

Lutheran Spokesman

He reached down from on high
and took hold of me;
he drew me out of deep waters.

He rescued me from my powerful
enemy,
from my foes, who were too strong
for me

They confronted me in the day of my
disaster,
but the LORD was my support.

He brought me out into a spacious
place;
he rescued me because he delighted
in me.

Psalm 18:
Verses 16 to 19

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This is the last of three articles in which our devotional writers considered the three-fold office of our Savior: Jesus as our Prophet, King, and High Priest.

Jesus, Our High Priest

A HIGH PRIEST FITTING FOR US

Earlier this year Queen Elizabeth visited Houston. Her itinerary during her visit was carefully planned. Because her stay was brief she could visit only a few places and meet only a few people. An elementary school class who had written to the queen inviting her to visit their school were among the few privileged to meet her during her time in Houston.

Not just anyone can walk up to the Queen of England and say hello. Access to her is carefully controlled and guarded at all times. The same is true of all kings, presidents, prime ministers, and so forth.

If one must expect to be turned away at the palace gate and refused permission to approach the throne of a king, how much more would we not expect to be unable to approach the throne of God. The Bible tells us that He dwells in unapproachable light, that

no man has seen Him nor can see Him (I Tim. 6:16). In one of the visions of the book of Revelation God is seated on an emerald throne before a crystal sea. Clearly we lowly sinners could not dare to approach such a one by ourselves or as we are. We need someone to approach Him for us and to bring us to Him; we need a mediator to bring us to God.

And clearly not just any mediator will do. All other people are in the same position as we are; they are all sinners as we are. This is why the high priests of the Old Testament were insufficient mediators for the Old Testament people. They were sinners who had to offer to God a sacrifice for their own sins before they could offer sacrifices for the people's sins. They were mortal men, limited by death in how long they could be of service to the people. They were imperfect men who

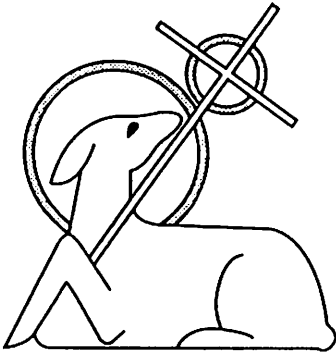
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could bring only imperfect sacrifices to God in behalf of the people, and they could never bring the people to God. They and their work only pointed out the need for a high priest greater than they.

A Sinless Mediator

They pointed to Christ, the high priest fitting for us. He is capable in all the areas where the Old Testament high priests were lacking. He is sympathetic to our needs. He is a man with our human nature; He knows how difficult it is to live in this fallen world and be subjected to the temptations of the world and Satan.

Yet He is without sin. He was able to bring to God a perfect sacrifice, one

able to take away all our sins forever. That sacrifice was His own holy, precious life laid upon the altar of the cross. This Sinless One with His perfect sacrifice is able to bridge that crystal sea and approach that emerald throne and bring us to God.

Our High Priest is the Victor over death; He lives forever, so He is able to continue forever in His office. "He ever lives to make intercession for (us)" (Heb. 7:25). Because we have Christ as our High Priest, we can be confident that all our sins are forgiven. We have an advocate with the Father who pleads for us, laying before the Father His own completed work on our behalf. God is not angry with us and will not punish us. We are reconciled to Him and have eternal life. Because we have Christ as our High Priest we can be certain that God hears our prayers, for we offer them in the name of Jesus, believing and trusting in Him.

We may never be permitted a meeting with the President of the United States or the Queen of England, but we have constant access to the throne of God in heaven because we have a High Priest in every way fitting for us, Jesus Christ.

—John Klatt



The Gospel, the Power of God— Studies in Romans

“DEAD TO SIN”—“ALIVE TO GOD”

The sixth chapter of the apostle Paul's letter to the Romans discusses a very important question: "Shall we con-

tinue in sin that grace may abound?" Paul asks this question in the first verse and immediately gives a resounding "Certainly not!" as his an-

swer.

