

# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

October 2, 1990

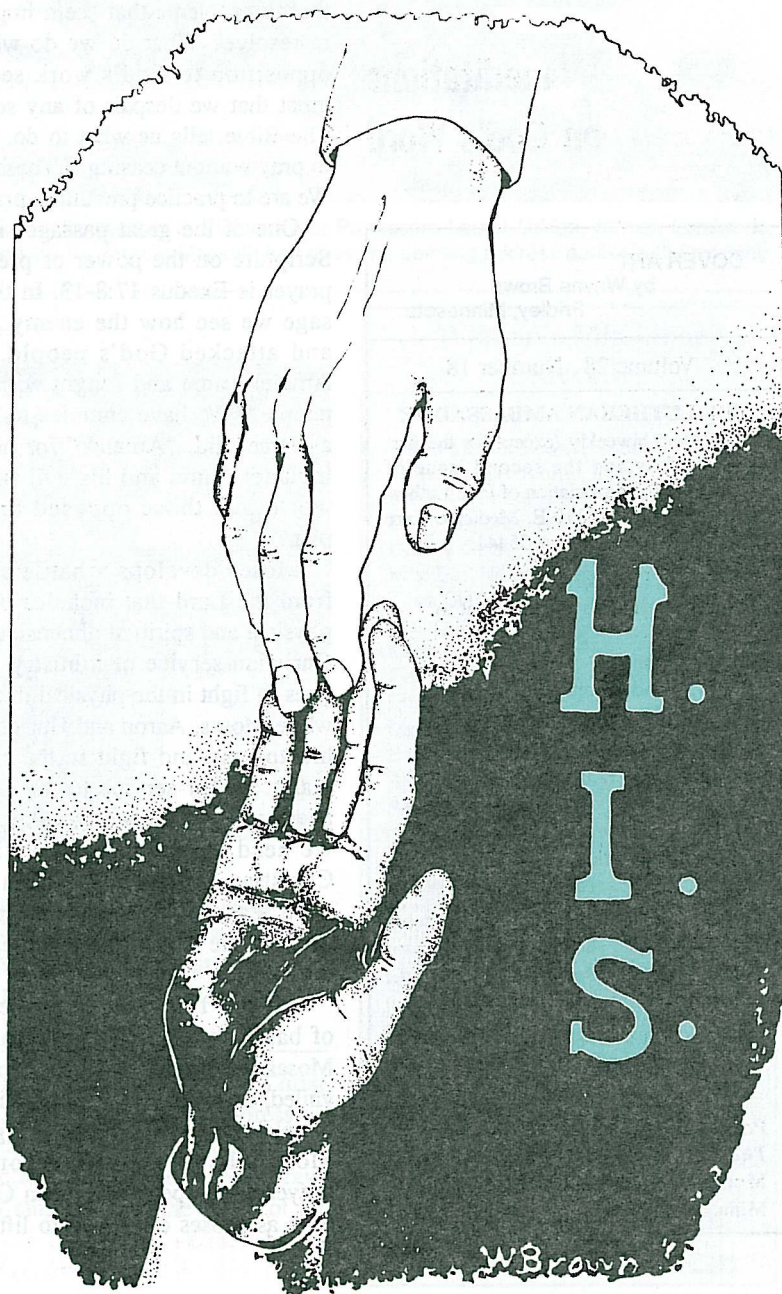
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# LIGHT on the WAY

## meditations on God's Word

### COVER ART

by Wayne Brown  
Fridley, Minnesota

Volume 28 Number 18

### THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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## The power of prevailing prayer

**A**s we live the Christian life we experience difficulties, obstacles and spiritual attacks that seem impossible to overcome. Perhaps we are plagued by an interpersonal conflict that seems impossible to resolve. Perhaps we have encountered a major obstacle to our own personal ministry, or the ministry of our local congregation. Whatever the problem might be, we sometimes feel discouraged and helpless. At times it may even seem that no solution is in sight.

What do we do when we face thorny problems that seem impossible to resolve? What do we do when the opposition to God's work seems so great that we despair of any solution? The Bible tells us what to do. We are to pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17). We are to practice prevailing prayer.

One of the great passages in Holy Scripture on the power of prevailing prayer is Exodus 17:8-13. In this passage we see how the enemy arrived and attacked God's people. "Now Amalek came and fought with God's people." We have enemies today just as Israel did. "Amalek" for us today includes Satan and his evil host, the world and those opposed to God's plan.

Moses develops a battle strategy from the Lord that includes both the physical and spiritual dimension of our Christian service or ministry. Joshua goes to fight in the physical dimension while Moses, Aaron and Hur go up the hill to pray and fight in the spiritual realm. In our service to the Lord we need to pray and work. Like Joshua, we need to enter the front lines of Christian service and action as the Lord leads. Like Moses, we need to support the ministries of others with our prayers.

In verse 11, we read how the course of battle developed. "So it was when Moses held up his hand that Israel prevailed, and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed." The lifting up of Moses' hands signified continual prayer and dependence upon God. As long as Moses continued to lift up his

hands in prayer, Israel prevailed. When Moses became tired and ceased in prayer Amalek prevailed. We see an important principle of spiritual warfare here. As long as we continue in prayer and persevere in it, the devil and his evil host are driven back in retreat. When we let up in prayer the devil moves in to take back the ground he formerly lost.

Why did Moses let up in prayer? We read that his hands became heavy. Prayer is hard work. Like Moses, we too at times become weary in our prayer ministry.

Aaron and Hur came to Moses' relief. They took a stone and put it under him, and they "supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side, and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun" (Ex. 17:12). Moses could not win the prayer battle alone. He needed the help of the brethren. Like Moses, we too need the prayer support of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Many battles can only be won with the help of the brethren.

As Moses, Aaron and Hur continued in prayer the victory came. "Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of his sword (Ex. 17:13). When we persevere in prayer, we will experience victories that truly amaze us.

May we remember the power of prevailing prayer when we are under enemy attack. As we continue in prayer and make use of the help of the brethren, we will experience victories in the Lord's work. "When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Lord will raise up a standard against him" (Isaiah 59:19).



—by Rev.  
Mark R. Bateson



**D**isaster. Tragedy. Long term illness. These and other words communicate to us pictures of sadness, desperation and hopelessness. But it never really hits us until we are personally involved or someone close to us experiences such a thing. Then we "feel" the hurt and pain. Again and again the community in a wonderful way responds, extending aid and doing all that there is possible to help in whatever way that goes far beyond meeting a monetary need.

