

lutheran spokesman

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CHURCH OF THE EVANGELICAL CONFESSION

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THE SURPRISE OF CHRISTMAS

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:8-11)

Christmas Eve just wouldn't be the same if the children would not recite St. Luke's account of the Savior's birth. How many times haven't we heard it said, and even recited it ourselves: “And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed . . .” (Lk. 2:1ff)

Have you ever thought you might know these words too well? Isn't it a fact that the more we know something, the less we pay attention to it? We hope this is not our attitude toward the Word. Yet must we not admit that when the pastor preaches on an unfamiliar text, we sit straight up and very attentive?

Seeing Ourselves In The Shepherds

We know all too well the story of the shepherds on that first Christmas night. Or do we? Have you realized that when you look at the shepherds, it's like looking into a mirror? In the shepherds of the Christmas story, we behold ourselves.

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.”

These poor and humble working men were going about their everyday

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business. Being a shepherd was a lonely and thankless job. You were out in the field, all alone, except for the few other shepherds. It was also a scary job. You never knew when you would be called upon to defend the sheep from an attacking wolf, lion, or bear. This fear intensified all the more at night when shadows seemed longer and noises louder than they really were. How frightened then these poor shepherds must have been to behold the brightness of God's glory and to hear a special messenger sent directly from heaven! "They were sore afraid."

We too have our own business to conduct and our own lives to live. But our life too can be very lonely! Ever since our first parents fell into sin, men have been alienated from one another. Just ask a rest home patient or someone who has transferred to a new town. Life can also be scary. Think of the millions who live in constant fear of a nuclear war, or who are terrified that they might catch the dreaded cancer. Even in the daytime many people dwell in darkness—the darkness of sin, unbelief, and hopelessness. And so,



when God enters men's lives through His Word, they too can become "sore afraid." Just like these ancient shepherds, it is only natural to cower before the holy God, Maker of heaven and earth.

Surprise! "Fear Not!"

"And the angel said unto them. Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

We can almost picture the shepherds stretched out prostrate on the ground, trembling in fear and hiding their faces from the angel. But what does this messenger say? Something totally unexpected! "Fear not!" The angel had a joyful message to proclaim! On that very day, in the city of Bethlehem, a Savior had been born! It was Christ, the Lord!

These words were packed to the brim with Gospel comfort for these Jewish shepherds. Since earliest childhood they had been told both by their parents and by the rabbis about the coming Christ, or Messiah. They knew by memory those beautiful Old Testament passages, such as these:

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." (Micah 5:2)

"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound." (Isaiah 61:1)

It is also a joyful surprise for us when the Lord comes in His Word. As sinners we have no right to expect anything but His wrath and anger. Instead, sin-stricken souls are comforted by the message: "Fear not!" This Gospel message of the newborn Savior is "good tidings of great joy"

for all, including you and me. The very Son of God has been made flesh, so that through the death He would suffer on Good Friday He might destroy him who held the power of death, the devil. Oh, the comfort the angel's message brings to us as well!

After the words of our text from St. Luke, we are told that the shepherds traveled to Bethlehem to behold the Baby Jesus. This Christmas may we, too, join the shepherds as we hear the children tell the Christmas story. May we go to Bethlehem in spirit, glorifying the newborn Savior Who smiles upon us in His grace and mercy.

—Stephen Kurtzahn

* * * * *

Jesus, Our Wonderful Counselor

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given . . . And he will be called Wonderful Counselor . . ." (Isaiah 9:6)

"Here's . . . Johnny" is a phrase recognizable to anyone who chooses to watch late night television. If something heavier is desired by way of entertainment which includes opinions of a media show's host and guests, there is always the morning Donahue Show. Then there are those deans of the newspaper advice columnists, the Landers sisters, who are looked to by many as "bible" in the broad field of human relationships and behavior.

Add now to these American "institutions" what has been called "the latest red hot rage." What is it? Radio psychology. On these talk shows the hosts encourage listeners to use them as sounding boards. They offer non-spiritual, secularistic, humanistic, and often prejudiced counsel on just about any subject under the sun.

