

# Lutheran Tidings

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## A Call to Prayer and Thanksgiving

FOR THE WAYS IN WHICH OUR CHURCHES WORK TOGETHER

TO THE CLERGY AND PEOPLE of the churches constituent to the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, greetings:

AS WE APPROACH the second meeting of the General Assembly of the National Council of Churches, wherein the official representatives of twenty-nine Christian communions will assemble with a common and a growing concern for finding more frequent and effective ways of working together, and of bearing common witness in the name of Christ, it is fitting that we should call upon all our people to observe a Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving in our several churches for the enlarging spirit of unity among us, and for the ways we are finding of manifesting more fully our oneness in Jesus Christ as Divine Lord and Saviour.

WE CALL UPON our people to pray to Almighty God in public services of worship and in private—

for the peace of all the world,

for the triumph of the will of God over ignorance, pride, and prejudice among men and nations,

for the establishment of international accord, rooted and grounded in justice and righteousness,

for our country, that in this time of decision, it may truly become a Nation under God,

for our churches, that they may manifest more clearly to their members and to the un-churched in all lands the love and the power of God in Christ,

for the General Assembly of the National Council of Churches, that its members may be guided and blessed by God in the strengthening of his kingdom.

WE CALL UPON our churches, and invite all Christians, to join in thanksgiving to God for the increasing understanding and co-operation between the churches, for the formation of the National Council of Churches, and for the deeper realization that in Christ we are members one of another.

MAY THE GRACE of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

REPRESENTATIVES of twenty-nine Communions, meeting in Cleveland, in December, 1950, brought into being the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. "In the Providence of God," they said in the preamble to the Constitution as adopted, "the time has come when it seems fitting more fully to manifest oneness in Jesus Christ as Divine Lord and Saviour, by the creation of an inclusive co-operative agency . . . to continue and extend" the work of twelve general agencies of the churches "and to combine all their interests and functions."

The second Biennial General Assembly of the National Council of Churches will meet in Denver, December 9, 10, 11 and 12. The call to public and private worship on the Sunday before the Assembly, printed above, was authorized by the General Board of the Council, acting for the twenty-nine communions constituent to the Council, which have approved and signed it through their responsible representatives.



## Forgive One Another

By George Mellby

Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Troy, N. Y.

Matthew 6:15—"but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

The Jewish people had a tradition that a person who committed offences against his brother was to be forgiven three times. If he offended a fourth time, forgiveness was not to be expected. The law had been fulfilled.

Jesus taught differently. He said, "Love your enemies; Do good to them that hate you." "When we stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any." As the apostle Peter listened to Jesus he began to be very much impressed by the Master's words. He drew near to him. "Lord," he said, "how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?" Surely, now the Lord would commend him for his generosity in being willing to forgive seven times. For, of course, there had to be some limit!

But picture Peter's amazement as he heard Him say, "I say not unto thee, 'Until seven times: but until seventy times seven.'" (Matt. 18:22) Peter, and the others with him, needed more instruction on this matter. Therefore Jesus told them a story, the story of the unforgiving servant as found in Matt. 18.

In this story a servant was brought before his lord with a debt so immense he was unable to pay it. Moved with compassion, the lord forgave him the entire amount. Leaving his lord, the servant met a fellow-servant who owned him a trifling sum. He seized him, demanded the money and threw him in prison when he begged for time in which to pay.

We have a very compassionate Savior. Our sins against Him are so great we could never pay the "debt of guilt we owe." But, when we earnestly repent and turn from our wicked ways, He is "faithful and just to forgive us all our sins." But the matter does not end here. Listen to what the Lord said to the unforgiving servant in the story. "O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldst not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow-servant, even as I had pity on thee?" We must be willing at all times to forgive our fellow-men who sin against us. If we are not, the **Heavenly Father can not forgive us** either. How dare we pray the Lord's Prayer in which we say "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us," if we are not willing to forgive?

We sorrow when a loved one is taken from us by death. But it is far more sad to see a person with an unforgiving spirit. Such a one is cutting himself off from eternal life with God in heaven. And what could be more sad than that? "**Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer:** and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." (I John 3:15)

Are you carrying a grudge in your heart toward someone? Perhaps someone in your family, or in your church, has done you an injustice, and you have become bitter, and have refused to have anything to do with that individual? Do you know whom you are hurting the most? It is yourself! You have raised up a barrier that is preventing God's grace from enter-

ing into your heart. "If ye do not forgive, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you."

Yes, it is indeed sad to see a person who will not forgive his brother. In the story, Jesus says, "So when his fellow-servants saw what was done, they were **very sorry**, and came and told unto their Lord all that was done." How do we feel when we see a brother overtaken in this sin? It ought to affect us deeply. If it does not grieve, or distress us, it must be because the spirit of love and forgiveness is absent, or very feeble in us.

A child of God has a very definite responsibility toward his sinning brethren. "If a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted." (Gal. 6:1) True Christian love grieves over a fallen brother, and tries to warn and help him.

If congregations today would take heed to the Master's words, as recorded in Eph. 4:31 and Col. 3:16,17, what a different picture they would present to the world!

"Let all the bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do; in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus."

This is the Christian, Biblical way of living together, whether it be as families or as congregations.

## To Bear Witness

Foremost among the reasons why we should give thanks to God at this time or any other time is the opportunity to bear witness to God's redeeming love in Christ. While this is done from our pulpits and altars as well as through the prayers and hymns at our worship services, countless other ways may be found. I have run across the following example:

St. Francis of Assisi, who lived about seven hundred years ago, was a good man and very religious, a saint if there ever was one. It is said that one day he asked a certain monk to go with him down into the city. As they went along the street, turning this corner and that, St. Francis smiled and chatted pleasantly with the people he met. He kept this up for some time, and then, together with the monk, he started back toward the monastery where they lived. The monk, surprised at this conduct, said: "When are we going to preach?"

"Why," said St. Francis, "that is what we were doing all the time we were walking the streets, talking with the people and smiling at them."

St. Francis was right. No matter how eloquent the Word may be preached in our churches, how devoutly said in our homes, how fervently our prayers may rise to God, how enthusiastically we may share in the sacraments, the best witnessing is done in our everyday walk and conversation. In this way we may



all bear witness to the glory of God's salvation in Christ.

We of the Danish Lutheran Church have been given a blessed opportunity to bear witness to Christ through our common task of educating young people at Grand View College and Seminary to live and serve in the God given future vocations and callings. We try to prepare unfortunate children for a worthy human life at the Children's Home in Chicago. These children often start life handicapped because of their thoughtless parents or other adverse circumstances. We have built and help maintain homes for older people at Des Moines and Tyler, while we are in the process of adding another at Solvang, for we want to make the sunset of life as pleasant as possible for those of the older generation as they have made it possible for us of the present one. Most of all we feel a direct responsibility for aiding our old and retired friends among the pastors and their wives or widows. They have brought to us the "bread of life." We want to thank them for this even though we realize that the pensions we pay them are small and insufficient.

The task we are carrying on together in home missions and in the Santal Mission is certainly an attempt, however inadequate it may be to bring others the love of Him who has loved us. In all this we are bearing witness of what it means to all of us to share in the blessing of the Danish Lutheran Church. But far beyond the limits of the activities and in institutions of our own church go the gifts we gather for Lutheran World Action. The scope is world wide, Africa, Palestine, Arabia, Japan, India, Indonesia, New Guinea, the many war scarred Lutheran churches of Europe, its institutions of learning and mercy slowly being restored to service through these our gifts. Not the least do we want to witness of God's love to the destitute and homeless people of Europe and Korea. God has called us to more than fight with weapons of steel and destruction. He has given us a message of good cheer and care for others.

Have we given thanks to God that He through our Danish Lutheran Church has called us thus to witness? Or do we feel it as a burden, an unpleasant unavoidable drain of our pocket book that we have been asked this year to contribute less than \$10.00 a person in order that our representatives at Grand View College, Children's Home, Old People's Homes, Pension Fund, Home Missions, Santal Mission, and all the activities of the National Lutheran Council and Lutheran World Federation may walk with a message of hope, faith, good cheer and helpfulness. It is my hope that we may all enter cheerfully into the task of witnessing to Christ through thankfully contributing our share.

Our treasurer, Mr. Charles Lauritzen, reports as of November first, that while the budget for the Synod in 1952 is \$50,240.00, only \$32,337.69 or 64.46 per cent has been paid by the congregations. Thirty congregations have paid their full share, while five have paid nothing. Mr. Lauritzen also reports that a total of \$7,150.95 has been contributed, as of November first, toward the Lutheran World Action 1952 goal of \$15,624.70 or 48.89 per cent. Miss Dagmar Miller will report for the Santal Mission. May I suggest that it is not only a matter of so many dollars and cents, but

of how well we keep faith, first of all with God, who has laid these causes on our synodical doorstep as our collective way of witnessing to His love and care for all of us in Christ, but also with all those who are our representatives, working in these institutions, missions and activities and most of all that we keep faith with those whom we have chosen thus to serve.

