



THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

October 8, 1985

Photo by Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.
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at the MASTER'S FEET

Coping with crisis

Psalm 61

Recently I read an interesting article entitled "Coping with Chronic Illness," written by a pastor's wife. For two years she had been struggling with ulcerative colitis. Although this disease is not life-threatening, it causes much misery. In telling how she had coped with this problem, this lady stated, "Suddenly, because I was unable to carry on as well as before, I had to make some changes. Many things I had been considering very important had to be cut out of my life. Looking back over these two years, I realize, although they have been tough, I have learned a great deal personally as I have learned to cope."

Coping with crisis is something that everyone of us must learn to do. A crisis is a time of trouble whose outcome decides whether or not bad consequences will follow. Whenever such times come we need to be able to

rightly cope with them.

King David faced many a crisis in his life. Psalm 61 deals with his coping with a serious problem. This crisis was his having been exiled from his home because of Absalom's rebellion. In this psalm we note three things that David did in coping with his crisis.

First of all, David coped with crisis by crying to God - verse 1. He cried intensely as he lifted up his voice on high. In his desire to make certain that God would hear him and help him, he pleads, "Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer." A pastor and his wife were coping with a great crisis this year when they learned that she had cancer. That pastor said that when he first learned of his wife's condition, he wept and cried aloud to God. Crying aloud to God is a good way of pouring out our feelings to Him. In Psalm 34:6, David says, "This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles." Crying intensely to God is an excellent way of coping with crisis.

In crying to God, David cried brokenly also. Verse 2 contains the expression "from the end of the earth will I cry unto Thee." By this statement he means that he has been banished from the center of his delight, namely, God's tabernacle. Brokenly he asks God to lead him "to the Rock that is higher than I."

Jesus is surely the Rock for us when we feel our sins, for in fleeing to Him we receive forgiveness and safety. When the pastor's wife was stricken with cancer, people asked her how she could cope with it and she replied that she coped by looking to the hills and to the Lord who created those hills. The Creator of the hills helps us in all of our ills when we cry to Him.

A second way in which David

coped with crisis was by committing. He committed himself to dwell in God's tabernacle (presence) forever. Even now in his exile, his heart was in God's courts. He makes this commitment because he realizes that true comfort is found not in the things of the earth, but in things of the Lord.

David's committing includes vows to God. In verse 5, he says that God has heard his vows. He commits himself to keep those vows, for in verse 8 he speaks of daily performing his vows. The husband of the wife with cancer prayed, "God, whatever will bring You the most glory will be alright." Such committing is difficult, but it is an effective way to cope with crisis.

David's third way of coping with crisis was by looking - looking for something good to result from it. David looked for a great heritage (inheritance), verse 5. A man who had been hospitalized coped with his crisis by looking, and by looking he saw good results. He commented that through his illness he had learned new insights and he had grown in his love for his family.

May David's coping with crisis by crying, committing and looking be used of God to help each of us in our coping with crisis.

by Pastor
Einar Unseth

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by Rev. Gaylon Mathiesen

Mr. Norman Olson, Willmar, Minn., a member of the Stewardship Board, heard this sermon preached and felt it was something we as a church should hear, too. He has made it available to us with the author's permission. It has been only slightly abridged.

Giving is spiritual

Mark 12:41-44

What strikes me first in this passage is the setting. There in the area of the temple between the Court of the Gentiles and the Court of the Women was a section with boxes for offerings that went toward the purchase of supplies for things like temple sacrifices.

There at the gate opening into this area Jesus sat and observed as people gave their offerings into the treasury boxes, some giving large amounts, others giving small amounts.

Can you picture this in your mind? The usual hubbub of the day in the temple courts: people milling around, the voices of the crowds, the dust stirred up by their feet, the bleating of animals, and in the midst of this the theatrics of the people passing by the offering boxes. The Lord is watching the show, taking tabs on what drops into the boxes, and the manner in which it is done. God observing the passing of the offering plate, if you please.

What do you suppose God saw that morning as the plate was passed?

I usually don't think of the Lord being interested in such things, but here there is special mention of His observing people's giving practices, and there is actually a great deal of teaching on giving in the Bible. It is very intricately tied into the life of the disciple and is listed in Paul's teaching on the qualifications for one becoming a deacon or an elder.

And yet today we almost feel it is unspiritual to talk of such things. As it has been said, the last thing to get

converted in a man's life is his wallet.

What are some of the giving attitudes in the church today? One writer listed these:

"What is my fair share?...What will they think if I don't put something in the plate?...I'd better give or something will happen to me.... I have all these debts. The Lord doesn't want me to become delinquent in my payments so I'll wait until these are paid; then I'll be able to give." Or how about these, "Do you tithe on the net or the gross?...Budget increase? What do they think we are, a gold mine?" Or this one, "The rich people should give more."

Do these reflect any thoughts that have passed through your mind at one time or another? What do they say about our heart attitude regarding giving to the kingdom of God?

And then there is the attitude of the church stewardship committees:

"People won't give unless we twist their arms....If we promote this right, people will give more....How much do you think we can get from him during this campaign?...If we make them feel guilty they will give more....Let's divide into teams and have a giving contest....I don't know what we'll do if we don't raise the budget."

Our attitudes toward giving are often reflected in our church polity and church polity does much to perpetuate those feelings in individuals.

As I've listened to you people in the last couple of years, I have noticed some exciting things happening. I have sensed an awareness in your lives

brought on by the Holy Spirit that giving can be an exciting, powerful dimension in the life of the Christian.

I have heard statements from your own lips like: "You know, we've never tithed before, but we are now." That statement was made in a conversation about how much this family had grown in the Lord since coming to Good Shepherd, and how tithing was not a burden but a joy.

Another said to me recently. "I love to give; I enjoy giving."

Another family has recently discovered that when you give God the cream off the top, before anything else gets paid out, somehow the money stretches and the Lord blesses in ways never imagined.

I have never seen anyone in poverty because they gave too much to the Lord's work. And yet some of the wealthiest misers I have seen have been the poorest, most miserable creatures on the face of the earth.

God loves a cheerful giver, Paul said. A cheerful giver is, of course, one who understands the joys of being a steward in the Kingdom of God.

So what did Jesus observe as He watched these people making their donations? He saw those whose beautiful robes flowed as they strolled across the courtyard, whose money jingled as they turned their money bags upside down over the offering boxes.

