

Lutheran Tidings

Volume XI

April 20, 1945

Number 18

Nation Mourns Death of President



★ ★
January 30,
1882

★ ★
April 12,
1945

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

“Men Will Thank God on Their Knees One-Hundred Years From Now That Franklin Delano Roosevelt Was in the White House During These Most Trying Years the World Has Ever Seen.”—From “The New York Times”.

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The Last Message the Late President Roosevelt Sent to the Danish and the Norwegian People Three Days Before His Death, April 9, 1945: “Today marks the anniversary of the infamous and ruthless attack on Denmark and Norway. For five long years the Danish and Norwegian peoples have suffered under the heel of the Nazi oppressor. Yet, never has their courage lagged. Never have they ceased to resist. Very soon the period of martyrdom will be ended. Then as the peoples of Denmark and Norway have fought as Allies in the common struggle against the forces of aggression, so will they work with the other like-minded nations to ensure the maintenance of world peace and security.”

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

Tributes to Franklin D. Roosevelt

Alfred Jensen, president of the Danish Evang. Lutheran Church in America: The passing of President Roosevelt especially because of its suddenness has brought into sharp relief the bonds of friendship and personal relationship that existed between him and millions of humble American citizens. His fireside chats and other radio reports to the nation will be missed sorely. His voice and entire vigorous personality was an ever present and comforting reality to those who desire and demand a sympathetic and understanding heart at the core and center of the intricacies of national government. Humble, sincere Christian folk of all walks of life the world over thank God for the presence of Franklin Delano Roosevelt at the head of our nation for twelve years. He will chiefly be remembered as the great Humanitarian.

His passing has served to focus the attention and concern on the human side of the making of peace and securing co-operation among the nations of the world for the future. Who will now put himself forward as the champion of the four freedoms, the forgotten man as well as forgotten and smaller nations? Who will now be able to stem the well nigh irresistible tide of empires? Franklin D. Roosevelt willingly traversed land and sea to do that. Some day we shall know how much he succeeded. This we know, his life was shortened because he gave all he had, that the cause of freedom and peace might be made secure for the future generations as well as for those living today.

Great men also as a rule have great failings. This was true also of Franklin D. Roosevelt. But he somehow was able to emphasize the qualities and characteristics accepted by our nation as being truly American. In the sea of sorrow engulfing all America as he goes to his reward the disappointments he occasionally caused even and perhaps especially his friends have disappeared, are forgiven if not forgotten. His memory will live among us as an ever present inspiration and encouragement toward achieving the goal toward which he had trimmed the sails of the ship of state: A world in which there is to be freedom for each individual to express what is on his heart, freedom to worship the God of his own choice in his own way, freedom from want, freedom from fear. What a legacy Franklin D. Roosevelt left us. What a challenge. He never seemed to doubt that these magnificent freedoms were attainable. In that same spirit and faith may we dedicate ourselves to complete the task he left with us at his passing. God be thanked for Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Johannes Knudsen, Ph.D., president of Grand View College, Des Moines, Iowa: Franklin D. Roosevelt became a great man, because he carried within his soul the greatness of the American people. He made mistakes in the realm of American weakness, but he responded magnificently to the challenge of great problems in times of national and world-wide distress. His vision, courage, and practical ability were a gift to America that became an American gift to the world. He is aptly characterized by Ibsen who in "The Pretenders" speaks of the greatest man, "... he whom the cravings of his time seize like a passion, begetting thoughts he himself cannot fathom, and pointing to paths which lead he knows not whither, but which he follows and must follow till he hears the people shout for joy, and, looking around him with wondering eyes, finds that he has done a mighty deed."

Georg Strandvold, associate and foreign news editor "Decorah-Posten", Decorah, Iowa: In dark ages it seems that a few men always are destined to become torch-bearers: They show the way; they guide; their torch penetrates the gloom; its golden flame shines deep into human hearts. Such a torch-bearer was Franklin Roosevelt; in steady, never faltering, hands he held high that torch which beckons us on toward the sun whence its fire sprang. In Roosevelt's own soul there was a never flickering spark of that celestial fire.

Harris A. Jespersen, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Clinton, Iowa; editor of "Ungdom": Franklin Delano Roosevelt has been called the champion of the common man. In my humble opinion there is no greater tribute. We Danish Americans take great pride in the beautiful statement about our ancestral country which says, "Few have too much and fewer

too little." It seems to me we would do well in making it our solemn purpose that this may also be truly said of our beloved America. The singular courage of our late president might well be our inspiration.

Otto Hoiberg, associate professor, South Dakota State College: The spirit of a truly great man transcends death itself. The influence of Franklin D. Roosevelt will remain a dynamic force in our country for years to come because his life has given inspiration, courage, and vision to millions who will help to shape the America of tomorrow. The Roosevelt administration gave tremendous impetus to a long-overdue program of social legislation, a program dedicated to the eradication of fear and insecurity among the American people. This great leader not only advocated the Four Freedoms — he lived them, and therein lay his strength. We mourn his passing but are thankful that he lived.

Fylla and V. S. Petersen, St. Paul (former is editor Woman's Page, Lutheran Tidings; latter, businessman): Mankind moves ever upward and onward under the leadership of men like Franklin D. Roosevelt. He established new frontiers for social thinking. He dignified the rights of the common man. He was a staunch friend of the cooperative and credit union movements. His life is an inspiration to all who love their fellowmen.

Ove R. Nielsen, pastor of Stephen's Lutheran Church, Perth Amboy, N. J.: We honor the memory of one, who was immeasurably involved in mankind, during its supreme struggle to free itself from the bondage of all tyranny in this land — and in every other land.

His untiring devotion to that sacred cause will long be remembered by those many, whose lot he so courageously increased; but it remains for all the people of this nation, and all other nations, to pause without prejudice, and in deep sobriety re-think the issues for which he gave his right to be counted among the living.

The bell that tolled for Franklin Delano Roosevelt, tolled for every freedom-loving child of God, for he was one with them all. Therefore his death has diminished us. We cannot now stand in true dignity before his memory, under God, until we have totally triumphed in that cause for which he became a symbol.

The great cause did not die with him, but your measure of devotion and mine, shall determine the tenure of its struggle for fulfillment. To the least measurable weight, we, the people everywhere, must now assume that burden which he for so long has so nobly borne. That great spirit for achievement for all men, which was so deeply manifested in his soul, will now seek opportunity for expression in you and me. By the extent we make that possible, God will know how much we are deserving of that human brotherhood which the late President wanted us to share with all mankind.

(From "Roosevelt's Memorial Address" April 15th)

A. E. Farstrup, pastor of Emanuel's Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, Calif.: Though death ought not to shock those who have been constantly reminded that man's life "is as a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away", the death of President Roosevelt has struck this nation, and the world, with such force that its effects will not soon be forgotten. Somehow, in spite of the bitter opposition registered by many of our citizens to his efforts (and it is well that we do not blindly follow our leaders) there was a feeling that he was needed to carry through the plans for an enduring peace. We know now that he was not needed, for he has been taken away! But though he is gone, the ideas to which he gave himself will prevail. They can, however, be greatly hindered in their fulfillment if those who are to carry on become satisfied with eulogies and lip service. To the end that this may be avoided we must be prayerfully vigilant and willing to cast loose from the decadent moorings of special privilege and superiority complexes with respect to color, class, creed and country.

Dr. F. N. Thomsen, mayor of Tyler, Minnesota: President Roosevelt is dead. A great outstanding leader is with us no more.

His death has shocked this nation and all liberty loving people of the world.

The inevitable has happened. The accumulated burden of more than twelve strenuous years in office has finally taken its toll.

Regardless of political views or affiliations we can all agree, that he was an outstanding liberal, who had a profound faith in and love for the human race. He believed that all the people of all the world, rich and poor alike, have a right to live full and happy lives without fear or want.

Like Moses, he was not permitted to enter the promised land to see the fruits of his labors. The new order, where peace and justice would prevail; but in death, as it would have had in life, his influence will no doubt become a great if not a deciding factor when order is again to be established in the world.

Let us each and everyone do our little bit that the new order for which he labored and died shall become a reality, a world, where, in the words of Grundtvig, few have too much and fewer too little.

We sincerely mourn the passing of a truly great American.

Ottar S. Jorgensen, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Chicago, Ill.: A gallant heart stopped beating, a brilliant mind ceased functioning, an eloquent voice was stilled as President Roosevelt at work on papers of state at Warm Springs, Georgia, leaned back in his chair and slipped away.

Thus a great leader has passed from our midst. He was great because he embraced great things, great ideas, great ideals. He was the focal point of our day for progressive social and humanitarian ideas. Due to his fearless leadership improvements in social conditions were accelerated. On the domestic scene we have come a long way since the low ebb of 1932.

He was a pioneer of the new era which is coming. His vision spanned the horizon for many a day yet to come.

He was a master in the use of the English language. The counterpart of his eloquence was charity. Characteristically, one of his most cherished Scripture passages was I Cor. 13 — "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity . . .". Eloquence and charity joined to make him the charming personality he was.

The common folk of America and of the world have lost a gallant champion. As we mourn his passing we are grateful for his outstanding and fearless leadership and for his great contribution to the common good of our people and of the peoples of the world.

Alfred E. Sorensen, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Seattle, Wash., chaplain in U. S. Army of World War I: An elderly Negro in our city was seen wearing the customary black band of crepe on his left arm Friday, indicating mourning.