What is to account for the wide range and hot rage of such programs? Someone was heard to offer the following as the reason behind the current rage of radio psychology: "People need reassurance; they need to hear other people have problems too." In other words, many people tune in to find an element of comfort in the knowledge that they are not alone in the world with

NO NEEDED COMFORT OR COUNSEL CAN SURPASS THAT WHICH IS OFFERED THROUGH THE LORD'S WORD AND SPIRIT.

their problems; that there are those who care or who, at least, will listen; that someone might have the answer(s) they need to pull them through, to get a hold on things, and maybe even to straighten them (or someone else) out. No matter, it seems, what the special qualifications are, if there are any at all, of the one to whom the person happens to be talking, listening, or writing.

A Word of Warning

There is a place for, and a kind of "safety" in, a "multitude of counselors." Solomon by inspiration speaks of this (see Prov. 11:14, 15:22, 24:6). However, God's Book also warns of "wicked counselors." (Nahum 1:11) We hope, therefore, that God's people will keep their bearings in the midst of a society satiated with self-proclaimed experts; in the midst of a society where the attitude prevails that anybody's word on any subject is as worthy and as good as anybody else's. The Apostle Paul had good reason to warn Timothy about "profane and vain babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge." (I Tim. 6:20) There are reasons the Lord, through the same apostle, warns about "philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ" while adding on the positive side: ". . . and ye are complete in him (Christ)." (Col. 2:8f)

It is true, of course, that people need comfort. This includes Christians inasmuch as they are sinners by nature as well as saints by faith. On this side of heaven the child of God has to endure many perplexing, burdensome consequences of his or her own, or someone else's, sin and sinfulness. This at times means problems of no small proportions, causing also the Christian believer to reach out beyond self for comfort, counsel, encouragement.

The God of All Comfort

No one is more aware of the need of sinners for comfort and counsel than our Savior-God who identifies Himself as "the God of all comfort." (Please take time to read II Cor. 1:3-7.) He promised to send, and did send, the best of all comfort and counsel in the person, work, and teachings of His Son, the "Wonderful Counselor." During His earthly sojourn the God-Man, Jesus Christ, showed Himself the compassionate Savior by His every word and deed. As prophesied, Jesus came *"to preach good tidings unto the meek . . . to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of*

THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

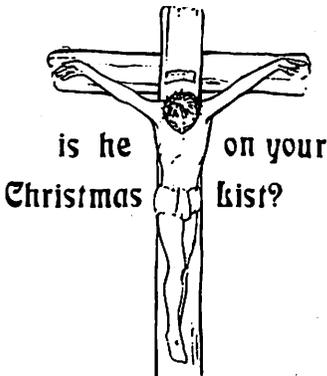


*"'Tis the season to be jolly"
 Sings the world midst all its folly.
 How can sinners ever profit,
 Thinking nothing more about it?
 World! The meaning goes far deeper,
 Than a hectic, numb demeanor
 Which can only be depressing
 When "the Birth" is lost in passing.*

*Christ was born—now hear the Story:
 Came to earth from outer glory;
 Came as man, of virgin mother;
 See—He had no human father!*

*(Doubting are you? Disbelieving?
 Why is it beyond conceiving
 That God's Spirit caused conception?
 Faith, not sight, makes the connection!)*

*"Jesus" was the name they gave Him—
 It was so decreed from heaven!
 Saving sinners was His mission;
 God-made-Man a "must" condition!*



*Sinners all were lost for certain.
 No mere man could rend the curtain.
 Thus God's Son was born to save us—
 This the comfort Christmas gives us!*

*Join us, world, this festive season:
 Plumb the depths, the holy reason,
 How and why this Babe, descending,
 Came to win us life unending!*

—P.F.

heaviness . . ." (Isaiah 61:1ff; compare Lk. 4:18-21)

Furthermore, our wonderful God expressly declares that the purpose of the ministry of His Church on earth is one of comfort: "Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people, saith your God; speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem . . ." (Is. 40:1f) When our Wonderful Counselor was about to return to His glory, withdrawing His bodily presence from His disciples, He promised to send them "another Comforter . . . even the Spirit of Truth." (Jn. 14:16f) No needed comfort or counsel can surpass that which is offered through the Lord's Word and Spirit. This is clearly implied by such questions as: "Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord, or being his counselor hath taught him?" (Is. 40:13); "For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counselor?" (Rom. 11:34)