Why Fight Sin?

Let us try to rephrase the question in several different ways in order to try to understand the point of what the apostle is saying. We can say it this way: Since I have complete forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ, why is it important for me to fight against sin? Since it is true that forgiveness of sin covers all sins and every sin, why should I concern myself about sin at all? After all, the more I sin, the more forgiveness there is from God, and the more glory comes to Jesus for having won the forgiveness of even greater sins!

A related question is discussed by the apostle in the last half of the sixth chapter: "Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace?" Our Lord Jesus has set us free from the curse and coercion of God's Law. Does not this mean that we can sin all we please without being concerned about punishment? Does not the teaching of God's grace or gift of perfect forgiveness in Jesus lead us to become careless or reckless sinners? Again Paul's answer is a very clear "Certainly not!"

We Lutherans who exalt God's free grace and champion the teaching of total forgiveness in Jesus need to be on guard lest we and those who hear our teaching get the idea that forgiveness of sins is a license to sin or permission to sin with the advance guarantee that the sins we plan to commit in the future are already forgiven and will remain unpunished by an ever-patient, ever-loving God.

"Certainly not!" Why not? Because of what it means to become a Christian. When a person becomes a Chris-

tian, he is baptized into Christ. He is baptized into the death of Christ.

Why Did Jesus Die?

Why did Jesus die? Because He was under the power of sin, which God had transferred from us sinners to Him. The moment that Jesus died on the cross the power of our sin over Him was broken. He was set free from our sin. Having been set free from our sin, He rose from the dead and lives today, totally free from sin and with a new kind of exalted life. Having been set free from our sin, He is also forever free from death, the consequences of sin. "Christ dies no more." "Death no longer has dominion over Him." "The life that He lives, He lives to God." "He who has died has been freed from sin."

As Christians we were baptized into the death of Christ. At that moment the power of sin over us was broken. At that moment "our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin." The King James Version translation of Romans 6:6 is misleading when it says: "Our old man *is* crucified with Him." The point is that our old man *was* crucified with Jesus when we were baptized.

Jesus died with our sin on Him. He was buried, and then He rose from the dead, triumphant over sin and death. We were baptized with our sin on us. But: "we were buried with Christ through baptism." We went down into the water of baptism, or we bowed down and had the water of baptism poured over us, and then we came out on the other side not only forgiven sinners but as sinners in whom the power

“...we came out (of our baptism) on the other side not only as forgiven sinners but as sinners in whom the power of sin was broken...Now we walk in newness of life.”

of sin was broken. “Our old man was crucified with Him.” Our old, sinful nature that we inherited from Adam and Eve was put to death in our baptism. At the same time a new creation was begun in us, called spirit or new man or inward man by the apostle. Now we walk in newness of life.

The answer to Paul’s original question then is our baptism. “Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?” Our baptism into Christ was the death and burial of the old sinful life and the beginning of a new resurrection life lived with Christ and lived for Christ, basking in the sunshine of His forgiveness and at the same time delighting in doing His will.

Equipped For Struggle

This is what we need to think about continually as we live the Christian life. “Reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” We need to think of ourselves constantly as sinners who were baptized into Christ and thus died to sin at the moment of our baptism. The old way of death and sin is past. A new way of life is ours in Jesus Christ. Why should a Christian, set free from the old slavery to sin and death, want to revert back to the old ways?

Nevertheless, as Paul reminds us in

many places, we Christians are still influenced and affected by the old sinful nature. Yes, that nature was crucified in our baptism, but the old Adam does not give up without a struggle. Yet we Christians are now equipped for such a struggle. Paul therefore says: “Do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.” Of course sin wants to retain its control over us. The Pharaoh of Egypt did not give up his Israelite slaves without a struggle. Sin wants to keep on being the king in our lives. Sin wants to control the actions of our minds and eyes and ears and hands and feet.