May God inspire us to bear witness to Him through our contributions toward the common task of the Danish Lutheran Church.

Alfred Jensen.

November 29, 1952.

## Hampton, Iowa

Mr. and Mrs. A. B. P. Miller of Hampton, received word this week from the Red Cross that their son, their only child, Erling, had been killed in the airplane crash in Korea. He was one of the many killed in the flying boxcar plane which was returning soldiers to Seoul after a rest period in Japan. No details have been issued concerning the accident but according to news reports the plane had probably developed engine trouble and was unable to gain enough altitude to rise over the mountains. The plane was only a few miles from its destination when it crashed.

Erling had served in an engineering unit of the army a little over a year. He went overseas shortly after New Year. He would soon have served his overseas time and his father and mother were already making plans for his return home.

Our sympathy goes to his father and mother, and may God comfort them in their sorrow and give them courage to face the days ahead.

At the beginning of the month a young man in St. John's congregation, at Hampton, Iowa, looked over the wonderful crop of corn which they were harvesting this year. He thought of how fortunate they were and how much they had to be thankful for. He remembered that in the spring they would not have dared to hope for a yield which would produce such an abundant amount. Realizing that he would like to share that gift in some way through the Church he mentioned the idea to others that every farmer bring in a load of corn, or as much as they would like to give. The idea gained support of many.

The following Thursday morning word had been sent out to everyone telling them about the plan and to have their corn at the church that day. At 8 o'clock the corn sheller was ready to begin. Fourteen loads of ear corn were shelled. The local elevator furnished a truck for hauling in the corn. Many who had no harvest to share, worked faithfully in unloading the corn and kept everything moving smoothly. Several of the ladies kept the coffee hot so that everyone who came up with a load of corn could stop long enough to drink a little coffee before they went back home. Some who had finished picking corn brought other things. One brought a couple of pigs and another some chickens. These were auctioned off in the evening.

In the evening after everyone had been able to get a few minutes rest, the men took charge of a hurried up program. There was singing and readings, short talks and plenty of good fellowship. It was then announced that the total receipts from the day were over \$1800.

I have seen many types of giving but I have never seen anything which has impressed me more than this method. No "God's Acre" plan or "drive" has been given a more enthusiastic response than this. It was definitely an indication what can be done when the heart is present in the giving. I hope more groups will make use of this method if they want to make giving and sharing a lot of fun.

Sincerely,

Gudmund Petersen.



## Carl C. Rasmussen

May 12, 1901-November 14, 1952

Funeral Sermon by Rev. Halvdan Knudsen  
Emanuel Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, California  
November 17, 1952

During his last days when he was in much pain and misery from his sickness, realizing also that his bodily strength was ebbing out and that the time might soon arrive when the soul departed from the body, Carl Rasmussen gave witness to the reality of faith. The test of all tests, the approaching death, left him confident and trusting God. It was my privilege to visit him during those last days, and as it was apparent that we might not see each other often our conversation sought the areas that seemed important to talk about in face of the limited time we had.

He had not lost his desire to live, he wished that he could have many more years with his dear ones and his friends, yet he was reconciled to the thought that he might soon go. His faith gave him peace of heart, and upon a direct question he answered, "Yes, I rest in my faith." He once wrote in our church publication, *The Emanuel Messenger*: "There are many religions in the world, and much that goes under the name of religion, but there is only one Gospel, ETERNAL LIFE GIVEN US BY THE GRACE OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST."

As a servant of this Gospel, a minister of the Christian Church, Carl C. Rasmussen was unusually gifted. His talent for speaking was great. He was able to use words of both the Danish and the American language to captivate his audience. Listening to him was like having a picture of words painted before you, all the details of the picture were carefully put in place and when the sermon was finished it had the characteristics of wholeness.

Besides the gift of speech, Carl Rasmussen also had a brilliant talent for organizing. He was an organizer in the true sense of the word; he could make others cooperate and work for a cause. And as he was willing and eager to utilize his talents he could look back upon things accomplished.

We, who now serve in Emanuel church and belong here, feel that we owe much to Carl Rasmussen. The present church edifice, the church hall, the parsonage bear witness of his ability to get a group of people to work together for a common cause.

His talents were also used in other areas of life. For 8 years he served as Councilman in the Los Angeles City Council. He devoted much of his strength to serve the public in his city. He also gave time and talent to the Moral Rearmament Group, of which he for many years was an active member.

To the congregation of Emanuel Church, however, he stands as the leader during the building period of this church, we thank God that He—during a critical period—sent Carl Rasmussen to Emanuel.

There are many traits that should be mentioned on this day, but I feel there is one thing Carl wanted me to say, and I shall try to say it. During a visit recently we talked about the ministry, about the difficulties that might arise, and also about the challenge

it was to serve as a Christian minister. Carl said: "It is not the eloquence of the speaker, it is not the brilliance of the mind that makes the Christian witness, we must not let our words obscure the message which is the gospel. The highest things shall be said in simple words. Directly and straightforward." Truly



Carl C. Rasmussen

a humble statement from a man who was highly gifted as speaker, but it was also, it seems to me, a true Christian way of speaking. The main thing, the essential thing in life is to let God become your hope and your foundation.

It was as if he wanted to say what Paul once said: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." God's grace in me, by God's grace I am made perfect, it is not I, Carl Rasmussen, that is important, but I as possessor of God's grace.

I believe that is what he wanted me to say at this service. I sincerely believe that he more than anything else wanted to share with us a faith, that did not succumb under the threat of death and destruction. He wanted to make it said clearly and simply: "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has passed away, behold the new has come. Amen."

Halvdan Knudsen.

### To Carl

The night is past, the dawn has come;  
Your ship is safely thru the storm,  
Thru faith in Jesus, our dear Lord  
The last foe conquered and you're home.

Love conquers fear, faith carries on;  
Forward now, triumphantly.  
Our love, which in our youth we pledged  
Will bind us close eternally.

God's great love encircles us.  
We here at home, you over there;  
There is no parting, so no grief;  
Our thankful hearts we bow in prayer.

Clara.



## Dad

My father was born in a small white frame house in the little Danish community of Tyler, Minnesota. His parents had immigrated from Denmark and were among those early pioneers who were helping to create America. They later moved to Askov, Minnesota.

His father was a simple farmer, and as the area around Askov was still wilderness and the farm still undeveloped, Dad and his brother and father spent many long hours clearing the land and picking up the hundreds of stones that covered the fields. His two sisters and Mother were more than busy with the work of creating a home.

When he was 21 years old he married Mother. Theirs was to be a life full of adventure and new horizons. The first was their decision that Dad should enter the ministry. It had always been his Mother's wish for his life and when he was 24 it became a reality. After three years at Grand View College seminary, he took his first call at the town of Viborg, South Dakota. For 12 years he was in the ministry, he had three churches, the last of which was here in Los Angeles. His family had now enlarged to two sons and one daughter.

Then came the second challenge, to enter the City Council of Los Angeles. The people had recalled the mayor and they had asked Mayor Bowron to head a reform government that could clean up the city. Dad was one of the many new councilmen that went into the City Hall during that election. In his heart it was his deep desire to bring Christian principles into the hard world of politics and the difficult job of running this big city.

The next eight years were World War II years, busy and full of responsibilities. From the head of a Church to a City Father; campaigns, decisions, trips to various city projects and areas. Dad's great desire was slum clearance program and what a sense of triumph when, after a trip to Washington, the government decided to give Federal Aid. He was working close to Dr. Frank Buchman and the work of Moral Re-Armament.

Then came his 5th campaign and he lost the election. He could hardly believe that it had happened. Up to that time he had been successful in everything he touched. As a young minister he was much loved, and he was the leader in the building of the Church we are in today, and as a Councilman he did a great work. But now it was as if the Lord said, "I have given you great material success, now I want you to live for me." But Dad did not understand it and the next five years were full of doubt and pain in his heart. He took up many different positions, Title insurance business, a short term of service in the church in Seattle, and Real Estate. But always in his heart he was asking the question . . . Is God strong enough to guide me each day? to provide for my family? and to answer the problems in this complicated and confused world? He had faith in God but now the Lord was asking him to take up the Cross and let his will be governed by God's will.

When the cancer struck him three months ago, the questions in his heart were answered. Through the pain and the suffering the Lord became so real in his heart, and his faith became so strong, that every-

one who came in contact with him, felt that here was a faith, not based upon sentimentality, but on the reality of an experience of the Cross.

As the weeks went by, the Lord gave a wonderful gift of unity to us as a family that we had never experienced before. Together we talked about the possibilities of Dad's going and through honesty about our feelings we felt we could all take this new step in Dad's spiritual life together. He was ready to go and the Lord took him peacefully.

He lives, we have felt his spirit very close. And I know he is grateful for all those who are gathered here today. Before he left he kept saying, "This will be the greatest adventure in my life." The victory came and will continue.

