

COLUMBIA LUTHERAN



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE LUTHERAN COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

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Devotional

Själen inventarie

En dag, då själen dragit sig bort till sin bönevrå för att sitta ensam med sin Mästare, kom plötsligen en fråga och ställde sig utmanande i vägen. "Du älskar Jesus, säger du," sade den till själen, "men har du någonsin gjort klart för dig varför du älskar honom? Har han gjort någonting för dig som du inte lika gärna kunnat göra själv?"

Och då ser själen bedjande upp till Mästaren. "Vad har du gjort för mig?" vill den säga.

Men Mästaren är tyst. Det synes som om han ville själen skulle själv svara. Och då börjar själen tänka:

I. "Hur är det! Har han inte ändå uppenbarat Gud för mig?"

Gott och väl. Men har jag inte känt Gud alltsedan vi vandrade tillsammans borta i paradisdalen? Har jag inte tillbett honom över hela världen och genom alla generationer? Och är inte ordet 'Gud' känt i alla språk? Jo! Men hur förhåller det sig med detta? Som Mohamedan tillbad jag honom såsom en krigsherre, som Buddist såsom brödgivare, som Grek såsom hjälte, som Romare såsom laggivare, som Jude såsom en sträng herre, en hämnare, en domare. Och har jag inte krupit och darrat inför honom under tusenden besynnerliga inbillningar?

Men så kommer Mästaren och lyfter undan täckelset av synd och okunnighet och låter mig se in i evigheten. Och då ser jag, i stället för en fruktansvärd Gud, en ömhjärtad, förbarmande och kärleksfull Fader, som älskar intill döden."

Här avbröts själens tankegång utav Mästaren som talade underbara ord:

"Jag och Fadren äro ett. Den som sett mig har ock sett Fadern."

"Gud är kärlek."

"Jag är den gode herden."

"Den som tror på mig, han skall icke förgås."

"Kommen till mig och jag skall giva eder ro."

"Dina synder förlätas dig."

"Ja, så är det!" säger då själen till frågan. Gud är kärlek, och det hade jag aldrig lärt mig förstå utan genom Jesus.

Och om han är kärlek, då är han icke vred på mig utan på min synd, och är han vred på synden, så skall han en gång tillintetgöra synden inom mig och utsätta mig för sina värmmande kärleksstrålar och således omskapa mig till en levande andlighet. Då blir jag frälst ur mitt elände såsom en fallen varelse. Detta kunde jag aldrig bli genom mig själv, ty det har jag försökt ända till blods, men aldrig lyckats.

II. Men då jag ser på Jesu rena liv får jag frid.

Det är så med mig, att i min naturliga fallna medvetenhet är synden vacker och tilltalande. Det är med mig som med en tavla i ett mörkt rum; så länge det är mörkt är tavlan till utseende lik alla andra möbler i rummet. Men så kommer ljuset dit in och då framstår tanken i sin rätta dager och bedömes efter sitt eget värde. Då syndens mörker betäcker mitt inre, är jag lik mörkret, men då det eviga ljuset intränger blir jag vad jag är. Min synd blir så förfärande, att jag möter mig för mitt bröst och ropa: Herrens äldsson, förbarma dig över mig! Och då jag hör Jesu röst ropa från korset: 'Det är fullkommat!' synes mig först både himmel och helvete öppna. Jag vet att jag är värd en evig fördömelse, ty jag har korsfäst min skapare. Men då förstår jag hemligheten med offret på korset: att i den oskyldiges död slår Gud min synd; att det är mina synder som hänga däruppe; och att blodet som bäres inför det himmelska altaret är buret dit såsom ett skuldoffer för mig. Och då får jag frid med Gud."

Det kunde jag aldrig nått utan Jesus.

Mästaren lutar sig närmare själen.

"Sannerligen, du skall vara med mig i paradiset," säger han.

Och så fortsätter själen:

III. "Då blir det klart för mig, att Jesus också borttog dödens udd.

Allt sedan syndafallet har döden varit min omutlige fångvaktare. Millioner tårar ha följt de döde till graven. Det har varit bitterhet och kval utan gräns och ingen har väl ännu förstått lidandets gåta.

Men då kom Jesus.

Vissertligen läg han själv i graven, kall och död. Men en dag reser sig kroppen förhålligad, och i en strid, som kommer själva jorden att häva, segrar Livets Konung, och död och djävul ligga lamslagna vid hans fötter."

"Ja," säger då Mästaren, "och den som kommer till mig, honom skall jag uppväcka från de döda."

Och det förstår själen mycket väl. Och så säger han till frågan: 'Jo, detta vet jag, att utan Jesus vore jag evigt förlorad, men med honom har jag allt, både i liv och död.'

Och därmed vänder den sig till Mästaren och viskar med rörd stämma:

"Guds rena Lamm oskyldig
på korset för oss slaktad!
Alltid befunnen tålig
ehur du var föraktad.
vår synd du haver dragit
och dödens makt nedslagit.
Giv oss din frid, o Jesu!"

Enoch Sandeen.

Jesus on the Cross

Do we pass that cross unheeding,
Breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see Thee wounded, bleeding,
See Thy thorn-encircled brow?
Yet Thy sinless death has brought us
Life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what Thy grace has taught us
Calms the sinner's stormy breast.

These words by Girolano Savonarola introduces to you the Lenten season. The question asks you to consider what stand you are taking toward Jesus Christ, the Saviour. Lent really means longer days, and signifies Spring. It may, if you wish, bring you new life. The reflections of the cross are rays of light from the crucified One.

The Christians of the early church observed Lent in such a spirit and the persecutions which they experienced recalled the Lord's sufferings. Special sermons were thus preached preparing them for a holy life and Easter. You see, Jesus, and the real Christians, look forward to the eternal life.