When asked if he had lost a relative in death, he replied briefly, "Yes, my father." and solemnly added "My President." The words were spoken in such a manner as to indicate an honest grief.

Again, a President in America's White House had been regarded as an "Emancipator".

Svend Godfredsen, editor and educational director, United Packinghouse Workers — CIO: The President is dead!

The sudden radio announcement was shockingly unbelievable. Since then there has been tons of newsprint and millions of words expended as tribute to Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Tact, good taste, more accurately, political expediency restrained the bitter critics, the haters of Roosevelt, from publicly giving voice to their rejoicing!

In the house of labor, I know, there was sorrow! . . . Among men and women of all creeds and races there was sorrow and fearful anticipation of what the future would mean to the ideals of world peace, full employment and social security.

I am aware of Denmark's contribution to the world. I voice the opinion that on the American scene the late President attempted, more than any other president, to make that social and economic philosophy a reality.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt's social and economic philosophy encompassed that form of a social order where few would have too much and less not enough!

In spite of hate-mongers and perverters that evolvment was taking place within the framework of our democracy.

Today's little children will pay the price of our indifference to the ideals of Frank Delano Roosevelt.

Harald A. Petersen, superintendent of Schools, Tyler, Minnesota: Our late President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, has given us one of the finest examples of man's ability to overcome a serious handicap. While in the very prime of life he was stricken with infantile paralysis and left with a serious physical disability. He was in a position to retire to private life, but he chose to go on in spite of his handicap. Because of his courageous leadership he became not only a great national figure, but a world leader whose ideals may well change the future course of history. His achievements, accomplished in spite of his handicap, should be an inspiration to us all.

L. C. Bundgaard, pastor of Nazareth Church, Withee, Wisconsin: It will forever remain an unforgettable moment of my life, when Dr. Johannes Knudsen, pale and shaken, came running into the assembly room of the Luther Memorial Church, Des Moines, Iowa, at the close of the last lecture of the pastors' institute, and said: "It has just been announced over the radio that the president is dead."

I saw Mr. Roosevelt first at McCook, Nebraska, in 1932 where he was introduced to a vast crowd by Senator Norris, who at the time had broken his connections with the stereotypes of parties. I saw him last a little over four years ago when he came through the streets of Troy, N. Y.; strenuous service had lined his face, but there was still the buoyancy and friendliness in his smile and the expression of determination in that remarkable face, one of the most magnificent faces in our nation's history since the days of Abraham Lincoln.

To many of us he was the symbol of those ideals which must prevail in future ages. His mind was burned up in the service of humanity; but his devotion to fundamental causes will live on in the hearts of those who are not bound in the prejudicial shackles of parties. "Who is the happy warrior?" asked Wordsworth, and he answered in part:

"It is he, — Who doomed to go in company with pain,
And fear and bloodshed, miserable train!
Turn his necessity to glorious gain;
In face of these doth exercise a power:
Which is our human nature's highest dower."

Nanna Goodhope, Viborg, South Dakota, traveler and writer: I shall always, I believe, think of our late president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, as I saw him a few years ago while attending a conference of the Associated Country Women of the World at the capital.

We women of many lands and climes, who had gathered there to debate and promote our common interests — peace, security, and a more abundant life for all — had been guests of President and Mrs. Roosevelt at a tea at the White House. We were leaving and the President and Mrs. Roosevelt stood on the portico to wave us a last good bye, when a group of women from the western U. S. plains, led by a women's chorus from Iowa, sang from the White House lawn as a special tribute to the President, "Home on the Range".

He waved a "thank you! — thank you!!", and the gracious smile on his face seemed to add — "and God bless you all!"

A Farmer, Ringsted, Iowa: As the people of America and the people of the entire world mourn the loss of our friend and leader F. D. R.; we owe to him and the world to carry through the ideals for which he has laid so good a foundation. We, as tillers of the soil, too have received our share of this great leadership. Let us not forget to appreciate the great things he has done for us by carrying on to even greater achievements that, for which he gave his life.

Gertrude H. Mortensen, Bothell, Wash., housewife and horticulturist: Not only did the United States lose its President, but the world lost a great benefactor who was held in the highest esteem by the people of all freedom loving nations. President Roosevelt was better known throughout the world than any previous president. I particularly respected President

(Continued on Page 11)

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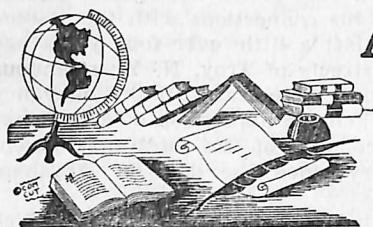
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Across the Editor's Desk

We are happy to bring in this issue a number of tributes to the life of our late President Franklin D. Roosevelt from a number of men and women of our Danish American people. It can undoubtedly be said that the life philosophy of Franklin D. Roosevelt could especially be appreciated by the Danish people who have been blessed with an inheritance from the leadership of men like N. F. S. Grundtvig, Ludvig Schrøder, Kristian Kold, and the many others who have stressed "Dansk Folkelighed". If Franklin D. Roosevelt could have visited one of the typical Danish Folk Schools he would have rejoiced. Under his leadership and inspired by his visions of giving every man, woman and child in America, regardless of social standing, regardless of race and color, the opportunities and privileges of everything American Democracy stands for, many attempts were made under the Youth Administration and under the many other government agencies to encourage an appreciation of the finest and best in human values.

We are grateful to our many contributors who have helped us in presenting through "Lutheran Tidings" a word picture of the inspiring challenge that we of the Danish Lutheran Church met in the soul spirit of a great leader and President of our United States of America.

A World Leader—Franklin D. Roosevelt was not only a leader of the American people. He was honored upon his death by people in all parts of the world as possibly no individual ever has been honored. The 85 hour unbroken memorial service of music and

tribute by the radio networks of our country is the first of its kind in the history of radio.

For the First Time in the History of England the House of Commons adjourned out of respect to the memory of a President of the United States. The great Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of England, is reported to have wept openly upon the first news of the death of his personal friend. Britons were shocked and gloomy. Londoners bowed their heads everywhere as military bands played "The Star Spangled Banner". The otherwise formal British Broadcasting Company had a moment of emotion and reported: "The most tragic night of the war." The court-register in Buckingham palace in London for the first time in history recorded the death of a foreign chief of state.

Russia paid tribute to the memory of President Roosevelt and honored him as no foreigner has ever been honored before. Black-bordered flags were flown above the Kremlin, and there were memorial broadcasts and services for a period of two days. Marshal Joseph Stalin sent a greeting to Mrs. Roosevelt: (we quote in part) "... leader in the cause of insuring the security of the world ..."

Yugoslavs had just finished a day of celebration because of a new pact with Russia. The news from America immediately ceased all gaiety. Marshal Tito's Government decreed a four-day closing of theaters, cinemas, concerts, etc. It banned music and dancing in the restaurants. The Yugoslavs expressed the following: "We have lost our best friend."

In Distant China Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek was at breakfast when an aide brought him the news. He left his food untasted, withdrew for meditation. Later he sent his greeting to Mrs. Roosevelt: "I am deeply grieved ... the profound sorrow of the Chinese people ... His name will be a beacon of light to humanity ..."

France voiced the following: "We have lost our best friend ... What will happen to us now?"

Thus we could continue to retell the story of the tribute paid to a great statesman, a noble and beloved leader.

We close with two comments of the many that have come over the radio these last days: "Franklin D. Roosevelt was one of the few really great men, you either learned to love him or hate him." And a second comment which brings the challenge before us to a focus: "The greatness of Franklin D. Roosevelt now depends on what you and I will do about the ideals he stood for."

GRAND VIEW COLLEGE



Daily Life at Grand View College

Studenterfest is the thought in the minds of every student these days at Grand View. This thought found outward expression on April 6, when the old tradition of Clean-up Day was observed, this year in the building, instead of on the campus, which is looking green and well-kept under the hand of Karl Eriksen. Classes were dismissed for the afternoon and each student lent a hand to clean the building from top to bottom, inside and out. By supper time, legs were weary, arms were tired, backs ached, but the floors were shining, the walls clean, and the windows glistening. It seemed that everyone would go to bed early, but all the students were invited to be guests of the faculty at a party to be held at 8:15. By nine o'clock one would think that the afternoon had been anything but strenuous, for the party turned out to be an informal dance held in the outer dining room.

Miss Dagmar Miller, as guest speaker at chapel on April 6, gave us a very inspiring message on the blessings of God. During the week of Pastor's Institute, we had the privilege of hearing three special messages from the visiting pastors. Rev. Erik Møller's message, based on the story of the blind beggar at Jericho, emphasized two types of blindness, that of the disciples failing to understand the inner motives of Christ, and that of the blind man who realized that outside of seeing Jesus, nothing was worthwhile. Rev. Holger Nielsen gave us an excellent talk on the sacraments and their importance in the life of our church, together with an observation on the importance of recognizing the children. Rev. L. C. Bundgaard, using as a basis for his talk the two statements, "I have established a decree that shall not pass away" and "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end," reminded us that there is still an ordered universe in spite of its chaotic appearance and that by accepting the challenge of the Great Commission, we can receive the promise that He will be with us, even unto the end of all things.

A short memorial service was held on April 13, in honor of President Roosevelt. Peter Jorgensen and Alfred Nielsen both spoke briefly, but with

challenging words, challenging us as citizens to be inspired by his memory to feel a responsibility for achieving his ideals, and to rally around our new president. The news of his passing came to the college family just at the end of the last lecture of Pastors' Institute. Everyone gathered in front of the college while the flag was lowered to half-mast, and the first stanza of "America" was sung.