But we dare not let this happen. Our new master, Christ, is stronger than sin. “Do not let sin reign,” says Paul to us. “Do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.” This is possible for us Christians because “our old man was crucified” that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.”

If we find ourselves consistently listening to sin rather than to Christ, then it becomes obvious that we are still slaves of sin rather than Christians set free from sin. Sin pays wages to its slaves, but “the wages of sin is death.” Is that the final payoff we want?

Death? If we want to obey our lusts rather than Christ, if we want to satisfy our flesh rather than please our Lord, we need to be warned that “the end of those things is death.” Yes, sad to say, there are those who fall away from their baptism, who fail to live in and by the new power given them by Christ in baptism, who return to the slavery of sin and receive sin’s wages of eternal death. For it is true “that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey.” If we obey sin, the end is death.

“But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.” That form of doctrine is the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ. Obeying this doctrine means trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

True Christians are indeed believers in Jesus, ever repenting of their sins and trusting in Him. True Christians are free Christians, set free from sin, set free from the curse and coercion of the law, set free from the fear of death. True Christians in their freedom freely serve Christ as His willing slaves, not being under law but being under grace. True Christians do not continue in sin, although they still continue to sin because of their sinful flesh. They confess their sins, trust in Christ, and live a new life as Christ’s slaves, bringing forth fruit as branches of the vine which is Christ, looking forward to the gift of eternal life promised to them. “Now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life...The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

— D. Lau



Jyothi Benjamin addressing the CLC General Pastoral Conference in June. See pages 8-9 for portions of his address.

What Is This Thing Called Love?

LOVE IS INDISPENSABLE

The worship situation in Corinth had deteriorated. A congregation awash in the special gifts of the Spirit had apparently lost the focus of their love feasts (agape). Instead of edification and praise there was confusion—and noise. Some were eating supper at the same time others were celebrating Holy Communion. Tongues went uninterpreted and interrupted prophecy.

In his letter to this beloved congregation the apostle Paul first of all reminded them of the unity of the body of Christ. There are no dispensable people in a Christian congregation. He explains that the many gifts of the Spirit serve the entire body. That's all in chapter 12.

Beginning with chapter 13 Paul writes that he's going to show them a "more excellent" way.

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become as sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. (1 Cor. 13:1-3)

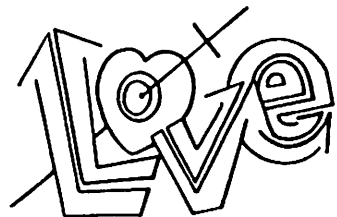
The more excellent way mirrors God's own concern for mankind. It is the very special love of regarding the apparently—and deservedly—hopeless situation of our sin, and by an act of

will rescuing mankind through the atoning death of His Son Jesus Christ. This is God's own gift to us to repair our relationship with Him through faith. It is a gift which expands and overflows into all our interpersonal relationships whether in the congregation, family, or at work or play.

Great preaching without love is noise. Great learning without love is a "black hole." Extraordinary sacrifice without love is a loser. Without love there is no Savior, no faith, no spiritual life, no salvation, and no model of self-sacrifice for our relationships with one another. **LOVE IS INDISPENSABLE**—can't get along without it!

Though I am the best silver-tongued orator or the most eloquent of Sunday School teachers or congregational administrators, and have not love, I just as well bang pots and pans together. Though I have extraordinary gifts in music and art, and though I know my specialty, and men from all over admire my expertise, if I have not love, I am nothing. If I am the best father or mother, sacrificing personal desires for my children, but do not have love, it profits me nothing....

—M. Sydow



(Report from Jyothi Benjamin submitted to the CLC General Pastoral Conference held at ILC, Eau Claire on June 18-20, 1991.)

Honorable President, Respected Officers, Boards and committees, Respected Pastors and members of the Church of the Lutheran Confession.