This is why we have H.I.S., which is an acronym for Help-In-Service. Many years ago, our AFLC decided to establish a special fund to help those in financial distress. It was the right thing to do and many in our AFLC have given to this fund and out of it many have been helped. This is right according to Scripture (I Timothy 5:17, 18; Romans 15:27; Matthew 10:40-42). It has been a "cup of cold water" to those in the midst of their stressful situations. And so we call it the H.I.S. Fund because we believe that provision is from Him.

Meanwhile, all around us are those suffering from debilitating diseases that quietly and determinedly sap strength and health. Sometimes these conditions go on for long years and in other cases it takes the life of the individual. Sometimes it happens to pastors, workers or their families in the AFLC. In the midst of it they live under the awesome stress of unending medical bills and for years they struggle with such indebtedness. This has already happened to several in our AFLC.

Indebtedness can come not only from health problems and disasters but economical depression that hits certain areas in which we live. Indebtedness can come to those that serve the Lord from low salaries, the purchasing and upkeep of automobiles, the need to be properly dressed for work, and expenses for church commitments such as Bible camps, conferences, annual meetings and other activities for which they are not reimbursed. True, for some, it is simply a lack of discipline in handling personal finances. But in all cases, the stress and defeat experienced hurts so deeply and debilitates so totally that not only the servant but the congregation and the kingdom's ministry throughout the world is affected.

I am not one who buys into the fallacy that if we had enough money all our problems would be solved. On the other hand I must speak honestly to the reality of the low income level of many of our pastors, lay pastors and workers in the AFLC. Added to that problem, is their

# HIS HELP

**"...because  
we believe  
that provision  
is from Him."**

inability to provide health, pension and life insurance for their families. It is impossible for some to do so, and they often go on without coverage, living with the black cloud of worry that illness could strike them. It is a worrisome stress that ought not to be in their lives.

Added to the complexity of the problem are the uninsurable pastors, workers or their families. While we have an excellent health plan with a reliable company, we do not have enough in the group to make it a "true group." Here is where the problem lies: A "true group" means that we have at least 75% of everyone on the roster under the health plan. It is hard to come up to that level when the uninsurable folks have been turned down because of their past or present health history. If we did qualify to have a "true group", these same individuals would be permitted to come in under the plan. But for now, our uninsurable ones have to go searching for their own coverage or simply go without. This ought not to be!

H.I.S. is administered by the Pension Board. Requests are made to the Board, or in other situations they are made aware of a need and make contact with the families. Guarding the confidence of these people, the Board seeks to meet the immediate financial needs. In some of the cases the need goes far beyond a quick solution or simply providing dollars. In such cases the Board has sought to provide extended services with these funds and according to the particular circumstances.

Having served on this Board, I know what it has meant to those who have received this help and encouragement. They know that others care. They have experienced a crisis averted.

The Board has had funds available so that help could be given. I also know the men who serve on the Board and their caring in Christ's Name to meet the needs of people. I appreciate them so much and encourage you to pray for them as they carry out this very important ministry.

As we once again think about the H.I.S. Fund and the offerings to be received this year, I would encourage you to prayerfully consider your part in an offering. I would also encourage every congregation in the AFLC to make the decision this year to put into their budget a health benefit for their pastors and make it possible to reach the 75% necessary to make us a "true group." Then, we would be helping in an even greater way.



— by Rev. Richard Gunderson, Lake Stevens, Washington



# A GIFT TO THE CHURCH

**P**aul, in his letter to the church in Ephesus, tells of gifts from God to the church. These gifts are people with consecrated God-given abilities that are needed by the church. These gifts are needed to build up the Body of Christ, to lead saints from childishness, with little discernment, to maturity in Christ (Eph. 4). These gifts are needed to lead, to pull, the saints in Christian growth. (Christian growth does not come by being pushed.) It is one of the critical responsibilities of the church to recognize these gifts from God, to seek them out, and to use them to their full potential. They generally do not volunteer, and what they profit from their service is of minor significance to them.

Pastor Raynard Huglen had been asked to give two presentations at the organizing conference of the AFLC in 1962. The first was to be a summary of the reasons why the people assembled could not become a part of the ALC. It was critical, but not harsh nor condemning. It recognized that many fine Christians were in that body, and much good would be done by it. "We

would not cut ourselves off from them in taking this action," Huglen said. He spoke in Christian love.

Pastor Huglen then read the "Declaration of Faith," a positive statement of the faith and convictions of those assembled. It is a classic statement, scripturally sound, concise, and even devotional. It bears repeated study and meditation. And, among other things, it reveals the "spirit" of the author.

A church needs a publication to bind it together, to reveal its purposes, to defend its positions, and, above all, to magnify its Lord. The right editor is essential. There was little question after Pastor Huglen's presentations that God had gifted him for such responsibility. The task was awesome. There was nothing "human" to start with. Yet the logistics of writing and arranging, of securing a mailing list, a publisher, and arranging for mailing were all taken care of. And Pastor Huglen was still serving as a pastor. The issues came out regularly and on schedule. The budget to work with was small and the

## One family's testimony

### The H. I. S. Fund in action

**D**uring the past six years the Lord has richly blessed us, even though at times it hasn't always seemed that way. You see, He has sent to us events in our lives that have really tested us and made us fully dependent on Him.

Through these events we have learned how to be more sensitive to those who have similar needs and have been able to reassure them of the Lord's continued love and blessings. We can share with them in a personal and living way, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of need" (Psalm 46:1).

We have had during this time, besides our current living expenses, a great deal of medical expenses due to Linda's lung and eye problems. We are deeply thankful and appreciative of the help of the Pension Board through the Help-In-Service Fund of the AFLC. They have supported and encouraged us with prayers, suggestions, insurance, which is a tremendous benefit to our AFLC pastors and families. They added financial assistance to cover other expenses during this time. We don't know how we would have made it at times without their help. We also are thankful to our congregations for the prayer sup-

port and help that they have given to us.

Some have said that our AFLC insurance and pension are too expensive. We have found the coverage, help, peace of mind and the fact that it covers even when you move to a different state, makes it tremendous coverage. We would encourage all our pastors and congregations to consider those things.

The work of Jesus, at times, is very heavy and when illness strikes you or a loved one, it is an added burden spiritually, mentally and financially. But the promise of Jesus to be our refuge and strength is a reality. He never lets us down.

