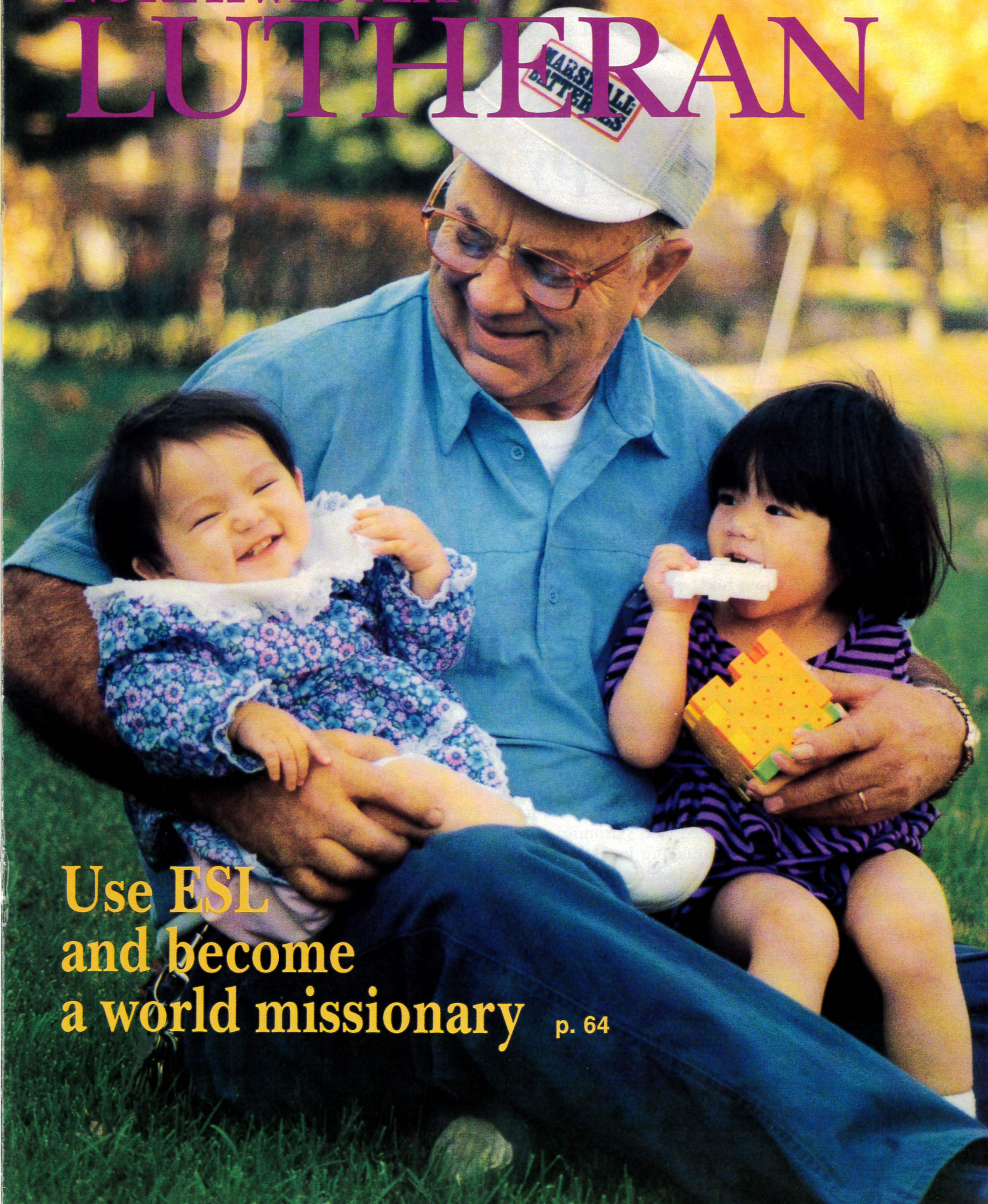


February 15, 1992

Precious Is the Child —  
a television success p. 71

# NORTHWESTERN LUTHERAN



Use ESL  
and become  
a world missionary p. 64

## The first song in Israel's hymnal

# The truly happy person

by Richard D. Balge

**F**or some people the pursuit of happiness is a frantic, mad, rushing, consuming preoccupation. And that is a sign of unhappiness.

The very first song in Israel's Spirit-breathed hymnal says that the truly happy person is the one who does not follow the accepted wisdom of godless people, does not participate in their sinful life-style, does not make himself comfortable with the scoffer's ridicule of what is sacred. The truly happy person — "blessed" means "happy" — is more concerned about his or her relationship with God than with being accepted by the world.

## Focusing on God's word

How does a person avoid ungodliness and sin and scoffing? By delighting in and meditating on the law of the Lord. In its Old Testament sense, the law of the Lord was God's entire instruction — what we would call law and gospel. It included the commands, "You shall" and "You shall not"— the mirror, curb, and guide. It also included God's promise of a Savior, the assurance of his unfailing love, the message of his mercy. It was the word which gave life and the word which taught God's people how they ought to live as his people.

God's word instructs us in the same way, with this difference: We live in the time of fulfillment. God's instruction teaches us that Jesus has kept the law for all, died as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all, won the forgiveness of sins for all. These are not promises for the future, as they were for the psalmist. These things have been accomplished and are already a blessed reality for us. To meditate on this,

to delight in this, is the beginning of happiness.

## Flourishing in God's grace

An expert in the law came to Jesus to tempt him with the law, asking, "Who is my neighbor?" He did not delight in the law but thought of it as simply an arsenal for argument. The robbers who set upon the man who was going to Jericho acted without regard for the law. The priest and the Levite who passed by on the other side knew what was right but feared to do it because of what it might cost them. The Samaritan who helped the traveler may not have known the law as well as others did, but he

lived it. "Go and do likewise," says Jesus.

To know God's love in Christ and then to be a Christ to others, motivated by that love, is true happiness. People do not attain that blessed state by pursuing happiness. God gives it to them as they concentrate on his word. He maintains it in those who delight in his truth.

The truly happy person is like a tree, rooted in God, nourished by the waters of life, and bearing fruit. As a tree grows, its fruits fall farther and farther from its base. As the happy person grows in faith and lives in hope, that person's works of love will benefit a wider and wider circle of people, blessing others.

And, "What he does prospers." Forget about the pursuit of happiness and pursue the will of God. To be a fruitful tree, concentrate on the tree of the cross. Look, live, and be a truly happy person.

*Richard Balge is dean of students and teaches church history and homiletics at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wisconsin.*

*Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers (Psalm 1).*

May the Lord our God be with us  
as he was with our fathers;  
may he never leave us  
nor forsake us. 1 Kings 8:57

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## FORWARD

■ On the cover is Bob Eucher, of Emanuel, St. Paul, Minn., with two of the youngsters he cares for while their parents attend class. Bob is part of Emanuel's ministry to Hmong immigrants. Because these people need to learn our language, Emanuel's members have established a school to teach English as a second language (ESL) — and share the gospel. Turn the page to

read about Emanuel's ESL/Bible school, and to gain some practical tips on how to start one of your own.

■ The Precious Is the Child television outreach was seen by 68 million viewers during the Christmas season. For a report on the results of the campaign, see page 71.

DJS

# Use ESL and become a world missionary

by Loren E. Steele



A dozen dark-eyed Hmong and Cambodian women watched Evelyn Geisinger closely to see her reaction. Chia was telling of painful circumstances from her life in Cambodia. She was sharing things she had never told an American.

