

THE LUTHERAN 

JUNE 2010

AMBASSADOR

TAKE THE
NEXT STEP IN
EVANGELISM

DISCIPLESHIP



Perfect

BY SARAH VANCE



peace

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful" (John 14:27).

In Ezekiel 37:26 God calls the covenant that He will establish with His people a "covenant of peace." In the book of John, verse 27, Jesus institutes the covenant of peace. In this covenant of peace, God promises it will be an *everlasting* covenant. God also promises to establish us, increase our numbers, and put His sanctuary among us forever.

What more could we desire for our free and living congregations, our families, and our individual hearts than to have God's covenant of peace established in us? God's perfect peace involves an invigorating, life-giving fullness, security, and purpose that nothing in the world can give. We are so blessed to have God's sanctuary among us forever in our churches, families and hearts.

Are you anxious and burdened today? Is your mind troubled by sin, fear, uncertainty and doubt? If your life is filled with stress, allow the Holy Spirit to fill you with Christ's peace. Philippians 4:6-7 says, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Only in Jesus Christ can we have deep and lasting peace. The

world will try to convince us that peace is merely the absence of conflict. Yet in Christ, we have confident assurance in every circumstance, and we have no need to fear the present or the future. True peace comes from

knowing that God is in control no matter what happens around us. We can have peaceful rest knowing our home is in heaven, God hears every one of our prayers, He never will forsake us, and we can have victory over sin.

Let Jesus Christ's perfect peace guard your heart and mind today. God bless you as you rest in Him.

"Like a river glorious is God's perfect peace,
Over all victorious in its bright increase;
Perfect yet it floweth fuller every day,
Perfect yet it groweth deeper all the way.
Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest,
Finding as He promised, perfect peace and rest."

—Frances R. Havergal

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God's plan is not just for us to be saved by grace—it is for us to live by grace. God's plan is for my daily life to be given, guided, guarded, and energized by the grace of God.

—John Ortberg

As Christ's followers, we are not to be of the world, but we are still to be in the world. We are to be in the world in order that we might win the world. And winning people to Christ occurs most naturally and effectively within the context of personal relationships.

—Howard Hendricks
Standing Together

Sometimes we forget that the new Christian needs to be released into ministry before he or she becomes an expert in theology.

—Dary Northrop
Garage-Door Evangelism

First the Holy Spirit kindles faith in us in conversion through the hearing of the Gospel. Faith apprehends the grace of God in Christ whereby the person is justified. After the person is justified, the Holy Spirit next renews and sanctifies him, and from this renewal and sanctification the fruits of good works will follow.

—Formula of Concord



PREACH

DO YOU HAVE A HEART FOR THE LOST?

ARE WE LONGING FOR THE SALVATION of the lost souls around us? Do our spirits burn for those who are living without Jesus as the Lord of their lives? Do our hearts beat to see 6.5 billion people saved on this earth?

The sad realization is that every second three people die. By the time our heads hit our pillows tonight, more than 250,000 people will have walked from this side of life to eternity, heaven or hell. The simple question for all of us is, "Do we care?" The much tougher question, though, is, "Do we care enough to do something about it?" It is a simple fact that if we do not care enough to do something about it, then we do not truly care at all.

Recently, we were talking with an elderly man named Andre whom we met on the street. He told us that he was a Catholic

and that he was working his way toward eternity in heaven based on the good things that he does. We talked with him about Ephesians 2:8-9, where God clearly displays that it is by grace we are saved and not by our own works. The look on his face was indescribable as he came to the realization that he could live in the grace of Jesus Christ. The grace that Andre came to realize is the same grace that every unbeliever has yet to experience.

Some Christians may have the desire to journey to faraway countries like India, Africa, Mexico, or Brazil to share with those

whose souls are lost. Others are called to stay right where they're at in life and make known the mystery of the gospel with those around them. No matter the location, all Christians are called to some aspect of evangelism and missions. Everyday we encounter people in our lives who are lost and in need of the transforming power of Jesus Christ. These are the people whom we need to reach. Yet we often just sit by and take no action!

We may get around to talking with them about the latest sporting news, the best cooking tips, or what the best shows

OUT

BY ION NELSON & NATHAN OLSON

**“Some want to live within the
sound of church or chapel
bell; I want to run a rescue
shop within a yard of hell.”**
C.T. Studd

on TV are, but when it comes to talking about eternity we often shy away or avoid the subject completely. We find the time to make small talk about things that won't make a difference in people's lives down the road but never seem to get around to talking about what will make an impact on someone's eternal soul.

We need to wake up to the realization that millions around us are blind to any notion of the saving power of Jesus Christ. They are headed straight for an eternity in hell, some of them without ever actually hearing the promise of salvation. What makes the scenario worse is that we are letting them! We sit by, failing to reach out to people, while Satan is gladly watching our feelings of contentment and complacency.

Sadly, we are our own worst enemies when it comes to evangelism. Satan doesn't need to distract us or discourage us in sharing the gospel because we lack even

the desire or heart for the lost. Similar to the story of the Good Samaritan, we all too often are those who walk by on the other side of the one beat up and battered. All too often we have already made the decision in our heart that getting involved in someone's eternal destination would be too much of an inconvenience for our day. How can we truly call those around us our “friends” if we don't care first and foremost about their eternal wellbeing?

Campus Crusade for Christ research recently reported that only 2 percent of Christians share their faith on a regular basis. Does this sound like the book of Acts to you? No way! Promise Keepers reported that 90 percent of Christian men have never shared their faith even one time. Does that sound like Peter or Paul to you? Not a chance! Where have we gone that sharing the gospel with even one person a year seems like such a lofty goal that we have to

put it as a New Year's resolution?

The call for us as Christians has already been given to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). Therefore, let us push forward for the salvation of those who are perishing! God's will and desire is for “all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4). So let's live in the will of our Lord Jesus Christ and reach those in this world who are perishing! For our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ “came that they may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10).

Keep the faith; just don't keep it to yourself!

Nelson and Olson, both AFLBS graduates, are currently serving as short-term missionary assistants in Brazil.

TO BE A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST, one must have strong faith in God. The disciple of Christ should not keep that faith to themselves but must share their faith with others, and add more disciples. This act of adding disciples is called discipleship. It involves teaching, mentoring, and encouraging new believers. The Bible gives us many examples that show us not only what discipleship is, but also some of the attributes of discipleship.

