

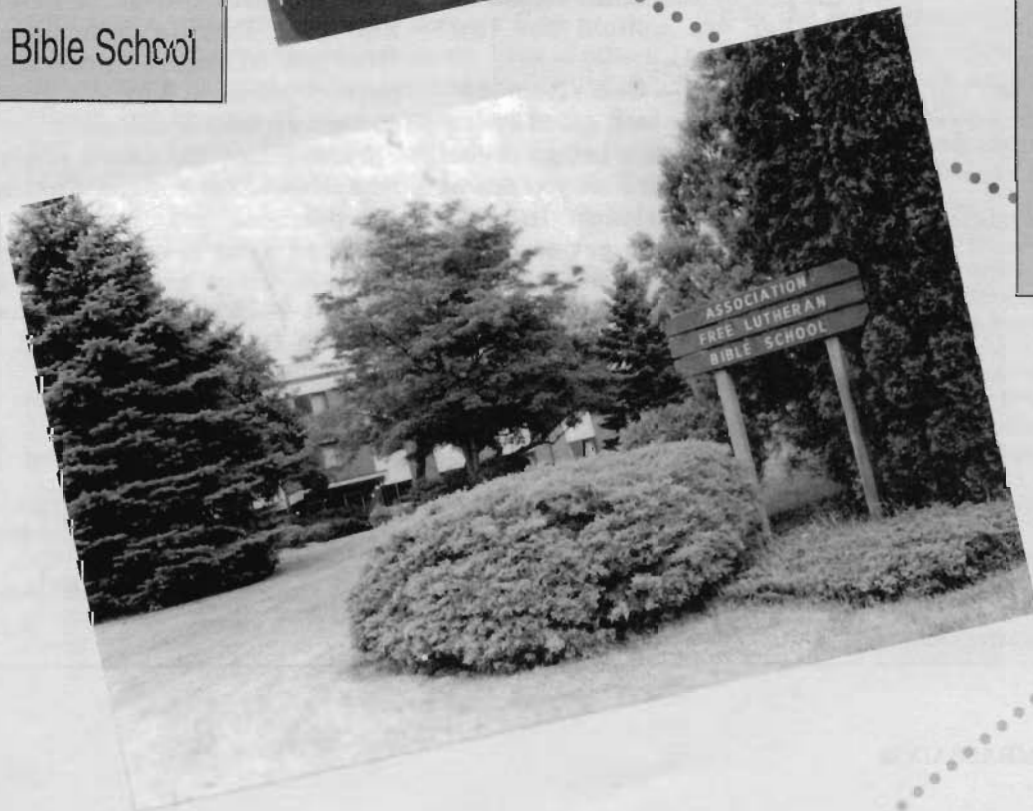
The Lutheran AMBASSADOR

March 21, 1995



Seminary
Bible School

Our
AFLC
Schools



THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

February 28, 1995
Volume 33, Number 4



The magazine of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441. (612) 545-5631

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The Lutheran Ambassador

(USPS 588-620 ISSN 0746-3413)

is published every three weeks except monthly in June and July (16 issues per year) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

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For subscription changes and information:

The Lutheran Ambassador, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441. (612) 545-5631.

Subscriptions rates:

\$15.00 a year, Group Rate, U. S.

\$16.00 a year, Individual, U. S.

\$18.00 a year, International

Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, MN and additional mailing office.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Lutheran Ambassador*, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55441.

AN ENCOURAGING WORD

Perfect in Christ

We proclaim him,...so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. Colossians 1:28

The Longing for a Perfect Heart

This longing is very much a part of every child of God. Just the other day I met a longtime friend who is deeply committed in full-time Christian ministry. One of his comments struck me: "I feel like I fall so far short of my calling. I'm such a poor witness for Christ." Those words ring a bell in the heart of many Christian workers.

Now we should know that we are saved by faith in Christ apart from works of the law and that "Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth" (Romans 10:4).

Far from throwing out the law of God, Christians believe in it with all their hearts. They see in it a reflection of God's perfect love and holiness. It is a standard they would attain to if at all possible. Like the apostle Paul they would say: "Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law" (Romans 3:31).

The Cross — God's Remedy

I have often been asked by concerned souls, "At what point does one fail so much that you are no longer a Christian?" In other words, "Can one get so far off dead center perfect that he is outside the reach of God's grace?" May I answer with another question? Do you mean then, that if one does better (sins less) and improves by doing a few more "good" things, that you can come up to the level where grace can once more "kick in" to finally bring you into God's good favor?

We are not condoning sin in any way. What we are saying is

our standing with God can never be based on how we "produce" as Christians. We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ — apart from works.

Perfect Some Day

Someday God promises we shall be perfectly whole in every respect. One of the things we look forward to in heaven is that we shall never again sin for we shall be sinless like Christ. "We shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2b). Even now when we are in Christ we are acceptable to God. God does not see our sin; He sees Jesus.

A Perfect Work for God

Many years ago while preparing a sermon, the Lord spoke to me, not audibly but just as real, and it has been a blessing to me ever since: "Martin, you will never preach a perfect sermon!"

That was not news to me but the statement was for emphasis to get my attention. I immediately thought of this phrase from Peter's epistle, we offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:5b RSV). Then He spoke again: "No, you will never preach a perfect sermon, but it's good enough. I'll take it and use it."

Friend, God has called you to faithfulness, not success. That is His business. Take heart, your life and your work are good enough. They are perfect in Christ — accepted in the beloved (Ephesians 1:6b KJV).



— by Pastor
Martin Christensen
Elbow,
Saskatchewan

What we long to see



— AFLC Board of Trustees
Rev. Lyndon Korhonen,
Chairman

**The dreams and
visions
the Board of
Trustees has
for the
AFLC Schools**

REVIVAL

We long for the day when once again we seek to love one another as Christ loved the Church. It is our conviction that it will take a heaven-sent revival to bring this about. After communicating our views on how God causes a dead man to live spiritually, we must, by God's grace, put the best construction on each other's ways of doing evangelism and together rejoice at the miracle of another sinner brought into the Kingdom of God by the cross. "Oh God, we admit our need for You to bring about repentance and healing so that our focus may once again be on striving to win the lost." How we need to turn our eyes upon *Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.*

SEMINARY

We would like to see a day when our seminary classroom would be filled with God-called men. Back in the early 1980's, our seminary enrollment numbered in the

thirties. Now we are in the single digits. Recently the dean of our seminary commented: "The smallness of the seminary is a commentary on the state of spiritual health in the Church." We need to cry out to God, that He would call men to His service. In Psalm 5:2 we read, "Listen to my cry for help, my king and my God, for to you I pray." Pastors, have you ever preached a sermon beseeching young men to listen and heed the call to give their lives in service for their Lord? Plan to do that in the next months.

We look for a day when men from other lands could be sent to our seminary to be trained to return to their homeland. it takes a real work of God for a man to come here and not be enamored with American materialism. But we believe God is still able to keep soul concerns on a higher plain than all you can stuff in your garage.

BIBLE SCHOOL

We envision a day when, Lord willing, our churches grow and many will be in need of part-time youth workers. This is already happening more and more, and we rejoice! But we want to see that biblical knowledge, which has been poured into hungry Bible students' hearts, put to better use in the local church. We need more alumni joyfully taking positions as Sunday school superintendents and training other teachers how to nurture spiritual life and lead the erring ones to Jesus. We need more alumni fishing for souls in their communities, going to where the hurting families are instead of waiting for the fish to jump into the church. We want to see more young people who, through soul-stirring preaching at chapel, hear the call to missions and consider the conveniences of American life a cheap, second-rate substitute for the thrill of being used of God in another land or here at home.

FACILITIES

When those hot muggy days of August come, we dream of a new multi-purpose building with an air-exchange system, cut into the hill east of the present dormitories. This would be a gymnasium, classrooms with southern exposure, and social area for students to gather. Then we would convert the back of our present Chapel into a two-level library and move

Photo above: Lunch break at Board meeting last fall. Rev. Ken Moland, Mr. Emory Flaten, Rev. Lyndon Korhonen and Mr. Tim Jones. Not pictured: Mr. Wayne Floan, Rev. Gary Jorgenson and Mr. David Borg.

