

THE LUTHERAN

AMBASSADOR

October 15, 2002

MISSIONS

The road less traveled

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

October 15, 2002
Volume 40, Number 13



The magazine of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441. 763-545-5631

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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. 763-545-5631 or e-mail at luthamb@aflc.org

Subscriptions rates:

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

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

\$18.00 a year, International

Periodicals 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

Retired to the mission field

As the president of the Alaska Mission, I sporadically receive letters from the field. Here's an interesting one:

"Thank you for sending Jan and Doug to us here in Naknek. I have learned more from them in the past four weeks about what it is to be a Christian than I have from any other pastor in my 15 years of being a Christian. I almost feel that they were sent here just for me ..."

Who do you think this effective missionary couple is? You might guess they are young, well educated in missions and in the pink of health. Get ready for the surprise.

Jan recently retired from working at a local grocery store. She was a stay-at-home mom before that.

Doug has only a high school education. For much of his life he smoked too much, drank too much, treated his wife poorly and avoided church like the plague. He recently retired from working at a factory.

They both have struggled with cancer. One day Jan met the Lord. She patiently waited for her husband to come to Christ. After years of resistance, Doug was saved.

Their "theological education" consists of church, Bible study, prayer meetings and home devotions. Doug's preaching skills were developed at little Tamarack Lutheran Church in northern Minnesota. His theological library is basically a Bible, concordance, "Luther's Small Catechism" and Mueller's "Dogmatics." His sermons are biblical and filled with lots of warm-hearted passion. Jan is his joyful partner. God is using this ordinary couple, and God can use you, too. There is no reason why hundreds of retired lay people can't respond to the call to rescue the perishing. Inner city churches, rural parishes and mission chapels

desperately need pastors. These ministries can be supplied with re-fired laymen and financed by Social Security.

A 71-year-old bachelor lawyer I know spent the last two years in Russia as a voluntary law professor and missionary for the Lord Jesus Christ. I could tell you about others.

I rejoice to see our lay people using their gifts on the mission field. It doesn't bother me one bit that the lay pastor is often more effective than I am. It actually warms my heart.

My burning passion for the rest of my ministry is to train our committed people and get them out into the harvest field. Maybe that is what Paul is talking about in Ephesians 4:12 when he says that pastors "are for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry ..."

Here in Cloquet, Minn., some of our trained lay people are visiting nursing homes and serving the Lord's Supper. The residents love their ministry. I am unknown and unnoticed, but lay pastors have old friends and neighbors who delight to see them.

Retirees please listen up: Jesus Christ is coming soon. So get moving like a mighty army. Use your years of Bible study and experience to preach the gospel. You can do it at a fraction of the expense of a young family with education debts. God wants to use you. Do you hear His call?

— **Pastor Tom Olson**
St. Paul's Lutheran
Cloquet, Minn.



SOUND BITES

When the mission of the church gets reduced to keeping the sheep in the pen happy, the mission is falling woefully short.

— *Mark Mittelberg*
“Building a Contagious Church”

The church is often as diseased as the world when it comes to bickering, competition and dissension. Tragically, we are prevented from evangelizing our world because we are weakened by this inner rot.

— “Christian Health”
March 2001

We have to approach our culture with a missionary strategy as though we were presenting the gospel for the first time. Christian faith thrives in this kind of situation and provides us with wonderful ministry opportunities.

— *Brian McLaren*

By joining an undeniable message with irresistible relationships, we will best be able to influence our world for Christ.

— *Thomas Addington Stephen Graves*

And God said

YES

One year later, prayer is still the pillar
of Nebraska Home Missions church

“**A**gain, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle?” (I Corinthians 14:8).

With those words in mind, 26 people, including myself, gathered Aug. 12, 2001, at the City Hall in Bertrand, Neb., for our first Sunday worship service as a congregation. We sounded a clear call to the Bertrand community. It was a bold, unequivocal call, telling the people of their need to be reconciled to God and of God's plan for their redemption made possible for everyone through repentance and acceptance of Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

It all began with one woman who had been faithfully praying. The Lord began to work. One by one we began experiencing a spiritual hunger that was not being filled in our respective churches. We knew there had to be something more out there, so we began our search. It led us to a retired AFLC pastor/chaplain, Dr. Howard Franzen, who was living in Hastings, Neb. It led us to an informational meeting with AFLC President Pastor Robert Lee in March 2001. It led to a number of us driving to Deshler, Neb., one Sunday morning to witness a free and living congregation as they worshiped together. It led to another meeting with Home Missions Director Pastor Paul Nash and Home Missions board chairman Pastor Allen Monson in July.

What a thrill it was for us to have them come for this meeting. Thirteen members and the pastor from Abiding Word Lutheran in Deshler also came. Never before have we felt so loved and welcome. But we could hardly believe what we were hearing — the idea of building a free and living congregation was such a new concept for us. Our prayers were being answered, and we felt we had come home.

There was no turning back from

that point on. Like the children of Israel in the third chapter of Joshua, we committed ourselves to the Lord and “stepped into the water,” confident that the Lord would open the way for us.

Our congregation is built on a pillar of prayer. We realize that working together on building this Home Missions congregation is a difficult task that only the Lord, by His Holy Spirit and blessing, can do. We take comfort knowing that people and congregations throughout the AFLC have our congregation in their prayers.

Have we been blessed? Yes, in ways we would never have dreamed

... we committed ourselves to the Lord and "stepped into the water," confident that the Lord would open the way for us.

possible.

God blessed us with a faithful pastor, Jerome Nikunen, and his wife, Phyllis, who came 240 miles nearly every Sunday for 10 months to conduct a worship service.

The members of Abiding Word Lutheran lovingly “mothered” our congregation, prayed for us and encouraged us every step of the way. Not only were they there to help us develop our constitution and by-laws through the incorporation process, but they also took turns driving or flying the Nikunens on Sundays as often as possible. They freely gave even to the point of the supreme sacrifice for a congregation when they released Pastor Nikunen to us so that he could become our first full-time

pastor. How we thank God for our brothers and sisters in Deshler, and ask that He would abundantly bless them for all they have done for us.

The members of the Home Missions Committee and Department are constantly there for us, praying with and for us, counseling us and providing both spiritual and material support. What role models these men have been for us as they seek the Lord's direction in all that they do and then move out in faith as He directs.

We have been blessed as individuals, also, and lives are changing as we are convicted of sin. Our faith is strengthening under the preaching and teaching of the inerrant Word of God. We also enjoy the blessing of peace, closeness and mutual support that comes when a congregation is united in purpose, depending on our Lord to provide the strength and guidance for His people as they spread the good news of salvation.

We are meeting primarily in the Bertrand City Hall on Sunday mornings for worship and Sunday school. We reach out into the community each Wednesday afternoon with our school for children from pre-school through confirmation age. We also meet Wednesday evenings for Bible study and prayer and have organized both a WMF and men's fellowship. Seeking the Lord's guidance, we are discussing the purchase of a vacant lot for our future church home.

There is much work for us to do here. According to census numbers, more than 35 percent of the Bertrand community is either unchurched or lapsed in their church membership. We have sensed a real hunger for the Word of God in this area. We ask that you would join us in praying that the Lord would continue to show us where He is working, and that He would help us be willing to join Him.

— Ernest Johnson
Faith Free Lutheran
Bertrand, Neb.



A black and white photograph of bare tree branches. The branches are thin and intricate, creating a complex web of lines across the frame. A single, larger leaf is visible in the lower right quadrant, slightly out of focus compared to the branches. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

fear not little one

Finding support
for small groups
in God's Word

It is a mark of our time that God is calling people out of liberal churches to a group that honors God's Word. And so there are many such little groups scattered throughout the country, which represent people who just want a place where the Word of God is not compromised and they are able to grow in their relationship with God and with one another.