He saw those who quietly made their way through the crowd in less than the best dress, hoping no one would notice as they dropped in a

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"I have never seen anyone in poverty because they gave too much to the Lord's work."

GIVING . . .

meager sum.

And He saw those with sour faces, who carefully counted out their coins, did their division and subtraction and tossed in just the precise and "proper" amount.

There were also those who, while engrossed in juicy conversation, suddenly remembered what they were there for, and with lips still moving and not missing a beat, dropped in their "quota" as they walked by the offering boxes.

All kinds of people, all kinds of givers, but what caught our Lord's eye was an impoverished widow. Now was His chance to impart to His disciples a memorable lesson in giving that would remain with them the rest of their lives. He quickly but discreetly called His disciples to Him and pointed out the widow: "She gave more than all the others," He said.

The disciples thought to themselves, "Lord, you've said some strange and hard things, but this... What could she have to give that would be more than all the others?" They understood that a widow in their society was very much a person to be pitied, especially if she had no family, no providers, and there was no welfare for them as we know today. A woman in this condition was often reduced to beggary or prostitution.

"Lord, how much did she give?" "Two lepton." Two very thin copper coins worth only a fraction of a penny. The disciples were still puzzled, until He said, "Everything; all she had to live on."

"Ah, now we understand Lord," It is not how much, the quantity of what one gives, but what is left over that determines the value of the offering in the Lord's eyes... sacrificial giving.

He didn't call the disciples over when the wealthy men gave much, for they all had much to give. He called them when one came who gave all she had.

God is not concerned with the size of the check you write on Sunday morning. The value of your gift is measured by the balance in your checkbook on Monday.

And God is wise enough that in the New Testament we are not given a

standard percentage by which to measure our giving. We are told simply to give "as God has prospered" us. How has God prospered you?

"Oh, but what about the tithe, the 10%?" you may say. Well, that may be a part of the Biblical picture, but it is not the total picture, by any means. And for some 10% may be a good goal to begin with, a good starting place. But there were offerings other than the tithe which were given in Bible times. Abraham gave 10% to Melchizedek, but Noah gave the Lord at least 14%, Zacchaeus promised Jesus 50%, and the exemplary widow in our text gave 100%.

There is no hard and fast rule about giving, and chances are as you grow in your faith the percentage that you give may well increase proportionately.

Your giving level is a matter between you and the Lord, whether it be a dollar amount, a percentage or looking at what remains after your gift. Some use a graduated tithe where they begin at 10% and then with each raise the amount given to the Lord grows from 15 to 20 and 30% and so on. This way the wage earner and the Lord both get a raise.

Whatever system you choose is a matter between you and the Lord; the system is not the important thing. The important thing is what the attitude of your heart is as you give.

Who is the true owner of what I give? Are these my possessions or is the earth truly the Lord's and the fullness thereof?

Sacrificial giving becomes less of a sacrifice and more of a freedom as we come to recognize that all that we have is His.

When we determine in our hearts that this material universe is far secondary to the things that are not seen, we are released to pursue the true values of life.

There is, of course, nothing wrong with wealth in and of itself and God

does bless some of His people with considerable prosperity. And yet to whom much is given, much will also be required, and to whom has more been given than those who have been blessed to live in the United States of America?

Paul, in writing to the Corinthians, wrote these words, "But just as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us -- see that you also excel in this grace of giving. I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor so that you through His poverty might become rich" (II Cor. 8:7 NIV).

And is this not the bottom line? What has Jesus done for you? What will you do in turn as an expression of your love and gratitude for Him? Is anyone being made rich through your poverty? What will you do as an expression of your love and gratitude for the Savior?

Not only with your wallet or purse, but with your life. As the Bible tells us, we are not our own, we are bought with a price, we are not to be the servants of men. "You cannot serve two masters," Jesus said. "You will love the one and hate the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Where is your love, where is your desire? "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Our treasure is what we value. What is important to you, having all the things that your friends have, or seeing the kingdom of God advance as the sick are made well, as broken lives are mended with the Gospel, as the unreached billions hear the Good News of Jesus, as Jesus is brought to a needy world through your life and your gifts?

Who is your master? Who is your first love? Whom will you serve? To whom will you give your life, your possessions, your ambitions?

The woman in our text gave until it hurt and did so with a glad heart. She gave all she had to live on with a deep joy, and God loves a cheerful giver.

"The value of your gift is measured by the balance in your checkbook on Monday."

"Have you ever felt that your giving was a sacrifice?"

Have you ever felt that your giving was a sacrifice? Have you given until it hurt? If not, I would encourage you to take just one step in that direction. You don't have to go from the 10% of Abraham to the 50% of Zacchaeus, or from the 50% of Zacchaeus to the 100% of the widow, but just a small step in that direction that is solely between you and the Lord; a step of faith if you please. What will you trust the Lord for in your giving?

Let us not leave here saying, "What an interesting message," but let us put what we have heard into practice. Let us turn the ownership of our possessions over to the Lord.

You will experience a release in doing this and you will find yourself in the mainstream of God's blessing. Through the poverty of Christ, the poverty of spirit, you will become rich.

Again it is not the lack or plenty of possessions that measures spirituality. Material poverty is not a virtue; good stewardship is. In giving all we have and are to God for His use and His glory, it is there we are released from the mastery of self-indulgence.

When Jesus observes your giving, what does he see? What would you like for Him to see? Stephen Olford wrote in one of his books, "Christians have no conception of what they are missing in terms of enjoyment and enrichment until they have learned to give on God's terms." Blessing and enjoyment, of course, are secondary motivations, with glory to God being our first motivation. But God does connect blessing with obedience.

In the quietness of this moment, let us seek the Father and His wisdom and grace in this matter and may we discover the truth of Paul's words: "Poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything."

Let us pray together. . . and let us turn ownership of our possessions to the Lord. Go through your house, your farm, your business and in an act of worship give Him each part. Include your income, property, time, abilities, spiritual gifts, talents, aspirations, your family, . . . yourself. . . .

"The word 'sin' means to miss the mark of God's perfection."



THE ANSWER TO LIFE'S QUESTIONS

So many people feel empty, frightened and alone. They look for fulfillment in many places and in many different ways, but for many the fulfillment they seek is elusive -- always just ahead in a new experience, a new job or a new possession. Yet this fulfillment never comes. Others seek to escape from the pain they feel through drugs or alcohol or a number of other things, yet their attempts to escape only bring about more pain. The problem seems to boil down to this question: is there really any purpose in life? Or as many people put it, "Why am I here on this earth?"