When Comfort and Counsel Is Needed

Child of God, do you need the reassurance, the comfort, that comes from knowing that other people have problems too? Here's . . . the Bible, the very Word of the God of all comfort. Therein are examples of children of the heavenly Father who experienced, and found resources to overcome, the greatest burdens and problems. (See Job 1 & 2 & 42, II Corinthians 11 & 12, Hebrews 11 & 12 etc.) Furthermore, do you need to know that Someone cares? Here's . . . the entire book of the Psalms, for example.

Of immediate concern is the question: are you in need of a sympathetic ear or compassionate guidance counseling? The God of all comfort says, here's . . . a fellow believer ("Bear ye one another's burdens . . ." Gal. 6:2). Yes, here's . . . your pastor, who after the example of Jesus, the Wonderful Counselor, is a God-sent shepherd called to ease burdened souls with God's Gospel of comfort.

—Paul Fleischer

Encouraging The Use Of Private Pastoral Counseling

When you hear the word "counseling" these days, what do you think of?

If you have marriage problems you can go to a marriage counselor. If you have money problems you can go



to an accountant, a money management specialist, or even the welfare department. If you and your wife

have trouble deciding when to have children, or how many to have, you can go to the local family planning center. Your teen-age daughter has informed you that she is pregnant. The state social services office has a bevy of social workers trained to deal with just such a case.

Do you have a drinking or drug problem? There are organizations, both public and private, that are willing to help you. You don't know where you are going in life. You don't know why you are here. You are having an identity crisis. There are plenty of psychiatrists that will be glad to give you guidance and direction. These days you can even call in to Talk Net and discuss your problem with the host.

A Sad State of Affairs

What about the pastor? What is he good for? Often it seems he is expected only to sermonize, to baptize, to marry, and to bury! Maybe it isn't quite that bad, but we need to be realistic. In today's society we have welfare to take care of us if we can't make a go of it financially. We have any number of organizations and individuals trained to help us during just about any crisis that arises. People are being conditioned to think of these worldly institutions when they have a problem. And the pastor or the church may be the last place many think of going to for help or counseling.

We must beware lest we begin to believe that any and all counseling offered by these worldly institutions is harmless. They may have some good things to offer, but for the most

part they use the worldly, humanistic approach. This approach is diametrically opposed to what the Word of God has to say about the state of mankind.

Humanists believe in the innate goodness of man. Christians, on the other hand, cry with the Psalmist: "Behold I was shapen in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me." (Ps. 51:5) When we approach a problem from the world's point of view, we will end up with a distorted picture because of the influence of sin. We have the only true wisdom that exists in this world—God's Word. In that Word the true state of man is revealed. We must therefore approach our problems from God's perspective, seeking His wisdom for their solution.

Approaching life's problems from God's perspective is the golden value of Christian counseling. Our pastors

"APPROACHING LIFE'S PROBLEMS FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE IS THE GOLDEN VALUE OF CHRISTIAN COUNSELING."

are trained to provide this counseling and should be sought out as counselors. That they are not sought out as often as they should be is a sad state of affairs.

Let me repeat: even members of our congregations are conditioned by the world to seek help from its organizations. In the days of our grandparents there weren't as many organizations available. Most problems were dealt with privately and it seems the pastor was often turned to

for advice more than today. These days we have been "liberated" from most of the old taboos and they are no longer abhorred. In fact, there is hardly anything that is whispered about anymore. Consequently, there are many public and private organizations springing up to help people deal with the results of their excesses.

I believe that we have to look at educating our members in the need for, and the value of, Christian counseling versus the counseling they might receive from purely secular and even from some religious counseling services. The perils of non-Christian counseling are many, but the most fearful thing is the potential for this counseling to become a stumbling block, an offense, to one's faith.