The Help-In-Service Fund of the AFLC was set up to provide help for those pastors and pastor's families who really need it. Our deep heartfelt thanks goes to the people of the AFLC who give to keep this program going. We remember daily in our prayers the men who have the responsibility to administer it.

May the Lord continue to bless and keep each of you.

*Pastor Stephen E. and Linda Odegaard  
Tioga, North Dakota*



salary insignificant. *The Lutheran Ambassador* was read and loved.

We pay tribute to Pastor Raynard Huglen for what he has done, and for what he is. He is a Lutheran by conviction, not by convenience or situation. He does not apologize for his strong defense and promotion of the Lutheran doctrine. His heart bleeds for those who are Lutheran by name only.

Pastor Huglen is also ecumenical. He knows there are Christians in other church bodies, and that they are doing much good work, even though he must often disagree with them. In his desire to agree, he does not compromise his convictions.

For Pastor Huglen, the Word of God is the authority in all matters. God's Word is his food, guide and stay.

Pastor Huglen is a pietist, in the good sense of that word. He believes that the Christian life style is far different from the normal life style of the unbeliever. The Christian must be "salt and light" in our world. He has taken leadership in opposing racism, the liquor industry, and social trends contrary to the letter and spirit of God's Word.

Pastor Huglen loves the church. The Christian congregation is at the heart of his concerns. He recognizes that the congregation's work from week to week is God's first line for nurturing the saints, and for evangelism. The sins of others are not his chief concern, but the solid spiritual development of the AFLC congregations.



Pastor Huglen's style is folksy. People understand him for he speaks their language. A sample was this column, "Life on the Edge of Town." The senior citizens in particular, who are often, as it were, "living on the edge of town," were very sorry when the column was scrubbed.

Pastor Huglen is not paranoid. He is an easy man to disagree with. He accepts people who disagree with him. His friendly, patient, and understanding nature has stood him in good stead through the years.

We pray that God will richly bless Pastor Huglen, and trust that his witness will continue. We pray that God will continue to send such "gifts" to His church, and that the church will recognize them and use them.

—Rev. John P. Strand  
Remer, Minnesota

## Thank you, Mr. Editor

What suitable thing can we say to you, Mr. Editor, in honor of your 27 years as writer and editor of *The Lutheran Ambassador*?

Hundreds and thousands have read you.

Your widely read editorials have touched every aspect of personal and church life. For example, "...every sermon should contain something quickening unto life for those in spiritual slumber, and for believers who need to be exhorted and encouraged to greater earnestness."

You have been salt to the AFLC.

You have also been fine sugar.

Once you wrote "Life on the Edge of Town." There we saw a real human being on the other end of the pen. I quote: "The second observation about driving is that the old nature rides along very naturally." Other times you

wrote of wildlife and gardens. We lay people were more interested in the beets and carrots you were growing than in pages of lofty definitions of Confessions and Evangelism.

Your editorial about our observance of Sunday closed with the words, "Perhaps our readers have thoughts to share on this subject." However, both laity and clergy remained silent. You could say that "we have piped unto

you and you have not danced; we have mourned to you and you have not wept."

But you never used your editorial pulpit to chastise us.

Thank you for faithfulness in the face of indifference.

Thank you for lifting us up. God lifted you up.

—Susan Nordvall-Mellstrom  
Roseau, Minnesota

## In appreciation

As an editor Pastor Raynard Huglen wanted first of all that *The Lutheran Ambassador* bring glory to Jesus. The very first page was always a devotional with that purpose, and the entire magazine was dedicated to the same goal. He was concerned that it reflect Biblical truth and sound Lutheran doctrine.

He was an editor who loved variety

and welcomed new insights in telling the old, old story. On controversial issues he welcomed both the pros and the cons.

As a Christian writer, Pastor Huglen has been helpful and encouraging to others and inspired them to write. I shall always consider him a dear friend.

—Gerald F. Mundfrom  
Osceola, Wisconsin



# Introducing our editors

**Robert Lloyd Lee**, son of Lloyd and Eleanor Lee, was born and raised in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where his parents still reside in the city of Escanaba.

His studies continued after high school at the University of North Dakota and Augsburg College, from which he graduated with a major in history. Responding to God's call, he enrolled in the second class at Free Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Opportunities opened for service in AFLC parishes during these years of preparation, and he ministered as a student pastor in Newfolden, Strandquist, Fosston, Bagley, and Austin, Minnesota; Ferndale, Washington; and Grand Forks, Buxton, Hatton, Portland, and Tioga, North Dakota. The latter parish called him as pastor upon seminary graduation, and he was ordained at the Annual Conference in 1968.

He was married to Gloria James in 1967, and they are the parents of two children: Adam, a graduate of AFLBS and a sophomore at Christ College, Irvine, California; and Amy, a second-year student at AFLBS.

A call to Valley City, North Dakota, was accepted in 1972, and he served a two-point parish there until accepting a call to become a faculty member at the AFLC Schools in 1979, where he taught until returning to parish ministry last January as pastor of Helmer Lutheran Church, rural Newark, Illinois.

A highlight of his teaching years was weekend ministry at Zumbrota, Cokato, and East Grand Forks, Minnesota; Canton, South Dakota; Park River and Larimore, North Dakota; and Ottawa, Illinois. He also completed a Th. M. Degree at Bethel Theological Seminary with a thesis on "the Revival in the Nineties" among Norwegians in America.



Pastor Lee, who recently began his sixth term as the AFLC's vice-president, has been a frequent contributor to *The Lutheran Ambassador*. He also writes for *Budstikken*, a Norwegian-American journal, and published in 1985 a novel entitled "Fever Saga," based on the life of his great-grandfather. His latest (and greatest?) achievement was the first place award in a contest for composing a fifth verse to the ballad, "O Lutfisk!"



**Solveig Hjermstad**, the daughter of the late Rev. Raymond and Esther Larson, was reared in five parsonages in Illinois, Washington and Minnesota. In 1968, she graduated from high school in Kenyon, Minnesota.

Solveig graduated from Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina, with a degree in Secondary Education and History. After college, she spent four more years in the South teaching history and journalism at Pensacola Christian School, Pensacola, Florida.