DISCIPLESHIP IS FAITH TO GO WHEREVER GOD LEADS

Discipleship often means getting out of our comfort zones. God never told us discipleship would be easy, but He did promise He would be with us every step of the way. God may send us to disciple someone whom we may believe will never come to Christ. We may give God an excuse, such as lacking the needed talent, or not feeling comfortable in a particular situation. Instead, we should go by faith and answer God's call.

An example from Scripture may be seen when God sent Barnabas to disciple Saul soon after Saul's conversion. Other Christians were afraid to meet with Saul, believing his so-called conversion was merely a plot to persecute additional believers. Barnabas may have been afraid—he initially questioned God's request—but he went to disciple Saul and then returned to assure the apostles that Saul was no longer one to fear. Instead, Saul had become a dynamic follower of Jesus Christ.

Personally, I had a "God, you have got to be kidding me!" experience. I had been part of a group from our Gloria Dei congregation leading a monthly worship service at a local nursing home when I heard God asking me to go a step further and mentor a group of residents by leading a Bible study there. At first I fought this calling and gave God every excuse I could, but He was patient with me and kept calling. Through much prayer, I finally trusted God and today we have a thriving Bible study group where we encourage one another in faith.

DISCIPLESHIP IS PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE

When we encourage new believers, we can become impatient and frustrated, expecting immediate results. We have accepted Jesus as our personal Savior and expect God to immediately transform the life of the new believer. Here again, discipleship teaches us to depend solely on the Holy Spirit. The transformation for a new believer can take weeks, months or years. God teaches us to persevere and not give up.

Scripture shows us an example of patience in discipleship with Barnabas and Mark. Barnabas had encouraged Mark to join him and Paul on their journey to Antioch. But during that mission, Mark left to go back home. Two years later, when arranging for their next missionary journey, Barnabas recommended that Mark join the team, but Paul did not want Mark. This caused a rift on the team, so Barnabas brought Mark with him and Paul went separately. Barnabas showed patience with Mark, who wound up being an excellent witness.

DISCIPLESHIP IS NOT FOR THE TIMID

The world around us will be against us when we attempt to disciple someone. By human nature, going against "popular" opinion or the "in" crowd can cause us to be timid in our ministry. If we truly desire to be a disciple of Christ, Mark 8:34-38 tells us we must live contrary to the world around us and put Jesus first in our lives in all that we do. Instead of living for ourselves, we

must live for Christ. But when the world is against Jesus, being a bold disciple is difficult and often frustrating.

In the Bible, Timothy experienced much frustration as he attempted to share the gospel. Some of this was because of Timothy's young age. He became timid in his ministry. Paul, through his discipleship of Timothy, gave him encouragement to be bold: "For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline" (II Timothy 1:6-7). When the world causes us to question God's ability to work through us, our effectiveness as disciples suffers.

God wants each of us to disciple others. He gave us the perfect example in His Son Jesus Christ. God will give us the faith, patience and boldness we need. Prayer is the key to discipleship. If we ask God to lead us, the Holy Spirit will show the way to those whom we should disciple.

As for how to disciple, a great resource is a publication from the AFLC Commission on Evangelism titled, *Discipleship Manual: A New Believer's Introduction to the Christian Life*. Pastor Jim Rasmussen, AFLC director of Evangelism, has placed this manual on the AFLC Evangelism Web site for free download (www.aflc.org/evangelism/tool-box/dm). This resource has been a blessing for our Gloria Dei congregation, used one-on-one and in small groups with new believers.

Berg is a member of Gloria Dei Lutheran, St. Louis, Mo.

ATTRIBUTES



3UTILES

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A DISCIPLE?

“For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”

II Timothy 1:6-7

AS I GOT BACK TO MY ROOM at the FLY Convention with my fellow students, I wondered how the many young adults who sought counseling that night would grow in grace after returning home.

Mature disciples of Jesus Christ have sought ways to foster that growth. One option used in pursuit of that goal has been discipleship material. Each discipleship manual has its own flavor and distinctives. How is one to weave through each of these selections and choose good discipleship materials? A disciple-maker must keep these features in mind when considering discipleship material:



GROW

CHOOSING THE RIGHT MATERIALS

BY BRETT BOE

SOLID DOCTRINE MUST PERMEATE THE MATERIAL

There is so much “fluff” out there in Christian literature. Discipleship manuals are no exception. Look to see if Bible verses are used in their proper context throughout the material. As much as we might not want to believe it, doctrine is practical. A false teaching can lead us away very quickly. For example, there are very few Lutheran-specific discipleship materials that uphold the teaching of the means of grace. A disciple-maker must keep in mind the proper distinction between law and gospel. This paradigm will go a long way in screening out biblically inaccurate material. Discipleship material often falters in how sanctification is viewed. Look for grace-saturated material that uses the gospel to motivate and encourage believers who are growing in sanctification. “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age” (Titus 2:11-12).

CLEAR TEACHING ON THE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Preferably this teaching would be included close to the beginning of a discipleship manual. A person who has not tasted of the grace of God and come to faith in Christ will merely become a moral person by going through a discipleship manual. Friends, that is not the goal of a disciple-maker. A disciple of Jesus is first and foremost a believer in Jesus Christ who knows that his or her sins are forgiven by the shed blood of Jesus. All believers are disciples in

need of growing into maturity in Christ. A disciple-maker seeks to use the discipleship material to see that the disciple grows by the power of the Holy Spirit.

BASIC SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES SUCH AS PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY ARE TAUGHT

These basic spiritual disciplines are the “bread and butter” of Christians. Disciple-makers walk alongside the disciple as he learns how to daily dig into the Bible for himself and pray to the great God who has saved him. In addition, a disciple-maker introduces his young disciple to the fellowship of the congregation. Disciples in the early stage of growth will be plugged into the local congregation as they learn to use the spiritual gifts God has given them. Good discipleship material includes biblical teaching concerning these matters.

INCLUDE UNIVERSAL TOPICS

Common topics that every believer—or disciple—encounters will be included, such as dealing with temptation. Though not able to cover every topic, a discipleship manual must provide a start for discussions between mature believers and young disciples about miscellaneous topics.

IT'S SIMPLE, EASY TO FOLLOW AND UNDERSTAND

Confusing, hard-to-use material can frustrate young disciples and may push them away from further Bible study in the future. Be careful not to over-systematize the process. Recognize the human element involved. Each relationship between disciple-maker and disciple is unique.