Eileen Rasmussen.

## How Deep Are These Roots

By Ove R. Nielsen

Chairman of the Synodical Stewardship Committee

During the last decade our church has reaped a phenomenal harvest. It has been one to excite the imagination and to inspire awe and wonder. With the fruit from that harvest we have been able to build a substantial addition to Grand View College in Des Moines, strengthen the faculty and increase the enrollment. We have added a number of rooms to Valborgsminde, our largest Old People's Home. A host of our congregations have erected new Sunday school buildings, parish halls, or parsonages, and still others have improved upon their present facilities. A few have even constructed new churches.

We have gradually felt our way into home missions, without diminishing our interest for the foreign ones. We are even making guarded overtures to the basic concepts of evangelism and stewardship.

Relatively speaking, there has been a plentiful harvest. The people have given generously during a time when economic prosperity has reached its bountiful hand into most of our homes to deposit riches which we had hardly dared to dream about before. Necessary projects by congregations and synod have moved on to their natural completion with relative ease, even though much in this respect will still be required of us in the years immediately ahead. It is a joy that such efforts as Lutheran World Action have been able to invade our churches and our homes, and have not been turned away empty handed.

During this decade we have had our sights trained principally on the harvest. We have, figuratively speaking, shaken the tree. Only rarely has it been necessary to extend the ladder up into the higher branches. We have been eager gatherers of fruit for the Kingdom. These fruits have been gratifying. I suppose that many of us have remembered the words "By their fruits ye shall know them" and have inwardly rejoiced.

For ten years we have looked mainly upon the fruit. Now let us examine the root. It is time that we do this. We must re-think the place for our commanding emphasis. Have we concentrated too much upon the fruit and too little upon the root?

We may justly compare the last decade in our churches to those early days in our fields across the land when the soil could produce in overflowing quan-



tity without the benefit of crop rotation and conservation. Rich acres abounded. Eager reapers moved with morning gusto across hills and valleys. The soil was young, strong, virile. The farmer was jollified in his triumphs.

But the time came when the soil was depleted in many areas. People abandoned their farms by the hundreds of thousands. In their enthusiasm and ignorance they had concentrated too long upon the fruits. The soil was left to lie, unproductive and barren. From then on it would require nourishment and care until the close of the ages.

For the intelligent few, the handwriting on the wall had been obvious for generations. They had seen that reckoning would be inevitable. But they had been lone prophets, cupping their hands to shout against the wind. The people would not see the stealthy approach of choking weeds and erosion on the hillsides.

The church has now enjoyed a copious harvest. But we must scrutinize the plant. In the Christian person and in the Christian community there must be other virtues than the one which will let the dollar be dislodged. Are other virtues present in equal proportion to that one? The theological virtues are imperative. They are faith, hope, and love. Is our faith so strong that we can believe the unbelievable? Is our hope so perceiving that we can see the light when all is darkness? Is our love so real that we can love the unlovable?

The Christian person and the Christian program shall of necessity have exceedingly deep roots. These roots must be rooted in Jesus Christ. Without that the Christian person and the Christian program become artificial.

Are we deeply rooted in our Savior? Our pastors tell us that there are many knees in our congregations that are too stiff to bend at the communion table. To reserve the right to remain aloof from taking communion is a dangerous reservation for the Christian to hold. It is a touching commentary on the spiritual health of the congregations.

What of the numerous men in our congregations who send their wives motoring to church on Sunday mornings with the children for Sunday school, and for all practical purposes might as well paraphrase the lovely little hymn and sing: "Take my wife and let her be, Consecrated, Lord, to Thee." And then there are the many men and women, and in some instances, children, who are counted among our membership but so rarely cross the threshold which divides the two kingdoms. They are treading on thin ice. I firmly believe that those who do not worship regularly in their churches are people who are not regular in their faith. Reservations about the value of worshipping together with others will usually mean reservations concerning the very purpose of the church. They do not firmly believe that the church stands for the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and that this gospel is God's power to turn man from the slavery of sin into the freedom of the kingdom of God. They do not completely believe that by giving ourselves to Christ, who died for our sins, we receive His power to live righteous and happy lives, and that He is able to lift us out of sin into holy living in this world. They question that he raises us from the dead into

the eternal life of His Kingdom, and that the church is God's way of coming to men, and man's way of coming to God.

A genuine fruit from the deep roots of a congregation would be for some of its young men to answer the call to serve in the Christian ministry. Yet we have several congregations which have existed for half, and some even for three quarters of a century, and yet no man of theirs has answered the challenge by saying: "Here am I, send me!"

The need for what might be considered a strange or unusual emphasis is here. It is evangelism that we must emphasize. It will not be sufficient to formulate and pass upon a resolution to that effect at our national convention. It must be a total resolve by our total church. We can not possibly shake the tree so vigorously that we will strengthen and deepen the roots in the doing. We err when we superimpose an ingathering program in our enthusiasm. We err because we seek the fruits without the roots. Our real unity of Christian purpose is not found in our common prosperity, but only as we are all rooted in Jesus Christ. Only the fruits from these deep roots are genuine. All else is strange fruit in God's church. Some will counter that we can also build churches with strange fruit. We can erect impressive buildings, but they will hardly be houses of living stones. And only so long as economic prosperity continues can we shake the tree and dislodge that kind of fruit.

The time has come for us to deepen our roots. It can be done only through pure, vigorous evangelism. We must give the Word its way. We must give it free course that it may be glorified, that it may be personalized in us, meditated upon, proclaimed, lived! We know that we are little people, but when we become deeply rooted in Christ we are crowned with glory.

Let us draw our God-given forces together in the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church. Let us mobilize our spiritual energy in our congregations and in the synod, and pray that it may be directed by God to the deepening of our roots.

Sometimes we hesitate too long in our churches. Our human outlook cautions that we must await the moment when most of the people are agreed that it is time to launch forth in a new, emphatic endeavor. For that reason we must always bear in mind that as a church of Jesus Christ we are not like the State Department of our government whose hand of decision must of necessity hold a sensitive finger upon the pulse of the people. We are redeemed sinners who are called upon by our Redeemer to quicken the spiritual pulse of ourselves and those about us with the power of the gospel of salvation. We are clearly called upon to do His will, even if that will is contrary to our own.

Let us do whatever must be done that this may be done. Our roots must be deepened and strengthened in Christ through His quickening Word in evangelism. That kind of a root will produce real fruit. That fruit will finally be apparent in our stewardship as it blossoms, pollinates, and matures in Christian service. Then we will be moving toward eventual possession of the theological virtues of faith, hope, and love. Then we may build our churches and our schools, our homes and our people.



# Our Women's Work

Editor

Mrs. Ellen Knudsen, 907 Morton St., Des Moines 16, Iowa

## Our W. M. S. Work

As you have seen in the last issue of Lutheran Tidings, "Our Women's Work" has a new editor. We wish to welcome Mrs. Johannes Knudsen as our member of the staff of Lutheran Tidings. We hope she will not only enjoy this new work but that the women of our Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church will continue to contribute good reading to our "Page," and also thereby support our new editor.

Miss Emilie Stockholm, who was elected as editor in Omaha, was obliged to decline the election due to illness. We hope Miss Stockholm may soon be well again and in some other way contribute to the work of W. M. S.

To our outgoing editor, Mrs. Johanne Lillehøj, we extend our sincere thanks for five years of diligent and painstaking work editing our "Page".

Our District Conventions have now been held and it has been a pleasure to read the reports from W. M. S. gatherings at these meetings. Several new District Representatives have been elected. As soon as all the reports are in, we shall have a complete list of the nine representatives.

As has been mentioned our project for the year continues to be "Home Missions." We hope we may grow in stature spiritually as this Home Mission Work becomes vital in our lives. Our treasurer, Mrs. Axel Kildegaard, has reminded us also to send a gift to the General Fund, that we may continue to lend a helping hand here and there in our synod where the work or workers need a little lift.

It was a real pleasure to attend the Women's Conference in Des Moines and we wish to extend our thanks to the Council of Religious Education for making this possible and to our leader, Rev. Howard Christensen, for his efforts in giving us the rich experience in Christian Fellowship. At this conference four of our W. M. S. board members were present, so we had an opportunity to meet in a short session between meetings.

With kind greetings to each and everyone and best wishes for the work which lies ahead, the W. M. S. board sends this message to the readers of the "Page".

IDA EGEDE, W. M. S. President.

## Thank You For CARE

One of the greatest experiences I had on our recent trip was the meeting at Hannover, Germany. The welcome was so unique and so overwhelming I would like to share it with the women of our church whose representative I was.