Often these churches/fellowship groups are small. Often they have no permanent place to meet. Often they are beset with financial difficulties. Often they are discouraged.

In the third chapter of the book of Malachi, the "people of God" had become discouraged due to all the negative things that were happening around them. Things had not prospered; the religious system was decadent; there seemed to be little hope. So they said (verse 14): "It is in vain to serve God; what profit is it that we have kept His charge?"

But then verse 16 is so significant: "Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another (fellowship and concern), and the Lord gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who feared the Lord and esteemed His name." And verse 17: "They shall be mine, says the Lord of Hosts."

What a blessed encouragement this is. God sees what is going on. And when He sees a little group that is willing to take a strong stance on the authority of the Word of God, He is pleased and takes note. There is a passage in I Samuel 2:30 that says: "He who honors Me I will honor." That is a definite promise from God.

So God is raising up little groups all over the world. We are more familiar with them in our AFLC structure, but there is evidence of similar groups being raised up throughout Christendom representing many denominational backgrounds.

Jesus said to a similar "small group" one day in Luke 12: 32: "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

God is not concerned with numbers. He is not concerned with statistics. He is not impressed with the things that impress most people. He has a different agenda, a different paradigm.

Perhaps it is easy for a godly pastor serving in an out-of-the-way place to feel discouraged. He works hard,

with seemingly little result. He asks his people to hang in there, for things will get better. Only he wonders if they ever will. Other people with similar backgrounds and education are making large salaries. Other pastors (no better than this pastor) are leading large congregations, with all the benefits. It just doesn't seem fair. And it isn't. But God has a different set of rules and evaluations by which He goes by. And ultimately His evaluation will be the only one in the final analysis that will matter.

God is not even overly concerned about lack of finances. We are. He is not. So God will often use this problem as a test of our trust and confidence in Him. The Scripture often quoted from Malachi 3 in regard to giving/tithing actually has three stated benefits. One, of

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most people.**

course, is the "opening of heaven to bless." But the second, stated in verse 11, is that God will rebuke the "devourer" (i.e. Satan) for you, and the third is that "all nations (people) will call you blessed, and you shall be a delightful land" as they see how God works on your behalf.

So we need prayer and support for our Home Missions pastors and leaders. They are doing a fine job. No ministry is perfect this side of eternity, but God has promised that when we honor Him and His Word, glorious things will result, for time and for eternity.

— **Pastor Oliver Olson**
Living Word Ministries
Murrieta, Calif.

My wife and I are grateful for the distinct privilege of being part of the AFLC. We are appreciative of the strong stance taken on the authority of the Word of God, as stated in the Fundamental Principles of the AFLC: To recognize the Bible as being inerrant and the authority in all areas of life, and to recognize that the teaching and preaching of God's Word is the main task of the church, to be conducted in such a way that the saints are built up in the faith and unbelievers see their need for salvation.

We are also privileged to officially be a part of the Home Missions Department as a Bible teacher/trainer.

Our task is to meet with various home missions churches, conduct Bible studies, participate in worship services and encourage Home Missions pastors and lay leadership.





California dreaming

Diary of a parish worker

By Kristen Agrimson

August 1

Finally, we're here! It's been a long two years of dreaming, five months of planning and three days of driving, but we've finally made it to our new home in sunny Camarillo, Calif. We drove 700 miles every day and God was really watching over us.

I was so excited when I woke up this morning. We have palm trees right out our window! Now that's something you don't see back home every day. We are staying with Lyle and Sherry Lillehaugen. They are a wonderful couple and are going to let us stay here until we find jobs and an apartment of our own. Today we went exploring to try and see if

we could find our way around our new home. We don't have it down yet, but we did find the beach.

This evening Pastor Rodger and his wife, Helene, came over. The Lillehaugen's kids, Trent and Brook, and Brook's husband, Roger, also came over. I look forward to getting to know them better.

I'm finally tired now. Most of the day I haven't been able to contain myself because I'm so excited to finally be here. I never thought I would be back here, and I can't thank God enough for choosing to use me in this ministry. It's just shown me again that God will give me the desires of my heart. I'm really excited to see what God will do and just pray that I will be willing for whatever He sends my way.

August 4

We had our first day with the Sunday school group and just helped out and tried to get to know the kids again. It was great to see many familiar faces, but also some new ones. We met some of the youths, and a couple of the girls want to get together next Saturday to get to know us. It will be interesting trying to get this youth group going. I hope they like us and that we can do a good enough job.

August 8

Well, it's another beautiful morning! I am continually amazed at the weather out here. There is no



humidity, no bugs and it's almost always upper 70s all year round.

We spent Monday and Tuesday this week looking for jobs. We applied at so many places! On Tuesday we didn't know where else to apply so we looked at some apartments.

We went to Pastor's place today. We talked to him a little bit about what our ministry and focus will be here. We're supposed to teach Sunday school and lead the youth group. They don't have anything going for the youths right now, so he's really hoping that we can just take over and get things started. He's hoping that once we get something going it will help to draw in families with kids in that age group. We're probably not the best qualified for this job, but we are going to try and do our best.

August 11

Today was kind of chaotic in Sunday school. We had to make these door hangers out of foam, pipe cleaners and glue. It

was really hard, and the kids made such a huge mess. I think we're going to try something different next week.

This week after church we were able to talk to lots of people. We just love the members here. It's a small congregation, but everyone is so willing to help us out and have adopted us into the church family. We already feel like we belong. They make it much easier for us to be away from our own families, although we do miss them dearly.

We were invited to the Hauptmans' for lunch along with some other families and were able to go swimming with the kids and meet some more people. We talked some more about youth group stuff. I'm excited to actually get started and not just talk about it.

August 13

Happy birthday to my brothers! I wish I could be there with them. I miss being with them for all those special times. This morning Dom and I had interviews with Farmers Insurance. They said they had a couple more interviews with other people and then would call us back.

This evening we went to Mugu Rock to watch the sunset. It was a little cloudy, but we still had a good time. I just love watching and listening to the ocean. It just amazes me every time I'm near. God certainly is creative.

August 15

We're still jobless. We went over to help Laura Mann watch her kids so she could take a break. We went to visit Allean tonight and keep her company. It's good to keep busy because today I was really missing "my people" back in Minnesota. I just wish I could see all of them for even just five minutes. It would make me feel so much better. I mean, it's great here, and I know this is where God wants me right now, but I keep thinking about everything I'm missing back home. I'm really hoping that we can find a singles/college group to get involved with so we can meet some more people our age. I now realize how much I took everyone for granted.

August 18

This afternoon a group from the church went hiking up the mountains. When we finished we went to the beach for a cook out. More people showed up for that and we even got to sing around the campfire when it got dark. This is a great group of people really founded in the Word. I pray that God will be able to use us to bless them back.