During Easter vacation, Dr. Kjældstrup of Greenland (and Denmark) visited at the college. On Thursday night, he gave an interesting informal talk to students and faculty in the Knudsen apartment. Pvt. Roland Jensen has spent some time at Grand View the past two weeks after seeing service in the European theater.

VIKING, the student yearbook, has gone to press and should be out by the end of April. Several copies are still available at \$2.50 per copy. Larger than last year, and containing more pictures, it gives a graphic presentation of student life, together with a goodly number of articles of literary merit.

We are hoping to see many of you at Studenterfest!

Clayton Nielsen.

STUDENTERFEST

Saturday, April 28

- 7:30—Breakfast.
- 8:00—Registration.
- 12:00—Dinner.
- 1:00—Film.
- 2:00—Gym Exhibition and Folk Dancing.
- 3:30—Alumni meeting.
- 6:00—Supper.
- 8:00—Dance.
- 10:00—Intermission — Refreshments.

Sunday, April 29

- 10:45—English Service.
- 12:00—Lunch.
- 2:00—Concert. Address — Reverend Erik Møller.
- 5:00—Banquet.
- 8:00—Play — "Anna Sophie Hedwig".

Coffee and Farewell!

Registration fee is five dollars (\$5.00). Send your name and address by April 26 to Miss Pearl Plambeck, Grand View College, Des Moines, 16, Iowa.

The Committee.

Santal Mission Annual Convention

The annual convention of the Santal Mission will be held April 26, 27, 28, 29, 1945, at Immanuel Danish Lutheran Church, 28th Ave. and 22nd St., South, Minneapolis, Minn. Rev. Edward Hansen is pastor of the Immanuel Church.

All mission friends are invited to come and attend the sessions of the convention. There will be interesting speeches on the work in India by the missionaries home on furlough. Come and learn to know the work of the Santal Mission better.

Visitors from out of town will kindly

notify Rev. Edward Hansen, 2211 — 28th Ave., So., of their need of lodging before April 22nd.

Jens Sinding, Tyler, Minn.

When a faithful member of the Danish Ev. Luth. Church passes on from this earthly realm, it is customary to have a memorial page inserted in the history of the synod. To that "Book of Memories" should be added now the name of Jens Sinding. He served longest in the congregation in Ruthton, a number of years in Hampton, Ia., and a short time in Tyler.

In the early days of Danebod Folk High School at Tyler, he was a student. He was one of the students that seemed to understand the nature of the Folk H. S. My acquaintance dates from then. He settled down in Hampton, Ia., where he and his wife, Anna, won many friends. In 1911 he came to Ruthton, with his family, which became one of the pillars of the Danish church, and where several of the children still retain memberships. Less than two years ago the "old folks" retired and moved to Tyler, near the Danebod church.

About five or six years ago Mr. Sinding's health began to fail, and since moving to Tyler he became more and more helpless, needing constant care, though not confined to bed except for a few days at the close.

For a number of years, while here, it was customary for Mrs. Sinding to invite a number of friends out for Jens' birthday, and many happy hours were spent in that beautiful, modern home they had built. The afternoons were passed with singing of many songs and appropriate remarks by Rev. Ibsen. Many of us cherish the memory of those meetings. After the last of these meetings, soon three years ago, it was noticeable that Jens' health was failing; but what a joy to see him enjoy the group singing, mostly Danish songs. His voice was failing, so he was not able to join much, but his face lit up with an evidence of understanding and appreciation. In former years he was a good conversationist, well posted in current history as well as church history, and it was a joy to converse with him either privately or in a friendly circle, but of late he was mostly a good listener.

A few weeks ago Mr. and Mrs. Sinding visited at Elkhorn, Ia., to get acquainted with a little grandson at the Harald Jensen home. Jens became ill, but stood the journey home, spent a few days at the hospital soon after, and again returned to his Tyler home. However the close seemed to draw near, and after a few days he peacefully slept away. The message came not as a shock; for most of us had expected such message for some time.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Enok Mortensen Saturday, April 14, at the home and the Danebod church. Nearly the whole Ruthton congregation

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HOME MISSIONS

GETTING READY TO LAUNCH UPON A PROGRESSIVE HOME MISSION ENTERPRISE

II.

In the meantime, our pastors and congregations should devote some time and effort to the investigation of home mission possibilities in their own immediate localities and endeavor to solve such problems as they can. There are many unchurched folks in every community. Certainly every congregation should do an earnest piece of work to prevent members from lapsing into the group of the unchurched. This is true among the young confirmed, many of whom are lost to the church. Likewise, a preventative work can be done among such as move away from our congregations to other communities, by following them up with communications to Lutheran pastors in the communities to which they move and by providing them letters of transfer. This is a more important home mission responsibility and service than many pastors and congregations realize. Even if we may not be able to transfer these individuals to a Lutheran church of our own synod, would it not be wiser and better to transfer them to another than to risk the possibility of having such folk swell the ranks of the unchurched, as frequently happens?

A good deal of constructive work should be done toward making the people of our congregations home mission conscious. Our pastors can do much along this line. From time to time our periscope texts offer opportunities to preach home mission sermons dealing with various aspects of this work. Various church organizations will be both willing and glad to contribute to the home mission treasury when they realize the importance of such activity to the church at large. Much good will result also from conducting special meetings in the congregations annually which seek to stimulate mission interest. Visiting speakers at such occasions will often prove especially helpful.

Another matter which merits special consideration for the future guarantee of success in our home mission enterprise, pertains to the training of our seminary students. They, too, must be made home-mission conscious and they should be given considerable training along the lines of home mission techniques and methods. It goes without saying that not every pastor is qualified to work in home mission congregations. Training and experience in this kind of work will be a very important factor in this work as well as in any other.

A glorious future lies ahead of us if we meet the home mission challenge in the proper spirit, with much love for God, His church and His people, with consecrated servants in pulpit and pew, and sacrificial giving toward the home mission budget and the Church Extension fund, as well as to work of the church in general. Let us work diligently, patiently and untiringly at the challenging task! God will bless our efforts and give the increase and the growth of the church we so earnestly desire.

E. H.

THE SPIRIT OF HOME MISSIONS

I am the spirit of Home Missions.
 I was born in the hearts of the lowly.
 My ancestors were pioneers;
 My mother is the church;
 My father is the spirit of righteous adventure.
 In my early life I fought against ease and stagnation.
 I blazed new trails in thought and endeavor;
 I slept in the great forests of the West;
 I drank from the running brooks;
 My footprints are seen everywhere.
 I sought for stout hearts and found them.
 I have increased courage in the hearts of men who dare,
 I always keep "on the line of discovery."
 I have welcomed the new born babe in the frontier cabin;
 I walk the crowded city streets;
 I visit the sick;
 I preach the gospel to the poor.
 I gave the Negro my right hand and helped him up.
 I welcome the immigrant.
 I show kindness to the stranger in our land.
 I help build your churches,
 I live because I serve.
 I am not a formal organization:
 Departments, bureaus, secretaries, treasurers;
 These are only my framework.
 I am a spirit,
 Commissioned of God and blest by the lowly Nazarene;
 I must help men in heroic tasks—
 For humanity gnaws at my heart.
 Therefore let me go to the needy places.
 My spirit must live.

Ezra Cox, in the Christian Advocate.

"To Make America Christian' has been and is the goal of home missions. In this great task we should be eager to dedicate our time, our talents, our prayers. We should be anxious to share in spreading the message of Christ and His Cross and the forgiveness of sins.

"We must not miss the challenge of the Open Door of America today! Our nation and our people welcome the guidance and program of the church."

HOME

Recently, a London magazine offered prizes for the best definition of Home. Out of the thousands of replies, seven were selected for the top prizes:

Home—"A world of strife shut out,
 a world of love shut in."

Home—"The place where the small are great, and the great small."

Home—"The father's kingdom, the mother's world, the child's paradise."

Home—"The center of our affection round which our heart's best affection twines."

Home—"The place our stomachs get three meals a day, and our hearts a thousand."

Home—"The place where we are treated the best, and think of it the least."

Home—"The only place on earth where the faults and failings of humanity are hidden under the kind mantle of charity."

IN THE WIDE, WIDE WORLD

Alfred C. Nielsen, Grand View College.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

He died yesterday afternoon, Thursday, April 12, He was born January 30, 1882.

I saw Franklin Roosevelt for the first time in 1916 when attending an international Y. M. C. A. convention in Cleveland, Ohio. The thing that I remember about him as he stood on the platform was that he was a big man physically. He was at that time Assistant Secretary of the U. S. Navy in President Wilson's cabinet.

The last time I saw him was in 1936 when he visited this city. He was sitting in the back seat of an open automobile. He wore no hat and the thing I remember best is his magnificent head, his handsome face with its broad smile. He had the looks of greatness.

Since 1921 when he was struck with infantile paralysis he had been a cripple. His fight to regain his health is one of the most inspiring stories in the human record. Men with less lust for life would have given up in despair, but not F. D. R. After that time he became governor of New York and served as president of the United States for more than twelve years, and these years were among the most difficult in the entire history of the Republic. During the last few years of his life his legs were so weak that he could hardly stand up. In his last great speech to Congress, following the Crimean Conference, he sat in a chair. While his arduous duties proved too much for his body, his mind and spirit were keenly active to the very last. No one, unless it is Mrs. Roosevelt, will ever know how much he suffered from physical disability. His will to live was beautiful.