Greetings to all of you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I have great pleasure in submitting my report to this CLC GENERAL PASTORAL CONFERENCE, also it is with great delight that I am expressing my thanks for giving me this opportunity to participate in this 1991 General Pastoral Conference. In fact this is the last CLC Pastoral Conference for me, after these two successful years of education here at ILC...

...I look back on my past two years with deep affection and a great measure of satisfaction in completing the seminary course here in the US, under the precious cooperation and the valuable support of the CLC. I feel obliged and thank you very much for your kind help in this regard. I thank you on behalf of the CLCI and myself, for your consistent support, encouragement and advice in bringing me here to the States and helping me to study Seminary course successfully for the future development of CLCI...

Respected Brothers, In this connection, I take this opportunity to express my comment on our ILC.

I am very happy to inform you that everything in the ILC Seminary, including preparation material, notes, progress, the way of teaching of the professors is just wonderful, perfect, excellent. I was very much impressed by the way that the ILC staff and administration treated a foreign student. In character, in style, in all things, the ILC is really great. I am happy to say that the CLC is really blessed by having ILC. I too consider myself as a blessed student in studying God's Word here at ILC. Absolutely, ILC is a special gift to the CLC as well as to the CLCI from our living Lord.

When I first came to ILC, one of our ILC students asked me this, "Jyothi, don't you have any seminary courses in India? Is it necessary for you to come here to ILC?"

This was my answer. Yes, we have some of the seminary courses in India, which belong to Roman Catholics, and Pentecostals. We know well about their false teachings. We see from the book of Matthew "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves." Our CLCI people need pure spiritual water. We don't need any false teachings. We are seeking the pure and right Word and solid foundation of our Savior Jesus Christ.

...I am happy to inform you that I learned more than I expected here at ILC. By God's grace, I learned in all the possible ways, spiritually, mentally, generally, and also gained some life time memories and experiences. Of course, my knowledge may be "very little" when compared to others, but a small candle can so shine brightly in the darkened world. Now I have much confidence that this "little knowledge" that I learned here at ILC is enough for me to do our Lord's work back in India. I learned this "little energy" from True living Lord's grace through

ILC Professors. I believe that a "little energy" from our Almighty God will do anything that can be done in this world and no talents, no circumstances, no opportunities are required to do our Lord's work there in India or any where in this world.

These following words are the life time guidance that I learned from ILC.

"Serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials."

"I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

"For if I live, I live to the Lord; and if I die, I die to the Lord. Therefore, whether I live or die, I am for the Lord's."

It was extremely kind of the CLC to have extended all the financial help through respected Board of Missions, during my stay here at ILC. I express my appreciation for all the troubles you took for me.... During these two years ILC Professors became tutors for me for my life time to do His work.

Visiting the congregations, working with Orphanage programs, writing and sending the regular mission and Orphanage reports and accounts, preparing full length sermons, translating the important theological points from English books to Telugu, which is the most important for me that I need to do, since it is important for the growth of the CLCI, to train the pastors thoroughly with Telugu theology which is going to be translated from English...

(This is a portion of Mr. Benjamin's report to the Pastoral Conference. We intend to give highlights from the balance of his report in next month's issue.)

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS



Village
Of
Uthukottai

In October of 1989 Pastor Mohan Bas of the Bharath Evangelical Lutheran Church, India, moved his base of operations hundreds of kilometers north to the border area of

Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh States to a better mission field. Only two Christian churches are in this general area, while there are thousands of Hindu adherents. This in-

volves sacrifice. His wife and youngest child are with him while his other five children remain with his sister in

the south. His center of work is the village of Uthukottai.



Pastor Bas is teaching seventeen students day and night in his Martin Luther Bible School. The thatched building is the school. Pastor Bas is on the left of his students. E'en in the lowliest dwelling.