As we registered at the hotel desk we were handed a large box. My husband and I looked at each other much puzzled by this parcel. We took it to our room and found a "Thank You For Care" tag inside. There

was a typewritten greeting, a thank you for the gifts which the German people had received in the years immediately following the war. And then there were gifts from various women's groups of Niedersachsen. Mine contained, a wooden bread tray with "Give us this day our daily bread" carved on it, a roll of hand-made Cluny lace, a Hummel figurine, a bottle of white wine, a ceramic candle holder, a book of pictures, and from the women of Coburg there was a picture card with the following greeting (in part): "With this small gift we all thank you for the great help we received from your Protestant congregations during the last years until today." It touched us deeply and we received it as a sign of sincere gratitude.

The meetings that followed brought home to me that the work and the problems of the women of the church are much the same throughout the world. This was ably expressed in one of the reports: "We women of this modern age need a new vision of our tasks. War and all its attendant horrors must not be looked upon simply as terrible events but as challenges to Christian faith and Christian love in action." In a subsequent report I shall convey to you some of the content of our discussions.

Ellen Knudsen.

## Women's Mission Society of Dist. 6

The Women's Mission Society of District 6 met in the Diamond Lake Church at Lake Benton on September 6. We sang, "Open now thy gates of beauty" and then our chairman, Mrs. Asta Ibsen, introduced Rev. J. Andreasen. He read to us from the 8th chapter of Luke and spoke briefly on mission work and women's part in it.

After singing the hymn, "Teach me, O God to be," Mrs. Ibsen read a letter from Mrs. Ida Egede, President of WMS, in which she expressed the hope that our Women's Mission Society may grow and develop in the future as it has in the past. She mentioned the new fields which have begun and need our help. The chairman then called on a representative from each of the different Mission Society groups for reports. These were given in detail and each one told about the regular WMS projects and other mission projects of a more local nature which they supported. They also told about various ways of raising the money to carry on the work. The chairman suggested that future reports also contain something about the program material which is used for our mission meetings.

The collection taken at the meeting went to the Home Mission Fund.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and we sang, "Teach me, O Lord, Thy Holy Way."

Mrs. Hattie Jensen.



# Paging Youth

ESPECIALLY OF OUR D. A. Y. P. L.

Editor: Thorvald Hansen, Rt. 1, Atlantic, Iowa

## Reflections On Workshop

If we can accept the evidence of the BUTTONIERES as conclusive, certain of our leaders in the Youth Work of the synod must have definite political affiliations. At least so it seemed on Friday afternoon, October 24, at the opening meeting of our DAYPL Workshop and Convention at Des Moines.

The meeting was opened with a devotional message by the Rev. Gudmund Petersen, Iowa district advisor. The Rev. Harris Jespersen then told us something about "Yule" and the Rev. Howard Christensen spoke briefly about the contemplated new edition of "A World of Song." The Rev. Clayton Nielsen spoke to us on our relations with other young people's groups and Miss Ruth Jacobsen gave an interesting talk on the work of the United Christian Youth Movement.

Following refreshments, reports and problems were presented by the respective district presidents. The Newsletter problem seems to be widely prevalent.

The Rev. Ronald Jespersen and Miss Ellen Thomsen gave us a good deal of information on program material. They pointed to some program weaknesses but also pointed out ways to counteract those weaknesses. We were divided into groups in which we then discussed and planned a program of our own. The result was most interesting. One group planned a Halloween party, another a regular meeting, another a group of meetings and another a "Fastelavn" party. Who will ever forget the explanation the Chicago boy gave of "knocking the cat out of the barrel?" We can still hear the echoes of the laughter.

Friday evening, following the program, we went to the gym hall for folk-games. The evening was concluded with a "sock-hop" in the college living room.

Bright and early Saturday morning everyone stayed in bed. Seriously, few people actually got up early enough for breakfast. The first meeting wasn't until 8:30 though, so everyone was up in time for that. The devotions were led by Two Grand View students, Donald Holm and LaVerne Larkowski, both of whom helped to present us with a right start for the day.

"Operations India" was reported on by Ruth Jacobsen and Solvejg Egede, who constitute that committee. This was followed by a discussion, in four different groups, of the duties of society and district officers. The findings of these groups were then presented to the whole group.

The Rev. T. C. Hansen opened the discussion on vocations by telling of four ways in which we might deal with life. Again we divided into four groups, this time to discuss the matter of vocation. When the findings of these groups were brought together many

interesting points came to light, among them the following: It seems that two men were talking and a local minister walked by just as the garbage man drove up. The first man exclaimed that no two men could be more equal in the community. "What?" exclaimed the second man. "Sure," replied the first, "they're both making this city a cleaner place in which to live."

On Saturday afternoon the annual business meeting of DAYPL was held. (This was reported in the last issue of PY.)

A banquet was held Saturday evening in the church basement with the food being carried over from the college. A camp theme was used and the decorations were very appropriate. During the banquet, of which the Rev. Ronald Jespersen was toastmaster, a fine program, featuring a trumpet and vocal solos, was given. Harry Jensen, business manager at GVC, gave a short talk and the Rev. Harris Jespersen showed slides from various Nebraska camps. Banquet dishwashers were chosen by lot.

An excellent program was presented by the GVC students in the lecture hall of the college after the banquet. The entire group taking part deserves much credit for a great show that was enjoyed by all.

On Sunday morning a Bible class was held with the theme "The Use of the Bible in Prayer." At 10:45 the church was filled to capacity for the service at which the Rev. Charles Terrell delivered the sermon.

A good dinner was then enjoyed following which came the hardest part of the whole workshop, that of farewell. Some of the more fortunate ones were able to remain until the evening or until the next morning.

It was a grand Workshop with the attendance over the one hundred mark. It was indeed an inspiration to attend and may God grant that all those who were in attendance may use what they learned to strengthen the workings of DAYPL.

Everett Nielsen.

## DAYPLand Doin's

The St. Ansgar (Waterloo, Iowa) Society was host on Sunday, November 16, for an area get-together which included societies from Hampton, Cedar Falls, Fredsville and Dewar of Iowa, and Alden, Minnesota.

Singing from "A World of Song" got the meeting off to a good start at 3:30. The Rev. Richard Sorensen, the host pastor, then presented the Rev. George Griebenow, who spoke to the group. Following this, games were played until the supper hour. The supper was served by the mothers of the Waterloo young people.

The supper hour was also used as an opportunity to mix the groups so that all might become better acquainted. Folk-dancing and singing games were enjoyed as was also a film entitled "For All People." The repeating of the Lord's Prayer in unison closed the program.

Another such area meeting is to be held during the month of February with the society at Fredsville playing the role of host.

The foregoing makes it obvious that the Waterloo society is "on its feet again." Informed sources tell



## Greetings From Eben-Ezer, Brush, Colorado

Dear Friends of Eben-Ezer:

Your editor has asked me to write a few lines to your paper as an introduction to a closer fellowship with you, as my wife and I begin our work here as the new "Præstefolk" at the Eben-Ezer Home. We know that this place is dear and close to many who read this.

First let me tell you briefly about our background and how God has led us through life until,



Rev. V. Bagger



Mrs. Bagger

we now have answered the Call to serve here at Eben-Ezer Home and Hospital. We felt that we could accept also this ministry as a Call from God.

I am born in Aalborg, Denmark in 1894, where my father had his business. I enrolled at the University of Copenhagen in 1912; took my pre-medical

us that a new group is also coming to life in the Pacific Northwest, at Tacoma. We'll be waiting to hear more from that corner of DAYPLand soon.

The Society at Withee, Wisconsin, is taking charge of the clothing drive for Lutheran World Relief in that community. They are also purchasing a sign that will direct the public to their church.

The Troy, New York, society had a "Family Night" on November 2, which is said to have been "a big success." Incidentally, the Troy pastor, the Rev. George Mellby, is doing a fine job of editing the Atlantic District Newsletter even though he apparently isn't getting much help from his reporters.

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From the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America comes word of a new career for Young People. A pamphlet called, "A New Career for You" gives information concerning a future in Weekday Religious Education. This is a comparatively new and continually broadening field. Here is another way to do something worthwhile and to make your life count in Christian service. The Department of Weekday Religious Education of the National Council of Churches, 79 East Adams Street, Chicago 3, Illinois, will be glad to supply further information to you.

exams in 1917 and started my special study of medicine. However, the influence of World War I on the little country of Denmark was hard on students, as were the post-war years. And many dropped out for various reasons. I was compelled to because of financial difficulties.

Fortunately I took an intern year at "Philadelphia," the third Danish Deaconess Institute for epileptics and nerve patients. Here I first met my future wife; she was training for the Diaconate. Later I went to England to pursue a course in Social Problems. I returned to Denmark the following year and accepted a Call to the Santal Mission field in India, to work among the thousands of lepers found there. After a further course in social work, I left for the Mission field in 1925.

My interest for the mission had been awakened in my home. My mother was a member of the committee that had started the now well known Sudan Mission. It is interesting to know, that this particular mission was a fruit of the preaching of a Christian Indian from Madras. Through a period of two weeks the largest church in Aalborg was filled every evening to hear him. The offerings laid at these mission services amounted to a sum large enough to induce our pastor to begin a mission work in Sudan. Later Jens Dixen from Kenmare, North Dakota, was in Denmark and from his interest and enthusiasm a support toward this mission was started here in America.

