



# The Lutheran **AMBASSADOR**

JUNE 13, 1995

**Salting the political process**

# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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## AN ENCOURAGING WORD

### Saved by a look

*Look unto me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth* (Isaiah 45:22a, KJV).

Call it what you like, but your outlook on life makes a big difference on how you feel.

Faith is a certain way of living. By its very nature faith is positive and optimistic, while unbelief leads to negative feelings. No wonder the Bible says, "Whatever is not of faith is sin" (Romans 14:23b).

#### Saving faith

This faith is always directed towards the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross. Whenever we turn from all other means of salvation to trust in Christ alone, we are saved.

The analogy of the serpent on the pole in Numbers 21:4-9 and its fulfillment in Christ in John 3:14-16 gives us a clear picture of faith. Faith is not something we do but rather it is an attitude of trust.

Salvation is by grace. It takes no effort to "look." In fact, it could be said if those bitten by the snakes tried to crawl over to the pole, their "gaze" would have been interrupted and the healing process hindered.

However, living faith is not passive, it involves a surrender of the will. Every time Jesus gave an invitation, He expected a response of the will. The Israelites could have refused to look towards the pole, just as we can refuse to look to Christ on the cross.

#### Living by faith

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him" (Colossians 2:6, NIV).

The Lord is consistent. We live the Christian life as we began it. We are to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset (upset) us" (Hebrews 12:1, KJV). How are we to do this?

Verse two continues by saying, "Looking to Jesus." We **do** become upset when we look anywhere else.

#### Some bad options

The words of the familiar song, "I Look Not Back," have a message for today.

We could look *back* at our broken and blotchy record instead of leaving the past with Him who alone can blot the record and graciously forgive and forget.

We could look *forward* only to pay interest on trouble that may never come. Often we try to swallow life in one gulp while Jesus says, "My grace is sufficient for thee" (II Corinthians 12:9). If we look around us there is vain hope of comfort. How quickly life's restless seas can break upon us. Job said, "Man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward" (Job 5:7).

You could look *inward* and see nothing but failures and shortcomings. I can still hear Oscar C. Hansen saying, "Why keep looking around inside for something that isn't there!" Friend, apart from Christ we have nothing on which to stay our trust.

**But we can look up** into the very face of Jesus. There we will find peace and rest, light for darkness and every hope fulfilled. "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life" (Proverbs 4:23).

When our spirit is right it opens the way for God's light upon our way.

If your way is a bit dark and confusing just now, let everything else go for a spell and see that your spirit is put right with the Lord. Watch how He can bring light in the darkness.

"Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord" (Philippians 3:1a).

— by Pastor Martin Christensen  
Elbow, Saskatchewan

**C**an something good come out of poor, little Bolivia? Here is an example that is not unique, but it is *something good*.

#### **Great growth and growing pains.**

The evangelical church in Bolivia has grown rapidly! In 1885 there were four Christians (yes 4), and today approximately 1 million people claim to be evangelicals. That is more than 11% of the population! For many of the past 110 years, it was commonly believed that politics was of the devil and that to be involved in public life was sinful. During the 60s and 70s, however, many evangelicals got involved in politics in Bolivia; unfortunately, the big motivation was liberation theology.

Liberation theology came and went in Bolivia in about 25 years, as in most of Latin America. The emphasis on "praxis" stimulated Christians to think about what it meant to be doers of the Word. The error of seeking first the added-onto-you things in order to reach God's Kingdom and righteousness has been widely discredited. In its place a spiritual revival seems to be sweeping the continent.

#### **Our Kingdom is not of this world — true.**

Up until recently the common fundamental Christian believer would often say, "But our Kingdom is not of this world," convinced that it meant, "Don't get involved with the governments of this world." I have also heard it put this way: "Why polish the brass on a sinking ship?"

In that case let's abandon ship. Let's take it to its logical extreme and quit serving others as well as ourselves, because service requires a temporal medium. Let's toss off our glasses, throw away our watches, turn off the lights, stop eating ... our Kingdom is not of this world.

The church in Bolivia has matured through Bible study and public debate on the issue. Much of the church no longer asks "if" a Christian should participate in politics, but "how" a Christian should participate. Leaders realize that the country needs Christian politicians; and that they need to be shepherded, not excommunicated.

## Being part of the answer



#### **Temporal things matter — true.**

Did not Christ teach us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread?" What does the Bible say about those who do not provide for their families' temporal needs? The Kingdom of God and His righteousness is very much related to one's responsibility to provide others with food, health and education.

We could also refer to the cultural mandate or temporal responsibilities given us by God in Genesis, chapters 1 and 9. "God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.'" How is that for a social and political policy?

#### **What matters most?**

What matters most, of course, is that our names are written in heaven. The Kingdom of God and His righteousness come first, but it is played out in the here and now. And the here and now — the temporal — matters. Service matters. In this context the temporal and the spiritual are inseparable. We are to be soul-winners, disciple-makers and burden-bearers regardless of our vocation. Farmers have just as much a duty to be soul-winners, disciple-makers and burden-bearers as pastors do. And so it is with politicians.

#### **Be salt. Be light.**

Maybe you did not need to hear that temporal things matter, as many of my pious Bolivian brothers and sisters needed to hear. Maybe what you need to do is to decide to be willing to sacrificially serve in the public arena. It is not much different than a "missionary calling." It is scary. There is a price to pay.

I would encourage you to take a stand, speak out and get involved in issues of public policy, if you are not already. Pray, →

# Martin Luther's View of the two kingdoms

Opinions abound! Ask a group of people what the place of the Church and the place of the state is and you will quickly have a lively discussion going!

## PART OF THE ANSWER

vote, campaign, be nominated and run. Do not run to win. Run to uphold the truth. Remember that God is sovereign over politics. And if you get elected — happy will be the people!

Before closing, just a word from a Bolivian brother in Christ and a politician: Don't let folks belittle you as one-issue people because you are not. But at the same time do not apologize for making the rights of unborn people a litmus-test issue. If the existing parties turn their back on the unborn, start a new party. It will prosper because God will honor it. I'm not talking about a theocracy, either.

### Go to Nineveh.

The pool of *The Lutheran Ambassador* readers is a wonderful source of candidates for local, state and national offices. Your "Ninevah" might not be another country or another city. It may be a bigger responsibility of public service in these United States of America. Think of how much better this country would be with servant-leaders such as you in charge!

Next time you pray for the nation's leaders, remember what Jeff Swanson, pastor at Helmar Lutheran Church, recently told the congregation: "Maybe you should not pray about something unless you're willing to be a part of the answer."

— by Phil Kittelson  
Helmar Lutheran  
Newark, Illinois

How refreshing it is to read Luther, who, instead of spouting opinions, informs his readers with the Word of God. Oh yes, the Word too, has *seeming* contradictions, but Luther shows his skill and wisdom in understanding law and gospel as he lays God's plan out before us.

I have chosen to outline his teachings using the document "Temporal Authority: To What Extent It Should Be Obeyed." You may read this treatise in *Luther's Works, American Edition*, volume 45.

**First**, Luther states, "we must provide a sound basis for civil law and sword so no one will doubt that it is in the world by God's will and ordinance." From Romans 13 and I Peter 2, Luther makes this clear.



*Felipe (Phil) Kittelson was born to missionaries Odell and Margaret Kittelson in Bolivia, South America. He, his wife Sara, and their three children are in the U.S. on an extended furlough. Phil is currently serving with Cup of Cold Water Ministries, Bolivia field. He is founder and former president of "Servicion e Integridad" (SI); a non-confessional political party founded on Judeo-Christian principles of government. The party has nominated him as candidate for President of Bolivia. Elections will be held in 1997.*

*Cup of Cold Water Ministries, Inc. was founded in 1978 with the purpose of glorifying Jesus Christ through the faithful proclamation and demonstration of the gospel both at home and abroad. Its three-fold approach to ministry involves Human Development (evangelism, discipleship and education in liberal arts), Health (public health and preventative as well as curative medicine), and Economic Development (improving the standard of living through enterprise and good management.)*

Civil authority is established by God for the "punishment of the wicked and the protection of the upright."

**Second**, Luther points out Scriptures that seem to contradict this. Matthew 5:38-41; Romans 12:19; I Peter 3:9 and other passages seem to say that vengeance should not be taken on the wicked. Luther warns against setting up different classes of Christians to solve this seeming problem.

**Third**, there are two divisions of mankind; those belonging to the Kingdom of God and those belonging to the kingdom of the world.