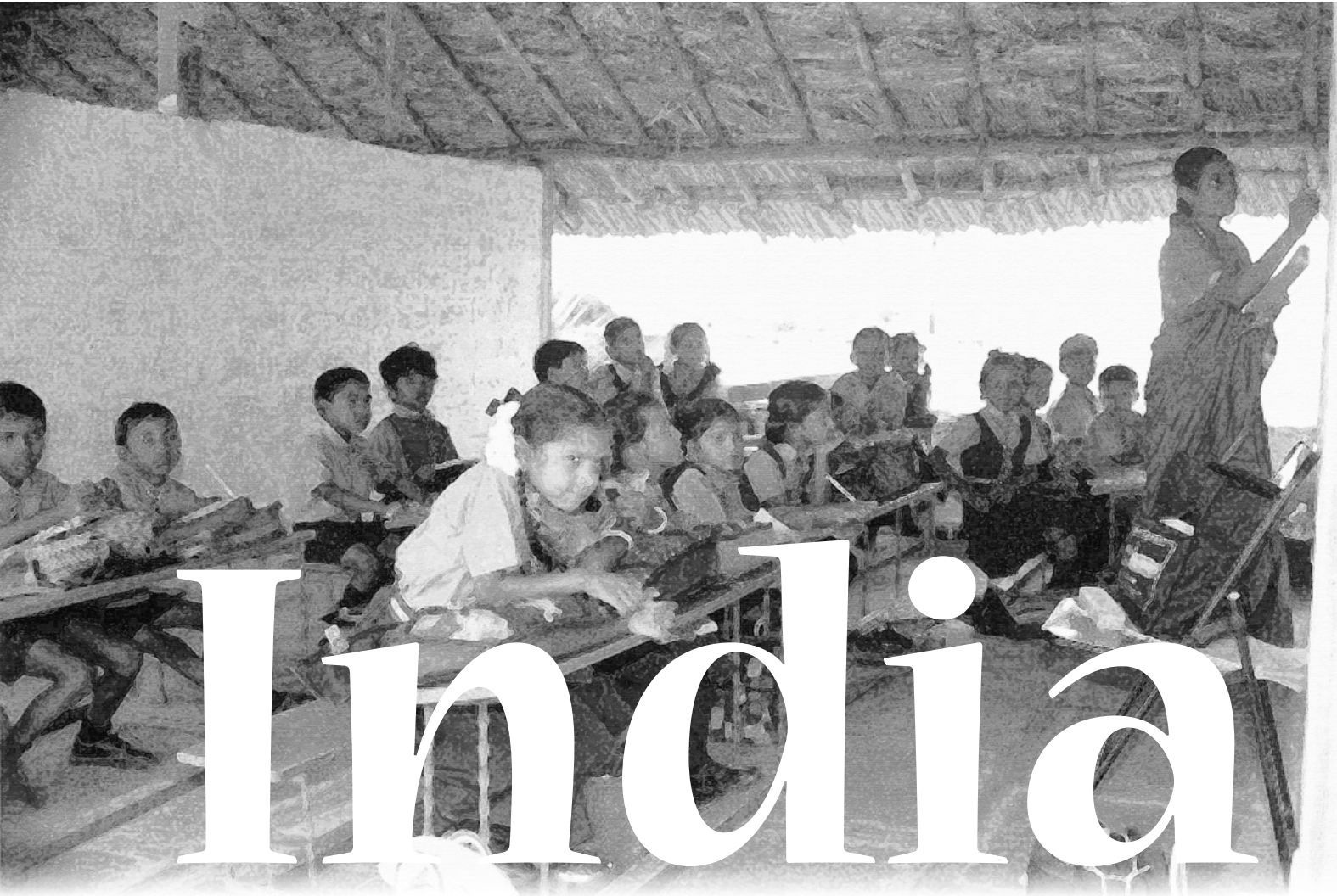
August 23

This morning we went to the church office to help stuff envelopes. We're sending flyers to all the kids who came to VBS in hopes that they'll come to rally day and then their parents will start coming to the church. We are still a small congregation and are always looking for ways to attract new members.

August 25

I was really frustrated earlier. We still don't have jobs or an apartment and my folks are coming down next week to bring us our furniture because we had planned on getting settled right away. I've never had so much trouble finding a job. Anyways, I was doing my devotions and came across some notes in II Corinthians 12:7 where my pastor had given a sermon. It's on trials and how God gives them to us and He has a purpose. It wasn't really what I wanted to hear, but what I needed to. It just reminded me that God has sent me here for a reason, and He'll take care of me. He's not going to send

See **DIARY**, page 15



India

AFLCI's school educates the poor

In recent years we have all witnessed news accounts of hostilities and persecution being directed toward the Christian church in various corners of the world. The majority of cases arise from conflicts that are directed toward Christians from the militant Islamic community. The exception to this is in India, the largest Hindu country and the most populated democracy in the world. Today, India, with more than 1 billion people, is one of the most populated nations in the world, second only to China. Approximately 82 percent of the population is Hindu, another 16 percent Muslim, leaving 2 percent for all other religions, including Christian.

An early form of Christianity was found in southernmost India before the end of the first century. Tradition says that the Apostle Thomas came to India and was martyred for his faith.

With the establishment of a democratic govern-

ment following British rule, religious freedom has been guaranteed and practiced in India. During this time, there has been a growing Hindu militancy with the cry "Hindu India." Since the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian People's Party, BJP) came to power in March 1998, attacks against Christians have increased significantly.

A growing response to the gospel among many lower castes of Hindus has triggered these outbreaks.

It has become increasingly difficult for the AFLC World Missions and other organizations to provide funding for Christian ministries in India. A few years ago, as I was discussing this possibility with the leadership of our Indian church, I asked the question: "What would happen to the work if funding from the west was prevented from reaching the church?"

I remember well the response that came from a

number of the leaders: "We will continue the ministry by whatever means!"

This discussion contributed to the beginning of the St. Paul's Lutheran Public School. (Public, as used in India, indicates that it is open to the public, but there is a cost to attend.) Other Christian ministries had already established growing English schools in parts of India. A part of the proceeds from these schools were being used to provide a source of funding for other Christian ministries.

Throughout India, English is the trade language. It is also the major language of higher education. Those Indians who have a command of the English language have opportunities that are denied to the multitudes. Therefore, most Indians place a premium on English schooling.

St. Paul's Lutheran School opened its doors in 2000 to some 150 students in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade with eight faculty members. Classes are held in the compound area of the AFLCI. This beautiful piece of property was purchased a few years ago with funds provided by a generous friend of the AFLC in the United States. It is on this property that our sister organization in India has its headquarters, operates a small orphanage for children from the village churches and is home to our growing school.

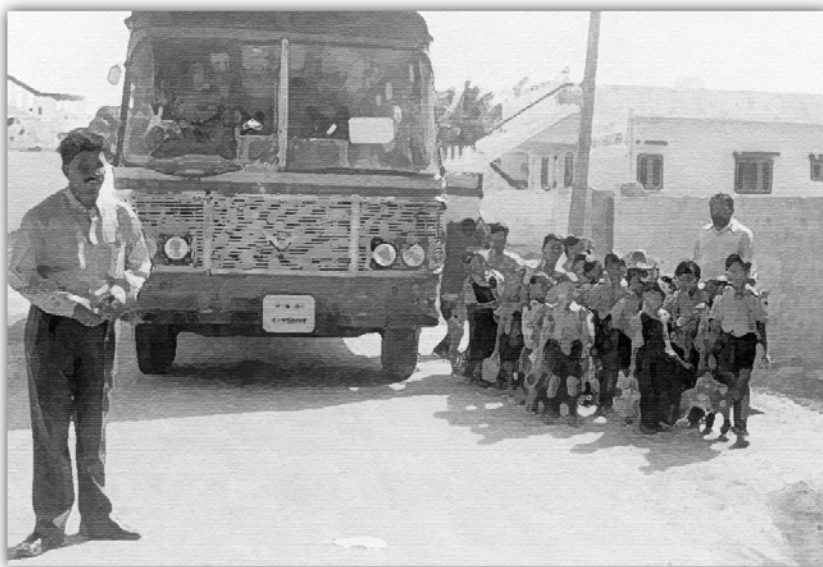
On the property is a long, low building that served as a stable for livestock. This was converted to classroom space for the lower-levels of the grade school. The children sit in class with their backs to the open side, the center of the compound area. A small building of six compartments was constructed to house classes for grades one through six.