My wife was born in Idom, near Holstebro, Denmark, as the fifth of twelve children, five of whom are here in U. S. and Canada. After her training at the Diaconate, she received training through a period of six years at the large Bispebjerg Hospital in Copenhagen. And after a course in midwifery at the London University, she left for India.

We were married in India at the Eben-Ezer church, the mother station of the Santal Mission. All the pioneer missionaries who had served under Børresen and Skrefsrud were present. Unfortunately the bridegroom had malaria and was semi-conscious during the ceremony. But he revived on the way home, when the oxen pulling the "bridal carriage" went on strike in the middle of a river, and the bridegroom had to get out of the carriage and carry his bride ashore and lead her through the jungle to the home, where we were to live and work for a period of twenty-two years.

In 1933 we were back in Denmark for our first vacation year. During this year I sought further theological training and was ordained by Bishop Ostenfeld in "Vor Frue Kirke" in Copenhagen. The present Bishop Fuglsang Damgaard, who has been a professor at the University, was ordained the same day to serve as "Stiftsprovst."

We returned to India in 1934 for another seven year period of service, during which we built the Saldoha Leper Colony. This Leper Colony has now served as the home and hospital for thousands of unfortunate lepers. We helped to bring healing to



many hundreds of them and many were brought into the church where they found faith in the God we had come to tell them about.

The tragedy of World War II made it impossible for us to go back to Denmark for our next vacation year. As I was seriously ill and by my doctors had been ordered to get away from the tropics, we received and accepted an invitation to take our year's vacation in U. S. A.

Then came the day of Pearl Harbor (I was sitting at the dinner table in the Kimballton, Iowa parsonage when the news came over the radio.) This prevented us from returning to India. And then followed three years of ministry to the churches of Winnepeg and Ostenfeld in Canada. These were happy years and full of adventure among the Canadian pioneer farmers.

When the war was over, a call for service in the mission field again brought us back to India. However, this now meant to leave two of our girls here for further schooling. Our youngest daughter returned with us. We served another five years in happy fellowship with our leper friends. Finally the work proved too much for my wife, and on doctor's advice we had to accept the fact that our working day in this mission field had come to an end.

Our two daughters had meanwhile attended college and married; Agnete is married to Johnny Christiansen of Minneapolis and Ingrid to Jake Knapp in Las Vegas. Karen, our 13 year old daughter is with us in our home, and she seems happy about the U. S. A.

Thus with many experiences and memories of God's grace, we now launch out with Him in this new field of the Kingdom. And we have immediately felt at home here in Eben-Ezer. In so many ways this Home reminds us of the Deaconess Home, "Philadelphia" in Denmark, with which we have retained a contact and fellowship through all these years.

We were overwhelmed by the hearty welcome that met us when we arrived a few days ago. This welcome was expressed in so many ways from all the workers here as well as from all the guests of the Home. Eben-Ezer is a wonderful place for Christian service. With its home, hospital and church it is a "power house" as well as a mission field. It has a history that continually reminds us of Him "who has helped hitherto" (Eben-Ezer), and we are looking forward to being a part of this fellowship.

We are getting ready for Thanksgiving. Nature seems to have helped us in decorating the scenery with the white snow.

But for our ministry here we appeal to you for prayerful fellowship in the years that are ahead of us.

**Petrea, Karen and Victor Bagger.**

### **Lutheran Tidings -- PUBLISHED BY THE DANISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA**

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## **A Letter From Seva Mandir**

The following letter from Mary Chacco, the young native woman who since Anne Marie Petersen's death has been the guiding spirit at Seva Mandir, will speak for itself. We hope that many old and new friends of the Porto Novo Mission will feel encouraged by it. Gifts in money and used postage stamps for this Mission may, as usual, be sent to Johannes Jepsen, Route 1, Pulaski, New York. (A list of recent donors will follow.)

Johannes Jepsen also has for sale, at fifty cents a copy, a new book in Danish on the Porto Novo Mission, covering the history from its beginning to the present time. It is written by Rasmus A. Møller. Its title is: Vor Missions Historie.

**Nanna Goodhope.**

Seva Mandir  
Porto Novo, So. India  
October 10, '52

Dear Friends of Seva Mandir:

It is now a long time since I wrote to you, our friends in America. Now that Sister Vibeke is here I write very few letters, even to Denmark. Those of you who get the Blue Pamphlet will know the news from here.

We were very happy to receive the gift of money (\$65.00) at this time, when we need it so very much. We want to thank each one for your gift and the thought behind it. Yes, I shall give the five dollars to Gnanamani, who was very happy to receive the same amount last year. Gnanamani is now helping Sister Vibeke in her village Evangelistic and medical work; thus we are able to do much more by way of helping the poor villagers than we were before. But it, of course, means much more money.

Seva Mandir has grown far beyond its bounds. And now we also have a school in a nearby village with many pupils, taught by two of our girls. There are 100 children in the home school, 77 young women in the Training School, and 12 teachers. And we have many more animals, such as cows, dogs, cats, chickens and rabbits to care for. Our building is overcrowded, therefore we are planning to build a separate school for the Training section.

An architect has worked out a plan and made an estimate. The cost seems far too great for us to bear: 70,000 Kroner. But of this amount the Madras Government may give us 50,000 Kroner, and Denmark friends have promised 10-12,000 Kroner. But where the other 8 or 10,000 Kroner is to come from we do not know. I am trying to make the architect bring the cost down, but I am not sure that he will. The trustees tell me to go ahead in faith.

We have had no rain in a long time and the farmers are suffering much. And even we are finding it difficult to get all the grain we need to feed the children. I wish we had owned more acres of paddy field. We have only about nine acres, the proceeds of which is enough for us only for fifty days. If we had fifty acres we could have enough grain for the year. About 15-20 years ago the land would have cost very little, now it is different.

I am finding it difficult to get workers we need here. This is a too lonely and out of the way place. We need two more teachers now. How I wish a young educator would come either from America or from Denmark to help carry on this fast growing work. This is almost the only Christian Basic Training School for women in India. And many are watching it, some with love and sympathy, some with jealousy, but more with curiosity. We hope to make Seva Mandir worthy of its name (Temple of Service).

I have worked ten years with American women and know how good they are. Maybe some day one of you will come here to take up this huge and interesting work.

I had meant to close my letter here but Sister Vibeke says I must write more about our work. As I have only





**YULE.** Edited by Harris Jespersen. Published by D. A. Y. P. L.; 48 pages; Price 75 cents.

Yes 48 pages of good Christmas reading with meditations, stories, poetry and special articles of interest to every member of the family. The general theme that permeates the content is "Christmas Everywhere."

Missionary B. A. Helland has an article on "Christmas Among Santals"; Erik P. Kelly has a short story about "The Bell Ringer of Pinsk"; Dagmar Potholm and Saralice Petersen each give us a fine story; "Symbols of Christmas" by Christine Emons, a Meditation by Thorvald Hansen, and in addition pictures, poems and other features all in keeping with the Christmas season. Hertha Hansen has again designed the beautiful, well-illustrated cover.

Yule will be sold in all our congregations by the young

the poor light of a small lantern it is not easy to see. Electricity is another thing we need very much here. We hope to get it some time. But that also means money.

Well, I feel ashamed of writing only about our wants. Now I will tell you more about our work. We began our Training School for Teachers in 1949, and two years later, in March 1951, thirty out of a class of thirty-two young women who took their final examination, received their teacher's certificates. Of the forty who took the work the following year thirty-nine were successful. Now thirty-eight are getting ready for their final examination next spring. All these girls go out to the villages round about us and teach in the primary schools. They come here as young inexperienced girls, with very little practical knowledge. We have to begin by teaching them the simple household duties, such as cleaning, mending, grinding, cooking, etc.

From April to July this year we were asked to conduct a Re-training course for teachers in Basic Training methods. We had 29 Re-trainers, men and women, ranging in age from 56 to 26 years. These people had to cook their own food, keep the place clean, learn spinning, and many other handicrafts and necessary duties. It was a lot of work for us, but we all had much fun too.

Nearly half of the class were Brahmins, who at first refused to eat with the low-caste people. But they soon all learned to live as one family. And before they left they all thanked us for what we had done for them. They said that the most important of all they had learned here was that the world can be won by love. We hope that they have really learned that lesson well, and will practice it in their daily lives.

The re-training course deprived us of our summer holiday. We all had to stay here to work through the hot summer months. But we feel that it was worth it. These teachers are now trying to turn their schools into Basic Schools, that is, the pupils learn through activities and not only through books.

Again we want to thank all our friends most sincerely.

Mary Chaceo.

Gifts for Porto Novo Mission, gratefully received by Johannes Jepsen, Rt. 1, Pulaski, N. Y.