"Those who belong to the Kingdom of God are all the true believers who are in Christ *and under Christ, for Christ is King and Lord in the Kingdom of God, as Psalm 2 and all of Scripture says*" (emphasis added). These need no temporal law or sword because the "... Holy Spirit, ... both teaches and makes them to do injustice to no one, to love everyone, and to suffer injustice and even death willingly and cheerfully at the hands of anyone."

**Fourth**, true believers are few. For those who do not willingly obey Christ, God has established "... a different government beyond the Christian estate and Kingdom of God." The sword is given to prevent chaos by forcing natural people to do good out of fear. The world cannot be ruled by the gospel so temporal law and the sword are necessary for all the members of the kingdom of this world (I Timothy 1:9). "The masses," Luther warns, "are and always will be non-Christian, even if they are baptized and Christian in name." Thus the need for temporal law.

Luther makes clear that both governments are necessary *in their own realms*. The temporal government can make no one a member of the Kingdom of God and is established by God for the unrighteous. Christians, on the other hand, willingly follow the leading of Christ so need only the gospel and do not need temporal law. This is why it is appalling that Christians should go to temporal authority to settle their disputes (Matthew 5:38-41; I Corinthians 6:1-11).

**Fifth**, Luther explains why Christians are commanded to obey temporal authority (Romans 13; I Peter 2). The Christian is in this world not to serve himself but rather to serve others. Because temporal




The White House,  
Washington, D.C.

government benefits his neighbor, the Christian willingly obeys, pays taxes to and honors the king (Ephesians 5:21-6:9). "Although you (the Christian) do not need your enemy punished, your afflicted neighbor does."

**Sixth**, it is fine for a Christian to work in an office of temporal law and to bear the sword. The matter for Christians to consider is whether they bear the sword in a Christian manner. Here we must see that the purpose of temporal government is not to further the Kingdom of God or to serve as a means of avenging ourselves but rather to maintain a society that enjoys reasonable peace and safety.

The next part of Luther's treatise makes clear that temporal authority extends only over "life and property and external affairs on earth, for God will not permit anyone but Himself to rule over the soul (Matthew 10:28)." Through His Word and Spirit, God rules in His Kingdom.

In the final part, Luther establishes how a Christian should serve in a position of temporal authority. He says first that attention and devotion to his subjects is needed. Second, he must be careful that those who work under him be thoroughly overseen to prevent an injustice done in his name. Third, he must use good sense in working for the best interest of his subjects and not simply trust books and experts. Finally, a prince who would be a Christian should subject himself to God and pray for wisdom as Solomon did.

May we, as Luther was, always be aware of the purpose of both kingdoms and not misuse either! 

— by Rev. Jon Wellumson  
Emmanuel Lutheran  
Williston, North Dakota



Christ calls each of us who bear His Name to serve in some way. He provides the ability and the opportunity for us to serve.

Though Christians may perceive politics as a nasty, confrontational foreign world, it is essential that Christians re-enter a field they have left untended for too long. Today we are *paying great consequences for our apathy.*

In June of 1993, Billy Graham came to Pittsburgh for a wonderful evangelistic crusade. Since then, a revival effort called Pittsburgh 2000 has been calling the region to Christ. I am praying that part of that renewal will be that more Christians will become involved in politics.



### An Expression of Devotion

At the founding of our country, daily living **and** civil government were expressions of devotion to Christ and the Bible. Both endeavors provided the biblical influence which the founding fathers told us has to be the underpinning of behavior if our Constitution is to work properly.

Are Christians concerned that political service is a thankless, difficult job; that others may lie about their motives and behavior; that hostility of the public will be tough to endure; that they will be involved in controversy, difficult decisions and angry confrontations; that they may be attacked by enemies and let down and even betrayed by friends? Are these reasons not to serve? Don't we as Christians have a model to follow to bear such happenings?

### The Ones Who are Best Equipped

In fact, believers in Christ are the best equipped to succeed in this arena! We know that every man is sinful. We know Who orders the universe. We understand the end of the story. We realize the uselessness of posturing to gain the approval of men instead of God. And as we look at the world today, we should have a renewed fear of God and an urgent need to obey Christ's command to **GO** into the world to serve.

"Going" into the arena of politics, however, requires us to understand a different culture. Success and usefulness for Christ depends on knowing the rules, processes and strategies of what to others is only the

"game" of politics.

As Christians come to political action, they **must** take the time to understand the process and the arena. If they do not, opponents will portray them as dangerous (*radical right*) or they will simply defeat them at a game whose rules and strategies they can't seem to learn.

Others have learned to play the opponents' game. David did it. Esther and Paul understood it. We should too.

### Ways of Serving

If after prayerful consideration, you believe serving in political office is not your spiritual gift, you should be helping the campaigns of those qualified Christians who do step up to serve. It is sad, indeed, how few people help with time, talents or money in election campaigns. We ask elected officials to serve every day of their term of office, but few can find time to give a few hours to stuff envelopes or stand at the polls. Of course, our most basic participation should be voting.

Further, all citizens should do more to reduce the antics of the political scene. Do not reinforce behaviors that fly against Christian teachings. Examine how we respond to local officials. What do we reward:

Self-promotion or quiet performance?

Incivility or respectful deportment?

Shallow rhetoric that inflames public discontent or speech that focuses on the


true issues?

Decisions that benefit a political image or courageous decisions that address the true public welfare?

We need to be better informed and to assume more responsibility for the actions of government. As human beings, politicians will respond to positive and negative feedback from their audience. Judge your elected officials; make them accountable for their irresponsible actions and support those who provide a valid witness.

Some committed Christians are awakening to the need to pay attention to politics. However, given the gravity of the sit-

uation in our country and in the world, every person who loves Christ should consider whether he is meeting his duty.

Consider the impact of government on your daily life. Instead of hurrying faster and faster to cope, why not get involved making government more consistent with God's plan? Think about the alternative if Christians continue to shirk their responsibility and answer God's call to be an informed voter and possibly running for office to supply a Christian viewpoint to the actions of your government. 

— by Susan Hughes

Ruthfred Lutheran  
Bethel Park, Pennsylvania

*The author is serving a second term on Borough Council in Bethel Park, a suburb of Pittsburgh, and has worked as a legislative assistant for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for ten years.*

## Taking a stand

*What can a person expect when they get involved in the political process? One of the easiest and best ways to get involved is by attending a political party's precinct caucus. These are held by the major political parties in local areas throughout our country. What follows is one person's testimony of some of the things that happened when he got involved.*

A few years ago, I decided to attend a precinct caucus. I wanted to express my concerns on certain issues. One issue in particular was regarding pro-life. My involvement went further than I had expected.

When I arrived at my first precinct caucus, I entered a school building I had never been in, checked a blurry photocopied map for my correct precinct, got some "go that away" directions and sat down in a room with people I had never met.

It was time for the meeting to begin and no one knew who the "chair" was. A fellow who said he had done it before picked up the packet and read the items in it. We followed the agenda recommended and arrived at the point where the floor was open for resolutions. Most passed unanimously. One person proposed a pro-choice resolution. I asked for a secret ballot. After the slips of

paper were counted, four were pro-choice and five were "no." Quickly a pro-life resolution was brought to the floor; but when the ballots were counted, four were pro-life and four remained pro-choice with one abstention. The resolution did not go on to the district convention, but I was elected as a precinct delegate.


A few weeks later, I walked into another unfamiliar school to pick up my delegate packet. At the district convention I was elected to one of the alternate delegate positions to the congressional district convention and the state convention.

Early one Friday evening, I left a pleasant, friendly fellowship supper to attend the congressional district convention. Before it began I had an opportunity to speak with the incumbent representative and one of his aides. Soon after the convention started, I was seated as a delegate. (It seems many seek the honor of being a delegate, but not many follow through.) All the alternate delegate pro-lifers were seated.

The convention was not easy. The speakers, the demonstrations, "covering the clock," suspension of the rules, etc. tired me as we continued on into the black

of the morning. Groups were formed, merged, dissolved and delegates joined new groups. Of the groups left, all had pro-choice in the "title." Some pro-lifers joined groups where a pro-life delegate had a chance for the national convention. Two other delegates and myself chose to sit it out. The leadership and some of the other pro-lifers tried to persuade us to join one of the groups. But the three of us agreed that we were elected as pro-life delegates and we could not join a group with pro-choice in its name.