Indian families pay for their children to attend classes at St. Paul's. During the first year of the school, the AFLCI had nearly 20 children from the orphanage in the school as well. All classes are conducted in English. During the first year, instruction at times would slip back into the local language, Telegu — one of the 16 different national languages recognized in India. With the start of the second year, Christian teachers from other non-Telegu speaking areas of India were employed as teachers, insuring that the instruction was in English.

The purpose of the school is to provide a high standard of education in a Christian environment for the poor children of all communities — regardless of caste or religion. St. Paul's School is under the leadership of the AFLC and its sister organization in India, the AFLCI. All instruction, character and discipline of the school are based on Christian teaching. What a thrill it is to see the instruction of children

from all backgrounds. What a joy it is to see the 320 students during this second year being instructed in the four Rs: reading, (w)riting, (a)rithmetic and religion (the good news of Jesus).

This year, 120 students are poor children from various AFLCI village congregations who are unable to cover the schooling cost of \$100 per child per year. Perhaps you, your Sunday school class or youth group could provide the \$100 as a scholarship to cover the schooling cost of one child for the year. Currently, older students are taught computer skills using the one computer available to students, 10 computers (\$1,000 each) are needed for this pur-



pose. With the increased number of students there is a pressing need to expand the simple classroom facilities. The projected cost for a permanent classroom building to house classes of 25 to 30 students is \$45,000.

If you can assist in meeting these financial needs, please direct your gifts to: AFLC World Missions Department, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Plymouth, MN 55441.

If you would be interested in learning more about our AFLC ministries in India through slides or video please contact me through the AFLC World Missions office. I am ready to come and share with you and your congregation the challenges and opportunities of our work in India. Those with Internet connections can visit the St. Paul's Lutheran School website at: stpaulslutheran.homestead.com

— **Pastor Eugene Enderlein**
Former AFLC World Missions Director



Brazil WORTHY

Children, parents find hope at Miriam Infant Home

Housemother
Irene with 2-day-
old Maria
Edwarda, who
was found on the
dirty floor of a
public restroom.



It was one o'clock in the morning when the police arrived at the Miriam Infant Home with a premature baby, still bloody and damp. Irene, the housemother, immediately took the little girl, bathed her and gave her warm formula. The story of this little one came the next morning when the social workers arrived.

We call the preemie Maria Edwarda. She had been found on the dirty floor of a public bathroom. It was a cold, rainy, Brazilian winter night in July. A student was on his way to night school when he heard a strange whimpering sound coming from the bathroom area. As he arrived he saw a thin frightened girl flee the area into the darkness. He couldn't believe what his eyes saw. He didn't know what to do but to scream for help. People rushed to help him and then realized that on the floor at his feet was this tiny bloody baby.

The police and social workers were called to the scene and the crime was registered before the child was brought to the Miriam Infant Home.

Over the years we have seen some of the worse cases of abuse, sex crimes and malnourishment in these little children brought to our orphanage. The

Miriam Infant Home in Campo Mourao, Parana, has helped hundreds of these little ones get out of a sure-death situation and get a new start in life.

One of the most rewarding experiences for us is to see couples who can't have children adopt little ones from the Miriam Home. Through this experience they are won to Jesus Christ, and today they are in our AFLC churches in Brazil.

Last year Waldicir and his wife, Roseli, along with their little adopted son, Joao Pedro, from the Miriam Home, became members of our Central Church. They were converted, went through the catechism studies and gave one of the most heart-touching testimonies of their lives before little Pedro came to them. Today they are walking with the Lord as a wonderful Christian family. Waldicir is singing with the praise team, and his wife teaches in Sunday school. They are the happiest parents we have seen.

Recently, a couple who had adopted one of our little girls came to Central Church on Sunday night and asked if I remembered this little girl, who was now older and bigger. I had to say, "I can see a resemblance of one of the children in the Miriam Home, but I don't remember the name." Sure enough the mother

CHILD

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

— Matthew 18:1-3

broke down crying saying that their lives and marriage had changed since little Maria came into their home. Now they want to come to our church to raise the child in the ways of the Lord.

I'm so thankful for our AFLC in the United States and Canada for being co-laborers in this compassion ministry. Together, we have not only been helping the helpless and hopeless children, but we have also given new hope and even Christian life to many struggling couples who have found Jesus through the adoption process.

We don't like to talk about money for the Miriam Home, but according to the mission director's report the financial reserves for the Miriam Infant Home is sinking to an alarming level. We're pleading with all of you — churches, Sunday schools, WMFs and individuals — please pray for us and the children as we pass through these difficult moments. Remember, just \$2 a day takes care of one of these little ones in Brazil.

**— Connely and Carolyn Dyrud
Campo Mourao, Brazil**



Student Work Fund



TOP: Pastor Oseias Camara, AFLC's president in Brazil and school administrator, works with his secretary to balance the monthly bills.

BOTTOM: Itito, a retired Japanese farmer, teaches the students scientific methods of gardening.

Thirty years ago, the Student Work Fund was approved to help supplement the education of poor students at the seminary and Bible school in Campo Mourao. Just \$50 pays for a student's monthly room and board.

Part-time jobs for students include:

- Working with the orphans in the Miriam Infant Home
- Cleaning and janitorial work
- Working with troubled teens at AMECAM
- Gardening

While students work to pay for their own education, employees at the school are finding ways to make it affordable for any student to come and learn about God's Word. For example, the vegetable garden is not only a source of employment for the students, it also cuts the grocery bills for the schools and the orphanage. The electric bill is now cut in half since the garden has changed the campus zoning to a rural category from commercial.



VBS Portugal

Community outreach

Vacation Bible school is always an exciting time of planning and preparations. Some things, however, just cannot be planned. Since we moved to Manique, Portugal, in May, we often drove by a soccer/play area built by the local government for the low-income children. These families live near our house. As we passed by on the way to shopping or church, we had a growing sense that someone should do something to try to show these children the love of Jesus. Soon, that “someone” became the Nelson family.

We decided that we would offer a VBS right in that location. Several Christian friends from the international community volunteered their time and talents to help us have a drawing point — such as, karate, soccer or basketball — in addition to the crafts, games and a short Bible story and verse.

On the first day, many children peered through the windows of their apartments, not sure how dangerous we might be. But when they saw us playing and having fun for 20 minutes, a few of them gathered their courage and decided to join us. Before the morning was over we had nearly 15 children — boys and girls. We were surprised to see how the same boys who were rough and tough during play time really enjoyed the craft time with Sarah. It did not matter if the craft was macaroni necklaces or clothespin butterflies.

During the week, between 15-25 children participated each day. It was very certain that almost all of these children were from unchurched families. Their Bible knowledge was lacking. On the second day the children answered the question, “Who made the heavens and the earth?” with, “Adam and Eve!” The Bible lesson or illustration had to be short enough to keep their attention and basic enough for them to understand. We could not assume they knew much about the Bible.

When the week was coming to an end, one of the children asked if we could do the same thing the next week. That was not possible, but we have gone back several times — mainly to play games and build friendships. Lord willing and weather permitting, we would like to have another vacation Bible school with them in the future. We will still plan and prepare; we will also anticipate more unexpected adventures.