It was when the church became heretical, I mean Roman Catholic, during the third century that Lent got its many restrictions as to the people's life and conduct. And the old Roman ghost is not dead yet. It was the Church of the Reformation which brought us the original Gospel conception of Lent. The Bible studies gave the Holy Spirit a chance to reveal Christ and we are following Jesus to the Cross. Are you with, awake? Text: Matt. 27, Lk. 23, John 19.

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The long journey through Gethsemane is not described here. We are reaching Calvary where speedy preparations are made for the greatest of all tragedies—the crucifixion of the Son of Man.

You may have your own way of looking at the cross and Jesus. Let me tell you that everything depends upon getting the right place. The reflections are so different. If you stand over there, you can not see the cross nor the beautiful face of Jesus. All you can see and hear is the members of the Jewish High Council, who like angry hounds are hot on the trail of their prey, inciting the worldly wise, the soldiers and the mob to mock the Savior. His claims of power and honor, His Kingly office and faith. You may not follow in the wake of these his bitter enemies, and still, the general sentiment you express and the position you have taken tell that you are not far from being one of their class. The awful scene of obduracy the evangelists give us. "And they crucified Him."

Truly, my friend, all were not His enemies. Over there you can see Jesus' friends, who moistened Calvary Hill with their tears. Can you see Jesus' mother? John? Salome? Mary Magdalene? And many others? Their position was so different. They could see Jesus on the cross and hear Him speak. They became this world's lights—they stood near the Light. All I wish you to realize is that all classes are standing around the cross—but, how different they view it! So it will be always. Can you see it and be glad? Does Jesus speak to you?

The world has no use for Jesus. In a superlative sense it belongs to the devil. Jesus on the cross was simply a new sensation. The worldly minded people care very little about the history of Jesus. If they usually think they know it all and make no earnest inquiry to learn more.

They are satisfied to sit down beneath the cross to watch for the next opportunity to mock Jesus on the cross and His true followers, or to have a basement dance, game of pool or cards, a show and a game of chance for His garment. I am reading Isa. 61: 10; Matt. 22: 11—12; and Rev. 3: 18. Will you do it, too? The church-spires may point heavenward very helpfully then and the Gospel get you within earshot.

Again, let me tell you that Jesus on the cross is still an object of faith and real love to His followers. The victory which Christ gained over the devil, sin and death by his death does not appear to be very glorious to the human sense, but rather the very opposite. Still the elect do not forsake Him. They are with Him at the cross. There they find, even today, the only place of real security. There everything appears in its true light—life, world, heaven, sin and death are different than when viewed from any other position. Judgment is there suggested strongly. Isa. 53. You have not seen God unless you have seen Him in Christ on the cross. He said: "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12: 32.

Dear friend, your sins have stripped Jesus of His comeliness. He who has not experienced the curse of sin and before the cross its anguish is asked to look at a man before the portals of hell, a dying man. Can you see him? Remorse and shame filled his soul before the cross. He confesses his guilt. The Savior answered: "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." Have you observed that it was Jesus on the cross who changed the course of the penitent malefactor? It was joy in heaven and on the two crosses! Jesus rejoiced over the lost that was found. The thief rejoiced over his redemption gained and the angels over the one sinner repenting of his sins.

Are you impenitently passing the cross of Jesus?

"Ye who think of sin but lightly,
Nor suppose the evil great,
Here may view its nature rightly
Here its guilt may estimate."

O God, have mercy on us! Forgive us our sins! Cleanse us with the blood of Jesus or we perish! Hear us for Christ's sake! Amen.

Theo. Hjerpe.

Påskdagen

"Jag är Davids telning och ättling, den klara morgonstjärnan." (Upp. 22: 16.)

Det var påskdagens morgon då den klara morgonstjärnan uppgick. En ny dag randades, salighetens dag. Livet och döden hade inlätit sig i en avgörande strid, ljuset och mörkret kämpade om makten; men livet och ljuset behöll segern. "Han lever," det var det otroliga budskapet som gick från mun till mun i lärjungakretsen.

Han lever, o, min ande känn
Din Herre och din Gud igen!
Han lämnat har sitt vilorum,
Och rösten höres som var stum,
Och handen räckes som var kall;
Han lever, och du leva skall.

Påskdagen, det är livets och ljusets seger.

Mörkret hade lägrat sig tätt över jorden. Det började redan långt borta i tidernas morgon. Människan förverkade sin rätt till liv och ljus; hon utdrevs i mörkret att famla sin väg tillbaka till Guds fadershus. Och under tidernas lopp blev mörkret allt tätare. Man ropade i Zion: "Vaktare, vad lider tiden? Kommer icke morgonens timma?"

Men mörkret blev allt tätare. När skärtorsdagens sol dalade, då bredde sig nattens skuggor över jorden djupare än någonsin förut. "Judas gick ut, och det var natt." Natt var det också då Mästaren med sina elva lärjungar vandrade genom de trånga Jerusalemens gator ut till Oljeborget. Mörkt var det där ute under olivträdens skugga i Getsemane. Icke ens dagen som grydde över lägerdarna på översteprästens gård kunde bortdriva mörkret. "Vid sjätte timmen var mörker över hela landet ända till nionde timmen." Solen dolde sitt ansikte då Livets Furste gav sitt liv på korsträdets stam.

Det var mörker också i deras själar vilka hade följt Jesus. Petrus gick bort och grät. Den lilla skaran kom tillsammans inom lykta dörrar. Man gick i mörkret, sökte skuggan, man vandrade med skygga smygande steg, det låg fruktan i varje hjärta. De hade givit upp hoppet. "Vi hoppades att han var den som skulle förlösa Israel." Mästaren var död, hoppet som han hade väckt i deras hjärtan var dött med honom.

