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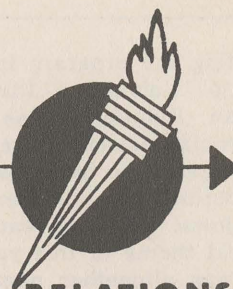
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# THE VANGUARD



... THE CHURCH IN HUMAN RELATIONS

Volume 5, Number 4

May, 1958

## That the Church May Lead

### Mildly Excited

The Ninth Annual Valparaiso University Institute on Human Relations is scheduled for July 25-27. Yes, for nine years now Christian people have been coming together on the pleasant University campus to discuss race relations. When they started this practice in 1950, much of the Christian world was still unaware of the existence of a race issue. Today it is known fairly generally to be a world issue. Despite attempts on the part of many to dodge the issue and to live on peacefully according to the status quo of the past decades of our generation, it bobs up again and again. With increasing persistency it demands answers, decisions. Evasion is no longer even a temporary alternative. We now know that, if we do not find the answers and make proper decisions, such irresponsibility will not only bring disaster upon our children, but we shall harm ourselves, our church, and our nation. Answers are needed now, such answers as are in conformity with the will of God. Decisions must be made by the Christian and his church that will show the onlooking world where the church, that is, Christian people, stand. God give us grace, not to procrastinate longer, but to find answers **now** and to make decisions when the answers are found.

In 1946 a Christian missionary to Africa, back home in the United States on furlough, attended a meeting of that same small band of people who later became the chief promoters of Valparaiso's now well established Institute on Human Relations and who through the Institute were largely responsible for the organization of the Lutheran Human Relations Association of America. In addressing the

group, the missionary said: "You seem to be mildly excited over the race question." That was putting it mildly. The group was excited, and still is. Too much is at stake for the church and society not to be excited about it.

There are very definite signs of progress; their becoming excited has paid off. It would be childish naivete to ignore the fact that the progress made in society outside the church had no bearing on the progress that has been made within the church. And to claim that the Valparaiso Human Relations Institute and its sponsors are the sole cause of progress within the church, with which both they and the University are identified, would be a gross overstatement. It must be said, though, that they have been working ceaselessly for progress in this area of the church's life and that they have participated either directly or indirectly in those activities within the church which under God have brought about the progress that is now becoming more and more evident.

### A Few Examples

Twenty years ago "no Negroes" were "to be admitted to any of our colleges or preparatory schools." Today, according to a survey just completed (a full report on it is scheduled for a coming issue of The VANGUARD), all schools of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod are now ready to receive Negro students without restrictions of any kind because of their racial grouping.

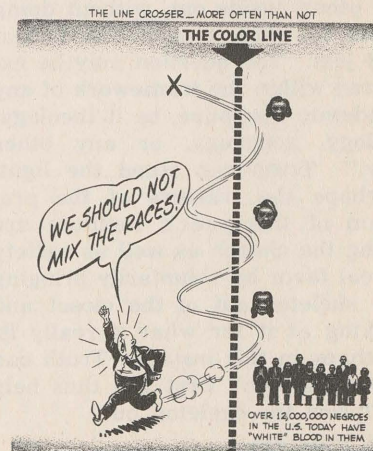
From 1927 to 1942 a responsible official board within the church withstood organic union with the mother church -- The Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America -- on the part of its so-called Negro churches. But

(Continued on Page Four)

### BOO! BOO!

A pamphlet by C. Norman Kraus, entitled "Integration - Who's Prejudiced?" was received for review by The VANGUARD office recently. One of the best analyses of the question of racial intermarriage that has come to our attention is found within the covers of this 31-page booklet which sells for 35 cts. This is what the author says: "The question of the advisability of marriage between different racial types is often raised **at the beginning** of a discussion about making public facilities equally accessible to both Negroes and whites. 'Would you want your child to marry a Negro?' has been used to win many an argument. However one might be inclined to answer this question, we can all see that it is not a real question when it is asked in such a context. **It is merely a rhetorical question used as a device to stop the discussion and to win the argument.** As such it is a tool of a prejudiced mind rather than the inquiry of an open mind."

