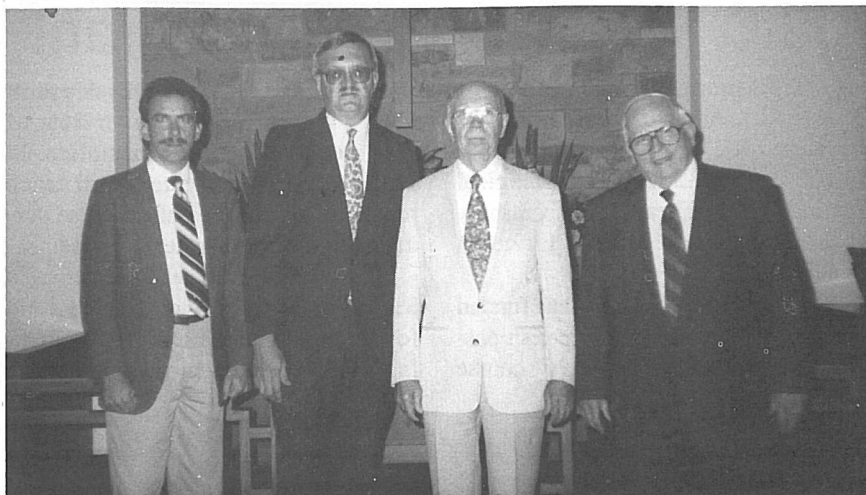
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/s/ Robert L. Lee, Editor

PEOPLE and PLACES

Eben Junction, Michigan — Calvary Free Lutheran Church celebrated the 25th anniversary of its affiliation with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations on Sunday, September 1. The day-long event began with a Festival Morning Worship Service at which Rev. James Johnson of Reva, South Dakota, a son of the congregation, preached the sermon, "A Renewed Church for a New 25 Years" from I Peter 2:4-10, and Holy Communion was observed. Mrs. Lynn (Jalonen) Lundquist of Coon Rapids, Minnesota, led in scripture and prayer and Rev. and Mrs. John Mundfrom provided a duet of "How Firm a Foundation."

In the afternoon, an anniversary service was held with Rev. Herb Franz of Dollar Bay, Michigan, a former pastor of the church, bringing the message. The service featured greetings from many pastors, including former pastor Tauno Jarvinen, now residing in Bloomington, Minnesota. In addition, written greetings were read from AFLC President Rev. Richard Snip-



Pastors at Calvary's anniversary: James Johnson, John Mundfrom, Tauno Jarvinen and Herbert Franz.

stead; Rev. Albert Hautamaki, a son of the congregation; and former pastors Hans Tollefson, Wallace Jackson and Peter Franz. Wives of two men who served the congregation in the past, Mrs. Myrtle Saukerson and Mrs. Mavis Tenneboe, also sent written greetings.

Calvary Free Lutheran Church has its roots in the old Suomi Synod when a charter was issued to establish an "Eben Finnish Evangelical Lutheran

Church" in 1905. In 1966, the congregation voted to affiliate with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC), and chose the name Calvary Free Lutheran Church. Rev. John Mundfrom is the current pastor.

Rev. Michael Crowell, Wichita Falls, Texas, announced his resignation as pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, and will begin service as an army chaplain on November 4.

Rev. Kerwin Sletto, Bismarck, North Dakota, resigned as pastor of Calvary Free Lutheran Church, where he has served since 1988. He is available for call.

Rev. Dennis Brostrom, Patterson, California, has accepted a call to serve Grace Lutheran Church, Bruce, South Dakota. He has been placed by the Coordinating Committee on the Fellowship Roster, coming from The AALC, and will move to his new parish in early November.

Badger, Minnesota — Oiland Free Lutheran Church hosted special meetings on October 6-9, with Rev. Michael Brandt, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, as the speaker.

Roseau, Minnesota — The fall evangelism conference of Spruce Free Lutheran Church was held on October 20-23, with Rev. Dennis Gray, Greenbush, Minnesota, as the guest speaker.

Plymouth, Minnesota — Rev. Wendell Johnson, Spicer, Minnesota, spoke for the "Life in Christ Crusade" at Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, October 20-24.