Men morgonstjärnan uppgår.

"Jag är den klara morgonstjärnan." Morgonens stjärna kommer upp ut ur det djupa mörkret. Skuggorna fly då morgonrodnaden glimmar i öster. Så hövdes det också honom, som är den eviga och klara morgonstjärnan, att uppgå i all sin glans ur lidandets mörker och nattens fador. "Måste icke Kristus lida detta och ingå i sin härlighet?" Getsemane och Golgata, de voro nödvändiga för påskdagens seger. Där utkämpades striden. Där samlades all synd, allt mörker, all orättfärdighet som denna jorden sett och känt. Allt lades uppå honom. Han tog hela bördan, han gick lydnadens väg i människans ställe, även då Gud lät straff, lidande och förbannelse utgjutas över honom. Men han sviktade icke under bördan. Han bar den; han tog den bort och begrov den i försonlighetens kärlekshav. Därför är han morgonstjärnan, ty med honom har ljuset och livet kommit i världen.

"Vad ljus över griften, Han lever, o fröjd." I den tidiga morgonstunden kommo kvinnorna till graven. De sökte sig

fram till det ställe där dödens tystnad och stillhet härskade. Men de funno ingen tystnad, intet mörker. In genom gravens öppna dörr strålade morgonsolens sken; inne i graven lyste ängelens himmelska härlighet. "Han är icke här, han är uppstånden." Det blev en ny dag för lärjungarna. Hopp och mod återvände, tillförsikt och tro växte så småningom, då det blev klart att undret hade skett.

De bestörta lärjungarna samlades igen. Inte i Jerusalem, lidandets stad. "Han går före eder till Galileen." Tillbaka till den första kärleken, till trons morgonland, till friden och gädjen de erfarit däruppe i Mästarens sällskap. Här hade de först lärt sig känna och älska sin Herre. Ännu några dagar skulle de få tillbringa i hans närvaro innan han togs ifrån dem igen.

Påskdagen, det är morgonen till en ny dag, en arbetsdag. Mörkret som hade lagt sig hämmande och förlamande på deras hjärtan hade vikit tillbaka. Det var dag. Icke en dag av vila och dådlöshet. Det gällde nu att gå ut och förkunna om undret som skett. Morgonstjärnans glans skulle spridas över hela jorden, så att alla folk skulle få vandra i dess ljus.

En ny morgon väntar alla Jesu lärjungar. Den kristna ser icke tillbaka till en försvunnen guldålder, han ser framåt till den sköna och fullkomliga livets dag. I ännu större glans skall morgonstjärnan stråla. Eller — rättare kanske — vi skola se dess härlighet bättre. Vi skola se honom bättre när natt och dag icke växla om varandra längre, när dimmorna äro försvunna och han går före oss att leda oss till den eviga morgonsolens land. Hans uppståndelse är ju löftet och inseglet på detta. "Men nu är Kristus uppstånden från de döda och har blivit en förstling bland de avsmnade."

Så gläd dig då du kristenhet, du som har vandrat genom syndens natt, genom ångerns och botens mörker; gläd dig, ty din Frälsare kommer i dag med budskapet: "Jag är Davids telning och ättling, den klara morgonstjärnan."

E. H. Wahlstrom.

Editorial

Columbia Conference

This month the annual convention of the Columbia Conference will be held in the First Lutheran Church, Vancouver, B. C., Rev. A. G. Anderson, acting pastor. The dates are 18—22. Many reports are now being prepared for presentation at this meeting. We publish in this issue the official call and program. We also insert articles about the various institutions of the Conference. We were to have more but those who were requested to present these articles did not send them in on

time, with one or two exceptions. It is indeed discouraging to not have cooperation for such important matters.

At the convention we will note our gains and losses of the past year. Our home missionary tasks and program ought to consume the greater part of our attention at this conclave. We will meet in a city which challenges us to our biggest missionary task at present. Immigrants from Sweden are coming to Vancouver in large numbers. As a church we ought to be there to receive them with the Gospel of Christ. May we have a blessed meeting and by way of preparation let us pray for our Conference.

The Conference

The Annual Meeting of the Columbia Conference

(Official)

The Columbia Conference of the Augustana Synod will convene for its thirty-sixth annual meeting in the First Lutheran Church, Vancouver, B. C., April 18—22, 1928. The opening service with Holy Communion and Conference sermon will be held on Wednesday evening, April 18th, beginning at 8 o'clock.

All matters to be presented to the conference must be in the possession of the President, the Rev. Dr. C. R. Swanson, D. D., at least 10 days prior to the convening of the Conference. All statistical reports and other data to be presented to the Conference by its secretary should be in his possession at least two weeks before the meeting.

All delegates to the Conference who desire accommodations while at the meeting should so notify the Rev. A. G. Anderson, 3253 39th Ave. West, Vancouver, B. C., as soon as possible. Persons desiring accommodations are to remit \$5.00 to the congregation through the Rev. A. G. Anderson in advance of the meeting.

Portland, Oregon, February 7th, 1928.

C. G. Bloomquist,
Sec'y of Conf.

Convention Program

Wednesday, April 18

3:00 p. m.—Pastoral Conference. Paper, "The Grace of the Holy Spirit." John 16: 8; John 16: 13-15; Rom. 8: 14; Rom. 8: 26. Rev. O. B. Hanson, Seattle. General discussion.

5:30—Supper.

7:45 p. m.—Opening Divine Service and Communion (Swedish). Skriftetal, Rev. C. J. Renhard, Aberdeen, Wash. Conference sermon, Dr. C. R. Swanson, Seattle. Liturger, pastor C. G. Bloomquist och pastor M. L. Swanson. Assistenten, Dr. Joseph Anderson och pastor B. T. Erholm.