One of those who "sat it out" with me was later elected as a pro-life delegate to the national convention from the state convention. I went on to the state convention as a delegate. That particular convention was not as difficult as the congressional district one was.

We often pray for our leaders, but what about those who take a stand for issues that are clear to us in Scripture? Whether at the precinct caucus or the national convention, pray for those who are called to stand for principles defined in the Bible. We may have to stand or "sit" much sooner than we expect. 

— by Gene Murphy  
Rainier, Oregon

*The story about the battle in one community over keeping in the public square, paintings that depict the life of Jesus.*

# Preserving freedom of expression

Every Christmas season the news media carries stories of court fights concerning Christmas displays. It seems the Christians always lose. In the north central Illinois town of Ottawa, such a battle was waged when an atheist in that community (with the help of the American Civil Liberties Union) challenged 16 paintings depicting the events in the life of Jesus Christ. The paintings had been displayed in the public square since the 1950s by the local Jaycee chapter and were part of the Christmas tradition in Ottawa.

## **The Threat**

Seeing that what was at stake was not just Christmas decorations, but instead a threat to the freedom of religious expression guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, the Jaycees got involved in the suit with the help of a local Christian lawyer and the Nation-

al Legal Foundation of Virginia Beach, Virginia, a Christian legal society headed by Robert Skolrood.

The case did not go well for the Jaycees in the beginning. The federal district judge assigned to the case decided the paintings violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment on the basis of the supposed separation of church and state. He ordered the paintings removed from the park within a week.

Later on appeal, a three judge panel upheld that decision. To make matters worse, even though the Jaycees could have taken the appeal further, they felt defeated and voted to live with the ban on their paintings.

## **The Hurdles**

The attorneys for the Jaycees felt the need to continue with the appeal process, but were hamstrung without a client to represent. Time was running out. It

was decided that if a new organization could be formed to replace the Jaycees, the fight for freedom of religious expression could be continued. The attorneys identified five hurdles that would have to be cleared to win the case.

1. Members would have to be found to make up the new organization.

2. The Jaycees would have to turn over the custody of the paintings to the new organization.

3. The new organization would have to be substituted in for the Jaycees in the lawsuit, something that would require the approval of the court.

4. The new organization would have to ask the court for a rehearing of the case on appeal.

5. The court in rehearing would have to overturn the ban on the paintings.

Failure to make it over any one of the hurdles meant the case





would be lost. Some people set out on faith to jump each hurdle.

Many individuals in Ottawa felt the case was a lost cause, but three Christian men came forward to form the Ottawa Freedom Association, Inc. Hurdle number one was behind them.

They then approached the Jaycees about turning the paintings over to the Association. With one vote to spare, the Jaycees gave up custody. Hurdle number two was cleared.

The Association's attorneys then asked the court to allow it to substitute in for the Jaycees in the lawsuit. Miraculously, the court granted their request. The Lord got them over hurdle number three.

The attorneys then asked the court to rehear the case *en banc* which meant that all eleven justices of the court of appeals would hear the case, instead of just a three judge panel. Rehearings *en banc* are rarely allowed by the courts. A majority of the eleven justices, however voted to rehear the case and that was hurdle number four.

### The Victory

Finally, the case was argued before the eleven justices. It was apparent the justices were concerned about the future of freedom of expression in America. Four months later, on May 16, 1992, the court issued an **unanimous** opinion overturning the ban on the paintings. The court noted that freedom of expression means that the content of that expression, whether it is in the form of a painting or the written or spoken word, cannot be regulated. Therefore, even though the content of the message is religious, it cannot be banned just because it is religious.

The ACLU did not attempt to appeal the case to the Supreme Court of the United States, so the decision stands to this day.

Because the decision resulted

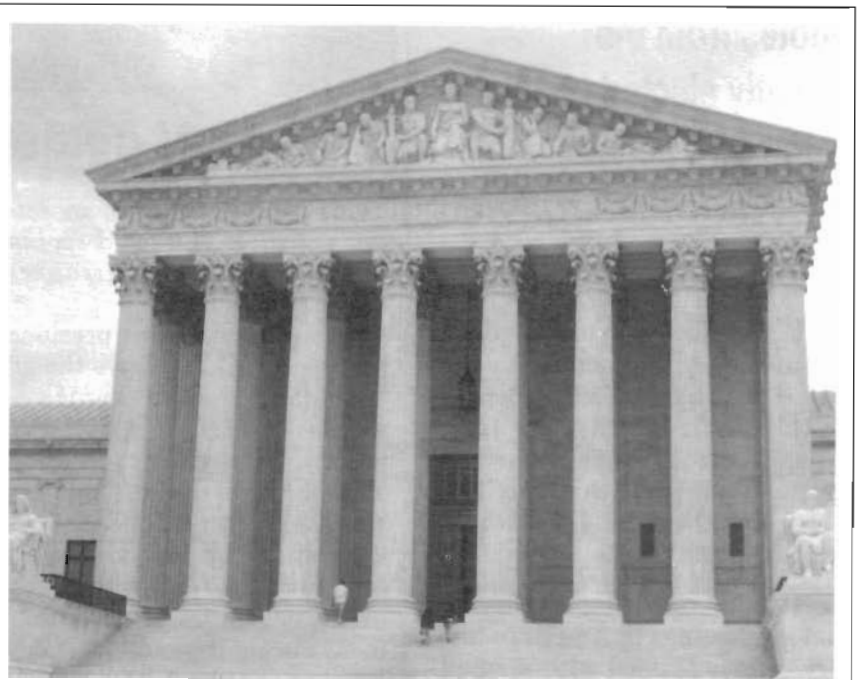
from a rehearing *en banc* and was unanimous, its precedential value is great. Other courts across the country have already cited it in other cases involving similar issues.

On December 3, 1992, the sixteen paintings were once again placed for display in Ottawa's public square. More has been gained than just Ottawa's traditional Christmas decorations. America gained back the freedom of expression for which the founding fathers fought. The praise for the victory goes to our Father in heaven whose Son's life is depicted in those paintings. He not only rewarded the perseverance of those who fought the case; He gave them that perseverance. In a similar fashion He gives us the faith which saves us from our sins.

### Lessons Learned

God allowed the road to that victory to be strewn with boulders so that He could demonstrate the necessity of relying upon Him for every hurdle that was met and overcome.


Today the Ottawa Freedom Association continues to display



The U.S. Supreme Court building.

“... we must be constantly vigilant and trust the Lord to give us the discernment to see when those liberties are being threatened.”

the paintings of Jesus in Ottawa during the month of December, and continues to function as a watchdog group to assure freedom of expression in Ottawa's public parks. Robert Skolrood's National Legal Foundation also continues to fight for religious freedom on a nationwide basis.

If the freedom which God has given this country is to be preserved, we must be constantly vigilant and trust the Lord to give us the discernment to see when those liberties are being threatened. We must ask God as well to give us the willingness to stand up and be counted in behalf of those freedoms. 

— by George C. Hupp, Jr.  
Attorney-at-Law  
Faith Lutheran  
Ottawa, Illinois

## Quotes from the recently elected chaplain of the U.S. Senate, *Lloyd John Ogilvie*

(Taken from *Religious Broadcasting*, May 1995)

**"If** we're going to have written on our money and carved on the wall of the chamber of the Senate 'In God We Trust,' then it's natural that should be expressed in the leadership of the chaplain who helps the senators discover what it means to trust in God."

**"It's** my conviction that spiritual awakenings in American history always started with a small group who have sought the Lord and have asked for His forgiveness for the sins and failures of the nation and have asked for His power to do what is the just and righteous thing so I'm asking the question, 'Why not right here in the Senate?' Isn't this the logical place for a spiritual awakening to take place?"

**"I'm** not here to forward a sectarian point of view, but to seek to help the senator come to understand the implications of the sovereignty of God for our nation."

## OUR PRESIDENT WRITES

### The gift of golden apples

*Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances* (Proverbs 25:11).

It is my privilege as president of the AFLC to receive the gift of many golden apples — words spoken (or written) in exactly the right circumstances. The circumstances through which my term commenced over three years ago are no secret to our readers, and one of the greatest sources of encouragement during those difficult days was some of this delicious fruit.

I wish that you all could experience even a small sense of the communication received by my wife and me. Many individuals sent notes and cards assuring us of their prayer support; in several instances it was a letter signed by members of a particular congregation. We are grateful to God for the prayer wall that has shielded us during our topsy-turvy life.