Mrs. Hans J. Nissen, Marquette, Nebr., \$1; Mrs. W. Due, Exeter, Nebr., \$1; Mrs. C. C. Nielsen, Omaha, Nebr., \$2; Mrs. Caroline Robertsen, Roxbury, Mass., \$1; Mrs. Sara Madsen, Palo Alto, Calif., \$4; Korsgaard, Chicago, Ill., \$5; Dansk Kvindeforening, Kimballton, Iowa, \$10; Dansk Kvindeforening, Solvang, Calif., \$10; Dansk Kvindeforening, Askov, Minn., \$10; Kirsten Jensen, Los Angeles, Calif., \$5; Andreas Christensen, New Hartford, Iowa, \$1; Alice Jensen, Minneapolis, Minn., \$2; Mrs. A. T. Larsen, Missoula, Mont., \$5; Mrs. A. P. Andreassen, Withee, Wis., \$1; Amanda Henriksen, Racine, Wis., \$2; Hans J. Dixon, Ellensburg, Wash., \$2. For used stamps, \$3.

Total, \$65.00.

people, or some special agent. Can also be had directly from Mrs. Gerda Duus, Alden, Minnesota.

**THE CHRISTMAS PROMISE** by Ingeborg Stoles. Published by Augsburg Publishing House, 425 So. Fourth Street, Minneapolis 15, Minnesota. Price \$1.00.

"A long, long time ago God knew that the right time had come for Him to keep a promise." Thus begins this lovely story of a promise. We find out to whom the promise was given, what the promise was, and how it was kept. It is a true story to be read to and savored by the parents and children during the Christmas season. Light your candle (s) and read a page or two every evening to the children now during the Advent. Look at the clear cut illustrations by Dorothy Divers at every turn of the page.

We take real pleasure in recommending this fine little book.

M. S.

**GLAD CHRISTMAS** by Frisbie L. Young. Published by Augsburg Publishing House, 425 So. Fourth St., Minneapolis 15, Minnesota. Price 10 cents each, \$1.00 per dozen copies.

"Glad Christmas" is a Christmas Service for the Sunday School. This service centers around the glad message as expressed in Glad Faith, Glad Worship, Glad Stewardship and Glad Life. It is so arranged that each department and class has a particular responsibility. It is adaptable for the large or small Sunday School. It is the type of service fast becoming popular in our churches, because it is definitely centered about the Christmas gospel. If you have not hitherto tried a service of this type, try it. For us who have, and who like such a service, here is a service with just a slightly different emphasis, which we recommend.

M. S.

**ALL HEART** by Helena Gebuhr Ludvigsen. Published by Lutheran Publishing House, 200 South Fifth Street, Blair, Nebraska. Price \$2.25 cloth cover, \$1.50 paper cover.

"All Heart" is a biography of H. P. Børresen, one of the founders of the Santal Mission. But it is more than a biography; it is a deeply moving story written in fictionalized style. It is the kind of book one would wish to read to a group around the hearth, or to share with a shutin, and to use with our mission circles and other auxiliary organizations. It should be in all of our Sunday School libraries and read by all who love our Santal Mission.

We sincerely urge you to procure a copy, so that you too may enjoy this glowing account of one of the great souls of our Santal mission field.

M. S.

**CHRISTMAS**—Edited by R. E. Hangan. Published by the Augsburg Publishing House, 425 South Fourth St., Minneapolis 15, Minn. Volume 22, 68 pages, 10¼x13¼ inches; Price: Gift edition \$1.25; the library edition, cloth bound, in gift box, \$2.50.

This colorful 22nd edition of CHRISTMAS comes again this year with the finest in Christmas art, stories, customs, carols and poetry.

The chief feature is the story of Christ's birth according to St. Luke and St. Matthew, beautifully illustrated in full, rich colors by Lee Moro.

Christmas traditions in other lands are told in "Christmas in Scandinavia" and in 10 additional pages of colored drawings of the Yuletide customs of central Europe. "The Christmastime of 50 Years Ago" gives the reader a picture of customs in America in the early years of this century.

The Christmas Story, "Municipal Christmas Tree" and "Birds at Christmas Time" as well as the special arrangements of favorite carols by internationally known composers, selected poetry plus several color inserts, gives the entire book a very festive appearance. It will be a welcomed present in any home.

H. S.

**JUL I VESTERHEIMEN**—Edited by Herman E. Jorgensen. Published by Augsburg, Minneapolis, Minn. 48 pages, Price \$1.25.

This magazine is printed in the Norwegian language, has



## A Call to Christian Stewardship

### Man, What An Offer!

In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus set forth one of the laws for tapping divine resources: "Give and it shall be given unto you." What tragedies the human race has suffered from its failure to recognize that law! Throughout history, man has acted on the assumption that happiness is to be found in getting—power, wealth, natural resources. And then inevitably there comes the clash with others out to get the same thing and from these clashes come theft, adultery, murder, war, with all their misery. Jesus said, in effect: You have been using the wrong means. The divine resources of God's blessings do not flow through the medium of getting, but only through the medium of giving.

God is generosity itself in His provision of natural resources and fruits of the earth. It is only natural that the world He created should stand squarely on the foundation principle of generosity.

But generosity is a flexible word. It can be stretched to a wide variety of meanings. So we need some sort of a standard by which to measure generosity. And here it is at the close of the Old Testament, Malachi 3:10, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse . . . and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open to you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

The tithe was an Old Testament law required of the Hebrews. But here, at the close of the Old Testament, looking forward to the New, it is changed from a law to a promise: Prove me—try me out—says God, and see if I will not keep my promise.

To put it bluntly, could any man ask a more sporting proposition? God, who does not need to subject Himself to any man's judgment, is willing to let you and me pass judgment on His fairness. And don't you see His purpose? To encourage us to try out that law of the spiritual realm which will enable us to tap the divine resources of His power. God awaits the opportunity to give in still larger measure than He ever has before as soon as we have demonstrated our confidence in Him and the genuineness of our generosity.

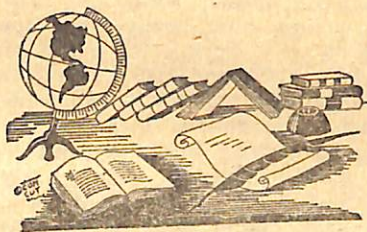
There is something profoundly mysterious about

the divine mathematics. In the spiritual realm there is a fifth dimension which is beyond our horizon. When a person accepts God's challenge in Malachi, and invests the tenth in God's service, God somehow stretches the other nine-tenths so that His partner never loses out. How he does it, no man has ever been able to explain. But hosts of them will arise to testify that He does do it.

Have you thought sometime that the story of the feeding of the five thousand from five loaves and two fish was a bit fantastic and quite removed from everyday life? Then you still need to make God's acquaintance. In Malachi God offers to do the same sort of thing in your life: "Prove me now herewith saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open to you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Man, what an offer!

By Dr. Herbert T. Weiskotten.



## Across the Editor's Desk

**The Christian Churches' Struggle Against Totalitarianism** abroad and their efforts to build a better society at home will be major concerns of top church leaders meeting in Denver, Colo., the week of Dec. 7.

At the most representative gathering in U. S. Christianity, hundreds of leading U. S. churchmen and women will come together for the second General Assembly of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Meetings of the Council's divisions and departments will be held the first part of the week.

The General Assembly, Dec. 9-12, marks the second milestone in the life of the National Council, the cooperative agency established two years ago by official representatives of 29 Protestant and Eastern Orthodox communions to consolidate the work of 12 interdenominational agencies. The 29 constituent communions now have a combined U. S. membership totaling more than 33,000,000 and 147,000 local churches.

The Council's 600 official representatives, in the General Assembly have now been called together to plan the organization's next two years, to elect new top officials, and to outline a cooperative church approach to scores of issues at home and abroad.

On world affairs, the official representatives alternates, consultants and visiting delegates will hear some top spokesmen, including the Hon. John Foster Dulles, who has been called the architect of the Japanese peace treaty, and Bishop Otto Dibelius, of Berlin, head of the Evangelical Church in Germany, who has combatted totalitarianism both under the Hitler regime and now in the center of the East-West struggle in Europe.

Bishop Dibelius, who has fought on behalf of the churches with the Communist regime in Germany,

a varied content of Christmas meditations, stories and poems. It resembles its companion, CHRISTMAS, as the cover and other full page multi-colored illustrations are very similar.

H. S.

**DANSK ALMANAK**—Edited by V. R. Staby. Published by Lutheran Publishing House, Blair, Nebr. 156 pages, Price 75 cents.

This Danish Christmas book is out in its 33rd annual volume. It brings a varied collection of Christmas and New Year's reading, which can help those who prefer Danish Christmas reading to help make a "festlig Jul."

H. S.



this month will confer with the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church in Moscow, and is coming to the U. S. for a one-week visit specifically to address the General Assembly.