It is interesting and surely significant that he rose to greatness after he was stricken by disease. He will go down into history as one of our greatest presidents. When he died he was one of the greatest and most beloved men in the world. Churchill is great, but he is suspected of being too friendly with the aristocrats of his country. Stalin is a great man, but he is not known for his kindness but rather for his ruthlessness.

All over the world the common man knows that he has lost a friend. It will be among them that most tears will fall. In Athens they have named an avenue Franklin D. Roosevelt. In such countries as Denmark, Norway and the Netherlands the people know they have lost a friend. To them he had become a symbol of freedom in their desperate fight against Nazi tyranny.

None of us who heard him on the radio will ever forget his voice. He was a pioneer in the radio field. He was the first president in our history to discover the power of the radio in campaigning and to use it freely. I can still hear his voice when on that dark March day in 1933 he said, "We have nothing to fear but fear itself." His very voice gave courage and hope to millions.

During the worst days of the great depression mil-

lions of fathers, mothers and children knew that they had a friend in the White House. They knew he meant it when he said, "None shall starve in this land of plenty." His hold upon the hearts and minds of the masses was touching. John Lewis has done much for the coal miners of this country. They know it and admire him. But when in 1940 Lewis decided that he would make the miners vote against Roosevelt, he failed miserably. They would follow him in the mining business, but for President they wanted Roosevelt no matter what Lewis said. He was their friend. He had remembered them in the dark days of the early thirties. They never forgot him.

Great as Roosevelt was he was essentially a simple man. He showed this more than once. Good Americans were proud of their country and their President in the last presidential inauguration in January of this year. At that time we had the largest army in our history and the largest navy in the world. And yet a show of pomp and power was totally absent from the inaugural parade. In fact there was no parade. It was simplicity itself.

In other lands it is the custom on such occasions to have mile-long parades of strutting officers, marching men, beating drums and rumbling tanks. Our republic is fortunate indeed if simplicity and not show of military might will mark affairs of state in the future.

This makes our second war president to die in office. Lincoln died shortly before the surrender of the last Confederate army. Roosevelt died while Germany was reeling under allied blows, and Japan faces certain defeat. The man who followed Lincoln was Andrew Johnson. The forces of reaction made the presidency a nightmare for him, and the South had to live through the terrible era of "reconstruction".

Harry Truman is now President of our country. We all know that he will have a difficult task. Let us support him with our prayers and efforts. May our country and the world be spared a "tragic era". May the people who love truth, justice and decency rally so that the dark forces of reaction may not overtake us.

Prayer, as the first, second, and third element of the Christian life, should open, prolong and conclude each day. The first act of the soul in early morning should be a draught at the heavenly fountain. It will sweeten the taste for the day. A few moments with God at that calm and tranquil season, are of more value than much fine gold. And if you tarry long so sweetly at the throne, you will come out of the closet as the high priest of Israel came from the ministry at the altar of incense, suffused all over with the heavenly fragrance of that communion.—H. W. Beecher.



"LOVE'S WILLING ANSWER"

Inflation has struck hard at our Lutheran brethren in China and elsewhere. They are asking, "Will Lutherans in North America keep on helping us even though it costs much more to do so than last year?"

Missionary task forces, desperately tired from unrelieved overwork, have held on in orphaned missions. Having given everything for the hope of saving these Kingdom outposts they have earned the right to ask, "Now that victory is within reach, will the needed supplies and reinforcements come?"

Many of our fellow-Lutherans are citizens of enemy nations. Anxiously they wonder, "Will the bonds of faith hold? Every other tie seems to be broken. Do they still believe in us? They have expected us to hold Christian faith higher than nationalism. Will they do so now? Often at great risk we have kept the faith. Will their forgiveness, understanding and generosity match our courage?"

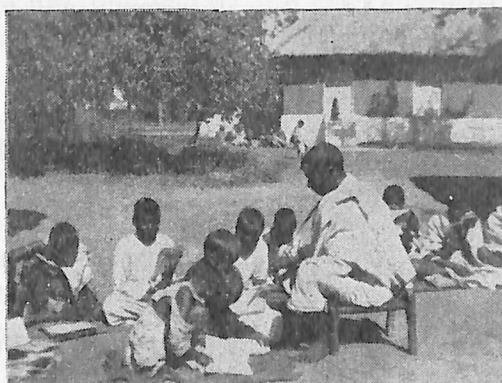
To these questions, and many more like them, Lutheran World Action in 1945 is Love's Willing Answer. It says, "We of the National Lutheran Council again pledge you our loyal help."



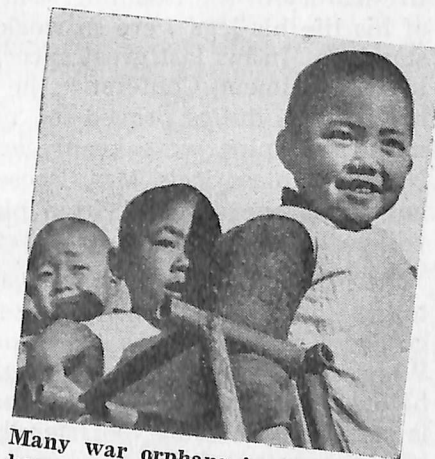
Dr. Eyvind Berggrav, primate of Lutheran Church, Norway, is a symbol of modern struggle for religious liberty.



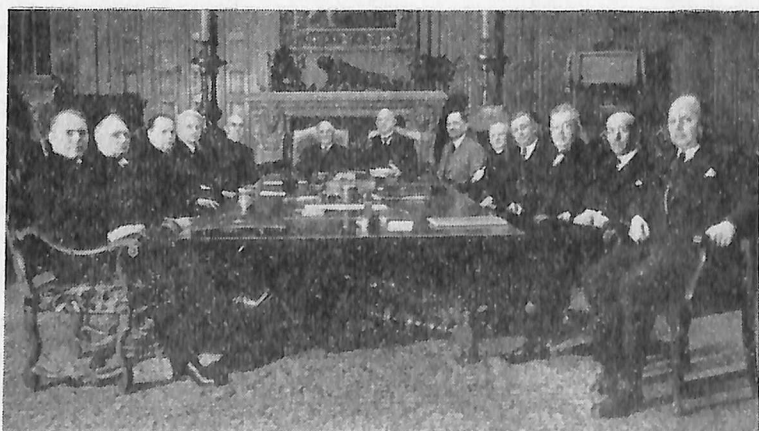
New life in an orphaned mission. This castaway twin is safe in the care of a missionary nurse in Africa.



Simple class room in Santal Mission, India. Present hope is that world literacy program will produce 500,000,000 new literates in next 50 years.



Many war orphans in China will have a whole chance at life because of L. W. A.



Now famous meeting Executive Committee, Lutheran World Convention, spring of 1939, at Waldenburg near Leipzig. Before adjourning, members joining hands around this table, pledged that war would not break their Christian fellowship.



Refugees in eastern Europe. That can set the world aflame again in twenty years if Christian action fails them now.



In Germany well over 2500 Protestant churches have been bombed.



In France destruction of church buildings, while not widespread, is still serious. L. W. A. relief plans do not include rebuilding churches. It may help to set up some temporary parish centers.



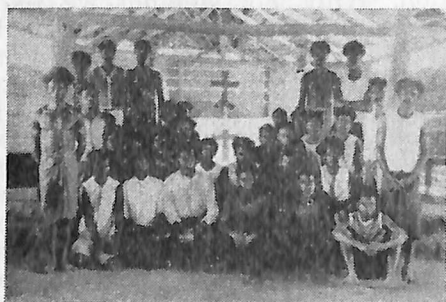
In England of 1839 churches of 4 denominations 199 have been destroyed, 1640 damaged.



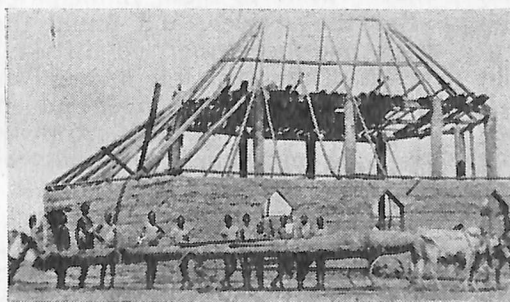
Student nurses, Lutheran Mission Hospital, Nebk, Syria. From Burma to British Guinea such outposts of health have demonstrated their worth.



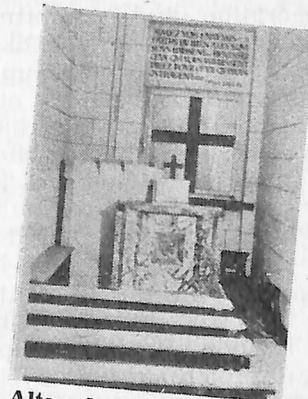
When she was converted she taught her husband and had her child baptized. So the Kingdom grows and blesses a new Syrian family.



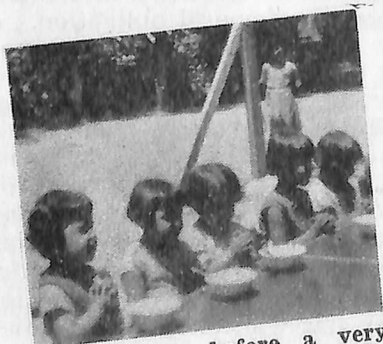
Native Christians, New Guinea. The Christians there impressed allied soldiers with the value of foreign missions.



