



THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

September 29, 1992



Remember also
your Creator
in the days of
your youth ...



Youth Work In The AFLC

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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Building Lives With Wind Anchors

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure ... Hebrews 6:19 (NIV).

In our day, as always, there are many obstacles lurking around ready and waiting to destroy the character and faith of our youth.

I need not go further to list them. You know them well. These temptations and enticements can overwhelm young and old alike. We must have a guide to follow to evaluate these obstacles of faith and life.

God's Word is this guide. Jeremiah was given counsel to share with a complacent and inattentive people of his day.

"Say to them, 'This is what the Lord said ...'" (Jeremiah 8:4). Because they didn't listen they were caught off guard as the destruction of Jerusalem became imminent.

Like the people of Jeremiah's day, people of all ages are searching for answers to life's great questions. There is only one answer that lasts. That one is what the Lord has in His Word.

Recently I read an article on the structure of the older skyscrapers in New York City. I've often wondered how these gigantic office buildings could stand so effortlessly in the clouds all these years. The article described something essential that the casual observer does not see. This essential ingredient for stability is out of sight. On the inside of these gigantic structures are great iron rods called "wind anchors." These are dug into the solid rock far beneath the foundations of these buildings. These wind anchors keep these skyscrapers firm in the face of the elements that wear away at the structures.

All who work with youth sense the pressures they are under to succeed in school, sports and in relationships with their peers and parents.

Along with the pressures are many questions which often go unanswered: "Who am I? Why was I born? Where am I going? What does the future hold?"

Youth often get their questions answered by peers and other sources such as teen magazines and television. The result of this kind of information is second best. They are building little, low structures, rather than structures that are strong, beautiful and lasting. God's Word provides the instruction to build the latter. Today more than ever, our youth need to build the kind of lives that have the wind anchors of God's Word. When the Word of God is deeply implanted in the foundations of our being, the storms of life and the temptations which do come will not destroy the structure of our lives in Christ. Nearly every day we read of some sports figure or other celebrity whose "character building" has collapsed.

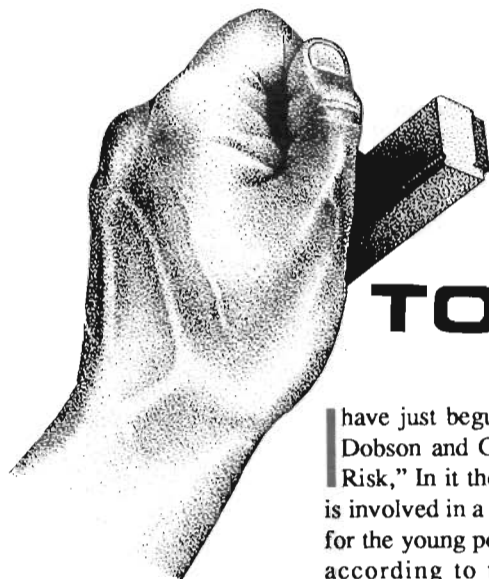
Then, too, these wind anchors of God's Word can be constructed with best results when the foundations of character are laid in young lives.

As youth place their faith, hope and confidence in Jesus, they then have Him as a wind anchor for life.

Let us build together on the hope that is set before us, which we have as an anchor of the soul, both firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain (Hebrews 6:19).



— by Rev.
Larry Severson



YOUTH!

TOP PRIORITY

"... the local youth groups can be a powerful tool ..."

I have just begun reading a book by Dr. James Dobson and Gary Bauer entitled "Children at Risk." In it the authors point out that America is involved in a second Civil War and that war is for the young people of our nation. On one side, according to the book, stands the secular humanists who are determined to spread the following beliefs to our youth:

"1. Committed, lifelong faithful families are outmoded or expendable.

"2. Sexual experimentation of the young is healthy if done "right."

"3. Education should be utterly valueless and relativistic.

"4. There is no absolute right or wrong ... no ultimate truth on which to base our decisions.

"5. Homosexual "preference" is simply another valid lifestyle.

"6. He who can work but chooses idleness shall be sheltered and fed.

"7. There is no God, and therefore, no transcendent purpose and meaning in living."

Our youth are being bombarded with this wrong thinking everyday. Much of the rock-n-roll music that youth listen to is filled with godless philosophies. Billboards and television ads are promising our youth that their contraceptive will allow them "safe sex" when, in fact, reports indicate that the failure rate of such contraceptives can be as high as 33%. Our public school systems have, for the most part, embraced the humanistic beliefs and, sad to say, are teaching our youth that there is no absolute right or wrong, no ultimate truth, no God. Can you see where this type of thinking could cause youth to lose hope for the future? It's no wonder that suicide is a leading cause of death among youth.

On the other side is the committed Christian who realizes that a life without God only leads to destruction. How can the committed Christian help our young people withstand the false doctrines of humanism and find their purpose in life through Jesus Christ? For some the answer might be to homeschool their children; for others it might be sending them to a Christian school. Both can be great options, but what

about the majority of families who, for one reason or other, have their youth in public schools? How can we, as a body of believers, help their children withstand the pressures they might face at school? I believe the local youth groups can be a powerful tool in helping youth come through the teenage years with their eyes focused on Christ. When I say "youth group" I am not talking about a monthly activity for the young people of the church to go bowling. I am talking about a youth group that meets weekly for the purpose of:

1. Fellowship (building relationships with each other and Jesus Christ).

2. Singing (praising God with songs and hymns).

3. Prayer (sharing each others burdens and lifting them up to the Lord).

4. Sharing (allowing youth to share how God has been working in their life).

5. Bible study (digging into God's Word to find the real truth for life).

I have heard testimonies of many youth from our church who have shared over and over again the importance of coming together with other Christian youth each week for strength to live the Christian life as teenagers. In fact, recently our youth group met together to say goodbye to a young man leaving for college. I will never forget the testimony shared by this high school football player, soon to be a college freshman. He broke down in tears when recalling his high school days and how important the youth group was for him while attending a public high school. Your local youth group should be an "oasis" for youth, a place where they can come and be themselves without the fear of being cut down, a place where they hear the real truth from God's Word, a place where they can fellowship with other believers and deepen their walk with Christ.

