

Valparaiso University

ValpoScholar

The Vanguard

Lutheran Human Relations Association of
America

1956

The Vanguard (Vol. 3, No. 8), Nov 1956

Lutheran Human Relations Association of America

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholar.valpo.edu/vanguard>

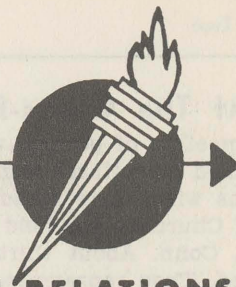
Recommended Citation

Lutheran Human Relations Association of America, "The Vanguard (Vol. 3, No. 8), Nov 1956" (1956). *The Vanguard*. 24.

<https://scholar.valpo.edu/vanguard/24>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Lutheran Human Relations Association of America at ValpoScholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Vanguard by an authorized administrator of ValpoScholar. For more information, please contact a ValpoScholar staff member at scholar@valpo.edu.

THE VANGUARD



... THE CHURCH IN HUMAN RELATIONS

Volume 3, Number 8

November, 1956

THAT THE CHURCH MAY LEAD

STAND ASIDE, YOU BIG HILLS!

How soon and how fast shall one move in working for the complete elimination of racial prejudice and discrimination? Those who are interested in this question will no doubt welcome reading what *The Christian Century* had to say on this subject in the September 26 issue. With the permission of the Editorial Secretary, we are quoting extensively from this article entitled "The Faith that Keeps Mountains from Moving."

"... In life, as well as in mathematics, it is a poor rule that does not work both ways. Many a truth is true in reverse as well as full steam ahead.

"We have often thought of the tribute in the Gospels to the 'Faith that moves mountains.' But at the same time we have heaved many a rueful sigh over the faith that keeps mountains from moving. Of course, the faith that moves mountains makes history an exciting affair. If you listen with your imagination, you can hear a musical accompaniment to history, a resounding piece, 'The March of the Mountains,' composed by stout men and women who have said in a quiet but commanding voice, 'Stand aside, you big hills, you are a nuisance'; and the mountains stood aside.

"But it is also true that a towering faith in mountains has kept mountains from moving. The stubborn faith that 'this mountain is immovable—no use to even push it' is the faith of a majority. It has been an easy faith to hold and it has been an unrivaled obstacle to spiritual progress. . . . This was the faith of the ten spies who came

back from Canaan with an unshakable belief in giants: 'You can't move those mountains.' True, they could not be moved by ten thousand lads like themselves with collapsible knees.

"Sometimes there is no work of mountain moving because of an impregnable faith in little shovels. We listen to the reasonable advice: 'Don't think of the whole job of moving a mountain. That would be a miracle, so don't be foolish. Try a small part of the job. Here is a little shovel. Do a teaspoonful at a time.' Such reasonable wisdom often prevails, even if the shoveling job will take 250 years. But they are such cute little shovels!

... The sweetly reasonable motto

(Continued on Page 4)

A LOOK AROUND

By Martin H. Scharlemann

Fraternities and a Christian Witness

Life recently printed a picture of a Chinese student on his way back to his room after being excluded from a fraternity in Evanston, Illinois. The picture highlights the fact that one of the last holdouts of white supremacy is the fraternity system of American universities. It is ironic that this should be the case, since these groups are organized as fraternities, for which the regular English word would be "brotherhoods." (Whatever is said here about fraternities applies equally to sororities!)

This brings to mind a paragraph from a letter of a great and noble Christian woman, written in reply to a request that she help organize a local high school fraternity. We are not, in this instance, giving the names of the persons involved. The letter is on record in our office and is being used by

permission. The reply is quoted here as an example of the kind of Christian conviction and witness which puts the church in the right place—namely, right into the middle of the whole controversy about race.

The incident referred to occurred in Southern Illinois. The writer of the letter had been approached by the State chairman with a request for help in founding a high school fraternity. The State chairman made it very clear that this would be done along racial lines. And now the letter in reply:

"I have your recent letter, in which you suggest the founding of a local high school fraternity. All my life I have been interested in the welfare of this community. However, your approach to this question makes it impossible for me to respond to your suggestion in the affirmative. It would be a contradiction for me to participate in any way in such efforts, especially since each Sunday I teach a Bible class, in which again and again I have made it clear that racial segregation and discrimination are evil. You will understand, therefore, that I cannot respond to your suggestion except in the negative."