In 1976, Solveig began teaching Christian Education at AFLBS while studying for a year at the University of Minnesota's School of Journalism. Five years later, she resigned from AFLBS. However, she continued her part-time work as layout editor of *The Lutheran Ambassador*, which she had been doing for two years. In June of 1981, she married Rev. Wayne Hjermstad, Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

Currently Wayne and Solveig and their three children, Micah, Gracia and Rebecca, reside in St Paul, Minnesota, where Wayne serves Victory in Christ Lutheran. Solveig's magazine responsibilities have increased now as assistant to the new *Lutheran Ambassador* editor, Rev. Robert Lee.



## SELF-ESTEEM

Bill had called a girl for a date. He was excited because his friend Bob had gotten a date just yesterday. It was Bob's first date. It would have been Bill's first date, too, but the girl he called told him no.

Bob told himself, "I'll never get a date. No girl will ever want to go out with me. I guess I'll just stay at home by myself." Why did Bill respond this way?

It might be what we could call a lack of self esteem. Self esteem is the mental picture we have of ourselves. It is how we see ourselves. Often time we get false ideas of ourselves and these are reflected in the picture.

Bob needed to ask himself if it was really true that he would never get a date. He was certainly down at the time she said no. The kind of "self talk" Bob had right then determined

his attitude about himself and dating.

Bob's attitude about himself will affect how he relates to other people. It may be hard for him to make friends or to keep them because he is down on himself.

Friends are important to all of us. Since Bob may not have as many friends, or feels lonely or unwanted, he may then begin to think he is not worth having friends or that they think just like he does about himself.

Bob needs to lay aside his idea that all of his friends see him just as he sees himself. Sometimes teens feel everybody knows a lot more about themselves than they really do. And, such thinking can reflect in their attitude.

We all need to remember that people do not know our thoughts. They do not all see the hair that is misplaced like we do. We must be careful not to make a case against ourselves when there is no case at all! We need to eval-

uate every situation and everything people say! And we need to do it carefully and with prayer.

First, remember that the Lord Jesus Christ accepts you! He gave Himself for you and died on the cross for you! There is a reason for you being born.

Secondly, remember a Bible verse which gives you confidence, like, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."

Remember, too, that you are a unique person with special talents and God-given abilities. You don't have to succeed at everything. All the Lord really wants from you is to do the best you can!

Bob needed to remember that the Lord has someone special for him for that first date. What do you think?

—Dennis Gray

Youth Resources Director

## Eighth annual Vernon Youth Festival held

We of the Vernon Youth Festival Committee are grateful and elated that the Holy Spirit has again used our efforts to bring souls to Jesus. The 1990 Festival was held at Silver Star Ski Village near Vernon from August 16 to 19. This was the 8th annual Vernon Youth Festival and, judging from the joy and enthusiasm of all concerned, the tradition will continue!

Our theme for this year's Festival was taken from Revelation 3:20. We presented the idea that Jesus is always knocking at our door, hoping to enter into an ever deepening relationship with us. We may answer His knock by accepting salvation, by making a fuller commitment, by strengthening our prayer life, by repenting of a problematic sinful behavior, or by any number of growth steps to which the Holy Spirit prompts us.

Each youth at the Festival attended four small group sessions. These sessions were designed to be of practical help to the youth in their everyday Christian walk. The four topics addressed were prayer, personal evan-

gelism, coping with peer-pressure, and knowing and using our God-given gifts.

The small group sessions were well received. Many of the youth said that they had gained new insights. We thank God for the willing and gifted people that He sent to minister at the Festival this year, and for the open and receptive hearts that received their offerings.

The Vernon Youth Festival is an inter-denominational gathering of youth and their Christian leaders. Our chief aim is to win souls for Jesus, and

## Announcements

### LAKEVILLE, MINN.

The Minneapolis District Youth Rally will be at Minnesota Valley Lutheran Church on October 6.

### EAST GRAND FORKS, N. DAK.

Christ the King Lutheran Church is hosting a Luther League Rally on October 6-7, for the N.W. Minnesota District.

also to encourage fellowship among our Christian youth. The Vernon Youth Festival is sponsored by Living Word Lutheran Congregation (AFLC) of Vernon, B. C.

Submitted by Sam Penner  
Vernon Youth Festival Committee





from a pastor's study

## RETURNING

In the predawn darkness of August 9, 60 two-person relay teams of athletes moved their bicycles to a starting line at Luverne, Minnesota. In this southern Minnesota city the competition began for the 500-mile Border to Border Triathlon which ended at the mouth of the Vermillion River at Crane Lake on the Canadian border. Near Eveleth they abandoned their bicycles for a 50-mile run to Cook. From there they paddled and portaged the remaining 50 miles with lightweight canoes. A 1984 solo contestant said that for her the exhausting part was the 400-mile bike section. She battled a continual headwind the whole way.

Most of us like the easy route. No hassles, no stresses, no head or side winds to buck. A good tail wind is desired. Often this tendency spills over into our walk with the Lord. We are apt to take moral vacations. Paul, in his epistles, is constantly pumping up his readers to higher moral standards. (A good Bible study exercise is to find and list all the encouragements he gives for moral righteousness.)

Some years ago we had a week-long youth camp at Grace Lake near Bemidji, Minnesota. During the afternoon recreation time many would work on perfecting their canoeing expertise. Later in the week two hardy souls asked if they could venture out into the more windy part of the lake. It was allowed and the boundaries were set. There was a smart southwest breeze that day. Soon they were happily riding the waves with the wind to their back, headed for the northeast shore. They were apparently oblivious of having crossed their bounds and the ever widening distance between them and camp. After a rather difficult turn around they headed back. It was hard work. Many adjustments had to be

made before they got into the lee of the land and back to camp. Their brief moral vacation from camp rules resulted in an expenditure of time and effort to return. Added to their consternation was the fact they they had even missed the canteen time!

Our moral vacations bring us into predicaments from which it is hard, sometimes even impossible to return to the former, better position. We tend to adopt the mind-set of the popular views of our day. Often these are contrary to Biblical morals. A case in point was a recent news article about single, well educated (at least from the world's point of view), career women choosing motherhood apart from the bonds of marriage. The excuse given is that "Mr. Right" has not appeared, and the prime child-bearing age is drawing to a close. Furthermore the stigma of single parenthood is nearly gone because of the loosening of our social mores. Even the church seldom calls the child out of wedlock "illegitimate." It is said that only the parents are illegitimate. While this part is true, the laws given to Moses banned such children and their progeny from the assembly of the Lord for ten generations!<sup>1</sup> Talk about difficulty to return! Imagine the heartache of the parent whose child was forbidden to enter the Temple of the Lord. God's restraints are designed to curb any fantasies that we are likely to entertain.