Thursday, April 19

8:45 a. m.—Morning service. Rev. 2: 1-7. "Charge to Angel and Church at Ephesus." Rev. G. K. Andeen, Spokane, Wash.

9:25 a. m.—Business session.

12:15 p. m.—Dinner

1:45 p. m.—Divine service. Rev. 2: 8-11. "Charge to Angel and Church at Smyrna." Rev. N. W. Anderson, Spokane, Wash.

2:30 p. m.—Business session.

5:30 p. m.—Supper served.

7:45 p. m.—Evening program and service. "Vår barmhärtighetsverksamhet och våra uppgifter i och inom konferensen." Altartjänst. Bibelläsning och bön, pastor B. S. Nyström, Brush Prairie. "De sjuka." Dr. Albert Okerström, sup't Columbia Luth. hospital, Astoria, Ore. "De ålderssigna," pastor J. Truedson, kaplan Luth. Columbia Home for Aged, Seattle, Wash. "De hemlösa," pastor O. R. Karlström, supt. Luth. Mission, Seattle. Altartjänst, pastor C. E. Lindquist, Yakima, Wash.

Friday, April 20

8:45 a. m.—Divine service. Rev. 2: 12-17. "Charge to Angel and Church at Pergamos." Rev. B. T. Erholm, Seattle.

9:25 a. m.—Business session.

12:15 p. m.—Dinner.

1:45 p. m.—Divine service. Rev. 2: 18-29. Rev. C. Thunberg, Olympia, Wash.

2:30 p. m.—Business session.

5:30 p. m.—Supper.

7:45 p. m.—Women's Mission Society festival. Address Rev. C. G. Bloomquist.

Saturday, April 21

8:45 a. m.—Morning service. Rev. 3: 1-6. "Charge to the Angel at Sardes." Rev. H. P. Johnson, Portland, Ore.

9:25 a. m.—Business session.

12:15 p. m.—Dinner.

1:45 p. m.—Divine service. Rev. 3: 7-13. "Charge to Angel of Church in Philadelphia." Rev. G. A. Herbert, Seattle.

2:30 p. m.—Business session. (Lutheran Brotherhood or Conference.)

3:30 p. m.—Automobile Sightseeing Trip

5:30 p. m.—Supper.

7:45 p. m.—Conference Lutheran Brotherhood program. (Banquet may be arranged.) "Keeping the Boys," Rev. R. P. Oliver, Moscow, Idaho. "Winning the Men," Rev. Enoch Sandeen, Gresham, Ore. "The Press" (10 min. talk), Rev. G. A. Herbert, Seattle. Other toasts or talks by laymen as arranged by officers of the Brotherhood.

Sunday, April 22

10:00 a. m.—English morning service. Liturgs, Rev. C. G. Ahnquist, Everett, and Rev. Ernest Swenson of Tacoma. Sermon. "Unto the Uttermost." Text Math. 26: 16-20.

11:15 a. m.—Swedish morning service. Sermon, Rev. P. H. Nordlander, Yakima. Liturgs, Dr. C. R. Swanson and Rev. Luther Cornay.

12:45 p. m.—Dinner.

3:00 p. m.—25th anniversary festival. Sermon, Rev. Dr. Joseph Anderson, Sedro Woolley, Wash. Text Eph. 2: 19-22. Anniversary address, Dr. C. R. Swanson (first ordained pastor stationed in Vancouver under whose leadership church was built). Vocal solo, Rev. P. H. Nordlander. Song: "Fädernas kyrka," Rev. J. A. Edlund. Altar service, Rev. O. W. Westling, Lynden, Wash.

7:00 p. m.—Prayer service.

7:45 p. m.—Memorial and closing service. Minnestal över avlidna pastorerna N. Sture och A. V. Anderson av pastor A. M. Green, Portland. Predikan, Upp. 3: 21, "Åt den som övervinner," pastor J. A. Edlund. Predikan, Upp. 22: 6, "Se jag kommer snart." pastor B. S. Nyström, Brush Prairie, Wash.

At New Westminster, Sunday

11:00 a. m.—English sermon, Rev. R. P. Oliver, Moscow, Idaho. Swedish sermon, Rev. Fred W. Hanson, Troy, Idaho. Liturgs, Dr. E. Edman, Melrose, Ore., and Rev. J. A. Levine, Portland.

Columbia Home for the Aged

The Conference Home for the Aged in Seattle is the oldest of our Conference institutions. At a special meeting of the Conference held in Gethsemane church, Seattle, October 20, 1920, it was unanimously decided to establish this institution. The property at the corner of Phinney avenue, and North 48th street, was purchased for \$18,000 and the home was opened December 1, 1920, with six guests. In 1922 an addition with 23 rooms was built and another in 1925 with 30 rooms. An adjoining house was purchased last year adding a few more rooms. You see that this is a growing institution. The total cost of buildings to date is about \$65,000. Over 125 aged people have been received since the opening day.

The following have served from the very beginning: Dr. C. R. Swanson, president; Dr. G. A. Magnuson, treasurer; Miss Anna Johnson, matron. Besides these the present officers are: Rev. M. L. Swanson-secretary; Dr. J. W. Unis, house physician; Israel Nelson, attorney; Rev. J. Truedson, chaplain. To Dr. Swanson must go the credit for the success of the institution. He has been with it from the very beginning and worked heart and soul for its welfare. The Conference is indeed indebted to him for his untiring labors. This home is a monument to his great work for this Conference.

At present the home is filled to capacity with 70 guests. The institution has a personnel of six workers. The time will soon come when the Conference will need to enlarge this institution.