Chia's story of murder and torture unfolded in broken English, but the horrors she'd experienced came through crystal clear. She was a survivor of the Cambodian holocaust, the little known Pol Pot massacre of millions of Cambodian people.

As Chia finished, Evelyn wiped her eyes and said, "You know, Chia, Jesus has made a place where there is no more pain or death."

"Where is it?" Chia asked.

"It's a place called heaven."

In other rooms Pearl Kock, Vi Phanning, and Eileen Ivascu were also sharing the good news of Jesus. On Wednesday, Lori Schindler, Frank and Kathy Owens, plus a team of babysitters, would be on the job.

Some were retirees, others worked part time. A

few have college degrees. All are capable, loving Christians who are foreign missionary teachers in Emanuel's ESL (English as a Second Language)/Bible school.

For the past three years Hmong Cambodian and Chinese immigrants have come to learn English, and have heard of salvation in Jesus Christ. Through the efforts of director Charlene Ohmann and the teachers, many Asian students have come to know and grow in Jesus. As a result, a number of students have joined Hmong and Cambodian language Bible classes on Sunday, and some are now communicant members of Emanuel.

The ESL/Bible school may well be the open doorway of the '90s for reaching people of other cultures. Look around your church neighborhood. Are there immigrant peoples in your area? They may have come from any country in the world: India, Pakistan, China, Mexico, Russia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos.

For all these people, the English language is the greatest obstacle blocking their success in America. It is also the greatest barrier to our communication



Kathy Owens (left) and Evelyn Geisinger (lower) are two of the ESL/Bible school teachers.




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*The ESL/  
Bible school  
may well be  
the open doorway  
of the '90s  
for reaching people  
of other cultures.*

---

of the gospel. An ESL/Bible school could give you an opening and a repeated contact.

This is not another job for the pastor. Lay men and women are the key. They can set up and run this kind of school themselves. They can become world missionaries at home.

#### **How to start your own ESL/Bible school**

Establishing your church's own English/Bible school is not hard. Since you are offering service, not degrees, there are no licensing requirements. You are free as to curriculum, times and days of classes, and staffing. All you need is some classroom space, a blackboard, some English Second Language books, and a few eager teachers.

Three years ago we began evangelism cross culturally via an ESL/Bible school. We had to learn as we went along. To save you time and headache, we submit the following thoughts.

**Space:** Any place will do. But the handiest may be your church's Sunday school facility or basement. Such places are usually not used during the week.

**Staff:** The idea of teaching English to non-English-speaking people is a scary thought for most people. "I'm not qualified" is a common first response. But because we are native English-speaking people, we are experts. Some of our school's best teachers have no more than a high school education. Retirees make excellent teachers.

We have found the two most important qualifications for a teacher are a sincere love for people and a desire to share Jesus. If a person has taught Sunday school, or has a college degree, great, but this is not a necessity.

**Requirements:** You will need one person to organize, send for materials, and oversee the running of the school. You will need a staff of teachers in proportion to the number of students. We like to keep class sizes small, four to ten people if possible.

Our classes are relaxed, with time for discussing problems, asking questions, and sharing life experiences. This is how personal relationships are built so the gospel can be shared meaningfully.

**Schedules:** We run our school from 9:00 to 11:30

Singing and socializing are important parts of the ESL/Bible school schedule.



*The idea of teaching non-English-speaking people may be a scary thought, but because we are English-speaking we are experts.*



a.m., so parents have a chance to send their kids off to school and get home again before preschool or kindergarten ends for the morning. I'd suggest you start by having classes two or three days a week.

We do not insist that students come every school day. That way they feel they can return to the class when circumstances force them to miss a few days.

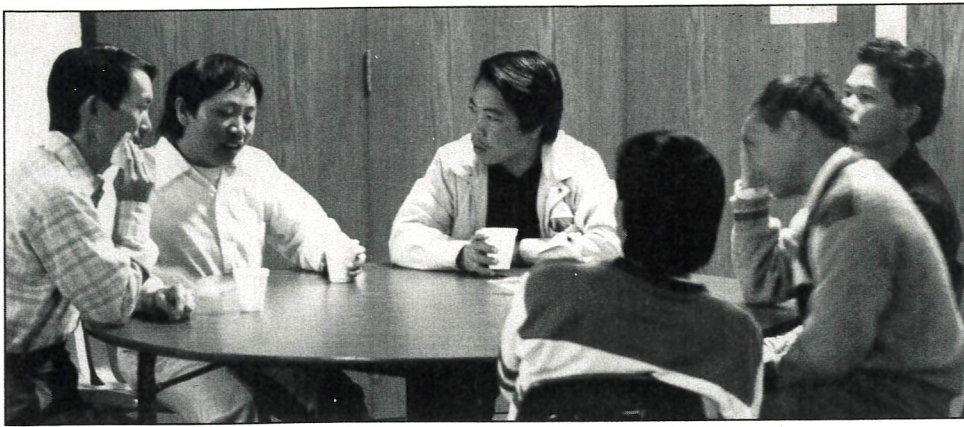
**Break time:** This is one of the most important times. We always offer juice, coffee, and snacks during break time. It helps make a friendly atmosphere in which to become better acquainted. Teaching English is our secondary purpose. Finding opportunities to share the gospel is our primary concern.

**Classes:** Our morning is divided into two parts. English is taught the first half. The second half of our morning is devoted to Bible teaching. Classes are divided into beginning, intermediate, and advanced. Beginning students' lack of English may limit what can be presented to basic Bible truths. Intermediate classes continue to teach sin and forgiveness, and add Bible history. Advanced classes receive more intense doctrinal study, Bible history, and Bible reading.

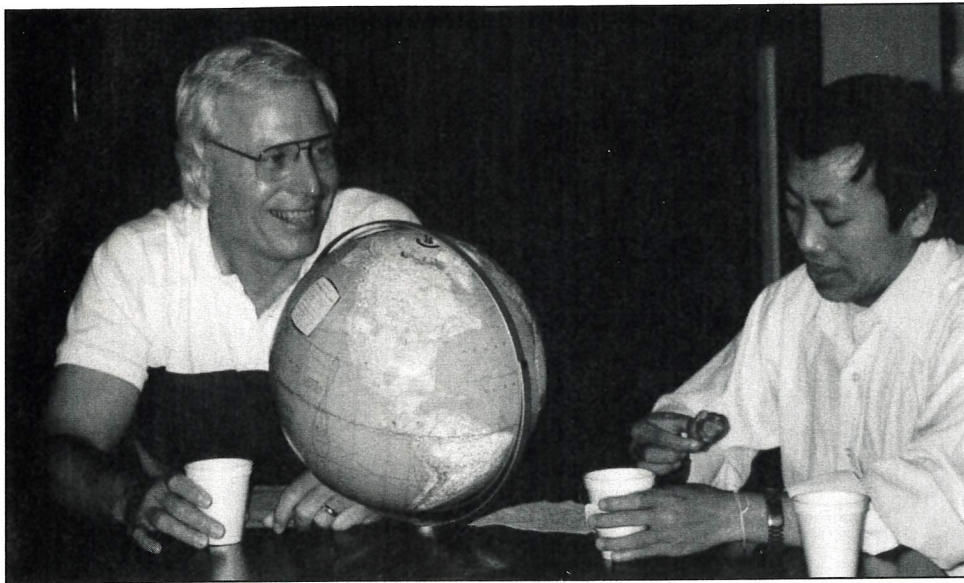
**Teaching:** Here are a few thoughts to keep in mind:

- Make it fun, and have fun yourself.
- Most Third World people learn better through stories. It's the way they have been taught.
- Remember, everything you teach will be filtered through an individual's background and experience. For example, if you're talking to a Buddhist about the resurrection of the dead, you must be careful that he is not understanding you in the framework of reincarnation.
- Make what you teach simple, clear, and concrete.
- Use pictures.
- Speak slowly and clearly. Use common, simple words.
- Aim your teaching at adults. Children will be in the public school system full time. Gearing your school to your students, with an understanding of their needs and problems, is a sure way to start off on the right foot.