How congregations can encourage young people to enter Christian service

The preparation begins early

Preparation for Christian service begins in the home even before children are old enough to attend Sunday school, and it continues throughout the teenage years. Daily family devotions and setting a godly example for our youth in our homes and community are effective in molding the lives of our children. Reverence for God's Word, His Name and His Day make an impression on a child early in life.

Scripture tells us that Joseph, Moses, David, John the Baptist and Timothy had early training in godliness. Deuteronomy 6:6-9 admonishes: "These commandments

that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates."

I remember a motto on the wall of my childhood home. It said *JESUS NEVER FAILS*. That influenced me during my youth. Good books and magazines as well as regular church attendance are also important.

Each of us in our homes and congregations can be encouraged by His promise in I Peter 1:24b-25: "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of the Lord stands forever." And Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."

The congregation has an opportunity to instruct youth early in life through the Sunday school, Vacation Bible School and Release Time classes. It is vital for congregations to continue having high school Bible classes after confirmation. Youth workers and teachers often become discouraged because of the lack of cooperation from homes and students. Galatians 6:9 encourages us to "not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Parents and our congregations need to be **encouragers** of our youth. Sharing

LONG TO SEE

the large gatherings into the multi-purpose building. With new classrooms we could change our present classrooms into dorm rooms and pray that God would fill them up with more students. Have we been holding back our Bible School from further growth by not making more room? Dreams do not cost anything, but buildings do. May God give us vision for the future.

CHALLENGE

The enemy is at work in the bars, the casinos, the theaters, the red-light districts and countless other places of darkness, but he is really at work in attacking the lighthouses in our land. Our Bible School and Seminary have been shining for quite some time now. Do not think it strange that Satan is uncomfortable. May he be forced into the darkness as the Church fulfills her role in these last days.

Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the Word of life (Philippians 2:14-16a).



Senior seminarian Earl Korhonen and Vrenda Bengston, librarian.

musical talent at worship services, serving on youth program committees, ushering, greeting and giving out church bulletins are a few ways youth can participate. The study of God's Word at Bible camps and Bible school have been a blessing for spiritual growth, Christian fellowship and preparation for service in the Kingdom of God. It is good when young and old can pray together, praising and thanking God and bringing requests to the throne of grace.

Jesus said: "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field" (Matthew 9:27-38). God asks us to train and teach all our children and we do that to His glory!

When the home and the congregation are faithful in preparing our young people for Christian service, God will call from them those He wants in the ministry. He

will faithfully call His cleansed children through the Word of God by His Holy Spirit.

May none of us be guilty of hindering a soul who has sensed the *inner call* by the Holy Spirit and who desires to prepare for service in the Kingdom of God.

Give of thy sons to bear the message glorious;

Give of thy wealth to speed them on their way;

Pour out thy soul for them in prayer victorious;

And all thou spendest, Jesus will repay.

**Publish glad tidings; tidings of peace;
Tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.**

"O Zion, Haste, Thy Mission High Fulfilling"
Ambassador Hymnal, no. 303

— by Kenneth Rolf
Trinity Lutheran
McIntosh, Minnesota

Our congregation supports seminarians

Several years ago our congregation was made aware of a seminarian who was in need of some financial support. We were impressed with the talent and ability the Lord had granted him. The desire to serve the Lord was there and we wanted to assist him as we could so he would not get discouraged while preparing for the ministry. Our small congregation started a Student Mission Fund to help support someone we knew who needed it. Our church members' hearts were moved and they contributed to this fund.

Now once a year we have a special offering and Lutheran Brotherhood matches funds up to \$450. The same could likely be done through your AAL branch too. Our church council determines a monthly amount for the selected candidate based on his projected needs. These payments are not guaranteed indefinitely but it is a goal we try to fulfill. Generally the support is limited to one or two semesters of school.

Besides this financial support we encourage each student with our prayers, cards and personal contacts. We let them know we have confidence in them.

We realize we are not going to have

enough pastors in the future if we do not support these young men while they are in training. It is so easy to become discouraged when the money is not there.

Our congregation has been challenged to support the student mission fund above our regular offering and budget needs. We have discovered that giving from the heart seems to only open more doors of the Lord's blessings. We have never missed what was given to Him.

The Free Lutheran Seminary interns who have ministered in our congregation have been a tremendous blessing. We have benefited from their ministry and made acquaintances with future pastors. They have led us to realize what an outstanding job our seminary is doing. These men are our church's future leadership.

Our hopes are that someday one of our own young men from our congregation will attend the AFLC seminary. In the meantime we want to help others so that finances do not hinder anyone who desires to enter the ministry.

— by Willis and Marilyn Kettelhut
*Abiding Word Lutheran
Deshler, Nebraska*

How a congregation can

Supporting
the one
who is way
too young

Way too young. That's what I was telling myself. Way too young, and, I *don't* know what I'm doing.

Staring at the wall and rubbing my face, I sat in a creaky office chair inside the pastor's study. I even sang the words over a few times for effect: "I don't know what I'm doing ..."

You get the idea.

For the first time in my life, I was "Pastor" Jim. After four years of seminary, a 15-month internship, and about 100 sermons in churches as a guest speaker, I was finally beginning my pastorate.

To be honest, I wasn't *that* young.

With a young wife, three children, and several years of working 40-hour weeks in addition to studying — and hours of involvement in my home church, I had been around the block a few times. College, Bible school and seminary meant 11 years of study. But beginning a new life with that title made me feel *way too young* all over again.

That's when Walt started calling: "Pastor, can I help with anything?"

Walt was my encourager. A gentle Christian in his 70s, Walt was as quick to thank me for a specific point in a Bible study as he was to help me get a garden started. When the water faucet needed replacing, I called Walter. When I needed directions, I talked to Walt.

Other new shepherds begin their ministries every month. I hope they can find

a Walter out there. In a church the size of the one I serve, a small community church with about 100 people attending on Sundays, you pretty much start alone — except for meetings with the board and a little help from supportive people in the body.

So to those with brand-new, way-too-young pastors in their congregations, allow me to make these recommendations in honor of all the Walters of Free Lutheranism out there (and in hopes that a few non-Walters can rise to the occasion):

Set up a few meetings to ask and answer questions.

When I first came to Calvary, a church in the northwestern Minnesota town of Fosston, our council held two special meetings to help me get oriented. I was glad. I wanted to respect their traditions and philosophies. During the sessions, I asked questions, they asked questions. The dialogue gave me the opportunity to hear their desires and their sometimes conflicting opinions shared with all in one room.

Give your new shepherd some time.

The meetings with the board helped acquaint me with the details of how Calvary served communion, what style of worship the people wanted, and where to go with my questions. But even so, during the next months, I goofed. The council can't cover everything in two meetings. Some things I didn't fully understand.



Mr. Ivars Krafts, part-time seminarian.



Dr. Francis Monseth, AFLTS dean.



Morning prayer time.

help a first-time pastor

And even on the matters we covered, disagreement sometimes prevailed.

Thankfully, most in the fellowship offered some slack.

Give your new pastor the same one to two years to learn your "system," and a little grace if he fails even after that. He'll need it.

Love him as a shepherd and a friend.

As a Christian who never really "felt" much like a pastor in the first place, it seemed odd to see people distance themselves once the word "Pastor" preceded my name. To some it added love and appreciation; to others it added a measure of discomfort.

You can help your new pastor (and his wife and children) by treating him like a brother in the family of God. One of the families in our church invited me to join their deer hunting group. We all relaxed and what a difference it made as those men began not only loving me as a pastor, but also treating me as a friend.

Tuck your "agenda" safely in the arms of the Lord.

After a few months, a brand-new pastor gets used to the folks who put their arm around him, smile a bit, chuckle some, then half-whisper, "Say, Pastor, what's your stand on (fill in the blank)." The pastor becomes the object of suspicion; "Is he friend or is he foe?"