Encouragement to Members

Pastor-parishioner relationships is a tender subject. This may be evident to most of us already, but I will mention it anyway. In order for a member to approach his pastor for counseling he must trust him and respect him (I Tim. 3:1-7). The Scriptures teach us that we are to look up to the pastor and hold him in high esteem (I Tim. 5:17-19). This, of course, does not mean that he should be put on a pedestal so that he is unapproachable. Rather, he should be looked upon as our shepherd; as one who is truly concerned for our welfare, both temporal and spiritual.

The pastor knows that we are prone to consumption by our worldly problems. He knows we all spend

time worrying about worldly things at the expense of our spiritual lives. He knows that the source of all our problems, no matter what they are, is sin. He realizes that the only real help comes from the Lord through repentance and faith. He knows that the trials and tribulations that Christians experience are for discipline and reproof, that we may become strengthened in our faith. Indeed, the pastor has probably experienced the power of the Lord's mercy and strength many times in his own life.

Encouragement to Pastors

We parishioners should keep in mind that each pastor has been given different gifts and abilities. Some are more naturally able to counsel than others. Pastors who find counseling a difficult task can find strength and comfort from the Lord through prayer and study in God's Word (see Is. 40:29-31). If he applies God's Word properly, he will find his counseling can do more than he thought possible. The Apostle Paul was constantly reminded that his own weakness would show the Lord's strength more perfectly. So let our pastors be assured that in counseling, as in preaching, it is the power of the Word of God that works in people's hearts and lives.

I would like to suggest some additional things that a pastor can do that may promote his counseling ministry. For example, he should seek to bring his preaching ministry to bear on the problems which the people face in this modern world. This is not to insinuate that there are

some new sins in this day and age. But circumstances now are different from what they were years ago. I feel pastors should also use illustrations that apply to our time and on a level where the people are. Pastors might also discuss problems that people face in bulletin articles, adult groups, and even in Bible classes. Through these discussions it can be made clear what values there are in Christian counseling, and also it shows a willingness to counsel.

Other Considerations

There is a fine line between being concerned for a person's welfare and meddling in a person's affairs. Obviously, it is much preferred to have the individual come to the pastor. However, there may be a member with an obvious problem that warrants attention. Perhaps a member has committed a sin that is of a public nature. In such a situation it may become necessary for the pastor to make the first move towards counseling.

Something also might be said about the parents' responsibility towards their children. Bringing children up with a healthy attitude toward Christian counseling is a worthwhile goal to strive for. While most Christian parents try to instill

“BRINGING CHILDREN UP WITH A HEALTHY ATTITUDE TOWARD CHRISTIAN COUNSELING IS A WORTHWHILE GOAL TO STRIVE FOR.”

respect for the pastor in their children, they might also make a special effort to encourage their children to go to their pastor for counseling.

It falls upon the pastor to do the greatest measure of counseling because he has been called into the public ministry. That doesn't mean that each individual Christian can't counsel. We all have the same commission from Christ. However, just as we don't preach publicly without a call, so we shouldn't attempt to counsel publicly either. We may have opportunity on a private basis. The best example I can think of is that we parents need to counsel our children frequently. With respect to our fellow men, our neighbors, the best thing we can do is help them to seek out and find a competent Christian counselor.

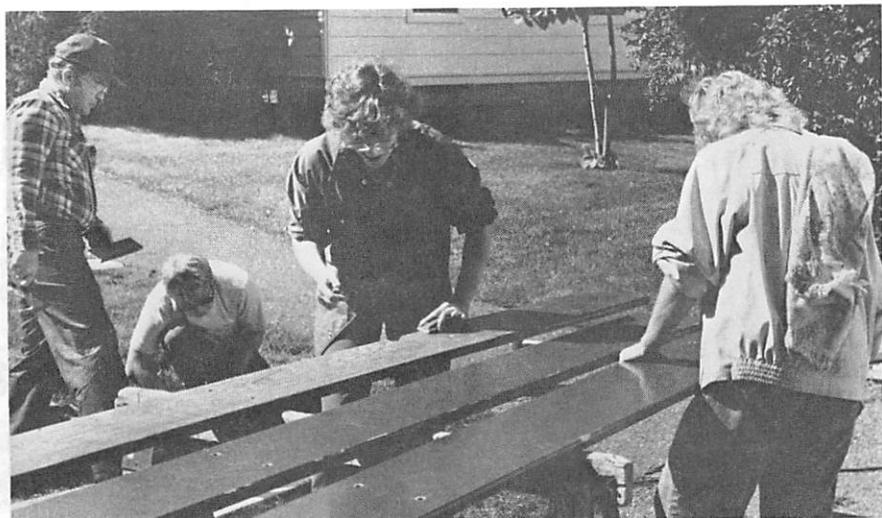
—*David Klatt*

Editor's note: This article was originally delivered as an essay to the June 1984 Delegate Conference of the West Central District of the CLC. Mr. Klatt is a member of Trinity congregation, Watertown, SD.