When a close collaborator, who for many years had helped in for-



Courtesy Religious Drawings, Inc.  
Waco, Texas

mulating the program for the Valparaiso University Institutes on Human Relations, was informed that racial intermarriage was to be the major topic to be discussed at the Institute this summer, he wrote as follows: "My first reaction to the general theme of this year's Institute was altogether negative; and while I have gotten a bit more used to the idea, I am not sure that I like it yet. It would seem to me that the emphasis on intermarriage belies our historic position of regarding the issue as a red herring. For while I agree that it is a matter of prime concern to many, it does not deserve, in my opinion, such prominence and direct attention. I hope I am very, very wrong in my judgments and fears, but I would strongly suggest that in literature announcing the Institute the intermarriage theme be played down and the goal of better interracial understanding be given emphasis."

It is possible that our friend is right.

It is true that this is the first time that racial intermarriage as such is being discussed at the Institute. It is also true that there are other and far more weighty matters to be discussed than racial intermarriage. It is further true that this question is quite irrelevant when discussing the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of racial minority groups in the church and in society. But those who truly represent Christian thought in race relations have nothing to hide. The question of racial intermarriage can be examined from one end to the other, inside out, without doing harm to what is true and honest and just. The question may be explored within the framework of any academic discipline, be it theology, biology, sociology, or any other "gy." Truth can stand the light. Perhaps the framers of the program of this year's Institute are doing the church as well as society a real favor by voluntarily bringing the skeleton out of the closet and looking at it for what it really is. Perhaps in this instance Truth can say "boo, boo" first and thus help to throw the skeleton out.

#### The Program

The Institute will, as usual, be held on the new campus of Valparaiso University. All guests and

participants will be housed in either Guild or Memorial Hall. The program will begin with a get-acquainted social at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, July 25, when refreshments will be served.

At 3 p.m. the first session of the Institute will be opened. The Rev. Professor Lorman M. Petersen, instructor in New Testament at Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Illinois, will be the essayist in this session. His topic will be "Racial Intermarriage from the Viewpoint of Theology."

#### American Indians

Another innovation of this Institute will be found in the program scheduled for Friday evening. Because of the widespread interest in the need of a sympathetic Christian understanding of the perplexing problems confronting our Ameri-



Mr. Fred H. Massey

can Indians, the evening session on Friday will be devoted to a consideration of "The Unique Status of the American Indian." A representative of the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the U. S. Department of the Interior will address the Institute. The above quotation is the title of his address. This speaker is Fred H. Massey, "a Choctaw Indian from Oklahoma, who is Assistant Commissioner for Administration in the Bureau. Mr. Massey is the first person of Indian descent to reach the level of Assistant Commissioner in the 132-year history of the Indian Bureau. Mr. Massey is a veteran of twenty years' service with the Bureau and has risen from

the ranks to positions of steadily increasing responsibility."

Besides addressing the Institute on the subject he himself chose, Mr. Massey will also lead a question and answer period and will show the color film, "American Indians of Today," concerning which he says "It is the most up-to-date film on American Indians that we have seen."

The Hon. Paul Simon, a member of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois, will moderate the Friday evening session. -- The Rev. William Griffin, pastor of the Lutheran Church of Christ the King, Chicago, will conduct Vespers.

#### From the Viewpoint of - -

On Saturday morning Dr. Carl H. Krekeler, Professor of Biology at Valparaiso University, will present an essay on "Racial Intermarriage from the Viewpoint of Biology." Professor Krekeler, who is a graduate of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, received his Ph.D. in the field of biology from the University of Chicago.

The second essay to be delivered on Saturday morning will be by the Rev. Richard E. Sommerfeld, of Manchester, Missouri. Pastor Sommerfeld received his Ph. D. in the field of sociology from Washington University in St. Louis. His subject will be: "Racial Intermarriage from the Viewpoint of Sociology."

