

A black and white photograph of an elderly couple sitting on a wooden bench in a forest. They are seen from behind, looking out over a valley. The man is on the left, wearing a light-colored shirt, and the woman is on the right, wearing a light-colored top. They are sitting on a wooden bench. The background shows a dense forest of evergreen trees, with a valley and hills visible in the distance. The sky is bright, and there are some clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

October 31, 1989

LIGHT on the WAY

meditations on God's Word

COVER PHOTO

Bavaria, Germany
photo by Roger C. Huebner

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Studies in I Peter

Loving becomes possible

In this first chapter, Peter has given a series of instructions to the believers: (1) verse 13, fix your hope completely on the grace of God; (2) verse 15, as children of obedience, be holy in all conduct; and (3) verse 17, as a redeemed child of the Father, live your life in childlike fear of the Father. In giving these instructions, Peter has carefully and consistently and continually declared why and how the believer lives such a life. He so lives only because of and by the grace and mercy of God in Christ.

1:22-25

In verses 22-25, Peter gives another in his series of instructions to the believers. He commands that the believers are to fervently love one another from a pure heart.

The word "fervently" comes from a word that means "to stretch out." "Fervently" brings to mind the picture of a runner in a race, stretching out to reach the finish line. The point Peter makes is that this business of loving one another is not something to be taken lightly or done casually or carelessly. We are to love one another earnestly.

The word Peter uses for "love" is not speaking about sentimental mush. "Love" is basically not a love of good feeling or emotion. Rather, it is a love of the will, where the believer determines — by the grace of God — to love the one who is unattractive. This kind of love chooses to communicate, chooses to ignore offenses, chooses not to backbite and slander, and is prepared, if necessary, to be rejected. This kind of love is the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22), and is to characterize the relationships of believers.

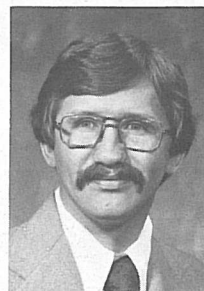
It is extremely important to notice the conditions in which Peter gives the command to earnestly love one another. Peter again carefully reminds the believers of what has already happened in the believers' lives, and then he gives the command to love one another.

Peter reminds the Christians of two things: (1) in verse 22, he declares that they have purified their souls in obedience to the truth, and (2) in verse 23,

he says that they have been born again through incorruptible seed, through the living and abiding Word of God. The words "have purified" and "have been born again" indicate a state or condition which began for the people at some time in the past and which state or condition continues at the present. In both statements, Peter is referring to new birth. In other words, when Peter is talking about having "purified your souls" unto love of the brethren, he is *not* talking about *your* work and effort and energy, as though somehow by your effort you could purify yourself. "Obedience to the truth" is referring to believing and being baptized (Mark 16:16). "Obedience to the truth" refers ultimately to God's gracious work in us, whereby He — by grace, through the means of baptism and the living and abiding Word — effectively works faith and all that is necessary in and for us. It is to this Peter points when he says, "Having purified your souls in obedience to the truth."

The seed by which we are born again is incorruptible, the living and abiding Word of God. This is our confidence, our hope, our certainty, our security — born again through the living and abiding Word of God.

It is only in the context of this great work for us and in us that the command to love one another becomes possible and sensible. We can love only as He has first, in Christ, loved us. Our loving one another is *not* what makes us His children, and yet it is also true that the one who refuses to love another is not a child of His. Let us then live what God has made us to be.



by Pastor
Philip Haugen

(Colossians 1:9-14)

For this we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding" (Colossians 1:9).

These words were written by the Apostle Paul from a prison cell in the city of Rome. The free flowing grace of God is nowhere more evident in an individual's life than we see it here. The Apostle's thoughts were not confined in any way. They reached beyond his circumstances by letter to the churches and primarily in prayer to God for those small Christian bands scattered throughout the Roman world. We see in Paul much more concern for them rather than for himself in the example of His Lord and Savior. And his mission is stated in his own words, "Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the Word of God is not bound. Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory" (II Tim. 2:9-10). Oh that we, too, who know the Lord Jesus, might be so concerned for the salvation of others.

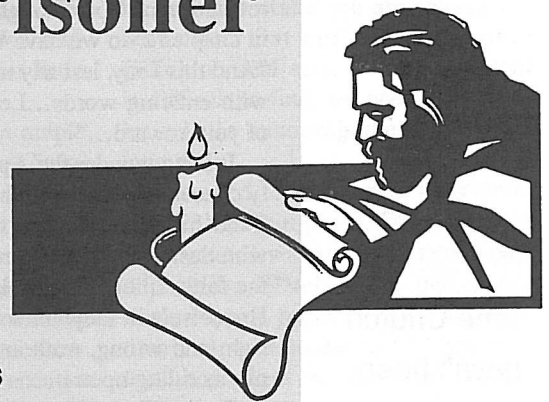
We believe the Apostle Paul never visited the church at Colosse (2:1). Yet his heart reached out to them from inside prison walls. He had never seen them and yet he sensed a spiritual oneness with them as fellow heirs of the manifold grace of God. And Epaphras, pastor of the church, had arrived in Rome with a good report of the work in Colosse.

Paul's prayer continues for the Colossian Christians, to be "strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power" (1:11). The Christian is not to remain a spiritual babe in Christ, weak and defenseless and tossed about with every wind of doctrine. This glorious power of God is not necessarily omnipotent power but rather the power conveyed through God's Word, which yields such fruit as patience, long-suffering with joyfulness and thankfulness to God for all things. The Christian is most thankful to God "Which hath made us meet (sufficient) to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light" (1:12).

The Colossians, unless they lost it, had a wonderful inheritance awaiting in heaven. They enjoyed a down payment of it even while they lived upon the earth. They were saints, not as a result of an exemplary lifestyle, but because they had allowed God to deliver them from the power of darkness of sin and translate (change) them into the light (kingdom of His dear Son). The ransom price was paid with Christ's

A prayer from a prisoner

**on how to
freely grow
in knowledge
and fruitfulness**



precious blood and innocent suffering and death. By trusting in His finished work, they were released from sin's prison.

The Colossians could remain free by growing in grace and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus, even as Paul in his Roman prison cell. They had all they needed to remain free in Christ and not be brought back under bondage to sin and Satan. The message to Colosse is good for us today as well. The spiritual tools are available to build Christ's Church, and the spiritual weapons are available to defend her. In an age when many churches seem willing to capitulate and sell their birthright or inheritance for a mess of pottage, we can and must be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. God is on the forefront of this holy war. May we be there with Him.

This report of the condition of the church was a source of tremendous encouragement to the Apostle who refused to languish in his own physical condition. Paul's source of joy is found in verses 3-8 of this first chapter: their faith in Christ, their love for all the saints, their hope laid up for them in heaven, their reception of the Word of God, which, as precious Seed, had born fruit in their lives to the glory of God. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul reflects God's own thoughts when he writes of his joy in seeing the grace of God flowing freely in the congregation. What encouragement this must have brought to the Colossians!

The remainder of the epistle suggests there was a serious conflict challenging this church which jeopardized all the good that had been done. Paul grieved for them because of it (2:1). It was of a most devious kind. This enemy ◊

**"Yet his heart
reached out to
them from
inside prison
walls."**



*—by Rev.
Wayne H. Hjermstad
St. Paul, Minn.*

"The Church
hasn't been
saved to
languish away
behind closed
doors."

sought not to pull down the church walls by means of persecution. The strategy was to undermine the church's foundation, which is the revelation of God through His Word. Especially in chapter 2 do we have this conflict explained, "And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words...Let no man beguile you of your reward..."