— *David and Sarah Nelson*
Manique, Portugal

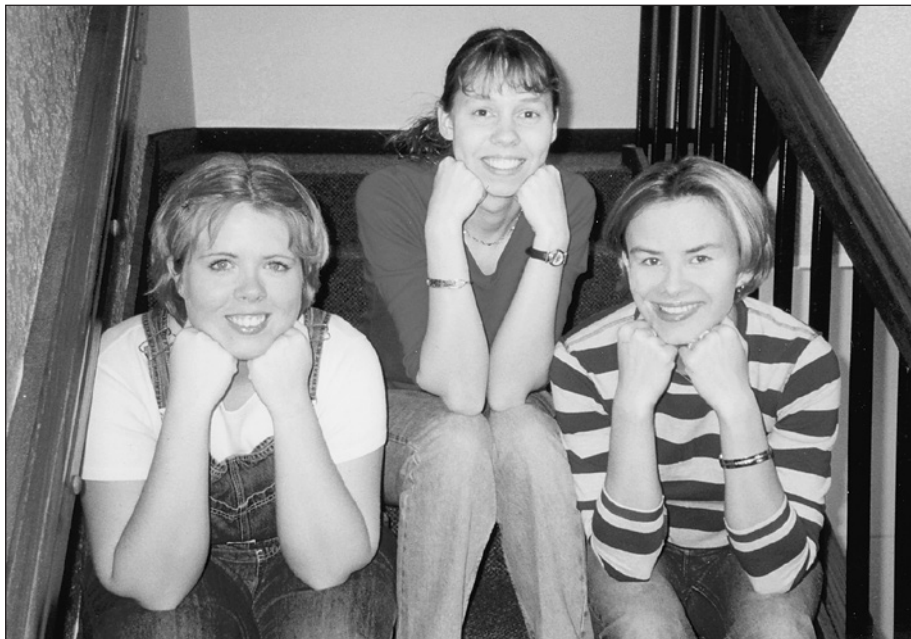


Kristen Agrimson traveled with the Barnabas South teams while attending AFLBS in 1999 and 2000. She especially loved California.

"I loved summer teams and wished that I could do something like that for a job," said Agrimson.

Last February, she and her two friends, Katie Nelson and Dominika Leheny, were at a Super Bowl party and jokingly talked about moving somewhere together. They picked California.

That night they told their friends that they were going to move to Camarillo, Calif. After talking to Pastor Paul Nash, director of Home Missions, their dream came true. They arrived at Good Shepherd Lutheran in August for a one-year commitment, working with youth group and Sunday school.



Parish workers Kristen Agrimson, Katie Nelson and Dominika Leheny, all from Plymouth, Minn. began to serve at Good Shepherd Lutheran, Camarillo, Calif., this past summer.

DIARY, from page 9

me here and just leave me stranded and on the streets. I'm learning that I need to rely on Him for everything. I've been so independent for such a long time — I'm just reminded again of how much I need Him.

August 26

PTL! Dom got a job! The temp agency called and they only want her part-time, but in two weeks if it works out they're going hire her full-time. I still don't have anything ... it looks like we may have to stay here with the Lillehaugen's one more month.

August 27

Today was a day full of surprises. At 9 a.m. Katie got a call from a nursery she applied at and they want to hire her. Yeah! At 10 a.m. we met with a guy from the church, Dale DeHart, and we talked about me possibly working for him. I would maybe like to, but I don't know if I'm really what he needs,

and I don't want him to hire me just because I need a job. I got a call from the temp agency, and so now in the mean time I'm going to be answering phones for a company nearby. When I got back another company called and wanted me to come in for an interview. PTL!

September 3

Today was a sad day. My family had come down to visit this weekend and bring us all our stuff, but they had to leave this morning. We had such a good time, and it was so much harder to say goodbye now because I know that I won't see them for a long time. I miss them so much! I need to tell them more often how much I love them.

September 6

I met with Mr. DeHart again this morning to talk about possibly working for him. He explained a little more about what I would be doing. Although I'm still not sure I'm the best person for him, I'm going to take the job. I just hope that I'll catch on quick and do a good job. I'm

just so thankful that I have a job!

We met with Pastor Olson and Helene for supper this evening and talked some more about youth group. They gave us a little more guidance, and we've decided that we're going to start the youth group next week. We're going to meet on Sunday nights at Trent's house. Once we have our apartment we're going to keep one night a week, probably Thursdays, open for the kids to come over and either do homework, play games or just talk. We still don't really know them that well, and hopefully that will be a good chance for all of us to get to know each other better and make them more comfortable around us.

September 4

We had our Sunday school meeting this evening. I get the first- and second-graders — my favorite! Suzanne also bought us puppets and they are absolutely wonderful.

See **DIARY**, page 17

WMF Relationships

While shopping with my daughter several years ago, a toy was spotted that she couldn't resist. When I said, "I'm sorry, we just can't buy that toy, we don't have enough money for it," she reasoned, "But Mommy, if you don't have enough money, why don't you just write out a check? You have lots of those in your purse!"

Yes, why not? In her youth, she did not know the relationship between the money in the bank and the checks in the purse.

Relationships can be difficult to understand at times. Recently, I've been thinking and praying about relationships between women — in particular, relationships between AFLC women at the local church, district and national levels. In order for us to be effective, we need to be

- **United:** joined together to form a whole
- **Cohesive:** observing logical order and connection and
- **Functional:** operated properly, specialized duties or actions required

But how can we achieve these goals?

True love and affection

When we love we are moved emotionally and have a deep devotion toward the object of our affection. Although, in many instances, we women may not know each other by name, we still have this connection through the "blood line" of Jesus — and He produces genuine love.

Love is manifested through kindness

Kindness can be seen through good deeds and consideration of others. Much prayer, careful thought and deliberation go into each of the meetings of your district and national officers. Action is not taken without the conviction that to move forward is in the plan of the Lord.

From planning the fall and spring rallies to printing resource pages and sending them to your local officers to assist in your event planning, much of our work is a connecting link between the churchwomen and our world. We write and publish two newsletters: "The Helping Hand" for WMFs and "Heartline" for pastors' wives, including informative and inspirational articles. Yearly Bible studies are written by WMF women, edited, published and made available to you. Faith Nelson, women's outreach coordinator, travels to congregations to teach, share and enrich your lives. Many of your officers, both on the district and national level, are also available to speak and/or present seminars at your church on a variety of topics.



We need your trust

You can have confidence that through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, we will not fail in our duty or service. According to our handbook, we are called to "awaken and deepen interest in and love for the kingdom of God at home and abroad ..." These are the two fronts we are working on simultaneously. While not neglecting our world missionaries, the members of the national board and your district boards see the need to encourage local WMFs who are weakened by declining membership. Our desire is to witness to women of ALL age groups. The WMF is a vital link in bringing all women to a saving knowledge in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Communication

Through the exchange of information and ideas there is an improved understanding of the relationships within our WMF. When you send your offerings to the General Fund of the WMF, you are showing your support for this on-going work. On each level of leadership — in your own church, in the district and in the national organization — may we each regard the other in highest esteem and serve the Lord Jesus Christ in true unity and humility. Where mistakes are made, let there be forgiveness. We are the family of God and are bound together with the blood of the Lamb.

I Corinthians 12:18, 25: "But God made our bodies with many parts, and he has put each part just where he wants it ... This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other equally. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad."

— *Cheryl Skordahl*
WMF president

Foundation Blessings

As I was preparing to write this article, I was searching through my Bible to find verses that would coincide with the title. My Bible, probably like yours, has a section that gives topics and shows a list of verses that speak about that topic. As I was reviewing this list, I saw topics such as courage, protection, forgiveness, guidance, joy, strength, love, wisdom, provision, peace, and the greatest of all — salvation.