**Finances:** Our ESL school is free to the students. We buy the books and materials.



Below: Students and teacher Lori Schlinder (center) in traditional Among costumes.



**Who goes where:** When new students arrive, we talk with them to see how much English they can speak. We ask them to complete a simple registration form, which also serves as a test of reading and writing skills and gives us important information for evangelism (such as asking kids to come to Sunday school or vacation Bible school).

**Babysitting:** Many immigrant people have large families. Parents with young children at home will not be able to come unless there is babysitting available.

**Recruiting students:** Have your evangelism committee drop off brief announcements in housing projects or other areas where there are large concentrations of the people you want to reach. Ethnic grocery stores may be willing to post information. Try contacting a social worker or public health nurse who works in your area. He or she may be willing to tell people about your school. If you can get the first three or four students to come, they will spread the word about the school for you.

**Extras:** Every Tuesday June Holm, one of our church organists, comes to teach simple Christian songs. We explain the words and sing for half an

hour. Students love it.

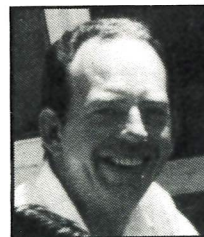
School parties at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas are fun. We explain the Christian meaning of the holiday, do some cooking together, and enjoy a good time.

Field trips to a store or factory are fun and instructive.

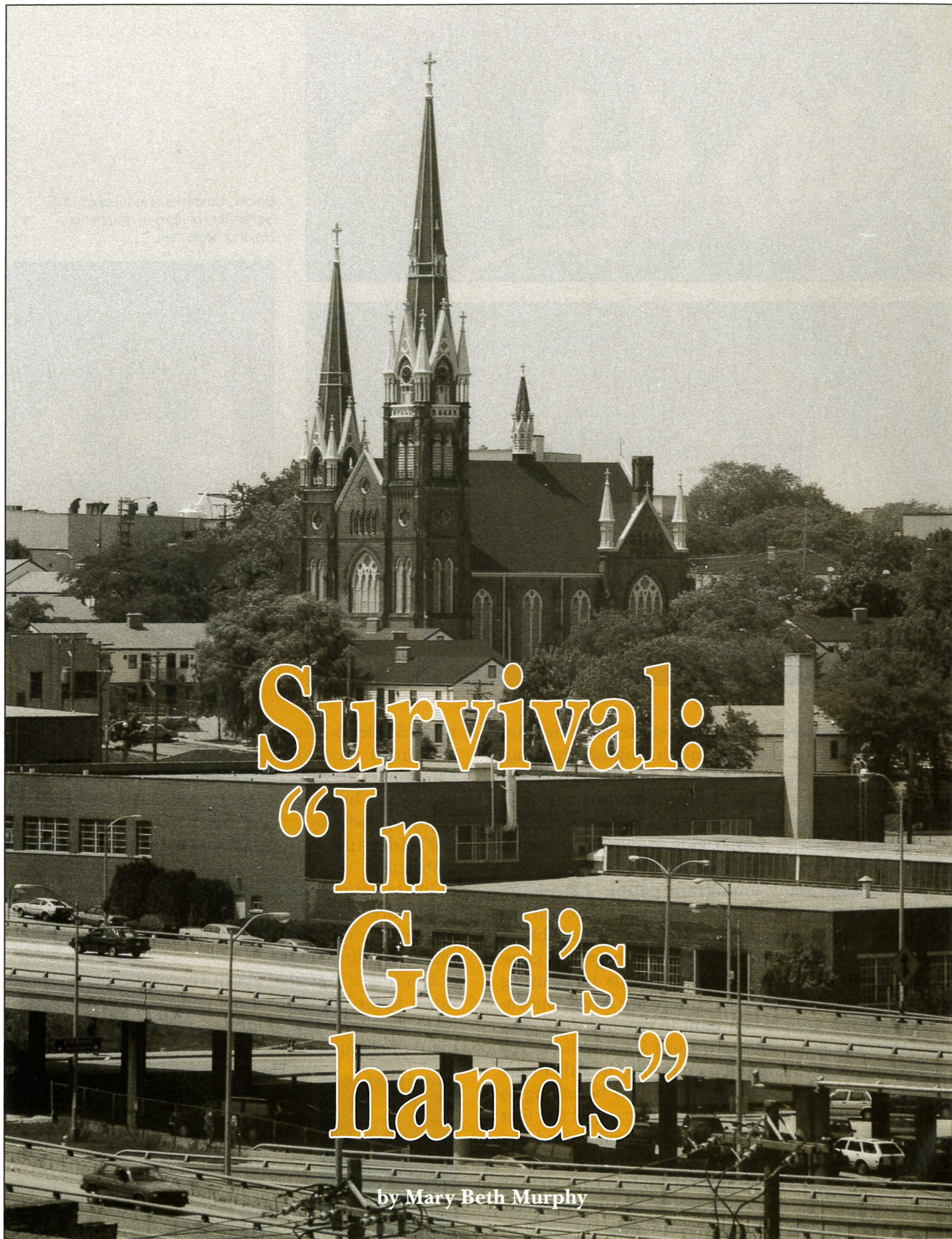
Invite your students into your homes. It is a real adventure for them to see how you live. They will respond by asking you to their homes. That will be a real adventure for you.

Don't get "uptight" about the unforeseen. This is not a bell-ringing, on-time school. This is evangelism. Roll with the punches and enjoy the excitement of change.

Have fun. And God's blessing on your effort.



Loren Steele is pastor of Emanuel, St. Paul, Minnesota.



# Survival: “In God’s hands”

by Mary Beth Murphy



**W**ith an average attendance of 30 at Sunday worship, an aging membership, and an inability to attract new members, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, doesn't consider throwing in the towel and closing its doors.

When questions arise about the future of one of the oldest churches of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, the typical response is "we put that in God's hands."

"We're dealing with it, but it's day by day," said Al Hein, 62, president of the congregation at 804 W. Vliet St. "There's always a few members who think it's time to close, but the majority want to keep it open. God wants us here for some reason. When he doesn't want us here anymore, then I suppose we'll close."

A few weeks ago, the 60-member congregation was stunned by a break-in at the church office next door, where several hundred dollars' worth of office equipment was stolen. It was the first time the church had been burglarized.

Even that did not weaken the struggling congregation's determination to keep preaching the gospel.

The congregation is able to sustain itself financially and pay the salary of a full-time pastor, Kevin Hastings, due to sound investments over the years. To keep the costs down, the church members do most of the maintenance work.

Proud of the self-supporting nature of the congregation, Hein said St. John always exceeds its contribution quota to the synod.

The congregation conducts a weeklong vacation Bible school for the neighborhood children of the Hillside Housing Project, which surrounds the church. It is the congregation's major community outreach project, for which it recruits volunteers throughout the Wisconsin Synod.

Ironically, the VBS attendance, which on certain days reached 70 children, was higher than atten-

dance at the average Sunday worship.

The hope was that by having the children in VBS, they would influence their parents to attend the church. But that hasn't happened during the three years the church has sponsored the summer program.