Columbia Hospital

The Columbia Hospital, Astoria, Oregon, is a new institution, owned and controlled by the Columbia Conference of the Lutheran Augustana Synod. It was built and dedicated last year. Hence it is not as yet a year old. Patients were admitted the very first day of its opening to the public. The hospital will serve primarily the people of the lower Columbia river district. The building is four stories high and has a splendid basement. It is built of reinforced concrete and faced with brick and terra cotta. It is absolutely fireproof and is equipped in all respects in a most perfect manner. Nothing has been spared in labor or expense to make it one of the best institutions of its kind in the Pacific Northwest. It contains 90 rooms besides boiler room, laundry and numerous store rooms and closets. Each floor has been arranged so as to be complete in itself and to conform to the requirements of a modern hospital. The kitchen, dining room and X-ray departments are located on the first floor, the offices, examination rooms, doctors' room, drug room, and reception room, are located on the second floor. Our splendid obstetrical department is on the third floor. The laboratories and surgical rooms are located on the fourth floor.

We are fortunate in having a splendid staff of capable physicians and surgeons. This staff is organized and holds meetings every month to discuss cases and to stimulate a general interest in the hospital. The patronage of the hospital has exceeded our greatest expectations. The Columbia hospital is in reality a community institution and is looked upon as such by the citizens of Astoria. The nurses employed so far have all been trained at some school of nursing and are all graduates. As yet a training school has not been organized. Miss Nannie E. Munson has served as superintendent of nurses since the opening of the hospital. The Rev. Dr. Albert Okerstrom is the superintendent of the hospital since February 1, 1928.

Albert Okerstrom.

Columbia Lutheran

This paper, the Columbia Lutheran, is the youngest of our Conference institutions although it has existed for over twenty years. The Conference came into ownership of the paper on Jan. 1, 1928. Before that time it was edited and published by private individuals. Of these Rev. E. C. Bloomquist served the longest in this capacity. He was personally responsible for this paper for many years. It was formerly known as the "Sions Bladet," but the name was changed by Rev. Bloomquist a short time ago. I am not familiar with the past history of this paper so that I cannot give a historical review here. But this is

not our purpose. We desire to call the attention of the Conference to the present status and future hopes of this paper.

When the present officers of the Columbia Lutheran took up our duties, were greeted in the mails with numerous requests like this, "Stop the paper." Since then we have received many more similar requests. Now this is not very encouraging as a start. But at the same time we have received some remittances with requests for renewals and notes of encouragement. We thank our friends for every encouragement and all cooperation. We hope our friends and our pastors will cooperate by securing new subscriptions and renewals for our paper. Send your articles and send your suggestions and, by all means, send us your subscription.

Other Institutions

There are other institutions which are not owned directly by the Conference but are located within our Conference territory. Such an institution is Emanuel Hospital, Portland, owned by the Emanuel Charity Board. This is a very successful institution but the superintendent failed to send us an article for this issue, as we requested him, so that we cannot say very much about it now. Rev. Axel M. Green is the superintendent. Rev. C. G. Bloomquist has served as president of the board and Mr. John A. Nordeen as secretary.

The Seamen's and Loggers' Missions at Seattle and Tacoma are also located within the bounds of our Conference. Articles and reports from these institutions have appeared from time to time in this paper so that our readers are no doubt more or less familiar with them. Rev. O. R. Karlstrom is the superintendent, with Mr. Carl W. Johnson, assistant, in charge of the Seattle Mission, and Vincent Thoren, assistant, at the Tacoma Mission.

Then we were to have an article reviewing the greatest work of our Conference—namely, home missions, but to date I have not received the article which we requested. "But this is our greatest work—the extension of God's Kingdom in the great Pacific Northwest—the establishment of Christian congregations, be they large or small. This is the work that we all ought to pray diligently for. This is the work that needs all our support. God give us vision and wisdom as to the carrying out of this great work. "The harvest truly is plenteous."

Contributed

W. M. S. Conference Convention (Official)

The annual convention of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Columbia Con-

ference will be held in connection with the Conference meeting in the First Swedish Lutheran Church, Vancouver, B. C., April 19-20. Executive Board will meet Thursday morning, April 19, 9 a. m. First business session Thursday afternoon, 1:30 p. m. Business session continued Friday morning, April 20th, 9 a. m.

Mrs. C. G. Ahnquist,
Secretary.

W. M. S. of the Tacoma District

President's Report

Home Missions. — Eleven societies have contributed, and I take it that they have all held home mission festivals. Only 5 societies have gathered one dollar per member. While this is very good, I believe we can do even better. Several societies have so nearly reached their quota that with very little effort they could have reached the goal. Home Missions is nearest to us; therefore you will notice we have placed it first on our program, and since we have pledged this sum we should see to it that this pledge also has first place on our contributions. We are lacking about 135 dollars for 1927 in having reached our quota. How happy we would be if by next annual meeting we could report every society over the top for Home Missions. Why not make an earnest effort? Don't forget to count the Life members to your membership.

Home for the Aged. — Our societies from Bethany, Bethel, Emmaus, and Gethsemane, Seattle, as well as First, Tacoma, have all paid visits to the Home during the year, and left contributions. Other societies in the district have also contributed. Our old folks are always glad to receive visitors and you are welcome to visit the home; either as societies or individuals at any time.

Junior Department. — We wish to thank our district and local Junior secretaries for their faithful work among the children. It is our duty to support and encourage this work all we can, for it is undoubtedly the most important branch of our missionary society. The secretary will report on this work. I shall therefore not touch upon it further.

Deaconess. — We are happy to report that our quota for the Deaconess church in Omaha is completed, not only in our district, but Conference as well. We are thankful to God that he has blest our efforts in this respect, and pray that this sanctuary may be a blessing to the many weary souls who worship there.