It is no wonder the Apostle expresses fatherly concern for this church upon which Satan has fixed his eyes. He prays without ceasing and with desire that they be rooted and grounded in the faith, filled with the knowledge of His will. How else will they know the difference between right and wrong, truth and error, when all eternity is riding upon it.

To be filled with such knowledge is to leave no area of life susceptible to the error which would lurk in the heart and mind causing doubt, disappointment and spiritual death. The true child of God knows the wonder of such filling as expressed by the psalmist, "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me." Knowledge in itself, even of the Bible, can be vain and meaningless unless it is accompanied by faith in the one who reads or hears it. To be profitable, the knowledge of God's will must also be accompanied by wisdom and spiritual understanding (1:9) which come with the help of God's Spirit.

The Church hasn't been saved to languish away behind closed doors. We must not imprison ourselves or cower in fear of the enemy, but rather advance the kingdom of God in all ways and at all costs. Salvation is not an end in itself. The expected result is "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God" (1:10). Increasing in the knowledge of God is thus planting more spiritual Seed in the heart, germinating in the glory of Almighty God, reflected in the face of our Lord Jesus. A bountiful harvest should result, confirming on a daily basis the faith in which we live.

Biographical Sketch

Rev. Wayne A. Hjermstad was born to Alf and Vera Hjermstad, rural Zumbrota, Minn. After graduation from Wanamingo, Minn., High School, he served in the U. S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. He returned and was employed at his hometown bank. In 1977 he graduated from the Independent Lutheran Seminary, Cannon Falls, Minnesota. He was ordained by the Evangelical Lutheran Fellow-

King David wrote, "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Psalm 37:4). And again, in Psalm 21:2: "You have given his heart's desire, and have not withheld the request of his lips." He works in mysterious ways "His wonders to perform."

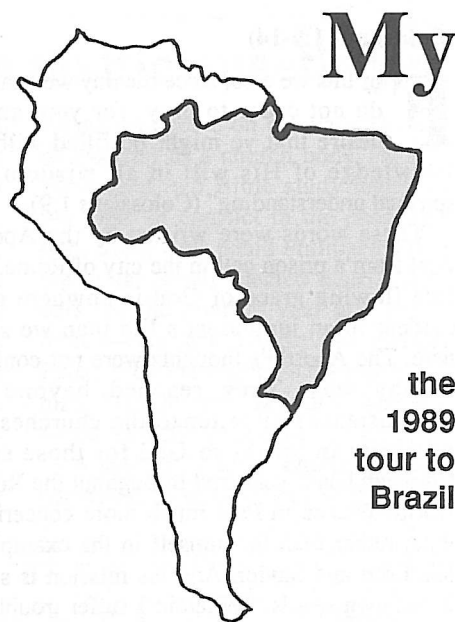
Loretta and I surely experienced this, and marvelled at it, as we found ourselves winging our way to Brazil on April 8th and 9th, together with our World Missions Director, Rev. Eugene Enderlein, Esther Larson and Norma Thorpe. We had prayed much about it for a long time. The deep longing and desire to visit our mission field again was in my own heart and also in Loretta's, to see it firsthand for the first time. God did move mountains, gave us the desire of our heart and we were on our way. We are still praising Him and thanking Him for the privilege. What a wonderful blessing it was just to travel with such great people.

ship in his home congregation, Emmanuel Lutheran Church (AFLC), rural Kenyon, Minn.

From 1978-1985, he served King of Glory Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, Minn. He periodically attended classes at the Association Free Lutheran Seminary. He has served Victory in Christ Lutheran, Maplewood, Minn., since 1987.

Pastor Hjermstad and his wife, the former Solveig Larson, have three children: Micah (7), Gracia (5) and Rebecca (3).

Pastor Hjermstad is a member of the Fellowship Clergy Roster of the AFLC.



impressions of the Brazil field

We traveled thousands of miles. Our modes of travel were car, airplane, taxi, all-night sleeper bus, Volkswagen van and cog wheel train. We thank the Lord for safety all the way and we arrived home once again on Tuesday, April 25th.

Our major stops in Brazil were Rio de Janeiro, Foz do Iguacu, Campo Mourao, Parana, Curitiba, Brazilia, Vitoria, and two stops enroute at Sao Paulo, that sprawling city of about 14 million. Then, finally, we departed for home from Rio de Janeiro. For the two nights in Rio by the ocean and one night in Brasilia, with a tour of the city, we were strictly tourists. I must say that the ladies just immensely enjoyed the wild taxi rides in Rio. Apart from Rio and Brasilia, we were kept very busy visiting our missionaries and nationals, attending meetings, services, dedications, seeing the various churches, visiting old friends from over 20 years ago, attending birthday parties, etc.

On the lighter side, we experienced some enjoyments: a big fresh coconut right at the beach, which was opened with a large machete, eating at the restaurants in the cities, being waited on by all male waiters with bow ties, vests and white towels, and having the food dished up on your plate throughout the meal (the ladies just loved all of this), and all for about \$2.50 or \$3.00. Shopping was always in order! We recall paying 100,000 cruzeiros (old money) to use a restroom and getting a piece of candy upon exit. We were careful not to drink water from the taps but rather we purchased bottled "agua mineral" "com gas" or "sem gas" (with fiz or without fiz; pronounced, "sein gauz"). To Esther it was always simply, "sem gas," pronounced in English. And, of course, coffee in Brazil was delightful and strong. The ladies always questioned when they could get just a good old cup of "Norwegian" coffee.

Being in three countries in one day was a unique experience when John and Ruby Abel drove us into Argentina to see the Argentine side of Foz do Iguacu, then into Paraguay, where the Charles Knapps worked, and back into Brazil. We saw a monkey in it's natural habitat and an alligator sleeping on a rock near the falls. There are so many things we could mention, like picking sacks of oranges, limes, etc. I cannot relate them all, but am sharing a few to give you a taste of some of the enjoyable times we had. I should not neglect to mention the cable car ride up "Pao de Acucar" (Sugar



Pastor Grothe in front of one of the village churches he built while a missionary.

Loaf Mountain) and also the cog wheel train ride up Corcovado to the large statue of Christ. His *hand* is six feet wide. We sang "Under His Wings" as we stood under His arm.

The changes in Brazil itself really impressed me. I first left it in 1967 and returned again for a short visit in 1976 when I was a member of the World Missions Committee. Many cities have grown at a phenomenal rate! The land has been cleared and there is little jungle left in the state of Parana. It is now mostly wheat land and there are soybeans and cotton. The beautiful trees, peculiar to the state of Parana, the "Parana Pine" are few and far between. Large "fazendas" have replaced most of the small farms of coffee, beans and corn hacked out of the then jungle. Large tractors and trucks have replaced the hoe, hand corn planter and carts.

What was my impression of the mission work and results in Brazil? That is so important and I was so well impressed I hardly know where to start. I trust you will pardon me if I hardly mention any names. I don't want to leave anyone out! We are so grateful to God for our missionaries and their families and for what God is doing through them, and for what they did for us in giving such a cordial welcome and gracious care while we were there. What a blessing! Also, the nationals were so loving and kind and received us with open arms. Their love for Jesus was certainly manifested in so many ways. We thank God for them.