I firmly believe that there are answers to be found to the most pressing questions of life, and the answers I have found have profoundly affected my life. Through God's Word, the Bible, I can understand who I really am, and why I am here on this earth. Through God's Word I know that I am loved by God, the same God who created all things. This love brings meaning and purpose to my life and assures me that I am never really alone. I also have the assurance, based on God's Word, that if I were to die tonight I would go to heaven. Talk

about something to look forward to! Not only does God give peace and joy in this life, but He also gives us heaven to look forward to!

This assurance of my destiny in heaven is not because of anything I have done or could ever do. The Bible says that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). This obviously includes me. No one could ever earn his way into heaven -- the wonderful thing to know is that heaven is a free gift. We don't deserve it, but God offers it to us freely.

God's Word tells me that all of us, as human beings, were created in the image of God -- that is, we were specially created by God and given the power of rationality, a gift which is unique among God's creatures. We were also given a spiritual dimension, a soul, which will not die, but will live forever. God intended that people should live in fellowship with Him, but they chose to rebel against God, to sin. The word "sin" means to miss the mark of God's perfection. We all miss the mark every day of our lives, just like an archer whose arrow misses the target. Most people are familiar with the Ten Commandments, and there is nobody who can honestly say that he has never violated any of them. And sin doesn't just refer to outward actions. Even our thoughts can be, and often are, sinful. Few people actually commit murder, yet all of us must admit to having hateful thoughts. Jesus made it clear that in God's eyes the thought is sin, just as surely as the act. The Bible says that all of us are sinful, "There is none righteous, not even one" (Romans 3:10).

The result of this sin is that we are separated from God. God is holy and just, therefore He cannot tolerate sin, but must punish it. Yet God is also merciful and loving, so He made a way for us to be in fellowship with Him, to bridge the gap that our sin has placed between us and God. That bridge is Jesus.

Jesus was not just a great teacher; he was "God made flesh." He is truly God and truly human. As God, He was and is perfect, yet as a human being He took the punishment we deserve for our sins. He was our substitute, taking our punishment for us. The Bible says, "The wages of sin



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is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Jesus lived the only perfect life that any person has ever lived, and then He died, not because He deserved death, but in order to pay the penalty for our sin. He rose from the dead, gaining victory over death once and for all.

This victory over sin and death becomes our own through faith. The Bible says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes on Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16). This faith is not merely intellectual assent or temporal faith: it is trusting in Jesus alone for our salvation. "It is by grace you have been saved, through faith -- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -- not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8,9 NIV). True faith implies action; I can say that I believe a particular chair will support me, but my faith in that chair is not genuine unless I go and sit on the chair. If we have faith in Jesus, then we accept that what He said is true. The Bible tells us that sin displeases God, so along with our faith should come repentance. Repentance is sorrow for our sins, and turning from our sins to God. We don't earn our acceptance by God because of anything we do; rather, our repentance is a response to God's willingness to forgive us.

God's offer of eternal life is open to you. God wants to free you from the power of sin in your life and give you the assurance that if you should die tonight that you would go to heaven. He wants to give your life purpose and meaning. Simply stop trusting in your own efforts and put your faith in Jesus. Come as you are and let Him change you and give you new life. Think of your heart -- your inner person -- as a house; Jesus says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20). He promises that if you will trust His promises, He will come into your life. If you want to receive the gift of eternal life now, you may use the following prayer as a



guide -- remember it is the inner attitude of faith that really matters, not the exact words you use.

Dear God, I admit to You that I am a sinner, as Your Word says. I know that I can do nothing to save myself, or to earn my way to heaven. I believe that Jesus has paid the penalty for my sin and because of Jesus I ask Your forgiveness for all of my sins. Please cleanse me of all my sins and make me Your child. Lord Jesus, I surrender myself to You -- I want to live for You, and I receive You as Savior and Lord. Thank You for the promises of Your Word which assure me that I am saved. Amen.

Believing in the promises of

God's Word, you may be sure on the basis of the Bible that you are saved and that you have the gift of eternal life. Now you need to find fellowship with other believers so that your faith will grow. You will find spiritual nourishment in reading your Bible -- start with I John or the Gospel of John. Your faith will grow stronger as you share it with others -- they need this good news of eternal life, too!

Randy Moe
Minneapolis, Minn.

(Biblical texts are from the New American Standard Bible unless otherwise noted.)

Thirty-seven children at BFLC orphanage

Moriah Orphanage is the new ministry of the AFLC in the great land of India. The orphanage and headquarters building is a recently built nine-room brick and block structure in a fine area of Guntur, in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Thirty-seven children are housed at the orphanage and receive daily food, shelter, Christian teaching, and loving care through the gifts of concerned supporters. The World Mission office at AFLC Headquarters in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is currently in the process of mailing photographs and biographical sketches of each child to his or her sponsor. Sponsors include entire congregations, their auxiliaries, such as WMF or Sunday School, and individuals.

The name Moriah Orphanage was selected by the national church of India. It was at Mt. Moriah that Abraham, in obedience to God, raised his knife to sacrifice his only son Isaac, and received God's blessing, along with the life of his son, Genesis 22:2. It was here that God later appeared to David, which caused Solomon to select this holy place as the site of his great Temple of the Lord, II Chronicles 3:1. Pastor Eugene Enderlein, World Missions Director of the AFLC, made this comment about the name Moriah: "Just as God appeared to David on this holy site, it is our prayer that God will be genuinely real to each of the children at our orphanage, and that each one will personally commit his life to the Lord Jesus Christ."

Moriah Orphanage will be officially dedicated to God's glory on October 19, Pastor Eugene Enderlein, Pastor Bhushana Rao Dasari, and national pastors of the BFLC will share in the dedication service. Pastor Enderlein requests the prayers of the people of the AFLC as he travels in India this month to strengthen the believers.

Letter to orphan sponsors

(This letter has been sent to all those sponsoring a child in the orphanage in India.)

Dear Friend, When our Lord Jesus Christ gathers all the nations before Him for judgment, the sweetest words that any of us could hope to hear are, "Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me. . . Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me" (Matthew 25:34-40).

I sincerely praise God that He has touched your heart to support a child in our new Moriah Orphanage in India. You are reaching out to "one of the least of these" in the name of Jesus. I know that in the name of Jesus will receive honor and glory as this little one is fed, clothed, given loving care, and taught of the Savior who died for him.