Those moments really jade a shepherd. Leave the strategy to others.

Please don't misunderstand: a church member has every right to know a pastor's testimony (is he born again?) and his stand on the Word (does he believe the Bible is inerrant?). But let the Lord take care of the other issues. Do the Lord and your pastor a favor: leave your agenda in the hands of the Almighty.

Surround his family with security and support.

The adjustment to pastoral ministry had the potential to be formidable for the whole family. But after three years in the ministry, Linda still doesn't consider herself a "pastor's wife." Our four kids have no idea what the term "PK" means.

The people offered love. Soon after we moved, our family adopted new "grammas and grampas" and "big sisters" in the church. Teens tickled our babies. Women doted.

We needed that. Our parents and relatives are five to ten hours (and sometimes three or four months) away. A young pastor-family really feels it sometimes.

Let your former pastor rest in peace.

When I interviewed with Calvary as a seminarian, two impressions made their mark: 1) I heard no one criticize the previous pastor during the interview (actually, they loved him), and 2) only a tiny minority expected me to imitate him.

Those facts freed me. Shepherds are supposed to follow "the Great Shepherd of the Sheep," (Hebrews 13:20) — not the former shepherd. The Spirit gives gifts "just as He wills," says I Corinthians 12:7. That means we shepherds are going to be different, whether we are young or more experienced.

So let them be. Let the previous pastor follow the Lord's calling to his new flock; and let your new shepherd follow the Lord.

Enjoy him for who he is.

It's nice to admire a pastor. It is gracious to forgive a pastor. It's required to support a pastor (see I Corinthians 9:9).

But I think, it's more blessed to "enjoy" a pastor for who he is.

"Unconditional love" is the operative word. Even your first-time pastor deserves that much. But I think it goes beyond that. It is not just an attitude that says, "I'll love you because I have to." No, the Holy Spirit gives joy to true believers when they love.

Don't just put up with him. Enjoy him. Jesus delights in His children; why not you? The Lord "sends forth" His laborers. You may as well enjoy what He offers.

Oh sure. Maybe you feel he's "way too young." Perhaps he, like me, feels the same. But if there is a Walter or two out there, even a rookie pastor can enjoy the transition.

"Jesus delights in His children why not you?"



— by Rev. James L. Johnson
Calvary Free Lutheran
Fosston, Minnesota



Parents of AFLBS students attended class during Parents' Day 1994.



AFLBS basketball teams participate in the National Bible College Athletic Association. In recent years the women's team has placed 2nd in the nation three times and the men's team has placed as high as fifth nationally.

A glimpse of life at AFLBS

What do the students at the Association Free Lutheran Bible School (AFLBS) consider the best thing about Bible School? What is their biggest challenge? What are their prayer requests? These were some of the questions asked when a survey was conducted recently of this year's AFLBS students.

The Best Thing About Bible School

When asked their opinion about the best part of being a student at Bible School, the top two responses were clear: the study of God's Word and the friendships that are formed. One student said, "The best thing about AFLBS is being in constant study of God's Word." Some wrote of the connection between the study and the friendships and how others were an encouragement to them to grow in the Word. The best thing about Bible School was described by one student as "being together with all these other believers and growing with them in the Lord."

Changes

Another question students were asked was, "How has Bible School changed you?" Many spoke of growth in their relationship with God and their knowledge of His Word. They expressed gratitude for the ways God had been molding them into His image. New attitudes have come into

God answered my grandmother's prayers

I am in the ministry because of a praying grandmother.

As a teenager I was often told that I should be a pastor. My paternal grandmother was no exception. However, my love for farming led me to seek a degree in Vocational Agricultural Education. But that did not stop the prayers of Grandma!

It was five years after my college graduation that the Lord used my pastor and an evangelist to encourage me to begin my seminary training.

My decision to become a pastor was announced on our wedding day in 1957. Just five days later the Lord called Grandma home; her prayer ministry was now completed.

Thank you Grandma!

— by Rev. Ray Klug
Blackduck, Minnesota

Ask the Lord
of the harvest,
therefore,
to send out
workers into
his harvest field.

Matthew 9:38

being. One student said, "I am excited getting into the Word and learning more about God."

Some changes that were described were quite specific and personal. Lives have been rededicated to Christ. Some have come to an awareness of their need for Jesus in their lives. Others admit that they were not truly Christians before they came to AFLBS, but they praise God that now they are.

Preparation for the Future

Attending AFLBS is seen as a time of, not just preparing to make a living, but preparing for life. "How has it prepared you for the future?" was the question asked of the students. Many of them answered by speaking of the foundation they have gained from God's Word. "Bible School has given me the solid foundation for my faith, before heading into a secular world that doesn't know the gospel." Some replies spoke of how it is not the end of all study, but "a good beginning foundation" for life-long study and growth in God's Word. Others spoke of how they feel prepared in knowing where to go to find answers to the questions and struggles which will come.

Challenges

Students were asked about the biggest challenges that they face while in Bible School. Their replies speak clearly to the fact that all trials and temptations do not stay outside the boundaries of the campus. Balancing time, having the discipline to do homework and other necessary tasks and keeping priorities straight are all part of the on-going battle. One busy student got right to the point by answering: "Time! Not enough!"

Another challenge frequently mentioned was the need to "not approach the Bible intellectually and try to analyze everything." Students spoke of the danger that comes when being surrounded by the Word of becoming indifferent, treating the Bible as a mere school subject and not making personal application. They also recognized that struggles can come with being around the same people so much of the time. One student spoke of the challenge by saying, "I need more patience with people and everyday stuff."

Prayer Needs

Many people pray for the students at AFLBS. They may wonder though, "What



Women's dormitory and junior classroom.

are the prayer needs?" When surveyed, the students spoke of the continuous need for prayer for the school. They feel that because of the good work going on, Satan is very active, seeking to bring down God's people. "I believe this school needs much prayer because Satan is present at all times." "I have seen Satan's hand so evident and his demons so active. He is busy and Christians also should be."

An area in which the students feel Satan has attacked is their unity. One wrote, "We all need to pray for unity on this campus. Satan is unwelcome here, but he loves to separate strong believers." Similar requests were "pray for a continuance of unity in Christ as a body" and pray "that the Bible School could be one in Christ, unified in Him."

A far too common hindrance to unity is gossip. The request was made by some students to "pray that gossip would be eliminated from campus."

The demands of school and work often make it difficult for students to find sufficient time to sleep. Requests were made that people would pray for God to grant good physical health and the needed stamina and energy.

Should Others Go?

Bible School students would generally be full of encouragement to others who are considering attending AFLBS. One described Bible School as "a great blessing for me" but also gave the advice that the decision to attend AFLBS is "between you and God ... God will lead you here if that's His will." Encouragement was given from another who said, "Yes (they should come) if they feel the Lord leading that way, because there's nothing better than sitting under the instruction of the Word." It was described by one as "a great place to be for God's guidance and direction. It is also important to get a good foundation in God's Word." — Editor

What Bible School meant to me

Thirty-three years ago at the altar of Green Lake Lutheran Church near Spicer, Minnesota, I surrendered my will and my life to Christ. After months of struggle, I finally yielded to the call of the Lord to go to the Bible School that later would become the model upon which AFLBS was founded.

During the next two years the foundation was laid in my life that moved me from simply accepting the biblical truths I had been taught in my Bible-believing, evangelistic, mission-minded Lutheran church at home to making those same convictions my own. No longer would I be easy prey for a college professor to ridicule the "naive Sunday school religion" of my family and church. The Holy Spirit had made those Bible truths personal! They became **my** convictions by the grace of God!

As I reflect on those two years at Bible School, four basic truths became mine for life:

1. I became convinced of the reliability, infallibility and inerrancy of Scripture. The verse that clinched it for me was a phrase from Titus 1:2: "God, who cannot lie." We have a source to turn to in every circumstance in life that will never fail. God's Word is our great heritage!