I was very well impressed with the progress. ◇

—by Rev.
Alvin Grothe
Astoria, Ore.

The All-Boards' meeting for 1989 was held on Tues., Oct. 3, at the Association Retreat Center, Osceola, Wis. Attendance was very good.

Rev. Richard Snipstead, AFLC president, chaired the morning session. After some audience singing he read Rom. 6:1-14 and made some comments. A number of those present took part in prayer.

Reports by the various agencies and auxiliaries followed and here are brief summaries of them.

Co-ordinating Committee (Rev. Leslie Galland)

He announced that the 1990 annual conference theme will be "Partnership in the Gospel" (Phil. 1:3-6). Three new pastors have been accepted and their names will be given when they have accepted a call in the AFLC. There are about 15 pastoral vacancies in the

1989 All-Boards meeting

church. Thirty-five per cent of the year's budget goal had been met by the end of August.

A five-member committee has been set up to head the fund drive for the new administration building at Medicine Lake. Members are Rev. Donald Richman, Bloomington, Minn., Mr. James Bjorgan, Minneapolis, Minn., Rev. Leslie Galland, Eden Prairie, Minn., Mr. Lloyd Carlson, Bloomington, Minn., and Rev. David Barnhart, Eagan, Minn. Pastor Snipstead will be an ex officio member. (Since the meeting at Osceola, Mr. Clifford Johnson, Esko, Minn., has been named executive director of the fund appeal.) From 12 to 20 representatives from throughout the church will be selected. The campaign will begin in January. Commitment day will be

Palm Sunday. The ARC debt has now been reduced to \$14,500. It must be retired before the campaign begins.

Winter Bible conferences will no longer be arranged by the Co-ordinating Committee. Assistance is being given to setting up a number of conferences this winter.

Schools

Dr. Francis Monseth, dean of the Seminary, reported that there are 18 students in residence and three interns serving in parishes. He told of plans for the 25th anniversary of the Seminary and the Inter-Term in January. Pastors Dennis Gray and Richard Anderson will teach in the first session and Pastors Ralph Tjelta and Gene Boe in the second.

BRAZIL

Naturally, only God has the yardstick for spiritual work in His kingdom, but results are evident. We saw what has taken place since I left Brazil in 1967. Truly God is building His church there; "living stones" are being added to His Temple. I am impressed and happy with the fact that a strong, indigenous church is being planted, which is so essential. The nationals are being well taught, trained and equipped for the work and getting well involved in leadership, in teaching and pastoral work. They are involved in the churches, in the Institute, in the national

church and youth work. I praise and thank God for all of these nationals. We can so much better pray for them now having met many of them. Being there, in the homes of nationals and missionaries, certainly is a rich experience. We wish you could have all been there with us.

The missionaries are not without their problems; weariness, making time and money reach, health problems at times, plus the burden of the work. I was well impressed seeing how all of them work in harmony with the Brazilians and how coordinated the work was. To be able to visit the work in the various localities gave us such a good overview of the entire work, beginning with Foz do Iguacu, then Campo Mourao and area (churches and Institute), from there to Curitiba, and after our brief stay in Brazilia, we wound up our visit with our missionaries, the national workers and churches at Vitoria on the coast. We sense that God has certainly been answering prayers of people at home and on the field as we see how the Word of God is being proclaimed, the older churches are growing and the new work in some of those strategic places is radiating out from them, much like the times of the Apostle Paul.

We were so well received and blessed in the homes of some of the Brazilians, both pastors and lay people. Three things really impressed me the most: the dedication to the work by the



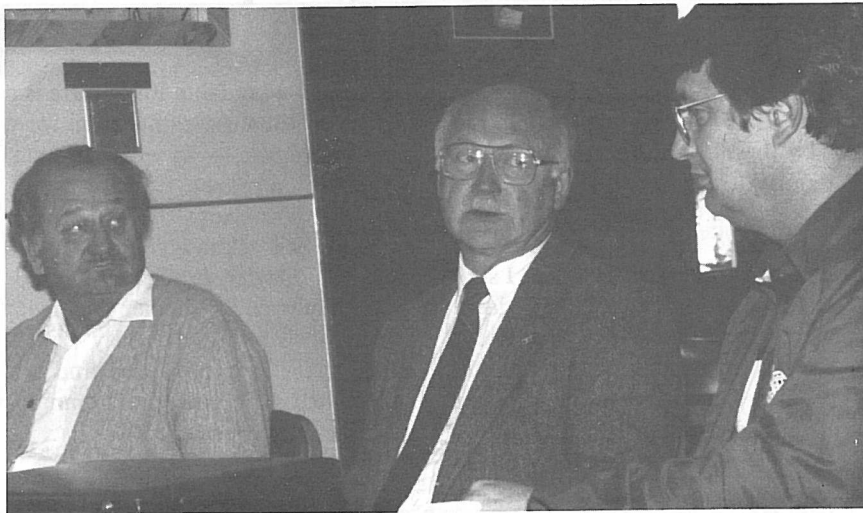
Mrs. Grothe (Loretta) with two ladies from the Villa Carmargo congregation in Curitiba. One of the women is the local WMF president.

Rev. Donald Greven, dean of the Bible School, told of 103 students in the fall quarter, the highest number in some years. Forty-five of them are men and seven come from other countries. Six Gospel teams have been organized and are available for deputation in the congregations. He gave the dates for Homecoming, the Christmas concert (Dec. 10, 4 p.m.) and Campus Days (Mar. 23-25).

Rev. Kenneth D. Moland, chairman of the Board of Trustees, reminded the meeting that the increased enrollment at AFLBS has helped the school's finances. Our Bible School is now larger than any other such Lutheran school in the U.S. He stated that someone had wanted to buy a piece of the Medicine Lake property, but no parcels of land will be sold.

Home Missions (Rev. Elden Nelson)

While there is not as much activity



Mr. LaVern Thompson, Fergus Falls, Minn., and Pastors Richard Gunderson, Lake Stevens, Wash., and Frank Cherney, Arlington, Wash., serve on the Pension Board.

in Home Missions at present, Pastor Nelson said, this is a time to build up what is there, what we have begun. The parishes at Cokato, Minn., Devils Lake, N. Dak., and Rugby, N. Dak., are

calling pastors now. Pastor David Molstre was installed in his congregation in Palmdale, Calif., on Aug. 13. He reported on the beginning continued on p.10

missionaries and their families, the solid, committed young Brazilian pastors, who are men of the Word in all these places, and their good, sound Bible preaching. We ought to thank and praise God for them and pray for them. And then, thirdly, it was thrilling to see the Christian youth so enthusiastic, so full of love for the Lord. They loved to sing hymns and choruses, read the Scriptures and share their testimonies. Even at a birthday party they were in no hurry to cease this to get to the ice cream and cake and fun.

We witnessed the end results, friends. The end result of invested dollars in the kingdom of God, in invested lives, in invested talents and time, in years of work by missionaries. As means to that end also are our Bible Institute and Seminary in Campo Mourao, and it was wonderful to be in on the dedication of the new Lar Parana Church, where I once pastored, the new Men's Dorm at the Institute, and the new Memorial Chapel. Also, it was a joy to see construction enlarging the Central Church, the building of a new church in Lar Parana and the expanding work in Curitiba and Vitoria. "To God be the glory, great things He hath done."