Except for a weekly Bible class, Sunday worship, and an occasional church council meeting, there is little activity at the church. None of the church members lives in the neighborhood, but they return to St. John to worship because their roots are there. Some members now are residents of nursing homes.

Founded in 1848 by a group of German Lutheran families, the congregation completed the current Gothic structure in 1890. The fourth oldest Lutheran church in Milwaukee, it has been lauded as an architectural gem. Once regarded as one of the city's prominent churches, the historic landmark building seats 1100 and, at its peak, was often filled.

But the wealthy neighborhood around the church began to decline. In 1950, the city condemned the dilapidated mansions and replaced them with the public housing project. Access to the church was further restricted by the freeway system.

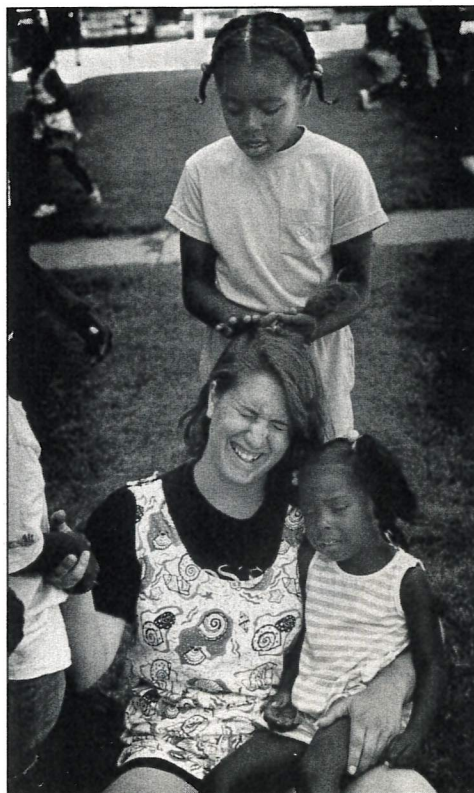
"I have great appreciation for the history of the congregation," said Hastings, 33. "You've got to

have a love for that history or it would be a lot more difficult."

In the five years he has been here, Hastings has officiated at three weddings and 20 funerals. The majority of the members are older than 60. There are only three children within the congregation.

"I may get up here and preach to 30 people on a Sunday morning. I can't let that get to me or I'd be all done," he said. "If I look at only the fruit of my work and see that little is coming of it, I'd have thrown in the towel a long time ago."

*Mary Beth Murphy is religion editor of the Milwaukee Sentinel. The article is reprinted by permission.*



AL NELSON / MILWAUKEE SENTINEL PHOTOGRAPHER

Melissa Penkert, holding Quiesha Jones, winces as Sharon Stewart pulls her hair while braiding it. Penkert taught at St. John's vacation Bible school, the congregation's major community outreach project.

**The Lord  
never had  
a finer servant**

# Grandma

by Owen A. Dorn

**S**he was never ordained. Yet Grandma taught and preached and witnessed.

With strong faith, living for others, she served her congregation and hurting individuals while managing a parsonage and raising her children.

Then her husband retired and moved to a new community.

Retirement. Time to give up responsibility, service, and to think about enjoying oneself. It's earned.

Grandma apparently never heard about retirement. She witnessed and modeled her faith to everyone she met. All valued her acceptance, friendship, and advice.

She worked the school health room. The students became her grandchildren.

A widow at age 74, she learned to drive.

She moved to a retirement complex where she could now take care of all the "old" people.

The Lord took her daughter home in an auto accident. Grandma was the rock of Christian strength for everyone.

Two hundred fifty people who had been touched by her life attended her 80th birthday



Margaret Albrecht  
with great-  
grandchildren  
Michael and  
Erin Dorn.

party to say,  
"Thank you,  
Grandma."

Her health declined.

Through months of suffering, hope, and discouragement, she never lost her positive, spiritual strength, her desire to serve others, or her sense of humor.

One day she said, "I'm not afraid to die. Please say a prayer for me." After our prayer, she said, "You are so strong."

We replied, "Grandma, you are always the strong one. You have held us up with your example of strength through all these years. You are still our strength." She knew it was true.



She was never ordained. But the Lord never had a finer servant.

Enjoy heaven, Grandma!

Owen Dorn is principal  
of St. Mark School, Watertown, Wisconsin.

## Precious Is the Child — a television success

"The Wauwatosa-based Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod is undertaking an unusual marketing campaign aimed at television viewers to encourage them to attend its church this Christmas" (*The Milwaukee Journal*, 12/15/91). The campaign was successful, largely because of local congregations' use of the support materials to invite people to join them in their Christmas worship.

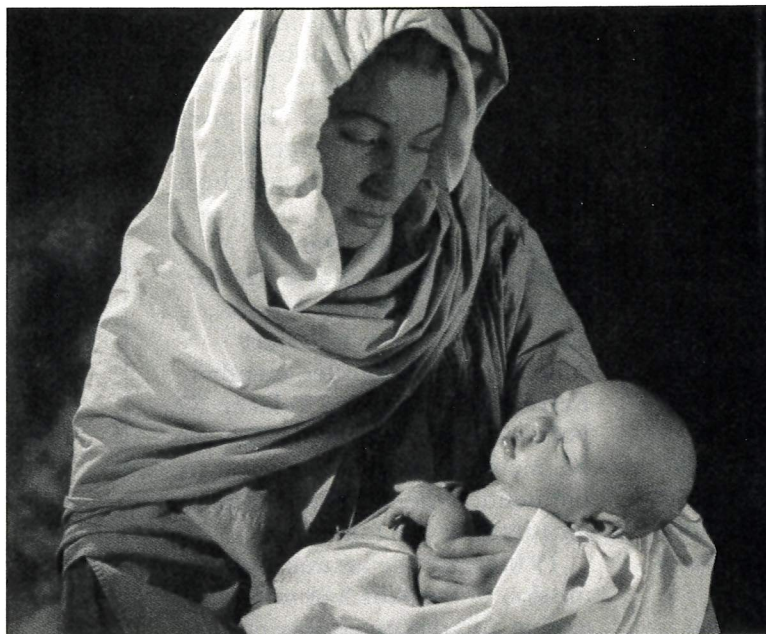
Over 700 congregations are known to have participated in some aspect of Christmas '91. They distributed more than 90,000 Christmas card invitations to family and friends. They gave away more than 50,000 "Precious Is the Child" ornaments. They placed mini-billboards in front of their churches and ran public service announcements on local radio and TV.

A number of people called (and we appreciated this) to say thanks to the Evangelism/Mass Media office for assisting with the special outreach effort and to tell some of the good things that happened in their congregation. All reported increased or even record-breaking church attendance.

A church in central Florida held an outdoor Christmas Eve service with a live manger scene. Some of the many visitors asked for more information about the congregation.

A congregation in a small town in Minnesota conducted portions of its Christmas service in the local nursing homes and provided bus service to the worship services at the church.

A local telephone company per-



GERALD M. KOSER STUDIO

mitted the church's youth group to use its equipment to call and invite area residents to attend their Christmas worship. Thirty six prospect families were identified in the first evening of phoning.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Evangelism/Mass Media Ministry staff extends its heartfelt thanks to all whose gifts made possible the national television outreach, "Precious Is the Child." Given time constraints, it is not possible to acknowledge personally the hundreds of contributions received.

Our gracious God blessed this effort far beyond projected expectations, enabling our message to reach an audience of 68 million. We have been encouraged to repeat this outreach on an annual basis. We pray, God willing, it might be so.