Nagaraja



Lakshman



Sreenivasan

These students, part of Bas' Evangelistic Team, receive no salary and are out each week witnessing after their studies.



Pastor Bas' study, kitchen, living room, nursery, bedroom etc. We lose what on ourselves we spend.

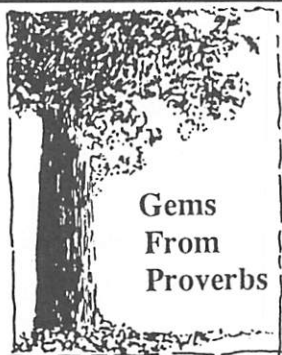
(Editor's note: Rev. V. S. Benjamin and his son, Jyothi, do the Lord's work in Nidobrole. Pastor Bas preaches in Uthukottai. While both sites are in South India, there is an eight hour travel time between them. For mailing addresses, please consult the CLC Directory.)

As lab'ers in Thy vineyard, Lord, send them out to be
Content to bear the burden Of weary days for Thee,
To ask no other wages When Thou shalt call them home
Than to have shared the travail Which makes Thy kingdom come.
—Reported by Pastor D. Koenig



*“All over the world
this Gospel is
bearing fruit and
growing . . . ”*

Colossians 1:6



“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding” (9:10).

School bells will soon ring for many. For some it will be for the first time. Most will start on a new level of learning. People seek an education because they look upon it as an aid to prosperity. The government, parents and wise students all realize that there is great benefit in a good education.

Unfortunately the education of most people gets off to a bad start because of a wrong beginning. The proverb declares: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” In most people this “fear of the Lord” is lacking.

Our text does not mean terror when it speaks of fear. This is a holy fear, reverence, a respectful awe. It arises from “the knowledge of the Holy One”—God. Most people do not know God. Some deny His existence. Others admit a belief that God exists but are little interested in learning about Him. Still others have a faulty knowledge of God because they rely upon human ideas and not the truth of God’s Word.

God’s Word is the starting place for all who desire true wisdom. This wisdom or understanding does not consist of mere information about God gleaned from the Bible. It involves faith, the acceptance of all the truths of Scripture especially as they apply to one’s self.

This wisdom includes the knowledge that God’s law condemns all people and that no one can escape that condemnation by himself. It accepts the good news that through Jesus all those sins are forgiven. It rejoices knowing that through faith in Jesus there is adoption into God’s family and a sure eternal future.

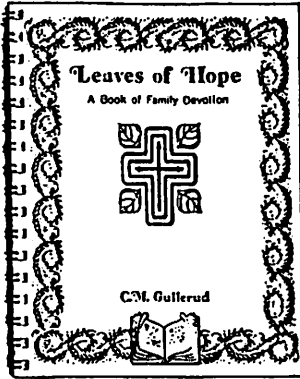
This believing knowledge of God produces the ability to judge between what is truly good and what is dangerous. It gives spiritual insights into the important decisions in a person’s life. It results in blessings when God’s will is sought and followed.

Since Scripture is the source of “the fear of the Lord” and “knowledge of the Holy One,” it is essential for all those who desire true wisdom to use it diligently. Schools where Scripture is correctly taught as a part of the daily course clearly are the best choice for young people. There we can expect a good beginning in wisdom.

May the wisdom of each of us have its beginning in “the fear of the Lord” so that we, our church, and our country may be blessed.

— Keith Olmanson

A BOOK REVIEW...



Since his retirement from the seminary classroom in 1984, 83-year-old Prof. C. M. Gullerud has not been idle. Besides occupying his time tending a large yard at his "retirement" home near ILC in Eau Claire, he has chosen to serve his Lord and the church by producing devotional readings for the Christian family.

When we stopped at his house this summer we found him on his riding lawnmower. He told us he comes up with many ideas and thoughts while working. Many of these, we may assume, are incorporated into his devotional writings.