2. Because of the above, my convictions, goals, actions and attitudes must be based clearly on the Word of God; not on my preconceived ideas or on what I may feel or think. "God said it, I believe it and that settles it!" is still true today.



Rev. Don Greven.

3. The clear, simple way of salvation became very precious to me! Aren't you glad that Jesus invites us to come to Him, and that He promises, "Him who comes to Me I will in nowise cast out"?


4. Finally, under the ministry of great and godly men like Maynard Force and Theodore Hax, I

plans of building a church. In the meantime this temporary facility will serve the approximately 65 people currently worshipping at Maranatha.

Beulah, North Dakota — Prince of Peace Lutheran held their first worship service on February 5, in their newly purchased building, a former funeral home in Beulah. The young congregation hopes to soon begin calling their first pastor.

Rev. Paul Nash, formerly of Wichita Falls, Texas, and his family have moved to their new home in Maple Grove, Minnesota. Pastor Nash is taking four months off to rebuild the home which had suffered fire damage. On July 1, 1995 he begins his new ministry as the AFLC Home Missions director.

saw that just as the prophecies concerning Christ's first coming were fulfilled, so also will be the promises concerning His soon return! And since Christ is returning soon, we must say to a dying world around us, "I beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God!"

Oh yes, I also met my wife at Bible School. Life on earth could never be better than to share it with one who is following the same Leader. For me, it all came together at Bible School! 

— by Rev. Don Greven
AFLBS Dean

AFLBS is affordable

Standard quarter fees for tuition, room and board.

First quarter — \$1400.

Second and third quarters — \$1245.

3 Enjoy Being a Woman

Candlelight, fragrant flowers, the perfect white gown, stately solemn music; it's your wedding day. Recall the memories of your day for a few moments — the deep, young love you had for your husband and the sacred vows you made to him before the Lord (Deuteronomy 23:21,23). With these precious memories in mind, prayerfully continue this lesson.



Christian principles concerning submission are involved in all earthly relationships.

3 Enjoy Being a Wife — Submission

Submission is often misunderstood and misrepresented both in the world and in the Church. It is my prayer and objective that this study will bring fresh insight on what is godly submission and an eagerness to fulfill our privileged and protected position as God intended it to be.

I. What is Submission

1. God has two words of instruction for wives. We will discuss each in a separate lesson. What are they? Ephesians 5:22,23
2. The greatest misconception is that submission is a “curse” upon women as a result of the Fall. When did God's plan of feminine submission originate? Genesis 2:18 and I Corinthians 11:9

As we learned in Lesson 2, the husband's role as leader was established at creation. Likewise the wife's submissive role was God's creative design. Eve assumed the helper role naturally and happily (“everything was very good”). Then came the Fall, and things changed. Genesis 3:16b is best interpreted: “You will desire to control your husband, but he shall rule.” After the Fall the wife's willing submission changed to a rebellious and independent spirit. The husband's loving leadership now demanded unchallenged authority.

3. God loved woman and wanted her needs and desires to be fulfilled. Because He knew the depravity of her fallen nature, it was now necessary for her own

good to command her to assume the position she once freely and naturally accepted. Describe that position. Genesis 3:16 and I Corinthians 11:3

4. God's idea of submission is not one of inferiority, subservience, ignorance and loss of individuality. It is rather a position of honor, privilege and humility. Jesus perfectly demonstrated godly submission. His relationship with God the Father can be an example for our relationship with our husband (or the one in authority over us at present). Describe the model Christ gave. Philip-
pians 2:4-11

Equal status, vs. 6, How are husband and wife equal?

Distinct function, vs. 7-8, What are the wife's distinct functions?
Genesis 2:18 and 3:20

United purpose, vs. 9-11, What is our purpose? Genesis 2:24 and Mark 3:25

5. Submission is "the voluntary laying down of one will to another." God tells the wife that she is the one who must place her will under the authority and headship of her husband. Why do you suppose God always speaks to wives first in these passages? I Peter 3:1-6, Colossians 3:18, Ephesians 5:24

6. How do you understand the dual instructions of Ephesians 5:21-22?



Submission originates within the heart of a woman who believes that God's prescribed ways are for her greatest benefit and who wills to choose God's ordered way of relating in marriage. It is an attitude that begins within and works its way out in actions, thoughts, words and emotions.

II. Support the Roles of Your Husband

One way to begin practicing submission is to support the role of your husband as leader, provider and protector.

7. *Leader* Great accountability is required of leaders. What insights do you notice concerning the leader and the follower?

James 3:1

Hebrews 13:17

Romans 13:1-5

8. *Provider* I Timothy 5:8 and 6:6-8, Hebrews 13:5, Philippians 4:19

9. *Protector* I Peter 3:7

Recall an incident when you needed protection from your husband either physically, emotionally or spiritually.

What is one courteous gesture you enjoy from your husband?

III. Obedience? How Far Can We Trust God?

10. Quietly examine your submissive response to your own husband. Are there areas of subtle rebellion and stubbornness? How serious should we be about this? I Samuel 15:22-23

God says that marriage is an analogy of our relationship to Christ. Because of this a woman will often find that her response to her husband mirrors her reactions to God as He desires to lead her, provide for her and protect her.

11. The Bible says, “Be subject in everything.” We are unwise to put certain limits on our submission. What are some results of not submitting?

Titus 2:5b

I Peter 3:7

Isaiah 3:12

Jeremiah 7:24

Hebrews 12:15



A husband's headship has been given him by God. God delights to be responsible for the results when a woman's heart attitude is one of obedience to Him.

12. List the instruction and promise God gives.

Psalms 119:173

Psalms 37:5

I Peter 3:13-14

Hebrews 10:36-36

Proverbs 31:30 tells us that a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. A good wife and a jewel are precious because they are so rare (Proverbs 18:22 and 31:10). Wouldn't you like to be the precious jewel in God's sight and a good thing to your husband?

Next month: I Enjoy Being a Wife — Reverence

I enjoy being a wife

I marvel at the fact that God loved the world so much that He gave Himself for us. I am glad that He included me, and invited me to come to Him for salvation and for service.

In spite of the fact that I have failed many times, I know that Christ forgives and gives me more opportunities to serve Him each day.

As I was growing up, I did not aspire to a great career. I think it was the leading of the Lord that my father wanted me to attend the Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis. Here I learned to study the Bible systematically in concentrated time in God's Word. It was encouraging to meet so many young Christians interested in the Word, and while there I met my husband.

When we began our life together we decided from the very beginning that our lives should be

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

submitted to the will and direction of the Lord. We desired to live out Ephesians 5:21 where we read, "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." The other verses in that same chapter also offer helpful instruction.

Most mornings we have our devotions together. It is the most important time of our day. We receive strength and direction through reading the Word, devotional books and prayer. This keeps the lines of communication open so that if there is a disagree-

ment the matter can be discussed and brought to the Lord in prayer.

In every family the husband must be the head — the one with the final authority. However, in areas where we wives are more knowledgeable, the husband graciously delegates those responsibilities. It is a joy to work together as a team, never flaunting authority. I praise God for godly, loving husbands.

May we pray for one another that Christian marriages will clearly glorify His precious Name!

— by Mrs. Anna Asp
Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

The behavior of kingdom builders

Submissiveness as a wife is a challenge. I can better understand its meaning in light of the whole picture of God's Kingdom.

God has given us in His Word an order of authority to follow. When we pray "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done," we are praying for His reign and His way in our churches, home and hearts.

In the Church, the order of authority begins with Christ as the head. Elders of the Church are the shepherds of the flock. All of us in the Body of Christ are members of one another and therefore are to humbly serve and honor one another in fervent love. This submissiveness is God's way to work harmony and efficiency in the building of His Kingdom.

As in the Church, so in the home God designed an order of authority. In Ephesians 5:22 we read that wives are to be subject to their husbands *as unto the Lord*. Submission to my husband is related to my submission to the Lord.

When God's Kingdom comes within us, Christ is Lord in our hearts and all our desire is to be in His will. In my own spiritual journey, the Holy Spirit is teach-

ing me to discipline my mind moment by moment to line up my thoughts and actions with the will of God. I must die to my own ways daily and practice the very presence of God, worshipping Him with awe and reverence, loving Him, joyfully serving and obeying Him.