Your servants in Christ,  
WELS Evangelism/  
Mass Media Ministry staff

A congregation in Illinois reported the highest church attendance in 14 years and related how they shared a Christmas concert video with patients in a local hospital on its own cable TV channel.

The primary support for all these individual efforts was the showing of the Precious Is the Child TV spot on four cable networks nationally and on network affiliates in 26 areas where the WELS has the highest concentration of churches.

Altogether, over 100 stations aired a Christmas video invitation.

Telephone responses to the 800 phone service came from 38 states, indicating a widespread audience for the TV spot. Twenty-five percent of those who called gave their names and addresses. A "thank you for responding" letter has been sent to 270 homes.

Most of the calls came from the mission areas of the country. Over 20 percent of the responses came from the North Atlantic District where the spot played only on cable TV, demonstrating the effectiveness of cable advertising.

Names of respondents have also been sent to local churches for personal follow up. A complimentary copy of the evangelism videotape *Soul Search* is being offered to each respondent.

At the direction of the Commission on Evangelism, Precious Is the Child will become an annual program. Congregations are encouraged to plan their local emphasis for Christmas '92.

— Robert C. Hartman, administrator  
for the Commission on Evangelism

## Telecommunications: the wave of the future

In 1990, the WELS Commission on Parish Schools (CPS) and the Board for Worker Training (BWT) formed a joint committee to study the use of telecommunication technology in education. The committee received financial support from AAL to carry out the study and to develop pilot programs.

In the fall of 1990, the Technology in Education Committee and the administrators of the CPS and the BWT attended Telecon X, a telecommunications conference, to research the telecommunications industry and develop plans for utilizing telecommunications technology in the educational programs of the WELS.

For the first year, the emphasis has been on learning to make use of audioconferencing. Some committee meetings were held using the audioconference method. This allowed committee members to meet without the expense of travel or loss of time away from work. The Commission on Parish Schools also used audioconferencing for a meeting.

Audioconferencing was effectively used this past summer for the CPS-sponsored Principal-Board

Seminars. Some faculty in-service classes are being taught by using a video tape of the lecture, followed by an audioconference. This gives the opportunity to interact with the speaker directly even though he is not on site.

In November Dr. Daniel Schmeling, administrator for the Commission on Parish Schools, committee chairman Robert Adickes, and committee member Earl Heidtke attended Telecon XI. Following the meetings at Telecon XI, members of the committee recommended the use of telecommunications for the following:

1) Increase the awareness of the mission of the WELS by teleconferencing and distance learning programs delivered to our congregations and schools nationwide.

2) Provide continuing education for called workers in all parts of the country through programs of instruction delivered from Dr. Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.

3) Develop programs for use in our parish schools using our own master teachers.

The committee is convinced that

a planned systematic approach to incorporating new telecommunications technology should be part of the WELS strategy for the future.

— Robert W. Adickes

*Reprinted from the newsletter of Arizona Lutheran Academy.*

### IS A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY FOR YOU?

Are you interested in making a gift to provide for the continuation of the Lord's work after He takes you to your home in heaven?

Do you want a secure investment that will give you income for the rest of your life, or provide income for someone else?

Would you like a portion of this income to be tax exempt?

Would you like to get tax benefits now but defer income until later, possibly after retirement?

If your answer is YES to any of these questions, then a Charitable Gift Annuity may be for you. For further information, contact:

Office of Planned and Special Giving  
WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN SYNOD  
2929 North Mayfair Road  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53222  
(414) 771-6119

## New video an outreach breakthrough

"Communicating Christ," sometimes called "an outreach breakthrough," is now available on video tape. It is a thirty-two lesson series, which can be completed in sixteen weeks, covering the basic truths of law and gospel.

The series was first developed by Pastor Carl W. Leyrer, now a missionary in Colombia, for his Corpus Christi, Texas, congregation. The slides have been converted to a video tape presentation in this new format.

The course is designed for use in adult information classes, Sunday

morning Bible class, and confirmation classes. The course can also be used by the laity to assist in their evangelism efforts. Those who have used it have called it "a tremendous resource for outreach and spiritual renewal."

Distribution of "Communicating Christ" is done through WELS Kingdom Workers. For more information on how to order the package write Kingdom Workers, 2401 N. Mayfair Rd., Suite 203, Wauwatosa, WI 53226; or phone 414/771-6848.

## DMLC midyear graduates

Bachelor of science in education degrees were conferred on 14 graduates of Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn., on Dec. 19. One candidate was recommended for synod certification.

The graduates are Patricia L. Anderson, East Troy, Wis.; Steven L. Birr, Egan, Minn.; Deborah R. Birsching, Sebewaing, Mich.; Sarah K. Dickman, Campbellsport, Wis.; Brooke L. Diersen, Caledonia, Minn.; Mark J. Knutson, Valders, Wis.; Rebecca M. Koelpin, Eagle River, Wis.; Jennifer Y. Koepke, Oshkosh, Wis.; Deborah J. Lange, New Ulm, Minn.; Heidi M. Martz, Mequon, Wis.; Gregory T. Mittelsteadt, Mankato, Minn.; Catherine M. Oldfield, South St. Paul, Minn.; Amy S. Owen, LaCrosse, Wis.; Melanie G. Werner, Saginaw, Mich.



**Patricia L. Anderson**  
East Troy, Wis.



**Deborah R. Birsching**  
Sebewaing, Mich.



**Brooke L. Diersen**  
Caledonia, Minn.



**Jennifer Y. Koepke**  
Oshkosh, Wis.



**Deborah J. Lange**  
New Ulm, Minn.



**Heidi M. Martz**  
Mequon, Wis.



**Amy S. Owen**  
LaCrosse, Wis.



**Melanie G. Werner**  
Saginaw, Mich.

Saginaw, Mich.

Recommended for synod certification was Clark S. Thaldorf, Fountain City, Wis.

All are eligible for calls into the

synod's teaching ministry. Two have been assigned: Amy Owen to St. Mark, Lincoln, Neb., and Sarah Dickman to St. Mark, Green Bay, Wis.

## Milwaukee OWLS assist missions by telephone

From five phones at the national headquarters of the Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) in West Allis, Wis., thousands of calls are made in a phone outreach program to assist mission congregations of the synod.

After completing 2821 calls inviting the neighborhood to a community open house, OWLS callers were able to list 250 prospects for Good Shepherd, St. Peters, Missouri. "The response of those who received the initial mailings, which the OWLS volunteers sent out," wrote Pastor Peter Panitzke of Good Shepherd, "was very good."

He continues: "The two Sundays following an open house we have had an additional 20 first-time visitors each Sunday, as well as a large number of return visitors. A special

baptism service for five children is being planned as a result of visitors asking for baptism for their children."

In a similar phone outreach program for Grace, Gresham, Oregon, a list of 203 prospects was provided to Grace. "We are so thankful for the work done by the OWLS," wrote Pastor Nathan Krause of Grace. "I pray each group you serve with your labor of love is as impressed as we were."

Clarence Saatkamp, director of the phone outreach program in a report to his callers pointed out that "thousands of people are hearing about the WELS and about a WELS congregation in their neighborhood." That kind of exposure, he said, "coupled with the nationwide coverage of the

'Precious is the Child' promotion, is without a doubt some of the most exciting and aggressive activity in home mission work."

According to Pastor Robert Hartman, administrator for evangelism, there are two other phone outreach programs. One is in Watertown, Wis., with the phones located in St. Mark's facilities, and the other in the Twin Cities area with the phones located at St. John, Minneapolis. Typically, he said, 4000 to 5000 homes are reached in an area, and each phone outreach location undertakes about four promotions a year.