New chapel under construction, Danish Sudan Mission. Most material and labor furnished by native members.



Altar built by French prisoners in Germany. Inscription: "Love your enemies . . ." Luke 6: 27-28.



Saying grace before a very simple meal at our "Bird's Nest" Orphanage, Jubail, Syria.

In seasons of widespread calamity, a special demand is made upon the exercise of Christian love, to which the Church, if loyal to the spirit of her Master cannot fail to respond.

JOHN A. MOREHEAD



HARRIS JESPERSEN, Editor
405 N. 4th Street, Clinton, Iowa

MARRIAGES

Not Made With Hands

By Roy A. Burkhardt

What are the foundations of a home that nothing can destroy? Let us look at the real foundation stones for your marriage:

Live by your agreements: Respect your differences. This is a very important foundation. You should start on this point in courtship. You should have agreements on the question of children, your faith, membership in a church, your general code and standard of living, and so on, before marriage. These agreements very often can be more objectively reached before marriage than afterward. Since they are so basic, the vows of marriage should be made in the light of them. But after marriage, enlarge the realm of agreements, yet find blessing from your major differences and learn to overlook the small ones.

Make the wedding a complete consecration. That is what it should be. Recently I received a wedding announcement which read "You are invited to the service of consecration and commitment of _____ and _____." I like that. When two people come up to the wedding, their "slates" ought to be clean. They may not have told each other everything in their past, but each before God has "cleaned the slate". Neither should have any lurking sense of guilt.

They both should come into the wedding with the thought, "This love is of God; to it I will give my best in living, in self-discipline, in a search for that kind of happiness which will mean for the peace, fulfillment, and joy of the loved one." All bridges are burned; no doubts are left to smoulder and later rise up and ask, "Should you have married him?"

Keep the marriage Gothic. The important thing is to keep love Gothic, to keep it growing. Cowper, in the realization and appreciation of a great friendship, wrote to Lady Heskith: "You must know that I should not love you half so much did I not know that you would be my friend for all eternity. There is no room for friendship to unfold itself in such a little

nook of life as this." This is part of the feeling that when the kinship of body ceases through the death of one the two spirits still can go on together forever.

The Greek ideal is perfection. There is in it the beauty of completion, finality. There is nothing more to do to the Parthenon. It is a dream fulfilled, and it invites the quiet contemplation of its loveliness. The Gothic pile has as much beauty and balance. But there is a strain and stress in it. Its rhythm is the rhythm of a bird flying; its poise is that of a lark seeking its nest at eventide. The Gothic cathedral is never finished; there is always something for the centuries to add. In every groin and arch and spire is the agony of aspiration, the outreach for the unfulfilled and unpossessed. Just so, Gothic love never comes to the end of growing.

I saw this illustrated so beautifully at a wedding I once conducted. Just as the bridesgroom kissed the bride, I saw an old man in the last row lean over and kiss his wife. I was so attracted by it that I went to them immediately after the service, and found that they had been married fifty-two years. They still felt a deep and wonderful romantic love, and one could sense a great kinship between them, a kinship of body and mind and spirit and purpose.

Every marriage has a wonderful beginning, as does every love that is real, and it is most wholesome and happy when each beginning is lost in another beginning more glorious and wonderful. Marriage is not all glory and wonder. It has its struggles, its setbacks, its failures, its disappointments, its heartbreaks, but when people are big enough and when they have understanding and can face together in the same direction, they are sure to find great moments of peace and wonder followed by moments of great longing and struggle and desire.

Hold obligations sacred. Let marriage be built upon desire, upon the voluntary spirit. But at the same time, a sense of duty is important. We do not like the idea

In Our Youth

APRIL 20, 1945

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of duty because it suggests acts that are forced, impulses repressed, lives that are limited and thwarted. Desire to us suggests spontaneity and pleasantness; duty suggests all the vivid lightning and muttering thunder of Sinai. But I have seen many young couples separate because they were held together only on the basis of a personal desire, not by a sense of obligation and duty to each other.

Two people must accept the discipline of duty if they are ever to know its delight. That is true in learning to play a violin, in achieving the skills necessary for any profession or any work, and it is true in love. Not long ago a young man whom I had married came to me and said: "I am going to leave my wife. I do not enjoy being with her any more. I don't desire to live with her, and of course it would be wrong to go on living with her when I don't desire to do so." I reminded him that he who acts upon the immediate impulse and never does anything from superior motives is destined not for the highest self-expression but for the narrowest self-limitation. After all, whether we like it or not, the highest personal freedom issues from the sternest self-discipline. I said to this young man: "You are going to forget all about your promises made only a few months ago. You are sinning against the universe, whose laws are ever reliable and upon which you can depend. Your life depends upon others keeping their promises, but you are not willing to keep yours." There is nothing our drifting world needs so much as a sense of obligation in all areas of life as well as in marriage. Love needs to be directed and motivated by a sense of moral obligation.

We must remember that emotions, even the highest, vary in the matter of intensity. The intensity of any interest is not constant. That is true of religious emotions. It is true of your enjoyment of music and art. It is true of love. There are times when love leaps up and glorifies the whole of life. And there are times when the intensity has waned, and then quiet will and the deep sense of loyalty

and truth carry the lovers over to even fuller and deeper life. The road is not always on the brow of the hill overlooking vistas of entrancing beauty. Sometimes it winds through monotonous, dusty valleys. But the highest hilltops are never attained save by those who have walked with consecrated footsteps the weary ways of the valleys. If the waning of enthusiasm, the temporary subsiding of the spontaneity of affection is going to dissolve marriage, then the truest meaning of love, the highest conquests of the spirit are going to be totally unknown by this generation.

Let desire come of the highest impulses, and let it be undergirded by a sense of duty and obligation, and gradually in time whatever discipline of duty is necessary will issue into the most glorious delight two people ever knew.

Weave your togetherness into all areas of life. Some husbands and wives share only in winning the bread and security — others only in the care of the children. I know some who share only in psychic and mental areas. Far too

many come together only physically. But the true marriage sees the husband and wife finding oneness in all these areas, and marriage comes nearest to fulfilling God's purpose for it when a husband and wife are one in their faith and love for God, their appreciation of the best, their service to humanity through the Church, and their achievement in their own home and through it.

These, then, are the attitudes that make the true foundations that nothing can destroy. This is marriage that is not made with hands.

PERTH AMBOY

Rehearsals are now being held for the annual play to be given by the Junior Young People's Society of St. Stephen's Danish Lutheran Church, Perth Amboy, New Jersey.

This year's presentation, a three-act comedy, is entitled "Johnny, Get Your Girl" by Jay Tobias. It will be presented on Saturday evening, April 28, 1945 at 8 p. m., sharp in Dana Hall.

Miss Rita Clausen, who played

the part of the "skeered" maid in last year's play, will portray the hired girl, Birdie Blotz, this year. Miss Elsie Miller, a newcomer in the plays, will play the part of Adelaide Chafford, an aggressive widow.

Miss Gene Petersen, who has appeared in the last four productions, will be Polly Chafford, the attractive daughter in love with two boys at the same time. Polly's peppery uncle, Charlie Chafford is played by Einer Sorensen. Gertrude Northrup, a designing nurse, by Ann Nielsen and Inabeth Easley, just a little southern girl, by June Nielsen. All of these are members of previous plays.

Other newcomers are: Lucius Larrabee, with brawn but no brains by John Petersen; Hokey Polk, with brains but no brawn, by Russell Bizaro and Johnny Goodman, the surprise guest, by Albert Borup.

Mr. Harry Lund, who has done a wonderful job of coaching the previous plays is again our coach.

The evening will end in the playing of informal party games.

ETHEL PETERSEN.

Tribute to Franklin D. Roosevelt

(Continued from page 3)

Roosevelt because he was looked upon as a leader of high ideals and of hopes for an enduring peace among all nations.

Harald Ibsen, pastor of Immanuel's Church, Kimballton, Iowa; president of the Danish American Young People's League: With a Christian outlook upon mankind, and with great insight, Franklin D. Roosevelt fought for justice in national as well as in international affairs; and we the people of these United States were fortunate to have had as our president, a man of faith, courage and action at a time when in the history of the nation and in the history of the world these qualifications were most desperately needed in statesmanship.

Wilhelm Holm, Tyler, Representative State Legislature, 12th District: The Minnesota House of Representatives in session assembled on the 69th day, April 12 and was grinding away, since 10:30 a. m., with a very short noon recess, we had reached the hour of 4:50 p. m. Rep. Oberg was explaining a bill when suddenly the Speaker raised his hand, saying, "Would the gentleman from Chisago yield for a moment? It has been reported that the President died, however, the report is not confirmed." Just then a message was handed to him and he said very solemnly, "The message has been confirmed."

The House up to then had been bustling with activity, suddenly fell very silent. You could have heard a pin drop. We were all stunned speechless, it seemed. After possibly only seconds, but what seemed long minutes, Rep. Hans Pedersen rose and said, "Mr. Speaker, I move that the House be now adjourned." The tension was broken. After adjournment we gathered in groups and in subdued voices talked to each other. A great leader has been called from our midst. We received the news of his death with profound sorrow but without dismay. For he surely wanted it that way. I feel certain he had the faith of a great leader, that he left behind him in others the conviction and the will to carry on. Let our watch-word be "carry on".

