THE ANDOR ANDOR

September 25, 1984

The Grand Canyon of the Colorado River Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

IASTER'S FEET

Lav Pastor Gustav Nordvall

The greater food

Fortunate indeed are they who can place their trust in the providence of God, who can say like the writer of Lamentations, "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness."

Every living creature on this earth needs food to survive. As summer is over now, we see the urgency of gathering cones, seeds, etc.. Can there always be a supply?

When God created the earth He set in motion a force that has continued until the present time and will as long as the Creator permits. Plant

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and animal life reproduces and grows in perpetual cycles. "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest . . . shall not cease" (Gen. 8:22).

Jesus reminded his listeners in his Sermon on the Mount that God provided for the birds of the air and grass of the fields. Would he not also feed and clothe you and me?

David declared long ago, "He giveth to the beast his food and to the young ravens which cry."

Our recent vacation trip took us through the prairies of central and eastern Manitoba, through upper Saskatchewan and into Alberta. This 900-mile distance provided us with a variety of scenic beauty: open plains, rivers, lakes and valleys. All this to our delight. However, we were much impressed with what seemed to be endless fields of ripened grain.

This being mid-August, it was in the middle of harvest. Some fields yet untouched by the sickle were like a golden sea in the warm sunlight, moving like waves in the autumn winds. Other fields were in swaths and formed a fascinating pattern on the rolling hills. Other fields were completely harvested. It appeared that the greater portion of all this crop was wheat. Everywhere along the route it seemed was a continuous activity of man and machine at work: the swather, combine and trucks. I could not but think of Proverbs 12:11, "He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread." When we returned to Minnestoa there was more of the same. 1984 is another great harvest. What an abundance of bread! Lord, great is Thy faithful-

Our Almighty God is always able to provide in any situation. We recall how the Lord directed Joseph to gather and store up grain in Egypt during the plenteous years and that when the seven years of famine came, there was food in the land!

When the children of Israel were without food in the wilderness they murmured against Moses and Aaron and the Lord said, "I will rain bread from heaven for you."

Then our Lord Jesus fed the five thousand with five barley loaves and two small fishes. Twelve baskets were gathered after all had eaten!

Even greater than supplying the needs for all creatures in the world is the gift of God through Jesus His Son, who said, "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst" (John 6:35). "Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof and not die" (John 6:49,50).

And in Isaiah, we read, "Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? And your labour for that which satisfieth not? Hearken diligently unto Me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness."

"Lord, evermore give us this bread" (John 6:34).

He knows, He loves, He cares, Nothing his truth can dim; He gives his very best to those Who leave the choice to Him.



In the midst of temptations to unfaithfulness

> by Rev. Martin Horn, Zumbrota, Minn.

The Challenge

It should be the desire of every believer that he will persevere "until the end." I can think of nothing more calamitous than to be found unfaithful for having abandoned faith in Christ. And yet we recognize that within ourselves lies the seed of apostasy.

The anonymous writer to the Hebrews is concerned about a people who are evidently wavering in their faith and may abandon it. He admonishes them (and us) to "Hold fast our confession." He repeats this theme throughout the book of Hebrews. We are of Christ's household "if we hold fast . . . " (3:6), he tells us to " . . . hold fast the confession of our faith without wavering" (10:23); "Do not throw away your confidence . . " (10:35); therefore, "strengthen the knees that are weak" (12:12).

Whom is this addresed to? Certainly to those on the outskirts of Christianity, who for some reason are tempted to slip out of the backdoor of faith. Maybe because of an apparent lack of content and relevance in the church. Or because of pressure to abandon their faith for the sake of "keeping peace." Or because they are discouraged by their own failure and sin and are feeling that God will not accept them any more.

This admonition is also for those in the center of Christianity. It is for those who appear so strong that noth-

ing could shake their faith. We must remember, lest we become careless, that the inclination to unfaithfulness is present in every believer. Therefore, let us hold fast our confession.

The Motivation for standing firm

In order to motivate someone in a certain area, the question "Why?" must be sufficiently answered. This is the author's intent in the book of Hebrews: to answer the question "Why should I remain faithful to Christ? Why should I hold fast to the end?" He does this by demonstrating the superiority of Christ over their alternative belief.

The people to whom this is addressed were Jewish Christians who were considering abandoning their Christian faith in the face of outside pressure and persecution. Their alternative was to revert back to Judaism with its system of priests and sacrifices. Christ's superiority to the Jewish system was demonstrated in at least three ways.

First, He is a superior high priest. The 14th verse describes Him as "great high priest" and can mean as well, "greatest high priest." Before a high priest made a sacrifice to atone

"I can think of nothing more calamitous than to be found unfaithful for having abandoned faith in Christ." for the sins of the people he was required to make one to atone for his own sins. Christ, because He was perfect "... yet without sin, 4:15), had no need for atonement and was therefore a more competent high priest.

Second, He had a superior sacrifice. The Levitical sacrifices only atoned for sins as they were a type or pre-figuring of the sin offering of Christ and therefore dependent on Christ's sacrifice. They were only temporary—continual sacrifices were needed. But Christ's sacrifice of Himself was perfect. It atoned for the sins of *all* people *once* for all, and was sufficient in itself (Pieper, *Christian Dogmatics*, p. 379).

Third, He entered a superior sanctuary. Once a year the high priest would enter the Holy of Holies and sprinkle the blood of a sacrifice on the horns of the altar to intercede for the people. Christ entered the heavenlies, into the presence of the Father, on the basis of His own blood (Heb. 9:11, 12). There He remains to intercede on the behalf of the believers "that the salvation purchased for them once for all may be applied to them" (Pieper, p.302).

The superiority of Christ for our time is clearly demonstrated in the atonement of Christ. It was efficacious for the Hebrews; it is now. All other alternatives of religion can offer nothing more than a warmed-over legalism. This cannot bridge the gap between man and God, which Christ alone has done.

HOLD FAST ...

In the face of the superiority of Christ, nothing can be more logical than the author's exhortation to "Hold fast our confession" (Hughes, *The Epistle to the Hebrews*, p. 171). And nothing could be more foolish than abandoning it for something that has been superseded.