However, they are not just topics. They are blessings richly lavished upon each one of us everywhere we look. They are given to us from God. He loves us so much that He sent His one and only Son to die in **our** place. What a blessing!

Personally, I have also been the target of many such blessings. As a pastor's son, I had the opportunity to live in various parts of the coun-

try. One of those places was Thief River Falls, Minn. My parents, siblings and myself lived in a house that was on the corner of Hughes and Kendall avenues. Kitty corner from our house, there was a school. I took advantage of that opportunity. In the summer, I would play baseball in the field behind the school. In the winter, I would play basketball inside the gym. As a young boy, I was privileged to have all that space to play. That school happened to be Knox Elementary School.

Knox Elementary had a greater significance than just a place to go to school or play. In October 1962, people gathered at Our Savior's Lutheran Church to seek the Lord's will about the continuation of a free and living Lutheran church fellowship. Since the sanctuary in the church was not able to hold all the attendees, the conference was moved down Hughes Avenue to Knox Elementary. According to

those attendees at that conference, the Spirit of God was surely present, and the work of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations began.

That school building made of bricks and mortar is no longer there. But the work of the Lord that was started there is still yielding many blessings all over the world. People are finding freedom in Jesus. As a result, these people are sharing with others what Jesus has done for them. As we look to the next 40 years of blessings within our church fellowship, may we continue to depend solely upon the Spirit of God to work in and among us so that souls will be saved and Jesus will be glorified!

"He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will never be shaken" (Psalm 62:2, NIV).

— Jon Galland
Director of Development

DIARY, from page 15

September 8

Yeah! Rally day went really well. Katie and I did the soldier puppet skit — our favorite. Then the kids went around playing different games. There were several new families today. It would be so great if they came back. After the service we had a church picnic and played games with the kids.

September 11

I didn't have to work very long today so I spent the day looking through some stuff I had, and then I went to the bookstore to order the youth curriculum. It's a lot harder to make lessons than I realized. I just don't know how youth workers can do it. I feel like I don't have the slightest idea what I'm doing. I'm really going to try hard, but I just don't know how things are going to go.

September 13

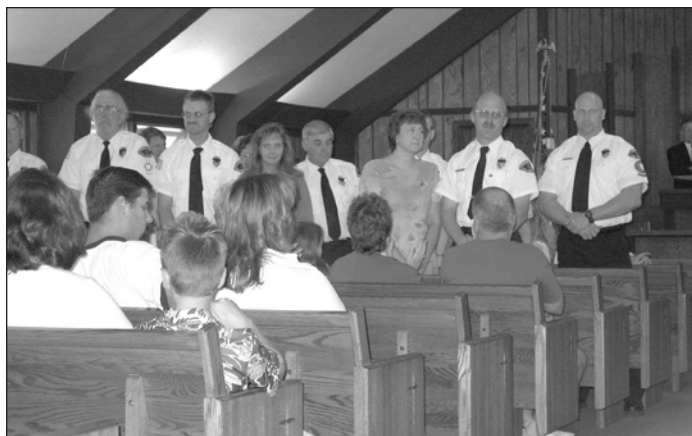
We found a college/career Bible study and the first night was last week. The study was actually really good, but we were a little frustrated because nobody would talk to us. I mean, we were looking for a Bible study to learn and to get some encouragement for ourselves, but we were also hoping to make some new friends. This week was better, though, because they finally talked to us and even invited us to a birthday party.

September 15

Today was the first day of Sunday school. It went really well and I hope I can do a good job. We also had our first official youth group meeting. We gave our testimonies. I always get so nervous. I wish I could speak better. I sometimes feel like such a Moses and wish I could be more like an Aaron. I really like our group. It's a lot smaller than anything I've ever been used to, and it would be easy to slack off, but I pray that we will always take this seriously and can be a spiritual encouragement to them.



9/11 Remembrance



Sunnyside Lutheran Church, Stacy, Minn., hosted a September 11 remembrance service on Sept. 8. Participating in the service were members of the local VFW, fire, police and sheriff's departments. A rescue squad manufactured in Wyoming and on its way to New York City was also at the service.

Top: The congregation and guests gather outside for a special prayer time. LEFT: The NYC rescue squad. RIGHT: Members of the local departments were honored in the service.

VISION 2004

**"The mind of a man plans his way,
but the Lord directs his steps."**

— Proverbs 16:9



**Members of the
AFLC Schools
Board of Trustees
and others recently
met on campus and
prayed at the sight
of construction.**

Prayer partners, volunteers sought

With the funds that God has graciously provided, site work is well under way on the campus of AFLBS. Tree removal is complete and excavation is in progress. Site work for all phases of the master plan — utilities for sewer and water; asphalt and blacktop for new roadway and parking areas; building pads for all future buildings and curbing with sidewalks — is required before any buildings can be started. Berm areas are also part of the site work, which will require planting 180 or more new trees throughout the campus.

We praise the Lord that more than \$1 million has been raised in cash and pledges so far for the excavation and site work. The next goal for Vision 2004 is to fund the building of a student center with an estimated cost of \$3.2 million.

The long-range plan for the campus includes two new dormitories — when enrollments require them — a multipurpose auditorium/gymnasium, and additional seminary housing units.

We acknowledge first and foremost that we must

begin with prayer in each phase of the building project. Would you consider being a prayer partner? Volunteers are needed in other areas, too. If you'd like to help, please fill out the following information below and mail to: Vision 2004; 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Plymouth, MN 55441 Phone: 763-412-2004

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Occupation: _____

Home Church: _____

☐ Be a prayer partner

☐ Volunteer

Funding needed for new piano at AFLBS/AFLTS

Committee asks for help

Dear Friends in Christ,

In a few months, the upright Yamaha piano in the front of our AFLBS/AFLTS chapel will be gone. Grace Free Lutheran Church (formerly Medicine Lake Lutheran Church) has allowed us to use two of their pianos for many years without any cost except tuning and maintenance. We are grateful! However, the church will soon relocate to a brand new building in Maple Grove, Minn., and they will take the chapel piano and the piano in our cafeteria.

We have a need! We hope to replace both pianos with one new piano for the front of the chapel. The desire is to buy an instrument that will last for many years, a grand piano that will fill our chapel with beautiful sounds for the next several decades. We estimate the cost to be between \$15,000 and \$20,000 for a new or slightly used grand piano between six and seven feet long.

Last year, the students at AFLBS gave \$1,385 to this fund. That is a great start! Many of them graduated last year, but they wanted to help provide a piano for future students attending AFLBS and AFLTS. With matching funds from AAL, the total came to \$2,185. We praise God!

Are you interested in helping the Bible school and seminary with this purchase? Individual gifts and legacies both small and large will help make it possible. Please contact us with any recommendations you have regarding this acquisition.

If you can help, please send your gift to:
AFLBS/AFLTS Piano Fund
Association Free Lutheran Bible School
3120 E. Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, MN 55441

Thank you for caring about the music ministry of the Bible school and seminary. It is our prayer that everything we do will give glory to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,
AFLBS/AFLTS Piano Search Committee



(From left) Dr. Luis Ceaser Costa, dean of the Theological Institute of Parana, presents honorary doctor of divinity degrees to Joseph Orr and Connely Dyrud.

Orr, Dyrud receive honorary doctorates

Honorary doctor of divinity degrees were bestowed on missionaries Pastor Connely Dyrud and Joseph Orr on Aug. 18 at the AFLC Central Church of Campo Mourao, Brazil. The Theological Institute of Parana selected Dyrud and Orr for their years of dedicated Christian service in the areas of seminary, translation and compassion ministry in Brazil.

Dyrud has served as the dean of the AFLC Bible school and seminary in Campo Mourao for more than 30 years. He has also pastored churches and started the Miriam Infant Home for abandoned children.

Orr, from Canada, is on loan to the AFLC with Action Ministries. He has served as translator and teacher in the Bible school and seminary.

WMF raises funds to furnish student center

The Women's Missionary Federation has started a fund-raising project to furnish the new student center's lounge and commons area.

Vision 2004 supporters are now raising funds to build the student center at AFLBS next summer.

Send your contributions to WMF National Treasurer Tammy Vukonich, 1180 30th Ave., Amery, WI 54001.

Collection of choir robes available for cost of shipping

For the cost of shipping, Triumph Lutheran Church is giving away its used choir robes.

Twenty-two child robes, gold with olive green or white collars, and 26 adult robes, emerald green with gold or white collars, are available.

Contact Triumph Lutheran Church in Ferndale, Wash., (360) 384-1129.

Living Word Free Lutheran, a sister church to Abiding Savior Free Lutheran, Sioux Falls, S.D., had its first public worship service on Oct. 6.

Started as a vision of the members of Abiding Savior, the group meets in JFK Elementary School, located on the west side of Sioux Falls. Abiding Savior, which already has three worship services on Sundays, has experienced increased growth along with the city of Sioux Falls.

Members of the new congregation, who are working on incorporation, are seeking membership with the AFLC. Pastor Michael Brandt, who serves Abiding Savior, will lead the services at Living word with several laymen until a pastor is called. A call committee has been formed.

Nathan Jore, a junior seminarian at AFLTS, has accepted a call to serve as a part-time youth worker at Grace Free Lutheran, Plymouth, Minn.

Tim Collins has accepted a call to serve as a full-time youth worker at Christ the King Lutheran, Pipestone, Minn. A mechanic and carpenter by trade, Collins has been a part-time youth worker at Moorhead, Minn. He is from Deer Creek, Minn., and is married to Monica, who works as the secretary at Christ the King. They have two daughters, Alex, 5, and Emily, 3.

Collins started work at Pipestone in August.

WMF memorials (June-July)

Martha Lund, Faith, S.D.
Paul Jacobs, Culbertson, Mont.
Joel Halvorson, Piedmont, S.D.
Gerald Knudsvig, Buxton, N.D.
Myrtle Johnson, Brookings, S.D.
Mary Boettcher, Bruce, S.D.
Eva Womack, Eagle Butte, S.D.



The men of Our Savior's Free Lutheran, Stanley, N.D., have started a quilting night. They meet the first Tuesday of the month during the school year for two hours. Under the guidance and direction of the women in the church, the men are learning to quilt. The quilts are then sent to the AFLC's World Missions Department, AFLBS, the Marie Sandvik Center in Minneapolis and other local mission projects. The men enjoy the fellowship and know they are helping others in simple ways. Pictured are (from left) Alvin Ege, Gideon Johnson, Pastor Rodney Johnson and Leo Boger.

Evangelism: Passing on the Baton

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 tells us to teach the Word of God to our children.

With Passing on the Baton, a conference sponsored by the AFLC's Evangelism Department, the goal is to develop a biblical conviction of establishing and passing on a legacy of evangelism from one generation to the next.

A common concern among many evangelical leaders is the absence of a committed, young generation to carry on the banner of evangelism in the local congregation. At this conference, the focus will be on family and inter-generational training to establish a heritage of ongoing, active evangelism.

Session topics include: "Evangelism, the Heartbeat of our Heritage," "Bind Us Together, Lord," and "Rekindling the Basics of Evangelism." Special speakers will be AFLC President Pastor Robert Lee, AFLTS Dean Dr. Francis Monseth and AFLBS Dean Pastor Jim Johnson.

The conferences will be held:

- Oct. 19 at Resurrection Free Lutheran, Beltrami, Minn.
- Nov. 2 at Bethlehem Lutheran, Morris, Ill.
- Feb. 8, 2003, at Elim Free Lutheran, Lake Stevens, Wash.
- March 1, 2003, (tentative) at Lutheran Church of the Cross, Laguna Woods, Calif.

Plans are in the works for several other conferences in other AFLC districts. Contact Pastor Jim Rasmussen, director of evangelism, at AFLC Headquarters for more information: 3110 E. Medicine Lk. Blvd., Plymouth, MN 55441. Phone: (763) 545-5631. Email: evangelism@afcl.org.

Association Retreat Center announces 2003 schedule

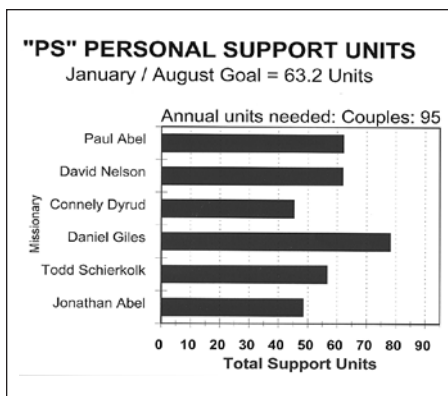
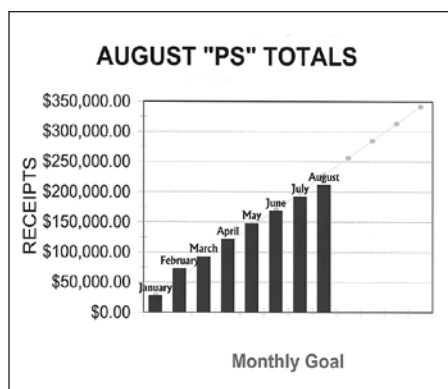
The Association Retreat Center has chosen "Truth" as its theme for 2003. The featured verse is John 14:6: "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but by me."

The schedule for 2003 is as follows:

- Youth Workers Retreat, Jan. 10-12

- Pastors Conference, Jan. 14-16
- SIDEbySIDE (grades 7-12), Feb. 7-9
- Jr. SnowDaze (grades 4-7), Feb. 7-9
- Couples Retreat, Feb. 14-15
- Women's Retreat, March 28-30
- Men's Retreat, April 25-26
- Teen Camp (grades 8-12), June 20-22

- Jr. Camp (grades 4-7), June 22-27
- Kids Camp (grades 1-3), June 27-29
- Family Retreat, July 25-27
- Family Camp, July 27-Aug. 2
- Prayer Retreat, Aug. 29-30
- Classics Retreat, Oct. 3-5
- Family Retreat, Oct. 3-5



AFLC Memorials — August

Department given to ...

In memory of...

MTI

Merle and Goldie Gray

Arnold Rokke

World Missions

Arnold Rokke

Eckhart Heid

Thea Hagen

Rev. Vince Will

Merle and Goldie Gray

Home Missions

Alice Blegen

Dennis Schmiess

Rev. Vince Will

Nel Hanson

Eckhart Heid

AFLBS

Clara Kveen

Clara Quam

Eckhart Heid

Martha Hultstrand

Robert G. Thompson

Leona Cezek

AFLTS

Albertina Nelson

Thea Hagen

Eckhart Heid

Robert Hecker

Robert G. Thompson

Evangelism

Rev. Vince Will

General Fund

Eckhart Heid

Rev. Vince Will

Youth Ministries

Eckhart Heid

Rev. Vince Will

Parish Education

Eckhart Heid

Rev. Vince Will

Church Extension

Eckhart Heid

Miriam Infant Home

Laurny Evans

Vision 2004

Rev. Vince Will

Russell Johnson

George Pelvit

Arnold Rokke

Martha Hultstrand

Arnold Bay

Merle and Goldie Gray

In honor of ...

Vision 2004

Rev. and Mrs. Jerome Nikunen

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

The Lutheran Ambassador
Publication No. 588-620, Filed 9-16-02
Issued every three weeks, except monthly June and July. Sixteen issues annually.

Annual subscription price \$16.00

Mailing address of Office of Publication and headquarters of General Business Office: 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55441.

Publisher: The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

Editor: Craig Johnson, 575 34th St., Astoria, OR 97103

Assistant to the Editor: Ruth Gunderson, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55441

Owner: The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55441.

Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders: None.

The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes has not changed during preceding 12 months.

Publication Name: The Lutheran Ambassador.

Issue date for circulation data: 9-24-02

Total number of copies (net press run):

Avg. copies each issue during past year: 4,091

Copies 9-24-02 issue: 3,912

Paid and/or requested circulation:

Paid/requested outside-county mail subscriptions stated on Form 3541:

Avg. copies each issue during past year: 3,791

Copies 9-24-02 issue: 3,612

Through counter sales:

Avg. copies each issue during past year: 100

Copies 9-24-02 issue: 100

Total paid and/or requested circulation:

Avg. copies each issue during past year:

3,891

Copies 9-24-02 issue: 3,712

Free distribution by mail:

Avg. copies each issue during past year: 50

Copies 9-24-02 issue: 50

Total distribution:

Avg. copies each issue during past year: 3,941

Copies 9-24-02 issue: 3,762

Copies not distributed:

Avg. copies each issue during past year: 100

Copies 9-24-02 issue: 100

Total:

Avg. copies each issue during past year: 4,091

Copies 9-24-02 issue: 3,912

Percent paid and/or requested circulation, average and 9-24-02 issue: 99 percent

Publication is required and will be printed in the 10-15-02 issue of the

Lutheran Ambassador.

/s/ Ellis L. Bloomfield, Printer

Grace or guilt?

Guilt can be a powerful motivator. It can drive people to sacrifice, to work, to give. Many impressive acts of service have been done by people trying to make up for sins they have committed. They hope their good deeds will make them feel better and the guilt will go away.

Churches and mission agencies can get tempted to resort to using the tool of guilt. The thought arises: "You want to get people to give and go? Make them feel lousy. Remind them how rotten they have been and how bad it will be if they do nothing — then they will serve."

Guilt may often work for a time in getting people to serve in the church or go to a mission field, but that doesn't make it right. It may appear to be effective, but it is still not the means for Christians to use to encourage people to go all out in working for the Lord. We want people serving in missions who are primarily motivated not by their guilt but by God's grace.

People motivated by grace recognize their unworthiness. They have the attitude called for by Jesus when He told of ones who had been involved in service: "So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty'" (Luke 17:10, NIV). A grace-motivated person knows that forgiveness and new life is a gift received and not earned. Grace is precious and amazing to him because it is correctly seen as goodness from God that is totally undeserved.

The great missionary, the Apostle Paul, was motivated by grace. He could have easily been driven by guilt. He had been a persecutor of the church, doing terrible things to God's people. He describes himself as "the worst of sinners" (I Timothy 1:16). But God had revealed to him His grace and love. As Paul describes what happened to him he says: "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus" (I Timothy

1:12-14). God's abundant grace was what inspired him to give of himself, to give his very life, in the work of spreading the gospel.

Paul saw who and what he had been. He also saw what God had done for him in Christ. Knowing all that, it was impossible for him to remain silent. He was spurred on by the amazing love of Jesus. "For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again" (II Corinthians 5:14-15).

In his prayer of repentance recorded in Psalm 51, David confesses his sin and guilt. He also recognizes and rejoices in God's willingness to forgive. He describes how God is at work in him, and then how he, in response to God's work, will work for the Lord.

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you" (Psalm 51:11-13).

When the joy of salvation is restored, then a desire comes to teach others and lead them to the Lord. Thus, motivating people to have a concern for missions involves teaching about the joy of knowing Jesus. A person develops an interest in sharing the good news when he or she understands and experiences the incredible goodness of the news.

Sometimes a horse is encouraged to run by a whip; other times by a carrot. As we consider how to encourage people to have an interest in and commitment to missions, let us not rely exclusively on the whip. The commands of the law and the reality of what happens to people apart from Christ are to be shared and never forgotten. We do not deny or ignore the painful peril people are in who do not know the Lord. We rely, though, on the good news of Jesus to spur people on to sacrificial service. The cross and resurrection of Christ is the most powerful motivator of all. It is the good news that gets us going and keeps us going. The gospel is the message we share and the reason we serve.

— **Pastor Craig Johnson**

**We want people
serving in missions
who are primarily
motivated not by
their guilt, but by
God's grace.**

THE ASSOCIATION RETREAT CENTER

Shelter from life's storm

A storm was brewing. The sky was an eerie color. The cloud formations were strikingly unusual. There were weather warnings and sirens to take cover. The storm was growing in intensity: the wind howled, the rain poured, the hail attacked, knocking out a window. Eric Westlake, director of the Association Retreat Center, signaled the staff to move all guests to the Tabernacle for safety. The Tabernacle is literally an old renovated bomb shelter, a great haven from any storm.

However, there were kids already assembled in the Tabernacle for an evening service. Little did they know that a powerful storm was raging outside. They sang in praise and worship and listened to the message of a speaker. They could not hear the golf ball-size hail pulverizing the ground and the winds blowing down tree limbs. They sat in peace in the presence of God's Word. Peace.

Jesus provides the haven of rest like the Tabernacle provides protection from the storms. He is our bomb shelter against any attack. We cannot allow ourselves to get swept away by life's raging winds or plummeting circumstances. When we see

trouble brewing or things getting intense or out of control, we can remember God is in control of the storm, and we can find refuge and solace in Him. In John 16:33, Jesus said, "In me you will have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

The ARC strives to provide a place where people can come away from life's storms: to meet Jesus Christ as a personal Savior; to grow in grace and knowledge of God's Word; to deepen and strengthen relationships and to experience His peace. I Timothy 2:4 says: "God, our Savior, wants all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth." The ARC seeks to provide a place for God's desire to be carried out.

This past year, the ARC has witnessed countless people winning the battle against life's storms. The faces of those who look weary when they check in leave with radiant smiles. Those who feel like they have gone through battles just to get to a weekend away leave victorious. Joy has filled people's hearts as they prepare to go back home.

A girl, ready to give up on life, came to the Teen Retreat this sum-

mer. She had suffered through many of life's storms. She didn't trust anyone or understand why people would care about her. Through the messages of the weekend, Jesus proved to be someone to put her trust in, and she asked Him to be Lord of her life. Later this summer, she came to the ARC again — another retreat weekend — seeking to grow in the relationship she had started with Him.

There are many who join us in the storm that's raging for souls: a nurse has come joyfully year after year to care for the students; a dad takes off a week of work to be a camp counselor; a team of Bible school students lead in praise, testimony and worship; a woman, whose children have long grown up, still enjoys sharing devotions with a dorm room filled with girls. This is the heart of mission work: to give up so much of yourself that others can only see the love of Jesus and experience His peace.

The 2003 ARC theme will be "TRUTH: John 14:6: 'Jesus said, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but by me.'" Come away from life's storms, and find TRUTH and peace.

— Pam Olson
ARC Program Coordinator