This desire to be in God's will is the same humble attitude that I am to have toward my husband. Since "love does not insist on its own way," I want to align my will with the will of my husband so that together we can practice what Paul exhorts in Philippians 2:2: *Be of the same mind, maintain the same love, be united in spirit and intent on one purpose — having Christ as first place in our lives.*

Since my husband is God's ordained authority for me, I want to enjoy his presence, honor him, serve him joyfully, respect his decisions, and build him up in all his roles.

Submissiveness can be easy as we take Christ's yoke upon us and learn from Him (Philippians 2:1-11).

— by Mrs. Miriam Klemme
Wadena, Minnesota

Womens Missionary Federation *In Memoriam*

Agnes Tonder, Shevlin, MN
Ellen Hartsoch, Ray, ND
Thelma Pederson Tioga, ND
Randy Fossett, Karlstad, MN
Svea Nelson, Roseau, MN
Dorothy Jodock, Valley City, ND
Lillie Gunderson Noer, Madison, WI
Floriene Thompson, Bruce, SD
Emma Everson, Colfax, WI
Curtis Severson, Bruce, SD
Thea Holland, Roseau, MN
Muriel Hagen, Roseau, MN
Charlotte Erickson, Badger, MN
Darlene Rose, East Grand Forks, MN
Pearl Thoreson, Zumbrota, MN
Beatrice Clonkey, Zumbrota, MN
Gurine Klug, Zumbrota, MN
Helen Rishardt, Milbank, SD
Martha Larson, Shevlin, MN
Petra Hansen, Everett, WA
Harry Bakken, Tioga, ND
Selma Faehn, Wallace, SD
Bergetta Christopherson, Park River, ND
Freda Axvig, Park River, ND
Roy Nelson, Bruce, SD
Ingomar Grundyson, McIntosh, MN
Truman Rolf, McIntosh, MN
Evelyn Quanbeck, McVile, ND
Bertha Pederson, McVile, ND
Arthur Rustad, Aneta, ND
Frieda Gard, Arlington, SD

Spending God's money

As a young man growing up on a farm near Dalton, Minnesota, I remember the deacon of the church coming around in the fall after the harvest was in. He came to ask for a donation to the church. I remember hearing my parents say that a family was expected to give \$25 to the church annually.

When I married and started a family of my own, I still followed that concept of giving \$25 to our church.

Then I began to study God's Word. I found that Scripture had much to say about giving. Luke 6:38 spoke to my heart: "Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

I claimed God's promise and began to give to God His fair share of my earnings. God kept His promise and has blessed us beyond measure! Until you have experienced this blessing, it is difficult to explain the joy of giving.

When you begin to study what Scripture says about managing money, you discover many principles of business schools and professional money managers are contrary to biblical principles. Proverbs 22:7 says, "The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender." The Bible teaches maintaining adequate reserves and avoiding the use of debt. Those who practice these biblical principles experience financial freedom!

According to the world's logic, giving never makes economic sense. But the Bible provides several good reasons to give. First, **obedience**. We are commanded to give in several passages of

STEWARDSHIP

Scripture. Second, **giving offers rewards**. Proverbs 3:9-10a says, "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops: then your barns will be filled to overflowing." Jesus promised, "Give and it will be given to you." Third, when I give I recognize **God's ownership of everything** I have.

Jesus' parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30 contains a summary of much of the Bible's teaching regarding money management. In this parable Jesus taught that He is leaving His goods here and making us stewards, managers or trustees of those goods. If God is the owner, every time we spend money, we are spending God's money.

The Bible says, "Go and bear fruit." God has given us all spiritual gifts of some kind. We may not be blessed with the gift of teaching or the gift of preaching, but we still can be a part of these and other spiritual gifts.

As we look in *The Lutheran Ambassador* and see the monthly totals received in each work of the Association, we know that these funds are there because individuals and churches are giving and are a part of this outreach for souls around the world and at home. Each one of us can be involved in winning souls and getting the gospel to people.

We need to get into what God is up to.

— by LaVern Thompson
AFLC Stewardship Board
Fergus Falls, Minnesota

The AFLC Board of Parish Education

Praise God — books currently being reprinted!

The Small Catechism Explanation

Tanner's Senior Confirmation

Ambassador Sunday School Curriculum - grade 4

And the Parish Education office has a new computer!

The Parish Education department

operates only on income received.

Currently averaging 50% of budgeted needs.

The reprinting of *Believer Free From the Law*
is on hold due to inadequate funds.

More projects will be completed as funds allow.

The Catechism Posters

make excellent church anniversary/dedication gifts!
Order your set today.

Office of Parish Education

3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd.

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

(612) 545-5631

Worship in Spirit and Truth

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. John 4:24

What did you get out of worship? That is the question that may be asked after attending church on Sunday.

The real question is not what did I get out of it, but what did God get out of my worship? Did I really worship?

We worship God in spirit and truth when we see God as He really is, high and lifted up. In awe and reverence we come into His presence. We offer Him our adoration, praise and thanks. We come recognizing our sinfulness and seeking His forgiveness for our sins of thought, word and deed. Then, in gratitude for His forgiveness, because Jesus died in our place on the cross, we praise His name and, by the working of the Holy Spirit in us, we go forth to serve Him in love and obedience to His will. That is worship in spirit and truth.

Worship is not entertainment. Music can be a wonderful part of worship when it speaks to the heart. It was said of the time of the Reformation as many or more were sung into the Kingdom as were preached into the Kingdom.

When a person comes to meet the Lord in worship it can be a time when the experience is similar to that of the men on the road to Emmaus right after the resurrection who said after being with Jesus, "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked with us on the road and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:32).

What a blessing it is when we worship in spirit and truth!

— Rev. Laurel Udden
Minneapolis, MN

A campus with an international flavor

It is ten o'clock in the evening. The curtains are drawn, the doors locked. The women of the Association Free Lutheran Bible School (AFLBS) have gathered in the lounge for Tuesday night devotions. As usual, the singing of a praise chorus stills the conversations, drawing minds from the matters of the day unto the matters of the Lord. But tonight is different. A strange, yet pleasing sound is heard — curious words singing a familiar tune. And the song leader is different. It is Destaye, and her eyes sparkle as she praises God through the Ethiopian language.

Destaye Wodajo is one of twelve foreign students who provide the AFLBS campus with a bit of international flavor. Growing up in the city of Wollega, she later moved to Addis Ababa, the capitol city, to reside within an American mission compound. It was here that Destaye began dreaming of attending a Bible school someday. At AFLBS her dream is becoming a reality.

Destaye has come a long distance both geographically and spiritually. Since 1984 Destaye has experienced spiritual ups and downs as a result of deceptive teachings that infiltrated her life with doubts. For two years, depression gripped her spirit, depriving her of appetite, emotions and physical strength. During this time friends and family faithfully brought Destaye before the Lord in prayers, and on March 20, 1992 she was healed.

Destaye will never forget that day. She explains it this way: "I was standing alone in my room, when suddenly the peace of God filled my heart. I began to cry and shout 'hallelujah,' and my strength, emotions and appetite were restored to me."

In order to prevent such a deception from occurring again, Destaye has made the Word of God the foundation of her life. She counts it a privilege to be able to study the Scriptures so intensely. Being here at AFLBS is a special time for her, and her whole being reflects the joy of the Lord.

Hailing from a much colder area of the world, Julia Makarova is another foreign student attending AFLBS. Born in Jurmala, Latvia, Julia learned of the Bible School through Dr. Francis Monseth, dean of the AFLC seminary. Last year he and his family lived and ministered in Latvia. Dr. Monseth's daughter, Rhoda, desired to continue with her cello lessons while in that country. They also needed a translator and Julia, a cellist, was asked to help. The girls discovered they lived within two blocks of each other and a friendship soon developed between them.