T. G. Jensen, contractor, Kimballton, Iowa: The sorrow which has engulfed the people of this nation in the loss of our great President and leader is tremendous. Let us now honor him by observing the great ideals for which he stood, worked and fought with unflinching courage and perseverance.

No one has given more impetus than he to the words of old Grundtvig: "Few shall have too much and still fewer too little." This was his greatest ideal, and I think, one of the fundamentals on which he expected to build the peace of the world.

As long as this nation stands, the common man will never forget Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Marius Krog, pastor of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Chicago, Ill.: It is sometimes said of a person, who died untimely, that God had better use for him elsewhere. It does not seem that God could possibly make better use of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in heaven than He could here on earth, with the world at one of history's most critical crossroads and the nations trusting Roosevelt to take them where they wanted to go.

His was not the voice of God, but, certainly, he spoke with the voice of the people. "They heard him gladly." There was warmth and sympathy in that clear ringing voice of his. It touched the hearts of millions around the world and they returned to him the warmth in full measure. That circuit of love created bonds so strong between them and him that only death could break them. Now the bonds have been severed and millions of hearts are weeping.

He was easily the best loved statesman of the world, and also the most hated. All because he was a man of vision and with courage and wisdom enough to make his vision count. He saw the solutions to many great problems long before his antagonists realized there were any problems to be solved, and so they fought him venomously.

So far the world has had little use for great Christians who would usher in directly the Kingdom of God. Some day, perhaps. In the meantime may there arise many more great men like Roosevelt who are able to bring the world closer to the Kingdom.

From the Board Meeting in Minneapolis, Minn.

MARCH 13, 1945

It was not only the Board of Directors who met at Minneapolis but the Advisory Finance Committee had been invited to meet with us in order that our investments of the synodical funds might be examined and discussed as to soundness or the change to other if this was found advisable. We are, of course, interested both in receiving a good income from our funds and in having them invested so the principal is perfectly safe. A day was spent in doing just this and I am sure it was profitable time thus spent.

Mr. A. E. Kramme, Des Moines, Ia., has accepted appointment to this committee and attended for the first time.

After this meeting the board held its regular meeting and the first thing discussed was a resolution adopted by the congregation in Des Moines, Ia., concerning publishing of reports from the board meeting in our papers. It was finally referred to the secretary.

The treasurer, Mr. Olaf Juhl, submitted his statement as to the financial status of the synod and this was examined closely.

An application from Mr. L. P. Phillips, Kankakee, Ill., for admittance to the Old People's Home in Des Moines was approved.

A communication from the congregation in Brooklyn, N. Y., had been received by the president. In it was stated that the congregation had come to the conclusion that the work in and for the church required that their minister devoted all his time to this and that in the future ministers called to serve them could not be permitted to serve as Seamen's Missionaries in addition to the ministry. No action was taken as we are not confronted with a change in the arrangement at present.

The president had received an invitation to have our synod represented at a meeting in June to discuss with representatives from other Lutheran bodies the possibility of publishing an All-Lutheran Hymnal and the founding of an All-Lutheran Seminary for post graduate work. After some discussion it was decided to place the invitation on file for the time being.

As conventions of more than 50 persons can not be held now unless special permission has been obtained and it would hinder our work as a synod considerably if we do not meet this summer and perhaps even prevent us from functioning legally it was decided to apply for such permission to hold our convention June 5-10 at Medicine Lake where it was held last summer. In order to hold the attendance to not more than 150 persons it will be limited to delegates and pastors only. This means that only those who have voting rights according to the constitution can attend. We hope to get the permission on these conditions.

At a previous meeting an offer was extended to the congregation in Granly, Miss., to assist them in arranging to have one service conducted for them each

month. Until now the services have been only four or five times a year when they have been served from Dannevang, Texas. The congregation has accepted this offer and will meet part of the expenses while our Home Mission funds will take care of the rest and the arrangement is already in effect.

Mr. Peter Thomsen, who graduated from Grand View Seminary last February, has now been installed as assistant pastor to Rev. E. A. Farstrup in Los Angeles, Calif., and the congregation will begin to receive the support from Home Mission funds granted it some time ago.

Rev. Ove Nielsen was called by the Home Mission Board to serve the congregation at Ryslinge, Nebr., last Fall. But as Rev. Nielsen also received a call from Perth Amboy, N. J., and accepted this they are still without a pastor at Ryslinge. It was reported from the congregation that while only a few Danish families are left there, they fervently hope to get a pastor before the irrigation project in that area is opened as our church is the only one having any work there at all and by that time a number of farmers will be moving in and be in need of service.

Another field where we need a pastor is Newark, N. J., and it is hoped that this need can be met in not too distant a future.

Viggo M. Hansen.

The Place of Parsonage in the Community

An address given at the dedication of the parsonage
in Standard, Alberta, March 18, 1945.

In the first chapter of his gospel St. Luke tells us of a certain home wherein lived an old priest and his good wife, Zacharias and Elizabeth. Although we could hardly call that dwelling place a parsonage in modern language, nevertheless, I want it as a background for my address here this afternoon, as I think that some of the things pertaining to that home should also be characteristic of any parsonage. In appearance it was a neat and beautiful place. Here is a description of it, "A comfortable little house of one story, with a flat roof and an outside stairway going up to that roof. Around the roof was a low railing, to keep people from falling off, for, in mild weather, the family used their roof just as we use our porches. Indeed, people often slept out on the roof when the weather was pleasant. Around the house of Zacharias and Elizabeth were beautiful flowers and vines and trees, especially grape vines and fig trees."

But more valuable still was the life lived inside that home. First and foremost it was a godly home, "and they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments, and ordinances of the Lord, blameless." Second, it was a home of harmony and that is a good thing in a home. As stated above, "they were both righteous," and although Zacharias was unable to speak after his service in the temple, he must have explained to Elizabeth all the wonderful things that had happened to him that certain hour. Who else should he share it with?

We also find that on the day of the circumcision Elizabeth knew exactly what the boy's name was going to be, the very name that the angel had mentioned to Zacharias.

It was a home of prayer, the angel said to Zacharias, "Fear not, for thy prayer is heard, and thy wife shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John."

It was a home of wonderful things, for one day a little boy was born, and new life in a home is one of the most wonderful happenings on earth.

It was a spiritual home, Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and so was Zacharias, later on in the story, (Luke 1, 67).

It was a home of love. We see Zacharias standing there with his little boy proclaiming great things both for the boy and for all the people. It was a home from where a herald could go out and prepare the way for the Messiah.

It was a home where anxious people could find rest and understanding souls. For one day a young girl by the name of Mary had come from far off to share her wonderful experience with the older woman. It was a place where many people of the community would come and share the joy, for her neighbors and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her.

And from that little home among the hills of Judea we will go back to Denmark. We all know that song by V. Gregersen: "Our Father Has Light in His Window." We are told how and under what circumstances that song was written. The author, being a pastor, was called out to visit a sick woman way out in the outskirts of his parish. The poor man who had called him was also willing to follow him back home. This service Gregersen refused as he was sure he could find his way alone. But it was now dark and the trail was a winding trail in a boggy land and among peat graves. He lost his bearing, became bewildered and knew hardly what to do. But in his home his faithful wife becoming nervous about her husband not coming home lit a lamp and placed it in the window. As soon as Gregersen reached his home guided by the light he wrote the song. A parsonage is a place from where rays of light shine forth to help straying people find their home. Allow me in connection with this statement to recite some words from Bernhard Christensen's book, "Fire Upon the Earth". "Here are shelter and security. Here are love and trust. Here are food and fellowship. Here little children are born, and their souls unfold in wonder of growth through the years. Here husband and wife, parents and children, learn to know each other in a widening, deepening fellowship that is as unlimited in its horizon as is human personality itself. Here the 'family altar' is set up, and the father ministers as high priest in 'the church in the home'. Here the treasures of Christian culture,

its hymns and other sacred music, its books and its art, are transmitted to the rising generation. Or, if there be but little of these outward expressions of culture, there is always in the Christian home a **spirit**, a depth of life, an atmosphere, that is a real 'culture of the soul' and a precious heritage. Here friends come and go, in the graciousness of true hospitality. Here the stranger feels at home, because there is an open door and there are open hearts to receive him. Here pain is a guest and does its molding, mellowing work, binding hearts closer together in the indescribable 'fellowship of suffering'. Here death comes and claims his precious tribute of life — only to lose it in the very taking, and to find that the sorrow he wrought is tempered with Christian joy and an unshattered hope. For here in love's strong citadel Christ continues to share His victory with His own."

"So when my latest breath
Shall rend the veil in twain,
By death I shall escape from death,
And life eternal gain."

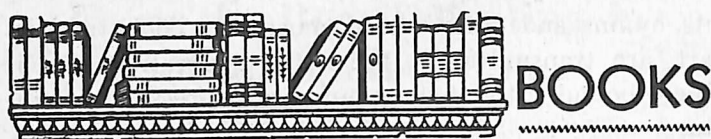
Again I am thinking of the innermost life lived in a parsonage. Think of the hope a minister has had in entering his home, but also the disappointment. Think of all the prayers offered for the congregation and the individual, think of all the sermons prepared and the articles written. It has been called a workshop and it is but also a resting place.

The parsonage is also a center of culture. If you read with understanding hearts about the life in "De danske Præstegaarde" you will find in many of these homes there has been lived a rich and fine cultural life. It is a fact, that many of the Danish scientists and poets have been born and raised in these homes. We will just mention two: Grundtvig and Ingeman. Just think of what an inheritance Grundtvig brought with him from his parents in the home of Udby, and Ingeman never forgot what his father said on his death bed, "Af Vejen fra Rælingen, Dreng!" ("Away from the railing, boy.") Later in life when tempted to go too far, he thought he heard his father's warning, "Away from the railing, boy."