As I mentioned at the beginning, I have not mentioned names, as I did not want to leave anyone out. Praise God for all our missionaries, both in Brazil and in Mexico, and for the national pastors and lay people. Yes, God has

surely been answering our prayers, but there is much need to pray more and to give more. We need to pray forth more laborers into the harvest. There is much work yet to be done. Yes, it costs, that is true. But what an investment in souls for eternity. I remember so well the words of our dear, late Pastor Trygve Dahl, who had such a heart for missions. He always said, "You can't take your baggage with you, but you *can send it ahead.*" During World War II, they used to sing, "Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition." We need to sing, "Praise the Lord and pray and give for missions" both at home and abroad. Let us rise up and build the walls! Yes, "the work is great and extensive, and we are separated far from one another on the wall. Wherever you hear the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us. So we labored in the work, and half of the men held the spears from daybreak until the stars appeared...So the wall was finished" (Nehemiah 4:19b-21; 6:15a). The trumpet is sounding, let us rally! "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30).

A heartfelt thank you to Pastor Enderlein, to our missionaries and to all the wonderful nationals. Again, we praise God for this opportunity of visiting our Brazil field.

(Pastor Grothe was a missionary to Brazil from 1965-67).

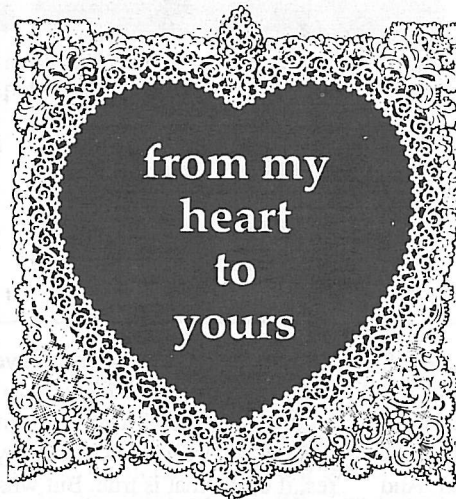
As a child I was fascinated by rainbows. My mother told me the story of the rainbow and I remember the picture in a Sunday School lesson. God made the rainbow as a promise that He would never again destroy the earth by flood. I suppose I thought of God reaching down and putting the rainbow in place and it was a beautiful thing to think about. Then I remember walking by a garden in town and seeing a sprinkler going. There were rainbows right there by the sidewalk! The adult beside me explained something about bent light from the sun and I realized that the same thing must happen in the sky. My childish concept of God's creation of the rainbow was a bit shaken. I had to rearrange my thinking to rationalize that this is how God did it. He bent light to make rainbows.

Now I can see that God, whose supreme intelligence created light made of many colors of the spectrum, is far beyond the child's idea of God with a paint box. Still, even as an adult, it's hard for me to stretch my mind to think of the greatness of God.

So much has been learned since the days when I questioned the rainbow. The distance of the stars, the smallness of the atom, the progress man has made in understanding and controlling the environment (not to mention the mess he has made of the same), can cause us to doubt the simple faith of our childhood.

"Modern" teachings have tried to debunk our beloved Biblical stories of miracles. To deny them completely is one thing — we may dismiss that as folly — but to "explain them away"

can shake a weak faith. But if there is a logical or scientific explanation for a recorded miracle — so what? In truth, if explanation proves correct, it would show the greatness of God — the greatness we acknowledge when we sing, "Thy power throughout the universe displayed." Whether it is from ancient history or present day experience, there are miracles and we acknowledge the power and omnipotence behind them.



I have never seen a "healing service" where the lame throw their crutches and blind men see, although I don't doubt that God could arrange it. I *have* seen people who have experienced miraculous healing through medicine and I sometimes marvel at it until I forget God's hand in it. We hear and talk of "new discoveries" and "new techniques" but the materials and processes have always been. If we remember anything from General Science in Junior High School, we can

remind ourselves that nothing can be created — all matter that is here has always existed. All "modern miracles" come from creation when the "Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters."

Along with the mind-boggling discoveries of science I remind myself that I can't count the miracles in my own life. There's a simple thing like the healing of a cut. Is there a greater medical discovery than the body's ability to heal itself? Doctors will agree with that, whatever their religion or lack of it. Problems can occur to interfere with the healing and medicine can take care of them, but the healing process must be left to itself. It is a process that cannot be duplicated.

I don't believe that my generation was ready for the impact of the changes that have come in all phases of life in the last few decades. Perhaps that partly explains why our children often lack the unquestioning faith that many of us took for granted. We can't turn back the clock — nor would we want to — but it is essential that we instill in our children the sense of the greatness and unlimited power of God along with a trust in His personal care. I can *fear* a God who governs the galaxies and the atoms but without the greatest miracle when "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" it would be only fear. I can *love* a God who cared enough to become a fellow human.

We can praise God's very greatness in psalms and hymns but we can also join the toddlers as they sing out, "Jesus loves me, this I know."

And that is the Miracle of miracles.

Luther says somewhere that faith lives only as long as it strives. He had in mind this very fight of faith to hold fast to the grace of God when our heart condemns us because of our daily life.

This tension is inherent in living faith and can never be removed. If this is eliminated from faith, we have a *dead* faith which holds fast to the grace of God with the intellect and does not give the conscience an opportunity to condemn sin.

This struggle and this tension in connection with faith can therefore never be obviated by theoretical insight into the mystery of the Gospel. Not even a long *experience* of the grace of God can eliminate it...

The more sensitive and keen our conscience becomes, the *more* it will accuse us, the *deeper* it will prick us.

A rich and long experience of the grace of God will also sharpen the conflict: Can you be a child of God when so much of His grace has been so fruitless in your heart and life: Is not this proof that your faith is dead, that you are misusing the grace of God?

Here, too, living faith will win the victory and again *rest* in the grace of God. But only after a *struggle*.

The distress of conscience caused by sin is therefore not only the mother of faith; it is this distress which each day preserves the faith of a child of God as a *living* faith. O. HALLESBY

NEW ARRANGEMENT

The Co-ordinating Committee has announced its decision to remove itself from the planning of the winter Bible conferences. Responsibility will now fall on the districts themselves.

While it will take several years perhaps for the new system to work, the change is a good one. Eventually some strong district and/or regional conferences will be developed. The Co-ordinating Committee is giving some assistance during the changeover.

Some districts will manage well with their own conferences. Support is strong enough so that such a conference would be successful. In other cases two or three districts might work together to host a yearly conference. Because of distance and geographical location parts of two or three districts might find it desirable to form a conference support group. These are decisions for congregations to make and they are now given that opportunity.

Some conferences may choose to use only their own pastors and laity for the programs. Others may rely on outside help entirely. Often there will be a combination of the two.

This new setup won't mean automatic success, in numbers. There will be a need to work at promotion. Our people must be challenged to take the time to turn aside from life's busyness to devote some time to the study and hearing of God's Word. Some folks find that the summer is the best time for that for them. Others cannot get away in the summer, but it is possible in the winter. We suppose that a district might want to try some other time for a Bible conference than February or March, say in October or November, or April.

The ball is in our court now. To mix our metaphors a little, will we as congregations pick it up and run with it or allow the Bible conference movement to die? We hope that won't be the outcome, but rather a growing, stronger-than-ever Bible conference program. Let us hear of your plans for next winter (or whenever).