According to Hartman, the program "has been very well received by our mission churches."

## Bethany College receives \$6.5 million gift

Bethany Lutheran College of Mankato, Minn., a junior college maintained by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), received a gift of \$6.5 million from an alumnus, the largest individual gift in the school's history, according to an account in the Mankato Free Press.

Marvin Schwan, a 1949 graduate of Bethany, has pledged \$6.5 million during the next five years through his business, Schwan's Sales and Enterprises, based in Marshall, Minn.

The \$6.5 million included an outright gift of \$3.5 million and an additional \$3 million in matching funds. The gift will put the college halfway to its goal of \$13 million for endowment, construction, and

annual budget needs.

Bethany, which opened in 1909 as a college for young women, now is a coeducational liberal arts college with 300 students. The college passed into the control of the ELS in the mid-1920s.

The \$13 million projects are expected to increase enrollment at the college, according to Bethany President Marvin Meyer, but there are no immediate plans to expand from its two-year program to a four-year program.

Mr. Schwan is a member of Good Shepherd, a WELS congregation in Sioux Falls, S. Dak., and a frequent and generous contributor to Lutheran causes.

## Obituaries

### Rudolph C. Horlamus 1903-1992

Rudolph C. Horlamus died Jan. 3, 1992, in Madison, Wis.. He was born May 23, 1903, in West Bend, Wis.

He graduated from Northwestern College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, entering the ministry in 1927. He served congregations in Surprise and Broken Bow, Nebraska, and Hurley and Mercer, Wisconsin, before becoming the institutional missionary in Madison. He retired in 1978.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Elfrieda, and two children. He is survived by a daughter, Carla (John) Heltsch, three grandsons, and two great-grandsons.

Services were held at Eastside, Madison, Wis.

## Touch of laughter

Little Jane said to her mother after church, "Why do we always pray for jelly? Why don't we ever pray for peanut butter?"

"We don't pray for jelly," said her mother.

"Yes we do," said Jane. "We say, 'Give us this day our jelly bread.'"

*Ida Koehler*

*Bruce Crossing, Michigan*

I am a pastor and my office is in the parsonage. Recently my wife, Betsy, interviewed for a job. When she arrived home, she found six-year-old Peter in the front yard and said, "Peter, I got a job."

"Good," said Peter. "I hope Dad gets one soon."

*Mark Bitter*

*The Woodlands, Texas*

If your beliefs have become muddy, come to the WELS and get your faith washed.

*Robert S. Lawrence*

*Toledo, Ohio*

German services were fading out of the picture, but not nearly fast enough for the organist who didn't know German. Since he didn't know what was going on, he could only wait until the pastor finished speaking and then play the next response. During a service the organist lost his place. It was fruitless to continue. The pastor announced (in German) "Apparently our organist is confused." To which the organist played his next response, a resounding "Amen."

*Rolfe Westendorf*

*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

The pastor was delivering a children's sermon on using time wisely. He asked the little ones seated on the floor around him, "Can you think of ways in which you waste time?"

A little girl replied, "How about taking a bath?"

*Dave Luetke*

*Onalaska, Wisconsin*

The kindergarteners were to sing in church after the sermon. Although the pastor claims it was his standard 20-minute sermon, about halfway through a little girl, looking concerned, whispered, "Was I supposed to bring my lunch?"

*Cindi Holman*

*Citrus Heights, California*

Our two-year-old granddaughter had been learning the Lord's Prayer. One Sunday we took her with us to church. When the pastor was leading the congregation in the Lord's Prayer, she tugged at my skirt and whispered, "Grandma, he knows it too."

*Mildren Born*

*Hazel, South Dakota*

Contributions are welcome. Please send them to LAUGHTER, Northwestern Lutheran, 2929 N Mayfair Road, Milwaukee WI 53222-4398.

**Elroy C. Schoemann**  
1923-1992

Elroy C. Schoemann was born May 22, 1923, in Milwaukee, Wis., and died Jan. 4, 1992, in Beaver Dam, Wis.

He was a graduate of Luther College, Decorah, Iowa; Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Ill.; and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

He served congregations in Naper, Neb., and Friesland and Dalton, Wis.

Survivors include his wife, Carol; one daughter, Ann (Dan) Nischke; four sons, Randal (Donna), Daniel (Janice), Mark (Lynn), and Jon (Kathy); ten grandchildren; a brother, Arthur (Pat); and a sister, Mae (Jack) Stauff.

Services were held at Good Shepherd, Beaver Dam.

## Doctor no longer performs abortions

In a *Los Angeles Times* guest column Dr. George Flesh told of his abortion experiences. "Extracting a fetus, piece by piece, was bad for my sleep," he wrote.

"I stared at the sad face in the mirror and wondered how all those awards and diplomas had produced an angel of death. . . . Although I still felt sorry for the unmarried twenty-year-old, I felt increasing anger toward married couples who requested abortions because a law-firm partnership was imminent . . . or even because summer travel tickets were paid for."

What finally brought him to a decision, says Dr. Flesh, was the couple who came seeking an abortion, but were advised to wait a week because of a small complication. "The couple returned and told me they had changed their

minds and wanted to keep the baby."

"Years later I played with little Jeffrey. He was happy and beautiful. I was horrified to think that only a technical obstacle had prevented me from terminating Jeffrey's potential life."

Dr. Flesh no longer performs abortions.

### WELS Connection videotapes

#### February topics:

- Mission Work in Eastern Europe
- Bibles in Russia

#### March topics

- International students at Michigan Lutheran Seminary
- Miss Michigan

For more information, contact CCFS, WELS Administration Building, 2929 N. Mayfair Rd., Milwaukee WI 53222. Cost of a year's subscription is \$48.

### DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS ON FAVORITE HYMNS

By James H. Robinson

These devotions were derived from the rich theological truths expressed in favorite hymns and from related Bible texts. Individuals, families, church or school groups can use these devotions to uncover vital truths, comfort, encouragement, and inspiration found in each hymn. The devotions may be used profitably by singing or speaking the hymn, reading the devotion itself and closing with the prayer. The 52 hymns are also available (see below) in a set of two long-play stereo cassettes produced by The Lutheran Chorale of Milwaukee.

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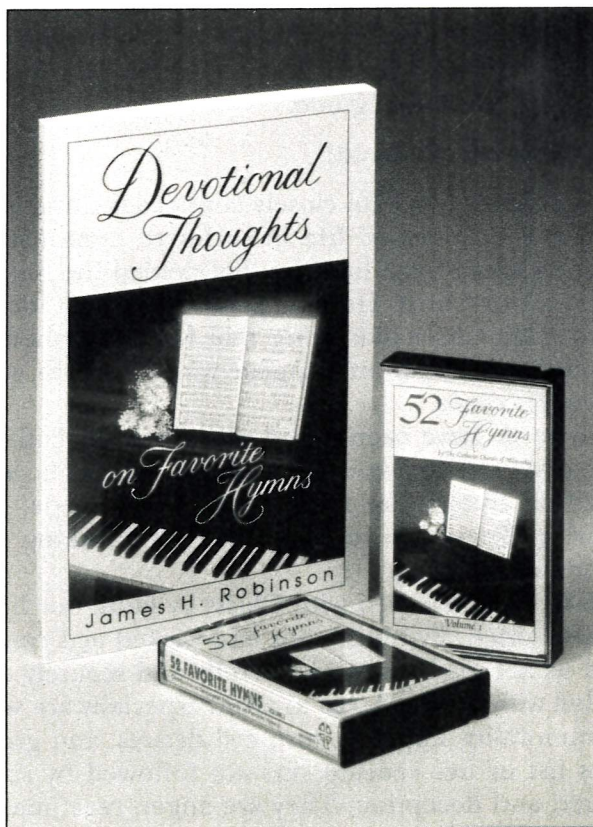
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# Christ Jesus: The all-sufficient guide for living

(Colossians 3:1-17)

by Fredric E. Piepenbrink

If in the past the Christian life could be described as walking a straight and narrow path, today it might better be compared to walking a tightrope a hundred feet up with no net. It is a balancing act of being in the world but not of the world, of being salt without losing saltiness, of being a soldier while avoiding civilian affairs.