ALUMNI “WORK DAY” AT ILC

In late August, as the opening of school approached, it became evident that some of the repairs planned for the Immanuel Lutheran

College campus in Eau Claire could not be completed in time for the students' arrival. Therefore, a request was made to the Immanuel



Assembled workers finishing disassembled bleachers.

Lutheran Alumni Association (ILAA) for their assistance.

One of the specific purposes of the ILAA is to improve conditions at their Alma Mater in any way they can, and at the same time allow its membership opportunity for fellowship activity. The ILAA president, Mike Ude, sent out a letter to the CLC congregations in the immediate area announcing the organization of a work day for Saturday, September 15.

With the assistance of the ILC faculty and staff, preparations were made for the repair and painting of the wooden bleachers in the ILC gymnasium. This was indeed a worthwhile project since these bleachers had seen some 15 years of wear and tear. September 15 was a cool, sunlit day. The workers showed up early and were eager to get started. The work began by disassembling the bleachers. All of the boards were removed, setting aside

those that needed repair and those that needed replacement. All the boards were sanded, repaired, and prepared for painting. The painting continued for most of the day (with only an occasional paint fight between the people painting different colors).

Over twenty people were on hand to help. The majority were local alumni, with some local CLC members also helping. Also on hand were alumni from Onalaska and Markesan, WI. All in all, a great time was had by all with only minor complaints ("Who put all this gum under these seats?" "Who wrote all these things?" "When can we leave; we're missing the sale at Prange's!")

The enthusiasm and interest shown was excellent. Since all the paint had not dried on Saturday, Sunday was the day for completing the assembling of the bleachers. By Sunday afternoon we could see our time was well spent. The enthusiasm



Is this holding down a job, or sitting down on one?

of a few of the Alumni made them see more work to be done. They also repaired the scoreboard, replaced lights, and taped up tears in the ceiling insulation.

A letter of appreciation was received from ILC expressing their gratitude for the Alumni interest and

volunteer efforts. More of the same was invited, and more work days are being planned at this time for next spring and summer. Anyone wishing to help should contact the ILAA president: Michael Ude, 218 West Grant, Eau Claire, WI. 54701.

—Michael Ude

1984 CLC Teachers' Conference

The 1984 CLC Teachers' Conference was held at Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI from Wednesday to Friday, October 10-12.

The conference was chaired by T. Thurow of Jamestown, ND. Pastor David Lau opened the conference with a devotion stressing the beauty of Christian love and fellowship fostered by such a conference as this. Teacher L. Hulke of Messiah School welcomed the teachers to this first

conference hosted by Messiah congregation. New teachers were given a special welcome, as were the college seniors from ILC. Prof. R. Rehm was chaplain for the conference sessions.

We will now give a brief review of the various essays presented at the three-day conference.

Wednesday Morning

Professor J. Pelzl's essay was the first to be delivered. It was entitled,

OUR CLC TEACHERS STUDIED PRESENTATIONS WHICH EXPOSED EVOLUTION AND EXPLAINED "PLATE TECTONICS"; WHICH DEALT WITH PASTOR-TEACHER RELATIONSHIPS; WHICH DEMONSTRATED THE EFFECTIVE TEACHING OF MUSIC AND MORE EFFECTIVE TEACHING OF THE CATECHISM; CREATIVE WRITING; THE CAREFUL PLANNING OF SCRIPTURAL DEVOTIONS; AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF STUDY SKILLS IN THE STUDENTS.