A user-friendly discipleship manual will encourage this unique relationship and be flexible enough to be adaptable to different situations.

One of my hobbies is examining discipleship material. In the past I have downloaded free discipleship manuals and looked at ones in Christian bookstores to find one that I would be comfortable using in future ministry. For so long I yearned for a good Lutheran discipleship manual that had these very facets included. I even felt the pull of God to possibly write a Lutheran discipleship curriculum.

Can you imagine the excitement I felt during my first year of seminary when Pastor Jim Rasmussen read the syllabus for his class “Evangelism and Discipleship” and mentioned that one of our assignments was to break up in groups and write a discipleship manual! Being one of the authors, I was honored to be asked to help edit this material as it was developed for use. While not perfect, the AFLC Discipleship Manual has been shaped in such a way to include the key points written about in this article. I am confident that the Lord is using and will continue to use this manual to assist congregations as they seek to be obedient to the command of Jesus to “make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19).

The AFLC discipleship manual can be downloaded free from www.aflc.org/evangelism.

Boe, from Helmar Lutheran, Newark, Ill., graduated from AFLTS in May. He has accepted a call to serve as associate pastor at the Dalton, Minn., parish.

BY FAYLIN MYHRE

MENTORING

A FEW YEARS AGO I attended a mentoring workshop with the hope that I could learn all about mentoring and discipleship. I wanted to use what I learned to be a better friend, to more effectively reach out to others with the gospel, and to encourage other believers in their walk.

I was also hoping to find a mentor, someone I could learn from in my personal, professional and spiritual life. What I learned was that throughout the course of my life I had already been well mentored through the relationships I had with family and friends.

My first mentors were my grandmothers and aunts. They loved me, taught me neat things and encouraged me to love Jesus. One aunt in particular always told me I was special and that Jesus loved me. As a teen I had a best friend who loved Jesus and loved me, and her influence in my life is still with me today nearly 40 years later. As a new bride, I got a call from a sweet aunt of my husband who wanted let me know

where to find the Christian radio station and encouraged me to listen at different times to uplifting music and teaching. Other women in the church came alongside me, loved me, and taught by example what a woman of God looked like and how she lived her life. I remember a pastor's wife who loved her husband and children, and her example influenced my desire to love my family more. Later, while struggling with a rebellious teen, another pastor's wife took time day or night to listen to me and to encourage me, and I know her prayers included our family. Now, when young men have replaced my little boys, the understanding and love of a sister encourages me as the day draws nearer when this nest will be empty.

**"In everything set
them an example by
doing what is good."**

Titus 2:7

YOU CAN ENCOURAGE BELIEVERS IN THEIR WALK

INFLUENCE

I found, too, that in the closeness of friendship and other relationships I have also been the advisor, the guide, and the mentor to those God placed in my life. We were four girlfriends standing strong together for Jesus in high school. The friendships made at AFLBS were give and take, teaching and learning from each other. I pray that the time spent with friends has been a blessing to them, that in some way I have been able to encourage a new mommy, the mother of preschoolers, or a tearful mom on the first day of school. I ask God to help me be sensitive and compassionate to those who may be struggling with a rebellious teen so that I can pick up and share their burden as my pastor's wife did for me. I have had some opportunities to do so, and I know there will be more.

Although mentoring is not a word found in the Bible, the concept most surely is. A mentor is one who advises, counsels, guides and teaches. We are more familiar with the term discipleship, and perhaps more comfortable with it, as well. We know that the disciples—those who followed Jesus—were taught, counseled, advised and led by Him in the years of His earthly

ministry. After Christ's death, resurrection and ascension to heaven, the disciples were no longer just students, they were also the teachers. They were now the ones preaching, guiding, giving counsel, healing and doing miracles. The time spent under the teaching and discipleship of Jesus prepared them for greater service. He was their example, their model. Their learning didn't stop when Christ left earth; they now had the Holy Spirit to continue to lead, guide, counsel, and advise them.

The same is true for us. We learn from others, whether in a formal mentoring relationship or informal like the relationships I described in my personal experience. Our learning brings us to a place of greater service. Titus 2 is an exhortation to the believer to model, teach, guide, encourage, and mentor other believers. There is instruction here to men and women, slave and free, young and old. Verses 7 and 8 are for all of us: "In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us."

In my Bible I have written the word "influence" in the margin next to this passage. Titus 2 encourages us to have a positive godly influence on the world around us by forming and building relationships in which we can disciple, love, guide, encourage, build up, teach, inspire and impact others. We would be wise to find those who would be our wise counselor, guide and mentor, as well.

I encourage you to look at your relationships and be purposeful in them "while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good" (Titus 2:13-14).

Myhre is a member of Bethany Free Lutheran, Abercrombie, N.D.



DO YOU RECALL the most frightening telephone call you've ever made? Did your heart race? Did you stammer to find the words to speak as butterflies swarmed around inside your stomach?

I remember the scariest telephone call I've ever made. It was not a cold sales call. It wasn't even a call to the doctor or dentist, or a call to my boss. More about this in a minute.

I have been with my wife, Heather, for a little more than 15 years. I tell people that I knew she was "the one" because when I'm with her I feel like I'm on vacation and when I hug her I feel like I'm home. She is gentle, kind, and lovely.

Before we were married, we were engaged. Before we were engaged, we dated. Before we dated, we went out on our first date. Now, my friend, can you see what's coming? Before we went out on our first date ... I had to call Heather and ask her if she would go out with me! And I will let you in on a secret: a lot of us guys are chickens!

I dialed the telephone, heart racing, gumption mustered. The phone rang, then rang again. Oh no! She answered. Now what? I can't blow this! I talked for a few minutes, asked her out for the following Friday. Guess what? She said yes. Not only that, she kept talking. I didn't blow it. Thank you, Lord!

I'm a seminarian, so let me get theological for a minute. At the end of Ephesians 6, the Apostle Paul asks for prayer to boldly proclaim the gospel.

Are you kidding?

Do you recall in Philippians 3 and in Acts, Paul seems like a pretty bold guy. Yet even Paul asks that he receive prayer for boldness. Now let me translate this to evangelism. Don't get nervous, keep reading. One of my favorite verses in the Bible is Luke 15:10. Set this magazine down and go read it, I can wait. Did you go read it? I'm serious go.