As of the first of September we have 37 children housed at Moriah Orphanage. Currently we have photographs and biographical information on 19 of them. That specific information is included in this mailing to 19 sponsors. We hope that the enclosed photo and information is a blessing to you as you pray specifically for your child.

If you do not receive a photo and information with this letter, we ask you to be very patient with us. We know that it is difficult for you to wait when you are anxious to get to know your child better. However, please be sympathetic with our dilemma. Our World Missions office at Minneapolis is waiting for the necessary information to be furnished to us from our staff in India. (I'm sure you realize that national pastors and houseparents there are very busy establishing our new ministry and caring for all of these new children.)

I ask you to pray for our Bible Faith Lutheran Church of India, our national workers and pastors, and especially for the children at the orphanage. Everyone there is excitedly planning for the official dedication of the orphanage on October 19th. Will you stand with us in prayer? I would like us to have a praying band of faithful supporters across the U.S.A.! Thank you.

I will be in India for a full month this fall, participating in the orphanage dedication, visiting and preaching in most of the congregations, dedicating church buildings, and earnestly seeking to spiritually strengthen the pastors and people of our B.F.L.C. I covet your prayers for safe travel, good health, and the fullness of God's Spirit in preaching, teaching and our endeavors.

While I am in India, I will personally take many photographs of the children at our orphanage and glean facts about each one's life. When I return to the U.S.A. later in November, I will send information to you sponsors who are still waiting. Thank you for your patience and faithful support.

*Yours for AFLC World Missions,
Rev. Eugene W. Enderlein
World Missions Director*

Canton congregation continues to be encouraging

Nestled along the Big Sioux River, about 20 miles southeast of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, amid beautiful rolling hills of trees and corn fields, lies Canton. Canton is a community of about 3000 people. It is the city where Augustana College had its beginnings and served as the home for many years of Augustana Lutheran Academy. The area has a rich evangelical Lutheran heritage. It is in Canton where one of the newest AFLC Home Mission churches, Redeemer Lutheran, is located.

The AFLC work in Canton was begun in 1983 after several families in the Canton area contacted the Home Mission Board. An informational meeting was held on December 7, 1982 in a banquet room of a local cafe to determine the interest in establishing an AFLC congregation in the Canton area. Nearly 100 people attended that meeting.

On Sunday, January 9, 1983, the first service of what was to be Redeemer Lutheran Congregation of Can-

ton was held in a vacant business building in town with AFLC Home Missions director Rev. Elden Nelson and Rev. Robert Lee, professor at the AFLC seminary, conducting the service.

Three weeks later, on January 30, a business meeting was held following the morning worship, at which time the congregation was officially named and organized and a steering committee of eight men was elected. Two pastors, Rev. Lee and Rev. Kenneth Moland, dean of AFLBS in Minneapolis, Minn., ministered to the congregation on alternate weekends for the next 18 months.

During the summer of 1983, a five-acre plot of land on the west edge of town was purchased and on October 9, ground-breaking ceremonies were held, with church construction beginning that fall. The members of the congregation pitched in with joy and enthusiasm to put up their new worship facilities. On June 5, 1984, although construction was not entirely

completed, the first service was held in the new structure.

On August 1 of that year, the congregation received its first full-time pastor, the Rev. Rodger Olson, who had served the Grafton, North Dakota, AFLC congregation for eight years. Dedication services for the newly completed facilities took place on Sunday, October 21, with Rev. Elden Nelson officiating and bringing the message.

The congregation continues to grow spiritually and in number. Attendance at Sunday worship ranges from 80-100 persons, drawing people from a wide geographical area, some from as far as 50 miles.

It is through the witness of this congregation that another inquiry meeting was held this summer in a community about 30 miles away where other concerned Lutheran Christians sought counsel in the direction they should go in regard to their congregational life.

One of the highlights of each week is the Wednesday evening Bible study and prayer fellowship. A good percentage of the adults in the congregation attend, while the teens meet separately for a study and fellowship of their own.

In Redeemer Lutheran, like most Home Mission congregations, there is fresh appreciation for the preaching of the Word, for prayer, for singing, and for the warmth of Christian fellowship, things that are often taken for granted in an older established congregation. It is the desire of the founders of this congregation that it be true to the Word of God, and that it be used to share with the community and the world the message of repentance of sin and personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.

The work at Canton is very encouraging to all who are involved. As you pray for and support the work of AFLC Home Missions, rejoice and be encouraged in what God is doing in this little corner of His vineyard.

Pastor Rodger Olson

ALL THINGS ARE THINE: NO GIFT HAVE WE

**All things are Thine; no gift have we,
Lord of all gifts, to offer Thee;
And hence with grateful hearts today,
Thine own before Thy feet we lay.**

**Thy will was in the builders' thought;
Thy hand unseen amidst us wrought;
Through mortal motive, scheme and plan,
Thy wise eternal purpose ran.**

**In weakness and in want we call
On Thee for whom the heavens are small;
Thy glory is Thy children's good,
Thy joy Thy tender Fatherhood.**

**O Father, deign these walls to bless;
Fill with Thy love their emptiness;
And let their door a gateway be
To lead us from ourselves to Thee.**

**John Greenleaf Whittier
(from *The Church Hymnary*)**

editorials

ATTENDANCE INCREASE

Our previous *Ambassador* (Sept. 24) carried information about attendance at the two Association-sponsored family camps this past summer. The statistics reveal an increase in that over the year prior to 1985.

At Galilee Camp, Lake Bronson, Minn., There was an increase of almost eight percent. The Association Retreat Center, Osceola, Wis., jump was over 19 percent. The combined total attendance this year, 639, means that family camp enrollment has now climbed back to where it once was at the Alexandria, Minn., camp at Lake Geneva.

There is talk of having two weeks of family camp at the ARC next summer. The Lake Bronson camp can accommodate considerably more people than it has had before two camp weeks would have to be held there.

All the more remarkable is the fact that two or three other family camps are offered to Association people on a district or congregation basis.

The Luther League Federation reported a record attendance this year at Rapid City, S. Dak., in spite of the many youths enrolled at the family camps and youth camps as well. This must all indicate that our young people are seeking Bible study-oriented fellowship as never before.

In all, the camping reports are encouraging as to numbers and the spiritual impact of the camps is even more important.

This has been written without benefit of a report on the Wilderness Camp at Lake Park, Minn., still another camping opportunity in the AFLC.