"An Update and Ramifications of the Velikovsky Story." From the presentation we learned that Immanuel Velikovsky, a Jew by birth, denounces the doctrine of uniformitarianism—the belief that changes in the earth happened over millions and billions of years. Though an agnostic, he accepts the Old Testament as historical fact. His books and theories give scientific explanations to catastrophic events and changes that took place during this time of history. Prof. Pelzl pointed out that many scientists throughout the world do not credit Velikovsky because his theories completely denounce the theory of evolution. The presentation was extremely interesting and stimulated much discussion.

Wednesday Afternoon

Miss Grace Meyer from Faith Lutheran School, Coloma, MI gave her presentation on the teaching of music. She demonstrated how to effectively teach children rhythm, note qualities, sight reading, and the playing of instruments. She emphasized that children love music, and also that it is important to keep the classes stimulating and interesting through physical involvement.

The next presentation, a joint venture of the Coloma faculty, was a report on various language textbooks. The Coloma teachers told which language series they found most beneficial, emphasizing the respective strengths and weaknesses. Their work will prove to be valuable to those considering new language series in the future.

Prof. R. Dommer of ILC then presented his paper entitled, "The Conceptual Approach of Teaching the Catechism." (This was presented also to the Wisconsin Pastoral Conference which was meeting simultaneously with the Teachers' Conference.) Prof. Dommer recommended against teaching the truths of the catechism dogmatically. He encouraged the use of scripture lessons to emphasize concepts. He advised that such a method would be much more beneficial than that of going coldly through the questions and answers in the catechism and finding Bible verses to support them. He stressed that we should keep our teachings of concepts simple and to the point, easy for the child to grasp and understand. This is what Luther so marvelously did in the writing of the Small Catechism.

Wednesday Evening

Prof. L. W. Schierenbeck presented a paper dealing with the relationship between a pastor and teacher. He pointed out that though this is a human relationship, it is important to remember that the pastor and teacher are fellow Christians. Their relationship is a very special one based on love for Christ and Christian love for one another. Care must be exercised because Satan is ever at work to destroy this relationship, causing waves between pastor, teacher, and congregation. Prof. Schierenbeck also stressed that good order should be established and maintained especially in areas of overlapping responsibilities.



Thursday Morning

A presentation on "Creative Writing" was given by Phyllis Schuler and Lila Schmidt of Grace Lutheran School, Fridley, MN. They presented an unlimited supply of resources and ideas to stimulate the students' imaginations. Their presentation was very inspirational, supplying the teachers with many ideas to take back to their classrooms.

Prof. D. Carstensen explained the theory of plate tectonics. This theory seeks to describe the formations of mountains and trenches as a result of "floating plates" in the earth's crust. The professor emphasized the two large errors in the theory: first, that the theory does not include God; and second, that it is not incorporated into the proper time frame. This theory also includes the theory of the continental drift, which seems possible, but not in the time that is suggested by scientists. Prof. Carstensen presented a film on the subject. He concluded that, while there may be something to this theory, one must remember that the world is God's creation and under His control.

Thursday Afternoon

Pastor M. Sydow of the ILC Board of Regents talked with the teachers concerning problems some may have due to the various states requiring teacher certification. A survey was taken.

Teacher L. Olmanson of Mankato, MN presented "How to Choose Topics for School Devotions." He impressed upon us that it is important that the devotions be scriptural and planned with care; also that they be on the level of the student, and geared to helping the student develop a daily habit of worship and prayer. A number of teachers had brought along devotional books for comparison.

Mr. Benno Sydow, who is in charge of testing programs in a Twin Cities school district, presented the value of standardized testing of

students. His insights and experience were most beneficial.

Thursday Evening

Prof. G. Radtke was the speaker for the conference communion service. His sermon was based on Luke 22:61-62. He reminded us how much we are like Peter, being inclined to forget what our Lord has said to us. Also like Peter we should turn to the Lord for His forgiveness.

Friday Morning

Teacher G. Mueller of Fond du Lac, WI talked about "Teaching Children Study Skills and How to Take Notes." He spoke of developing skills in using reference materials, memorization, writing, editing, and taking notes for longer reports. He stressed that these skills should be introduced by the third grade.