As a little footnote to all this, it might be well to call attention to the fact that even the Boy Scouts of America have a special question on their application blanks, raising the issue of race. We have taken up this matter locally, in the Cub Scout troop of our own church. The officials there have promised to take up this matter with national headquarters. Whether they will or not is another question. It might be well for all of us to have a look into this question to see that something is done about it.

At The Grass-Roots

A meeting of persons working in the field of cultural and racial relations within the National Council of Churches was held in Greenwich, Conn. About thirty-five attended. They represented the major denominations which are members of the Council. This observer noticed that almost each person in turn said something like this: "Our work of effecting better race relations has been largely unsuccessful due to the fact that we have not been able to reach the concerned people on the local level." This in spite of the fact that the National Council has an office of Cultural and Racial Relations with several executives and a staff of secretaries working full time in this field. They have produced some excellent literature. Major individual denominations within the Council have their own racial and cultural commissions with persons devoting full time to this work; and they in turn have produced literature for use within their own denominations. These church bodies have made forthright pronouncements on race relations, Christian in principle and keyed to the needs of the Church for times of racial tension such as the present. With the official machinery of these church bodies geared to meet the demands of the times, those persons who should know have confessed that the Council and its several denominations have been unable to bring about the change on the local level that is needed to rid the church of race prejudice and discrimination.

The Lutheran Human Relations Association of America, working quietly within the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, has as one of its chief functions **reaching concerned people** on the local level. Through chapters now organized in many of our metropolitan centers, this Association is working at the grass roots to meet the race issue head-on. **These chapters are made up of concerned people of their several communities.**

One of the chief functions of these chapters is to foster periodical local institutes on race relations for the obvious reason of finding more people who are concerned about the church's respon-



sibility in the field of race relations and to help to develop Christian thinking and Christian attitudes on the question of race.

The picture in this issue is that of the speakers who participated in such an institute in Portland, Oregon. From left to right, they are The Rev. L. O. Stone, a minister in Portland; Mr. Paul Thielo, an instructor at the Portland Concordia College; Mr. Paul Simon, owner and editor of **The Troy Tribune**, member of the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Human Relations Association of America, and member of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois; the Rev. Paul Pfotenhauer, pastor of Holy Sacraments Church of Portland; and Professor Paul Harms of Concordia College, recently called to become Dean of Students at the Missouri Synod's Senior College now being organized in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

RUTH THE GLEANER

Every book written about the Bible or certain books of the Bible does not have as many virtues as one may find in **Ruth the Gleaner**, recently published by Concordia Publishing House. Dr. Carl A. Gieseler, a member of the Religion Department of Valparaiso University, is the author. He discusses this Old Testament story in a manner at the same time plain, practical, informative, relevant, frank, and evangelical. Many of the difficulties which the reader

may find in the narrative are explained in a plausible manner. This should make the book attractive to teachers and students.

One of the chief virtues of the booklet is that it takes this beautiful story of antiquity and relates its lessons to life in the twentieth century. Parents, husband, wife, mother-in-law, and others who make up the family circle may read this booklet with profit.

A review of this booklet in **The VANGUARD** is justified because the author in a very forceful way demonstrates that Christ by His very ancestry (Jewish-Gentile) identifies Himself with all mankind as the world's Savior. The author reaches the climax of his presentation in the last paragraphs in which this fact is emphasized. With his permission, we quote the last two sentences:

Above all, let us hail our Lord Jesus Christ as the universal Savior of white and black, red and yellow and brown. And after the study of the Book of Ruth we rejoice that the line of human ancestors of the incarnate Son of God runs from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, through Judah via Ruth and Boaz to King David, whose great Son and divine Lord the Christ was to be, as He is crowned Lord of all.

Human Relations Workshop

At Concordia Seminary in St. Louis a Human Relations Workshop is to be held from June 24th to June 28th, 1957, according to an announcement received from the Seminary. More details in the near future.