#### Sectional Meetings

Although a question and answer period will follow the presentation of each of the three essays on racial intermarriage, the major part of the Saturday afternoon session will be devoted to sectional meetings intended to give Institute guests opportunity for more questions and a fuller discussion of the topic on their part.

#### Nobel Prize Winner

The annual Institute banquet will be served on Saturday evening. Dr. Louis P. Lochner has consented to be the speaker. Dr. Lochner is at this writing on a world tour as a member of a U. N. Committee. He was appointed to membership on this important committee by the office of the Secretary of State. Dr. Lochner, a son of a Lutheran minister and himself a devoted member of the Lutheran Church, was a news correspondent for the U. S. Press in Germany during the Hitler regime. Mr. Lochner, who has

written a number of books and who contributes articles to various papers and magazines, is a Nobel Prize winner. He will speak at the banquet on "The Impact of Race Relations in our Land on Other Nations for the Weal or Woe of Church and State." He promises also to weave into his address anecdotes from his experiences while on his current world tour.

The Rev. Paul E. Schuessler, of the now integrating Redeemer Church on Chicago's South Side, will be master of ceremonies at the banquet.

Dr. Ernest B. Koenker, of the Religion Department of Valparaiso University, will conduct the Vespers after the banquet.

#### **Institute Sunday**

The Rev. Clemonce Sabourin, pastor of Mt. Zion Church in Harlem, New York City, will be the Institute preacher on Sunday morning at Immanuel Church in Valparaiso. The Rev. Sabourin, who is a member of the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Human Relations Association of America, is author of the incisive book recently published, entitled "Let the Righteous Speak." -- A racially mixed Institute choir will sing in this service.

The Rev. Robert H. King, who succeeded the Rev. Dr. Marmaduke N. Carter as pastor of St. Philip's Church in Chicago, will be guest preacher at the newly founded Faith Memorial Church, Valparaiso.

The afternoon of Institute Sunday will be devoted to two panel discussions. The first one will be on communicant integration. The panelists will be members of Redeemer Church of Chicago.

The second panel discussion will have as its subject "Progress Report on Human Relations." The panelists who will participate in this part of the program are: The Rev. Wm. H. Hillmer, Executive Secretary of the Board for Missions in North and South America, of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod; Mr. Louis F. Bartelt, Jr., Attorney at Law and Professor in the School of Law at Valparaiso University; and Mrs. Lillian Hatcher, member of the Board of Directors of LHRAA, International Representative of the Fair Practices and Anti-

Discrimination Department of the UAW, and a member of the Detroit Commission on Human Relations.

The Institute will adjourn at approximately 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Moderators and discussion leaders who are at home in the field of race relations have been carefully chosen to help guide the Institute discussions.

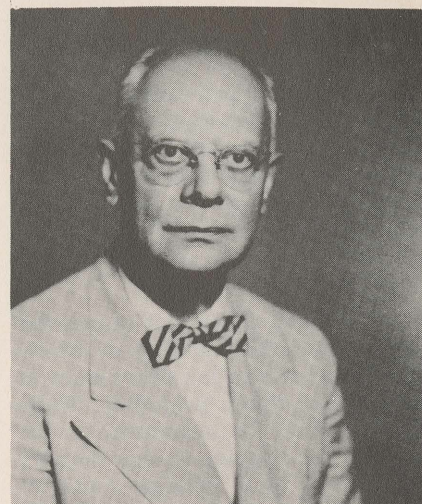
### **Miscellaneous Institute Notes**

All interested persons are invited to the Institute. The registration fee this year is \$15.00 (\$3.25 less than previous years). This includes the benefit of the Institute as such, two nights' lodging, a banquet reservation, and a copy of the Institute Proceedings. A second person of the same family unit (wife or child, for example) may register for \$10.00. College and seminary students too may register for \$10.00.

Registration should be made in advance, if possible, not later than July 15, and a down-payment of not less than \$5.00 should accompany the registration.

All Institute activities, with the exception of Sunday worship, will be held in the new Union building. Guests are requested to come directly to this building upon arrival in town. Those coming by train or bus will be met at the station if advance notice is given about arrival time and place.