James teaches us that a sin begins in the mind.<sup>2</sup> A fantasy is entered into. At first it is rejected, yet we often allow it to return, perhaps even mentally indulge in it. As this mind play progresses, the real opportunity presents itself, fantasy becomes fact. How did this happen? Lust begins as a secret motive, it grows into sin and death.<sup>3</sup> Really, sin is a breach of our loyalty to our God. Loyalty to Him, or lack thereof, spills over to spouse, family, fellowship of believers as well as our friends.

There are at least four rules to follow to avoid getting into situations of difficulty or no return:

**"God's grace is open to all."**

—by Rev. Henry Johansen  
Willmar, Minn.

1) Beware of indulging in a fantasy that is in conflict with God's moral code.

2) Avoid situations that invite a moral vacation.

3) Treat every temptation as a testing of your faith,<sup>4</sup> remembering that these are common to all people.<sup>5</sup>

4) Remember that the way of escape<sup>6</sup> is by the knowledge of the Scriptures coupled with prayer. These weapons are given to us by the Lord.<sup>7</sup>

But what if we have sinned? What if we have gone beyond the point of difficulty or no return? What if we have parented or are illegitimate children? We need to remember that God's grace is open to all. He will not cast out those who truly desire to come by God's grace to Jesus Christ.<sup>8</sup> We also need to remember that, in the parentage of our Lord, there was Perez,<sup>9</sup> illegitimate by birth.<sup>10</sup> Had he been born later, he would have been banned from the assembly. In God's marvelous grace this is covered in Jesus' identification with us.<sup>11</sup> We are reminded that, regardless of who we are, even stalwart pillars of the visible church, outside of Christ we are illegitimate children,<sup>12</sup> regardless of how sterling our parentage may be.

Are you exhausted in the headwinds of life? Are you drifting farther from shore on life's stormy sea? He who entered into the distress of His storm-tossed disciples, stilled the angry waves and brought both boat and passengers to the safe haven, is ready to do likewise for you!<sup>13</sup> The return is open for you through Jesus Christ. Will you let Him do it? If you are to survive, there is no other way.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Deuteronomy 23:2

<sup>2</sup> James 1:13-14

<sup>3</sup> James 1:15

<sup>4</sup> James 1:2-4

<sup>5</sup> 1 Corinthians 10:13a

<sup>6</sup> 1 Corinthians 10:13b

<sup>7</sup> Ephesians 6:17, 18

<sup>8</sup> John 6:37

<sup>9</sup> Matthew 1:3

<sup>10</sup> Genesis 38:12-29

<sup>11</sup> John 1:14; Hebrews 2:14, 15

<sup>12</sup> Hebrews 13:8

<sup>13</sup> John 6:16:31

<sup>14</sup> John 14:6; Acts 4:12



## EDITORIALS

### A TIME FOR REFLECTION

**T**he *Lutheran Ambassador* is a faithful old friend of mine. Our friendship began with the first issue in February, 1963, and has continued unbroken to the present day. I have preserved every issue, and take pleasure in reviewing them from time to time.

Now is one of those times. It is a time to remember and reflect.

My name initially appeared in our church paper during the first year, in the twelfth issue, to be exact. I barely recall being pushed and prodded at the 1963 Annual Conference to speak as a future seminarian in favor of a resolution to establish a school of theology. Afterwards the editor encouraged me to polish my comments and put them into writing for publication.

Other assignments have come, too, over the years, beginning with youth page editor (Who will ever forget "An Open Letter to the Easter Bunny" in 1966?), and continuing most recently with assistant editor. Several years of service behind the scenes on the Editorial Board also help me appreciate the investment of time and talent that every issue represents.

My friendship with *The Lutheran Ambassador* has been a friendship with the editor. The two have been synonymous in our minds. It is difficult to imagine the magazine without the faithful leadership of Pastor Raynard Huglen. It is impossible to express our fellowship's debt of gratitude to him for his capable and consistent ministry to us.

No time of reflection would be complete without thanking God for you, Pastor Huglen. You have been a special gift to our church family.

### A TIME FOR RENEWAL

**C**hange and decay all around I see," declares the old hymn. Some Christians seem to be convinced that change and decay are the same thing. It should not surprise us that a change in the office of editor could create a fear that decay is just around the corner!

It is true that one temptation for a new editorial staff is to assert ourselves by starting with sixteen blank pages and creating a whole new magazine. But this would be unwise, for a radical break with the past would offend many of our most faithful readers. So don't worry, our old friend will not be remodeled beyond recognition!

This is the reason that the word "renewal" was chosen as a caption for these comments. The process of change will continue, but from the perspective of a familiar framework and a respect for the past.

*The Lutheran Ambassador's* family of readers has both swelled and shifted in recent years. This can be seen even in the fact that the new editor lives in Illinois instead of northern Minnesota. Some changes will surely reflect this reality.

A change in editor will lead to other, more subtle changes. Any publication is bound to reflect the personality and perspectives of its editor in certain ways, and *The Lutheran Ambassador* is no exception. It is one of my goals, however, that our church paper would always be careful to reflect the personality and perspectives of the AFLC.

The opening editorial in the first issue of this magazine mentioned the words "strange and difficult" and "fear and trembling." But there was also a word of confidence in the Lord and His ability to supply the needed strength and wisdom.

It is with the same confidence that I, too, accept the editorship of *The Lutheran Ambassador*. Please remember me and Mrs. Hjermstad in prayer. To God alone be all the glory! "And now we will proceed to the task in Jesus' name."

## Coming next time!

A special

"Rise up and Build"

issue of

*The Lutheran Ambassador*

All articles, announcements, church newsletters, etc., for *The Lutheran Ambassador* should be mailed to: Editor, *The Lutheran Ambassador*, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441.

### Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

#### AFLC Benevolences - February 1 - August 31

FUND	TOTAL BUDGET	REC'D IN AUGUST	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% TOTAL
General Fund . . . . .	\$ 223,110.00	\$14,511.97	\$96,893.42	43
Schools - (AFLTS) . .	136,822.00	7,274.01	35,351.49	26
(AFLBS) . .	186,850.00	11,711.26	62,375.05	33
Home Missions. . . . .	433,616.00	20,242.09	164,568.91	38
World Missions. . . . .	366,197.00	18,759.48	120,955.95	33
Capital Investment . .	30,000.00	2,547.21	14,787.79	49
Parish Education . . .	64,970.00	5,251.54	28,794.54	44
<b>TOTALS . . . . .</b>	<b>\$1,441,565.00</b>	<b>\$80,297.56</b>	<b>\$523,727.15</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>1989 - 1990 . . . . .</b>	<b>\$1,308,281.00</b>	<b>\$75,391.76</b>	<b>\$461,692.31</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>*Goal 58%</b>				



# New Brazil missionaries announced

The World Missions Department of the AFLC is pleased to announce that Pastor Thomas Baker has accepted the call to serve as missionary to Brazil. Pastor Baker, his wife Patricia, and children Andrew (age 2-1/2 years) and Hannah (age 10 months) are rejoicing at the opportunities before them to serve their Lord Jesus Christ in Brazil.

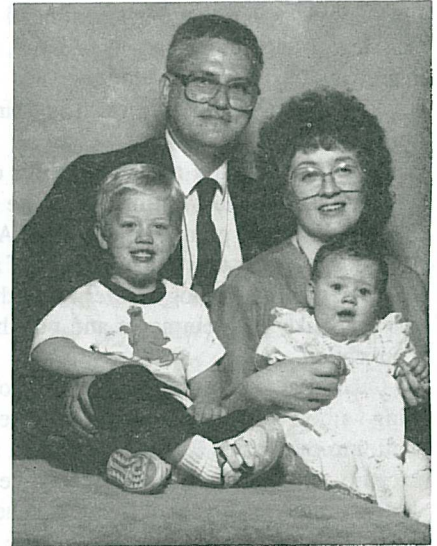
Pastor Baker, originally from Greensburg, Pennsylvania, earned his B. A. at the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and his M. A. at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, specializing in Political Science and History. He earned his Graduate in Theology at AFLTS in 1982. During his seminary years he served Sunnyside Free Lutheran Church at Stacy, Minnesota. Pastor Baker has served as pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Section Ten Free Lutheran Church of Cumberland, Wisconsin, and currently is pastor of Good Shepherd Free Lutheran Church of Rice Lake, Wisconsin.

The World Missions Department hopes to send the Bakers to Brazil by late October of this year, according to Director, Pastor Eugene Enderlein. Pastor and Mrs. Baker and children will initially be located at Campo Mourao, Parana, where the AFLC Brazil Bible School and Seminary are located. In 1991, their primary responsibility will be language training at the Missionary Language School at Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Friends and members of the AFLC are urged to take the Bakers into their hearts. They will need faithful prayer supporters and financial sponsors. In addition to the continuing costs of salary, field funds and medical insurance, there is the immediate need for raising funds for transportation to the field (\$2,500) and the cost of one year's language training (\$4,800).

Pastor Tom and Pattie Baker have chosen II Corinthians 5:20 as their mission verse:

"Now then we are ambassadors for



Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: We pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

Gifts in support of the Bakers should be sent the the AFLC World Missions office. God bless this family as they represent us in the great nation of Brazil.

## letters to the editor

### THE SHEEP LOVE

#### THE SHEPHERD/Shepherd

I cannot recall if a pastor has ever written a letter thanking God for His/his flock, but here is one.

For many years there has always been a prayer chain active for my family whenever we called upon them...24 hours a day from the Roseau, Minnesota, area. When we served in the McIntosh parish, friends from Mt. Carmel and Trinity joined them, and have continued to show our family love, support of all types, and fellowship in Jesus.

We felt like we would never experience that again in our lives. But now this past year we have added more to the list — our beloved parish in Edmore and Hampden, North Dakota.

Living Word and Zoar congregations have been a source of deep joy, inspiration, love and help to us in many ways as we seek to extend His Kingdom.

A very serious back operation consisting of over eight hours in surgery plus more hours in recovery, and a week of unending pain...all covered with love and support and the prayers of many, not least of all the sheep in the above parishes, make this shepherd extremely grateful.

God answered prayer. For the first time in over sixteen years I am almost free of pain and problems. I walk five miles daily, as God has worked His miracles in His time and way. Praise Him and the faithful sheep who coveted to pray and support no matter what

the outcome. How marvelous to see the Word active in the hearts and lives of God's people here on earth!

How can we ever convey to you, the sheep of the pastureland, our gratitude for being there when we needed you? And how can we ever praise our God enough for His salvation and healing of body and wounded soul?

We are back in our beloved parish again, and thank God for each one who has been a living epistle of His love in action. May I simply say: The sheep love the SHEPHERD (Jesus)/Shepherd (me)...and this shepherd loves you in return!

Sincerely and gratefully thanking God for His goodness and mercy to us.

*Pastor Walt Beaman and family  
Edmore, North Dakota*



As you prepare for His Second Coming, study Hebrews 12:1-3 and I Corinthians 15:58. Re-phrase these verses into a prayer.

*He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen.  
Come Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.*  
Rev. 22:20-21 (NIV)

In closing sing Fanny Crosby's hymn "My Savior First of All."

### My Savior First of All

When my life work is ended, and I cross the swelling tide,  
When the bright and glorious morning I shall see;  
I shall know my Redeemer when I reach the other side.  
And His smile will be the first to welcome me.

I shall know Him, I shall know Him,  
As redeemed by His side I shall stand;  
I shall know Him, I shall know Him,  
By the print of the nails in His hand.

# L I V I N G F O R J E S U S

Living for Jesus thru earth's little while  
My dearest treasure the light of His smile..."

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## WMF BIBLE STUDY NOVEMBER, 1990

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Matthew 2:1-23 (KJ) "And she shall bring forth a son, and though shalt call his name JESUS for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by a prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

1. Preparations were made for Christ's first coming as a babe in the manger. We are to make preparations for His Second Coming. Some of us may die before He comes again. Are you ready for death? Are you ready for His Second Coming? Why or why not?

Many of us are afraid of the unknown. We are afraid of the future. We are afraid of dying. Why does fear enter into these areas?

Examine the following verses and record the example or help to be found.

Psalms 23:4 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 8:25 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 8:38-39 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Record the facts concerning eternity.