I believe it is vitally important for every church to make it a priority to build a strong youth group. In light of what youth are facing nowadays, can we afford not to?



— Bob Halvorson
AFLC Associate Youth
Resources Director

Youth Work In The Congregation



Is working with youth getting more complicated or am I just getting older? I'm afraid the answer is both. It is no secret that the youth culture is changing faster than ever before. To say "When I was a teen ..." is virtually irrelevant. Perhaps that is why the turnover of youth work volunteers is so high (average stay is only 18 months).

There may be many things that we, who are interested in youth work, don't understand about the youth culture, but there are also elements on youth work which never change.

Youth Need the Lord

We know that everyone needs a personal relationship with Christ, but we might forget the obvious when we see our youth do the bizarre. What they need first and foremost is to have the void in their life filled with Christ. Many youth feel that there isn't an answer to the meaning of life so they choose to "check out." Suicide is the number two killer of youth in our country. Christ is the answer for our youth.

Youth Need Discipling

It's unfortunate, but often youth are seen as those who need a few activities to keep them busy and satisfied until they become adults. Then they will be ready to be used by God. Nothing could be further from the truth. Biblically we see God often times using young people. Historically God uses young people. Major movements of God have been through youth. With Jesus as our model for discipling we see He was never concerned about where a person was but who they could become. One church leader has said, "You impress people from a distance but you impact people up close."

Youth ministry can be one of the most frustrating and exhilarating ministries all at once, but remember it is never an unimportant ministry.

— Rev. Keith Quanbeck
Solid Rock Free Lutheran Church
Osseo, Minnesota

Luther League Convention June 28 - July 3, 1993 YMCA Center, Estes Park, Colorado

The theme for the 1993 Convention is "Guard Your Heart," from Proverbs 4:23. Rev. Lloyd Quanbeck is writing a Bible Study on the same theme.

T-shirts advertising the convention are available by writing Mr. Earl Korhonen, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55441. The shirts sell for \$8 or \$12, depending upon the quality of the shirt ordered.

Costs will be up from last year. If registered before March 1, 1993, the cost is \$225, and \$250 if you register after March 1. Registrations should be sent to Earl Korhonen at the above Medicine Lake address.

At least 1,300 beds have been reserved. Adults who will be traveling with their youth may also stay at the campgrounds.

Individuals who wish to be counselors can write to Mark Johnson at the AFLC headquarters. Pastors are especially invited to be counselors.

If you do not have brochures, please contact one of the youth directors or Pastor Terry Wold, Luther League Federation president.

Grades 7-12 are welcome to attend.

GUARD YOUR HEART

GUARD YOUR HEART

Like An Eagle

Martin Luther said that next to preaching, working with youth is the greatest work in the world. One day Luther was standing outdoors talking with a friend when he saw three boys coming toward them. Luther pointed excitedly and exclaimed, "Look! Here come the giants!"

The author of the book of Deuteronomy has observed a fascinating action of a mother eagle: "As the eagle stirreth her nest, fluttereth her wings over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them up, so the Lord alone did lead them and there were no false gods with them. He has made them to ride upon the high places of the earth, and kept them as the apple of his eye" (32:10-11).

This is what he says happened. One sunny morning the mother eagle, when she feels the eaglets are ready to get out of the nest, ruthlessly stirs up the nest that has cradled and protected their growing. The little ones cling to the edge of the nest in instinctive terror. Then suddenly she pushes one of them off the edge of the nest. It seems that he is about to hurtle to certain death on the rocks far below. The mother eagle hovers for an instant, then swoops under her young and carries him up; only to debark him again. This process continues until the eaglet stretches out and flutters his wings and discovers that he too can fly. And so you see him flying up, up, up shakily but triumphant along side his mother.

For youth today, early and violently the nest is stirred. They need especially the carrying wings of mother Church.

In the pioneer days in western Canada a little group of men were standing in front of a store talking.

Inside the store window was a dejected looking eagle, chained. A tall young mountaineer came striding past the group and into the store, and he addressed the storekeeper: "How much for the eagle!" The storekeeper was surprised by the question, but then spoke, "I hadn't thought of selling her, but it doesn't look like she's going to live very long there in the window. I guess \$5 will take her."

And so the mountaineer bought the eagle, unchained her, put her on his broad left shoulder, and carried her to the edge of the tiny settlement. There he set her on a tall post. The little group of men followed, curious to see what would happen. At first the eagle sat uncaring. But then her keen ears detected a faint call from the heights. Quickly she looked up and beheld the sun and the clouds and the crags which were her home. She lifted one leg and then the other to be sure she was free. She stretched one wing and then the other to see if she had power. Then swiftly she was off and soon was lost

in the face of the sun. The men cheered, and the mountaineer spoke, "As I have tended my sheep in the highlands, often I have watched the eagle gliding and soaring. It has bothered me to think that she was in the store window. She was never meant to be chained in a store window; she was meant for the freedom of the mountain tops."

And in like manner our beloved youth certainly were not meant to be chained by drug enslavement, were not meant to wallow in the muck and mire of life. They were meant to be sky creatures. They are meant for the heights, for the cloud lands, for the mountains, for God. And freed by the Christ who has bought them and with the warm undergirding of their loved ones and of the Church, we pray that there will be for none of them the rocks — for all of them the stars — On Eagle's Wings!

— Dr. Wilton Bergstrand
Youth Director of the
former Augustana Synod





Leadership School, 1992

Forty-eight youth attended this year's Leadership School at our Bible School campus in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The conference was open to officers of youth groups, Sunday School teachers, youth group advisors and anyone else interested in how to become a better leader. The conference took place July 13-17.