Realizing that this office is often called when there are problems, a few pastors have remembered to call with reports

of special progress in the work of the Lord. I recall a couple of calls (plus a card and several faxes), too, whose main purpose seemed to be humorous, "so that I would laugh at least once" on the day in question, according to the one caller.

Many cards and letters have shared a specific verse of Scripture with me, and the Lord has often used these portions of His Word to speak to me in my circumstances at that moment of time. The context of the above verse from Proverbs is a suggestion that not all the golden apples will necessarily be pleasant to the taste at first, yet the promise stands that a positive purpose will be accomplished if not rejected.

God is so good! He has called me to serve within a church family of many caring Christians, and continues to minister to my soul needs through their encouraging words.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of golden apples!

— by Rev. Robert L. Lee

### Prayer for the Senate, April 4, 1995

"Almighty God, Sovereign of this nation, we praise You for Your providential care through the years of our blessed history as a people. Thank you that this Senate exemplifies that patriotism has not gone out of style. Our commitment to You is expressed in love and loyalty for our land. The sight of our flag still stirs our dedication, the national anthem fires our blood, and the Constitution keeps us rooted and grounded

in truth. May we never forget the sacrifice of those who have fought and died for the American dream; may we never become so self-serving that we side-step the cost of courageous leadership.

"Lord, empower the women and men of this Senate as they seek to keep their eyes on you and what ultimately is best for our nation. Guide and direct the leadership of Sens. (Bob) Dole (R-Kan.) and (Thomas) Daschle (D-

S.D.) as they seek ways for both parties to work toward creative solutions to the crucial issues before them today.

"Bless the President and First Lady of our land, the House of Representatives, the Justices, and all who seek Your guidance in the government of the cities and states across our country. God bless America. We trust in You. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Amen."

# 3 Enjoy Being a Woman

In the dresser in our bedroom stands a framed portrait of our smiling, little girls. These girls are very special to me because I am their mother. As I carried our first baby within me, I remember feeling like an honored "vessel for noble use." With overwhelming joy and gratitude to God we laid our firstborn in her lovingly prepared crib. God could have planned a myriad of ways to replenish the earth, but He chose women to be mothers. Being physiologically able to reproduce, however, does not qualify a woman to motherhood.

## 3 Enjoy Being a Mother

Do mothers feel incompetent? Yes. Are mothers powerless? No! With Jesus Christ as Lord of your life you can enjoy being a mother. "He gives the barren woman a home, making her the *joyous* mother of children. Praise the Lord!" (Psalm 113:9). Let us together consult the Expert to find out how.

### I. Precious Privilege

1. List the words that indicate the blessing of motherhood.

Psalms 127:3-5 and 128:3-4

2. The influence of our home life has far-reaching effects. Contrast

Exodus 20:5 with Psalm 103:17-18.

3. Many mothers are frustrated in their role. When mothers focus on the monotonous labors required, "unfulfilled" may describe their response. One privilege is afforded mothers like none other. Pastors and missionaries long for this opportunity. It can be summed up in one word. What is it?

Galatians 4:19, II Timothy 2:2 and I Peter 5:2

4. How can a mother disciple her children?

Mark 10:13-16

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Psalm 78:4,6-7a

I Thessalonians 2:11

III John 4

5. There are three basic needs of a child's soul. What are they and how can a mother communicate the right attitudes to her children?

John 15:12 and I John 4:8, 19-20

Isaiah 43:4-7 and Psalm 139:13-16

Proverbs 14:26



The responsibility of parenthood may startle us because the total dependency of the newborn is challenging. Later the old nature rears its head and we see our responsibility to shape and mold the child's character. A parent's accountability is not to be taken lightly (Matthew 18:5-6).

## II. Awesome responsibility

The good news is that the Lord is able to fully equip you for every good work! (Hebrews 13:20-21).

6. The instructions given to parents and children are clear. One word suffices for children and two words for parents. What are those words? Ephesians 6:1,4

7. How can a parent fulfill this responsibility?

Judges 13:8 and Proverbs 19:27

Nurturing is done by what I teach (Proverbs 6:20) and by example (II Thessalonians 3:9b). There must be compatibility, they speak with equal volume. As someone has said, training is "the process by which the behavior of one person is changed into conformity with a standard exemplified by another."

8. Proverbs 22:6 is a promise Christian mothers cling to. What should be our emphasis?

(Compare with God's way of teaching: Psalm 32:8 and Isaiah 30:21.)

9. A mother also teaches by the influence of her daily life. What is the example in each of these verses?

Psalm 101:2b

Proverbs 23:26

Ezekiel 16:44

I Corinthians 11:1

Philippians 4:9

10. Listed are some attributes a Christian mother desires to teach her children. Discuss how you might teach the attribute to your child.

Fear of the Lord

Devotional habits

Independence

Decision making

Responsibility

Problem solving

Goal setting



11. What is the promise in Isaiah 54:13 (KJV)?

12. According to the Word, God expects a parent to correct his children. Why did Eli suffer harsh consequences? I Samuel 3:13



The goal of discipline (admonition) is to bring the child *from* parent-control, *through* self-control, *to* God-control. Discipline ought to be a positive experience for a child.

13. Our heavenly Father disciplines His children. What can we learn from His example? Job 5:17-18 and Hebrews 12:5-13

Motive

Action

Result

Result of not disciplining

14. Read the following verses from Proverbs and record insights that pertain to discipline.

13:24

19:18

20:20

20:30

22:15

23:13-14

29:15,17,19

15. Improper correction has the potential to harm our children. What warning does the Bible give to parents?

Psalm 103:13-14

Ephesians 6:4a

Colossians 3:21

I Peter 5:3

### III. Ultimate release

Many risks are involved in mothering. There is joy and sorrow, pleasure and pain. We make mistakes. Sometimes it seems our efforts produce ashes instead of praise to the Lord. Job 1:21 reminds us that our children are a gift from the Lord. He desires that we release our children to Him. When we *commit* them to the Lord, He will work in the child that which no other human can work.

Prayerfully read Job 5:8-9 and II Timothy 1:12.

*Next month: I Enjoy Growing Older*

# Making an Impact

Jesus in Matthew 22:21, indicated a knowledge of the governmental affairs of His day. Paul knew the law and applied it when he appealed to Caesar. As Christians, we must follow the example given us, and get involved in politics.

In fact we are involved either by communicating our views or by doing nothing. If we Christians do nothing, those with opposing ideas have two votes; one by their contact and one by default. In a democratic government there is a place for each of us. If we do not fill that place, it leaves a vacuum and a vacuum will always be filled.

## Remembering Our Primary Role

A Christian's primary role in politics should be from a position of prayer. II Chronicles 7:14 tells us how we can have the most impact of all for the good of our land. *If My people which are called by My name shall humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.* Note that this verse refers to God's people, not the entire population.

Our ancestors came to America for religious freedom, not freedom from religion. the values that formed the foundations for our nation from its very beginning were based on knowledge, faith and action guided by God's Word.

Abraham Lincoln's words just prior to the Battle of Gettysburg were, "When everyone seemed panic-stricken ... I went to my room ... and got down on my knees before Almighty God and prayed ... Comfort crept into my soul that God Almighty had taken the whole business into His own hands." We as God's people must act on what we believe. If we don't lead the way, we allow others to lead and determine the path that the laws they put into place will take us.

## Writing the Effective Letter

Words I first heard from a congressman's aide in 1978, were a catalyst for me. He said, "When someone up here (in Washington D.C.) gets **one** letter, they look at it as if the letter expressed the opinion of 100 people back home who have not taken the time to write." Since that time, I have noticed

many times when just one person did indeed make a difference.

Discuss your concerns with your neighbors. Those neighbors may be next door, in the state capitol or in Washington. Write a letter or make a phone call. Tell someone how that upcoming issue will really affect you. Remember there is always another election coming up for the politician you may contact.

"Don't worry too much about doing it right," Jacque Kimbrough, aide to Kansas Senator Nancy Kassebaum said, "Just do it."


Guidelines for writing state or national officials are the same:

1. Think about what you believe. Try to become informed. The most effective time to communicate your views is when you first learn that the issue is being addressed — although other times are important too. You know best how an issue will affect you! Use an example from your family, community or business experience. Our representatives need information "from the real world." Get your facts straight. Enclose a newspaper clipping if it adds valuable information or quotes expert opinion.

2. Keep the letter brief. Write legibly on only one issue. A personal letter of a page or less is preferable. Even a letter of a sentence or two is more effective than a form letter, but a form letter is better than none at all. Include the number and/or name of the bill.