The annual meeting of the Lutheran Human Relations Association of America will be held in connection with the banquet. All members of LHRAA as well as contributing congregations and societies



**Dr. Louis P. Lochner**

are entitled to vote at this meeting.

For further details, if you want them, write Valparaiso University Institute on Human Relations, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana.

#### **CAUCASIAN WITH RED FACE**

Enclosed please find a personal check for \$10; and enroll me as an Associate member. You see, I have just finished reading Paul Simon's article in the February-March issue of *The VANGUARD*, and my face is red. My prayers are that *The VANGUARD* may continue to "speak out," as it has so admirably been doing in Missouri Synod circles. Please count on another theological student as a fellow supporter, lest the work should falter. -- Donald E. Krumsieg.

The church is gradually catching up with the world -- almost. And we're proud of it! -- W. H., St. Louis.

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#### **LUTHERAN HUMAN RELATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE**

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## En Route To Panama

Miss Anne Engelbrecht, a member of the Advisory Board of LHRAA, is at present on a trip that took her to many countries in Europe and Asia. As she was aboard ship approaching the Panama Canal, she took time out to write us as follows:

"I think the thing that impressed me as I travelled around in different countries was the prevalence of this vicious thing, prejudice. While we can well be ashamed of the things that happen in our country as a result of it, foreign countries should look at themselves critically before they point their finger at us. In India the light-colored Indians look down on their darker-skinned brothers. Ceylon may reprint an article from a Fort Wayne newspaper and have a bitter editorial about it, yet in Colombo I had a long talk with a fine young man who asked me to approach our Government about some of the educational grants that are given in Ceylon. It was impossible, said he, for a Muslim to receive one of these, no matter how excellent his qualifications. The Government of Ceylon saw to it that the scholarships always went to non-Muslims.

"In Japan I read a very interesting article about placing children of mothers who had been deserted by their American soldier husbands or children that were illegitimate. One sentence read 'for it is a fact that children of mixed marriages have a difficult time of it in Japan.'

"How very clear it is that all nations have their prejudices and it is not very hard to see that the basis is pride and selfishness. Since the just-mentioned nations do not claim

1958

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to be Christian, such attitudes are perhaps understandable. When they appear in a nation that claims to be Christian, they seem more difficult to understand. But when they appear among active church members themselves who, instead of being ashamed of them, lift pieces of Scripture out of their context to bolster their prejudices -- that really is beyond comprehension. It is a sad fact that these so-called Christians have in too many instances nullified the good deeds performed by those truly Christian in spirit."

**Saturday Washing** -- In a written test on the Biblical doctrine of man, one requirement was: "Write a paragraph on the Christian viewpoint in human relations." One student responded: "People are all brothers because they originally came from the same parents, Adam and Eve. Although some may be darker than others, or go to a different church, or do their washing on Saturday instead of Monday, is no reason for saying that one brother is better than another."

## That the Church May Lead

(Continued from page one)

since 1946 these same churches, and more like them which have been founded since that time, have the privilege of full synodical membership within the geographic districts in which they are found, two districts excepted.

In 1945, when the inclusion of congregations of predominantly Negro constituency was being discussed by an official committee of the mother church, one of the church's officials "accused" a committee member of wanting "white churches" to receive Negro members. But in 1956 The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod made an official pronouncement which in essence defines the Gospel of Christ as demanding the acceptance of people into the local congregation "regardless of race or ethnic origin." Yes, the church too has come a long way.

But we dare not cease to be "mildly excited." The word pronounced in 1956 has not as yet been changed into pulsating, vibrating life within the local congregation. We still have a long, long way to go. The time is short, and the sponsors of the Valparaiso University Institute on Human Relations know it. By inviting you to attend the Institute scheduled for July 25-27, they are inviting you to join the "mildly excited."

If you can keep your head when others all about you are losing theirs, maybe you don't understand the problem. -- (Selected)

## LUTHERAN HUMAN RELATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana

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