It was not in Julia's plans to attend an American Bible school. Instead she was anticipating her studies at the University in Riga. God, however, had other plans, and within a month and a half after making the decision to attend a Bible school, she found herself boarding a plane bound for Minnesota. When asked why she decided to attend AFLBS, Julia responded that it is her desire to mature in her spiritual walk and to draw closer to God. She especially appreciates the kindness that is expressed between students and the opportunity to work with Christian professors. Although her plans for this coming fall

Considering Missions?

Check out the numerous opportunities for short-term workers!

Free Lutheran Youth teams work in Brazil or Mexico each summer.

Contact the AFLC World Missions office or the FLY office at (612) 545-5631.



Campo Mourão, Brazil — Short-term American mission workers celebrated Pastor Jim Winter's birthday on February 4, 1995 at the home of Connelly Dyrud. (Front left) Missionary Dyrud; Pastor Jim and Lorene Winter (see article on p. 18); Becky Monseth, Rogers, Minnesota; Karey and Terry Hoff, Perley, Minnesota; Laura Snyder, Dallas, Oregon; and Pastor George and Helen Knapp, Willmar, Minnesota.

remain uncertain, her eventual desire is to return to Latvia to share Christ with those of her homeland.

Of the 96 students currently attending AFLBS, twelve are international students. Yet, these twelve add a distinctive variety to the student body and are a witness to the timeless truth of Psalm 86:9-10:

*All the nations you have made will come and worship
before you, O Lord;
they will bring glory to your name.
For you are great and do marvelous deeds;
you alone are God.*

International students currently attending AFLBS:

Juniors

Ebba Benti - Ethiopia
Solveig Buer - Norway
Jingsong Chen - China
Heather Dombrosky - Canada
Susan Dombrosky - Canada
Elisabeth Gilje - Norway
Bohdan Hrobam - Slovakia
Julia Makarova - Latvia
Destaye Wodajo - Ethiopia

Seniors

Cory Evenson - Canada
Kristen Knudtson - Canada
Amenti Theophilos - Ethiopia

— by Taresa Cross
AFLBS Dean of Women

The 1995 National Free Lutheran Youth Convention

July 17-22

Estes Park, Colorado

Theme: "Dare to live the difference"

Ages: 7th grade to 20 years old

Cost: \$275 if registered after March 1, 1995.

Registration closes July 1.

Send \$50 pre-registration fee to:

Rev. Brian Davidson
Free Lutheran Youth
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Plymouth, MN 55441

Observations of Brazil from short-term missionaries

Brazil is a large country with many different types of soil and climate and vegetation. The area around Campo Mourao where our headquarters and schools are located has been cleared of jungle but vegetation is still plentiful and the flowering trees and shrubs along the highways are beautiful.

The farmland is very productive with two crops harvested annually. Coffee, cotton, soybeans and sugar cane are some of the main crops. About twenty-five years ago a large cooperative-operative was organized and it has benefited all farmers in marketing their products.

Many ethnic groups are represented in Brazil. In spite of intermarriage, there remains an unfortunate prevalence of racial prejudice. It is economic status, however, that most sharply divides people.

Getting an education and a good job are considered very important but many are caught in a web of dire poverty, barely eking out an existence. Many young people are studying English as they believe it will help them succeed.

As we travel and visit in our congregations here is Brazil, Galatians 3:28 becomes real: "In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave or freeman, male or female, for we are all one in Him." Many of the churches are small and struggling but have an amazing vitality and unity in spirit.

Our attempts to communicate in Portuguese are limited, but people are patient and helpful. We are taking classes from Pastor Jose and his wife Vera, both of whom are excellent teachers. It helps that Vera is also studying English. People love the congregational singing times. Their enthusiasm at testimony and prayer time is also a blessing.

Most of our time has been spent at the Bible School and Seminary campus where the Miriam Home is also located. One of the highlights of our time here in Campo Mourao has been working with the children. We have seen them progress in a matter of weeks. Some come to the Home in great need but respond amazingly to the love and care they receive. The results of your prayers, gifts of clothes, vitamins and other items are so evident!

It is also heart-breaking when we see children happy and well while here at the Home must return to their homes where they may again experience the situations that brought them here in the first place. The Mission does not have control over these decisions if the children are wards of the state. These children so readily accept the gospel at church, Sunday school and the Christian day school the older ones attend. We pray that the Lord will continue to care for those who can stay and for those who have had to leave.

We plan to move on to Vitoria for two weeks before leaving for Canada. We hope to be back in time for our Annual Conference which begins March 31, in Elbow, Saskatchewan.

Due to the radical change in money values (the Canadian dollar is worth only 50 cents in Brazil) our time in Brazil has been a rather costly venture. But if we have been of any help in the Lord's work here and especially to these "little ones that believe in Him," I know we will confidently say, "It will be worth it all!" We are truly thankful to God and to all who prayed for us, encouraged us and supported us during these last months in Brazil.

— by Rev. Jim and Lorene Winter

AFLTS Dean is guest instructor at seminars in Latvia and Estonia

Dr. Francis Monseth has been invited to return to eastern Europe this spring to take part in Bible teaching missions in Latvia and Estonia. He will be a guest instructor at a lay-evangelist training seminar in Riga, March 24-26, sponsored by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia. He will also teach two courses during the spring session of the Tartu Theological Academy during March 27-April 7.

Trained workers in the Lutheran Church are desperately needed. During the Communist occupation and oppression in Latvia, the church was totally segregated from society. The only parish activity allowed was Sunday worship inside the church. As a result, lay people lack the knowledge, experience and confidence to become fully active in parish life. The training course for lay-evangelists was begun to meet this great need.

In Latvia there are more than 260 Lutheran congregations served by only about 100 pastors, many of whom are elderly. Most pastors have at least two congregations to serve. It is recognized that they must have assistance from the laity if there is to be a restoration of spiritual life in the churches as well as an effective outreach to the vast number of people with no church affiliation.

Last May the first training seminar was held. Fifty people were selected from the 14 church districts in Latvia. Three-day seminars are conducted monthly with an emphasis on practical subjects. These are designed

WORLD MISSIONS

to prepare the lay-people for various ministry roles in the congregation. Among the topics covered are: "How to Lead a Bible Study; Leading Services and Preaching; Personal Evangelism; Visitation and Help of the Sick and Needy; and Confirmation and Catechetical Work."

In Estonia, Dr. Monseth will teach "Fundamentals of the Christian Faith (Bible Doctrine)" and a "New Testament Study" at the Tartu Academy. This school is preparing Bible teachers for the public schools of Estonia. Opened in February of 1993, the academy now has 87 students in its four-year program. This evangelical Lutheran school began in response to a recently enacted law which requires that all Estonian schools provide Bible teaching in their curriculums. Still meeting in rented quarters, the school is seeking their own permanent facility. Lutheran Estonian American Friends (LEAF) has been of great assistance to the academy since its inception.

The prayers of God's people are requested for this mission, not only for Dr. Monseth as he ministers, but also for those who will be a part of these Bible courses. Continue to pray also for the believers in eastern Europe, that they may be mobilized and equipped to meet the challenges and opportunities of this critical hour. Those who desire more information may contact East European Missions Network, 10800 Lyndale Ave. S. Suite 120, Bloomington, Minnesota 55420. Phone (612) 881-3554.



Missionary candidates Tim Hinrichs and Todd Schierkolk are pictured at the "Pre-field Orientation" seminar held in Colorado during January 23-February 11, 1995. Pastor Schierkolk, his wife Barb and daughters Rachel and Megan will spend their last Sunday at Ebenezer Lutheran in Evergreen Park, Illinois on May 14. The following Sunday they will be commissioned for missionary service to Mexico at Amery Free Lutheran in Amery, Wisconsin. On May 30, they plan to begin language studies at the Rio Grande Bible Institute in Edinburg, Texas. The Schierkolks hope to begin missionary work in Mexico by the first of 1996.

Pastor Hinrichs is continuing his deputation and expects to depart for the Czech Republic in May 1995. He will work with the Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the eastern city of Ostrava. The American mission organization that Pastor Hinrich is working with is the East European Missions Network in Bloomington, Minnesota.