Prayer Day. — Five of our societies have observed Prayer day. We hope that this special day of prayer will be more generally observed. Let us not forget that the offering on that day goes to Africa, a most worthy cause.

Mission Studies are not followed as a rule in our societies. Only two societies report using them. If we had time at this meeting it would be interesting as well as instructive, we are sure, to discuss the question — how we are carrying on our meetings as to the programs. We realize it is hard year after year to keep up the interest in our societies. Therefore, by exchanging ideas it perhaps would benefit us.

I feel that I must call your attention to the administration fund. We have fallen short here. Only seven societies have contributed. This small sum of ten cents per member should mean very little to each society, but it does make a big difference when half of our societies neglect to send it in.

Last February we had the pleasure of having Miss Augusta Highland, field secretary of the Woman's Missionary Society, among us. She visited most of our societies. Her interesting message was well received by all who heard her. We thank Miss Highland for her visit.

Protege. — Miss Anna Olson arrived home from China in March for her furlough. In May she visited our district and spoke in nearly all of our societies. Her message made a deep impression on all of us. The pleasure of seeing and meeting her (many for the first time) was mutual we are sure. Thank you, Miss Olson. We can also report that our attention towards her salary has been raised.

The 23rd of April was an outstanding day, that shall long be remembered, especially by those of us who happen to live in Seattle. For that was the day when 60 of our missionaries, including the children, arrived in our city from China. How tired they all looked. We did feel sorry, especially for the mothers with their little ones on this long journey. Their steamer arrived at 5:00 p. m., and the W. M. S. of Gethsemane church had prepared dinner for them in the church parlors. It was after ten o'clock before the last ones had passed through the customs and were able to come to the church. At eight o'clock a program was given in the main auditorium of the church by the missionaries after which refreshments were served downstairs by the W. M. S. of our four churches in Seattle. It so happened that the Tacoma district held its monthly meeting the next day at Bethany church, and this gave all the pastors of the district the chance to meet with these friends. That evening most of them departed for various places in the East, after a very pleasant visit in Seattle. In their company were also our own Doctor and Mrs. Unis, who have remained in Seattle and Tacoma district. May they feel at home among their many friends here. We have the pleasure of welcoming two pastors' wives into our

district since our last annual meeting, namely Mrs. B. T. Erholm of Seattle, and Mrs. E. A. Larson of Tacoma. Welcome. One of our faithful workers has left our district, and conference, namely Mrs. E. C. Bloomquist. She has been with us over fourteen years, or since our conference society was organized. Therefore, we shall miss her greatly. May God richly bless her in her new home at Rockford, Ill.

We pause for a moment to pay a silent tribute to our sisters who have entered into the rest that remaineth for the children of God. We thank our heavenly Father for what they were able to do while among us. May we who are still here be spurred on to greater efforts. Soon for us also cometh the night, when no one can labor.

I wish to thank all co-workers, officers and members of our societies for your cooperation and work during the past year. May our coming together here today help to stir our hearts so that we return home determined to labor harder for Him who gave His life for us.

Yours in His service,

Mrs. C. R. Swanson,

President.

Seattle, January 31, 1928.

Uppmaning

Vad hon kunde det gjorde hon. (Mark. 14: 8.)

Huru gerna vi tänka oss denna lilla grupp i det av nardus doftande rummet med Jesus i dess midt. Vilket mod denna kvinna hade att i trots av dessa ogillande blickar gå direkt fram till Herren Jesus, eller var kan hända hennes blick riktad på Mästaren så att hon inte märkte vad som försiggick omkring henne? Tänk vilken glädje hon måste ha erfarit när Jesu kärleksfulla blick föll på henne och hans läppar uttalade detta stora erkännande.

Då vi vid distriktsmötet hörde att kvinnornas missionsförening hade kommit till korta vad beträffar Columbias hemmission kommo vi omedelbart att tänka på dessa Jesu ord, "Vad hon kunde det gjorde hon." Kan han säga det till oss, medlemmar i de olika föreningarna, där han står i vår midt?

Om vi alltid, som vi önska och borde, kunde hålla fast därvid att Jesus är med oss alla dagar intill världens ände, huru mycket lättare vårt arbete då skulle bli! Att ordföranden i distriktets föreningar ville komma ihåg att Jesus är med på varje möte, att han står midt ibland oss, sak samma om vi äro flera eller färre, att han bara behöver räcka ut handen för att vidröra fällen av hans klädnad och få mera kraft och mod att leda sin förening.

Dyre Herre Jesus, låt inte Columbias konferensens missionskassa lida brist på grund av vår försumlighet utan hjälp oss att göra vad vi kunna.

Välsigna hemmissionsfesten i distriktets alla föreningar, giv både andelig och lekamig välsignelse. Amen.

Mrs. A. B. Swenson.

Annual Meeting of the Tacoma District W. M. S.

On Tuesday, January 31, 1928, the Tacoma District Woman's Missionary Society held its eleventh annual meeting at Bethel Lutheran Church, Seattle, Washington, Rev. G. A. Herbert, pastor. The meeting was held simultaneously with the District meeting and the twentieth anniversary celebration of the church.

Reports were given by the president, treasurer, Prayer Day and Junior secretaries. The following officers will serve for the ensuing year: President, Mrs. John W. Unis; vice president, Mrs. C. R. Swanson; secretary, Mrs. Carl Soderman; treasurer, Miss Effie Frisell, all of Seattle; Prayer Day secretary, Mrs. A. B. Swenson, Tacoma; Junior secretary, Mrs. Ernest Swanson, Seattle; Mission Tidings secretary, Mrs. Victor Olson, Tacoma; and Calendar Secretary, Mrs. Conrad Hagblom, secretary.