The greatest danger is to slip into compromise where the sharp distinctions between the godly and the ungodly are lost, and even the Christian blends into the ways of the wicked. Avoiding such a plunge requires both knowledge and transformation of the will. But where do such spiritual gifts originate?

The first two chapters of Paul's letter to the Colossians were doctrinal. The last two are practical, thus making the vital connection between what Christians believe and how they live. Beginning with chapter three, the Colossians received specific instructions in the art of balanced Christian living, while being strongly encouraged to use Christ Jesus as their all-sufficient guide.

## Stop! Get rid of! Avoid!

In chapter two Paul closely connected Christ's life with the Colossians' life in order to demonstrate their freedom from heresies that denied the full saving work of Christ. He now picks up on that idea to encourage Christ-like living that will allow them to avoid God's wrath and appear with Christ in glory when he comes.

Since we have been raised with Christ by faith, we are to set our hearts and minds on things above — spiritual things like faith, forgiveness, hope, and heaven. These are to dominate our thinking and motivate our living.

Also, since we died with Christ by faith, our life is to be hidden. Evil influence and wicked acts cannot find us because our life is secretly and securely concealed with Christ. Areas to avoid especially are sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed. This list of five sensual sins are followed by six of hatred and deception. They are anger, rage, malice, slander, filthy language, and lying.

These are not unforgivable sins, but those who deliberately persist in them show an unwillingness to put off the old self they lived with before they came to faith, and to put on the new self that came with Jesus when he entered their heart by faith.

You see, when Christ comes, he brings about a change in people that makes them more like what they were called to be — children of God. So powerful is his influence in them that all national, religious, racial, and social differences that separate us here on earth are broken down, and all the faithful look to Christ for salvation and guidance. He, in turn, provides it because he is in them all.

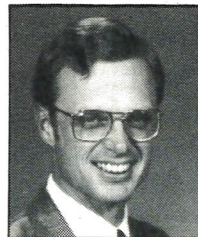
## Turn here! Put on! Enjoy!

With Christ Jesus as our guide for living, we find common personality traits among Christians that include compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and especially love. None of these would be possible if we were not dearly loved by Christ first. Paul concludes with three admonitions that will keep Christ as our all-sufficient guide.

First, let Christ's peace rule, that peace which comes from knowing that you are a child of God in Christ.

Second, let the Scriptures flourish in your life as your guide and the source for guiding others. Use the word especially with musical accompaniment. Singing spiritual songs with others is a way to express emotions and encourage one another.

Finally, let everything you do be in the name of Jesus. This is Paul's most sweeping statement concerning Christ's impact on the Christian life. What it means is that every attitude and action of everyday life reflects an intimate relationship with Christ, is in harmony with his will, and is dependent on his all-sufficient guidance.



Fredric Piepenbrink is pastor of Atonement, Milwaukee.



## Animal rights — and wrongs

**A**ds on the rear of city buses in my home town urge us not to condone cruelty to animals by buying fur coats. The ads are sponsored by local environmentalists. They want to make the issue a matter of conscience.

Every reasonable person supports the philosophy of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. But when does a concern for animal rights cease to be common sense and become nonsense? Should everyone who wears a fur coat or a mink cape or fur-lined gloves or who uses a chamois on his car be sent off on a guilt trip by environmental activists' ads?

Certainly Christians who recall that "the Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them" (Genesis 3:21) will not be inclined to give much credence to propaganda propagated by promoters of animal rights.

Whether endangered species such as California condors and snail darters and spotted owls deserve to be protected at all costs is not a question on which we can speak authoritatively as Christians. But when animal rights groups go to extremes in an attempt to halt medical research because the researchers employ animals in their experiments, we are compelled to wonder what the basis is for their moral outrage.

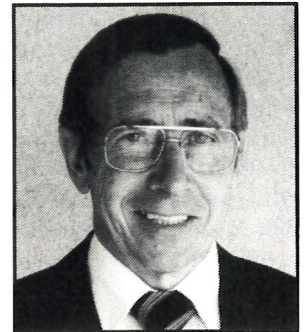
Experiments using monkeys helped Dr. Jonas Salk eradicate polio. Doctors who pioneered open heart surgery began with animals. The discovery of insulin and the control of diabetes involved experiments with animals. Animal rights groups contend that all such research is immoral and that it must stop. They have introduced bills in congress and state legislatures calling for bans on the sale of animals for medical research. And to punctuate their point, activists have set fire to a diagnostic laboratory at the University of California in Davis and have delayed construction of a new biology lab building at Stanford University resulting in cost overruns of more than two million dollars.

What is most reprehensible about the advocacy of animal rights is the attempt to make it a moral issue. For many animal rights advocates, morals are only relative. Thus for them the issue is actually one of preference rather than of principle.

Millions of human lives have been saved as a result of medical research utilizing animals. Human life is sacred according to Scripture. That status is not accorded to animals in the Bible.

I doubt that St. Paul's conscience was ever plagued by the fact that he supported himself marketing tents he made from animal skins. So don't let environmentalists get under your skin when a bus in front of you sports an ad that says, "Don't buy furs."

Joel C. Gerlach



*Joel Gerlach  
is pastor of St. John,  
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.*

## Xmas

Thank you for Mark Braun's Exmas letter (December). Judging from the number of people who respond to professions of Christian faith with "You really believe that stuff?" Mr. Braun's time line is probably generous.

I feel compelled, however, to comment on Exmas or Xmas, an abbreviation that has received a lot of bad press. I found something interesting while reviewing the handwritten records of our oldest German congregations. The names Christian and Christiana might be written in full the first time, but would appear in subsequent entries as Xian or Xiana. The X never appeared in any other name and always replaced only the "Christ" letters.

That first letter in Exmas is not really "ex." For a long time I didn't recognize the Greek symbol chi-rho, the first two letters of Christ in the New Testament.

So while I keep Christ in Christmas, I keep him in Xmas too. There is a certain pleasure in realizing that even when the world thinks they're getting rid of Christ by putting X in place of his name, he is still there.

Susan K. Voeks  
Nelsonville, Wisconsin

## Thomas would be Borked

Shame — not on Clarence Thomas — but on NL for misleading us on church/state issues.

If Justice Thomas preaches in his church, he should say, "Abortion is contrary to God's will." But if he wants the state to save the unborn, different rules apply. If he had spoken the noble words Pastor Westendorf urges (Jan. 1), he would have been Borked — Bork did just what Pastor W. advises — and *Roe vs. Wade* would remain the law of the land forever.

Roger Kovaciny  
Columbus, Ohio

## Unlikely candidate

He announced he was going to be a preacher, just like that. In his hand he clutched a pamphlet that said, "If not you, then who?"

He was an unlikely candidate. He was from a public school, in New York of all places. The languages that would help him were not taught at the local high school. He came from a Missouri Synod background and knew little about the WELS. And he lived 600 miles from the nearest WELS training school.