There is rejoicing in heaven among the angels when one sinner repents and turns to the Lord.

Now follow this procession: A Christian is born again and commits his life to Jesus Christ as Lord. Before this happens, he hears the Word of the Lord (Romans 10:17). Before this, another Christian shares his faith in Jesus Christ as Lord (Romans 10:14-15). Before this, another Christian opens his mouth and shares his faith in Jesus Christ. Are you following this?

My hope and prayer is that the Christian reads an article like this and the idea is birthed that he can share his faith! You can. People are just like you.

How can you do this? There are tons of ways. One of my favorites capitalizes on an old American adage: The customer is always right. Watch this one.

The restaurant waitress asks us, "Is there anything else I can get you right now?"

We reply, "We are about to pray for our meal, is there anything we can pray for, for you?"

The grocery store clerk asks, "How are you today?"

Reply with something like, "I am so thankful, I went to church yesterday and heard an amazing sermon. All of my sins have been forgiven by Jesus Christ, my Lord!"

I know, some of these take practice. And they all need prayer. If you pray that the Lord will bless you with opportunities, my friend, these opportunities will pop up like dandelions.

I had the privilege of preaching at a nursing home on Easter morning. I shared the message that Good Friday was the first part of Easter. If you are trusting in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Now we have a response to that incredible gift. Not a guilt ridden, "I know I should," but a response. That response is telling others about Jesus.

Like my future wife who kept me on the telephone after I somehow managed to ask her out the first time, people will amaze you at how very open and unoffended they are to hear about Jesus.

I challenge you to try it. I pray that the Lord gives you many chances to love people through sharing Jesus. You know enough to be used!

Dahl, from Hope Lutheran, Minneapolis, just completed his first year at AFLTS.

TIME TO BE SOLD

RESPOND TO THE GIFT OF SALVATION
BY SHARING YOUR FAITH

BY MARCUS DAHL



Caring for orphans

BY PASTOR ERIC RASMUSSEN

I tend to forget my son's birthday sometimes. Before you think too harshly of me, let me explain. I have a beautiful, creative 8-year-old daughter. Her name is Anna. When Anna was about 2 or 3, my wife and I started wondering if God would bless us with more children. A few doctor's appointments didn't yield any useful information, so we didn't know where to turn next. We started wondering if God was calling us to adopt a child.

We finally consented to God's will and started a long process of a home study and endless piles of paperwork that needed to be signed and notarized. We chose a Christian adoption agency that was headquartered not far from our home and were connected with a little baby girl from Guatemala. My wife and I picked the name Maria for this little girl. We were told the process takes nine months or more, so we knew we were in for a long wait. I prayed for this baby harder and more often than I had ever prayed for anything else in the world.

We started to worry a little when things didn't move along like they should have, but we trusted these small bumps were not major problems and believed that God was teaching us patience and perseverance. Soon, however, these little bumps weren't so little. We heard rumors and rumblings of major problems with both our adoption agency and with adoptions from the country of Guatemala. Then our agency lost its state license and was shut down. All of the cases were assigned to a large national adoption agency and a lawyer from the state's attorney general's office would look into what happened to our money. Soon the new adoption agency called and said there was nothing they could do. They couldn't even locate this little girl who had spiritually and emotionally been a part of our family for more than a year. Later, we got a check for about 2 percent of the thousands of dollars we had paid to our agency. That was all that was left after the back taxes and lawyers were paid. I can't describe all of the feelings of sorrow and anger that we felt.

We didn't have much money left, but we still felt God's call to adopt. We updated all of our paperwork and started to move forward with a domestic adoption. That road had some bumps along the way, as well. We were picked by a mom from Minnesota to adopt her soon-to-be-born baby. She said she really wanted to



meet us, so we met her at Burger King and had a good talk. Everything seemed to go OK, but neither we nor our adoption agency heard a word from her after that. She never returned a phone call or would even tell us that she had changed her mind.

Like I said earlier, I don't always remember my son's birthday, but that's because I remember May 1 instead. It was on May 1, 2008, in a Wendy's restaurant just south of Macon, Ga., that I held my son, Samuel, for the very first time. The days leading up to that day had been a whirlwind and the setting was strange (Wendy's?), but I'll never forget that day. God had answered our prayers and had blessed us with a healthy, happy little boy. From the very first time I laid eyes on him, I loved him beyond what words can describe.

Our adoption journey has not been easy, but I would never imagine trading it for the world. Samuel has been an amazing addition to our family. Sammy, as we call him most often, turned 2 on April 25. I think that I'll have an easier time remembering his birthday now, because on that very same day this year we baptized our second son, Micah. God has provided in remarkable ways for the adoptions of our two boys. Honestly, I never would have imagined the different people He used and the different ways He provided for all of our needs.

I know that adoption isn't for everyone, but I believe that everyone can and should have a part in caring for orphans. In the Old Testament, the civil laws that God established for His people's government had provisions to care for widows and orphans. Later, God tells us in the epistle of James that our faith should lead to "look[ing] after orphans and widows in their distress." There are many ways that you can be a part of an orphan/adoption ministry. Recently our church established an Orphan Ministry/Adoption Committee that has been working very hard to raise funds for adoption grants and other types of orphan ministry. It has been amazing to see how God works in and through His people. Our family has been forever changed through adoption, and I now know that this was God's plan for our family from the beginning.

Rasmussen is the pastor of youth and family ministry at Calvary Free Lutheran, Fergus Falls, Minn.

Dear readers:

I want to share with you a poem my wife, Mabel, wrote back in 1988. She used to give services of song and testimony at the nursing home here in McVile, N.D., at the time she wrote this poem. I was proud of her as she sang songs of encouragement to the residents, telling them how much Christ meant to her. Later, she was able to work at the home; she loved to help the residents who needed help.

Now Mabel is no longer able to remember her past, and is a resident at the nursing home. I miss her so much, but am able to see her most every day. She still has that same smile for me when I see her as she had more than 60 years ago when I first met her. Our pastor, Lynn Kinneberg, has Bible study at the home each week, and we attend that regularly. Pastor Kinneberg read this poem to the residents at one of the Bible studies. After the meeting back in her room, she asked me, "Did I write that poem?" Some part of her memory came back. Now she talks about how long the halls are, but she doesn't remember where she is.