THE NECESSARY

In the midweek Bible study and prayer meeting which we attend, one of the men used a word in his prayer recently that caught our attention in a special way. This man prayed for all of us who had found it "necessary" to be present. What a good way to put it!

A reliable dictionary uses as synonyms of necessary, essential and indispensable. That is, something that can't be dispensed with because it's too important.

So that's why we should be at the midweek service: it's too important to miss! For our own good we must go there. Not everyone can be present every time or any time, but when it is possible, it should have priority.

The Bible study and prayer time is an opportunity for more informal, yet serious, searching of the Scriptures, a time for prayer together and a further chance for fellowship (being with those of like mind).

Maybe you should be at the midweek service of your congregation. Perhaps you, too, will find it *necessary* to come.

Another time, in the opening exercises of a Sunday School in another church, one of the older students prayed for the Lord to bless those "who couldn't make it," that

is, get to the church school that day. That expression, too, struck us as one to ponder.

Surely the Lord will bless those who for good reason cannot be at Sunday School, a church service, or whatever, on a particular day. They are, as we say, present in thought and spirit.

But what of those who can't "make it" because they have things they'd rather do or places they'd rather be at that time? What blessing can the Lord provide for them? God is gracious. God is merciful, but even He finds it impossible to bring any blessing in certain situations.

Our young friend meant well in her prayer, but let us remember that we have to be open to God's good things before there is any hope of them benefiting us.

FLASHBACK

The July 22 issue of *The Christian News* carried an article on Dr. William Oesch of Germany who died in January, 1982. Seeing his name again brought memories of the Lutheran Free Conference at which he spoke in late October (29-31), 1963, in Minneapolis.

The conference was held in First Baptist Church and was sponsored by The Word Alone organization. The late Rev. Raymond Larson, then of Mentor, Minn., was the chairman of The Word Alone. Rev. G. L. Halmrast was a moving spirit in the organization, also Dr. Allen Blegen and others.

In addition to Dr. Oesch, among other speakers we heard were Dr. Henry Morris, well known foe of the evolution theory, Mr. John Noble, survivor of Russian persecution, and Rev. Herman Otten, editor of *The Christian News*.

We wish we could lay our hands on our notes from that conference, but failing that, we simply cite Dr. Oesch's description of the inspiration of Scripture to the effect that the writers were "in the hands of the Holy Spirit" as they wrote. The thought has been helpful when thinking on that subject.

The conference brought together quite a few AFLC pastors in those very early days of our fellowship. We were still finding ourselves and the conference gave us encouragement as we met like-minded Lutherans of various synods.

Let us remember this distinction:

Our forgiving others is not the
meriting cause of divine forgiveness,
but one of the necessary conditions.



GIVE ENCOURAGEMENT

Thank you for your work in preparing the *Ambassador* for us to read. We enjoy reading the different articles.

In the July 16 edition you stated that the attendance wouldn't be as good next year for the Annual Conference in Washington because of the distance. May we remind you that the distance from the Mid-west to the West Coast is no greater than the West Coast to the Mid-west. We would appreciate it if you would encourage people to attend rather than discourage them.

Mrs. Donald V. Nelson
Bellingham, Wash.

Editor's note: Based on what has happened previously when AFLC Annual Conferences have been held away from the numerical strength of our church, attendance will not be as good at Warm Beach, Wash., next June, as when conferences are held in the Upper Midwest. But no one will be happier than I if my assumption proves wrong. And this could happen because it looks like there will be more promotion of the coming conference than of any held in the past. Make plans *now* to attend the conference next summer, God willing.

Chamberlain church notes 75th anniversary

St. Olaf Lutheran Church, rural Chamberlain, S. Dak., was built in August, 1910. On August 25, special services were held to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the congregation. Rev. Philip Featherstone is the present pastor.

The theme for the anniversary was "To God Be the Glory." The theme verse was I Corinthians 10:31b. The theme song was "To God Be the Glory." A lovely banner was made by Mrs. Featherstone.

The Sunday morning message was given by Rev. Richard Snipstead, president of the AFLC. Ivy Nelson sang a solo, "All the Glory."

At noon dinner was served at Pukwana Lutheran Church, Pukwana, hosted by that congregation. After dinner there was an open house at the parsonage next door to observe the additions and improvements that have been made there.

At 1:30, a dedication service was held at Pukwana Lutheran with Pastor Snipstead presiding and dedicating the parsonage improvements and gifts to the Pukwana church.

At 2:30, the 75th anniversary program was held at St. Olaf Lutheran. Following the singing of the theme song, Pastor Featherstone had devotions and welcomed all in attendance. He introduced the former pastors present, who were Lester Dahlen, 1942-44,

Karl Stendal, 1969-71, Douglas Heskin, 1976-77, and Hubert DeBoer, 1977-78. Ruby Brooks, a former confirmand and member, sang a solo, "Precious Memories."

Pastor Snipstead brought the afternoon message and the men's chorus sang "Thanks to God for My Redeemer." Pastor Snipstead then dedicated the church addition and gifts to the church. The Lord's Prayer followed.

After the program there was a time for fellowship, renewing acquaintances, looking at the picture display and enjoying the refreshments.

St. Olaf congregation is thankful to God for those people who felt the need of a special place to worship our Lord and to faithful pastors and teachers who proclaimed the Word of God.

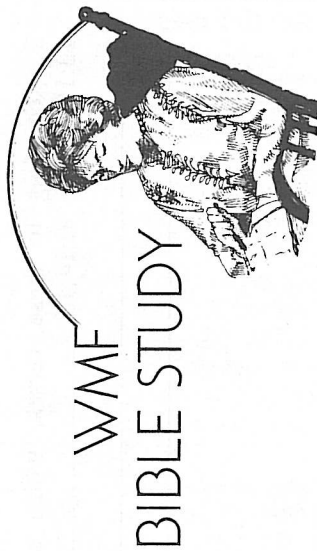
Other pastors who have served St. Olaf are B. P. Farness, Selmer Framstad, G. A. Almquist, Rev. Thompson, Holger Hagen, A. L. Hokanson, Leslie Brandt, Rev. Anderson, Emil Martinson, Philip Halverson, Carl I. Ostby, Trygve Dahle, Karl Berg, Gerald F. Mundfrom, Dale R. Battleson, Marvin Haara and Lay Pastor Otto Saukerson. Various laymen have helped out from time to time.