But he had already learned that the pastors who served our fledgling congregation could back up what they taught with scripture. The word of God was always the answer given for questions asked. He wanted to do the same for others, so off he went to school.

Without Northwestern College's chapel services, and prayers for guidance, strength, and knowledge, he might have given up. But the Lord kept his dreams alive and provided him with all he needed. The prayers of his home congregation were with him.

It is amazing what the Lord can do with an unlikely candidate.

I'm sure I share the feelings of all the mothers of the 1992 graduating class of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary: If not our sons, then who?

Marlene M. Ziecher  
Springville, New York

## Mind of a missionary

I hope the NL will permit me to promote a newly published book through the letters column. I just finished reading *In the Mind of a Missionary* by Mark Kolander. Mark is a WELS missionary in Ndola, Zambia.

The book describes his family's missionary experience in a touching and heartwarming, yet realistic way. It is primarily the story of the Kolanders' "breaking-in" period — the time from their receiving the call to Zambia up to their first furlough two years later. Not only those who are interested in the WELS world

mission outreach, but anyone with adventure in his heart will enjoy reading this tale about being strangers in a strange land.

Some may feel we have already spent too much time and money in places like Apacheland and Central Africa. I like what Pastor Kolander has to say about that: "There is talk in America of having to cut back on missionary positions because of lack of funds. This would be a tragedy. In fact, instead of cutting missionaries back to America, we need more in Central Africa. Now is not the time to become complacent. There are still thousands in Zambia and Malawi who do not call Jesus their Lord. Let us not go backward. Forward is to be our only direction." Well said, Mark. May our Lord make it so!

Jeff Gunn  
Lusaka, Zambia

*In the Mind of a Missionary is available for \$5.60, including postage and handling, from Pastor Paul Otto, Box 37, Frontenac MN 55026.*

## Get involved

Christian laypeople, please get involved in your government by writing your representatives on moral issues. Our ministers and teachers should not get involved in politics. But laymen can witness to the government on moral issues.

Right now there is civil war over values in this country. It is in the courts and government on every level. It is in the public schools, medical field, and business. Every level of society is affected.

If we are not witnesses of our faith, our children and grandchildren are going to pay dearly. Practice your faith in Christ. One person can do a lot.

Jay Gottschalk  
Racine, Wisconsin

In the interest of conciseness, letters are subject to editing. Full name, address and daytime phone number should accompany each letter. Names will be withheld only under unusual circumstances. Letters cannot be acknowledged, nor can all letters be used. Address your letters to *LETTERS, Northwestern Lutheran, 2929 N Mayfair Road, Milwaukee WI 53222-4398.*

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*How is it,  
Socrates  
wondered,  
that "men know  
what is good  
but do  
what is bad?"*

---

**H**ow is it, Socrates wondered, that "men know what is good but do what is bad?" And today's society has more answers to that ancient question than it knows what to do with. Too much discipline. Too little discipline. Poverty. Affluence. No fathers. No mothers. No both. Racism. Abuse. Drugs. Poor schools. The ghettos. Social injustice. Capitalism. The sexual revolution. If you are a typical reader of Northwestern Lutheran, you will immediately catch the absence of one word, of three letters: SIN. Except from a declining number of pulpits, the word is not spoken today.

Not since 1973 has anyone of national stature — barring a few preachers — uttered the word nationally and loudly enough to be heard. In 1973 Karl Menninger, patriarch of the Topeka, Kansas-based Menninger Clinic, fed up with a nation of morally-neutered people, published the book *Whatever Became of Sin?* Its contents graced many a conservative pulpit before its burial a few years later. Since that event have you heard the word "sin" spoken in public discourse of America's problems? I think not.

That is, until a day last December when an unsigned editorial titled "The Joy of What?" condemning the moral license loosed on us with the so-called "sexual revolution," appeared in the Wall Street Journal. It was reprinted recently as a full-page ad in the New York Times. The other day, Religious News Service reported the occurrence in full.

The editorial was written by Daniel Henninger, a deputy editor of the Wall Street Journal, who lamented recent highly publicized scandals involving three public figures: the Clarence Thomas hearings, Magic Johnson's confession of promiscuity, and a one-night-stand involving William Kennedy Smith. "Does anyone want to step forward and claim responsibility for all this?" the editorial asks. "This is the joy of what?"

The editorial ended by urging that "more people in positions of responsibility" become "willing to come forward and explain, in frankly moral terms, that some things that people do nowadays are wrong."

Of Magic Johnson's troubles, Henninger writes, "With a few dissenting exceptions, 96 hours and 96 zillion column inches of sentiment washed over the falls about how all this proved the need for 'safe sex' before someone finally said that Magic Johnson's sex life was, simply, wrong."

Of the Smith trial, the editorial said, "It is intriguing to wonder how the country could have become so transfixed by what, at bottom, was the story of two barflies. . . . Maybe . . . this affair was about something altogether alien to contemporary culture, namely, sin."

In an interview by telephone, Henninger, a Roman Catholic from New York, told RNS that he had decided it was time to speak up because, in an era when the advice of therapists is often preferred to that of ministers and priests, "a lot of people are intimidated" into "keeping their mouths shut" about the old-fashioned notion of "sin."

Nice try, Henninger. But it won't wash until this message invades the pulpits of this land: Without sin there is no Savior.

*James P. Schaffer*

# Everyday love

## Tips for you and your spouse

by Ramona Czer



MRS. KEVIN SCHEIBEL

- Daily entrust your spouse to God's care.
- Every morning snuggle together for ten extra minutes. Begin the day with the comfort of touch.
- Try to eat breakfast together. Even a shared bowl of Wheaties makes you feel somehow connected.
- When saying goodbye for the day, remember to smile. Make the last memory a fond one.
- Buy small surprises often: a favorite magazine, a piece of fruit.
- Always leave your spouse the last banana.
- Never criticize your spouse in front of his or her parents, children, or co-workers.
- Be enthusiastic about your spouse's successes.
- Sit next to each other in church, and share a hymnal.
- Have devotions, even if children aren't present. God's word is a powerful cementer.
- Get away together at least once a week, even if only for coffee. It helps you see each other as individuals.
- When your spouse talks, listen with your whole face, not just with your ears.
- Teach your children not to interrupt your conversations. Finished sentences breed satisfaction.
- Give surprise hugs. And back rubs, too.
- Always say "please" and "thank you." Politeness has been called "love in little things."
- Don't nag about inconsequential things like hair in the sink or socks left in a ball. Either fix it yourself or suggest with humor and humility.
- When you're truly upset, tell your spouse. Never play guessing games.
- Share a hobby.
- Read some of the same books and talk about them.
- Read Solomon's "Song of Songs" once a year.
- Tell your spouse how Jesus has worked in your life, long ago and yesterday too.
- Once a week do a task your spouse hates to do.
- Dress carefully when going out. Your spouse loves to be proud of your appearance.
- When you have a conflict, ask God to change you, not your spouse.
- Be the first one to say "I'm sorry," even when you weren't wrong.
- Forgive generously. Forget purposefully.
- Share irritating inconveniences, like going for milk or taking the babysitter home.
- Take time for yourself daily. Only a full cup can pour out to others.
- Cook a meal together once a week.
- During a snowstorm enjoy a walk together. Small adventures make memories.
- When your spouse tells you about a problem at work, ask questions. Questions prove interest.
  - Go to bed before exhausted, and invite your spouse along.
  - Thank God for your spouse each night. Your love is one of the most precious blessings on earth.



Ramona Czer, a free lance writer, is a member of Timothy, St. Louis Park, Minnesota.