WORLD RELIEF

It will soon be a year since we wrote in behalf of the World Relief Commission, the agency which the Association recommends as recipient of contributions for helping the world's needy.

It is disconcerting to see that over \$1700 less was given to WR in 1988-89 than in the year before. In fact, last year's total was over \$500 less than that of two years earlier. In other words, with a significantly larger membership now we are giving proportionately less to World Relief. The total in the last fiscal year was \$13,086.23.

Little is being said about World Relief in our church now. We don't think it was mentioned at the last annual conference. The matter is on the back burner.

But let us not let out of sight mean out of mind and out of concern. A news release in this issue tells of WRC's involvement in the alleviation of suffering and loss following the violent Hurricane Hugo. Other releases could have been used as well from other places hard hit by that storm.

Every year devastation hits various places on this earth. It's good to know that we can be there to help people pick up the pieces after terrible loss through the WRC. And we can do it in Christ's name.

There is a place on the transmittal blanks used when congregational contributions are sent in where gifts to WRC can be noted. Please include something for World Relief this year. And do so every year after this. With every congregation taking part our AFLC total should double easily. And that would hardly bring it up to one dollar per baptized member. Talk about a challenge!

"As you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me" (Matt. 25:40).

"Not a leaf left in St. Croix after Hugo's rampage;" Churches unite in aid effort

Once beautifully green, the Caribbean island of St. Croix has been turned brown by the merciless pounding of Hurricane Hugo.

"The destruction is quite stark," Jim Oehrig, World Relief disaster coordinator, said from St. Croix. "As I flew in from San Juan, it looked like the skies had rained roof sheeting everywhere."

More than 80 percent of the houses on St. Croix are destroyed or damaged. Electricity is still unavailable to the

majority of the residents. Continuing periods of rainfall make the need for temporary roofing an urgent need.

The evangelical community alone has suffered an estimated \$10 million worth of damage, according to Charles Morrow, World Relief emergency team member.

Working through Spanish and English-speaking evangelical churches, World Relief is distributing water purification tablets, water filters, medicine and plastic roofing material

to more than 400 families.

"Everyone is helping everyone else," Busta Brown, a Wesleyan pastor said of the united church effort. "The hurricane has really brought the community together."

World Relief is the humanitarian arm of the National Association of Evangelicals, providing disaster relief assistance to churches around the world.

ALL-BOARDS

of work in Murrieta, Calif. Work in Sioux Falls, S. Dak., has been started. Finances in Home Missions should be improved. The Church Extension Fund is in great need. Pastor Nelson declared that in all the work the focus must be on that which is most important, the spiritual.

World Mission (Rev. Einar Unseth)

The chairman of the World Missions Committee, in the absence of Rev. Eugene Enderlein, spoke of the enlarged Committee now (seven members instead of five). He told of the new work in Obregon, Mexico, under Gabriel Mercado. A small group toured Brazil last spring and got in on the dedications of two buildings at Campo Mourao. A FLY (Free Lutheran Youth) group was in Brazil this year. Three young women are teaching missionary children. Rev. George Knapp will be retiring at the end of this year. Rev. John Abel will be working in evangelism at home for the first half of 1990.

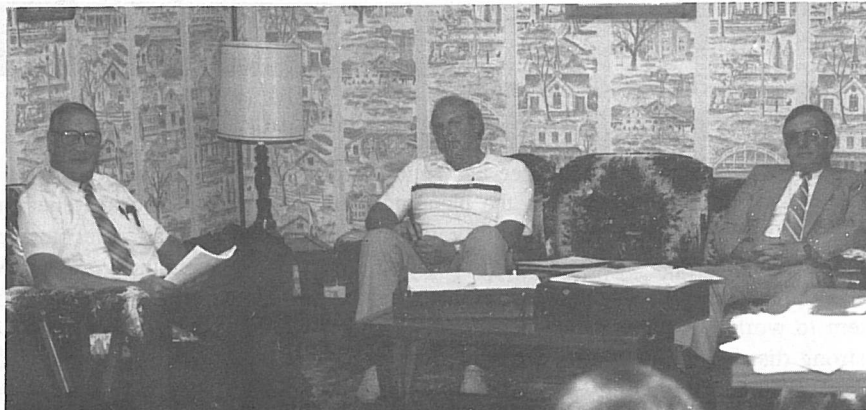
Stewardship (Rev. Roy Johnson)

The Stewardship Board has a three-fold objective, to be educational, informational and inspirational. A calendar of the year's work is being prepared. A tract is being written. There is promotion of Steer, Inc., among the congregations. Articles on stewardship will be appearing in the *Ambassador* (see p. 5, Oct. 3 issue). A Bible study on the subject is being prepared. Pastor Johnson said that he hopes each AFLC agency will prepare a video cassette on its work. One truth impresses — God asks for sacrificial giving. "Give until it feels good," the chairman challenged. That is a better way of saying it than the better known "Give until it hurts."

Luther League Federation

(Rev. Terry Wold)

The youth budget is only a small part of the total goal. The 1991 convention will be held July 15-19 at a place to be announced (in January?). Because of the Vernon, B. C., experi-



Pastors Alvin Grothe, Astoria, Ore., Alan Monson, Dickinson, N. Dak., and Elden Nelson, Mpls., discuss Home Mission business.

ence this past summer, the size of potential convention sites will be very important.

Youth Board (Rev. Joel Rolf)

Decisions for Christ are made early in life, hence the importance of youth work. The Board encourages an adult representative for youth work in every district. A Friends of Youth Fund is being set up. One must give five dollars per month in order to qualify. There will be a Luther League team next year also. The next Youth Leadership Conference has been set for July 16-20, 1990, at AFLBS. The theme will be "Workers Well Equipped."

Parish Education

(Rev. Wesley Langaas)

He told of the work being done on the Sunday School curriculum. It will take \$20,000 to print the 4th grade book. Pastor Langaas reported that a new bulletin service will be inaugurated on Jan. 1. It will provide more correlation with the church year. He reminded the meeting that Parish Education's budget lags behind the others in receipts and he called for greater support.

Pensions (Mr. Dale Hertle)

The AFLC pension plan has 117 participants. The plan is approaching the one million and a quarter mark. Administrative costs are low, only about 1.04% of assets. The medical plan now has 76 members. There are five new applicants and he hopes for an eventual 100 members. Some applicants for the medical plan are rejected

and it isn't easy to have to tell them that, Mr. Hertle said.

Mr. Eugene Nesland, chairman of the Board of Pensions, also reported.

Commission on Evangelism (Pastor Lyle Twite)

Rev. John Abel will serve as an evangelist for the first half of 1990. A special benefit of this is his ability to teach evangelism. In the meantime, the search continues for a full-time evangelist.

ARC Board (Mr. Clifford Seldal)

The chairman of the Board spoke of what you see and what you hear at ARC. Two Family Camps will be held again in 1990: July 1-7 and Aug. 5-11.

Mr. Robert Dietsche, director, told of various groups which have used the ARC facilities, including the Reach Out Singers. Approximately three groups are scheduled in the early fall. There are bookings into the summer of 1991. He explained the new symbol one sees upon entering the ARC grounds. The "ARC Family Life Circle" stands for AFLC.

Women's Missionary Federation

Mrs. Wendell Johnson, retiring president, and Mrs. Gerald Knudsvig, executive secretary, brought greetings.

Business Administrator

Mr. Ernest Miedema made some closing remarks and offered prayer.

