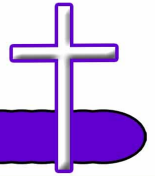


The Christian Fellowship Banner



Vol 1

Winter 2018

Behold, the Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth,
Say to the daughter of Zion,
"Lo, your salvation comes;
Behold His reward is with Him & His recompense before Him."
And they will call them,
"The holy people, The redeemed of the Lord"
And you will be called,
"Sought out, a city not forsaken."
Isaiah 62:11-12

Behold, Thy Salvation Cometh

“Behold, the Lord hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy salvation cometh; behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. And they shall call them, The holy people, the redeemed of the Lord; and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken” (Isaiah 62:11, 12).

This is the time of the year we celebrate and rejoice in our wonderful Savior that God the Father gave us as a free gift to the entire world, so that all who desire might find salvation in Him. “Whosoever will may come.” It is a time of rejoicing, thanksgiving and praise. Whosoever hath received Jesus as Lord and Savior knows the Holy Spirit is dwelling within his heart, knows his sins are all washed away in the precious blood of the Lamb, has an abundant life down here, and knows there is a blessed and great future awaiting ahead for him – it is these

people that never tire of hearing the blessed name of Jesus proclaimed. "My Jesus I love Thee, I know Thou art mine. For Thee all the follies of sin I resign."

In Isaiah 62:11, we read of the promise of His coming to be but which now is past and fulfilled at His birth nearly two thousand years ago. To you a Savior is born! What a wealth of comfort is ours as we behold Him as our Savior and Lord. To see and experience all the blessings which are ours, this free gift of salvation by the Father, is beyond our understanding. "Not of works, lest any man should boast." It is indeed the free gift to a needy world lying in sin and sickness of their own making. Not only does this gift bring redemption, it also brings with it the promise that He will never leave us nor forsake us, Hebrews 13:5; and then we have the promise, "I will come again and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" – a future event that seems very close this Christmas season as we see the world events unfolding before our eyes and that seem to indicate that His second return could be much closer than we think.

Because a Savior is born it is our lot as His children to be called a Holy people, The redeemed of the Lord and also a people sought out. He came to seek and to save the lost. May the Christ of Christmas be your eternal gift this year. May you accept Him, rejoice in Him, worship Him, and live for Him, and you will be able to sing with His people, "How blessed is the little flock whom Jesus calls His own."

May we all be able to say this blessed Christmas season; "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior" (Luke 1:46, 47).

Alvin Larson - *(originally published December 1981)*



Testimonies from EKE in Hungary



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to share a few thoughts on the family weekend camp of EKE. I had personally longed to participate in this camp in Piliscsaba. It is a dear place to me anyway, I had received many blessings, and I am always very happy to return there. I remember with thankful heart the opportunity to take part in EKE events at a very young age; first in youth camps, then as a Bible School student, where I got to know the Word of God better. Apart from that, serious relationships began with brothers and sisters, which still exist. As a young person, I changed a lot in this fellowship, and I am very grateful to God for these brothers and sisters.

A special gift from God was that in the Bible School I got to know the dear person who became my husband later (13 years ago). Three children were born, 10, 7 and 4 years old now. Both of us are members of EKE, and we had several opportunities to serve in camps. This time, however, others served us.

First, Emese Makay spoke to us on the Reformation. In my opinion, it was a rather theoretical lecture; however, the Bible verses cited made the necessity of the



Reformation a personal issue to me. I received the message that I desperately need to read the Word of God daily, more and more intimately with God, and to adjust my life to Him without a compromise.

Next, Pastor Zsolt Györgyi (member of EKE) shared us on Luther's attitude on marriage; his views before he got married, and how this changed when he was a married man. I don't think Luther's marriage was an easy one; yet he saw the hand and the will of God in it; he found joy, and he could praise God for it. The personal message to me was that God's plan is always better than my own idea, so I should let Him lead me. We also heard about

issues of raising children. It is both a great opportunity and a serious task to make our children know the Word of God, and to prove it with our exemplary and trustworthy lives. I sincerely wish it came true in my life.

In the closing program, a guest brother, Dr. Lajos Tolnay, an obstetrician and a gynecologist served to us. I already knew him, for he had been present at the births of my children, and I had heard a few lectures he gave. I am thankful to God, for He used his commitment not only in medicine, but in marriage-care ministry as well. His theme was family



planning and the test-tube baby program from a Christian perspective. I was glad to hear him give a testimony of the Lord of Life, with Biblical views, also using his medical knowledge and his practical experiences.

Meanwhile, there were special programs for children. They already knew very well Márta Stanka and Melinda Herkely, so they were happy to go to them. Márta and Melinda had prepared with Luther's life as well as with songs, prayers, a

Bible story, and crafts. I give thanks to God that heir ministry was a profound Biblical program to children. I am especially glad that from time to time, they still sing the songs they learned there.

I am thankful for the event as a whole; for the opportunity to learn and to be built up; and for the fellowship of brothers and sisters in the Lord. It was good to meet again with brothers and sisters whom we got to know in youth camps, or in the Bible School. We also had time to talk both on fixed topics and freely, encouraging and building up one another.

Thanks.

Greetings as your sister: Izabella Harazin



Visit us online at:

www.haugemissions.org

to see previous issues of the BANNER or donate to the work.

News from Norwegian Lutheran Mission

Oslo, Christmas 2017.

Our Dear Friends.

Prior to last Christmas we both got a bad flu after having made a big happening in connection with Åshild's 70th Anniversary. Because of that no one got Christmas letters from us, and this letter will mainly be about our great highlight from 2016.

We will never forget our 3 week visit to Ethiopia during summertime. NLM has very few missionaries left in Ethiopia, since the national evangelical church Mekane Yesus has taken over most of the former work of the missionaries. The maintenance work of buildings, etc. at the "mission stations" is rather poor, but the Congregational work, thanks to God, is growing very fast. The Gospel is received by new believers counting several thousand every year. Nationwide the Mekane Yesus Church now has 9,3 million members- - almost the double of the population of Norway. The fruit of the Gospel is overwhelming and we thank God for this spiritual miracle. He is really blessing the work of the many national servants in His Kingdom.

We stayed in Yavello – the place where we worked most of our years in Ethiopia –for 3 days, and on Sunday morning we went for service in the church at the old mission station.

When the service started the church was completely overcrowded without a single vacant seat – 1200 participants.. To listen to the songs, the sermon and the testimonies was an experience beyond our greatest expectations!! Our thoughts went back 30-40 years when we left Yavello and the number of attendants on an ordinary Sunday morning service was less than 50, and the total

Mekane Yesus members in Yavello District were around 600. Last year Yavello District had more than 20 congregations with around 20,000 members! It is almost unbelievable. Praise the Lord!! The other side of the coin shows us a western world where the church attendance is very poor and the impact of Christianity is shrinking year by year.

We wanted to share this with you since HFM and your folks for several decades have played an active role in cooperation with NLM to build God's Kingdom in Southern Ethiopia.

As far as we are concerned, we both spend our time more or less with the same as mentioned last time we wrote: different meetings in the mission, working at a second-hand shop run by our mission, and Åshild is also teaching every Thursday at a Day Care center also run by our mission. We wish all of you a Peaceful and Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year in Jesus' Name!

Yours **Åshild and Gunnar**



Merry Christmas from the Halversons!




Jamie & Lisa Halverson
Thad (7), Ziah (2), Zeke(4), Thea (5½)

Thank you so much for your part in the ministry here in Papua New Guinea. We are grateful to be able to be here to continue to support the work of Bible Translation.

** Our stateside address has changed! Please use our NEW Permanent Address or our Field Address to send us your Christmas card ~ we'd love to see an updated photo of your family and learn what you've been up to this year.


NEW Permanent Address:
5819 Maryhill Lane
Pasco, WA 99301-8752

Field Address:
SIL Box 1 (364)
Ukarumpa, EHP 444
Papua New Guinea
j-l.halverson@sil.org.pg



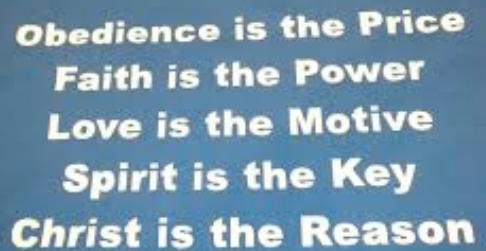
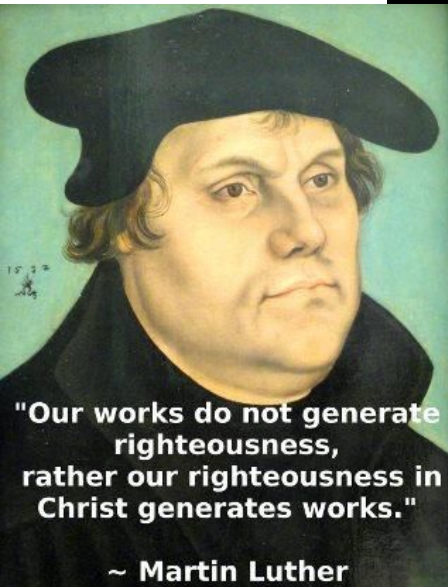
A MISSIONARY IS
NOT CALLED TO A
PLACE; RATHER, HE
OR SHE IS CALLED
TO SERVE.

DAVID A. BEHNKE



We talk of the Second Coming;
half of the world has
never heard of the first.

Oswald J. Smith



**Obedience is the Price
Faith is the Power
Love is the Motive
Spirit is the Key
Christ is the Reason**

Receipts

October 2017

G. Fund 150.00
NLM 200.00

November 2017

G.Fund 150.00

Sept. 2017

General Fund 1,075.00
NLM 250.00

October Total 350.00 November Total 150.00 Sept. Total 1,325.00

Totals for Fiscal year 2017 (Ending September 30, 2018)

Mission Gifts	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total Fiscal Year 2018
General Fund		1,375.00		1,375.00
NLM		450.00		450.00
		1,825.00		1,825.00

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"Blest be the tie that binds"

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Please send address changes to the Editor.

Treasurer

Rev. Earl Korhonen | PO Box 363 | Radcliffe, IA 50230

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