Families and youth from the Eagle Butte and Faith congregations (South Dakota), went rattlesnake hunting on September 29. Pictured are the parish hunters with three of the ten snakes captured.

Rev. James and Ann Asp, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, marked their golden wedding anniversary on August 4, 1991, during a celebration with family and friends at Northwestern College, Roseville, Minnesota.

Faith, South Dakota — Faith Lutheran Church has scheduled special meetings for November 10-14, with Rev. Philip Featherstone, Pukwana, South Dakota, as the speaker.

Rev. Roy Warwick, Aberdeen, South Dakota, has accepted a call from Unity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Massapequa, New York. He began serving the Long Island congregation on October 1.

HARVEST FIELDS AT HOME

Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest, (John 4:35).

Home Missions are missions. This is a fact that should be stated frequently. One might assume that the words themselves would leave no doubt as to their meaning. Home ... Missions ... missionary work that is done at home, i.e., in one's own homeland. But even the obvious can easily be overlooked.

There is a certain mindset among us that confines missions to foreign lands alone, across an ocean, on another continent. Some even have difficulty with the concept of urban world outreach, and can only conceive of missionaries ministering in jungle villages.

Another attitude is similar, but more self-centered. "Our congregation was organized without any mission support," some people declare. "Why should we help to establish churches in prosperous suburban communities? Let them do it themselves like we did!"

One of the marks of a living congregation is a vision for missions. This also holds true for a church fellowship. But our vision is shortsighted indeed if it does not include the unreached multitudes in the United States and Canada, our homelands, as true mission fields.

Remember that there are harvest fields at home, too, which have a right to be called missions. Remember the Home Missions pastors when you pray for missionaries. Remember to invite a home missionary to your missions conferences. Remember to include Home Missions when you give to missions.

Remember the Lord of the harvest, who still will pour out upon His people a love for lost souls both at home and abroad.

BUILDERS FELLOWSHIP

Are you concerned about the Home Mission outreach of the AFLC? Have you ever wondered what you could do to be more personally involved in it?

Join Builders Fellowship, one of the best-kept secrets in our church fellowship!

The purpose of Builders Fellowship is to increase the equity and available loan money in the Church Extension Fund, as well as to generate interest money for the benefit of Home Missions. The plan is to build a fellowship of one thousand concerned friends who would make a faith commitment of \$17 a month for a five-year period.

Unfortunately, the concept has failed to capture the commitment of more than a few individuals, and a small dining room is sufficient for seating those who attend the Builders Fellowship luncheon at annual conference. Instead of one

thousand concerned friends, the fellowship is still struggling to reach a goal of one hundred members.

Why?

The answer for some may be the sum of money required, but surely there are many who could make this financial commitment without any fatal pocketbook pain. The answer for others may be a conviction against making any financial commitments at all, a bias that usually lacks any consistent basis when considered in the light of our other financial affairs.

There is no doubt that a more determined effort could be made to inform our AFLC people about this program, so that it would no longer be such a well-kept secret. Yet the danger of publicizing a program to death must always be avoided, too.

Perhaps the Builders Fellowship is a place where you might be led to confirm your commitment to the ministry of AFLC Home Missions. Please contact the headquarters office for further information. Beat the crowds, and become a member while it's still exclusive!

LET THE CHILDREN COME

A local newspaper quoted a certain guest pastor who was asked to state his speaker's fee. "One thousand dollars if I have to preach a children's sermon," he declared, "and no charge if I don't."

These sentiments echo the fears that many pastors feel when approaching what has become almost a standard feature in the worship services of countless churches. It is not a subject that we were taught in seminary (Homiletics IV — Children's Sermons?), and sometimes not a little frustration can result from last minute efforts to find creative and original resource material, especially if you try to co-ordinate it with the "regular" sermon for the day.

Pastors, we can encourage one another. The children's sermon is an opportunity to create a special relationship with some of the most important members of your congregation. Also, I believe that those moments with the little ones can touch the hearts and minds of the "big ones" who are listening, too. Let's not neglect our homework.