The theme was taken from Philippians 4:13-19: "Making A Difference in This World and Eternity." A small number of our AFLC pastors attended. Usually at least 100 youth have participated in this bi-annual conference, sponsored by the AFLC Youth Board. There were visiting youth who came from various congregations such as Medicine Lake in Plymouth and Good Shepherd in Cokato.

Workshops centered around helping youth to make a difference in their world. Workshops were on leading souls to Christ, devotional life, peer ministry, music, missions and stewardship. Rev. Phil Haugen led the Bible Study.

Mr. Robert Halvorson, Associate Youth Director, gave the evening messages. He challenged the youth to be leaders in their local youth group. It was special to hear Mr. Halvorson preach because of his sincerity in bringing the message of Jesus.

The Luther League Gospel Team, Cornerstone, and the AFLBS Ambassadors served as counselors and shared in the evening services. A drama group from Emmaus Lutheran in Bloomington, Minnesota also shared in the

"Making A Difference In This World and Eternity"

Philippians 4:13, 19



Working with the children at the Marie Sandvik Center.

evening services. Rev. Dennis Gray closed on Friday morning with a presentation on Nehemiah. One of the highlights was the visits to the Marie Sandvik Center near downtown Minneapolis. These were led by Rev. Keith Quanbeck.

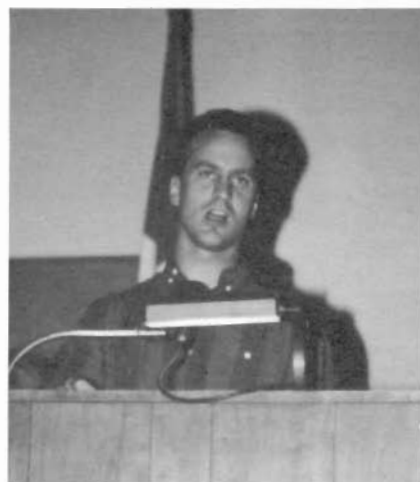
Your AFLC Youth Directors are wondering why so few attended this

conference. They welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send them to the AFLC Youth Office, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd. Minneapolis, MN 55441. The next conference will be the third week of July in 1994.

Here are a few comments about the conference made by the youth themselves who are developing into leaders



Rev. Yeddo Gottel.



Mr. Bob Halvorson.



A time of small group prayer.



Going to downtown Minneapolis for inner-city mission outreach.

with a ministry in your congregation, school and community.

"... God spoke through Robert Halvorson each night ... honestly brought tears to my eyes making me look at myself and where I'm standing with **Christ**. Bob really made it personal. The challenges I've been given in general is to make sure whatever I do, it's to the glory of God and not myself."

"... as the week progressed, I gained more friends."

"I really liked the afterglows. It was a highlight because it was really fun singing together and everyone could

speak his/her mind. While they talked everyone listened."

"I feel the topics were great as well as the speakers. The only suggestion I have would be to maybe have a cookie and juice break in the morning ... (those sessions get long when your tired)."

"Pastor Haugen explained the verses in Philippians very clearly and they were so encouraging. It really helps the Christian to **press on in the Lord** ..."

"A great challenge is standing up for my faith at school and witnessing to others. I find it much harder to do than simply live my faith. Throughout

Not Somebody Else, But You!

Revelation 3:20

When you hear the Master calling,
When you hear His gentle knock,
It is not for your neighbors
Who live in another block.
Not for your friends and companions,
Though sorely they need Him, too,
The knock at the door of your heart is not
For somebody else—but you.

It is **YOU** the Master is calling,
As He knocks on the door outside,
It is **YOU** that He really is after,
With **YOU** He wants to abide.
It is not your family of loved ones,
The near, the dear, and the true,
The knock at the door of your heart is not
For somebody else—but you.

You cannot tell someone to answer,
Or send someone else to the door,
It is you the Master is calling,
It is you He is waiting for.
None other can answer His knocking,
None other that duty can do,
The knock at the door of your heart is not
For somebody else—but you.

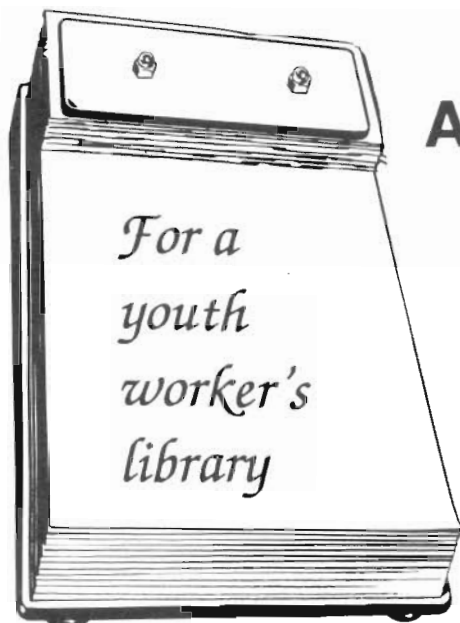
Oh, do not let Him stand knocking,
While the dark night rushes on,
You may in an awful hour
Open, and find He is gone.
And then with another morning,
Eternity breaks into view,
And the crown you may have had will be
Given to somebody else—not you.

—Alice Hoivik Andreason

this week, though, I've realized how I've neglected this great opportunity to share Christ with others. Now I can't wait for school to start so I can."

"I am utterly pleased with all the sessions ... I have no idea on how it could be better ..."

—Rev. Dennis Gray
AFLC Youth Resources Director



A Bibliography

*Compiled by Rev. Dennis Gray
AFLC Youth Resources Director*

AFLC Pastor Lau Ministry To Eastern Europe

Pastor Don Richman, Senior Pastor of Emmaus Lutheran Church for over 14 years, has resigned the position to undertake a new ministry called Eastern Europe Mission Center which will seek to encourage and enable the placement of at least 50 full-time missionaries in Eastern Europe in the next five years.