Agraristas de Obregon, Mexico - Pictured are AFLC President Robert Lee, Pastor Gabriel Mercado and World Missions Director Eugene Enderlein outside the church in Agraristas. Pastors Lee and Enderlein recently visited the work led by Pastor Mercado. This church is one of the work projects of Partners in Mission Outreach, an organization supporting Mexican missions through short-term, work-project mission trips.

A tad more for Tadmor

The buildings at the Association Retreat Center have great biblical names. Tadmor is one of them. Do you remember its significance? When most of those names are mentioned, you automatically think of God and His great acts. It is fitting to have those thoughts come to mind when you drive onto the grounds of the ARC. God and His great works are continuing to be revealed on a weekly basis through the ministry of the Word at retreats and camps. Praise God for the privilege of seeing his Kingdom grow in the AFLC and in the fellowship of believers in other denominations using our facility.

Tadmor was a supply center built by Solomon (II Chronicles 8:4). In his wisdom he saw the need and he expanded. Our Tadmor has served as a place to meet the needs of refreshment. Located between the Manna Inn and the Tabernacle it has provided a great place to have fellowship and also expand the waistline! The youth refer to it as the canteen. To them no more important supply is needed than treats! Besides serving as a canteen, it has also provided extra eating area for our conferences and camps. Committees, boards and corporations have used it for their meetings and banquets.

The need to expand and renovate the facility has been evident and that is currently being done. The ARC Board approved an expansion and renovation design suggested by the staff. It will make Tadmor handicap-accessible and increase the serving area. Part of the old building has been removed and a new foundation is in place. Funds already available have made that possible. However, additional funds and volunteer labor will be needed to complete the project.

THE ARC

Solomon saw the need and stepped out. Hopefully all of us will step forward and pray for this special project along with the entire ministry of the ARC. God will move others to expand their financial commitment. Please consider this great opportunity and send your gifts to: Associa-

tion Retreat Center, 2372 - 30th Ave. & Kings Way, Osceola, WI 54020. Be sure to mark them for the Tadmor Project. Thanks for keeping the vision alive and growing. God will supply!

— by Rev. Michael Brandt
Vice president, ARC Board



Bemidji, Minnesota — Pictured are the new members of Bethany Free Lutheran who joined the congregation on January 15, 1995.

East Grand Forks, Minnesota — Last fall Dr. Steve Gander and Dr. Dan Rose, members of Christ the King Lutheran, traveled as representatives of the East Grand Forks Rotary Club to Campo Mourão, Brazil to assess the needs and consider solutions for health care among the poor children in that area. They worked closely with AFLC Missionary Connely Dyrud and the Brazilian Rotary Club. Funding came from the local Rotary Club, the Rotary District and Rotary International.

The doctors wrote in their church's December newsletter, "Pastor Dyrud described it well

in telling us that when we travel from the U.S. to Brazil, working with the AFLC organization, we are missionaries. It is clear that God can work through many avenues of service if He can use us ... By offering help without asking anything in return, we can show the love of God ... There are sure to be many other ripple effects of our contact with Brazil ... There has been an increase in the support of Pastor Dyrud's work with homeless children from the the Campo Rotary Clubs ... We hope that we were able to help plant seeds of God's love in Brazil."

PEOPLE AND PLACES

AFLC-Canada Annual Conference will be held March 31-April 2, 1995 at Bethel Lutheran Church in Elbow, Saskatchewan. Pastor Martin Christensen is the host pastor.

Organ to give away - Our Saviour's Lutheran in Zumbrota, Minnesota has a 2-manual, full foot pedal, tube organ to give away. For more information, call the church office at (507) 732-7557.

Nogales, Arizona — Triumph Lutheran Church celebrated its 30th anniversary on January 8, 1995. AFLC President Robert Lee preached the sermon at the morning worship service, giving praise to God for what He has done in and through the congregation. Other guest pastors participating in the service were Rev. John Strand, the first AFLC President, and Rev. Eugene Enderlein, AFLC World Missions Director. Also taking part in the time of celebration were thirteen charter members of the congregation, testifying to the power of God. The first Partners in Mission Outreach group of the year arrived in time for the service on their way back to the Midwest after working in Agraristas, Mexico. The 20 young people who were part of the group participated in the Sunday school part of the celebration by providing singing, guitar playing and testimonies.

Mission work in the Nogales area began in 1948, by Rev. Lawrence and Gola Dynneson, Montana ranchers. They were joined in 1954 by Leonard Swanson and later by his wife, May, a missionary from Madagascar and Mexico. Rev. Dynneson served Triumph Lutheran until his retirement in 1979. Following him as pastor of the congregation was Nogales' native, Rev. Ted Kennedy. Both the Swansons and Dynnesons continue to live in Nogales and are active in the congregation.



Arlington, Washington — Atonement Free Lutheran had a mortgage burning on January 29, 1995, celebrating the total retirement of the debt on the land and first unit of the congregation's building. Plans for facility expansion are being drawn up with hopes of beginning construction in the near future. Pictured are Rev. Rick Long, Brad Sorensen and Craig Mork.

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

AFLC Benevolences — January 1 - January 31, 1995

FUND	TOTAL Subsidy	REC'D IN JANUARY	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% TOTAL
General Fund	\$268,591.00	\$22,392.94	\$22,392.94	8
Seminary	163,200.00	9,210.67	9,210.67	6
Bible School	244,800.00	8,790.46	8,790.46	4
Home Missions.	335,040.00	13,251.48	13,251.48	4
World Missions.	359,927.00	28,054.60	28,054.60	8
Capital Investment	35,425.00	1,038.29	1,038.29	3
Parish Education	67,868.00	3,406.39	3,406.39	5
Church Extension	10,000.00	604.84	604.84	6
TOTALS	\$1,484,851.00	\$86,749.67	\$86,749.67	6
TOTALS 1994	1,422,890.00	83,847.69	83,947.69	
Goal 8%				

Mrs. Bea Anderson, Minneapolis, Minnesota retired as the secretary to AFLC President Robert Lee as of March 1, 1995. She has served as the secretary to the president since 1983. Bea will work part-time at the AFLC headquarter's offices where she will process *The Lutheran Ambassador* subscriptions. The new secretary to the president is **Mrs. Christian (Charlotte) Oswood** of Minneapolis.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

St. Paul, MN — The American Association of Lutheran Churches (AALC) fired Christopher Barnekov from his post as editor of *Evangel*, the 18,000-member denomination's newsletter. Barnekov told *Christianity Today* that he was fired for "airing dirty linen" of the AALC, and for resisting the efforts of Presiding Pastor Duane Lindberg to "cover up" problems in the church. Lindberg, who impounded the December issue of *Evangel*, says Barnekov misused his position and betrayed confidences.

Washington, D.C. — According to *Causes of Hunger: Hunger 1995*, the annual publication of Bread for the World, 700 million people worldwide "are desperately poor and chronically hungry." According to the organization, the overall world hunger problem has been decreasing over the past two decades, but in sub-Saharan Africa and the U.S., the numbers of hungry people have increased. In the U.S., they report, 30 million people can't afford to buy enough food to keep healthy.

Lebanon, N.H. — Patients are more likely to survive after heart surgery if they can draw strength from religious beliefs, according to a study reported in the journal *Psychosomatic Medicine*. The study of 232 patients who had bypass surgery or heart valve operations found that those who said they gained comfort from religion were more than three times as likely to be alive as those who had no personal faith. Participation in social groups also helped survival rates. Merely showing up for church didn't make a difference, according to psychiatrist Thomas Oxman of the Dartmouth Medical School. "You have to get some-

thing out of attending," he explained.