I thank God that I have been privileged to share my life with Mabel for so many years. She has been a wonderful wife and mother for our family. Life keeps changing, but God is still here by our side.

Kent Quanbeck
New Luther Valley Lutheran,
McVile, N.D.



Just care for one another

I wonder why I've been brought here
To live within these walls
And why I walk and walk and walk
Along these long, long halls.
And then I know why I am here,
Why God has chosen this.
It is to bring to others cheer,
God's plans were not amiss.

God knows what's truly best
For my old, unsteady frame.
He knows I need my daily rest
And the time to play a game.
For as my tasks became too great,
God looked down from above;
He found someone with loving hands
To care for me in love.

And as I wake up in the morn,
I thank God for so much.
I look about; I still can see;
I listen, yes, I hear.
You walk across the room to me
And gently touch my hand;
An angel in a servant's garb,
You, too, are in God's plan.

So even if you think you have
So very little to give,
Remember God has given you
Some love which you can share.

You, though frail and gently quiet,
Can be God's answer to a prayer,
By simply standing by one's side,

Your friend will know you care.
Lord Jesus Christ, compassion has,
He loves us like a brother,
Perhaps more than this,
He loves like a father or a mother.
We, in turn, can be His tools
And comfort show each other
And gently lift some burden great
From this, our gentle brother.

We can come to God each day
And when our steps do falter,
He'll draw us close, His strength we'll have,
We'll place all on the altar.
For giving Christ our very lives,
We'll serve Him with our best,
And as we walk thru every day
In turn, we will be blessed.

So younger folk, and older folk
Reach out to one another.
The greatest gift that you can give—
Just care for one another.

—Mabel Quanbeck



The broken command

BY JORDAN LANGNESS

A few decades ago there was a linguist who experienced the undeniable call of the Lord to enter the mission field. This man responded to the call and headed to a remote tribe deep in the Amazon rainforest. Once there, he told them of the wrath of God who couldn't tolerate sin and the amazing gift of His Son. The tribe was touched and within three years the entire tribe was won for Christ. Shortly after, he felt another call to train them to reach the surrounding tribes with the same gospel that touched them. However, missing the comfort of his air-conditioned home, the missionary decided that the jungle was a touch too hot and returned to America.

The previous story is fictitious. If it were true, I am sure that many people would have asked what was wrong with the missionary. How could someone be involved in such an important work and then abandon the people because the temperature was a little uncomfortable? While we may sit and scoff at such a notion today, what we might not realize is that to a certain extent we, too, could be guilty of similar wrongs.

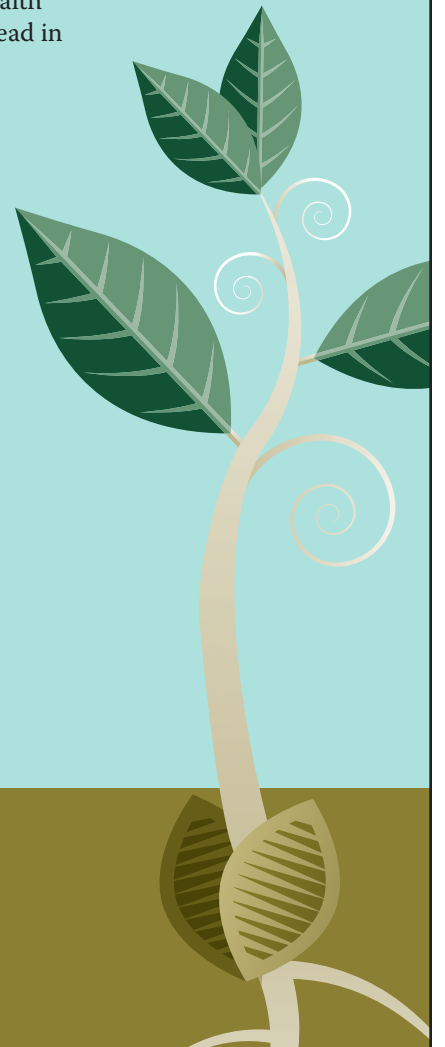
In order to explain, let me refer to the story of Jonah. Jonah received a call from the Lord to go to Nineveh, and after much resistance finally went and proclaimed God's coming judgment. This proclamation brought Nineveh to its knees in repentance, which in turn brought Jonah much disappointment. In Jonah 4, we see that Jonah was so upset by God's mercy toward the people of Nineveh that he asked God to take his life. Quite the pity party, right? Well, it doesn't stop there. Jonah went away to watch the city be destroyed. God sent him a plant to give him shade and then later sent a worm to destroy the plant, causing Jonah to once again wish he was dead. At this point the Lord said, "You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work and which you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight. Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great

city in which there are more than 120,000 persons ...?" (vs. 10-11, NASB).

Jonah was much more concerned about his own personal comfort than the eternal souls of the 120,000 people in Nineveh. We may be tempted to think of him as heartless and misguided, but how often do we ourselves fall into the same snare of choosing our comfort over extending the offer of eternal life to those around us? We are obsessed with our comforts: entertainment, fashion, technology, etc. We work for them, sacrifice for them, give of ourselves for them. Yet, when it comes to sharing our faith with others, it seems like we head in the opposite direction.

The prophet Jonah was guilty of breaking the second greatest commandment given by Jesus: love your neighbor as yourself. Let us learn from his mistake and set aside some of our comforts to love our neighbors as ourselves by telling them about Jesus. It's upsetting to see a missionary walking away from his mission field for the sake of comfort; let us not be guilty of the same.

Langness is a youth worker at Prince of Peace Lutheran, Beulah, N.D.



Be a role model

BY BETHANNY JORENBY

It was a typical Saturday evening service at my church in Aurora, Colo., but I could not seem to focus on Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's miraculous deliverance from the blazing fire. Instead, I found myself looking around the sanctuary and noticing all the women older than myself. I realized something that made me feel intensely isolated and incredibly lonely: other than talking on the phone with my mother, or saying a quick "hi" to mothers and the occasional grandmother bringing a child to class at the dance studio where I teach, I could not remember the last time I had more than a passing conversation with a woman significantly older than myself.

This realization not only produced feelings of isolation and loneliness, but a quiet inkling that I was missing out on something—something rather important. I could not put my finger on it at first. And then it hit me: The second chapter of Titus.