3. State the matter politely. Use the right name and address. We all appreciate feeling that someone cares enough to find out who we are and what we do. After the vote is taken, write or call to say thank you when your representative votes as you asked. Calmly express your disappointment when the vote goes against you. Your reactions help keep the lines open and say that you've kept track of what the representative has done.

4. Most importantly, as in all things, let the words you use reflect Christ. **Always ask yourself, how would He have addressed this issue?**

Then do it joyfully! 

— by Deanna Hobelmann  
Abiding Word Lutheran  
Deshler, Nebraska



## Worship service in progress

**"D**o not enter, worship service in progress" said the sign in my church. Every time I saw that sign, I cringed. Every Sunday morning, it was hung on a door that went from a large room used for Sunday school and as a dining room leading into the church sanctuary. The purpose of the sign was to remind people not to come through the door and interrupt a service in progress. I still didn't like the sign. It seemed to me to say "We don't want you coming into our worship service."

Of course, no congregation would be so crude as to actually put up such a sign on the front door. But some congregations seem to have a subtle, invisible sign up, telling visitors that they are not really welcome to join the closed circle. Some congregations feel so comfortable in their small family-style circle that outsiders are an intrusion. They would never say so, and might not even be aware that it is the case, but it is still true.

In some churches, I have felt some very cold shoulders. In others, I have felt very warmly welcomed. It's possible that the preaching and singing was better at the "cold" churches, but I can tell you I was not interested in returning there.

Let me illustrate with two examples. As a college freshman, I was looking for a church to attend regularly. I had seen a church near the campus and decided to try it. On Sunday morning, I put on my coat and tie and my polished shoes and went to church. Aside from the usher who handed me a bulletin, I was not greeted or even noticed by any of the members, either before or after the service. The church was maybe half full, and I don't remember what the pastor preached about. Need I say, I did not return?


In sharp contrast, I remember the weekend I was hitch-hiking back to campus and got stranded 150 miles out. It was warm so I slept outside that Saturday night and woke

up wet with dew. After pancakes at a truck stop, I hitched onward. My last ride was 75 miles in the back of a pickup truck, which dropped me in front of a church at 10:31 Sunday morning. With my hair blown all around (even worse than usual), unwashed, unshaven, unkempt and toting my bag, I swallowed my pride and entered the church. An usher warmly welcomed me, put my bag in a cleaning closet for me and brought a folding chair to squeeze me into the back row of the packed church. To this day, I remember what the pastor's text was and his main point. I went back to hear him there again and made that my home church in that city.

I would not dare to claim that the first church was half empty and the second church was packed simply because of the warm welcome. But the warmth of the welcome is probably at least one small factor. Let's face it, warm, welcoming churches attract people and have a better chance of retaining visitors as regular attendees.

One author spoke of some churches as having the disease **koinonitis**, a word he coined from the Greek word *koinonia* meaning "fellowship." What he meant was that the members of some churches are so close and ingrown that they forget to welcome others into the circle. This is more likely to happen in smaller congregations where everybody knows everybody else well.

It's good, even vital, to have close fellowship, to feel a oneness in a congregation, but we must make sure we find the balance so that we do not nurture our fellowship to the point where we make it difficult for newcomers to fit in.

I think I'll suggest my church put up a new sign "Please enter, worship service in progress." 

— by Pete Unseth  
*Missionary to Ethiopia*

## HOME MISSIONS

**Rev. Ted Hanson**, Pine City, Minnesota has resigned as pastor of the Home Mission congregation, Abiding In The Vine Free Lutheran Fellowship where he has served since 1992. Pastor Hanson and his family have moved to Duluth, Minnesota where their address is 4628 Regeant St., Duluth, MN 55804. He continues to serve as pastor of St. John's Lutheran in nearby Finlayson, Minnesota.

**Rev. Curt Emerson**, formerly of Murrieta, California, has accepted the call to serve as pastor of Trinity Lutheran, a home mission congregation in Janesville, Wisconsin. He will begin his new ministry this summer.

**Rev. Walter Johnson**, Shakopee, Minnesota, is the interim pastor at the Lutheran Church of Hope in Loveland, Colorado, one of the newest AFLC Home Mission congregations. Pray for this congregation as they call their first full-time pastor.

**Pepin, Wisconsin** — A fellowship group is meeting in this community with Pastor Paul Pillman of Menomonie.

**Northfield, Minnesota** will receive preliminary survey work this summer by the AFLC Home Mission department. Rev. Richard Anderson, Lakeville, Minnesota, will lead the survey work.

If you have interested friends or family near a new Home Mission work, please contact the Home Mission office at 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55441 or call (612) 545-5631.

### Organ available

Abiding Faith Free Lutheran in Ortonville, Minnesota, has a full-foot pedal, multi-matic percussion by Wurlitzer organ to give away. The congregation has purchased a new organ and would like this organ to help a new group getting organized. For more information, call Donna Danielson at (612) 273-2275.



BARNABAS teams endear themselves to the young and old alike. Mr. Kermit Nash was on the team that taught at the Community Bible Church VBS in 1994. He was recently invited back to preach and bring a message to the children. The children are shown here with attentive and smiling faces listening to Mr. Nash. The church has had up to 120 children in VBS.

**Oceanside, California** — The mission congregation in Oceanside broke their attendance record early in April. Attendance was hovering around 100; occasionally making it to 120 and 130. The 140th attendee coming through the door was promised a \$50 Student Bible. The congregation's pastor, Orville Hiepler announced that he would be so happy that he would climb up on the church roof, stand next to the steeple and read a praise psalm as the people were leaving the church.

The attendance record was broken early in April and pictured is Pastor Hiepler reading on the roof of Community Bible Church.

This two-year-old congregation was started without even one family as a nucleus. God has blessed the ministry and it continues without financial assistance from AFLC Home Missions. In August of 1993 the church bought over five acres that included run-down buildings, an old orchard and a commercial building. The topography, location on Highway 76 and being close to the old San Luis Rey Mission

have proven to be an excellent site. Members call it "God's exalted heavenly haven."

Four months ago the congregation added 500 square feet to the Worship Center and it will now seat 180 people. They are hoping to open a pre-school through 3rd grade church school in the fall of 1995.





## Home Missions prayer and praise

1. An informational meeting was held in Brainerd, Minnesota on Monday, May 22, 1995.

2. Interest has been expressed from Lisbon, North Dakota.

3. Pray for the Illinois District Church Planting Committee regarding their efforts in Rockford.

4. Pray for new Home Missions Director, Rev. Paul Nash, who will be installed at the Sunday morning service at the Annual Conference and will begin his duties on July 1, 1995.

5. Pray for the eight young men and women on the two BARNABAS teams ministering this summer.



Team members: Jeremy Coates, Wheatland, Iowa; Jeremy Vance, Eagan, Minnesota; Gretchen Linder, Buxton, North Dakota and Kelani O'Neil, Lena, Wisconsin.

## BARNABAS XXIII Summer Itinerary

Team members — Jeremy Vance, Eagan, Minnesota; Jeremy Coates, Wheatland, Iowa; Kelani O'Neil, Lena, Wisconsin and Gretchen Linder, Buxton, North Dakota.

June 3-9 — Zion Lutheran, Dexter, Minnesota

June 10-16 — Prince of Peace Lutheran, Beulah, North Dakota

June 18-23 — Cooperstown Bible Camp, North Dakota

June 24-30 — Camp Cherith,

Williston, North Dakota

July 1-21 — AFLC Canada

July 22-28 — Faith Free Lutheran, Brockton, Montana

July 29-August 4 — Zion Lutheran, Tioga, North Dakota

August 5-11 — Maranatha Free Lutheran, Willmar, Minnesota

August 12-18 — Abiding Savior Lutheran, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

August 19-25 — Word of Life Lutheran, Upsala, Minnesota

## Ministering in Oklahoma City

**Chaplain Tim Skramstad**, San Antonio, Texas responded immediately on April 19, and flew to Oklahoma City to begin working with families connected with the explosion at the federal building. An Army Recruiting Headquarters office in the building had eight people killed. Chaplain Skramstad had previously visited and worked with personnel in that office. Among those eight killed, was a child of a soldier whose family had just moved to Oklahoma City.

Chaplain Skramstad conducted a Memorial Service on May 3, in Oklahoma City for those killed. His work with the victims' families and all those left behind continues. Please pray for him as he ministers in this difficult situation.