Originally Prof. Gullerud had planned to write 300 such family devotions. The Lord allowed him to fulfill this plan resulting in the publication of three volumes of *Family Devotion Hour*, each volume containing exactly 100 readings. The author wrote in the *Foreword* to Volume III: This "completes the trilogy...planned for publication."

But the Lord altered those plans! He has granted health and strength to His servant so that a fourth booklet has followed. The latest publication, *Leaves*

of Hope, likewise contains 100 devotional readings, and it is now for sale.

Those familiar with one or more of Prof. Gullerud's devotional writings will find *Leaves of Hope* of the same style and quality. His stated aim "to increase our appreciation for using the hymnal as a prayerbook" is achieved by opening and closing each day's reading with selected stanzas from *The Lutheran Hymnal*.

An instructor of future pastors in the seminary for 20 years (this reviewer sat at his feet for three years of Sem), Prof. Gullerud exhibits "wisdom in simplicity" both in his writing as well as his speaking. He writes for the common person. He explains and applies the precious truths of the Gospel in words easily understood by all but the youngest members of the family. He does not write to impress the worldly wise, but to make wise the simple through a setting forth of Holy Scripture which alone makes one "wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

Leaves

The latest booklet has the arresting title: *Leaves of Hope*. In our brief interview with him, the author explained: "The emphasis is on hope—Christian hope even though days of trial and tribulation will come." He went on: "Even as many leaves grow on a live tree, so there are many leaves of trial and tribulation in the Christian life, but there is always, at the same time, an abundance of hope..."

Readings #28 & #29 in this latest booklet expand on such thoughts. The text is Romans 12:12 ("Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer") and the devo-

tional commentary includes such words as these:

"Even a child of God may feel waves of hopelessness and pessimism washing over him as he reads the newspapers and listens to the reports and news programs...The Christians in Rome could have found similar reasons for pessimism and hopelessness. But Paul in his letter to them insists on pointing out that the child of God has much reason to rejoice in hope...Knowing and believing that God will not break His promises gives us reason to be patient in trial, distress, hardship, illness and every type of tribulation...With the forgiveness of sins as our possession through Christ, we have therefore every reason to turn aside from depression and instead be filled with hope, rejoicing in the Lord." (P. 58f)

Another comment: *"Our hope is found in the forgiveness of sins poured out from the heart of God for the sake of His Son who paid the price of our redemption. Let us ever be proud to bear the name 'Christian' after the name of Him who redeemed us." (P. 28)*

Leaves of Hope contains 100 readings on 224 pages. The scriptural texts are divided as follows: #'s 1-22 based on *Ecclesiastes* texts; #'s 23-38 on passages from *Romans* chapter 12; #'s 39-100 on selected verses from *Proverbs*. Thus it is evident that the readings stress living the Christian life (sanctification) in our modern world. Yet the motivation for such daily Christian living is apparent throughout: the full and complete redemption of sinners through the holy life and innocent death of the Savior. For Christian liv-



Prof. C. M.
Gullerud

ing the Holy Spirit is the Enabler.

If there is any criticism, it would—in this reviewer's opinion—have made easier reading if there were more spacing and paragraphing used. While the type itself is easily read, pages such as 108 & 137 are almost unbroken words. The reader will be helped by running a bookmark down the page while reading.

Leaves of Hope is now available from the author at 218 Grover Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701. The cost is \$6.50 plus \$1.00 for postage. While the first couple of devotional booklets were bound in a plastic ringbinder, the later ones, including *Leaves*, is sturdily done with metal binding.

The author also mentioned that the first devotional—*Family Devotion Hour, Volume I*—will be available after September from Northwestern Publishing House, Milwaukee, for a price of \$8.95. Also *BIBLE THO'TS FOR TOTS: A Bible Story Primer* by the author is available now for \$4.95 either from our CLC Bookhouse at ILC or from Northwestern. *BIBLE THO'TS* is a 1986 publication; it is indicative of Prof. Gullerud's ability to "prattle" with children on God's holy things.