Following dinner the various committees met to conduct business. Some meetings had also been held on Monday.

WOMEN'S PAGE



Bethany Free Lutheran WMF honored Junie Melby, Beatrice Rasmussen, and Marion Stockland with honorary memberships.



Bethel Free Lutheran WMF honored these Cradle Roll graduates: Stacy with her mother, Mrs. Harley Samuelson, Anthony, Michael and Mitchel with their mother, Mrs. Peter Ward, and Peder with his mother, Mrs. Lyle Aadahl.

Women's Missionary Federation

In memoriam gifts

Mrs. Leslie Haacke, Coal City, Ill.
 Ruth Lytle, Gillette, Wyoming
 Nels Ekse, Wallace S. Dak.
 Henry Johnson, Wallace S. Dak.
 Delores Sabo, Reva, South Dak.
 Gloria Logie, Hampden, North Dak.
 Harry Olson, McVile, N. Dak.
 Norien Blikre, Tioga, N. Dak.
 Morris Borstad, Tioga, N. Dak.
 Ida Breden, Wyndmere, N. Dak.
 Ragna Breden, Wyndmere, N. Dak.
 Laura Erickson, Shevlin, Minn.
 Maude Hanson, Mizpah, Minn.
 Anna Runyon, Mizpah, Minn.
 Minnie Gorder, Zumbrota, Minn.
 Caroline Juveli, Zumbrota, Minn.
 Margaret Kuehl, Zumbrota, Minn.
 Kenneth Gordon, Jesses, N. Dak.
 Laura Oscarson, Wahpeton, N. Dak.
 Mildred Martinson, McVile, N. Dak.
 Petra Kamp, Tioga, N. Dak.
 Petra Byre, Minot, N. Dak.
 Willard Graves, Pukwana, S. Dak.
 Cora Westre, Rapid City, S. Dak.
 Alta I. Bilden, Bagley, Minn.
 Knute Olson, Erskine, Minn.
 Olga Kveum, Roseau, Minn.
 Durwin Nelson, Roseau, Minn.
 Mrs. Horace Harrod, Morris, Ill.
 Erna Kurle, Spokane, Wash.
 Debra Spence, Billings, Mont.
 Annette Kirkeide, Greenbush, Minn.
 Laurie Dahlager, Dalton, Minn.
 Gerald Germundson, Tioga, N. Dak.
 Nelly Heimdal, Tioga, N. Dak.
 Hilda Knutson, McVile, N. Dak.
 Rose Odde, McVile, N. Dak.
 Melgaid Larson, Williston, N. Dak.
 Leonard Kerbaugh, Ray, N. Dak.

*Blessed are
 those who die
 in the Lord*



Tioga, N. Dak.



Zion Free Lutheran WMF has honored six ladies during the last three years. Pictured left are: Lavon Michelson and Hazel Anderson. Below left: Nancy Eder placed a pin on her mother, Evelyn Copes and Elaine Nelson accepted her pin from Marlene Gravgaard. Below: Myrtle Jorstad received her pin from President Joanne Nelson and Inez Stenbak accepted her pin from Myrtle Theodorson.



Heading South?

Having spent last winter in Texas, we enjoyed our AFLC church in Weslaco. Faith American Lutheran WMF is a blessing to be a part of while wintering in Texas. Many winter Texans participate in our congregation there.

— Doris Newell
 Cumberland, Wis.

CAMPUS NEWS

Homecoming '89 honors four classes

If you were from the Class of '69, '74, '79 or '84, the weekend of October 13-15 was especially for you. Arden and Marge Jacobson, Peder Gunderson, Mary Modean and Lynell Hartman planned the annual event. Seminarian Harry Gimberg led the weekend Bible studies and a choral group from Emmaus Lutheran, Bloomington, Minn., sang during the Saturday evening program.

photos by S. Hjermstad



Arden, '79, and Andy Jacobson, Oakdale, Minn., picked up their ice cream from Dr. Francis Monseth and Mrs. James Molstre.



From Class of '84; Karen Christopherson Westlake, Jenell Stulen Johnson, Alan Ameson, all of Mpls., and Rodney Quanbeck, Park River, N. Dak.



Don Grothe, '80, Hancock, Wisc., and Rev. Mark Molstre, '81, Laramore, N. Dak., caught up with news during the traditional Friday evening ice cream social.



From Class of '69: Carolyn Jenson Rasmussen with her husband Richard, Monticello, Minn.



Karen Kvistero Moe, '69, was the Friday evening M. C. Her husband and son, Randy and Matthew, watched.



From Class of '74; Kathy Engevik Osthus, Eagan, Minn.

Encouragement in the Christian warfare

—By Gerald F. Mundfrom
Osceola, Wis.

(The second of four articles.)

It is a fact that Christians in the midst of the warfare against sin and evil can expect stress and strain which may cause feelings of defeat, discouragement and depression; and we can be assured that Jesus will not forsake us in that warfare.

There are some practical things we can do to maintain our place in the battle while we take the risk of becoming weary and heavy-laden. Even as the military prepares its personnel for war and also trains them in ways of safety and precaution while in battle, God through His Word wills to teach us how we might maintain our calmness and peace of mind and heart, which He gives, in the midst of the war against sin and evil.

One of the best medicines for the Christian warrior is encouragement. Let me say two things about encouragement. One, we need to learn how to take encouragement and be encouraged, and, two, we need to give encouragement to others who are also fighting the battle.

First, a word about taking encouragement to ourselves. As a basis for being encouraged there needs to be something given to us, usually outside of ourselves, which will encourage us. Just as you need someone to give you a dollar bill if you are to receive and have a dollar bill, likewise encouragement must come from some place to us if we are to be encouraged. True genuine encouragement does not come just by wishful thinking, nor does it come by mere positive thinking, as that is like building on air. It has no foundation and does not hold up.

We may wish to receive more encouragement in our attempt to glorify Jesus and to be assured that we are appreciated and accomplishing the good we are trying to do. Some people get much praise and encouragement while others are starving for it. But again, encouragement to the soul is like food to the body. If you should be

in a position where you don't have much food, you try to make the little you have go as far as you can. The same with encouragement. We may need to make the most of what little encouragement we receive.

Now we can always find an ample supply of encouragement for the Christian warrior in the Bible (and I will point out some of these encouragements in the next article in this series), but our souls also yearn for a bit of encouragement from others, or from the environment around us. For example, a sunny day will be more encouraging than a cloudy day, unless we are suffering from the lack of rain. The money we earn can be encouraging. However, we must realize "that man does not live by bread alone" (Deut. 8:3b, Mt. 4:4, Lk. 4:4).

Often a bit of encouragement comes our way and we don't even notice it or pay much attention to it. A mere "thank you" and positive comments from someone can be encouraging. We need to allow ourselves to be complimented and not just hear a good report and push it back to the back of our mind and soon forget it. But we should think on it and gather inspiration from it, in order that we might be inspired and eager to continue doing good.

Sometimes Christians are reluctant to take compliments to heart for fear of becoming proud. But we can test ourselves to see if compliments make us proud or if they inspire us to do good. If the compliment causes you to think only of yourself and to relax and come to a standstill in that which you have excelled (as the greedy farmer in Lk. 12:16-20), then it could be that pride is taking over. But on the other hand, if you receive the compliment with a humble attitude and if it encourages and inspires you to continue to do good, and causes you to think of others and how you might continue to glorify Christ with your gifts and talents, then you are truly receiving the compliment in a manner that will glorify Christ.