We have witnessed the astounding and massive moving of God's Spirit in bringing about the collapse of atheistic communism, the liberation of millions of people from suffocating political oppression and a hunger for God and His Word. Pastor Richman and many others believe the church must move where God by His Holy Spirit has so powerfully opened the way. Eastern Europe Missions Center is undertaking this ministry based on the Biblical premise that as God moves to create a spiritual hunger in a person or people, He will also move to create a desire to carry the bread of life — the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to those who hunger.

Pastor Richman has traveled to Eastern Europe almost every year since 1987, and has developed relationships with pastors and Christian leaders in several countries. He and Pastor Douglas Wehmuth of Porto



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The Christian Counseling Series, edited by Gary Collins and printed by Word Books would be a good edition to the pastor's library since he does considerable counseling.

anches New ern Europe

Alegre, Brazil, have planned and led two pastors' conferences in Hungary, reaching a widening circle of Lutheran pastors interested in evangelical renewal, revival in their churches and in evangelizing the many open people in their countries.

In the Commonwealth of Independent State (CIS or the former USSR) there are some 500 parishes made up primarily of German-speaking Lutherans scattered about the western republics. It is as if God used Stalin to scatter people around who would eventually become a nucleus to begin evangelizing and church building in that area. Some groups plead with their bishops: "Could you send us a pastor just one time to share God's Word with us?" The ministry of EEMC will focus primarily on approaching already-existing churches (primarily Lutheran) in those countries. We do so with a servant attitude to learn from them the ways we can best help them meet the historic opportunities God has placed before the Christian world.

The Eastern Europe Missions Center has already received invitations to help occupy these scattered churches in the CIS, to help start a public school teachers' training institute and to begin a Bible school, not to mention planting new Lutheran churches in many large cities with little or no Christian witness.

EEMC will not be underwritten by any denomination or synod but will depend upon the support of individuals, congregations. Bible study groups or others whom God is calling to be part of this vast, historic moment to "make disciples of all nations."

Address:

9330 11th Avenue South
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Worship Is A Verb! God Is The Audience!

1. Worship is a verb!

"Worship" is often used as an adjective, as in "worship service," "worship hymnal" or "worship leader." Unfortunately, that usage may diminish its significance. It also seems to exaggerate the importance of whatever noun follows the adjective. Services, hymnals and leaders cannot be more important than worship.

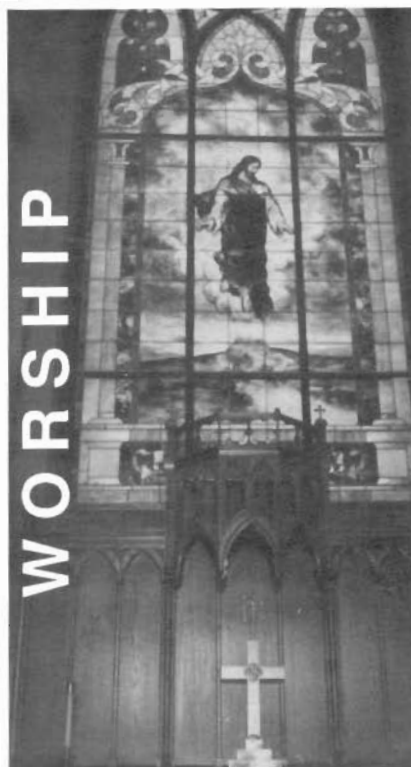
I can keep my understanding clearer any my intentions fresher by moving the word "worship" from the place of the adjective to the place of the verb.

While we need to acknowledge that words are not everything, they are something. Using the word "worship" primarily as a verb is a reminder that worship is not a place I go — it's something I do.

2. God is the audience.

In John 4:24 Jesus tells us the Father is looking for worshippers who will worship "in spirit and in truth." We accept that, of course! And still, as spiritual beings in a physical world, we may carry our perspective of "see, touch, hear" into worship. Then we are disappointed as we struggle to be more aware of God than we are of one another.

I do well to remind myself often that when I am worshipping, alone or with others, I am not the audience — God is.



In this series of articles, each of which stands alone to some extent, we will be exploring several aspects of personal and corporate worship.

Future articles are entitled: "Our Identity in Jesus Christ," "The Catalytic Confrontation of Worship in the Old Testament," "The Catalytic Confrontation of Worship in the New Testament," "Whose Pictures Are Those?" "Music Expresses Worship: It Does Not Equal Worship," "Conversations of Praise," "Knowing God and Worshipping Go Together."

— Sharon Torgerson

Introducing a New Writer

This issue will mark the beginning of a new series of devotional articles on the subject of worship by Sharon (Mrs. Grant) Torgerson, Mojave, California.

Sharon, a native of Culbertson, Montana, graduated from Dakota Lutheran Academy, Minot, North Dakota and California Lutheran Bible School, and also attended the Swedish Hospital School of Nursing, Minneapolis.

She serves as the director of music for Shepherd of the Valley Free Lutheran Church, Palmdale, and is a charter member, together with her husband, Grant, a native of McIntosh, Minnesota, of this new Home Mission congregation.

Sharon and Grant were married in 1963 and as a result of God's gracious work, remarried in 1984 after six and one-half years of being divorced. They are the parents of two adult sons, Jon, Mojave; and Eric, USAF, Oklahoma City.

Letters to the editor

To the Editor:

We tithe because of God's constraining love for us. "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be food in my house, and prove me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it," (Malachi 3:10).

In Matthew 23:23, Jesus says, "Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of law, justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others (tithes) undone."

The many years that we have made tithing a priority, it is being taken off first. Both income and tithes are budgeted in advance. Donations to our home church, AFLC benevolences, and other important needs are also budgeted. It has been a joy for us to give of what the Lord has blessed us with. "For the love of Christ constrains us," (II Corinthians 5:14). "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver," (II Corinthians 9:17).