The afternoon program was as follows: Scripture reading and prayer, Dr. H. F. H. Hartelius; greetings, Rev. G. A. Herbert; address, "The Limits of Missions," Dr. C. R. Swanson; vocal solo, Miss Violet Olson; piano solo, Martha Sundstrom. An offering was taken for Home Mission, amounting to \$14.05.

The president, Mrs. C. R. Swanson, in very appropriate words thanked the local pastor and church members for the splendid reception accorded, and as retiring president, expressed her appreciation to the members for their loyal support during her time of office.

Mrs. Alfred Johnson.

W. M. S. of the Spokane District

The Women's Missionary Society of the Spokane District held their eighth annual meeting at the Salem Lutheran church, Spokane, Washington. The meeting was held at the same time as the pastors' and delegates' yearly meeting, January 24-25.

January 25, 10 o'clock in the morning was given over to the Missionary Society. The meeting opened with a short devotional service led by Rev. Hanson of Troy, Idaho. The delegation of women then assembled for their business session. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. W. J. Olsen, the president of the district. She read a splendid report of the work which was accepted.

The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. W. J. Olsen (re-elected); Vice President, Mrs. O. A. Johnson; Secretary, Mrs. N. W. Anderson; Treasurer, Mrs. Frank Oberg (re-elected); Junior

Secretary, Mrs. David Ofelt, re-elected.

All reports were encouraging and showed progress in the work. The society has an enrollment of 225 adult members, 188 Junior members and 34 young women members. We have but one organized young women's society in the district but we are hoping and praying that we will be able to rally all our young ladies around the missionary cause this year.

In the fall the conference executive committee decided to offer to the society who could secure the most new subscribers to Mission Tidings up to December 1, 1927, a gift of \$10.00. This honor was given to Salem Society, Spokane, for 27 new subscribers.

Financially this has been the best year since we organized eight years ago. The total income being \$1,254.95.

Rev. Hanson was speaker at the afternoon session. Vocal solos by Mrs. R. P. Oliver. Two papers were read. Miss Lucile Ramstedt read "Price of Missionary Leadership"; Mrs. Beckman read a paper on "Deaconate Work." This was followed by an interesting and inspirational discussion.

The service was continued at 7:30 in the evening when another missionary program was rendered. The speakers were Rev. Oliver of Moscow, Idaho, and Rev. Seigel of Chicago. Beautiful selections were given by the local choir and Esther Anderson.

An offering was lifted after which remarks of thanks were made by Mrs. Olson, president of the missionary society, Rev. Oliver, president of the district, and Rev. Anderson as local pastor.

May this enjoyable meeting, so rich in spiritual blessings, be of lasting importance to each and every one of us.

Mrs. E. G. Olson.

W. M. S. Meeting of Mt. Baker Dist.

The third annual meeting of the W. M. S. of the Mount Baker District was held January, 25th, 1928 at the Salem Lutheran Church, Mt. Vernon, Wash. Devotional services were led by our president Mrs. Chas. E. T. Olson. Twenty-eight delegates responded to roll call.

Interesting and revealing reports were given by our president, Mrs. Chas. E. T. Olson and Mrs. R. D. Erickson, Junior Secretary. Our treasurer reported an income of \$1,081.92. Reports as a whole showed an increase in the different branches of work. Our membership includes 237 adults, 174 juniors and 34 in the young women's division. A gift of \$50 was sent during the convention to our Bible student protegee, Miss Viola Swanson.

The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Chas. E. T. Olson, Mt. Vernon; Vice President, Mrs. M. L. Swan-



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son, Mt. Vernon; Secretary, Mrs. C. G. Ahnquist, Everett; Junior Secretary, Mrs. R. D. Erickson; Bellingham; Treasurer, Miss Ellen Lindquist, Mt. Vernon; Calendar Secretary, Mrs. Joe Anderson, Sedro Woolley; Prayer Day Service Secretary, Mrs. A. G. Anderson, Vancouver.

At the afternoon session a very profitable discussion was held on the subject "Present Day Home Life." Dr. Jos. Anderson introduced the subject and all our pastors took part. The delegates of the W. M. S. sang a very appropriate missionary song. Mrs. O. R. Karlstrom gave a talk on missions and together with her husband sang a duet.

Immediately after this program Mrs. M. L. Swanson gave a "coffee" in the parsonage. The offering taken at this time was applied on our Protege Fund.

Our prayer is that the Lord may bless the decisions made and the work planned for the new year.

Mrs. C. G. Ahnquist,
Recording Sec'y.

Report of President of Mount Baker District W. M. S.

To the Women's Missionary Society of the Mount Baker District, January 25, 1928: Grace and Peace!

"Then came the disciples to Jesus apart and said, why could not we cast it out? And he said unto them, because of your little faith, for verily I say unto you, if ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place, and it shall remove, and nothing shall be impossible to you." (Matthew 17: 19-21.)

Yes, even so. It is our lack of prayer-life and faith that has hindered the work of the Kingdom in our society this year. God is ever ready to fulfill his promises and he has promised us so much. Oh! let us this year grasp these promises and do what he tells us to do and the work will progress with rapid strides.

First of all let us pray the Lord of harvests that more women in our congregations may become interested in the cause of missions and join our missionary societies. Many of the women we have work very earnestly but there should be twice as many. From the president's reports I gather we have 237 members which is a gain of 28, but the treasurer cannot report enough to be any gain. I don't know where the fault lies but some of the dues have not reached the district treasurer.

Right here let me urge that the local presidents and treasurers send in reports that correspond. Some times a president reports funds to the district chairman which her treasurer has not sent to the district treasurer. This causes a great deal of confusion to the district officers. There

are two societies which have definitely gained in membership, Ferndale and Vancouver. Our young women's societies show a good gain, Bellingham has 14 annual and 2 life members, and Mount Vernan has 9 annuals. Juniors show a good gain 163 — 11 more than last year.