We all need encouragement as we fight the Christian warfare. We will

encounter much that is discouraging. At times we may feel that no one notices the stand we are taking for Jesus and that our witness is only falling on deaf ears. If encouragement is difficult to find, we need to learn to let a little encouragement take us a long way.

I learned this lesson in the mental hospital at Sturgis, S. Dak., back in 1964 when I was suffering from acute depression. (I tell about this in my book, *Purged*, pages 89-92). For a long time I seemed unable to find anything that encouraged me. But then one day a bit of encouragement came my way. It was something I could have easily overlooked, but I took encouragement from it. After that I started looking for other bits of encouragement as a starving man will look for food. I was like a person who found a lost coin and began to look if there might not be other lost coins in the same area. I found other bits of encouragement and was able again to have some hope in what seemed like a hopeless situation.

"...we should let His love
flow through us
to those around us,
especially to
fellow Christians."

However, there is a warning which needs to be headed. Whatever we take encouragement from needs to be the truth, honest, just, pure and of good report. It needs to be virtuous and praiseworthy (Phil. 4:8). We must avoid being taken in by flattery and exaggeration. We should not think more highly of ourselves than we ought (Rom. 12:3).

But that which is true about ourselves is worthy of our thought and
continued on p. 16

NW Minnesota District organizes

In its second attempt, the Northwestern Minnesota District of the AFLC officially organized at a conference in Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, on Sun., Oct. 8.

Elected president was Rev. Del Palmer, Thief River Falls. Other executive officers are Rev. Reuben Unseth, Roseau, vice-president, Roger Peterson, Thief River Falls, secretary, and Tom Fugleberg, Roseau, treasurer.

Pastor Palmer led the afternoon service of the conference at which the sermon was preached by Pastor Martin Christensen, Badger. He used the text, John 2:1-11, as the basis for his message.

In the evening service, Rev. Richard Snipstead, president of the AFLC, brought a report on the state of the Association, which generally parallels the report on the All-Boards' meeting found elsewhere in this issue. He concluded his remarks with a devotional message on Eph. 3:14-21.

In addition to electing executive officers, the district staffed two newly created boards and chose a president for the Bible Camp board. Named to a Youth Advisory Board were Rev. Terry Wold, East Grand Forks, Martin Johnson, Greenbush, and Carter Hedlund, Roseau. Mrs. Ferrell Erickson, Badger, Mrs. Leif Aakre, Stephen, and Mrs. Cyrus Peterson, Thief River Falls, became the board of Parish Education. Donald Balmer, Thief River Falls, was elected president of the Bible Camp Board. He will serve with Mrs. James Olson, Viking, secretary, and David Grothe, Thief River Falls, treasurer, whose terms will end at a later date.

About 70 people attended the district conference. A supper was served by the ladies of Our Saviour's.

The district had decided against organization a year ago, pleading that it wasn't ready for it. Instead a 12-member committee was named to do further thinking and planning. After four meetings, that committee's recommendation was the basis for the setup adopted in Thief River Falls. Rev.

Fergus Falls hosts district meeting

Calvary Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, Minn., was host for the annual meeting of the Southwest Central Minnesota District on Saturday, Sept. 30. President Daniel Nelson, Spicer, called the meeting to order with a welcome from the host pastor, Rodger Olson, and there was a time of group singing. Rev. Edwin Kjos led in Scripture reading and prayer and special music was provided by three couples from Calvary Church. The guest speaker for the day was Rev. Robert Lee, AFLC vice-president, who pre-

sented an update on our various areas of ministry as a church body. He also conducted two Bible study hours on the topic of conflict in the congregation, using Acts 6 and Philippians 4 as the texts. Newly elected district officers for the coming year are: President — LaVern Thompson, Fergus Falls; Vice-President — George Hartman, Dalton; and Secretary-Treasurer — James Rolf, Brandon.

A special offering was received for the AFLC Bible School and Seminary.

"Flock Groups" begin in Edmore, N. Dak.

Living Word Church in Edmore, N. Dak., has begun their once a month "Flock Group" Fellowship.

The New Testament teaches that the Church is to stand out as a community of loving relationships toward God and each other. The New Testament repeatedly commands each of us to have active, loving relationships within our church body (Rom. 12:10; 13:8, 1 Cor. 12:25, Gal. 5:13, 1 Peter 1:22, 4:8). Mindful of Hebrews 10:24-25: "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together...but let us encourage one another...", we believe our Flock Groups can be one way to help obey these commands. The Groups are a means of obedience to the Lord and are meant to be one tool to be the church God has commanded us to strive to be.

All Flock Groups meet with 15 minutes of singing and sharing. The large group divides into smaller groups of approximately 12-15 people of all ages. Each month a topic is discussed from a passage(s) in Scripture. For

example, the topic may be *witnessing*. Groups search out Scripture to read what the Lord tells us about that topic. Then discussion is held on how we can apply this to our lives in specific and practical ways in our day to day living. A study guide is used.

Flock Group Fellowship is closed with all groups meeting together in a common area for refreshments and fellowship.

Babysitters are provided for infants through Grade 3. All others in the congregation are included in the Flock Groups.

In an evaluation taken at the close of last year, every participant positively acknowledged growth in his own spiritual life as an off-shoot of attending Flock Group meetings. As this year begins, we give all honor and glory to our Lord, and rest in the promise that if we obey His commands He will richly bless us.

— Corr.

Philip Rokke was the chairman of the committee and chaired the organizational meeting. He has since moved to Minnewaukan, N. Dak., where he serves a two-point parish.

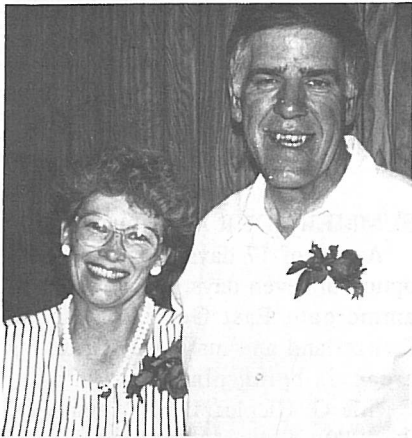
OFFICIAL NOTICE

Two pastors have requested that their names be removed from the AFLC clergy roster: **Rev. Richard Thompson**, Morris, Ill., **Rev. Bhushana Rao Dasari**, Plymouth, Minn.

news of the churches

Personalities

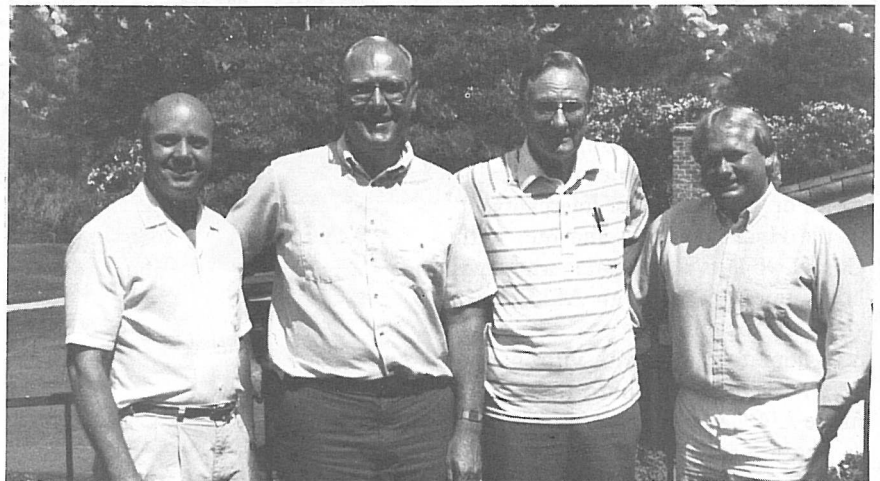
Rev. Rodney Johnson, Spicer, Minn., has accepted a call to serve Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Stanley and First English Lutheran Church, Lostwood, N. Dak., effective January 1. He has been the pastor of Green Lake Lutheran Church, Spicer, since his graduation from seminary in 1984.