Also responding to the needs arising from the tragedy was **Rev. Bob Rieth**, Executive Director of Media Fellowship International. Over 500 media people were covering the event, and for many it was a very traumatic time, seeing such pain inflicted on people in the American heartland.

Rev. Rieth was involved in the setting up of a hospitality suite designed to minister to the media. He served in a chaplaincy and pastoral role, praying with people and seeking to bring encouragement. Many expressed appreciation for this unique support that was being provided. Rev. Rieth is thankful for the chance to minister to many and is praying about follow-up opportunities to come.

## BARNABAS XXIV summer itinerary

Team members — Kristin Onnen, Cokato, Minnesota; Katie Skramstad, San Antonio, Texas; Bill Kroll, Argyle, Minnesota and Brad Nelson, Kandiyohi, Minnesota.

June 3-9 — Gruver, Texas

June 10-16 — Christ Lutheran, Tulia, Texas

June 17-23 — Amarillo, Texas

June 24-30 — First Lutheran, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

July 1-7 — Good Shepherd Lutheran, Pleasanton, Texas

July 8-14 — Christ Lutheran, Wichita Falls, Texas

July 15-21 — FLY Convention, Estes Park, Colorado

July 22-28 — Immanuel Lutheran, Springfield, Missouri

July 29-August 4 — Southern AFLC Family Bible Camp

August 5-11 — Trinity Free Lutheran, Janesville, Wisconsin

August 12-18 — Emmaus Lutheran, Bloomington, Minnesota

August 19-25 — Redeemer Lutheran, Cambridge, Minnesota

# God's plan for me

I sat completely immersed in the story the missionary was telling our group of 50 some kids at what was then called the "Junior Mission Society." The year could have been as early as 1944. The place was my home church in Minneapolis and I was around 10 years old.

After the presentation by the furloughing missionary, an offering would be taken, a report would be given regarding how the moneys of past offerings had been spent, and announcements made about what was happening in the lives of other missionaries in other countries. In response to the needs presented we, children and advisors, would sing hymns such as *I Love To Tell The Story*, *Onward Christian Soldiers* and especially, *From Greenland's Icy Mountains*. In my heart I longed to be a part of proclaiming "the joyful sound, till each remotest nation has learned Messiah's Name."

Each month the scene would be repeated with different speakers and time for handwork on projects that would be sent with someone going back to their field of ministry. Added to this were the special mission conferences during which three or four different countries were featured and the summer Bible camps that would have an hour daily with a missionary challenge, encouraging us as youth to seek God's guidance for our lives.

Through this type of teaching in the children's and youth programs, in the messages of the pastors and the unfolding of God's Word in my heart, I became aware that God had a plan for my life. Through prayer and instruction in the Word I could discover that plan.

I see it as no coincidence that

my family had moved when I was nine years old and that the church my father found for us was this church that nurtured me in all my growing years. Sharing at home that I wanted to be a missionary, I was nurtured as well. Mother took it seriously and encouraged me by listening to me and becoming a part of the children's mission program herself. Later, as a young adult, the teachers I had in Sunday School and in Junior Mission Society asked me to lead a teen mission group. This I eagerly accepted.

While attending the Lutheran Bible Institute, I heard missionaries tell of feeling called by God to cross-cultural ministry. First this was a general call or response in the heart to God's hand upon a person in obedience to the Holy Spirit's working. I realized this was already my experience and I prayed to God regarding the working out of this call.

The first step came during that time at the Bible school where I met my future husband, who by then also knew God had called him to world missions. A very important Scripture portion became our guide: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be yours as well" (Matthew 6:33). We looked to God to show us how to seek first His kingdom; we looked to Him to provide all our needs. And in time, in His

time, after educational needs had been met, He showed us in Hebrews 13:5 that His hold upon us would never fail and this was His time for us to become involved in world missions.

Why have I shared this with you now, after all these years? I do so because I do not know a mission-sending organization, or a world mission board, or even a single missionary who would say that there is enough help already — don't be sending any more just now. The Commission of Jesus in Matthew 28:19 to "go and make disciples of all nations," must not yet be fulfilled as His Return has not yet been realized.

I want to encourage churches to provide the means of educating the children and youth in missions as our congregations become the sending agency of those who respond to God's call. Teachers in the Sunday school and youth programs, educate yourselves and share with your students the mission need. Teachers and parents, pray for your children's futures. We need parents who would release from their hearts, their children should God call them to a cross-cultural ministry. When Jesus said to pray to the Lord of the harvest, He was talking to me, to you, that in response to our prayers He would send forth workers. Could it be that the lack of workers has any connection with our lack of prayer?

Yes, God spoke to my heart as a child sitting and listening while in a crowded room, as a youth at Bible camp, as a young adult in Bible school, while listening to his Word proclaimed, while having my own quiet time and while others prayed for me.

— by Clara Gunderson  
Puebla, Mexico

Through this type of teaching ... in the messages of the pastors and the unfolding of God's Word in my heart, I became aware that God had a plan for my life.

## Responding to a need

Our missionaries at times have special needs and will share something like this: "We really need a teacher for the kids. Pray that the Lord will work that out for them." How thrilling it is when the Lord leads someone to go as a short-term assistant. **Deb Kirk**, Fargo, North Dakota and **Cathy Torgerson**, Colorado Springs, Colorado have answered the call to go to Brazil to help the David and Paul Abel families. **Katrina Schierkolk**, Prairie Farm, Wisconsin is helping her brother Todd and his wife, Barb, care for their two young daughters while they attend language school in Texas.

## letter to the editor

Dear editor,

Many tuned in to watch the television special "In the Name of God" hosted by news anchor Peter Jennings earlier this spring.

I was surprised that the network program was reported without an anti-Christian slant on what is happening out there in the realm of Christian experience in America today.

Some congregations portrayed, such as Willow Creek in the Chicago area, seemed to be blessed in using high-powered marketing and the latest technology to attract non-Christians and Christians alike. For them it takes a highly talented professional staff and millions of dollars to put on a polished program week after week. The people come to their church in droves.

Then the program presented the Vineyard church movement where people come to experience signs and wonders and to get a heaping dose of laughter and happiness. In becoming uninhibited, some in the Vineyard Church whirled around while others fell on the floor in a sort of spiritual ecstasy.

A Dutch-Reformed congregation was also portrayed and their pastor expressed his discouragement about the empty pews and felt pressured to perform differently in his ministry because the traditional ways were not well accepted anymore as more and more people were opting for the ministry of the mega-church.

My initial reaction to some of what I saw in this program was less than enthusiastic and yet the Bible calls me to rejoice anytime Christ is preached regardless of the situation or motive (Philippians 1:15-18). I did, however, share my wife's view of the program. "After seeing this, I am really happy with what we have," she commented. I thought, "Amen."

I am thankful that we are not under pressure to come up with a new agenda each week to put on a new show, nor are we falling on the floor and losing our composure. Personally, I could relate somewhat with the Dutch-Reformed pastor who sees his traditions threatened and his way of worship going out of style.

I had to ask myself the question, "Where does our congregation and others like ours fit into the scheme of things?" I believe we have what many others do not seem to be offering, and that is **the abiding Word of God!** This is the great foundation upon which we are building, not on the latest techniques, hype or pure enthusiasm. Even our traditions are secondary to the Word of God and the God of the Word. Peter confessed: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!" Jesus answered: "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church,

**Pastor needed in South Africa** — A conservative, Bible-believing Lutheran pastor is needed to serve a two-congregation parish in the Republic of South Africa. This parish is vacant at the present time and has appealed to America for help in finding the right man. If interested, please contact Pastor Robert D. Giles for full information. Pastor Giles has served this parish and can be contacted at: P.O. Box 128, Laveen, Arizona 85339 or phone (602) 237-3916.

## Congratulations!

**Two AFLC congregations celebrate 100 years — Dove Free Lutheran Church, Winger, Minnesota will celebrate their centennial on June 24-25, 1995. Lanstad Lutheran Church, Shevlin, Minnesota is celebrating their centennial on July 1-2, 1995.**

and the gates of Hades will not overcome it" (Matthew 16:16-18). Jesus will build His Church. He is our strength.

As a pastor, I see my work to preach the Word of God in its truth and purity and to administer the sacraments correctly. I see the work of our church primarily as a teaching and caring ministry where disciples of Jesus are made.