Other speakers on church issues overseas are the Rev. James H. Robinson, minister of New York City's Church of the Master, who last year visited hundreds of communities in Asia as a representative of the churches; the Rev. Ira W. Moomaw, educational secretary of the National Council's Rural Missions Co-operating Committee, who returns the beginning of December from six months abroad, conferring with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome and visiting missions agricultural programs in India, Pakistan, and the Near East; and the Rev. Henry Curtis McDowell, pioneer Congregational-Christian educator and missionary to the Ovimbundu people, who has been called "The Booker T. Washington of West Africa," and who will discuss current upheavals on the African continent.

In the churches' concerns overseas, a large part of one pre-Assembly meeting will be taken up with a discussion of changes in foreign mission policy and techniques in areas of Communism and intense nationalism. A major aim of the discussion, foreign mission spokesmen said, is to bring mission programs overseas closer to the needs and hopes of the people they serve, and farther from the outlook of completely western institutions and methods.

On the American scene, church leaders also will take up questions of national issues: what Christian citizenship and concern for a responsible society implies for the participation of church groups and individual Christians in political life; the concerns of the churches in foreign policy; hopes of peace and reconstruction in Korea; support of international co-operation; Christian concerns for just immigration laws.

Within the church organizations themselves, church leaders are concerned with such issues as the allocation of new churches among denominations which are raising millions of dollars to bring churches to new population areas; the question of women's status in the ministry and policy-making bodies of denominations; the place of Christian colleges in modern U. S. life; the role of interdenominational laymen's groups in community activities.

Within the National Council, the Assembly must elect at least five new officers because the president and four vice presidents-at-large cannot serve two terms in succession.

The Denver meeting is the first time the leaders of cooperative Christianity have met in the Rocky Mountain area. Hosts to the interdenominational gathering are the Denver and Colorado Councils of Churches.

Our synod will be represented by our synodical president and by several other representatives. We hope to bring reports from several of these delegates after the meeting.

**Change In Administration**—We have not previously had any editorial on the recent election, nor the pending change. However, we regularly have interesting observations coming to our desk. The following memorandum has just been received from the Division of Public Relations of the National Lutheran Council in Washington, written by Robert E. Van Deusen. We therefore decided to pass it on to our readers:

"Washington is in the throes of transition. Roots grow deep in twenty years, and are not pulled up easily. It is hard to tell at this point how far the 'face-lifting' will go. The rank and file of government workers, most of them protected by civil service status, will stay on. But a sizable army of executives and policymakers will be looking for other jobs.

"The full impact will not be felt all at once. After January 20, the top administrators and their main assistants and advisors will take the reins. Other staff changes will be made gradually, as officials resign or are relieved of their duties and others are found to take their place. For several months, a sense of insecurity will prevail until it is seen how deep the ax will cut. In departments where vital policies are made, the change will be thorough.

"Eisenhower would be wise to take the initiative from Senator McCarthy in determining whether there is serious communist infiltration of government agencies. It has been suggested that Eisenhower appoint a bi-partisan commission to make a thorough investigation, with full access to confidential files but without the fanfare and publicity that would accompany Congressional hearings. The government should be purged of subversive influence. But it should be done by the executive branch, and in the American tradition of judicial fairness.

"An interesting sidelight on this problem came from the Riverside Church in New York City, where President-elect and Mrs. Eisenhower worshipped last Sunday. On the cover of the church bulletin was a quotation from a statement by Judge Learned Hand of the U. S. Court of Appeals. It said in part: 'Risks for risks, I had rather take my chances that some traitors will escape detection than spread abroad a spirit of general suspicion and distrust, which accepts rumor and gossip in place of undismayed and un-intimidated inquiry. . . . I believe that that community already is in process of dissolution where each man begins to eye his neighbor as a possible enemy.'

"Eisenhower's first major test as President-elect came in the selection of his cabinet. With six out of nine cabinet members announced as this is being written, the feeling is that Ike passed the test with flying colors. The speed with which the choices were made underscore his ability to make big decisions promptly. His choice of persons indicates that he wants to have businesslike efficiency in the conduct of the agencies. The way he fooled the professional guessers gives an inkling that he will 'be his own man,' refusing to be a captive of any one segment of his party. He has displayed a combination of deliberation and action which will inspire confidence in his ability to handle what has come to be one of the most complicated jobs in the world."



## Grand View College And Our Youth

### Things You Should Know About GVC

November has been a busy month at Grand View College, with election day celebrations (?), birthdays, and Thanksgiving—there was something else, too, —but what? Oh, of course! "D" day!

The fellows in Vern Bendsen's corridor gave him a birthday party with cake and trimmin's. Lump, too, had a birthday, just a quiet celebration befitting the proctor, and on November 16, we sang "Happy Birthday" to Dr. Nielsen. From the looks of the heavy traffic in the direction of the corner house on the campus, we would conjecture that there was open house at the "White House." Congratulations and many happy returns!

One of our most recent U. K. meetings was really a beautifully done series of tableaux. The program was entitled "The Family Album," and we assure you that the evening's entertainment offered us not only amusement but gave us a feeling of appreciation of the finer things in life. Mrs. R. had been busy with the costumes, and as usual they were stunning and authentic. A running commentary and musical selections gave variety to the program. There were about 27 participants.

Why all the hustle and bustle in the Men's Dorm on a certain Saturday? The answer is simple if you know that the following day the dorm was open for "inspection" by anyone who wanted to come, and in particular, to the fairer sex who are domiciled in the Girls' Dorm. Every room was slicked up and many of the hosts offered refreshments. Some of the rooms are beautiful, some utilitarian in their furnishings, but all were clean and a credit to their inhabitants. Well, girls, it's our turn next. We'll have to show them what we can do.

Our Thanksgiving Convocation was held just the week before our holiday, and Rev. V. S. Jensen gave a very fine message. We like these convocations. They give us the opportunity to meet and hear the pastors of our synod, and many other outstanding speakers. Rev. Jensen spoke from the heart, and we shall look forward to hearing him another time.

Wouldn't you just know that winter would really arrive as we were getting ready to leave for our Thanksgiving holiday at home? Well, it did, and it was nip and tuck for a while as to whether we would actually make it. The greatest percentage of us did, with only a small group staying over. Not having been around, we can only report what we hear, but we understand

Also, we're told, it was a most excellent dinner, served at a beautifully set table surrounded by people with equally excellent appetites. We are fortunate here there were only twelve people present at the college for Thanksgiving dinner. at G. V. C. to have two such fine cooks as Mrs. Eriksen and Mrs. Blair.

Why is it that in almost the same breath as we mention Thanksgiving, we must also mention "D-day"? Well it just so happens that the two are rather close together in the point of time if not in similarity. I suppose one might properly say that those of us who do not get D cards, do indeed have something for which to be truly thankful. But what of those 50 or so who find themselves in the unpreferred category? Well, a little bit of friendly advice might not be amiss. There is still time to make up any deficiency, so that our D-friends can come out on top, come end-of-semester-time. Let's try it, anyway. We can't lose a thing! How about it?

Next time you hear from us it will be time for Christmas vacation, but we will be seeing you soon again. However, before we sign off for this time, we do want to mention that our Seminary Faculty Family is again complete. Vagabundus has returned to Des Moines. Welcome to Des Moines, Dr. Knudsen.

P. W.

### Notice

Pastors or congregational secretaries are requested to return unused convention reports and convention minutes to the synodical secretary. Your congregation will not be required to pay for such returned copies.

Holger O. Nielsen  
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### For Good Christmas Reading

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## OUR CHURCH

Pastor P. Rasmussen, Dalum, Alberta, has resigned from his pastorate of the Bethlehem congregation after a period of service of 33 years in this community. He writes to the editor, that his wife is back in the hospital again. Pastor Rasmussen has bought a house in Drumheller and his address is now: Drumheller, Alberta, Canada. The congregation recently voted to build a parsonage near the church and Pastor Rasmussen has promised to continue to serve the congregation as much as his strength will permit him until a new pastor can move in.

Racine, Wis.—The new church edifice of the Bethania congregation will be dedicated on Sunday, December 7th, Dr. Alfred Jensen, officiating. The new church is located in a new area of the city of Racine, where a new parsonage was built in 1949. Rev. Robert C. Schmidt has served the Bethania Church since June, 1948. Many will be with the Racine congregation in their thoughts and prayers on this festive day, as the new church building will be dedicated. Heartiest congratulations!

Hay Springs, Nebr.—On Tuesday, Nov. 18th, a Lord's Acre Sale was scheduled to be held at the St. Peter's Lutheran Community Church. Articles such as livestock, machinery, hay, etc., had been donated. We may be able to get an account of the success of the event later.

Newark, N. J.—Family Night, a monthly affair in the Newark church, was given a special emphasis this past

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"The Birthday" by Saralice Petersen.  
"The Whole World Sings at Christmas" by Christence Jespersen and a number of other short stories and poems.