May many be blessed through these devotional helps. Prof. Gullerud—God granting you health and strength, we await other hope-full writings!

—Paul Fleischer

Twenty Years At Living Word



After our Lord Jesus performed His great miracle of feeding the five thousand men plus the women and children near the Sea of Galilee, He preached a mighty sermon on how He is the "Bread of Life" (Jn. 6:48). When the Jews realized that Jesus would not be their bread-kings who would deliver them from the hated Romans, many forsook Him. "From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that Thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God" (Jn. 6:66-69).

Twenty years ago a small group of believers in Hendersonville, North Carolina followed their faithful pastor out of the local Lutheran Church in America (LCA) congregation. On Reformation Sunday 1971 Pastor Fred Archer preached his resignation sermon. By the working of the Holy Spirit through the Word and Sacraments, they had come to the realization that the Lord's Word was being denied and His Gospel was being corrupted. They knew they could not deny their Savior

who had earned for them eternal life, so they formed *Living Word Lutheran Church* on December 12, 1971. From the start Living Word has been affiliated with the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC).

The new congregation met in a rented church for a few weeks before purchasing a parsonage and renovating its basement into a chapel. But soon this humble house of praise became too small. So property was purchased and an old building reconditioned into a beautiful church, which was dedicated to God's glory on Easter Sunday, 1977.

A Missionary Church

From its very beginnings Living Word has been a missionary church. It has done exploratory work in such places as Spartanburg, S. C., Salisbury, N. C., and Fairfax, Va. Living Word played a key role, again by God's grace, in forming confessional Lutheran congregations in China Grove, N. C. and Fairfax, Va. We pray that such a spirit will continue whereby we endeavor to reach out to the lost with the Gospel of Christ, the Son of the living God.

In its twenty year history Living Word has been served by only three

pastors: the Rev. Fred Archer (1971-1979), the Rev. Steve Kurtzahn (1979-1984), and the Rev. Robert Mackensen (1984-1989). Pastor Kurtzahn returned to Living Word in January of 1990 after the retirement of Pastor Mackensen to Red Wing, Minn.

Living Word is located in probably one of the most beautiful areas of the country. Situated on a plateau between the Great Smokies and the Blue Ridge Mountains, Hendersonville has become one of the country's most popular retirement areas. Even though it is situated in the South, this town has become known as "The City of Four Seasons." The winters are cool, but not harsh. Snow still falls here at times.

Summers are warm but not hot. And Spring and Fall? Well, you'd have to see it to believe it! If there are members of the CLC who are thinking of moving to a milder climate for retirement or health reasons, you should consider western North Carolina. You would also have a church here where you could worship with like-minded believers.

Several activities have been planned for this twentieth anniversary year. In March the Tour Choir of Immanuel Lutheran College sang the Savior's praises in our midst. The first week in October we will be hosting the South-eastern Pastoral Conference of the CLC. And on Reformation Sunday we will have a special service glorifying God for His grace shown to us in Christ throughout the past twenty years.

Like any Christian congregation, Living Word has had its ups and downs. We have seen many of our members during the past twenty years

depart this life for eternal glory in heaven. We pray that during the next twenty years the glorious Gospel of eternal life will continue to be proclaimed here in its truth and purity for the comfort of desperate sinners. For, just as Simon Peter said: "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life."

—*Stephen C. F. Kurtzahn*

Change Of Address

Roland H. Gurgel
P. O. Box 529
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Anniversary In Hendersonville

Living Word of Hendersonville, NC will celebrate its 20th anniversary on Reformation Sunday, October 27th. A special service of thanksgiving and praise for God's grace will be held at 5:00 p.m., immediately followed by a fellowship dinner. The Rev. Daniel Fleischer, President of the CLC, will be the guest speaker. Members and friends of the CLC are cordially invited to attend.

— *Stephen Kurtzahn, Pastor*