Certainly we are not a perfect church. We can employ things to make our church more attractive to outsiders. I believe the main thing we can do however, is to be genuine believers. If we truly love the Lord it will attract and have a great impact. To this end, may we pray with the psalmist, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thought. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

— by Rev. Joe Schultz  
Abiding Word Lutheran  
Deshler, Nebraska

## CAMPUS

### Preliminary seminary enrollment shows significant increase for fall of 1995

On September 6, 1995 AFLTS will begin classes for the new school year. Applications are being processed and projected seminary enrollment indicate the largest class in several years. Continue to pray that God would call and men would answer that call to the ministry.

The Board of Trustees requests your prayers as they seek to call a new faculty member to fill the vacancy left when Dr. Steven Lombardo returned to the parish ministry.

The Association Free Lutheran Bible School begins their Fall Quarter on September 10, 1995 with the opening service at 4 p.m. Applications are arriving at the similar pace as they have in recent years. AFLBS enrollment has hovered around 100 for several years. Please request an application form as soon as possible if you are planning to attend Bible school in the fall. Write: 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd. Minneapolis, MN 55441 or call (612) 544-9501.

### AFLTS announces Summer Institute of Theology schedule

On July 24 through August 4, AFLTS will again have the Summer Inter-term classes available for all pastors and lay people. Housing on campus is available for one or both weeks. Cooking facilities are limited. Cost is only the \$15 registration fee plus room and board.

Classes offered this summer are:  
*Missions and the Local Church* — AFLC Home Missions and World Missions departments  
*Studies in the Minor Prophets* — Rev. Jerry Holmaas  
*Our Lutheran Confessions* — Dr. Francis Monseth  
*Studies in Thessalonians* — Dr. Craig Jennings  
*Introduction to New Testament Greek* — Rev. Jerry Moan  
 (July 24 — September 1)

**Pray for the 1995  
 AFLBS summer teams:  
 AMBASSADORS  
 and MAJESTY**

#### 1995 Majesty team itinerary

June 4-10 — Calvary Free Lutheran, Fergus Falls, Minnesota  
 June 11-17 — St. Paul's Lutheran, Angora, Minnesota  
 June 21-25 — Bethany Bible Camp, Bemidji, Minnesota  
 June 25-30 — Galilee Bible Camp, Lake Bronson, Minnesota  
 July 2-8 — Living Word Lutheran, Edmore, North Dakota  
 July 9-15 — Our Saviour's Lutheran, Zumbrota, Minnesota  
 July 16-22 — FLY Convention, Estes Park, Colorado  
 July 23-29 — Christ the King Lutheran, Pipestone, Minnesota  
 July 30-August 5 — Family Bible Camp, Osceola, Wisconsin  
 August 6-12 — Mt. Carmel Lutheran, McIntosh, Minnesota  
 August 13-19 — Bethel Lutheran Chapel, White Earth and Elbow Lake Village, Minnesota  
 August 20-26 — Hope Lutheran, Northome, Minnesota



**AFLBS Ambassadors** — (Back L. to R.): Jeremy Erickson, Badger, MN; Jason Sanford, Story City, IA; (Front): Brenda Salvendy, Battle Lake, MN; Joanna Drybrough, Fordville, ND and Rachel Fugleburg, Fargo, ND.



**AFLBS Majesty** — (Back L. to R.): John Halverson, Strum, WI; Eric Rasmussen, Park River, ND; (Front): Amy Jo Hill, Radcliffe, IA; Melissa Strand, Wahpeton, ND and Emmy Schroeder, Valley City, ND.



## PEOPLE AND PLACES

**Rev. Harvey Jackson**, Ishpeming, Michigan has resigned as pastor of Hope Free Lutheran in order to accept a call to be the pastor of Zoar Free Lutheran and the chaplain at the Tri-County Home in Hatton, North Dakota. Pastor Jackson will conclude his ministry in Ishpeming in the middle of July 1995. He has served there since 1984.

**Mr. Earl Korhonen**, a 1995 AFLTS graduate, has accepted the call from Monroe Free Lutheran in Monroe, Washington.

### Grant money received

The Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary recently received \$3,130 from Lutheran Brotherhood's IMPACT/IMPACT PLUS programs. The latest payment covers 34 gifts of Lutheran Brotherhood members made during the first quarter of 1995. The programs matches members' gifts of \$25-\$100 per year to Lutheran institutions of higher education nationwide.

### One seminary student begins internship

**Mr. Michael Clarke**, Calgary, Alberta began on June 1, his year of internship at Grace Lutheran, Edinburg, North Dakota and Victory Lutheran in Park River. Mr. Clarke is a colloquy student and is serving his internship under Rev. James Rasmussen.

**Rev. J. Christian Andrews**, Larimore, North Dakota was placed on the regular clergy roster by the AFLC Coordinating Committee at a recent meeting. He has served Living Faith Lutheran in Larimore and Middle Grove Lutheran in Mekinock for over a year since being placed on the fellowship roster.

**Rev. Brian L. Davidson**, Milford, Illinois has completed an interim pastorate at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church — Schwer and has assumed interim duties as pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran in Metz, Michigan on a part-time basis. He will begin full-time ministry there on August 1, 1995. His new address is 2057 E. Metz Hwy., Posen, MI 49776, phone (517) 766-8806.

**Rev. Paul Jecklin**, Savannah, Georgia has resigned as the pastor of Christ Lutheran Church where he has served since 1976.

**Rev. Lynn Kinneberg**, Mentor, Minnesota has resigned as pastor of Maple Bay Free Lutheran where he has served since 1989, in order to accept the call from Bethany Lutheran, Binford, North Dakota and New Luther Valley Lutheran in McVile. He expects to begin his new ministry on September 15, 1995.



**Eden Prairie, Minnesota** — Pictured is Rev. Les Galland, pastor of King of Glory Lutheran, and the prayer banner dedicated recently in memory of Mr. Richard Konerza, a charter member of the congregation.

**Deaths noted** — **Alfred Bredeson**, 88, passed away on March 19, 1995. Funeral services were held at Calvary Lutheran in Everett, Washington. **Marvin Quanbeck**, 69, died May 1, 1995. Funeral services were held at New Luther Valley Lutheran in McVile, North Dakota. He was the father of AFLC pastor, Lloyd Quanbeck of Northome, Minnesota and AFLBS Choral Club director, Marian (Quanbeck) Christopherson.

## Ambassador Hymnal readied for second printing

In less than one year the first 15,000 *Ambassador Hymnals* printed are almost gone. Therefore, it is necessary to prepare for the second printing. If you have found any spelling, punctuation or other errors in the book please contact Pastor Tom Olson, 20648 Cty. Rd. H, Barronett, WI 54813, phone (715) 468-4403. These corrections are needed by August 1, 1995 as the second printing will be done later in the fall.

There is so much good news

regarding the AFLC's hymnal project. People throughout the country are expressing their appreciation for the *Ambassador Hymnal*. It has met a real need. With the first printing nearly sold, we are happy to report that the project has completely paid for itself with no financial burden to the AFLC. Some have felt the paper to be too thin and tends to wrinkle. The second printing will use heavier paper that will not wrinkle if it does not make the

book too large.

We are happy to report that the covers on the accompanist's editions have been reglued. If your cover has fallen off please send the book back to the AFLC headquarters and they will send you a new one free of charge.

Please pray for this ongoing work with the hymnal. Contact me with your suggestions to make this second printing even better, however, I must hear from you soon!

— by Rev. Tom Olson  
Barronett, Wisconsin

# Spiritual revival visits Christian college campuses

Christian colleges across the nation are reporting that spiritual revival has broken out among students.

The wave of revival began at Howard Payne University, a Baptist school southwest of Dallas, and spread from there across the nation, as students traveled to other Christian campuses to share their experience of repentance and revival.

"This revival was characterized by public confession of sin, and a commitment to a closer walk with the Lord," said Dr. Donnie Auvenshine, dean of the university's School of Christian Studies.

Students from Howard Payne University visited Wheaton College, where two spoke at the weekly meeting of the World Christian Fellowship. After the revival at the Texas school was described, the microphones were open for students to share burdens and confess sins.

The meeting that began Sunday evening adjourned the following morning at 6 a.m. with students still in line waiting to speak. Meetings continued throughout the week at Wheaton College, with crowds of some 1,500 gathering for praise, testi-

mony, and confession of sin.

The revival continues to spread from campus to campus. Wheaton College students visited Northwestern College in St. Paul, Minnesota, sparking a campus revival. Then, Northwestern College students traveled to Crown College, west of Minneapolis, bringing revival with them.