Dr. and Mrs. Gerdeen

Chassell, Mich.

Pastor and Mrs. James Gerdeen were bade farewell with a fellowship supper followed by an evening service on Sun., July 23. Maranatha was organized in 1971, under Pastor Gerdeen's leadership and except for his time at seminary and at Victory in Christ, Maplewood, Minn., he has been our



The first ever AFLC pastors' fellowship of California was held in late September at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Orville G. Hiepler, Valley Center. Pictured left to right are David Molstre, David Hinrichs, Orville Hiepler and Keith Quanbeck.

pastor since, at the same time serving as a professor at Michigan Technological University in Houghton. Mrs. Gerdeen (Wanda) faithfully served as Sunday School superintendent and WMF treasurer.

They were presented with a mantle clock as a parting gift of appreciation. Pastor Gerdeen had accepted a teaching position at the University of Colorado, Denver, beginning in that capacity in early August. We praise the Lord for his ministry at Maranatha and pray His blessings in abundance in their new location. Their present home address is Aurora, Colo.

On June 4, Pastor Jerry M. Holmaas began his ministry at Maranatha, having arrived here from Ottawa, Ill., with his wife Ruth and son Luke. He was installed as our pastor on Sept. 3, with Pastor Herbert Franz officiating. The service was followed by a congregational dinner. We bid them hearty welcome in Jesus' name.

We are pleased to have two of our youth at AFLBS this year. A Bible School scholarship fund was set up with matching funds from Lutheran Brotherhood — *Ruth Engman*

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

AFLC Benevolences - February 1 - August 31, 1989

| FUND | TOTAL BUDGET | REC'D IN AUGUST | TOTAL REC'D TO DATE | %* TOTAL |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| General Fund | \$ 169,600.00 | \$ 11,298.62 | \$ 77,736.70 | 46 |
| Schools - (AFLTS) .. | 128,237.00 | 6,761.59 | 48,370.65 | 38 |
| (AFLBS) .. | 187,650.00 | 13,919.85 | 58,521.64 | 31 |
| Home Missions. | 397,564.00 | 16,451.77 | 121,066.77 | 30 |
| World Missions. | 325,730.00 | 22,631.03 | 128,790.27 | 40 |
| Capital Investment .. | 30,000.00 | 1,784.03 | 14,470.03 | 48 |
| Parish Education | 69,500.00 | 2,554.87 | 12,736.25 | 18 |
| TOTALS | \$ 1,308,281.00 | \$ 75,391.76 | \$461,692.31 | 35 |
| 1987 - 1988. | \$ 1,057,504.00 | \$ 59,970.82 | \$432,844.48 | 41 |

*Goal 58%

IN MEMORIAM

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

MICHIGAN

Rumely

Aleksandra Pantti, 103, May 11, Calvary, Eben Jct.

Munsing

Vern Dunquist, 84, July 16, Calvary, Eben Jct.

Viljo (Bill) Hautamaki, 79, Aug. 19, Calvary.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

Mrs. Inez C. Hempel, 88, Oct. 5, Faith.

Mission leaders visit India

Rev. Eugene Enderlein and Rev. Einar Unseth were in India in early October on a fact-finding trip for the AFLC World Missions Committee. Pastor Enderlein, World Mission Director, and Pastor Unseth, board chairman, visited some of the ministries of "Project Christ International" in the Hyderabad area and met with Gospel workers near Guntur who have been supported through AFLC missions during the past year. The two men hope to return with information that will help the board determine future AFLC involvement in India.

The trip was one which had originally been scheduled for last spring.

ENCOURAGEMENT—

food for encouragement, even inspiring us by God's grace to excel in the good we are capable of doing. Let us pray that we might be able to discern between that which is true and that which is flattery.

But now let me say something about giving encouragement to others. This certainly is a big part of our responsibility as Christians.

We should love Jesus and live for Him. He who first loved us and did so very much for us should have priority or first place in our life. But we should let His love flow through us to those around us, especially to fellow Christians. We are to love and be considerate of those we come in contact with and be an encouragement to them. *"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith"* (Gal. 6:10).

The giving of compliments, which cost us nothing, is a very good way to give encouragement. It would be good if much more of this were being done. We need to look for good things in others, especially those close to us and Christians whom we are acquainted with, letting them know that we notice and appreciate the good in them and the good they are doing. However, even as we should be careful that we are not taken in by flattery, we should also avoid flattery in complimenting others. Let what we say be truthful, honest and without exaggeration.

It is wise and good to compliment

PREACHING MISSIONS

Lake Alma, Sask.

Faith Lutheran Church

Leslie Johnson, pastor

Nov. 5-9

Speaker: Mr. Olaf Friggstad

Frontier, Sask.

Roseau, Minn.

Roseau Lutheran Church

Reuben Unseth, pastor

Nov. 9-11

Speaker: Dr. Francis Monseth,

AFLC Schools

Bismarck, N. Dak.

Calvary Lutheran Church

Kerwin Sletto, pastor

Nov. 5-9

Speaker: Steve Kneeland

Duluth, Minn.

children, especially our own children, giving them encouragement. A compliment given in love often does more to gain obedience from our children than a direct command or scolding, although at times children also need to be disciplined.

Our own immediate family is a good place to begin practicing giving compliments. We tend to take those close to us for granted, believing they already know how we feel about them, and to an extent we can take them for granted. However, it is good when members of a family voice their feelings for each other and give compliments.

Next time — "Three Major Encouragements from God's Word for the Christian Warrior."

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.

Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Second-class

SUMMER TOUR AVAILABLE

A tour of 17 days, with a Norway option of seven days, including Oberammergau, East Germany, Rome, Switzerland and many other exciting areas, is being planned by Pastor Orville G. Hiepler. It will begin June 26, 1990.

The tour reservations are 75% filled as of this printing. If you want information, call 619-749-2146 (Valley Center, Calif.).

SPECIAL MEETINGS AT ISHPEMING

This past week (Sept. 23-27) we have had our fall special meetings with Pastor Lyndon Korhonen of Culbertson, Mont., as our speaker. He shared a series of Bible studies and messages under the theme "The Family and Its Role in the Church."

This theme included the life of the people in the family of the congregation as well as the family in the home. Bible personalities were included in the morning Bible studies such as: Timothy — "The Influence of the Family"; Silas — "Companionship in the Family"; Barnabas — "Encourager in the Family"; and Peter — "Leaders in the Family."

The Lord Jesus has certainly blessed the series and we praise God for the privilege to share these weeks of meetings as a call to new life in our congregation as well as in our Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

— Pastor Harvey L. Jackson