As a little boy he was once given a bird and was very fond of this gift. Waking up in the morning he would say with great joy, "I have my bird." Later on the bird died. But after he became a renowned poet he could say in a spiritual way, "I have my bird." Lucky is the man who in old age can hold fast to this from childhood and youth, "I have my bird."

It is impossible to speak about the parsonage and not mention the minister's wife. If her history could be written in full it would be of greatest interest.

P. Rasmussen.



THE BIBLE AND THE COMMON READER

By Mary Ellen Chase

The Macmillan Publishing Co., 60 Fifth Ave., New York,
316 pages, \$2.50.

The author is a distinguished novelist and teacher in English at Smith college. This book bears the distinct stamp of her interest in the Bible, and though I can't agree with some of her deductions and omissions, I do not hesitate to say that she has given the average reader an interesting introduction to the world's largest seller though least understood and least read book.

If we begin the study of this book with preconceived ideas there will be many jars in store for us. The Bible to the author is not a record of a revelation, in our theological sense, but a book telling a story about a people who had great divine experience. The Bible: "It is a collection, a library of various books, reflecting and illuminating the long life of a small, yet a great people." The author elaborates that it is more than that, but we fail to find that she recognizes that its people have been used by God to reveal a universal truth to which mankind must find its relationship. "The Old Testament is from first to last a preservation in words of the spiritual life of the Hebrew people." But the Prophets, were they only great men, or were they, as the letter to The Hebrews tells us, spokesmen for God during a certain historic period?

We may not always agree that the author is correct in using freely the word "legend" where we would be inclined to use the words "revelation" or "history". But truth is truth and cannot be put to the worse in a free and open encounter. Others will object to the terms "accident in nature" in connection with the Hebrew immigration and crossing of the Red sea, from Egypt to Canaan. And I don't think it is historically correct to say that Kadesh "was a period in which they formulated under Moses, the laws under which they were governed in the interest of the whole community, and in which they steadily grew in their faith, not alone in the God of Israel but in the law of God of Justice." Certainly the law was given to the people before they came to Kadesh. Sinai is more important than Kadesh; the latter is almost extinct; but it was at Sinai, visible enough in our day, that the law was given and where the best manuscript was found which later became the best foundation for our present New Testament.

And I still wonder how it can be said that "They were fed in number at Kadesh when the record tells us that they were more than half a million (603,350).

What sense is there in saying that a certain book — Joshua — was written perhaps a hundred, perhaps two hundred, years after the book of Ruth?" Why waste words on such vagueness? What the average person needs to know is: What is the message of this book? Some things should cautiously be called "as a matter of fact" as long as studious fact-finders do not yet agree on rock-fast facts.

Some of us have become acquainted and rather familiar with the idea of a second Isaiah, but not very seriously with a third. It would seem much more profitable to "the common reader" if the author had concerned himself less with fictitious authors which relatively speaking makes very little difference in the message of the Bible page. Did God or does God speak through the men of the Bible page? That is the concern of the average person. Miss Chase says that he did, but at times our concept is weakened by the many controversial arguments for or against authorships.

It is almost a misnomer to call this a book about the Bible as only 56 pages deal with the New Testament. This should perhaps not surprise us as the Old Testament will always have the greatest interest to a literary critic.

At the outset it is stated that the New Testament is the foundation and cornerstone of Christianity. I do not accept this statement without saying that long before there was a book there was a cornerstone which was not a book but a person, and the book came to verify the historicity of this person. We wonder if it is right to say that one of the gospels were written "because he (the writer) was dissatisfied with that of St. Mark or perhaps that of St. Matthew?" Luke's purpose is plain: "It seemed good to me also," — that is not necessarily dissatisfaction. The author's discussion of the New Testament is confined to Luke, the Book of Acts, the Letters of Paul in general and the book of Revelations; personally I am glad that the gospel of John was spared.

If the New Testament was just a piece of human literature then only the intellectuals will be interested in it; but we who have found more in it are challenged by a statement like this from John 20:31, "Many other signs therefore did Jesus in the presence of His disciples which are not written in this book, but these are written, that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, and that believing ye may have life in His name."

Whatever we think of this book as a guide for the common reader, we must concede it is well written, and it is bound to arouse the truth-seeking scholar to a greater search of the scriptures.

In the author's suggested list of additional readings I am a bit surprised that there is not a single book recommended which reflects a more accurate study of historic details and spiritual interpretations.

L. C. Bundgaard.

CHURCH and HOME

By REV. M. MIKKELSEN

Quite frequently one may hear the expression: "But this is impossible." Even Mary, the mother of Jesus, said that when the announcement was brought to her by God's messenger, the angel Gabriel.

Jesus speaks a lot more than we are able to hear. If we do hear it may be some such word as one young man once heard: Go and sell all that you have. A word so hard and staggering that we shall say: But this is impossible.

Life is a great trust, but it can easily be frittered away in minor and entirely unconscious selfishness until it becomes empty, bitter and disheartening. A task need not be impossible because it is too big for me. It simply

means that I am not big enough, or that I have not acquired the training which is needed for the task. Things which men cannot do now are not therefore impossible; it merely means that they do not possess the skill and the strength required to accomplish what others might do with very little effort.

With God all things are possible. The reason that men are confronted with so many impossibilities in life and that they occur so frequently before them is simply this that they are too much like themselves and not enough like God. When God revealed Himself to men He did so in order to give him a chance to grow up to become like Himself and to impart to him strength and endurance to carry on and accomplish the most difficult tasks, so that when he sets out to do a thing he knows that he can do it and will come out achieving every time.

The men of the Bible all faced great

difficulties; they lived in a world of impossibilities and obstacles. They loved life, but death was stronger than the life they lived; consequently they were compelled to endure the circumstance until these could be changed by the newness of life imparted to them through God.

When we discover that we cannot get any farther in our own direction it is time to begin to move in the direction that has been pointed out to us by God. Why give up when there is still a way open and it is possible to advance toward the goal where life even in its most humble reaches becomes stronger than death and is so filled with love and service for God and man that all fear and selfishness disappear?

The Church as the servant of Christ in a dying world is obligated to leave nothing undone in its struggle against death.

OUR CHURCH

Dwight, Ill.—At a recent congregational meeting it was decided to extend to our youth in service, as they return one by one, a greeting of welcome, by offering to each one a one year's membership in the congregations with equal rights of the regular contributing members.

The Quarterly Sunday school Institute of the Danish Lutheran churches of the Chicago area will be held in the Dwight church Sunday, April 29. Mrs. K. M. Ludvigsen of Clifton, Ill., editor of "The Little Lutheran" of the United Danish church, and Rev. Harris Jespersen of Clinton, Iowa, editor of "Ungdom" will be the speakers.

Perth Amboy, N. J.—Samuel S. Rizzo, Ph. D., of Brazil, lecturer at Princeton University and Nelson Rockefeller's representative on Inter-American Church Relations, will speak in St. Stephen's Church at 8 o'clock in the evening, May 2.

Trinity, Chicago.—The spring quarterly meeting of the Chicago chapter of the Grand View College Alumni will be held Sunday evening, May 6, in the Trinity Church. The members will meet for a sandwich supper and the business meeting at 5:30 p. m. 1944-45 high school graduates of the church will be special guests. At 7:30 p. m. Professor Peter Jorgensen of Grand View College will be the guest speaker.

Greenville, Mich.—A memorial gift of two chancel chairs for the Little Denmark Church has been made by Mrs. Edith Servis, Mrs. Florence Stock, and Mrs. Julia Hills in memory of their mother, Mrs. Anna Nielsen. A new honor roll has been placed in the North Sidney Church on which is found also the service hymn entitled, "Keep Our Loved Ones" of six stanzas. This service roll is the work of Miss Harriet Thomsen.

Rev. Edwin E. Hansen, President of District III of our synod, was the guest speaker in the Dwight Church on Sunday evening, April 15, and in the Marinette, Menominee churches on Tuesday evening, April 17.

Enumclaw, Wash.—According to present plans Rev. C. Terrell, formerly of Badger, South Dakota, will be installed in the Enumclaw Church Sunday, April 22. Rev. A. W. Andersen of Tacoma, Wash., the District President, will officiate. The installment service is scheduled for 3 o'clock in the afternoon giving some of the pastors and members of other Washington congregations an opportunity to attend.

Manistee, Mich.—Rev. Holger Jorgensen, District President, was the guest speaker in the Manistee Church Thursday evening, April 19. Rev. Willard Garred is the pastor of the church.

"The March Of Faith" radio program on station WCAL, Northfield, Minn., which has been enjoyed by many dur-

ing the past three years is now being offered for national coverage by various stations throughout the country. The National Lutheran Council is sponsoring this program. Beginning now in April the program will be available to all stations. The program is 14 minutes in length, and is professionally produced by the National Broadcasting Company studios on "orthocustic" recordings. Each week's platter features an outstanding Lutheran choir, and an anonymous "Voice of the Church", in a brief, pointed message suitable for all portions of the listening public. Radio experts, after auditions of the program, declare it to be among the very finest religious programs being offered on the air. Additional stations may be added by arrangement between local pastors and the radio department of the National Lutheran Council office in New York.