Kyle Wilson, campus pastor at Northwestern College, called it "a powerful and genuine work of the Holy Spirit." Wilson noted that on March 30, nearly 400 students responded to a chapel speaker's call for surrender to God, and another 75 to 100 responded later.

Wilson reported that students have confessed sins of lust, immoral activity, self-centeredness, low self-worth, lying, pride, and materialism, and that students viewed as "least likely to share life-changing testimonies were responding."

Revival struck Crown College on April 6. President Bill Lanpher reported, "From 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. our chapel was filled with students confessing sins in their lives and seeking God's forgiveness, the forgiveness of the student body, and the forgiveness of the faculty."

The next day, the regular chapel service was postponed in favor of continuing the work of revival. Lanpher said, "What encouraged me especially were the approximately 75 students who came forward to publicly respond to God's call on their lives for ministry."

Most church historians who have studied revival agree that while the current wave of renewal sweeping America's Christian campuses may well be the beginnings of revival, only time will tell.

"The real test of revivals is what the results are some time down the road," said Charles Ailing, a history professor at Northwestern College. "It's difficult to look at one this close on and come to any conclusion. But if you look at the Great Awakening in the 18th century, people's lives were affected for 40 years."

Dr. Lewis Drummond, who is the Billy Graham professor of evangelism at Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, said, "These things rest in the sovereignty of God. You cannot generate a spiritual awakening. If it's God's hour, God will do something great and incredible. If it's not God's hour, then we just thank God for what is going on."

According to Drummond, revived Christians are ready to be used by God. "What happens next? Great evangelism, great missions and great outreach," he said. "Social action emerges out of great revival. Societies are radically changed, until finally a whole nation is impacted profoundly. It's hard to say that what we're seeing now is revival, because all of this hasn't happened yet. But it may. Thank God for this. It may be the beginning of genuine revival."

(The above story used by permission of the EP News Service.)

## Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

### AFLC Benevolences - January 1 - April 30, 1995

FUND	TOTAL Subsidy	REC'D IN APRIL	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% TOTAL
General Fund . . . . .	\$268,591.00	\$13,706.60	\$72,435.35	27
Seminary . . . . .	163,200.00	5,865.16	44,219.54	27
Bible School . . . . .	244,800.00	9,874.42	53,429.47	22
Home Missions . . . . .	335,040.00	13,351.63	94,735.15	28
World Missions . . . . .	359,927.00	21,542.04	97,251.51	27
Capital Investment . . . . .	35,425.00	641.38	2,955.16	8
Parish Education . . . . .	67,868.00	5,630.90	17,907.00	26
Church Extension . . . . .	10,000.00	2,013.73	3,432.66	34
<b>TOTALS . . . . .</b>	<b>\$1,484,851.00</b>	<b>\$72,625.86</b>	<b>\$386,365.72</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>TOTALS 1994 . . . . .</b>	<b>1,422,890.00</b>	<b>91,949.96</b>	<b>338,424.34</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Goal 33%</b>				

## The proper means

Does the end justify the means?

In the book of Genesis we read about two people who probably wondered about that question. God had promised Abram and Sarai a son. No son was on the horizon, however, so they decided to use their own means. Abram had a son with Sarai's Egyptian maidservant Hagar.

They thought they were working towards the right end: producing an heir. The problem was they were not following the miraculous means God had planned; the means that would later produce the true son of promise, Isaac.

When Christians attempt to deal with political problems we often do so in the same manner that Abram and Sarai used to deal with their problem. We have a proper, biblical end in sight. We fail, however, to use biblical means. The good end does not justify wrong means.

Romans 12:20,21 says, "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Following these verses the instruction is given that "everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities."

We must not miss the connection. We influence the governing authorities by being loving, Christ-like servants. Acquiring political authority, electing the right candidates or passing proper legislation is not the way we gain power. We have power because we belong to Jesus. We make an impact by loving and serving in the Name of Christ.

Some Christians had set up a crisis pregnancy center to encourage young girls not to have abortions and to provide them assistance. Some pro-abortion people thought they would "turn the tables" and picket the center. Upon seeing the protesters out front, the Christians inside got busy. When they were ready they marched out the door and confronted the protesters — with coffee and doughnuts.

They were not saying they agreed with the protesters. They did not compromise their beliefs regarding the evil of abortion. They were deciding, however, to make an impact by being servants and showing the love of Christ.

The world is much more likely to hear the message of truth when they see the love of Christ lived out before them. Christians would be more readily listened to in the political arena not if we got more

political clout, but if we lived more Christ-like lives.

Having an impact by being a servant seems like a slow process. It involves influencing one life at a time. That is the way society is changed, however. Public virtue happens when private virtue exists.

Jesus said, "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. ... The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart" (Luke 6:43,45, NIV). The fruit is evidence of what is in the heart.

The problem in our society is not so much things like crime, abortion and sexual immorality. Rather they are evidence of the problem; evidence of the spiritual problem that exists within the hearts of people. Change needs to happen first and foremost not in Washington, D.C., but in hearts and homes across this country. When people are right with God and made "good trees" by Christ, good fruit will come. On the other hand, it is frightening to think of the fruit that will come from a society full of people who have rejected God. The second President of the United States, John Adams said, "Our Constitution was made for a

moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

In the tale "The Screwtape Letters" by C.S. Lewis, a senior devil named Screwtape advises his nephew that one of the best ways to corrupt a Christian is to find one swept up in political "partisan spirit" and "gradually nurse him on to the stage at which religion becomes merely part of the cause."

Columnist Cal Thomas cited Screwtape at a recent Christian convention in Florida. He said the good works of the church "are compromised when the gospel is politicized, when the pulpit becomes a tool of political organization."

The most effective way of changing society is not through political organization, but by changing lives. The good news is that the power to do that is in the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel must not become "politicized" and "merely part of the cause." It is "the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16, NIV).

No matter what role God calls on us to play in the political arena, we remember that first and foremost we are ambassadors for Christ.

**Our greatest impact will come through the miraculous means of living the gospel and sharing it in our words and deeds.**

## The mark of a Christian

**F**our days until moving day — boxes stacked everywhere. My office could well qualify as a North Dakota state disaster area. But in the midst of the mess, this pastor finds himself taking personal inventory: “What will the congregation remember about me when I am gone? I love these people. **What mark have I left?**”

A flood of memories washes over me. Take little Jordan, for example. I see an energetic three-year-old, playfully enjoying precious moments with his friends at church. Our eyes meet. He calls to me with a big grin — “Hi, Jesus!” (How would *you* respond?) I wonder, “Has my life left a Christ-like impression on his heart? How can I say goodbye?”

Think of Jesus and His farewell: “*Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You shall seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, I now say to you also, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another*” (John 13:33-35, NASB).

What a crucial command! Please notice the “if” in the final phrase. Here is a command we

## SOMETHING TO SHARE

can grievously violate — one which we can easily overlook. Yet Jesus says that **Christ-like love is the mark of a true Christian**. Does my life bear the mark?

What about **our corporate witness** as the body of Christ? Do people look at our AFLC and say, “These Christians are for real! See how they love each other!”? Or are we sending some other message?

Francis Schaeffer writes in *The Mark of the Christian*, “I have observed one thing among true Christians in their differences in many countries: what divides and severs true Christian groups and Christians — what leaves a bitterness that can last for twenty, thirty or forty years (or for fifty or sixty years in a son’s memory) — is not the issue of doctrine or belief which caused the differences in the first place. Invariably it is a **lack of love** — and the bitter things that are said by true Christians in the midst of differences. These stick in the mind like glue. And after time passes **and the differences** between the Christians or the groups appear less than they did, there are still **those** bitter, bitter things we said in the midst of what we thought was a good and sufficient objective discussion. It

is these things — these unloving attitudes and words — that cause the stench that the world can smell in the church of Jesus Christ among those who are really true Christians.”

As our world watches, will they observe a willingness in me to take the initiative to say “I’m sorry” when I have misjudged or failed to love my Christian brother? Will the world observe an open and forgiving spirit within me when I have been wronged? Schaeffer emphasizes that the greater the disagreement, the more important it is that we show the world (and one another!) that we really love each other. For it is in the midst of the difference that we have our “golden opportunity” as God’s people to demonstrate before a watching world the true mark of Christianity.

*That they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me* (John 17:21, NASB).



— by Rev.  
Jerry Moan  
Minneapolis,  
Minnesota