II Corinthians 6:2 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 9:27 \_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 20:15 \_\_\_\_\_



3. Record facts about hell.

Mathew 25:46

Mark 9:43

Luke 16:22-26

Revelation 14:10-11

4. What is your basis for entering heaven? Formulate your answer in light of the following verses: John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-9, II Corinthians 5:21.

5. Visualize and name some breath-taking, awe inspiring scenes which you have seen and experienced. How do you think they will compare with the beauty of our heavenly home?

God, in His Word says, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him." I Corinthians 2:9. For your own personal enrichment, read I Corinthians 2:1-16.

On this side of eternity, we will never be able to fully comprehend the facts that God has provided for us about heaven. Record the truths found in the following:

Psalms 11:4

Mark 16:19

Revelation 22:17

John 14:2-3

Revelation 7:16

Revelation 21:3-5

Revelation 21 is a description of the heavenly city.

Revelation 22:1

Revelation 22:19

Revelation 22:5

6. What admonitions are given to believers in the following?

Matthew 6:20

Matthew 24:44

Luke 12:35

Titus 2:11-13

I Thessalonians 5:6

7. We need to pray in preparation for His Second Coming. Formulate I Thessalonians 5:23 into a prayer for yourself, loved one, friends, all believers.

8. Recall some of your first thoughts about heaven. How did you learn those ideas? How scriptural are those things you learned?

9. In I Thessalonians 5:23, it refers to your spirit, soul and body. This is a very fundamental truth which must be known and believed if we are going to be able to understand what happens at the time of death.

From a Christian perspective, what constitutes physical death in light of James 2:26?

10. What happens when a believer dies?

I Corinthians 5:1-3

II Corinthians 5:6-8

Philippians 1:23

For further study, read all of I Corinthians 15.

11. If you have grown up in church, you may have heard the term *rapture*. Paul refers to it as a mystery. What is the mystery spoken of in I Corinthians 15:52?

Another verse that refers to the rapture is I Thessalonians 4:14. Record the verse.

12. So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him. Hebrews 9:28. This is a fact that He will come again.

What other truths can we learn of His Second Coming?

Matthew 24:27

Matthew 24:36

Acts 1:11

I Thessalonians 5:1-2

Revelation 1:7

Our hope lies in the fact that He is coming again. Is there someone with whom you should share that hope?



## Solid Rock Lutheran Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

Solid Rock Lutheran Church, Brooklyn Park, Minn., held its first worship service on June 26, 1988. In just over two years this AFLC Home Mission congregation is prepared to call a full-time pastor and is also looking for a new facility. Our building lease is up in October at Birch Grove Elementary School where we currently meet on Sunday mornings. Birch Grove School has served the congregation well, but the time has come to find a facility we can use more than just Sunday mornings.

Our search for a full-time pastor just began in earnest this summer. Dr. Francis Monseth has served as our interim pastor for the two years. Dr. Monseth has not only conducted the Sunday morning worship services but began the adult Sunday School program, conducts the new membership classes, leads our Wednesday night Bible study, conducts visitations, and serves as a Christian counselor. The Lord has truly blessed Solid Rock through the ministry of God's Word.

Solid Rock is a very young congregation; the average age of the adult members is about 30 years. Most of the membership consists of Bible School graduates who have moved to the northern suburbs of Minneapolis where Solid Rock is now located.

Besides Sunday morning worship, Sunday School and Wednesday night Bible study, Solid Rock provides a Saturday morning men's Bible study, and WMF. Solid Rock also has an active social calendar with monthly gatherings of fun and fellowship. These gatherings have included a number of Sunday "pot-blessing" dinners and our first annual Sunday School picnic. Friendships have been made the past two years that will last a lifetime.

Developing friendships is, of course, not our ultimate goal. Our focus is, however, a relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As a



Good Shephard Lutheran Church, Cokato, Minnesota, burned their mortgage on June 23, 1990. Rev. Lyndon Korhonen was also installed as pastor during the morning service.



Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Chillicothe, Illinois, worshipped for the first time in their new church on June 3, 1990. Rev. Richard Long is the pastor.

We all know that there is influence exerted by a person's mere presence, without the utterance of a single word...People seem to carry an atmosphere with them, which must be breathed by those whom they approach.

*—Frances Ridley Havergal*

congregation that believes in the inerrancy of the Scriptures, we believe we are providing the conservative Lutheran alternative to the liberal churches in the area. The challenge ahead of us is to get the Word out in the community, to become an extension of Jesus Christ who is ultimately

the Head of our congregation. It is with this firm belief that we can continue on without fear of failure. As Paul said in I Corinthians 3:6, "I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase". God will make the seeds grow in Brooklyn Park as well.

*—Tom Caoette*

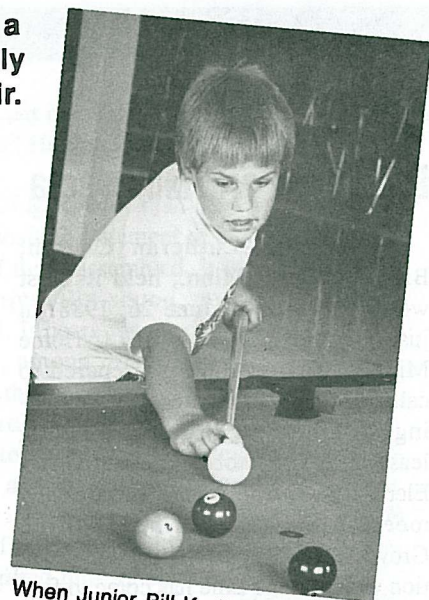


# Coming to AFLBS

It is a family affair.



Stephanie Placek, a Senior from Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, enrolled with the assistance from her father, Joseph.



When Junior Bill Kroll, Argyle, Minnesota, moved in, his eight-year-old brother discovered the rec room.



Mrs. Beverly Enderlein begins her ninth year of teaching Christian Education at AFLBS.

On September 10, forty-nine Seniors and fifty-eight Juniors began the '90-'91 school year. Three students arrived from Canada. One from Mexico and two from Africa make it truly an international student body. For the first time in years, all but one bed in the men's dormitory is used.



Coming to Opening Service September 9.

Junior Nathan Dahl is the third in his family to attend AFLBS in three years. Pictured is his mother, Mrs. Jewel Dahl, Felton, Minnesota, and Mrs. R. P. Haakonson, Apple Valley, Minnesota, a family friend.





# Seminary classes begin on September 5



AFLTS faculty introduced themselves to seventeen men on September 5. Pictured are: Professors Laurel Udden, Steven Lombardo, Ralph Tjelta, Amos Dyrud, Philip Haugen and Donald Greven. Dr. Francis Monseth had given the opening address earlier in the morning.

## Personalities

**Rev. Brian L. Davidson**, Cumberland, Wisconsin, is serving as the interim pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Rice Lake, Wisconsin. The congregation was previously served by Rev. Thomas Baker, who has accepted a call from the AFLC World Missions Board.

**Rev. Earl R. Henley** has resigned as pastor of Unity Lutheran Church, Massapequa, New York.

**Robert and Meredith Bursheim**, Winger, Minn., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, June 24, at the Dovre Lutheran Church. The Bursheims were also recognized for their service during the early days of the AFLC, as the first caretakers of the Medicine Lake property. This involved a variety of duties for both of them as the need arose, including acting treasurer and bus driver for Bob, and duties from pianist to cook for Meredith! (Their dining room also served as the first AFLC recording studio. Ed.)

The couple continue to be active



**The Bursheims**

members of their home congregation, with Bob currently serving as caretaker, and Meredith as organist and chairman of the Board of Christian Education.

I wish to point you to Jesus Christ Himself, the author of this impressive parable, as the real Good Samaritan to this poor, lost and wounded world, ravished by sin, which is the worst of all robbers.

—L. S. Keyser

## Women's Missionary Federation

### *In memoriam gifts*

Hattie Mohn, Everett, Wash.  
 Verna Fosen, Morris, Ill.  
 Rachel Larson, Morris, Ill.  
 Evelyn Sparby, Sand Creek, Wis.  
 Gladys Olson, Barronett, Wis.  
 Mrs. Earl Nelson, Arlington, So. Dak.  
 Thea Clark, Munich, N. Dak.  
 Melida Haakenson, Minot, N. Dak.  
 Mrs. Lowell Shervey, Minot, N. Dak.  
 Petra Byre, Minot, N. Dak.  
 Emma Dahl, Hampden, N. Dak.  
 Myrtle Johnson, Hampden, N. Dak.  
 Barton Fish, Tioga, N. Dak.  
 Anton Bokn, Tioga, N. Dak.  
 Albert Stugelmeyer, Valley City, N. Dak.  
 Erling Bjornson, Valley City, N. Dak.  
 Clarence Monson, Valley City, N. Dak.  
 Nellie Stoll, Valley City, N. Dak.  
 Curtis Raberge, Burnsville, Minn.  
 Willard E. Elmquist, Cloquet, Minn.  
 Sharon Davis, Glenville, Minn.  
 Mrs. Henry Fenner, Upsala, Minn.  
 Verna Berg, Zumbrota, Minn.  
 Evelyn Thompson, Shevlin, Minn.  
 Evelyn Larsen, Wannaska, Minn.  
 Marlys K. Swanson, Canton, S. Dak.  
 John Fjeld, Minneapolis, Minn.

*Blessed are  
 those who die  
 in the Lord*





## NEWS OF THE CHURCHES

**Tioga, N. Dak.** — Zion Lutheran provides a time before each Sunday morning service for parents, their families and any other concerned people to gather and pray for the youth. This group is called PIP (Parents in Prayer). Their desire is for their youth to be able to say as Daniel said, "My God sent His angel and shut the lion's mouths, and they have not harmed me."

**Grand Forks, N. Dak.** — On September 22, Rev. Dennis Gray and Mrs. Katha Tjelta presented a Christian Education Workshop for Sunday School staff and Luther League workers and officers at Trinity Free Lutheran Church.

**Eben Jct., Mich.** — Rev. Gary Jorgenson, Ottawa, Ill., spoke during Special Meetings at Calvary Free Lutheran Church, September 30 - October 3.

**Minneapolis, Minn.** — Faith Free Lutheran Church will host a Reformation Rally on October 28. Rev. John Strand will speak at both the 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. services. A fellowship dinner will be held at 11:30 a.m.

**Thief River Falls, Minn.** — Our Savior's Lutheran Church hosted a Sunday School Staff Workshop on Saturday, September 29, from 9 to 3 p.m. Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Tjelta, Minneapolis, were the guest speakers.



## THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

Second-Class

## WORLD NEWS

**AMMAN, Jordan** — Christians in Jordan have appealed to World Relief for help as more than 10,000 refugees a day are pouring into Jordan from Iraq.

Another line of people — 100 miles long — is forming inside Iraq as people seek to escape before fighting breaks out. And 100,000 refugees are at the port in Aqaba in Jordan waiting for ships to flee via the Red Sea.

World Relief is developing plans to help meet the needs of the refugees, working with churches in Jordan as well as the State Department, whose Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance declared Jordan in a state of emergency on Wednesday.

Evangelical denominations in the area include the Assemblies of God,

Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society, Christian & Missionary Alliance, Evangelical Mennonite Church, and Church of the Nazarene.

"Although this is a disaster with untold implications for the Church, it has potential for opening doors that have never been open to Christian work," Leonard Rogers, president of Venture Middle East in Cyprus, reportedly to World Relief leaders.

Please pray for believers in these war-threatened areas and for World Relief's outreach to those running for safety. Contributions to help can be sent to the AFLC World Missions Office. Designate World Relief Refugee Fund.

**PHNOM PENH, Cambodia** — The Cambodian government has legalized Christianity, allowing Christians in the city of Phnom Penh the right to worship openly for the first time since 1975. Church leaders last year submitted a petition to Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, asking permission to reopen churches. A BBC report attributed the government's action in part to pressure from the East European diplomatic community.

**CHARLOTTE, N. Carolina** — The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has filed suit against Judge Bill Constangy to stop him from opening his court with prayer, stating, "Religion has no place in a state proceeding." Some attorneys claim the prayers caused them "irreparable harm."

## Banner kits available

The WMF of Christ Lutheran Church, Wichita Falls, Texas wishes to announce that they have church banner kits available. These kits include material, decorations, pattern illustrations and directions. To create these banners, all you need are scissors and glue. All kits are original designs of the ladies of Christ Lutheran Church. Custom designs and completed banners are available upon request. *All proceeds from these kits will go directly to AFLC missions, AFLC projects or Christ Lutheran Church community outreach.* To receive a brochure explaining what is offered, send a SASE to: Christ Lutheran WMF, 4300 FM 1954, Route 6, Wichita Falls, Texas 76701.