From the Southland

Concerning the visit of a Negro pastor and members of his predominantly Negro congregation to a church of Caucasian constituency, a Southern pastor wrote us: "Pastor—of St.—Church had just preached at my midweek service, with some forty or fifty of his members sprinkled through the congregation, and my four elders of the Worship Committee and their wives had served refreshments to a 'mixed' crowd of some 250 in the church parlors! (All four and their wives are from South Carolina and Georgia.) This has become a commonplace thing here—and no criticism! The 'force' in this instance, I believe, was the power of the Gospel." (This was written in answer to an article which appeared in *The VANGUARD* entitled "The Farce of Force.")

In response to a request made to the above quoted pastor that this item be published, he wrote "I'd appreciate it if the caution were voiced, e.g. lest we only help people to hate people who don't seem to love the Negro, thus adding another 'hate group' or substituting or balancing one with another." We not only add this comment, but endorse its sentiment.

The Conscience of Christian Parents

Seemingly completely unafraid of unfavorable repercussions that would cause the subscription list to dwindle and financial stability to totter, *The Christian Parent*, a publication of Christian Education Company of Highland, Illinois, continues to publish articles on race relations that are truly Christian. Always forthright, yet completely evangelical, these articles speak to the consciences of Christian parents and show the responsibility they have to rear their children without the blight of soul-destroying race prejudice. Another such article, entitled "Freedom Month", appeared in the editor's column of the July-August 1956 issue.

Although *The Christian Parent* has not requested this word of commendation, it is gladly given. The sooner Christian periodicals

and Christian pulpits speak out after the manner of *The Christian Parent*, the sooner, under God, the Church will get into its God-intended place in the vanguard in human relations and this publication, *The VANGUARD*, can call it a day.

Just one simple quotation from *The Christian Parent*: "Today some folks say that they don't like 'dictation' when the court tells them to open their schools for the colored folks; yet they want to keep on dictating to the colored folks where they may and where they may not walk, eat, sleep, work, or live. What is 'freedom' for the white man becomes 'repression' for the colored man, and in this Freedom Month it is well for us to remind ourselves that God DID and He DOES create men equal, of equal worth one against the other; the differences are man-made."

Integration Techniques

We haven't forgotten that we promised our readers a column on Integration Techniques. The column was begun, but soon many other items of immediate importance clamored for space and crowded the column off the page. Since the need for good techniques is always with us and we never have the complete and final answer, we shall renew the publication of this column, with due apologies to the two of you who have been looking for it and holding us to our promise.

Some good soul with the know-how, time, and patience should write a book on this subject and present all its phases in logical sequence. When that happens, we

shall simply refer you to the book. Until that time comes we shall, more or less at random, jot down our own observations and a few, more precious, thoughts that others will supply for this column.

Know and Do

There is one simple rule that the person interested in this field must know and follow, to the end that he may do the will of God and expect the blessing of God in His time. That rule is: Know the will of God as it applies to integration, and follow it relentlessly. Simple, isn't it? We have known the rule all the time. If there is a simple answer, that is it. But to know the will of God and to follow it is not so simple.

The Word of God must be studied and restudied. The opinions of men, learned though they be, dare not be the criterion. For many of the learned have in times past failed us miserably. They have not always given us specific guidance. If they had, their voices would have been heard in the twenties, the thirties, the forties, and before June 28, 1956, crying out against the offense given "these little ones" when we preached, "the Gospel is for all people," yet deliberately, and with the rationalizations of the priest and the Levite, passed by on the other side.

The Word of God must be studied as we see what is going on in the world in which we live. This will cause us to interest ourselves in the relevant findings of science and to keep abreast of the times in which we are living—what is happening to two-thirds of the population of the world, the so-called colored peoples of the earth, and what they are thinking and saying

LUTHERAN HUMAN RELATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

Service (\$12.00 or more)	Organization (\$15.00)
Associate (\$10.00)	Contributing (\$2.00)
Sustaining (\$5.00)	
Subscription to <i>The VANGUARD</i> — \$1.00 per year	
Proceedings of Institutes on Human Relations — Fifty cents each	

I am enclosing \$.....for

Name

Address

Make all checks payable to: LUTHERAN HUMAN RELATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA and mail to the Membership and Subscription Secretary: Miss Della Krentz, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana.

and doing. All this so that we may know how to apply the Word of God in our times.—I am somewhat distressed occasionally, now that I am a footloose preacher, to find how the good and pure Word of God is at times preached with applications no more appropriate to the present day than to the days of Martin Luther.