Therefore, we are urged to cling to our confession, that is, our faith in Christ. We cannot allow any force to bring us to abandon it, whether it is temptation, doubt, persecution or our own neglect. The Gospel of Christ is far too precious to allow it to slip through our fingers.

The basis for holding fast

"Holding fast" implies the exercise of strength. Other terms that can be used are "to take hold of forcibly," "to grasp," "to seize," "to prevent from escaping." In the face of this admonition we seek to exert our strength in "holding fast" to this confession. But then a curious thing happens. Through the attempted exercise of strength our weakness is revealed. In ourselves, we cannot remain faithful.

We must realize that the basis for our perseverance lies outside of ourselves. We, through the exercise of *our* strength, cannot stand firm.

We must then realize that we can go to Christ in the midst of our weakness. "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things such as we are, yet without sin." Christ is not a distant figure who is removed from the realities of our human experience. He will not reject us because we have somehow_failed Him. But in His grace He is standing ready to give us help and strength in our weaknesses, because He has been tempted in all areas such as we and understands our weaknesses.

"The Gospel of Christ is far too precious to allow it to slip through our fingers." Moreover He understands even more deeply than we because of His sinlessness. In the ease with which we fail, we rarely feel the true sharpness of temptation. Christ, because He never fell, experienced temptation carried to its ultimate conclusion, with its full subtlety, its cunning, and its sometimes crude forcefulness.

His sinlessness is important in the area of faithfulness because the bulk of his temptations were toward unfaithfulness. Satan, in the wilderness (Matt. 4), in the garden of Gethsemane (Matt. 26), and at the cross (Matt. 27), was continually tempting Him to be unfaithful to His calling.

Because Jesus underwent the same temptations to fall, we can approach Him with confidence, asking for grace in our time of temptation. Verse 16 speaks to us forcefully of our right to approach Christ. "Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need."

"Who . . . could believe that we can approach God confidently? Yet it is true."

This is the basis, the secret, if you will, of standing firm. It is not in our strength, but it lies in the acknowledgement of our weakness, coupled with a bold confidence that relies on Christ and not ourselves.

Confidence. Who, after realizing his sin, could believe that we can approach God confidently? Yet it is true. This message must be incorporated in our lives and taught to our people and our children. We are sinful, yet we may approach the Throne of Grace.

In discussing the necessity of standing firm, we have discovered a peculiar dichotomy. That, on the one hand, in our flesh, we have no confidence in the future because our very nature is to fail. But on the other hand, in Christ, we can have every confidence that He is able to keep us faithful until the end.

THE UNKNOWN

"And He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself" (Revelation 19:12).

We shall ever be seeing New beauties in our Lord, New majesty, new sweetness In God's eternal Word; New mysteries unfolding When old have been revealed, Old wonders comprehended To show still more concealed.

We shall be ever finding New marvels in the Christ, For which our deepest

knowledge
Has never yet sufficed;
Exhaustless graces flowing,
More loveliness and more,
And always through the ages
New greatness to adore;
New riches, new compassions
And fresh reserves of love;
Infinities of wisdom
Our highest thought above.

All His dear Names
unnumbered
We shall exalt, adore;
Yet, for our fullest homage
There will be one Name more.
For, though we learn forever,
One thing may not be known,
One glory, all transcendent,
Shall still be His alone.

Depth beneath all depths fathomed, Height above all heights scaled, Word beyond all words uttered, Paramount grandeur veiled; Fragrance of hidden sweetness, Glow of an unseen flame, Grace of a secret beauty,— Glorious Unknown Name!

—Annie Johnson Flint

te leve no. Kasse t te eks Ar. Fruit tretten Kr Slas te seksten Rr te tredue Rr Kjele sjorten Kr

a youthful memory from Nordland, Norway

Anders Halversen was a fisherman and resided on a small island out in the ocean about one Norwegian mile (seven English miles) from the coast line. He sustained himself and his family by fishing. He was honest and industrious, but poor. His entire property consisted of a cow, a few sheep and goats, and a pig. His little piece of ground could not furnish any more food than these animals needed. Besides his stock, he had an old boat, a few bolts of linen and fish nets. Such was Anders Halversen's entire property.

But there was something in which Anders was rich, and that was in children. He had no less than nine children, of whom the greater number were young so that it was a hard task for him to provide food and clothes for all of them.

Poverty in the home was bad enough, but the worst of all was that Anders had gotten into so great a debt to the storekeeper that his credit had been stopped. And there was no other storekeeper for miles to whom he might turn. Furthermore, he was a stranger to them, so it was of no use to go and ask them for credit.

Now that the credit has been stopped, there was only one recourse left for Anders, and that was to take with him a little catch of fish in his boat and thus be enabled to purchase the most necessary provisions, provided the merchant would be merciful enough not to subtract some of the catch of fish from the indebtedness.

There had been a storm at sea for several days and it was impossible for Anders to go out. When the

storm had abated and it looked as though the weather would be fair the next day, his wife Ragnhild said, "Anders, if the weather is good tomorrow you must go to the storekeeper and see if you cannot get a sack of flour on credit."

"No, Ragnhild," answered Anders, "if there is good weather tomorrow I must go to the sea to catch fish, because I do not dare to show myself to the storekeeper without having something to buy with. As you know, our credit is gone long ago and it is of no use to ask for any further credit."

"... our credit is gone long ago and it is of no use to ask for any further credit."

To this his wife answered very definitely, "Anders, you must go to the storekeeper because I have no more bread for the children. The last of the flour is baked and the meal barrel is empty. You will have to go."

With a heavy heart, Anders, on the following day, without any fish in his boat, sailed away to the storekeeper on the mainland to ask for further credit, rather than going out to fish. It was indeed with a heavy heart that Anders started off. When he came to the store, there were several boats at the place, and there was a large number of people in the store. The moment the storekeeper caught sight of Anders, he said, "Hello, Anders, I see you are here today. I suppose you have

come to pay off a part of your debt."

"No, I am sorry to say I have come to ask you to help me with a sack of flour as I have no food at home for the children."

"What!" exclaimed the storekeeper. "Have you the nerve to ask me for more credit on top of all the money you owe me? Come into the office and let us look at your debt to me."

Poor Anders! He had to obey, but it was not with much pleasure that he did so. The great sea boots that he wore seemed like lead on the way to the reckoning.

In the office the storekeeper brought out a book in which a number of accounts of old debts were written down. Among these were also notations of Ander's indebtedness. Laying the book on his desk, the storekeeper said, "Well, Anders, how large is your debt?"

"You know what it is," replied Anders.

Anders knew that the debt was large, but he did not know the exact amount. As the debt increased, Anders had stopped keeping the account since that seemed rather disagreeable to him. Precisely in the same manner as the sinner treats his account with God.

The storekeeper then said, "Well, here you see the account. It amounts to nearly two thousand crowns. When do you plan to pay this large debt?" concluded the storekeeper.

With tears in his eyes, Anders replied, "I have the will to pay, but my ability to do so is very small."

The storekeeper dipped his forefinger in the inkwell and drew a heavy black cross over the reckoning and said, "Now, look, the entire debt is paid."

"What are you saying, sir?"

"The storekeeper dipped his forefinger in the inkwell and drew a heavy black cross over the reckoning. . . ."

ACCOUNT PAID . . .

"I am saying that your entire debt is paid. You are not owing my anything. You are free of debt, and besides that I am giving you a sack of flour and some other necessary provisions."

The tears began to roll down Anders' cheeks as he stammered, "God bless you, sir."

You may be sure that Anders was a happy man. The wind was off the shore. Anders hoisted the sail and sang all the way out to the fjord. When he reached his home his wife and two of the childen were down at the cove to meet him and find out what success he had.

Anders lowered the sail, and before his boat touched the shore he placed himself on a thwart, held himself fast to the mast, beckoned with the other and shouted, "God bless the storekeeper. My whole debt to him has been cancelled. I am free of debt, Ragnhild. Beside that, I have a lot of food with me as a gift from him on top of all the rest."

In later days Anders never tired of speaking well of the storekeeper and praising him with the highest extravagance, precisely as a forgiven sinner feels the need of exalting and praising God for His mercy and compassion.

Dear reader, do you recognize yourself in this story? It has, without doubt, gone with you and me in the same manner in our relation to God as it transpired with Anders at the storekeeper's place. See if you are not like Anders, that it seems disagreeable to recall your indebtedness to God and that you, like Anders, have quit keeping account of your debts to God. Do not forget, friend, that you cannot get away from your large indebtedness to God. It will be as the hymn says:

"Come now, my heart, and give account!

Write down thy days completely; See that thy sins thou dost not flount, Look back and let them meet thee! What hast thou done these many years

Which God in mercy gave thee? Remember, soul, with contrite tears The Christ who came to save thee!"

A tour of the Bible School



Let me take you on a quick tour of our Bible School grounds through pictures. You will enjoy feasting your eyes on our spacious and well kept lawn. These pine trees are becoming more majestic with each growing season. They speak of the power and care our Father in heaven has for growing things. This is of an afternoon in April when the autumn days are shortening and the shadows lengthening. On the left is the boys' dorm and Dorcas room. (Thank you for those boxes of clothing.) That

building in the middle contains the chapel, classrooms, two offices, library, dining hall and kitchen. Much activity goes on there! To the right is the girls' dormitory. The students have rooms upstairs and there also is the crafts room (thank you for those craft supplies), and a storage room. Downstairs is the dean of women's apartment (thank you for praying with us for a dean), American library, lounge and another small apartment.

Or possibly you are like Anders in this respect that you are conscious of your poverty and depressed at the thought of your great indebtedness to God. If this is the case, it is precisely as the merchant did for Anders that Jesus, the Son of God, has done for you with His blood on the cross: He has drawn a large red cross over the amount of your sin indebtedness and your bond of sin has been nailed to the cross. Through His divine words of love He calls into your troubled heart, "Your sin is forgiven and your debt is paid."

Note that some of the last words that passed over the lips of the dying Savior were these: "It is finished!" Blessed words for you and for me! When in faith you accept these words, you will be happy in Jesus as Anders was made happy by the storekeeper. You will sing your praises to God and, like Anders, you will receive precious gifts after the guilt has been blotted out and paid

for. We also shall receive these further gifts: we become children and heirs of God. When all this comes to your heart you will have the same experience as Anders who could not praise the grocer highly enough. You will want to glorify Jesus, the Son of God, and this desire will go with you through death into eternity.

Taken from Wonderful Experiences by E. B. Slettedahl, Lutheran Pastor. Printed in 1936. Pastor Slettedahl was born in Nordland in 1855 and converted at the age of 21. A few years later he came to America. He completed his college and seminary work at Augsburg College and Seminary and was ordained in the year 1887. His first charge was at Fertile, Maple Lake, and three other congregations in northern Minnesota. From 1918-1934, he conducted the Seaman's Mission in Seattle.

-submitted by J. A. Grimstad

world missions



Now while we are outside, let us go to see our grasscutters. They have been a big help to us and give us milk, both to sell and for the campus kitchen. In our second picture you see Nilton milking one of our cows, Clara. She gives eight quarts of milk a day. We wish we could afford a really good milk cow. Do you have any old *Ambassadors*? You've seen Nilton before! In the March 28, 1972, issue, he is seen with Charles Knapp at Bible Camp when Nilton

accepted Christ as his personal Savior. Recently he had his 20th birthday. Now he is Sunday School superintendent at the Lar Parana church. We trust you will be meeting Nilton again in the future. He goes to school at night and is finishing up his high school education with plans to enter our Bible School. Pray for Nilton and others we have heard from who are planning to come here to study next year.



The lunch bell has rung. Come with me to the dining hall for a cup of tea or coffee, whichever is your preference. Or would you like to have lunch of beans, rice and salad with us? Dona Terezinha is our cook this year. She is a member of the Lar Parana church. We all appreciate her many good Christian qualities in our school kitchen as she serves delicious meals to us.

For when the gentleness of Christ dwells in us, He can use the merest touch of a finger.

Frances Ridley Havergal



Please come now to the Dean of Men's office by the library. Pastor Oseias Camara would like to give you one of our school's brochures. Pastor Oseias keeps the school's and students' accounts in order, does the purchasing for the kitchen, and among other duties is also pastor of our Lar Parana church. One of his favorite Bible verses is Psalms 108:1, "O God my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory."

I have enjoyed showing you around our Bible School campus. Please come again, perhaps when our classes are in session. We appreciate your interest and prayers for our school

Carol Knapp

When is he (the sinner) awakened? When he no longer is satisfied with his condition, can no longer live unconcerned about the salvation of his soul, can no longer be at rest in his old life, but longs to be converted. Then he is spiritually awakened.

—J. N. Kildahl, *Ten* Studies on the Holy Spirit

home mission news



Living Faith Lutheran Church

MY GOD IS WONDERFUL

My God is wonderful to me. His love is boundless as the sea.

He feeds my soul with heavenly food.

Praise God, my heart, for He is good.

My Lord has cancelled all my sins.

He paid the price without one wince.

You, too, may have this cleansing flood,

Because He gladly shed His blood.

His Holy Spirit lives with me; My constant guide and help is He.

His peace within my heart now dwells.

I know His love. His mercy swells.

You, too, may have this peace within.

You, too, may be released from sin.

Our Father has but one request, Trust Him and let Him do the rest.

Einar N. Botten Stanwood, Wash.

Tucson, Arizona

The AFLC congregation in Tucson, Ariz., was started by Pastors Lawrence Dynneson and Ted Kennedy of Nogales, Ariz.. The congregation during those first months was somewhat nomadic in nature, meeting first in a motel, later in a Methodist church, and for a few months in a junior high school.

Pastor and Mrs. Forrest Swenson arrived in February, 1982, to guide the congregation in becoming established and organized further. In the fall of 1982 the congregation was incorporated as Living Faith Free Lutheran Church.

Finally, in August, 1983, after much prayer and discussion, the Lord supplied the congregation with its own building, located in the fast-growing southwest section of the city. With the assistance of the Home Mission Committee the congregation was able to buy the structure and has now nearly completed the building.

Much work was required to bring the building up to occupancy code and the greater part of this work was done wholly on a volunteer basis by various members and winter visitors.

It was a thrill to have our first service in our own building on Sunday, January 8, under a temporary occupancy permit (a permanent occupancy permit was granted to us by the city on May 10).

Pastor Forrest Swenson resigned from this field recently, and although it is difficult to see him and his wife go, we praise the Lord for their ministry with us and know that He will continue to use them wherever they are. As of the first of August, Mr. Terry Wold has taken up the work

We pray that Living Faith will be a light in this community as well as a "home away from home" for any winter visitors to our area who seek to fellowship with us in the Christcentered ministry of this church.

"Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored . . . " (II Thess. 3:1).

-Corr.

Reflections of a camp counselor

That's right! Another year of Family Bible Camp at the ARC, Osceola, Wis., has passed and for me it has been more than just a week of counseling. It has been a week of being counseled by God.

The Lord has shown me the importance of my being a witness for Christ. Through the preaching of His Word I have realized that I need to be involved in the personal interests of others. The Bible tells us to do this with the attitude that Christ has (Phil. 2:4-5). We must stand firm and not be ashamed to ask our fellow man, "How is your relationship with Jesus today?" To be involved is our business. We must show Christ's love to those who have not yet found that personal relationship.

The Lord has also shown me that He personally calls me to be a servant to Him. He has a distinct purpose for each of us and He wants to fulfill that in us if we let Him do so. I realized, while at camp, that I must be more open to let the Lord use me. I must not let my old nature detour me from that of godly intentions. God has a plan for each of our lives. Let Him carry it out!

Finally, God showed me that we need to be soldiers with Christ as our Commander. As soldiers we must be obedient, able to endure hardship and always ready to make a stand for what we believe, for the devil prowls about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Therefore, we should be ready!

And so it was a time of receiving God's counseling, which made a week of getting to know some 70 youth an encouraging time of great blessing watching them come to a closer walk with God and being completely His. That's what it's all about.

Alan Arneson, Spicer, Minn.

editorials

A YEAR OF CENTENNIALS

This has been a year of centennials as our area of northwestern Minnesota now has 100 years of official history. Of course, we are much older than that, for Indians roamed the land for centuries and Pembina Trail oxcarts followed the sand ridges a few miles west of here carrying their cargoes of furs from the north.

But it was just in the first half of the 1880s that the homesteading began in our part of Minnesota and hundreds of immigrants from the "old country," many of them Norwegians and Swedes, poured in to take up free land, carve lives and homes for themselves and their families out of the wilderness, and establish churches, schools and local government.

So this has been a year of commemorating a hundred years of settlement and government. Six townships have had centennials in our county this summer, and one Lutheran church. Besides that, some of us observed the beginning 100 years ago of a Lutheran congregation no longer in separate existence.

For me, the centennial season started on June 2-3 when I was privileged to attend the 100th anniversary of Saron Lutheran Church, Roslyn, S. Dak., a congregation I served for nine years. That was a very fine beginning to the centennial year. When a pastor returns to a congregation for a church anniversary he doesn't come as the pastor of the people, but as one who did have that place in their lives for a while. He is conscious of those whom death has claimed in the intervening years and who are not there to greet him any more. I shall not soon forget Pastor Clemmence Dyrud's theme for his message at the Saturday night meeting of the anniversary, "Counting Heads and Headstones," that is, we remember those who have passed away as well as those who still live. Anyway, it was a heartwarming experience to be at the Saron centennial.

As to the township centennials, I attended three of the six. Two, because of their proximity to our town, held their observances at the local high school. The others were in the country, at the town halls. Each program was different and yet much the same as the others. The influence of the church in our community was evident in all the programs and generally there was little that was offensive on that score. For instance, in our own township I had the privilege of giving a talk reviewing the history of the churches in it.

This, too, was heartwarming, to sit with people who have roots in this community and to hear about the life of the pioneers (our own forbears) and those of other eras in 100 years. The thought surely came that this has been a good place to live in and remains so today. God is good.

The church centennial was that of an Association congregation, Bethania Lutheran, of the Newfolden parish.

That anniversary, too, was well planned and presented. A number of former pastors were back for the occasion, as well as three brother sons of the congregation. Our church president, Pastor R. Snipstead, was present and spoke on Sunday morning, as he had at Saron. Bethania continues as one of a dwindling number of open country churches. I hope there will be some of those which can remain on the land, active, far into the next century.

Then in late August recognition was given to the founding of Folden Lutheran Church 100 years ago. No longer operating, this church was Mother's childhood and girlhood church. Five years ago we raised a memorial in the churchyard and a sign in the cemetery, so this time we didn't do as much, but we wanted some observance. There was a potluck dinner and brief program at the Community Center and a ceremony in the old churchyard. Pastor Larry Haagenson took part in the latter, as did Pastor Stephen Estrem of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ALC. Folden lives on in the lives of those who directly or indirectly have been touched by its actual 73-year ministry. Folden Church building was unique in the fact that it was a wallpapered church. Do our readers know of other churches like that?

Some sons and daughters of the homesteaders yet remain but they are diminishing in number also. But a special feature to our celebrations this past summer was the attendance three times of a 100-year-old man, Halbert Elseth. He made three 240-mile round trips to grace centennials with his presence. Here was one lifetime spanning just about the whole of the recorded history of our community. Remarkable.

And I think of what Pastor Clemmence Dyrud said on Sunday afternoon of the Saron centennial. He recalled that in the morning service that day a baby could be heard crying in the church basement and he reminded us that that child could very well live much of the next hundred years (if the Lord tarries) and most of us, being older, would not. That was a great thought.

Each of us lives a lifetime, for some it is long, for some it is shorter. How important it is that life have quality, that it be lived to the Lord Jesus Christ and be permeated by Him. I think also of the importance of what Georg Sverdrup said, as reported two weeks ago, that when we pray the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into the harvest field we offer ourselves first of all, for His will and purpose.

-Raynard Huglen

SLANG

In recent weeks we heard a man previously unknown to us share in a church program. His talk was good, the whole program edifying. We came away with a good feeling.

Ď

The Shepherd Psalm

by Doris Stensland

Of the Psalms, the 23rd is the favorite of them all. It has a message for everyone, the child, the youth, the adult and the aged.

Little Child, how blessed To be the Shepherd's lamb. Tenderly He holds you to His gentle

Little child, you trust Him, and readily accept

You shall never want.

Oh, youth, you dream of pastures green Where flows the cool and bubbling

But can you find the way without a guide?

The Shepherd waits to lead you there, To choose your way, your work, your

In your own wisdom you may find

a thistle patch

a stagnant pool.

Oh, tender youth, you need Him To guide your youthful life.

Dear adult, you have found your place

a home to keep

a job to do.

But daily life can be so hard

So let your shepherd see you through each day

each hour.

Then humdrum tasks are glorified. Oh, burdened one, just lean on Him. Your soul He's promised to restore. In paths of righteousness He'll lead forevermore.

Old pilgrim, you've walked by His side For many miles.

He's proved His faithfulness! Now you have time to reminisce on blessings past,

His kindnesses,

And sing, "My cup o'erflows." Your confidence in Him is strong. You know what future days will be . Goodness and mercy there you'll see And then you'll dwell with Him.

Weak dying friend, fresh courage take. Your Shepherd cares from birth to death. When walking through the valley dark You need not fear. He definitely will be there. If you must cling, then cling to Him. Your Shepherd then will hold your hand And take you to His better land.

"Good Shepherd, many thanks to Thee, For being our sufficiency Through all our days!" AMEN

EDITORIAL . . .

Not long afterward we chanced to meet this man in another town and recognizing one another we chatted briefly. In the course of our brief conversation he used an expression which we hadn't expected. It was one of those "By ___ __" phrases one often hears, where it seems that a person with some sensibility for religion substitutes slang for the real thing. He then cannot be accused of taking the Lord's name in vain, but perhaps will be accepted by a certain crowd of persons as not being a "religious nut" either, or extremely restricted in his speech.

However, it is the Lord one is to please and He is for speech which is clean and pure, reverencing the Holy One. Let those who follow Christ beware lest their speech give offense. Be sure that those offhand expressions which are used cannot give any wrong impressions or sound like the real thing. If you are in doubt, drop them.

NO GUARANTEE

The fact that a person has been baptized and confirmed is no guarantee that he today is living the new life in Christ; and unless he is in Christ today, he must be converted if he is to be saved.

-John P. Milton

WONENSE.

just thinking . . .

Likely all of us have either found ourselves thinking or have heard a friend express dismay with a loved one's seemingly constant affliction. We wonder why it is some of God's dear children suffer so much. Troubles cling to some as a dress full of static.

David was a man anointed and afflicted. The man after God's own heart was not exempt from trouble. The noblest saints have sat by the gates of sorrow. Christ Himself was tempted in all possible areas as we are. "In all our afflictions He was afflicted." That which we think perculiar and difficult, He knows by experience. C. H. Spurgeon said, "The idea of strangeness in our trials must be banished at once and forever."

Today, be of good courage. By God's unlimited grace, we can with joy draw life giving water from the wells of salvation.

-S. Hjermstad

50 years of WMF missionary project

The My Missionary for a Day program in the Women's Missionary Federation is 50 years old this year. It was started in the Lutheran Free Church in 1934 and has been continued in the WMF of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

Sedan, Minn.



Mrs. Margaret Tauscher was given an Honorary Membership from the Scandia Lutheran WMF. Her granddaughter, Ilona Iverson, made the presentation.

Roseau, Minn.



The Rose Dorcas group met at the Neil Nikunen cabin for a special summer outing and meeting. The following members were present: Thea Holland, Marjorie Olson, Lily Larson, Clara Erickson, Edna Broten, Orpha Sorteberg, Isabel Helstad, Audrey Jensen, Mary Gaukerud, Julia Johnson, Lillian Fugleberg, Barbara Zak, Debbie Giles, Maureen Severson, Pastor Larry Severson and Intern Pastor Daniel Giles.

Roslyn, S. Dak.



Jeanette Nelson, Mayme Hovland and Mrs. Rodney Stueland received Honorary Membership pins and certificates from the Saron Lutheran WMF.

Bible memory encouraged

New York, N.Y. (ABS) — In deploring the fact that young people today are neither taught the Bible nor made to memorize it, the minister of one of New York's leading churches has called for an end to what he termed "Bible illiteracy."

Speaking at the 168th annual meeting of the American Bible Society, the Reverend John G. B. Andrew, D.D., Rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, said, "I am never quite sure why education pundits today think it unhelpful for children to learn things by heart."

Recalling how at school in England he was made to learn one of the Psalms each day or each week at the early age of seven, Dr. Andrew claimed that "far from turning me off, it turned me on."

He reminded an audience of sev-

eral hundred people who believe in the power of the Scriptures that Jesus knew the Psalms by heart. They were the treasure box of His prayer life.

"Even while He hung on the cross, Jesus was reciting a prayer for you and me in Psalm 22, 'My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?"

Scriptures are not something to be read politely but, as with the Savior, they should be in "a person's bloodstream."

"Because people don't read or learn any more, they don't have the satisfaction in the soul which a memory resource can bring to them," Dr. Andrew said.

"It is my dream that there will be an awakening in the seminaries of men and women who catch the flame of love, and the knowledge of God's Word, from people alight and alive with it."



AAL gives grants

Kurt Baldry, an agent of Aid Association for Lutherans, gave Pastor Francis Monseth two checks totaling \$14,982 to pay for two AFLC projects: 1.) Youth Leadership Conference and 2.) Church Organists' Workshops. Pastor Snipstead hosted

the occasion in his office.

The grants were made available through Aid Association for Lutheran's Affirmations for Lutheran Higher Education program. The applications were submitted by Pastor Ken Moland and Don Rodvold who also directed the projects.

Scandinavian tour set

Rev. Laurel Udden, Minneapolis, Minn., will lead a Religious Heritage Tour to Scandinavia (Sweden and Norway) June 29-July 13, 1985. The tour may be joined at Minneapolis (\$2695) or New York (\$2595).

Among places to be visited in beautiful northern Europe are Stockholm, Uppsala, Karlstad, Oslo, Ulvik, Balestrand, Bergen and Lillehammer. All meals are included in the tour price except two lunches. Travel in Europe will be by motorcoach and boat.

Anyone who signs up for the tour by October 15, with a deposit of \$150, will get a \$20 discount from the total cost.

If interested, contact Rev. Laurel Udden, 9324 Northwood Parkway, Minneapolis, Minn. 55427.

Bible Sunday

Bible Sunday this year will be held on Sunday, Nov. 18. The theme will be "Journey of Hope," emphasizing the goal of bringing the Word of God to people everywhere in their own language. Bible Sunday is sponsored by the American Bible Society.

Conference tapes made available

Cassette tapes of the four evening services of the recent Annual Conference and the Sunday morning worship service have been made and are available individually or as a package to those who want them. Each tape is \$2.00. The package of five costs \$10.00.

In ordering individually, please specify which tapes you wish.

Please order from AFLC Tapes, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.



The 1984-85 school year began Sept. 10 at AFLBS. Seventy-seven students enrolled. Pictured during one of the first choir rehearsals are: Mark Nelson, Wanamingo, Minn.; Jim Wire, Minneapolis; Paul Strand, Abercrombie, N. Dak. and Michael Rice, Tioga, N. Dak.

A visit to old familiar places

by Raynard Huglen, Editor

My vacation trip this year was a busman's holiday of sorts as you will see later on. Nor did I travel to what you might call exotic places, but they were places from out of my past and full of meaning for me.

The Drive Out

I got away on the 6th of August in the midst of one of the hot spells of the past summer. But rain showers in the St. Thomas, N. Dak., area kept the temperature down for a while that day. I enjoyed again the beautiful countryside in the Tongue River valley.

After dinner at the cafe in Rocklake, I continued on Highway No. 5, past the Turtle Mountains where we had Bible Camp my first four years in the ministry, at Lake Metigoshe State Park. After crossing the Des Lacs hill I turned south, then west and surprised Orlin and Evelyn Quanbeck at their farm home. Brother and sister of Clarence Quanbeck of McVille, N. Dak., they also maintain a home there and are seen at some of our Bible conferences. A sister, Mrs. Thompson, lives in Vancouver, Wash., and was active in the Home Mission work we had there for a while.

Refreshed by pleasant conversation and a glass of lemonade at the Quanbeck's I proceded on to Crosby by way of Noonan and stayed overnight at the home of Sam and Thora Bloom, who still belong to Writing Rock Lutheran Church, south of Alkabo. That is the home congregation of Mrs. Pauline Pope of Wadena, Minn., whom many of you know. Sam took me over to see the pioneer village on the west side of Crosby, where there is an outstanding collection of steam engines and old-time tractors.

My Birthplace

The next day was windy and much cooler. As I drove south toward Wildrose, the town in which I was born, I could see dirt blowing, some coming across the road. I'm sure that for those who had lived there it was

reminiscent of the '30's. But this was nothing compared to some days in May this year when so much dirt was moved. That area has had two very dry years in a row.

I called on a couple whom I had met last winter in Grand Forks at the Rehab unit of the hospital. She was badly injured in an accident north of Tioga, N. Dak., a year ago last June. She remains much an invalid, but hopes for further improvement. Then I was invited to have dinner with some people nearby whose daughter is married to my cousin's son. We had a nice two hours together getting acquainted.

Mrs. Ruth Kvilhaug, sister of Olve Willand of our congregation in Ferndale, Wash., had invited me to stay overnight at her home, but before going there I stopped in at the Edner Ellingson's to greet these folks. She is a cousin of an aunt of mine, Mrs. A. O. Lee of Devils Lake, N. Dak.. I also visited the St. Pauli churchyard south of town. My dad once served that congregation. In the cemetery I saw the grave of an infant cousin, Gloria Sybel Lee.

It was of special meaning to me to stay in Mrs. Kvilhaug's home because she lives in the house in which I was born. It had been almost 54 years since I last slept there and so I counted it an unusual opportunity to be there. My sister Valborg was also born in that house. Wildrose had both prospered and declined since our family's time there. Some concern is being expressed about the high school's population, for instance.

A Land of Change

But is was the next day as I drove along Hwy. No. 50 that the fact of change in rural western North Dakota struck me. I saw how so much business had died out in the towns of Alamo. Appam and Zahl. No groceries can be bought in the latter two. Zahl does host an annual fall festival in September called "Samlingfest" (get-together), with Norwegian emphasis. Good for them. The spirit of the people hasn't died. Hanks, the next town west (home-



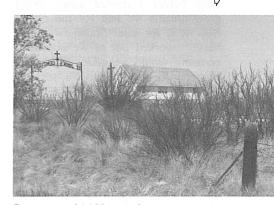
The Editor's birthplace in Wildrose

town of Don Rodvold, music director of AFLBS), is even more depressing. Two or three families remain. A very fine museum in the old school building, which I visited some years ago, is all that redeems Hanks. The old Lutheran church building is a granary.

By trial and error I eventually got into the St. Petri congregation area southeast of Grenora. Dad served that church for a year and I have definite memories of the place. I was also there during my first pastorate, which was in the same district, the Williston. I found the old Slaamot farm. Mrs. Slaamot was a sister of Rev. M. E. Helland, known to the people of the Binford-McVille territory, at least. At another farm, my boyhood friend, Waldo H., was not at home. St. Petri Church looked in good condition, but it may have been closed this summer.

North of Grenora

After a late dinner in Grenora I drove up north of that town. Here I was especially impressed by how dry things were and how many grasshoppers there were. On my trip I saw crops that ranged from fair to terri-



Carraganas stripped by grasshopers

PLACES ...

ible, although I understand some farmers had crops that could be termed average in spite of the drouth. But generally yields were down a lot. One farmer in Saskatchewan told of yields of 11 and 13 bushels of wheat per acre on two different fields, for instance.

I saw carragana bushes and others stripped bare of leaves by grasshoppers. Fortunately, they did not seem to be damaging the crops too much, perhaps because the latter were already quite ripe. Some gardens were pretty well destroyed, others somehow were spared.

At the Writing Rock historic site I saw the names of Orville and Gladys Qualley of our church at Brockton, Mont., in the guest register. They had been there earlier in the summer. My, what a great view from the hill and also from one nearby where I found a cemetery called Fairview. What a magnificent spot on resurrection morning those hilltop cemeteries will be when the bodies of the dead in Christ rise to meet the Lord in the air. By the way, the Writing Rocks (there are two of them now) contain ancient Indian writings or drawings, hence the name.

Brush Lake

Then over to Brush Lake, just inside the Montana line, where I took a swim in that prairie jewel of a lake. Clear, cool, clean water on the 9th of August. The lake is contained within a section of land but is 90 feet deep and spring fed. We began a Lutheran Bible Camp at an old resort there in 1957 (the late Dr. Bernhard Christensen preached the dedicatory address) and we had one camp in 1958 before I moved away. What great dreams we had for the camp. Now it is for sale. Somehow things haven't worked out as we hoped. It certainly would be good if it could be retained for the Lord's service. The camp is fully equipped.

That evening I was at the home of Erling and Esther Brekke, parishioners from my congregation at Medicine Lake but now members of our church in Culbertson, Bethel, together with their son Bayard, his wife Donna and their son Michael (there that evening). Much to talk

With our evangelist-youth worker

Rev. Kenneth Pentti, Ishpeming, Mich., has been called to "do the work of an evangelist." Therefore, he travels at the invitation of congregations to challenge hearers with the Word of God without fear or favor. Are you remembering him in prayer? Virginia, Minn.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Sept. 30-Oct. 4

Henry A. E. Johansen, pastor

Preaching missions Greenbush, Minn.
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Wm. Goodman, pastor Oct. 7-10
Rev. R. Snipstead, Minneapolis, Minn., speaker Strandquist, Minn.
Hegland Lutheran Church Wm. Goodman, pastor Oct. 14-18
Rev. Bruce Dalager,

Grand Forks, N.Dak., speaker

Zumbrota, Minn. Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Oct. 7-11 Martin Horn, pastor Bismarck, N. Dak. Calvary Lutheran Church Oct. 14-18 Einar Unseth, pastor Faith, S. Dak. Bethel Lutheran Church Oct. 21-25 Ernest J. Langness, pastor Shevlin, Minn. Landstad and Sell Lake Lutheran Churches Oct. 28-Nov. 4

Oct. 28-Nov. 4
Dennis O'Neil, pastor
Hatton, N. Dak.
Zoar Lutheran Church
Nov. 7-11
James Olson, lay pastor

about in their lovely new home. I also got to see how grasshoppers ate lawn grass like grazing cattle or sheep. It was good to meet the Brekke daughters also, Shirley and Charlotte, and Charlotte's children, the latter at the home of Ragnhild and Marie Bakken in Plentywood on Saturday, where I had dinner that day.

Leaving the Brekke home on Friday I stopped at the Antelope Creek Cemetery to visit again the grave of the pioneer pastor, George Tangvald. That spot is one of the few places in Montana where four towns are visible, these all in the valley of the Big Muddy Creek. Pastor Tangvald lost his first wife when she was 28, I believe. He would die five years later at age 40.

Plentywood

I found my old county seat, Plentywood, a bustling place. There is the air of prosperity. That was explained by what a relative of mine who is an official in the courthouse told me. Sheridan Country had a valuation of nine million dollars before oil was discovered. Now it is worth about 80 million. The recent courthouse addition spoke of that wealth.

At the St. John's Church (which Dad served) between Plentywood and Westby, I toured the cemetery to read the names of many I'd known.

Among them was Rev. J. O. Brensdal. I find it interesting that he once had a homestead southeast of Goodridge, Minn., and his post office, Brunkeberg, was in the same section as Telemarken Lutheran Church, which I presently serve. Rev. Edward Sand is also buried at St. John's. Someone told me that some truckloads of dirt had to be hauled out of the cemetery last spring. It had blown in during the big dust storms.

Hulda Brensdal was going up by Dooley to pick up her brother Harold who was driving a tractor there, so I rode along and had dinner on the way at her sister's, the Robert Dahl's. Even then a crew was at work preparing a site on the Dahl land for the drilling of an oil well, their first, if it comes through. On the way home from Dooley, Harold stopped at a producing well on a neighbor's land to their east and explained the procedures for pumping oil, the separation of the salt water from the crude oil, etc..

I find that there is too much more that I would like to write about this trip, including my visit to Lake Alma, Sask., where we have a Home Mission congregation. And so I shall finish this account in our next issue.

(To be continued)

news of the churches



Cumberland, Wis.

Received into membership in Section Ten Lutheran Church on July 29 were, front row, left to right, Mrs. Earl Merry, Sherlyn and Miranda, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Flach, and Earl Merry and Kalsey; second row, Christ Johnson, and Daryl and Danny Flach; third row, Mrs. Larry Kiebe and Cary, and Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Stodola and Christopher; and, fourth row, Student Pastor Todd Klemme, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Johnson, and Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Nevin.

Boscobel, Wis.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). Vacation Bible School was held at Trinity Lutheran, August 13-17. Each day began with opening exercises and singing. Memorization was encouraged. Twenty-seven children were enrolled. A mision offering was sent to the AFLC work in Brazil. On Sunday, August 19, the children participated in the worship service. Refreshments and a time of fellowship followed.

Rev. Orville T. Olson, who has served the congregation through the summer, concluded his work at Trinity at the end of August.

In memoriam

Key: The name of the town is 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.

NORTH DAKOTA

Stanley

Mrs. Olga Zunich, 70, August 16, Our Savior's

Eden Prairie, Minn.

A Christian high school is being started this fall at King of Glory Lutheran Church, an AFLC congregation in Eden Prairie, Minn., at 17850 Duck Lake Trail. It began Sept. 10, with an enrollment of 8 students.

Mrs. Betty McGuire of Richfield, Minn., has been chosen as administrator of the school. Students for grades 8 to 12 are being accepted. The A Beka curriculum is being used.

Personalities

Here are more changes of address for pastors of the church. Please make note of them.

Rev. Orville T. Olson 4444 E. Escondido Ave. Mesa, Ariz. 85206

Rev. Steven Kneeland 317 S. 3rd St. Kenyon, Minn. 55946

Rev. Kenneth D. Moland 11611 N.E. 140 St. Kirkland, Wash. 98034

Rev. David Molstre 729 West 25th Dickinson, N. Dak. 58601

from here and there . . .

Newfolden, Minn.—The annual Harvest Festival for Westaker Lutheran Church will be held this Sunday, Sept. 30. The Ambassadors of Praise from Fosston, Minn., will present a musical program.

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Sunday School at St. Paul's Lutheran Church began on Sept. 9 with classes for all ages.

Roseau, Minn.—The Roseau parish is investigating interest in the Warroad-Swift area for an Association congregation. It is an area where population is expected to increase.

Thief River Falls, Minn.—Loiell and Mary Dyrud, KayLyn Espe and Todd Peterson told of their trip to Norway last summer with the Lincoln High School Wind Ensemble at the Luther League Family Night at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on Sept. 16

Tioga, N. Dak.—Rev. David Molstre, Dickinson, N. Dak., will speak at evangelistic services in Zion Lutheran, Nov. 4-8.

Minneapolis, Minn.—Faith Lutheran Church and Rosedale Lutheran Church have voted unanimously to merge into one congregation called Faith. The Rosedale church building will be used. It is located at 140 West 44th Street. Rev. Ralph Rokke, who has been pastor of both congregations will continue as pastor of the new congregation. The first Sunday School session and worship service under the new arrangement were held on Sept. 9.

Stacy, Minn.—Bible studies are being held in the homes of Sunnyside and Hope Lutheran Churches. They commenced on Sept. 5.

Drummond, Wis.—The congregations of the parish participated in the first Lake Superior District Camp, which was held at Grace Lake Bible Camp, Bemidji, Minn., Aug. 19-24. District pastors served as faculty under the theme "Putting God's Word Into Practice."

Consecration is not so much a step as a course; not so much an act, as a position to which a course of action inseparably belongs.

Frances Ridley Havergal

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd. Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the AFLBS Alumni Association will be held on Oct. 14 at 9:30 a.m., at Medicine Lake Lutheran Church. All alumni are encouraged to come and to participate in the work of the Alumni Association.

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ASSN OF FREE LUTH CH
3110 E MEDICINE LK BLVD
MPLS MN 55441

Light on the Way Is Jesus My Life?

"For My flesh is meat indeed, and My blood is drink indeed" (John 6:55). The vital question for every Christian is this: Am I living with God today? Is Jesus my life? You would do well to ask yourself that question every day.

Where there is life there must be growth. Life is never stationary. The manner of this growth is explained in John 3:30, where we read: "Christ shall increase, but I decrease." It is of little consequence whether or not we see this growth. But it is of prime importance that God sees it.

But if there is to be growth there must be nourishment. Feed on God's Word. Not only by hearing His Word, but by living it. Here again it is not of vital importance that the service is elegant, but that the food is pure and wholesome. Besides His Word we have another source of nourishment—the sacrament of the altar. Here God's children are gathered in communion with Him. Here Jesus gathers about Himself all Christians, the old and the young, the experienced as well as those who have just entered upon Christian life. Here He gathers us away from life's struggle and strife, from all the disintegrating influences that scatter the children of God—gathers us that we may be one with Him and one with each other. Here He gives unto us His own glorified human life, in order that we may live with Him.

And this meat and this drink are not powerless, abstract conceptions. They are just as real as was His body when for our sins it was nailed to the cursed tree, as was His blood when it was shed for our redemption. And rest assured that this meat and this drink shall not be powerless within you if you accept it as a poor hungering sinner.

If you find your own flesh and blood so sinful, and your evil lusts and inclinations so strong that you cannot master them, then remember that at His communion table Jesus will enter your life with His conquering strength. And if you find in yourself so little of the mind that was in Christ Jesus, so little of humility and love, then remember that He is yearning to make you one with Him, who is Himself humility and the fount of love. And here He directs the life-stream of love into us so that we learn to love one another.

While my mortal mind cannot fathom nor understand the mystery of holy communion, I am satisfied in His promises that there He gives me Himself to help me to live wholly unto Him.

—Søren Dahl, Courtesy, Tract Mission.