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month, inasmuch as the men of the congregation prepared and served a delicious "Supper" to the women on Wednesday evening, November 19th.

**Dr. Johannes Knudsen**, Dean of the Grand View Seminary, was the guest speaker in the Askov, Minn., church Sunday morning, November 30th. He spoke again in the afternoon on the Hannover, Germany and Lund, Sweden conferences which he attended this past summer.

**Waterloo, Iowa**—Munshi Tudu, a student from the Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., was the guest speaker in the St. Ansgar's Church Sunday morning, Nov. 30th. Mr. Tudu is a native of Santalistan, India, and is in this country preparing himself for the ministry.

**Dr. Alfred Jensen**, synodical president, served the Denmark, Kansas church on Sunday, November 23rd. Rev. S. Mogenssen, who resigned some time ago, is at present in Fresno, California.

**Rev. Erik Moller**, Hay Springs, Nebr., served the Trinity Lutheran Church in Chicago on Sunday, November 23rd. He spoke again at a fellowship meeting in the evening.

**Folk School Week**—The Askov, Minn. community has again this year had the privilege of a week-long program of lectures and other activities under the annual feature, a "Folk School Week." Rev. Harold Petersen, the local pastor, who is in charge of the program, gave the first lecture, speaking on "Thomas Jefferson." Rev. Harald A. Petersen, of the West Denmark, Wis., church gave two lectures, one on "The Rural Community" and one on "The Pendle Hill Quaker School," where he and his wife had spent several months in 1949. On Sunday afternoon, Nov. 16th, Carl T. Rowan, noted author and staff writer for the Minneapolis Tribune spoke on the theme: "Race, Religion and Illusion of Peace" and on Sunday evening on "A New Hope." Rowan is the author of a series of articles "How Far From Slavery"? which have appeared in various mid-western publications. He has made several special tours and surveys of the present condition of the Negro race of which he is a member.

An organ concert was given Sunday evening by Richard Laursen. Throughout the week craft classes were conducted under the leadership of Mrs. Harald Petersen of West Denmark, Wis., Mrs. Emil Hansen and Mrs. Arol Hansen, both of Askov. We hope to have a more complete report of the Folk School Week later.

**Write to the Youth in U. S. Service for Christmas** will be emphasized now in all our congregations. We wish to add: Write to our Chaplain and Missionaries also for Christmas. Here are some of the addresses of the latter: **Chaplain Verner Hansen**, 0932735, 23d Infantry Regiment, APO 248, c/o P. M. San Francisco, California.

**Miss Muriel Nielsen**, Principal, Goar-

ang Girls' School, P. O. Haltugaon, Goalpara District, Assam, India.

**Rev. and Mrs. Harold Riber**, Dumka P. O. Santal Parganas, India.

## Eben-Ezer, Brush, Colorado

The new superintendent and pastor, Rev. V. Bagger, of Eben-Ezer Mercy Institute, Brush, Colorado, will be installed on December 14th at 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon. This is an important event and milestone for Eben-Ezer and we would like to ask its many friends to remember this day, the event and the future guidance of Eben-Ezer before the Throne of Grace.

The installation service will be conducted by the President of the Board of Trustees, Rev. Alfred Jensen of Des Moines, Iowa.

Rev. Bagger is not unknown in our churches. He has visited many, possibly most of them in the interest of the Santal mission in India, a mission to which he gave almost twenty-five years of his life, most of these years were spent in building and managing an institution for lepers. Rev. Bagger was called to the superintendency of Eben-Ezer by the Board of Trustees at its annual meeting in October and arrived on November 18th, together with Mrs. Bagger and their daughter Karen, to take over his new duties. He is the fourth superintendent of the Institution during its almost fifty years of history.

James P. Christensen.

## Rosenborg, Nebraska

The St. Ansgar's congregation of Rosenborg sponsored a benefit chicken supper on Nov. 9th. The proceeds went to the "Furnace Fund." A new oil furnace has just been installed in our church and we are now helping to get it paid.

The Laides' Aid recently made several improvements in our parish hall, amongst these a new serving window, the painting of the kitchen, etc. In order to make such improvements the Aid again recently held a bazaar, which was well attended.

Mrs. Anne Christine Johnson passed away Nov. 4th at the age of 78 years. She had been a member of the St. Ansgar's Church through many years. Funeral services were held on Nov. 8th from the Rosenborg church, Rev. M. Mikkelsen conducting the service.

Reporter.

## Kronborg, Nebraska

The church, church yard, and hall at Kronborg, Nebraska, have recently had a "face-lifting" last spring, the men shingled the church, put on a new white ridge row, and painted the roof red; then this fall they put a new fence around the cemetery, and put new panel doors on the church. The windows all around have been touched up with putty. The sidewalk around

## NEWS BRIEFS

### GERMANS SEE WORLD PREMIERE OF LWF ASSEMBLY DOCUMENTARY

Stuttgart, Germany—(NLC)—The world premiere of a documentary film on the Lutheran World Federation's Assembly at Hannover took place here during the German Protestant Church Rally, attended by Bishop Hanns Lilje, president of LWF, and a number of German Church leaders.

According to Evangelische Pressedienst, official news bulletin of the Evangelical Church in Germany, the film will be shown in every Lutheran parish in Germany, and prints will be sent to the United States and other countries, too.

At the premiere here, Dr. Lilje introduced the documentary stating that the film, as produced by Germans, will be "a beautiful response to the world-wide publicity given to the Hannover Assembly."

Evangelische Pressedienst said the documentary stressed the wide participation of individual congregations and youth in the ecumenical gathering, and added that the producers "managed to make theological discussions live."

### BISHOP DIBELIUS DUE IN U. S. AFTER VISIT TO MOSCOW

New York—(NLC)—Bishop Karl Friedrich Otto Dibelius, president of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKID), and a key figure in the German church's present struggle for freedom and unity, is expected in the United States early in December.

Under the joint sponsorship of the National Lutheran Council and the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, he is scheduled to speak in a number of cities.

Bishop Dibelius will come to this country almost directly from a visit to Moscow, where he is scheduled to go on November 22 in response to an invitation from Alexei, Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church.

The Moscow invitation was sent to Bishop Dibelius late last summer, creating some surprise in German church circles since it followed immediately upon most severe attacks against Bishop Dibelius in the Soviet-controlled press.

These attacks were mainly aimed at

the hall was re-laid, and in the basement, the wall was moisture-proofed.

Dr. Otto Hoiberg was a guest speaker for our Harvest Festival. He spoke in the afternoon and evening. We invited the Nysted congregation to share the day with us. We all had dinner together at the hall.

Correspondent.



the church leader in his capacity as Bishop of Berlin-Brandenburg, a diocese which embraces parishes of Germany's East as well as the West Zone. The bishop's insistence on freedom of worship and unity of the Church brought him the Communist "compliment" of being "an apostle of agitation."

Bishop Dibelius accepted the invitation to Moscow after discussion with the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany, commenting that "every possibility must be utilized to get in touch with Eastern Christians." However, he warned, no political significance should be attached to his journey.

Coming to the United States soon after his return from Moscow, Bishop Dibelius will first attend the Assembly of the National Council of Churches at Denver, Colorado, Dec. 9-12, to speak on "The Church in the World." He is a member of the central committee of the World Council of Churches.

#### \$900 MINIMUM PENSIONS GRANTED TO ULCA MINISTERS

Seattle, Wash.—(NLC)—Minimum pensions of \$900 per year for retired

and disabled ministers and \$450 for ministers' widows will be granted by the United Lutheran Church in America as of January 1, 1954.

The minimum pensions were voted by the church body's 18th biennial convention here, Oct. 9-15. It was ruled that these minimum pensions shall include benefits payable under the ULCA's "noncontributory" as well as under the "contributory" and "supplementary" pension plans. The convention also voted a four per cent increase in payments by congregations to the contributory plan, thus providing for a further increase in retirement benefits as well as for more benefits through the family protection plan.

The ULCA pension board told the convention that it was "conscious of the desirability" to raise minimum pensions to \$1,200 for ministers and \$600 for widows, but explained that at this time such an increase would "not be financially feasible."

A motion on the convention's floor to raise widows' pensions to \$600 per year was defeated. But it was, however, ruled that the next convention in 1954 shall study possibilities of increas-

### SYNOD OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Rev. Alfred Jensen,  
1232 Pennsylvania Ave.,  
Des Moines 16, Iowa.

SECRETARY: Rev. Holger O. Nielsen,  
1410 Main St., Cedar Falls, Iowa.

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222 Pollard Ave., Dwight, Ill.

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190 Jewett Ave., Bridgeport 6, Conn.

ing minimum pensions to \$1,200 for ministers and \$600 for widows.

The 600 delegates heard that the increased benefits will require additional funds amounting to approximately \$179,000 to be raised over a thirty-year period.

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December 5, 1952

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New Address \_\_\_\_\_

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