Only 5 societies report that Prayer Day was observed. We reap such rich spiritual gifts from the observance of this day that we should not neglect it.

Our best record in money gathered was for Home Missions. Our district ranks second in this cause, though we are fourth in total moneys gathered. For Home Missions we gathered \$299.74, a gain of \$31.94 and the Sedro-Woolley Juniors gathered \$20 besides. The Conference goal is 2,000, so let us continue to improve.

We have also remembered the Seamen's and Loggers' Mission, Bethphage, Christmas Cheer, Boxes of Blessing and Women's building.

For Miss Olson's salary \$124 have come in. This is just a little less than last year, but I believe it is all that was required of us.

This year we hope to lay more stress on Dime books which support Dr. Betty Nelson and Sister Ingeborg Nystul. Four societies have remembered Dime Books the past year.

For the Missionary home we have taken in \$8.60. Our district should raise \$21.60 more for the original quota.

Columbia Conference Home for the Aged has been remembered with both money and produce, eggs, fruit and vegetables.

One society has given to the Swedish Tuberculosis sanatorium in Denver.

Most societies are very faithful about sending 10 cents per member to the Contingent fund.

This year we have started a new work. We have started a fund for helping young women missionary students. As one of our own girls, Miss Viola Swenson is studying at the Lutheran Bible Institute in St. Paul she will be our first student protege. Three societies have already begun this work. I have reason to believe that others will follow. This matter will be discussed during our business meeting.

This past year we have had a visit from our Field Secretary, Miss Highland, and she was truly a blessing to us. Two of our missionaries, Miss Anna Olson and Miss Anna Anderson have also visited some of the congregations. It was indeed a pleasure to have our own missionary in our midst. Many of us had not met her before.

Our total income was about the same as a year ago. We are sorry it wasn't more, but all we can do is to promise to do better. I don't know just where the fault lies but if we all take the blame the burden will not be so heavy on anyone.



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We have made a gain of 7 subscribers to Mission Tidings for which we are all glad. Let M. T. secretaries do their best to get new subscribers and keep the old. Through our paper M. T. the women are informed and interest grows in missionary matters.

Let us pray for more interest in missions and more members for our societies and all else will take care of itself.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Chas. Olson,
Chairman.

Items of Interest

Calls

Rev. C. G. H. Ahnquist, Everett, has received a call to become pastor of First Church, Rock Island, Illinois.

Rev. O. R. Karlstrom has been called to the First Church, Vancouver, B. C. "Will ye also go away?"

Notes

Revs. G. K. Andeen and N. Wm. Anderson have been elected president and vice president, respectively, of the Spokane Lutheran Pastoral Association. We congratulate.

Zion Church of Everett has started with double morning services; one service in English, followed by a service in Swedish.

Ruth Ortengren, 1147 Templeton Drive, Vancouver, B. C., is the chairman of the committee in charge of local arrangements and lodging for the Conference convention. Make application to her for lodging.

A birthday party was held in honor of Dr. C. R. Swanson on Tuesday, March 27th, in connection with luncheon given by the United Circle of Gethsemane Church of Seattle. On that day Dr. Swanson reached the age of 56. Felicitations were offered by Revs. Hanson, Erholm, Herbert, Truedson, Karlstrom. One fourth of his life and about one half of his ministry has been spent in Gethsemane church, it was brought out at this occasion. Musical numbers were given by John Sundsten and Magnus Petersen. Dr. Swanson responded. Mrs. Joseph Hammer presided. This paper desires to add its congratulations.

Tacoma District Meeting

The last meeting of the Tacoma District was held in Rev. E. A. Larson's pastorate, February 28-29. On Tuesday, the 28th, the meeting was held in Mesisah, Auburn. At the afternoon service Rev. G. A. Herbert spoke on the theme, "The Lenten Season is a Time of Salvation" and Rev. B. T. Erholm on, "Christ as the Lamb of God." Rev. P. H. Nordlander read the Scripture lesson and offered prayer. Dr.

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Hartelius gave a brief meditation. At the evening service Rev. O. B. Hanson preached on the theme, "Christ as the Good Shepherd" and Rev. C. J. Renhard on "Christ as the Eternal and Perfect High Priest." Musical numbers were given by a local ladies chorus and Mrs. L. G. Strand.

This was the first mission meeting held by the district in the new church. We noted the enthusiasm with which the people are taking hold of the work at Auburn. Rev. Larson is spending a great deal of his time on this field. May God prosper the work of our church at Auburn.

On Wednesday, the 29th, the meeting was held in Bethel Church, Tacoma. The business session was held in the forenoon.

At the afternoon session Rev. C. Thunberg read a splendid paper on the topic, "The Significance and Importance of the Lenten Season for our Congregations." Rev. O. R. Karlstrom preached on the theme, "The Lenten Season Is a Time of Salvation" and Rev. P. H. Nordlander on "Christ As the Lamb of God."

A goodly number turned out for the evening service. Revs. Hanson and Renhard spoke with the same themes as the evening before. Then followed a sermon by Dr. Hartelius on "Redemption." Good musical selections were given by Mrs. J. A. Gonyeau and Mrs. E. A. Larson. Then up spoke Rev. Herbert, president of the district, and thanked the people for kind hospitality and ended by directing a few words of welcome to Rev. Larson and in behalf of the Bethel congregation handed the pastor an envelope containing a gift of money. Mrs. Larson was presented with a bouquet of flowers, the first in a series of the many bouquets which this congregation will give to the pastor's wife (we hope). Rev. Larson responded as best he could under the circumstances. The friends of Bethel seemed very happy in welcoming their new pastor. May pastor and congregation work together in harmony and for the best interests of God's kingdom for many years.

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