In 1971 four missionary couples had been sent to Brazil, and in 1992 still only four couples are there. Recently the missionary salaries were cut ten percent because of the AFLC mission budget shortfall. Hopefully

this is only a temporary one. Evidently this holds true for the Home Mission salaries, too. (Editor's Note: Instead of a percentage salary cut, the Home Mission churches will not receive one month of subsidy.)

May God give us a vision of souls going into a Christless eternity in countries where the Gospel has not been heard, and also in this country where most are rejecting Christ and His salvation. May this drive us to more concerned prayer that a God-sent Holy Spirit revival may become a reality in our home communities.

Paul says about the Ephesians before the Gospel was preached to them, "... having no hope and without God in the world," (Ephesians 2:12b), and then after receiving the Gospel ... "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been made near by the blood of Christ," (3:13).

The heart-cry of the prophet Jeremiah was, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved," (Jeremiah 8:20). May this also be our concern for lost souls.

A glorious hope: "Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He ever lives to make intercession for them," (Hebrews 7:25). "Who (God) desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth," (I Timothy 2:4).

*Harvey and Myrtle Dyrud
Newfolden, Minnesota*

AAL Grant Will Help Fund Computer Upgrade

The AFLC has received a \$10,000 grant from Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) to help upgrade the computer system at headquarters.

The project includes replacing the present computer hardware and software; adding additional equipment, such as a laser printer; linking various office sites; and training office workers on the new system.

"The new computer system will be of great help to our directors and our work with congregations," said Rev. Les Galland, project director.

The funding to the AFLC was presented as a block grant through AAL's Churchwide Grants Program, which offers annual support to special projects of Lutheran church bodies.

"Under this grant program, AAL asks that the church body national office identify and prioritize its own needs. Funding is then provided to help meet those needs," said Douglas Olson, AAL grant program manager for church leadership benefits.

"AAL's broad guidelines ask simply that the church bodies use the grant dollars for special projects that enhance leadership effectiveness, encourage volunteer service or promote organizational strengthening," he said.

Headquartered in Appleton, Wisconsin, AAL offers life, health, disability income, long-term care insurance and retirement products such as annuities, IRAs and pensions plans to its 1.6 million members.

God's Word Is Truth

Discovery after discovery has supported the historical claims of the Old and New Testament writers and brought increasing acceptance of the Bible as a reliable source of history. In no other religious literature do we find the accuracy of fulfilled prophecy down to the microscopic details or the mention of "the circle of the earth" or the "paths of the sea" millennia before the discovery of such scientific facts. The Bible is unsurpassed in its trustworthiness, in its ability to transform lives like mine.

— Bea Gleason

from the Brazil Bible School Meet Marcelo Aracelli

I was born in Vitoria, capital of the state of Espirito Santo. My family was from a Catholic background, and from there went to practicing spiritism. When I was about five years old, my parents became Christians and our whole family began attending an evangelical church. From then on my childhood was lived within Christian principals, growing up and learning in a Bible-based home and church.

My adolescence wasn't much different from childhood, but I started to take life more seriously and responsibly. I like to play volleyball, basketball and especially soccer. I also enjoy listening to music that inspires and uplifts. I like traveling and especially travel to mountain peaks where I can look over the scenery. In school my favorite subject is geography. I enjoy studying about nature.

As I have said before, I grew up in a Christian home, and attended an evangelical church. In my adolescence I began to look for what was best for me, and began going to a different church than my parents, and slowly began to distance myself from God.

About two years later I went to a Bible camp. It was there that I was converted and gave myself to Jesus Christ. It happened during a camp fire when a pastor was speaking and asked each of us to write our problems on a piece of paper, and then throw the paper in the fire. I not only wrote my problems on that piece of paper, but I "put my life" on that piece of paper. To me that camp fire represented Jesus

World Missions Corner

The love of God is a major theme in the New Testament. "God so loved the world ..." God was grieved when sin broke the relationship between Himself and man, who had been created in His own divine image. Because God loves people, He is grieved at their sin. In order for people to be saved from their sins, they must come to a knowledge of God. They must have true knowledge of the one and only God and of Jesus Christ, the divine Son whom the Father sent into the world to be our Redeemer. People **must** come to a personal knowledge and a personal relationship with the one and only true God revealed in the Bible. This demands world evangelization! It demands a worldwide mission!

The mission of proclaiming the Gospel throughout the world is an essential element in the salvation of mankind. This message must go to all so that they may come to the knowledge of God in a personal and experiential way. This is the task to which God has called us; the proclamation of Salvation through Jesus Christ to all the world.

Are you personally in cooperation with God's divine love plan for the world? Are your ambitions, desires and goals in life in cooperation with His love?

I am pleased to be able to share with you that work on the children's home and the women's dormitory in Brazil is nearing completion. As originally conceived, the women's dormitory was a project of our U.S.A. AFLC and the children's home a project of the Brazil AFLC. However, as many people in the U.S. heard of the children's home, their hearts were touched and they began to furnish funds for the construction of the home so that they could have a part in this ministry. The response has been an encouragement. The project goal has been met and exceeded. We are thankful to God for each and every one of you who have been involved and have helped us to meet this need. On behalf of all in World Missions we thank you and our God. Those funds received in excess of the goal will be directed by the Missions Committee toward continued expansion of the Campus and associated ministries at Campo Mourao.

One need that we will be facing in just a few short months is the furlough housing and transportation for the David Abel family. The Abels are tentatively planning to return at the end of the year. If you have a home or vehicle available for this missionary family with four children, please call or write the World Missions office in Minneapolis at AFLC World Missions Department, 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard, Minneapolis, MN 55441-3008; phone, 612-545-5631.