"In the same way, older women are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not addicted to much wine. They are to teach what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands and children, to be sensible, pure, good homemakers, and submissive to their husbands, so that God's message will not be slandered" (Titus 2:3-5; HCSB).

These verses show clearly what I miss out on when I lack an older Christian woman speaking into my life: a living example of what it means to walk with the Lord over a period of time; someone who will teach purity, sensibility, homemaking skills; someone who will share the wisdom that comes with experience and age (Job 12:12). My inkling was correct: missing out on those things is missing out on things both important and good.

I began asking around, curious to see how other young

Christian women felt about the idea of older women teaching the younger women. I wanted to see if my thoughts were an anomaly. Surprisingly, the answer was that I am not alone in how I feel, that the majority of the young women I spoke with have a strong desire to be taught by the older women in their church, but have no one stepping up to fill that role.

I encourage you to step up and fill that role as a teacher and mentor for younger women in both your church and community. Despite what culture portrays, the vast majority of young women possess a strong desire for you to teach them, for you to speak wisdom into their lives. Does it need to be in an official sit-down-for-coffee-once-a-week-and-study-something capacity? Not by any means. The variety of young women I spoke to simply desire someone to be available to talk with them, to teach and lead them by example, to share with them stories of triumphs and mistakes in faith, to show what it means to live a life full of grace. We as young women desire someone to say, "This is what I wish I would have known when I was your age." We desire someone to point us towards a closer relationship with Christ.

Will you begin to teach us that which is good so that we, in turn, have the ability to teach the even younger women in our lives? Do not grow weary of doing good, but know that as you fully give yourself to the work of the Lord (which the mission given from the book of Titus most certainly is), your labor in the Lord will not be in vain.

Jorenby is a member of Calvary Free Lutheran, Arlington, S.D.



A mission for all

BY PASTOR CONNELLY DYRUD

It had been raining torrents as the ships were anchored in the harbor of Rio de Janeiro,” Les Kjos told me while sitting at my kitchen table in Campo Mourao, Brazil. “During World War II, United States ships often refueled and resupplied in Rio on their way to North Africa. I was a scared, young soldier heading for combat. That night in the steamy heat of a Brazilian summer, I couldn’t sleep. I walked out on the deck lonesome, scared, and sick to my stomach. I fell to my knees on the deck in prayer, crying to my Lord, ‘Why do you seem so far away? Do you ever hear my prayers? Can’t you see I’m going into battle with all these American GIs not knowing if we will ever return again from this terrible war?’

“As I opened my eyes, I saw Jesus, glowing in a bright light, high in the sky. His arms were outstretched. He was real, and I cried out to Him, ‘Jesus forgive me for doubting you. If you will let me return home, I will go to Brazil and be a missionary. Thank you for hearing my prayer!’

“Just then a naval officer walked by and said, ‘Son, isn’t that a spectacular sight. It’s the Redeemer of Rio. It’s a statue of Jesus standing on one of the highest peaks in Rio. A bright spotlight shines on Him day and night.’ As I got up off my knees, the clouds rolled back in, and the Redeemer of Rio slipped away into the darkness. But for me, I *knew* it was Jesus’ way of telling me He had heard my prayer and that He was going to be with me through this war, and I would be safe in His outstretched arms.

“The Lord brought me home from the war to Kalispell, Mont. I married the love of my life, and the Lord blessed us with a wonderful family, a successful lumberyard business, and an AFLC church home to work in. But my wife struggled with an illness for many years. Then the Lord took her home to glory. But I never



forgot the promise I made to the Lord on the ship that night in the harbor of Rio. The burden for Brazil has always been on my heart. And all these years, I have been praying for you missionaries in Brazil.

“Now, I’m so thankful that finally the Lord has opened the doors for me to come to Brazil in my retirement. It may seem late, but better late than never. And here I am!”

For the next year, Les worked with us in Brazil. He was an excellent cabinet maker, and he used those skills to make pulpits, altars, and pews for our churches in

Brazil. The Brazilian nationals loved him because of his glowing smile and positive attitude.

Les Kjos has been home in glory for many years now, but the work he did in Brazil is still a blessing to those congregations. But Les is not alone. Many others have contributed as short-term missionaries, helping our AFLC mission work in Brazil and other countries. These opportunities still exist today. Mission work is not only for the young, but also for the young-at-heart, as Les demonstrated.

Today our AFLC Bible school offers an additional one-year discipleship program through its Ministry Training Institute (MTI). The program is not just for AFLC Bible school graduates, but for those of all ages who have had an equivalent life-study experience. MTI provides training for anyone who feels called to become involved in mission work (both home and abroad) and in other outreach ministries of our AFLC.

Dyrud, the director of the Ministry Training Institute, Plymouth, Minn., is an AFLC missionary who previously served in Brazil.



Campus prepares for conference

With more than 500 guests expected on the Plymouth, Minn., campus of the AFLC Schools during the annual conference events planned for June 15-19, volunteers are joining staff to prepare for the events. Pastor Dale Mellgren (left), from McIntosh, Minn., spent a week on campus in early May trimming trees and bushes long overdue for pruning. Matthew Abel (above), a Bible school student from Brazil, joined other maintenance staff to clean up the branches. Other campus projects include renovation of chapel bathrooms, the installation of an air conditioning system in the chapel, and routine maintenance in dorm rooms, which are available to rent for conference attendees.

Plan to attend worship seminar to be held after conference

The AFLC will sponsor a free seminar on worship June 19 on the campus of the AFLC Schools in Plymouth, Minn.



Krauter

The seminar, which will run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Heritage Hall, will feature author and speaker Tom Krauter.

The seminar is a practical, biblical forum focusing on the heart and substance of worship. Far from a typical seminar setting, Tom's engaging style and practical teaching will keep you involved and interested throughout the day.

"I have attended five of these seminars and each one gets better. ... I have seen Tom's passion for Christ grow and intensify over the years ... I know this seminar will challenge and encourage all who long to experience Christ," said Pastor David Johnson, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cloquet, Minn.

Morning sessions will run from 9 to 11:30 a.m., with a lunch break until 12:30 p.m. Afternoon sessions will be held until 3:30 p.m. Registration is at 8:30 a.m.

This seminar will be offered at no cost for AFLC Conference attendees, but you must register in advance. Please call Karen Floan at (763) 545-5631 to register, or register online at www.training-resources.org/wsem_aflc.html.