For many years the church had the address of Bijou Hills.

Helium-filled balloons with attached Bible verses were released by the Sunday School children at St. Olaf's.

From left to right, Pastors Douglas Heskin, Philip Featherstone, Richard Snipstead, Hubert DeBoer, Lester Dahlen and Karl Stendal.





A CLOSER WALK WITH JESUS

LESSEN ELEVEN — A WALK OF THANKSGIVING

Of all people, Christians should be the most thankful! Besides temporal blessings, we experience so many spiritual blessings — numberless blessings. In Col. 2:6,7, we read: “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so *walk* ye in Him: rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with *thanksgiving*.” There is so much of Scripture that admonishes us to praise and thank God. This is a very important part of our walk with Him.

1. What does Ps. 92:1,2 say about giving thanks? _____
2. How do we glorify God? Ps. 50:23 _____

9. There are so many things to be thankful for both in spiritual and material blessings. We could never number them all, but we can name a few. Before you go any farther (in your personal study of this lesson), would you please write out the word **THANKSGIVING** and list one or more blessings for which you are thankful, beginning with each letter, then read the scriptures that I have given for each one and name the blessing. (I have listed them and additional ones on the answer sheet.)

- T—Matt. 13:44 (II Cor. 4:5-7) _____
- H—Jn. 14:16,17; Ps. 71:14 _____
- A—Eph. 5:20; Col. 4:2 _____
- N—Rom. 6:4; II Cor. 5:17 _____
- K—II Tim. 1:12 _____
- S—Acts 4:12 (I Thess. 5:8,9); Ps. 40:3 (Col. 3:15-17) _____
- G—II Cor. 9:15 (Rom. 6:23); Ps. 107:1,2,8 _____
- I—Rev. 3:20 (Rom. 10:13); Col. 1:12 (I Pet. 1:4) _____
- V—I Cor. 15:57 (II Cor. 2:14) _____
- I—Heb. 7:25 (Rom. 8:34) _____
- N—Phil. 4:19; Matt. 6:30-32; I Tim. 6:6-8 _____
- G—Eph. 2:8 (Eph. 1:7); Heb. 4:16; II Cor. 12:9; James 4:6 _____

In addition to these, name other things for which you are thankful. This Thanksgiving season, take time to pause and really thank the Lord for these blessings. Make every day a Thanksgiving Day in your walk with Him. “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name” (Ps. 100:4).

Suggested Hymn: “Now Thank We All Our God” (Concordia, No. 242)

(This is the final lesson for this year.)

3. According to these verses, which sacrifices please God? Heb. 13:15,16; Ps. 50:14,15 _____

4. What things *should not* have any part of our walk or talk because they are not becoming to Christians? What should our life and speech rather be filled with that is pleasing to God? Eph. 5:3,4 _____

5. What is one of the signs of the last days? II Tim. 3:1,2 _____

6. For what are we to give thanks and why, in I Thess. 5:18? _____

7. We are to continue in prayer and _____ (Col. 4:2).

8. Who are receiving praise, from whom and where? Rev. 7:9-12 _____

When will our thanksgiving and praise be perfected? _____

PRAISE

O Thou, whose bounty fills my cup
With every blessing meet!
I give thee thanks for every drop -
The bitter and the sweet.

I praise Thee for the desert road,
And for the riverside;
For all thy goodness hath bestowed,
And all thy grace denied.

I thank Thee for both smile and frown
And for the gain and loss;
I praise Thee for the future crown
And for the present cross.

I thank Thee for the wing of love
Which stirred my worldly nest;
And for the stormy clouds which drove
Me, trembling, to thy breast.

I bless Thee for the glad increase,
And for the wanning joy;
And for this strange, this settled peace,
Which nothing can destroy.

Jane Crewdson



Pastor Lee receives grant

Shown receiving a recent grant from Lutheran Brotherhood for a sabbatical study leave as a faculty member at AFLTS is Pastor Robert Lee. Pictured also from right to left are Michael Steinbring, fraternal coordinator for Lutheran Brotherhood, Jon Gadberry, a local representative, and Pastor Francis Monseth, Dean of the Seminary. Each year Lutheran Brotherhood makes available up to \$6,000 in aid for faculty development.

Alumni Association to meet

The AFLBS Alumni Association will hold its annual meeting during Homecoming on the campus, Saturday, Oct. 12, 10:15 a.m. All members are invited to be present and participate.

CAMPUS NEWS

BARNABAS IV

We did Christ's work

"You're doing *what* this summer?"

That was the reaction of many people when they heard of my summer plans. I had the privilege this summer to serve Christ on the Barnabas team. What is the Barnabas team? I wasn't sure myself, at first. I was told that it is a team sponsored by AFLC Home Missions and trained by AFLBS faculty for Building And Reaching New AFLC Brethren with AFLBS Students. Barnabas literally means "son of encouragement," and that was our challenge and calling this summer, to encourage and build up our brothers and sisters in various Home Mission congregations and Bible camps throughout the Association. This year the team consisted of four students: Brent Boen, Strandquist, Minn., Dianna Quiram, Esko, Minn., Eric Westlake, Slapneck, Mich., and Denise Tollefson, Beltrami, Minn.

We began with training on the AFLBS campus, May 27th-June 1st. There we were challenged to make our summer a time of service and of unselfish giving of ourselves. As we began to get to know each other better and define our goals and anticipations, the Holy Spirit was working, molding

us as individuals and as a team into a vessel that He could use to further His work. We worked hard trying to master skills in teaching, music, and puppetry, and, I know that I did a lot of re-evaluating of my expectations of "serving Christ" until I knew that I was willing to be used by Him in any way He should choose.

We were scheduled to leave on June 1st, and after a few minor breakdowns, an hour of packing and repacking the car, a few frustrations, a lot of laughing at ourselves, and a short time of prayer, we were off! It took us less than 20 minutes to get thoroughly lost, but eventually we did arrive at our destination. We taught Vacation Bible Schools at Granite Falls, Minn.; Tucson, Ariz.; Park River, N. Dak.; and at the ARC for Family Camp. We counseled at Bible Camps in Cooperstown, N. Dak.; Upper Michigan at Presbyterian Point; and the ARC for Senior High Camp and Family Camp. We also got in on a lot of other exciting things: building the church in Lakeville, Minn., helping in the kitchen and babysitting at the AFLC Annual Conference, backyard Bible clubs and canvassing in Tucson, Bible clubs in St. Cloud, Minn., and taking a group of kids camping in Pelkie, Mich.

It would take too much space to recount all of our experiences this summer and God's faithfulness through them all, but I would like to mention some of the lessons that I learned this summer. I realized more clearly than ever before the importance of every part of the body of Christ, how we are inter-dependent on each other and need each other to be complete. I also learned lessons in thankfulness. Sometimes God was working and blessing above and beyond all we even dreamed. At other times we couldn't see results right away, and we learned to in faith thank God that He was working though we couldn't see it. It was



Couples' Retreat at the ARC

A Couples' Retreat using the theme "Finding the Family" will be held at the Association Retreat Center, Osceola, Wis., Nov. 1-3. The cost for the entire weekend will be \$36 per person.

Pastor and Mrs. Wendell Johnson, Stacy, Minn., and Pastor Michael Brandt, Amery, Wis., will be the Bible study leaders. Mr. Clifford Johnson, Esko, Minn., will speak at the banquet on Saturday evening and also lead a workshop. Other workshop leaders will be Pastor Brandt, Pastor Brian Davidson, Amery, and Marion Olson, Pastor Steven Kneeland, Kenyon, Minn., will speak at the Sunday morning worship service.

The retreat begins with registration on Friday evening at 8 o'clock, followed by a film, "By Love Set Free." The retreat will end with lunch Sunday.

For further information and to make reservations (\$10 per couple in advance) please contact Mr. Gene Froehlich, Route 1, Box 67, Kenyon, Minn. 55946, or call 507-527-2869.

BARNABAS...

always amazing how God could take our efforts, unpolished as they often were, and use them. He taught us that what He really wanted from us was, more than our abilities, our availability to be used by Him. He taught me faithfulness - to work for Him and not for the approval of people, and then to press on, and to be faithful to His call of service when I was tired, nervous about doing something wrong, unsure of myself, and in all situations. I failed in that sometimes this summer, but even through that I grew.

Our summer ministry is over. Barnabas IV is now history, but our service for Christ is just beginning. In encouraging others, we were encouraged and strengthened. My prayer for myself, and my challenge for you is to recognize the call to encourage one another (some examples: Is. 35:3, I Thess. 5:11; Heb. 3:13, and then by God's grace to go out and be a "Barnabas."

Personalities

New address of **Mr. Sheldon Mortrud**, member of the Co-ordinating Committee and Editorial Board, is 520 31st Ave. No., Apt. No. 3, Fargo, N. Dak. 58102

And for **Mrs. Petra Lee**, widow of Rev. G. G. Lee, it is now 14862 Curry, Moreno Valley, Calif. 92388. She formerly lived in Everett, Wash.

Lay Pastor Burton Rygh, who has served United Lutheran Church, Greenbush, Minn., since 1976, will retire effective Feb. 1. He and his wife will live in Roseau, Minn., after that date.

Rev. Elden Nelson, Minneapolis, Minn., spoke at special meetings in Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Greenbush, Minn., Sept. 22-24.

Rev. Willmore Gunderson, Coopers-town, N. Dak., is engaged in an evangelism ministry at Hegland Lutheran Church, Strandquist, Minn., this week (6-10).

Rev. Arnold Stone, former teacher at AFLBS, was the teacher at special meetings in Grace Lutheran Church, DeKalb, Ill., Sept. 22-26. The studies were on the Book of Revelation.

Rev. John Strand, Remer, Minn., spoke at special meetings in King of Glory Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, Minn., Sept. 29-Oct. 2.

Preaching Missions

Greenbush, Minn.

United Lutheran Church
Burton Rygh, Lay Pastor
Oct. 20-24

Lay Pastor Rodney Stueland, Roslyn S. Dak., speaker.

Thief River Falls, Minn.

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Leslie Galland, Pastor
Oct. 20-24

Lay Pastor Gene Sundby, Outlook, Sask., speaker

Second Vice-president of Missouri Synod dies

Dr. Gerhardt W. Hyatt, second vice-president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and former U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains, died on Aug. 30 in Arlington, Va. He was 69.

A native of Melfort, Sask., he was a pastor in Raleigh, N. Car., before entering the chaplaincy in 1945. He was named Chief of Chaplains in 1971. He was president of Concordia College in St. Paul, Minn., from 1975 to 1983. Dr. Hyatt headed the Synod's successful Forward in Remembrance fund appeal which brought in more than 75 million dollars, nearly double its goal.

Twenty-two students and interns at AFLTS

September 4 marked the beginning of a new school year at AFLTS as students and faculty gathered for worship, prayer and testimony on the Medicine Lake campus. After a greeting from Pastor Richard Snipstead, AFLC president, and a devotional message by Pastor Francis Monseth, Dean of the Seminary, the men knelt together in praise to God and petition for His blessing.

Six men, new to the student body this year, introduced themselves to the group and spoke of God's grace in bringing them to the point of preparation for full-time Christian ministry. First-year men include Timothy Carlson, La Crosse, Wisconsin; Michael Crowell, Kalispell, Montana; Steven Olinger, Ferndale, Washington; Lloyd Quanbeck, McVillie, North Dakota; and Lynn Wilson, York, Nebraska. Mark Bateson,

Brooklyn Center, Minnesota is also part of the student body this year on the AFLC colloquy program. Twenty-two students are part of the Seminary program this year including those on internship assignment.

Middler students who are interning are: Lynn Kinneberg, at Wadena, Minn.; Tom Tuura, at Virginia, Minn.; and Steven Snipstead, at Arlington, Wash. These men will return to the campus for one more year of classwork next fall. The seniors interning are: Jim Johnson, at Reva, S. Dak.; Todd Klemme, at Thief River Falls, Minn.; and Jeff Swanson, at St. Paul, Minn., through November, and in Brazil, December through May. These men will be eligible for calls and ordination next summer, if all requirements are completed. Also serving on internship is Les Johnson, at Stacy, Minn.

Morgan Avenue, Mpls.

New members received into the ministry of Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota, in July are, front row; left to right, Mitsuo and Tizue Uratani, Melissa Stenberg, Jennie Lampi, Deya Hessel; second row: Edith Drake, Robert and Lynn Lundquist, Reuben and Amy Unseth, Juliet and Alex Duarte, Mavis



Huot; back row: John Walker, Marie Reese, David and Julianne Poupore and Kirsi. Not pictured are Luiz and Julieta Romais and Signe Turunen. Rev. Yeddo A. Gottel is the pastor.

news of the churches

Dr. Kenneth D. Hyatt, (Hietala in Finnish) will speak at Morgan Avenue Lutheran, October 16-20. Morning and evening services are scheduled.