Pastors, we can help one another. Perhaps a session might be set aside at pastors' conference or district fellowships, following a presentation by an experienced veteran of preaching to children with a time for passing on to one another the brainstorm and resource books that have proven most useful to us. Let's not neglect the opportunities to learn from one another.

Monrovia, Liberia (EP) —The Lutheran World Federation has resumed its relief work in Liberia after a ten-day suspension, according to a report from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. All relief work in the area was stopped when 35 Lutheran World Service relief personnel were abducted by the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, a rebel army, and held for questioning. The rebel group also confiscated four LWF pickup trucks. After the incident, the United Nations stepped in, calling on Charles Taylor, leader of the rebel army, to guarantee the security of relief workers and supplies, and to allow access to distribution sites and beneficiaries.

Denton, Texas (EP) —Despite threatened legal action from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), a Denton, Texas, high school marching band performed a halftime show that featured religious songs.

The ACLU sought an injunction against the show, but because the group decided against seeking an emergency injunction, no court decision was reached by the time of the halftime show, which featured such pieces as "The Doxology" and a Dixieland version of "Send the Light."

While the school may face a suit over allowing the band to play, it could also have faced legal action if it canceled the show. The Rutherford Institute, a civil liberties organization specializing in the defense of religious freedom, was prepared to offer free legal representation to students who wanted to sue for their right to play religious music.

Minneapolis, Minnesota (EP) —Criticism from the Jewish community over a recent national conference for Messianic Jews has Messianics crying foul.

Articles decrying the event and its leaders appeared in issues of the "American Jewish World," a Jewish newspaper, weeks before it was held in Minneapolis. Of particular concern to many Jewish leaders: a mass mailing by conference leaders inviting thousands of Jews to attend the conference. One rabbi, in a piece printed the first day of the conference in the Minneapo-

lis *Star Tribune*, accused conference organizers of treading on the rights of Jews to religious freedom.

Quite the contrary, says Ed Rothman, senior pastor of Seed of Abraham, a Messianic congregation in Minneapolis, which sponsored the conference. It is Messianic Jews whose religious freedom rights have been violated.

In rebuttal, Rothman wrote, "One of the inalienable rights guaranteed to us as citizens of this country is to express our beliefs freely to anyone who cares to listen. In today's world of mass mailings to target markets I am surprised that we are portrayed as violating the religious freedom of others by sending them an invitation to investigate what many Jews have found to be 'the spiritual truth.'"

"We are exactly what the early first century Jewish followers of Messiah were. We are coming back to first century Messianism," said Jeff Kipp, co-pastor of Seed of Abraham. (Note: Kipp also represents "Good News for Israel," a Lutheran missionary fellowship supported by many AFLC members.)

Tupelo, Mississippi (EP) —Despite the thousands of letters of protest from participants in a boycott led by Christian Leaders for Responsible Television (CLEAR-TV), spokespersons for the S.C. Johnson and Pfizer Companies say they won't change the way they buy television time. CLEAR-TV, a coalition of about 1,600 Christian

leaders, is urging a boycott of S.C. Johnson (makers of Johnson Wax products) and Pfizer (maker of Barbasol Shaving Cream, Ben Gay Rub, etc.). The group says the companies advertise on television programs which prominently feature sex, violence, and profanity. Pfizer has reportedly received between 13,000 and 15,000 pieces of boycott-related mail.

New York, New York (ABS) —Bible Society personnel in Moscow distributed more than 6,000 New Testaments to Soviet soldiers at the height of tension during the recent coup attempt in the Soviet Union, the United Bible Societies reports.

The New Testaments were given only to soldiers poised to attack coup resisters, and all but one officer allowed their troops to accept the books. The commander of a parachute detachment who opposed the New Testament distribution was ignored by colleagues.

"What has happened is a real miracle of our Lord," reported a translation consultant from Moscow. "We called on the (soldiers) not to kill their brothers, and to obey the legitimate authorities. The reaction was positive, one could see that in the Russia of our days, the Word of God is very much respected, even among those who did not have the opportunity to read it previously ... this was the most common case among the soldiers. We ask you to pray for our people."