— *Pastor Eugene W. Enderlein*
World Missions Director

Christ, who not only helped me resolve my problems, but who gave me new life — eternal life.

I am here at Bible School, first of all because God wants me here and secondly, because it is the place I want to be. I always had the desire to learn more about the Bible and to better understand it. Every subject taught here helps me to better know the Bible. Everyday my curiosity and interest is awakened in a new way. Every teacher contributes to increasing my knowledge of God's Word, teaching and explaining the truths of the Word of God.

The greatest importance to my time here at Bible School is that I am strengthening myself in the truths of the Bible and trying to live and practice what the Bible says.

My greatest experience was giving my life to Jesus Christ.

If God calls me I would like to be a missionary and evangelist.

Another area that has great interest for me is the law.

My prayer request is that God may confirm in me what vocation I am to pursue so that I may do it with all my heart.



Partners In Prayer



"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).

Praise God for new open doors of Home Mission opportunity in Tucson, Arizona; Topeka, Kansas; Cambridge, Minnesota; and Monroe, Washington. **Pray** for the people who are involved in planting these new congregations, and for the ones who will be reached by them.

Praise the Lord for encouraging reports from Missionary Connely Dyrud in Brazil, especially how well the Brazilian pastors are carrying on the work with all their hearts.

Pray for AFLC President Robert Lee, and for each faculty and staff member serving at the headquarters and campus. **Praise** God for the completion of the new Administration Building and for the dedicated labor of numerous volunteers as well as the generous gifts which made the project possible.

Pray for all of the Home Mission congregations during the month of October when they will not receive any subsidy.



Pictured is the micro-bus that is proving to be a great blessing for the ministry in Brazil. The balance still needed to close out the bus project is \$1,063.30.



The eight children currently being cared for at the Miriam Infant Home.

Praise the Lord for the safe arrival of the Dan Giles family in Aguascalientes, Mexico, after a 12-day delay at the border due to new immunization requirements. **Pray** for them, too, as they resume their ministry in Mexico.

Pray for congregations who are building new facilities at Beltrami, Cokato, Detroit Lakes, Dexter, Ortonville, Pine City and Roseau, Minnesota; and Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Pray for Pastor Chris Oswood as he waits for a heart transplant.

Praise God for the new medical clinic to be built on the campus at Campo Mourao, Brazil, with funds provided by the Global Health Ministries.

Pray for the David Abel family as they return to the U.S. from Brazil later this year for a one-year furlough. **Pray** also that suitable housing and transportation will be available for them.

A Thank You From Topeka

On August 16, 1992, Intern Tim Hinrichs and Dean Hobelmann, from Abiding Word Lutheran Church, Deshler, Nebraska, conducted an outdoor worship service in Topeka, Kansas. Fourteen members of Abiding Word were also in attendance to offer their support to the new congregation. Here is a letter sent to Abiding Word.

"A simple 'Thank You' seems hardly enough to express our gratitude to your congregation, especially to Intern Tim and those members who came with him last Sunday to worship with us. ...

"We came away from church not feeling angry or frustrated as in the past. Instead, it was with a sense of peace and wholeness that we thought was no longer available to us.

"Your prayers and support for strangers such as us are considered a miracle by the standards of our own home church. You are truly a loving and caring congregation. Please continue to remember us in your prayers as we step out in faith and take part in establishing a Free Lutheran Church in Topeka."

After 70 years of marriage

On September 28, 1922, Clifford and Violet Anderson exchanged vows and began their life together. Today they thank the Lord for His mercy, protection and provision. Together they enjoy their five children, 19 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren. After 70 years of marriage and ministry, here is Evangelist Clifford Anderson's testimony in his own words.

Although Violet and I were both baptized, confirmed and married as Lutherans, our lives really did not take on real meaning until we were both converted to Jesus Christ in 1930. From then on we have had a blessed, happy, purposeful, exciting and adventuresome life as we lived for our blessed Savior!

How can I describe these years on a few lines of type? May I first say that I thank God for my good wife who has been a faithful helpmate in the purest sense of the word! I'd like to write a long chapter about her. She has been conscientious and conservative. She is a quilter and a seamstress. In fact, only one time in her life has she gone to a dress shop to buy a ready-made dress! That occurred when our oldest daughter was married. My wife had made the wedding dress and the bridesmaids dresses and had run out of time to make her own, so our family insisted she buy a dress.

During the Depression years, Violet would rip old coats and design new coats for the children. I would never have been able to travel in evangelistic work for all those decades if I would not have had the full co-operation of my good wife.

In the early 1930s I organized a string band and for three summers we held street meetings every Saturday night in towns around the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. During those years, a half-dozen of us organized the Little Homelike Tract Mission, which later developed into the Lutheran Colportage.

After many years of preaching in

churches and missions on weekends, I gave up my secular occupation and answered the call to full-time preaching ministry. Consequently we joined the World Mission Prayer League and for a short time worked with the Mexican Lutheran Mission in Texas.

From there we moved back to Minnesota and for ten years I was a licensed lay pastor in the former Augustana Synod. We served five parishes in the U.S. and Canada before serving an ELC congregation. I then pastored an Eielson Lutheran Synod congregation. The last congregation I served was Sunnyside Community Church near Stacy, Minnesota. I then became ordained in 1958 at Bethany Lutheran Church Independent at Bethany Fellowship, Inc. in Bloomington, Minnesota. The original founders of Bethany Fellowship were Lutheran Free Church people. I was the first person ordained by Bethany Fellowship. While serving Sunnyside, I suggested they affiliate with the AFLC and they did.

During the years we served parishes, I also traveled in evangelistic work as much as I could. I conducted my first series of meetings in 1942. For 17 of the 40 years that I traveled as an

evangelist, I almost entirely worked overseas. I have visited and preached in all kinds of evangelical churches and missions on all six continents. I have been in 69 nations and conducted meetings in half of the states of our Union and in the western provinces of Canada. In all, my evangelistic ministry, I have never sent out or paid by a church group or fellowship. I have preached in ten different Lutheran synods. My only income all those years was the free-will offerings received at evening meetings.