Detroit, Mich.—Rev. Svend Jorgensen, who submitted to a surgical operation some time ago, has regained his health and is again serving his church. The St. Peter's Church of which he is the pastor recently voted to increase Rev. Jorgensen's salary from \$1920 to \$2400 annually.

Rev. N. P. Gravengaard, pastor emeritus, living in Los Angeles, Calif., observed his 80th birthday Tuesday, April 17th. Rev. Gravengaard was the President of the synod through a number of years and has served in a number of congregations in our synod. Congratulations!

Racine, Wis.—Robert Stærmose, the former member of the Danish Parliament, and who escaped from Denmark to Sweden, was the guest speaker on Sunday afternoon, April 8, at a large Danish gathering in Racine. The Bethania Church at a recent congregational meeting voted to pay the full amount which the congregation is assessed for the synodical budget. If the envelope contributions received will not cover the amount the balance will be paid out of the congregational treasury. It was also decided to install a coal stoker for the heating plant of the church.

Muskegon, Mich.—Something new each Sunday in our church: One Sunday it was new hymn books; the next baptismal font made by Hans Nielsen; the third the new tile floor. But the best addition to our church is the splendid attendance which fills the church every Sunday. (Bulletin).

Omaha, Nebr.—Rev. Holger Andersen, Viborg, So. Dak., recently was the guest speaker in the Young People's society of Our Savior's Church, Omaha, Nebr. On April 18th the Men's Club entertained the men from Pella and Our Savior's Churches. Chaplain Davidsen of Fort Crook was invited as the guest speaker.

Miss Dagmar Miller, returned missionary from the Santal Mission in India, recently spoke at Grand View College and also was the guest speaker at a meeting of women in the Luther Memorial Church.

Los Angeles, Calif.—Gleanings from the Annual Report of the pastor, Rev. A. E. Farstrup—During the past year 16 new members have joined the church. The ladies of the church have been as usual very active workers. Mr. Peter Thomsen, graduate from the Grand View College Theological Seminary, is now an assistant to Rev. Farstrup. Mr. Thomsen will have charge of the Sunday school and the Young People's work, and will preach in the pastor's absence.

During the past year the congregation has been able to completely pay off its indebtedness. Thus has been completed the building program begun in 1937 under the pastorate of Carl C. Rasmussen. During the year the congregation has received a gift from the estate of Mrs. C. J. Skovgaard in the amount of \$500.00. Upon the suggestion of the relatives and decision of the congregation this has been set aside as the beginning of an Organ Fund.

Fredsville, Iowa—A correspondent from Fredsville has sent us the following:

It was a clear Eastern morn. The sun had not yet risen but cars started coming up the road to the beautifully green cemetery around the Fredsville Church. Birds were beginning their full-throated song from the budding tree-tops. As the golden rays of the sun shone forth, the church bell began pealing its Easter message over the countryside. About seventy-five young people from the Bethlehem Church in Cedar Falls and from Fredsville Church were gathered on the green slope in the beautiful cemetery. Under the leadership of Rev. Holger O. Nielsen we joined in singing "Beautiful Savior" and "I Know That My Redeemer Lives". Then Rev. Nygaard read the Easter Gospel and gave a sermonette bringing out the surety and joy of the Resurrection and how fitting it was for us to have such a service as this here among those who too shall be resurrected as Christ arose. After this we sang, "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" and Rev. Nielsen closed with the Lord's Prayer.

It was a new experience for most of those present to gather out of doors that early in the morning for a worship service, but it was not only a new experience but a blessed experience. After the service the Danish and American flags were hoisted on the flag poles across from the church where they waved beautifully side by side as the many cars gathered bringing worshippers for the regular Easter service. It was truly an impressive Easter, and how thankful we should be for the privilege of observing such an Easter in this great and free land of ours where we may worship in freedom and peace. May the day be hastened when war-torn countries may again hear the joyous bells of Easter ring out over their land and when all are free to worship and sing praise for the Great Victory over the Grave — the Resurrection in and through Christ.

JENS SINDING

(Continued from page 5)

met for the final rites; for Jens still seemed as one of us after worshipping here for about thirty-two years. Numerous floral gifts were witness of the friendships he had made. Rev. Mortensen was superb in his interpretation of part of the Easter gospel and in applying it's message to the friends of the departed one, especially the family circle. Jens' spirit had been set free, but would still be present as a guiding and consoling power in the friendship circle, and particularly in the homes of the wife and children.

In the church we sang: "Gudsfred er mer end Englevagt," and "Lyksalig, lyksalig hver Sjæl, som har Fred," and those of you who are familiar with them, know what a message they carry, what a comfort they give. Miss Ruth Sorensen (Askov) sang very beautifully "Den store, hvide Flok vi se."

At the cemetery the final rites were completed at almost the same moment as the services for President Roosevelt started in Washington. Even though our thoughts were centered on the coffin before our eyes, we might be pardoned if for a moment we sent a thought to the distant scene of the one who so often on the radio had called us at great distance in the words: — "My Friends".

Many friends, I think all the Ruthton people, were invited back to the home to visit and partake of refreshments. There were friends from Hampton, Ia., and from Askov, Minn., also. Then friends departed, but many will again visit the home in coming days, and in thoughts often; for Jens and Anna Sinding had a large circle of friends.

As our thoughts go to the home now, they center more about Anna, who so faithfully toiled for several years to give comfort to her husband, and we can but wish for her that she may similarly be comforted in days to come. No matter how much material com-

fort we may have in old age, there is still something else needed, for besides the comfort, there is need of a feeling that one is being cared for with love. A nurse may comfort the crying baby, but it still will cry for mother, nothing takes the place of motherly love.

We can but hope that the circle of friendship evidenced by the gathering of friends and children may continue through the coming years so that Mrs. Sinding may feel that she is harvesting from the seeds of comfort and love she so bountifully has sown in the past years.

When you grow old, God grant you faithful friends,
Who'll give you comfort, and care for you with love,
Who'll stand near by to speak consoling words
As your spirit journeys on to Realms Above.

Sigurd Petersen,
Ruthton, Minn.

To Santal Mission

Readers of Luth. Tidings should know what our "Santal Missionary", the Mission publication, informs us of the additional responsibility on the field: One hundred China Missionary refugees have come "over the hump" and are now in the various homes of our Mission. They and we pray "Give us this day our daily bread." God hears and answers prayers.

General Budget.

Mrs. Siris Holm, Waterloo, Iowa, \$1.25; Evelyn and Herluf Frost, Waterloo, Iowa, \$5.00; Rev. John Christensen,

Hartford, Conn., \$15.00; Mrs. Bertha Andersen, Withee, Wis., \$2.00; St. Ansgar's S. S., Portland, Me., \$25.00; Mrs. H. J. Graw, Newell, Iowa, \$15.00; Dan. L. Aid, Diamond Lake, Minn., \$25.00; St. Paul's Church, Tacoma, Wash., \$10.00; Johannes Jepsen, Pulas-ki, N. Y., \$2.00; The Annex, Seattle, Wash., \$5.00; Mrs. Maren Andersen, Kimballton, Iowa, \$100.00; Our Savior's Church, Hartford, Conn., \$4.60; Kronborg Y. P. S., Marquette, Nebr., \$9.75; West Denmark S. S., Luck, Wis., \$3.04; St. Ansgar's S. S., Waterloo, Iowa, \$25; Joint Meeting of Three Ladies' Aids, Dwight, Ill., \$21.20.

In memory of Betty Dahl, Lake Benton, Minn., Albert Christensen, Chas. Eddy family, \$2.00; in memory of Hertel Andersen, in service, Mr. and Mrs. Mads Strandkov, Dagmar, Mont., \$2.00; in memory of Mrs. Mads Dahl, Tyler, Minn., Mr. and Mrs. Hans Svendsen, Tyler, Minn., \$2.00; in memory of Mrs. Knud Lund, Tyler, Minn., Dagmar Miller, Tyler, Minn., \$1.00.

Total for March, \$275.84.

Total since Jan. 1st, \$1,910.03.

Acknowledged with thanks.

Dagmar Miller.

Tyler, Minn.

President of Baptist Alliance Pays Tribute to Roosevelt — By Religious News Service — (4/13/45) — London (by wireless)—A message expressing "profound gratitude for President Roosevelt's unique achievement in furthering the welfare of his fellowmen," has been sent to U. S. Ambassador John Winant by Dr. J. H. Rushbrooke, president of the Baptist World Alliance, on behalf of the Baptist communion throughout the world.

BY THE RIVERS OF BABYLON

Translated by John M. Jensen.

Just off the press! These fifteen sermons are selected out of a collection of 26 originally printed in the Danish language in Argentina. They were delivered in the spring and summer of 1941, when Denmark had been one year under German occupation. Striking, provocative, and incisive messages. Cloth bound with attractive jacket. **Price \$1.00.**

Med Ordets Sværd

Twenty-eight **Danish** sermons by Kaj Munk. Just arrived from Argentina where it was recently published. This second group of sermons preached by Kaj Munk during the years 1941 and 1942 are typical of his work while he was pastor of Vedersø Church, the only church he served during his 20 years as pastor. **Price, 60c.** Paper bound, 190 pages.

The Kaj Munk Memorial Book

By Keigwin

A book containing several masterpieces of Kaj Munk, written as a memorial to him. Sale of this book is strictly on a non-profit basis; proceeds over and above cost will go to a Kaj Munk Memorial Fund. **Price, \$5.50.**

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