Among items acted upon at the conference business meeting was the location for future conferences. They are: 1985—Saginaw, MI; 1986—Eau Claire, ILC; 1987—Spokane, WA. It

WHAT (THE TEACHERS) HAD GAINED THEY WERE EAGER TO APPLY IN THEIR CLASSROOMS WHERE THEY GUIDE AND CARE FOR THE LAMBS WHICH CHRIST HAS ENTRUSTED TO THEM.

should be mentioned that the conference enjoyed a doll collection put on exhibit by retired teacher, Mrs. Erma Maier of Bowdle, SD.

The conference, which adjourned Friday noon, proved to be an enlightening experience for all. The delicious meals, housing and hosting by Messiah congregation was very well organized and enjoyed. Above all, the Christian fellowship and the exchange of ideas by fellow workers was a great uplift for the teachers as they headed home. What they had gained they were eager to apply in their classrooms where they guide and care for the lambs which Christ has entrusted to them.

—Daniel Barthels

Daily Devotions



For January 1985

CROSS-REFERENCES: There are different reasons for cross-references in our Bibles: similar words, or similar thoughts, or another application, or even a contrast. As we enter a new year may our whole lives, our doings and dreamings, be cross-referenced to the Word. Then the similarities and the contrasts, the faith and repentance, can serve to glorify our Father which is in heaven.

1 Philippians 3:13-14

2 Psalm 40:1-3

3 Psalm 107:1-3

4 Hebrews 4:9-11

I press toward the mark

Sing a new song

He led them forth

There remains a rest

Psalm 37:23-26

Romans 13:11-14

Deuteronomy 32:9-12

John 14:2-3

Nominations

The following have been nominated for the position of missionary to India:

David Fuerstenau
David Koenig
Paul D. Nolting
L. Dale Redlin
Norbert Reim
Paul Schaller
Gene Schreyer
Rick Grams

Please address all correspondence concerning these candidates to the undersigned by December 31, 1984. The Call Committee will meet January 14 in Eau Claire.

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Change of Address

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Eau Claire, WI 54701

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5	Matthew 11:28-30	We enter into rest	Romans 5:1-5
6	Psalms 128:1-6	Establish the work of our hands	2 Thessalonians 2:16-17
7	Jeremiah 29:10-14	Think upon me, my God	Psalms 40:5
8	Jeremiah 50:18-20	Without fault before the throne	Jude 24-25
9	Luke 10:38-42	One thing is needful	Psalms 27:4-5
10	Colossians 1:21-22	Preserved blameless	2 Thessalonians 2:13-18
11	Hebrews 13:12-15	Praise for God in Zion	Revelation 7:9-12
12	1 Corinthians 1:22-31	The only wise God	James 3:17-18
13	Philippians 4:6-7	Kept in perfect peace	John 14:26-27
14	John 3:34-36	Father and Son	John 14:8-11
15	Colossians 3:1-3	Renew my life	Philippians 3:20-21
16	Luke 24:39-40	The things you have seen	2 Peter 1:16
17	Hebrews 2:8-9	The things which are	1 John 2:18-25
18	1 Corinthians 2:9-10	Things which shall be	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
19	Matthew 20:26-28	Serving with humility	Romans 12:3-8
20	Philippians 2:9-11	His name: Wonderful	Revelation 19:11-16
21	John 15:1-2	That it may bear more	Hebrews 12:7-12
22	Psalms 73:21-26	Our guide even unto death	Psalms 23:3-4
23	Psalms 62:5-8	Hope does not disappoint	Hebrews 6:17-20
24	Revelation 22:12-21	The Lord at hand	James 5:7-11
25	Galatians 4:1-7	The Spirit of adoption	Ephesians 2:17-19
26	2 Corinthians 3:17-18	Change our vile body	1 John 3:1-3
27	Hebrews 1:1-3	Manifest to take away sins	1 Peter 1:17-20
28	2 Corinthians 12:9-10	As your days, so your strength	Psalms 68:32-35
29	Psalms 139:1-6	The God who sees me	John 2:23-25
30	Hebrews 12:1-2	The race set before us	1 Corinthians 9:25-27
31	1 John 2:1-2	If a man sin	Romans 8:31-34

—Paul Schaller