Sliver, former missionary to Brazil, applies as candidate

Members of the World Missions Committee would like to introduce missionary candidate Jonni Sliver.

Sliver has been a long-time member of Emmaus Lutheran, Bloomington, Minn. She is a graduate of Bethany Fellowship School of Missions and served in Brazil from 1988 to 2004. Sliver returned home in 2004 to care for her mother, who had health problems. Last May Sliver's mother went home to be with the Lord.

Because of her ties to the AFLC, Sliver has applied to be an AFLC missionary, and will likely serve at the Miriam Infant home and our Bible school and seminary in Campo Mourao. Please be in prayer for Sliver and the World Missions Department during the call process.



Easter events bring many to hear the gospel message



AFLBS Concert Choir on hand for outreach event

God truly blessed the Gloria Dei Lutheran congregation in St. Louis, Mo., over the Easter weekend when the congregation held its second annual Community Easter Egg Hunt. The event was held the Saturday afternoon before Easter, and more than 300 children from the community came. Before the children searched for the 4,000 Easter eggs, the gospel message of Jesus and His triumph over death was shared with all who came. Twenty-five families who came to the Easter Egg hunt indicated on their registration form that they did not have a church home. These families were given copies of the Jesus Story DVD and have



been given a follow-up contact. The Easter Egg hunt also featured games, snacks, and a large inflatable slide. But a highlight of the day was the AFLBS Concert Choir, which arrived in St. Louis

that afternoon as part of their Spring tour.

They sang for the crowd and put on a puppet show. The beautiful music of the choir continued the next morning, as they helped lead Easter worship.

WMF plans day of events

The Women's Missionary Federation Day is planned for Tuesday, June 15, on the campus of the AFLC Schools, Plymouth, Minn., beginning at 9 a.m. with a time of worship in the chapel. A Bible study will be led by Mary Christenson. A business meeting will follow.

Lunch will be held in Heritage Hall, followed by workshops under the theme of encouragement. Ellen Monseth will speak on "Persevering through Forgiveness;" Beth Talley will speak on "Remembering God's Faithfulness;" Beverly Enderlein will speak on "Encouragement to Persevere;" and DaNeil Olson will speak on "Our Source of Encouragement: Total Dependence on God."

The day will conclude with a banquet at 5 p.m., with AFLC missionary Becky Abel speaking. The Mission Festival service, hosted by the WMF, will take place at 7 p.m. June 16 in the AFLC chapel, with missionary Darwin Jackson speaking.



New members were received on March 14 at King of Glory Lutheran, Eden Prairie, Minn. They include, (front row, from left) Barb Greiman, Mary Lou Holmberg, Mabel Wickstrom, Blythe Graunke, Judy Lundberg and Emily Johnson. Back row, from left: Joel Greiman, Ray Holmberg, Pastor Les Galland, Leroy Graunke and Rich Lundberg.

AFLC memorials: April

AFLBS

Rachel Tuura
Alice Hodne
Kermit Haakenson
Viola Ferber

AFLTS

Ruth Twete
Pastor Edwin Kjos (2)
Shirley Olson
Pastor Orville Crawford
Kermit & Agnes Haakenson

General Fund

Pastor Orville Crawford

Evangelism

Pastor Donald Duff
Kermit Haakenson
Lorraine Brandt

FLAPS

Rachel Tuura

Parish Education

Harold Pederson

World Missions

Pastor Orville Crawford
Clarence Koontz
Alice Hodne
Dagny Herigstad

LBi class celebrates 45th reunion

The Lutheran Bible Institute class of 1965 (including classes of 1964 and 1966) will celebrate a 45th reunion from 12:30 to 6 p.m. July 18 at Calvary Lutheran Church, Golden Valley, Minn. The theme is "Turning Points: A Look at the History of LBI," with Dr. Raymond Kibler III (interim President, LBI California) as keynote speaker on the early history of LBI. Ingrid Johnson (registrar) will speak on the latter years of LBI. For more information and to RSVP, visit www.ediguys.net/reunion.html.

ARC hosts summer camps

A look at upcoming retreats and camps at the Association Retreat Center, Osceola, Wis.

• Fire Up Camp

Grades 4-7

Date: June 20-25

Leader: Pastor Eric Westlake, Zumbrota, Minn.

Theme: Let's Not Just Survive, Let's Thrive

Cost: \$190 (by June 10), \$210 (after June 10)

• Kids' Camp

Grades 1-3

Dates: June 25-27

Leaders: Jim and Tosca Grimm, directors of Our Space, a Christian child care program.

Theme: Daniel the Fearless Prophet

Cost: \$75 (by June 15), \$95 (after June 15)

• Family Camp

Dates: July 25-31

Speaker: Pastor Eric Christenson, Amery, Wis.

Cost: Vary according to family size, accommodations

Events: VBS for kids, programs for teens, Bible studies and seminars for adults, family Olympics, carnival, bike parade, and talent night.

For more information on these retreats and future camps, contact the ARC by e-mail at arcregistration@centurytel.net or call 800-294-2877. You can also visit the ARC Web site at www.arc-aflc.org for more information.

People and Places

The site for the **opening service** of the AFLC Annual Conference has been changed. The service will be held at 7:30 p.m. June 15 at New Hope Church, 4225 Gettysburg Ave. North, New Hope, Minn.

Jeremy Crowell has accepted a call to serve as a missionary pastor/pilot at the Alaska mission in Naknek, Alaska. Crowell graduated May 22 from AFLTS after serving an internship in both Naknek and Loveland, Colo. Crowell and his wife, Lacey, will begin their ministry in Naknek Aug. 5. Lacey will also contribute to the work at KAKN radio station, as well as with children's ministry.

Bob Lee, who graduated from AFLTS on May 22, has accepted a call to serve as a missionary pastor in Naknek, Alaska. He will also become the station manager at KAKN radio. He, along with his wife, Margaret, will begin their ministry in Alaska in June. Lee, a former World Mission Prayer League missionary in Bangladesh, served his seminary internship in Salinas, Calif.

Members of **Calvary Free Lutheran**, Fosston, Minn., held their first worship service Sunday, May 2 in their new church building. Please pray that all will continue to go well in the transition and that the old church building, which is 45 years old, will sell in God's timing.