DeKalb, Ill.

Last spring Grace Lutheran, DeKalb, Ill., conducted four evangelism training classes with at least 35 persons in attendance. Since then, Thursday nights in May and June were set aside to make evangelistic calls. Teams of one, two or three persons have also gone out in September. Before the visits are made, a prayer time is held and individuals report back later to one another. Teams will be on an "on call" basis and will go out as opportunity affords. Further training will be done by the pastor and other team members. Pray that the Lord will give fruit for the labors.

The Luther League of Grace recently elected officers. They are: Craig Gray, president; Carla Osland, vice-president; Angela Osland, secretary; and Mark Mathison, treasurer. Mark Olson, pastoral assistant, is the advisor of the Luther League. The young people also voted to pay \$50 toward the book expenses of the four AFLBS students attending from Grace.

—Corr.

Grafton, N. Dak.

Rev. Dennis Gray, DeKalb, Ill., will be the Bible teacher at a series of meetings at Bethel Lutheran Church, Grafton, N. Dak., Nov. 17-21, Lyle Aadahl, Pastor. The theme will be "Victory in Jesus," from Romans 1-8. Pastor Gray served Bethel from 1971-75.

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 birth and the church in which he or she held membership.

MINNESOTA

Roseau

Geline G. Lein, 82, June 27, Rose

Carl Gottfred Nelson, 73, Aug. 24, Spruce

Eben Junction, Mich.



Here are the members of the church council at Calvary Lutheran Church, Eben Jct., Mich., with their pastor, who was recently installed. They are, front row, left to right, George Johnson, Art Swafanen and Oswald Hautamaki; and, back row, Elmer Juntanen, Waino Kangas, Pastor John Mundfrom, Fred Woimanen and Waino Rajala.

ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

CHURCH SUBSIDY February 1-August 31

| FUND | TOTAL BUDGET | REC'D IN JUNE | TOTAL REC'D TO DATE | % of TOTAL* |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------|
| General Fund | \$ 213,910.00 | \$ 6,727.16 | \$ 90,797.15 | 42 |
| Schools — AFLTS | 108,041.00 | 3,929.63 | 29,886.22 | 28 |
| AFLBS | 179,198.00 | 8,444.24 | 54,463.91 | 30 |
| Home Missions | 271,233.00 | 7,245.65 | 74,051.13 | 27 |
| World Missions | 307,000.00 | 11,308.19 | 126,903.96 | 41 |
| Praise Fund | 30,000.00 | 2,223.57 | 12,044.56 | 40 |
| TOTAL | \$1,109,382.00 | \$ 39,878.44 | \$388,146.93 | 35* |
| 1984-85 | \$1,003,095.00 | \$ 44,534.06 | \$371,956.28 | 37 |

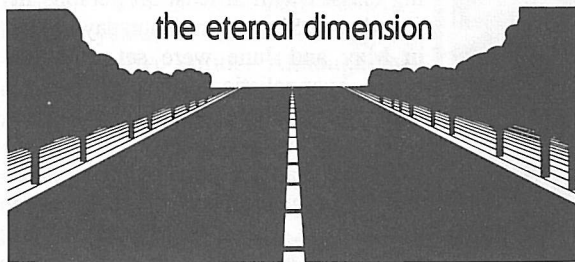
*Goal 58%

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Getting
prepared for
life's greatest
experience

Do you know people are trying to get through life without any of the normal problems of life? They are willing to let someone else take all the responsibilities, while they go along for the ride. They are even willing to let someone pay the bills while they enjoy the benefits.

But in our world there has been preparation for the things which are significant and someone has to take the preparation responsibility. At this time of year there is much preparation for the school opening which will happen soon. Parents are preparing by buying clothes and school supplies for their children. Schools are preparing by cleaning and painting and by preparing their teaching staffs for what is coming. School doesn't just happen. It must be prepared for. Life is real and requires real planning and preparation if disaster is to be avoided. As much as a person may like to avoid responsibilities, there are some which cannot be avoided. Let's consider one such responsibility.

In Amos 4:12, the prophet tells the people of Israel to prepare to meet their God. The background for this admonition is a nation which has been given many opportunities to repent of her sin. But she had not repented. To her, sin was too enjoyable to leave behind. She failed to repent while

there was still time. Now God says there will be no more time. Now she must meet God in the full fury of His judgement. History verifies that such judgement came on that nation. It was terrible Judgement. God's ultimate judgement is always terrible. If people could see that while there is yet time to repent, many a heartache and catastrophe would be avoided. Doesn't the admonition of that ancient prophet fit our day? Do we not have great personal and social sins which God will not ignore? There are sins of abortion and child abuse. There are the sins against the marriage vow which are taken so lightly, but which are a great offense in the sight of God. There are the sexual sins which we like to wink at and tolerate but which are in affront to God's holiness and purity. Yes, the ancient prophet's admonition is appropriate for us, today.

Perhaps his admonition fits your personal situation. You prepare for many things. Some are important, and others are not. So many people are not prepared to meet God and that meeting could be soon. Surely it will come suddenly. For the unprepared, it will be terrible. We write this to help you see the importance of being prepared. Surely that meeting will be life's greatest experience for you. Think of yourself standing before God, totally

Mine Eyes Unto The Mountains

**Mine eyes unto the mountains
I lift, whence help goes forth;
My help comes from Jehovah,
Maker of heaven and earth.
Thy foot shall never falter;
Thy every step He keeps;
The Lord Who keepeth Israel
He slumbers not, nor sleeps.**

**The shade of the Almighty
Shields thee upon the right.
The sunlight shall not smite
thee,
Nor shall the moon by night.
Thy coming in He blesseth,
and from the temple door
Thy going out He guideth
Now and for evermore.**

**Ernst William Olson
(from *The Hymnal*)**

unprepared.

There is a way to be prepared. Read about it in John 3:16 and 36. You need the Savior described there. Turn from your present life, and turn to Him. Repent of your sins and receive the Savior. In Him, you will stand before God with all your sins removed from you. Amos' admonition is still the best piece of advice you will ever get. Prepare to meet your God. Do it Now!

Pastor Emerson Anderson
Cleveland, O.