During those years I conducted 35-36 weeks of meetings annually. The one exception was one year I had 42 weeks of services. It was not easy for my family for the father to be gone that much. My wife was both parents to our children. However, God in His mercy has undertaken in every situation. He has supplied our needs!

Violet and I attended the organizational meeting of the AFLC at Thief River Falls, Minnesota in 1962. We are charter members of Good Shepherd (AFLC) at Cokato, Minnesota. Our desire is to continue to live for Jesus as we wait for the "Shout," (I Thessalonians 4:16-18).

— Evangelist Clifford R. Anderson
Buffalo, Minnesota



Living For Jesus

Greenbush, Minnesota — Oiland Lutheran Church is hosting their Fall Special Meetings with Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minnesota, on October 4-7.

Tucson, Arizona — Living Faith Free Lutheran Church held Kids' Club for ten weeks this summer. The two and one-half hour sessions met two times each week. Robert Maurer and Mrs. Ami Gardner were the teachers. Other volunteers assisted. A yard sale in May, held in the church parking lot, provided all the funds for this ministry. Bibles were given to each child who came. At the conclusion of the ten weeks, a Family Night was held during which the children sang and shared many of the Bible verses they had memorized. Average attendance was 35 children.

Upsala, Minnesota — The parsonage and church grounds for Word of Life Free Lutheran were filled with 75 children during the afternoons of August 10-14, for VBS. The Barnabas Home Missions team assisted. Tents were set up to add to the facilities. Word of Life is a Home Mission congregation which rents worship space at the telephone company annex in Upsala.

Rev. Alvin Pinno, Frontier, Saskatchewan, Canada, has accepted a call to serve Living Word Lutheran Church, Eagan, Minnesota. Currently the pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church, Frontier, he will begin his ministry in the U.S. as soon as his application to the federal government has been processed and approved. **Rev. David Barnhart**, who has been the pastor of the Eagan congregation since its organization, plans to devote more time to his Abiding Word Ministry.

Rev. Kermitt C. and Alice Grundahl, Colorado Springs, Colorado, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 6, 1992. Pastor Grundahl, who will be 87 on October 7, also celebrated his 60th year of ordination into the ministry on Sept. 4, 1992.

Rev. Hans Tollefson, Astoria, Oregon, celebrated his 90th birthday on September 22, 1992. He is the oldest living AFLC pastor.

Goodridge, Minnesota — Telemarken Lutheran Church is hosting special meetings on October 18-20 with Rev. Erling Huglen, Roseau, Minnesota as the guest speaker.

Osceola, Wisconsin — The ARC has moved according to the U.S. Post Office. The new address is 2372 30th Ave. and Kings Way, Osceola, WI 54020.

The new address for **Pastor Ken Thoreson** is 1103 Mitchell Street, Janesville, WI 53546; phone, (608) 758-2433.

Amery, Wisconsin — The Fall Rally of the Minneapolis District WMF will be held at Amery Free Lutheran Church on Saturday, October 17, with registration beginning at 9 a.m. Pastor and Mrs. Paul Pillman, Zumbrota, Minnesota, who formerly served as missionaries in South America, will be the speakers for the day.

Roseau, Minnesota — The 1992 Northwestern Minnesota District Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 25, beginning at 3 p.m. in the Roseau Free Lutheran Church. AFLC President Robert Lee will be the speaker at a 6:30 p.m. evening service.

1992 Ordination Anniversaries

Ten Years

D. Mark Antal
Dennis Brostrom
Jerry Holmaas
Gary Jorgenson
Richard Long
Alvin Pinno
Jon Wellumson

Twenty Years

Lloyd Bjornlie
Michael Brandt
Bruce Dalager
William Goodman
Alvin Grothe
Henry Johansen
Steven Lombardo
Kenneth Moland
Elden Nelson

Thirty Years

Erwin Brandt

Forty Years

John Abel
H. Albert Hautamaki

Sixty Years

K.C. Grundahl



Leland, Illinois — St. Petrie Lutheran Church had its steeple removed for repair. On July 2nd lightning struck the church. The congregation met in the church basement during the time of clean-up and repair.

A FULL TIME YOUTH ADVISOR

A major frustration for some delegates at our annual conference this year was the decision to postpone once again the calling of a full-time youth advisor to work with the AFLC Luther League Federation. Many are convinced that this is an idea whose time has come, but the harsh fiscal realities faced by all of our ministries caused most of the delegates to reject a resolution presented by the Youth Board to provide funding for the new position.

The background of this concern is a long one, beginning in the early years of the AFLC when resolutions were approved by several annual conferences pointing toward the creation of such a position. Men have been secured to meet the need on a part-time basis, from Mr. Wayne Pederson to Rev. Dennis Gray and Bob Halverson. No one seemed to seriously question the motivation behind these resolutions, but shortages of men and money always prevented any real attempts to put them into action.

Nothing has changed, it could be said. Words are cheap, and resolutions can be painlessly passed at every annual conference giving our commitment to youth ministry a proper lip service.

The problem is, however, that some things have changed. Youth ministry has grown more complicated than it was 20 or 30 years ago, and our homes and churches need all the help they can get. Also, there seems to be a growing potential for youth ministry in the AFLC, if the record attendance at recent national Luther League conventions is any indication. Our current staff, together with the national LLF officers and Youth Board members, have served us effectively, but they would be the first to emphasize that the time for expansion is now.

Let's be realistic. AFLC budget receipts do not encourage us to expect that funds for any new ministries will be found in the immediate future ... although more than one disappointed delegate did remark that the conference decided to channel a small percentage of undesignated gifts away from other ministries to support a relatively new agency, the Christian Academic Education Board. So what can we do?

One way to work toward the goal of a full-time youth advisor is to join "Friends of Youth." Membership in this fellowship involves a small monthly commitment, and the expansion of such a support base would quickly make our commitment, and the expansion of such a support base would quickly make our resolutions a reality. Further information can be obtained from the youth office.

A second possibility is to expect more from our youth themselves. It is an amazing fact that teens possess an incredible amount of discretionary income, as is witnessed by the sums that are saved toward national conventions, for example. The budget proposed by the Youth Board for the salary of a full-time youth advisor includes a certain percentage that the young people themselves would contribute. Could this percentage be increased? It is still true

today that youth respond to the challenges, and yet this is a channel that has scarcely been touched.

Is there a third option? Of course! We can prayerfully pass another resolution for a full-time youth worker at the next annual conference, and then channel the necessary support to this worthwhile goal.

FAITHLESS OR BRAINLESS?

There are four couples called by God and committed to world missions! Why are we talking about money? Don't we have faith that God will supply? What would Jesus do? Let's go forward in faith, and stop worrying about budgets!"

"Conference after conference has responded to emotional calls for expanding our missionary budget, but the support does not follow. God created our heads for something more than hat racks, so let's use the brains that He gave us and not commit ourselves to more than He supplies. We must stop borrowing from other funds to finance current ministries!"

None of the above comments are intended to be direct quotes from conference discussions, but they are a close approximation of some statements that have been expressed. It's not only world missions, of course, that inspires such intense debate, for the tension between common sense and child-like trust effects every area of church life and ministry.

Faithless or brainless ... isn't there an alternative? What would Jesus do?

The last question is not really a fair one. Rather, the Christian should ask, what does Jesus say? His Word is our authority, not our subjective sense of what He might do in our situation, for our deceitful hearts can easily create a Christ who always agrees with our decisions.

Yes, there is an alternative to faithless or brainless, but it is not a simple one. The Lord who calls us to walk by faith and not by sight also commands us to count the cost. The paradox between these two poles of our life in Christ will never fully be resolved. Both are true, and sometimes I wonder if God doesn't give us individuals who lean in one direction more than the other to balance His body of believers as a whole, so that the blessed paradox might be preserved.

At the very least, let these remarks be a call to respect one another as we listen when concerns are shared. God has given the AFLC ... and your congregation ... some of His special children who call us to greater challenges, and others who admonish us not to go ahead of Him, but to enter the open doors which He has entrusted to His church.

Praise the Lord for His provision and patience as we struggle to discover the dynamic balance of common sense and child-like trust that is right for our church during these critical days!

Iron Sharpens Iron

If you are not interested in a closer walk with Jesus, then do not read the following! I believe that a forgiven sinner is to witness to the world and fellowship with God's people.

One of the earmarks of a Christian is that he **loves** to fellowship with the saints. The Bible reminds us that we know we have passed from death unto life because we love to be in the midst of the brethren. Now if for some reason you do not desire to be with those who have a testimony from the Lord, then you have real reason to be concerned about your stand with the Head, Jesus Christ. **Love** brings us into the presence of those we truly **love**.

Possibly you recall the gentleman who was in love with a young lady and was expressing in writing how much he loved her. He wrote regardless of wind, rain, hail, storm, cold, sleet or snow he would be over to see her. Then just before closing the letter he stated that if convenient and very favorable weather he would arrive. You know sometimes we treat Jesus and His Word like that. But true love is tested by obedience!

God knows that we need fellowship and has so instructed us. Some of the very best fellowship is provided in the home as people practice Christian hospitality (Hebrews 13:1-2). Only there can some of the blessings of God be experienced. "See how they love one another" is a biblical characteristic of the communion of saints. Isn't it interesting how the people you likely once ignored and maybe even despised become your closest friends when you have entered the family of God. It is edifying to see how a person who is born anew is born into the family of God, into the communion of saints. You have observed many in the family of God who are not particularly flashy nor showy as the world sees, but they are living proof that "he who loves God must love his brother also," (I John 4:21).

This love is not so much "goose pimples" and feelings but rather it is an attitude of the heart and an act of the will. "Beloved, if God so loves us, we

also ought to love one another" (I John 4:11). An earmark of love for God is our love for others. Obedience is better than sacrifice and to obey for the Christian is to give earnest heed to the Word of God. This means submission to its authority and the carrying out of its instructions. May we daily draw freely from His love and put our working clothes on and show love flowing in and through us.

An empty chair or pew can easily be a vote for the world and a cause for concern among fellow believers. Certainly going to church or a fellowship meeting does not make a person a Christian any more than putting a horse in a garage makes it a car. But it does give a sense of direction or indication and is definitely an influence and example to others. We are living in disobedience when we do not assemble together around His Word and prayer. When we neglect Christian fellowship we show a lack of interest (love) and are busier than the Lord intends. It also manifest a lack of brotherly love and thus a poor testimony. It reveals we think we know better than God when we say we have no need of fellowship when God Himself says otherwise. "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the day approaching," (Hebrews 10:25). Proverbs 27:17 tells us: "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

Yes, we are encouraged and exhorted to assemble and even that much more as we see the day of the Lord's return drawing nigh. This is not an elective but a command!

John Chapman started a project in the early 1800s that continues to bear fruit today. This Massachusetts resident heard that only a few fruit trees existed in the Midwest so he set out single handedly to remedy the situation. Today he is known by the name of Johnny Appleseed. He was only one, yet one! You are one, yet a significant living and practicing example.

"Anyone, then who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins" (James 4:17).

Christian fellowship is a resource given by God Himself. As you give, you shall likewise receive.

When by faith you have been washed through the royal blood of the King and come into fellowship with the King's blood bought family, you desire to be with those you love! As opportunities to share in Christian fellowship come, you avail yourself of the same, don't you?



— by Pastor
Rodney Stueland