Oh, yes, we said, "Know the will of God as it applies to integration, **and follow it relentlessly.**" Integration techniques are not mental gymnastics, nor an accumulation of ideas however good they may be. The will of God known is not applied to life in 1956 until it is relentlessly followed, followed in spite of a tradition to the contrary, in spite of one's own former mistakes and sins, in spite of what some might think to be a threat to their professional or organizational success. Relentlessly follow the will of God, even if it leads one onto a very lonely path. To follow the will of God in this area, as in others, one needs divine guidance, courage, strength, and fortitude.

Next time—a program of education.

MISCELLANEA

The names of approximately three hundred new VANGUARD subscribers were added to the subscription list: the Lutheran Women's Missionary League of the Minnesota District paid for the subscriptions for all pastors of their District.—The October issue of **The VANGUARD** was sent to all pastors of the California-Nevada District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

The following memorials submitted to the 43rd Convention of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod have been referred to the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference for consideration at its convention to be held December 4-7 at First St. Paul's Church in Chicago: Memorials on integration policies for Synodical Conference educational institutions at Greensboro, N.C., and Selma, Ala.; memorials on the use of racial designations for churches and mission stations; and memorials that call for an integration policy in the establishment of new mission stations.

"Your October issue of **The VANGUARD** is an excellent one.—Please send us five of the 1956 Institute Proceedings."

The Rev. Charles Cline, pastor of Bethlehem Church, Oakland (Calif.) sent us this interesting news (Sept. 19): "On Monday we enrolled two Hawaiian children. We also have two Spanish children. Of course there is a predominance of white and Negroes. We also have a Chinese boy on our waiting list. San Francisco has its International Settlement, but Oakland will have its International Lutheran Christian Day School.... It is thrilling to see this integration process going forward—no sound—no fury—just the silent, beautiful unfolding of a bud into a full-grown attractive, fragrant flower. Our teachers are as much thrilled about it as I."

Pastor Cline wrote again on October 8: "On Sunday there were twenty Caucasians in the group of 105 at the service. A few years ago a Caucasian was a rarity in our service. Integration is going forward and this is happening in a congregation which served only Negroes for many years."

THAT THE CHURCH MAY LEAD

(Continued from Page 1)

is, 'Half an inch, half an inch, half an inch onward!—or is it 'backward'? The faith in little shovels characterizes many people today in all matters of race discrimination and racial injustice.

"Then there is a strong faith in amalgamation. If a mountain is in the way, do not face it and say 'Be removed'; rather say, 'Let's get together and have some reasonable compromise,' combining the best features of good and evil. It was said in fervent tribute to a famous ecclesiastical compromiser that if he were to see Jesus coming down the street and Satan coming from the other direction, he would rush out and clasp the hands of both and say, 'You folks ought to get together, you have much in common.' And so they did, in his view!

"Faith in the movability of mountains is not an easy faith to hold. It is not even sensible. It does not come from a sensible gospel. But it can be exciting. And it has a terrific recommendation: 'If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, "Move hence to yonder place," and it will move.'"

LUTHERAN HUMAN RELATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana

OFFICERS: President, The Rev. Walter Heyne; Vice-president, The Rev. Karl E. Lutze; Secretary, Miss Anne M. Engelbrecht; Treasurer, Mr. Ernest Williams. Other Board Members: The Rev. M. S. Dickinson, Mrs. Lillian Hatcher, Mr. Paul Simon.

EDITOR: The Rev. Andrew Schulze, Valparaiso University.
Editorial Office: Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana.

EDITORIAL STAFF: The Rev. Walter Heyne, The Rev. Walter Lang, Professor Martin H. Scharlemann.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: The Rev. Andrew Schulze,
Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana.