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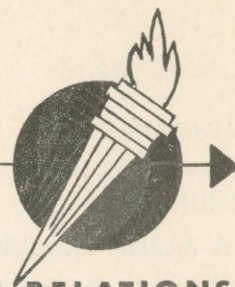
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# THE VANGUARD



... THE CHURCH IN HUMAN RELATIONS

Volume I, Number 3

May, June, 1954

## FIFTH ANNUAL HUMAN RELATIONS INSTITUTE

The fifth annual Human Relations Institute will be held at Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana, on July 9-11, 1954.

A significant feature of the Institute will be a discussion of discrimination against the Negro in housing and employment.

The discussion of the topic will be directed by Dr. Charles Lawrence, at present instructor in sociology and anthropology at Brooklyn College.

Dr. Lawrence received his education at Morehouse College, Atlanta University and Columbia University where he earned his Ph. D. in sociology. He is a national vice-president of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and a member of the department of race and cultural relations of the National Council of the Churches of Christ.

He lives with his wife and three children in a racially inclusive cooperative residential community.

Dr. Lawrence teaches courses at Brooklyn College in marriage and the family, the group process, inter-group relations, and the Negro in the United States.



Dr. Charles Lawrence, speaker at fifth Valparaiso Institute



Won Yong Ji, graduate student at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Won Yong Ji is a student at the Graduate School of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He now holds BA and BD degrees from American schools. He is also co-editor of *The Korean Messenger* and editor of *The Korean Outlook*.

A north Korean, he came to the United States in April, 1948, on a scholarship of two thousand dollars provided by U. S. airmen stationed at Kimpo Air Base, Korea.

Born at Pack-Chun in July, 1924, he lived for a time at Chaeryung City, just forty miles north of the thirty-eighth parallel.

In the spring of 1946, he fled into South Korea and attended school in Seoul.

The gift of two thousand dollars precipitated him into an interesting and active life in the United States. He has studied at San Jose Bible College (California), at Valparaiso University (Indiana), and at Concordia Seminary (St. Louis) for the holy ministry.

Won Yong Ji hopes to complete doctorate work in theology before returning to Korea as a Lutheran missionary. In addition, Christian education and plans to teach absorb his time and dreams.

Through *The Korean Outlook*, edi-

## DR. H. CONRAD HOYER

Dr. H. Conrad Hoyer, executive secretary of the Division of American Missions of the National Lutheran Council, has consented to assist in leading discussions at the fifth annual Human Relations Institute.

In his capacity as executive secretary of American Missions, he has made notable contributions in the field of Negro missions.

He has promised to give the participants of the Institute the findings of a recently completed study on "The Gospel for the Man Next Door in the Changing Community."

Assisting pastors and churches in changing communities to make their witness effective to all persons in the community is a chief purpose of the fifth Human Relations Institute.



Dr. Hoyer, National Lutheran Council

ted at Concordia Seminary, and *The Korean Messenger*, edited at the University of Illinois, he and his friends would like to establish friendly relations between his people and the Americans. In a letter to the editor of *The Vanguard*, this young man of thirty eventful, and sometimes tense, years maintained that "when human relations go wrongly or unjustly, democracy can be at stake."



## PREPARATION FOR INTEGRATION IN A CHANGING COMMUNITY

### A NEW PARISH PROBLEM

Many of our downtown churches in the larger cities of our country are being confronted by a drastic shift in the population within their parish boundaries. Nationalities and races not traditionally Lutheran have almost completely displaced the Nordic stock which originally established these congregations. The tragic result has been that the membership of once flourishing congregations has dwindled to a mere remnant which has often decided to relocate in the more attractive suburbs. The property is sold at a considerable loss, and the spiritual needs of the newcomers are forgotten or the area is surrendered to Roman Catholicism and the Pentecostal sects. In Chicago, for example, there are 15 Lutheran churches struggling for survival in a territory which has over 800,000 residents. In the most densely populated three square miles in the city there are 185,000 inhabitants, and only one Lutheran church.

### OUR CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY

Uneasy consciences have been troubled by this inability or unwillingness to minister to this vast sea of turbulent humanity. Here is a mission field of staggering proportions placed right at our doorsteps. In the parable of the Great Supper the Master told the servant, "Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame . . . . Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in that my house may be filled." Where have we ever been more clearly confronted with this challenge than among the teeming masses of our industrial cities? Our Christian responsibility is evident. Christ gave us the unmistakable imperative: "Preach the Gospel to every creature . . . . Make disciples of all nations." The Houston convention of the Missouri Synod recognized that we dare not be remiss in this duty and encouraged our congregations in changing communities to practice all inclusive mission work and recommended fi-

nancial assistance where needed.

### OBSTACLES

What then is the obstacle that so often prevents us from reaping an abundant harvest of souls? The problems encountered seem to revolve around social differences and racial prejudices among our church people. To expedite a transition from a Germanic church to one of many nations calls for the elimination of sinful pride and an arrogant sense of cultural superiority.

In preparation for integration it would be wise if Christian people everywhere would inform themselves



Ralph Moellering, pastor of First Immanuel, Chicago

as to known and demonstrable facts concerning race rather than to harbor unscientific and irrational prejudices. It would be enlightening, for instance, to discover that racial differences have been grotesquely exaggerated whereas it is literally true that "God has made of one blood all nations of men." The only distinctions which can be reasonably maintained consist in pigmentation of the skin and a few facial features. The serious student of anthropology will soon learn that there is no conclusive proof to show that one race is innately inferior to another. A critical study of the history of cultures will reveal that the Chinese in Asia, the Indians in Central America, and the Negroes in Northern Africa displayed inventive genius and achieved many admirable feats while our European ancestors were still roaming about as unsettled barbarians. The offensive odor associated with other races, it will be under-

stood, is mostly a matter of diet and hygiene, and not an inescapable characteristic.

If it be objected that intermingling socially may lead to miscegenation there is no cause for alarm. This prospect often produces an emotional reaction when it should be faced realistically. The evidence from churches where integration has become an accepted pattern does not substantiate this fear. But more important is the fact asserted by the science of human genetics that marriage between the races is not biologically harmful. Regardless of what we may deem advisable for social reasons we must concede that the selection of a mate is a personal decision and we cannot offer any Scriptural or moral objection to the practice.

We do not calculate regarding the social consequences when we comply with the divine directive: "Love thy neighbor as thyself". We know that the end result will be pleasing to God. The New Testament tells us repeatedly that every barrier to full fellowship between believers must be removed. We all worship the same Lord who dispenses His Grace without favoritism through the same Word and Sacraments. We are united to Him and with one another through an identical faith in the saving merits of Jesus Christ.

### A PRACTICAL PROGRAM

Actual steps toward integration in a changing community are not difficult once a favorable atmosphere has been formed and the members are enthusiastic about the enterprise. Mission methods may have to be revised, if not revolutionized, to meet the new situation which is probably without parallel in our past experience. Only a few helpful suggestions can be presented here that have been found useful in one blighted urban area: 1) Have an unrestricted Community Canvass that issues an invitation to the unchurched. If possible, include among your canvassers, Lutheran representatives of minority groups. 2) Begin integration in your Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. Children are not born with prejudices and are

(Continued on Page 4)



**THAT THE CHURCH MAY LEAD**

Men will follow leaders. The big question is: Where can we get Christian leaders?

Christian universities, once dedicated to supplying such leadership, have to a large extent abdicated. Valparaiso University, however, still believes that a Christian university should dedicate itself to supplying Christian leadership in church, state, and society as a whole.

Christian leadership is also the purpose of the HUMAN RELATIONS INSTITUTE which will be held at Valparaiso University, July 9 to 11.

For years the church has permitted society to impose a pattern of segregation and discrimination upon it which has weakened the witness of the church and branded the white arm of the church as an enemy of equal opportunity for all the citizens of our country. Many Christians have been seeing the light and have gone to the Church for leadership. Too often, they failed to find it.

The church can and should lead. By bringing together eminent interpreters of Scripture, outstanding sociologists, and leaders in a mission program for ALL people, the Human Relations Institute serves as a forum for the open discussion of all questions relating to Christian human relations as well as a training school for those who would become leaders in eliminating harmful prejudices and establishing a society in which all men are treated as individuals who are the creatures of ONE God and the beneficiaries of our ONE Savior, Jesus Christ.

**THAT THE CHURCH MAY LEAD**, plan to attend the HUMAN RELATIONS INSTITUTE. Men and women, pastors and laymen, young and old, people of all races can benefit by the give and take of such an experience in good human relations.

— Walter Heyne

**DEVOTIONS AT THE INSTITUTE**

Devotions at the beginning and close of Institute days do much to make these meetings rewarding. Prof. John Strietelmeier, assistant professor of geography at Valparaiso University and managing editor of **The Cresset**, will speak at these devotional services.

**PROFESSOR FRANZMANN**

Professor Martin Franzmann of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is scheduled to provide the Scriptural focus of the coming Human Relations Institute at Valparaiso University.

His essay, a study on human relations based on the Epistle of James, is entitled "Our Hope and Our Fellow-Man."

Professor Franzmann's skill as an interpreter of Scripture combined with his ability to paint word pictures promises to make his paper a highlight of the fifth annual Institute.



Professor Martin Franzmann, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

**REGISTRATION BLANK**

Fill out and mail to  
Human Relations Institute  
Valparaiso University  
Valparaiso, Indiana

I plan to attend the Institute on Human Relations at Valparaiso University, July 9, 10, and 11, 1954.

- ( ) I am enclosing \$17.50 as full payment.  
( ) I am enclosing \$5.00 with balance payable at the Institute.  
( ) I shall not be able to attend, but I am enclosing \$1.00 for a year's subscription for **THE VANGUARD**, one issue of which will contain the **PROCEEDINGS** of the Institute.

Name .....

Street Address .....

City .....

**THE LUTHERAN HUMAN RELATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

- .....Please send me **GRATIS** ..... copies of this issue of **THE VANGUARD**.  
.....I am enclosing \$5.00 or more ..... for a Sustaining Membership for 1954.  
.....I am enclosing \$2.00 for my 1954 membership (includes **THE VANGUARD**).  
.....I am enclosing \$1.00 for one year's subscription to **THE VANGUARD**.  
.....I am enclosing \$1.00 for two copies of "The Proceedings" of the Valparaiso University's Institute on Human Relations.

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Name of Organization or Congregation:

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Webster Groves 19, Missouri

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(signature)



## THE INSTITUTE AND CHANGING COMMUNITIES

That many local communities in the United States are no longer confined to people of one group or race has become apparent.

That Christian churches should offer the blessings of the Gospel to everyone in the local communities is no longer a moot point, at least not on paper.

But when it comes to offer the Gospel to everyone in the community regardless of race, color, and background, differences of opinion do arise.

The problem of the integrated parish in changing communities will be discussed clearly, openly, and honestly at the fifth annual Human Relations Institute.

Outstanding leaders in the work of integrating parishes who will share their experiences with the Institute include the Rev. Alfred Schroder of St. John's Lutheran Church, New York City, and the Rev. Ralph Moellering of First Immanuel, Chicago. (cf. p. 2).

The Rev. William Hillmer, executive secretary for North American Missions of the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, and Dr. H. Conrad Hoyer, executive secretary of the Division of American Missions of the National Lutheran Council, assisted in planning this part of the Institute program.

## INSTITUTE SESSIONS

Registration will take place beginning at 1:00 P. M. Friday, July 9. The first session will be at 3:30. The institute will close by 5 P. M. on Sunday.



Wm. Hillmer, executive secretary  
for North American Missions.

## THE INSTITUTE AND THE SOUTH

It is no secret that the South is the special target of those who are fighting against prejudice and discrimination.

It is not the purpose of the coming Institute to sit in judgment on anyone, but the Institute participants would also like to raise the sights of the Church in the South.

"Can the Christian Church Lead in Improving Human Relations in the South?" is the general topic assigned to a panel of southern pastors consisting of the Rev. Leslie Frerking (Charlotte, North Carolina), the Rev. Howard Foard (High Point, North Carolina), and the Rev. Karl Lutze (Tulsa, Oklahoma).

## NOW IS THE TIME — JULY 9-11

The 1954 Human Relations Institute is for all people who believe that prejudice and discrimination have had their way too long in church, state, and society in general, and who want to lend their aid in speeding the day when people can live together as brothers regardless of race or color. To give practical answers to the question, "What can I as a Christian church-member, citizen, and neighbor do to improve human relations?" is the chief aim of those who are planning this institute.

A Registration Fee of \$17.50 includes, besides attendance at all sessions, comfortable lodging in one of Valparaiso's fine dormitories, a reservation for the Saturday night banquet, and a copy of the INSTITUTE PROCEEDINGS.

## PREPARATIONS — INTEGRATION

(Continued from Page 2)  
rapidly assimilated. Move from the children to the adults. 3) Conduct "open house" services in an informal way designed to appeal to people who are not familiar with Lutheran liturgy and are hesitant about attending ritualistic services, that seem mysterious to them. Extend a special welcome by word of mouth and leaflet. Include suitable religious films. 4) See to it that visitors and newcomers are accorded a friendly reception. Invite them to instruction classes. Follow up on prospects. Do not be discouraged by failures and disappointments. Continue the good work trusting in the promise of God: "My Word . . . shall not return to Me void."

— Ralph L. Moellering

THE LUTHERAN HUMAN RELATIONS ASSOCIATION  
OF AMERICA  
751 Atalanta Avenue, Webster Groves, Missouri

Subscription and Membership Secretary:  
Miss Gertrude Fiehler, 751 Atalanta, Webster Groves 19, Mo.

OFFICERS: Pres., Rev. Andrew Schulze, LL. D.; Vice Pres., Rev. Walter Heyne; Treasurer, Rev. Martin Nees; Board Members, Rev. Moses Dickinson, Rev. G. H. Liebenow, Mr. Paul Simon.

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ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Professor Martin Scharlemann, Ph. D.; Rev. Andrew Schulze, LL. D.; Rev. Walter Heyne, M. A., S. T. M.; Rev. Walter Lang, B. D.

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