Washington D.C. — The American Academy of Pediatrics has adopted a resolution calling for condom distribution to teens in public schools to help stop the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. Beverly LaHaye, president of Concerned Women for America, condemned the resolution, saying, "How inappropriate, irresponsible and irrational of pediatricians to promote condoms as disease prevention to teens when the FDA won't even allow a condom to be classified as a 'contraceptive' because of its high failure rate in preventing pregnancy." LaHaye said the result of distributing condoms in Arkansas high schools when Dr. Joycelyn Elders was Arkansas Health Director was a 17 percent rise in teen pregnancy in three years (1989-1992), an increase in syphilis among teens of 130 percent, and an increase in HIV infection of 150 percent.

Berlin, Germany — Scraps of an early copy of the Gospel of Matthew have been dated to the first century A.D., throwing doubt on liberal Bible theories which maintain that the book was written in the second century.

In an article prepared for the *German Journal for Papyrology and Epigraphy*, scholar and papyrologist Carsten Thiede dates the papyrus fragments to 75-100 A.D. The fragments, which are in the Magdalen College's library at Oxford University, had been dated at 200 A.D., but Thiede argues that the style and script used in the fragments clearly dates them a century earlier.

Thiede's dating directly contradicts the popular "Q document" hypothesis, which states that the

gospels were plagiarized from a common document. Since the fragments in question would be copies of an earlier document, their early date supports the traditional view that the gospel account itself is an eyewitness account of the life of Christ.

The fragments are part of Matthew 28, the story of Christ's resurrection. Thiede notes that in the scraps, the name of Christ is abbreviated in the same way Jews abbreviated the name of God in the Old Testament. This suggests that first-century Christians believed in the resurrection of Christ and in His deity. Liberal scholars have argued that belief in the deity of Christ was developed long after the death of Christ, in the late second century or as late as the early fourth century.

San Juan, Puerto Rico — Billy Graham's Global Mission, taking place in San Juan, Puerto Rico March 14-18, will be the world's largest evangelistic effort. An estimated 10 million people will attend Global Mission satellite and video crusades at 2,200 locations in 175 countries. Another one billion are expected to watch a television program that will be aired in the weeks following at prime time on national television networks in as many as 100 countries. Among the satellite locations will be the refugee camps in Goma, Zaire, the Christian folk schools in Norway, and the war-torn nation of Angola.

"There has never been a time in my life where I have seen people so hungry for answers and anxious to find something that brings peace and satisfaction to their hearts," Graham said.

(Articles on this page from Evangelical Press News Service.)

Packing right

The pleasure or agony of traveling is often not determined by what happens during the trip as much as by what happened before. Did you pack right? Do you need what you have and have what you need? Many of us have run into difficulties when we have arrived at a destination and discovered an important item did not make the journey with us. On the other hand, much needless energy is often exerted on trips carrying along things that are never used.

Time in school, whether it be Bible school, seminary, college, high school or some other type of training, can be compared to time spent packing. It is a time of preparing for a journey that is ahead. The success or failure of that journey will be greatly influenced by what kind of "packing" goes on.

What is needed for the journey? Those preparing for Christian service of some type can be tempted to think they need to fill their luggage with all the latest tools. They may feel it is essential to pack into their lives various skills and techniques. They strive to have in hand "the tricks of the trade."

It is not a bag of tricks as much as a walk with God which will impact the world. Many have great talents and abilities but their service has little effectiveness because of the lack of a growing personal relationship with Christ. The messenger needs to be prepared maybe even more than the message. Effort must be put into developing not just techniques, but a heart that is after God's own heart.

In Psalm 51 David speaks of teaching transgressors God's ways and turning sinners back to the Lord. He will have this impact on the lives of others not so much because he has learned the right techniques, but because of what is described in the first part of the Psalm. He was convicted of his sin and he experienced the forgiveness and salvation of God. A heart broken by sin and faithful to God will bear more fruit than the greatest of skills.

Obviously some techniques need to be taught and some skills developed. We need to strive to do our best because the One we serve is worthy of nothing less. We must, at the same time, continually work at strengthening our personal walk with God. The first disciples made an amazing difference in the world, not because of the superiority of their skills, but by the quality of their life. People were astonished by Peter and John and "took note that these men had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13). May our schools always remain as they thankfully have been — places where people can come and spend time with Jesus.

Looking Back and Looking Ahead

Change has come and is coming. As announced in previous issues of this magazine, this summer Pastors Jerry Holmaas and Jerry Moan will be joining the faculty of our schools and Pastor Paul Nash will begin serving as AFLC Home Mission Director. Many of us do not adapt easily to change. Having to sit in a different place during the worship service can be upsetting enough. Seeing new people in key positions can border on the traumatic.

We become accustomed to certain people doing certain things. We give thanks to God for those who have proven themselves to be dependable and trustworthy. It must be remembered, however, that our dependence is primarily not on any one individual but on God. The Lord did His work fine before any of us came on the scene, and He will continue on after we are no longer able to do what we are presently doing. It is humbling but necessary to realize that not a one of us is indispensable. During our brief time on this earth we are given the privilege of serving Christ and His Church. We give thanks for the chance to serve and for fellow servants through whom God works in our lives.

This time of change is a time for us to remember what was said in the pages of this magazine when Pastor Ken Moland made the transition from Dean of the Bible School to parish pastor. It was stated that in our free congregation understanding of the Church what Pastor Moland was doing was returning to the most important position in the Church. We do not operate under a hierarchical, synodical type of structure where those who work at headquarters, sit on boards or write for magazines are considered in some way superior to a parish pastor. Those positions are important, but none more so than the position of pastor of a local congregation.

God brought the AFLC into being a little over 30 years ago, and if He desires for it to continue on He will keep it going, maybe not so much because of us but in spite of us. New people come into positions of leadership and onto our prayer lists. We anticipate God doing good things through them. God's work goes on because it is God's work. Our confidence rests not in the individuals but in the incredible power of God. We rejoice in what has been done. We look forward to what will be done. The future looks bright, because we serve the God who is light.

An Undelivered Message

It's terribly embarrassing! The phone will ring while my wife is out of the house. Of course, I offer to take a message. Someone just had a baby! Or perhaps, there is a prayer request for the ladies' prayer chain. My big mistake is to trust my memory.

But even if I do manage to scrawl a message on paper, sometimes the note fails to get delivered. It becomes camouflaged in one of the piles on my desk. (Believe me, it has happened more than once.) Undelivered messages. What a shame!

George Sweeting, in his book *The No-Guilt Guide for Witnessing*, tells of a man by the name of John Currier who in 1949 was found guilty of murder. Currier was sentenced to life in prison. Later he was transferred and paroled to work on a farm near Nashville, Tennessee.

Then in 1968, Currier's sentence was terminated and a letter bearing the good news was sent to him. But John **never saw the letter**, nor was he told anything about it.

Life on that farm was hard. There wasn't much promise for the future. Yet John kept doing what

SOMETHING TO SHARE

he was told even after the farmer for whom he worked had died.

Ten years went by. Finally a state parole officer learned about Currier's plight, found him, and told him that his sentence had been terminated. He was a free man.

Sweeting concludes the story by asking this question: **"Would it matter to you if someone sent you an important message — the most important in your life — and year after year the urgent message was never delivered?"** That's the sad reality for so many people in our world today.

Think of our missionary families who wait to be sent out. They are dependent upon God's people to support them as they go. Pastor David Nelson and his family shared with our congregation last fall their desire to serve the Lord as missionaries in Brazil. David challenged us to consider God's call in Romans 10:13-15:

Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a

preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?

Probing questions, indeed! And not just for foreign missionary candidates. Who stands responsible if the message fails to be delivered? It's not God's fault, is it? Certainly not! Look in the mirror and you will see who is responsible.

We who have heard the good news and experience freedom through Christ are individually responsible to proclaim it to others still enslaved by sin. **Are we doing all we can to make sure people get the message?**

Before you tuck this periodical away in your magazine rack, why not ask the Holy Spirit to lay some soul upon your heart today. As an active ambassador for Christ, pray for courage to step through that next "open door" to deliver the message of Jesus.

How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? *"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!"*

Remember *"faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ"*

Don't let the greatest message in the world remain an undelivered one!

— by Rev. Jerry Moan
Minot, North Dakota