Brett Boe, who graduated from AFLTS on May 22, will be ordained June 27 at Helmar Lutheran, Newark, Ill., with Pastor Elden Nelson officiating. Boe has accepted a call to serve the Dalton, Minn., parish as associate pastor.

Register for children and youth events

Special programs will be available for children and youths during the AFLC annual conference June 15-18 on the campus of the AFLC Schools, Plymouth, Minn.

Activities for youths in grades 7 through 12 will include Bible studies, recreation and service projects. A complete list of activities and a registration form is available online at www.aflc.org. Click on "conferences," then on "2010."

A VBS and daycamp enrollment form for children ages 5 through those in 6th grade is also available on the Web site. The Vacation Bible School program will be held at Grace Free Lutheran, Maple Grove.

Finally, a nursery registration form is available for children ages 4 and younger. The nursery will be available June 15-18.

AFLC BENEVOLENCES Jan. 1-April 30, 2010

FUND	REC'D IN APRIL	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	PRIOR YEAR-TO-DATE
General Fund	\$25,472	\$105,550	102,170
Evangelism	7,545	57,662	31,305
Youth Ministries	5,828	60,825	21,163
Parish Education	15,137	41,181	42,459
Seminary	14,191	72,655	66,299
Bible School	44,516	167,642	108,834
Home Missions	36,021	176,635	101,972
World Missions	24,515	102,416	81,573
Personal Support	29,485	103,278	136,824
TOTALS	\$202,711	\$887,843	\$692,599

Contact the individual departments for further information about specific financial needs.

Disciple makers

Evangelists sometimes travel to various spots in the world and conduct impressive campaigns. They bring along musicians and drama teams. They have a great multimedia presentation. They urge people to receive Jesus as their Savior and folks respond. A lot of names get collected and the evangelist heads home and tells of all the people who have been won for Christ.

The pastor and local congregation gets the names and starts to do follow up. Sometimes they find people who wanted to be polite to the visitor so they went along



Pastor Craig Johnson

and did what the person up front asked them to do, but without much understanding as to what was going on. Sadly, at times the conversion the evangelist reports on is barely remembered by the one who supposedly had the life-changing experience.

In a similar way a presentation of the good news of Jesus is made to young children. At the end they are asked to bow their heads and close their eyes. "If you want to know Jesus as your Savior, raise your hand," the teacher says. The request is made a second time. It seems to be really important to the teacher and the student wants to please her. She doesn't really understand the gospel, but she knows the teacher asked her to raise her hand, so she raises her hand.

Evangelistic campaigns are important to do. So is presenting the good news of Jesus to children. We start with those

events, but our work does not end with those events. Our calling is not to simply get names on cards or hands raised. Jesus said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19, NIV).

Often it is not that difficult to get a raised hand. Making disciples, however, can be hard work. It involves being a consistent role model, sharing your life with someone else, spending much time in prayer and patiently pointing them to Jesus. Results aren't always apparent but we keep at it.

Disciple-making is about helping someone to truly understand the good news of Jesus and then live it. It is about wanting to see more than just a smile and a nod of agreement. We want to see changed lives.

Willow Creek is a megachurch in the Chicago area pastored by Bill Hybels. They have become known for having "seeker-sensitive" services and a passion for introducing lost people to Jesus. A few years ago they did an extensive survey to try to find out the effectiveness of their programs and ministry. Hybels called the results "earth shaking." The report indicated their programs were resulting in large numbers of people in the building and a calendar full of activities but not a lot of solid disciples of Jesus Christ.

Hybels admitted: "We made a mistake. ... We should have gotten people, taught people, how to read their Bible between

services, how to do the spiritual practices much more aggressively on their own."

The results of the survey have caused Willow Creek to ask some tough questions such as: "If the activities of the church are all about turning people toward Christ and encouraging them to grow spiritually, why doesn't there appear to be a solid connection between participation in church activities and spiritual growth?"

Those kinds of questions are good for

Disciple-making is about helping someone to truly understand the good news of Jesus and then live it. It is about wanting to see more than just a smile and a nod of agreement. We want to see changed lives.

each of our congregations to ask ourselves. Are we introducing people to Jesus and making disciples? Does being an active member of our congregation help a person grow closer to Jesus and become more like Jesus?

Our congregations can do more than just be involved in a lot of busyness. We can be involved in the work of making disciples of Christ. We can see lasting change happen, because we have been chosen by the Lord "to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last" (John 15:16).

something to share

Catching butterflies

BY AMBER DAHL



Have you ever chased a butterfly? Not easily caught, is it? Growing up, my second grade classroom housed a tall cylinder net of butterflies. We'd mix together sugar and water, and put it in our palms. Slowly we'd walk into the netted realm. Patiently, we'd wait until a butterfly landed on our hand and drank the sugar-water with its proboscis. While it drank, we'd carefully walk to our desks and feed the butterflies. It was so magical! After 15 minutes, our teacher instructed us to bring them back. We always protested, wanting a few more minutes. It was difficult letting them go.

Letting go is one of life's most complex demands. How difficult it is to let go of a child riding a bike without training wheels for the first time. Emotional goodbyes are said as a son leaves home for college. Tearfully, parents give their daughter away in marriage to a future son-in-law at the altar. Painfully we say goodbye to loved ones as they pass from this life to eternity. But what are we really letting go of?

Control. We realize it was never ours to begin with; it was only what God entrusted to us for a season.

Softly God nudges us to let go daily and trust Him. He defines it as rest. What keeps us from entering into this rest? According to Hebrews 3:12-19, it is our unbelief, our disobedience, and our sin-hardened hearts. But when we do trust God, we'll find the solid Rock beneath our feet.

Jehoshaphat found this to be true in II Chronicles 20:12-17.

He saw an enemy legion coming against him, and he cried: "O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You."

God replied: "Do not be afraid ... The battle is not yours but God's. You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf."

When the people began to sing, praise and worship God, the Lord defeated their enemies and did what they couldn't have done (v. 22).

I've heard the greatest weapon we have against the devil is to worship God, because this is truly letting go of our control and trusting God to do what we cannot do.

Author and speaker Corrie Ten Boom said, "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."

In the end, my second grade experience showed me I didn't have to chase butterflies to catch them. I just needed to be still with the sugar-water solution in my hand. Then the butterflies came to me!

"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth" (Psalm 46:10).

Dahl, who is a member of St. Paul's Free Lutheran, Fargo, N.D., volunteers in a ministry at a women's prison.