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The Vanguard

Lutheran Human Relations Association of  
America

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1981

## The Vanguard (Vol. 28, No. 9), Nov 1981

Lutheran Human Relations Association of America

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## LHRA-W improves communication

Communication. That's one of the goals of the Wisconsin State Council of Lutheran Human Relations.

With the help of a grant from the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Synod of the Lutheran Church in America, the LHRA-Wisconsin newsletter will continue to share information and resources with members throughout the state.

The newsletter, which is published four times a year, includes suggestions for doing advocacy work on issues of justice and peace within the state.

The grant will enable the Wisconsin Council leadership to expand the LHRA-W network. Beginning early this winter, VANGUARD readers from the state who are not presently on the LHRA-Wisconsin mailing list will receive the Wisconsin Council newsletter. Also, all LHRA-Wisconsin members will have the opportunity to begin receiving the VANGUARD each month.

All of this means that more folks from Wisconsin will have access to news about the activities, programs and concerns of both the State Council and the national Association.

For more information about LHRA-Wisconsin, contact Mrs. Pat Cardinal, 1154 W. Walworth St., Whitewater, WI 53190, 414/473-4733.

## LCMS Hispanic program

by Leonard Stahlke

Concordia Lutheran College of Austin, Texas, has begun a program to equip laypersons for serving in their respective congregations or areas in various forms of ministry.

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, in its 1977 Dallas convention instructed the college to develop a program that could aid the Hispanic Lutheran congregations in the United States in carrying out their Christian mission by better utilizing the ministry of laypersons interested in serving their Lord, but not able to leave their homes for various reasons, in order to seek preparation for such ministry. The goal of the program is to prepare people without any obligation on their part to entering the full-time professional ministry of the church, to "equip the saints" for their ministry.

Taking the decision of the church in convention seriously, Concordia decided to design a program that would basically follow the methodology of theological education by extension programs that can be found in many areas of the world, especially Latin America. In this program, students study under a tutor appointed by the program coordinator in Austin, where a permanent file is kept on each student. Concordia provides the course materials, and in the future hopes to have reference book deposits available at various regional centers for use by students and tutors.

Concordia offers these courses alongside its regular college-level curriculum. Students do not receive college-level credit for their course work, but rather course-cards are issued after every course, and a diploma upon completion of the entire curriculum. Though no specific level of previous academic credit is required for entrance to the program, it is expected that the students enrolled have sufficient background for their complete participation in the course work.

Ten courses form the basic curriculum of study: 1) Christian Education; 2) Comparative Denominational Doctrines; 3) Evangelism; 4) History of the Lutheran Reformation/Life of Luther; 5) Homiletics; 6) Introduction to Biblical Theology/Lutheran Confessions; 7) Lutheran Worship; 8) New Testament Introduction/Interpretation of Holy Scripture; 9) Old Testament Introduction; and 10) The Writings of John. Concordia requires fees for the various courses and pays stipends to the appointed tutors.

For more information please contact the Rev. Leonard Stahlke, Coordinator, Hispanic Lay Worker Program, Concordia Lutheran College, 3400 Interstate 35 North, Austin, TX 78705 512/452-7661

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**vanguard**  
(ISSN 0042-2568)

Volume 28 • Number 9 • November, 1981

Published monthly except January and August by the Lutheran Human Relations Association of America (LHRAA). 2703 North Sherman Blvd. Milwaukee, WI 53210 • 414/871-7300

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Susan and Charles Ruehle, Directors & Editors

VANGUARD is a member publication of the Associated Church Press and benefits from the services of the News Bureau of the Lutheran Council USA.

Lutheran Human Relations is an independent association of individuals and congregations from all Lutheran church bodies. Our mission is to enable Christians to carry out an active witness to Christ's life and love, to alleviate and, when possible, overcome racism, sexism, and other forms of injustice.

VANGUARD is sent to all LHRAA members. Tax-deductible membership contribution: \$15.00 or more.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to VANGUARD, 2703 N. Sherman Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53210

Second class postage paid at Milwaukee, WI

# vanguard

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53210

November, 1981

## PROGRAMAS HISPANOS PARA LA CAPACITACION DE OBREROS LAICOS

Por Leonard Stahlke

Concordia Lutheran College of Texas, Austin, ha dado principio a un programa para capacitar a laicos para funcionar en sus respectivos congregaciones o áreas en ministerios diversos.

La Iglesia Luterana-Sinodo de Misuri, en su convención celebrada en Dallas, Texas, entregó a Concordia College, a responsabilidad de formar programa que pudiera ayudar a las congregaciones luteranas hispanas dentro de los Estados Unidos en llevar cabo su misión cristiana para así gozar mejor de ministerio de personas laicas que tuvieran la buena voluntad de servir a su Señor, pero, por razones diversas, no pudieran salir de sus hogares para prepararse. El objetivo es de preparar a personas sin la obligación que ellas entren a un ministerio profesional de tiempo completo en las iglesias, de «equipar a los santos» para su ministerio.

Tomando seriamente la decisión de la iglesia en convención, Concordia decidió diseñar un programa que seguiría básicamente la metodología de los programas de preparación teológica por extensión que se han hecho numerosos en áreas mundiales fuera de los Estados Unidos, especialmente también en América Latina. En este programa los estudiantes llevan sus estudios bajo un tutor nombrado por la oficina del coordinador del programa Austin, donde se mantiene un expediente para cada estudiante. Concordia provee los materiales de curso y en el futuro espera tener a la disposición de varios centros regionales depósitos de libros de referencia que podrían ser usados por los respectivos estudiantes y tutores.

Concordia ofrece sus cursos al lado de su currículum regular de estudios. Los estudiantes inscritos no reciben crédito académico a nivel universitario, sino una constancia por cada curso llevado

y un diploma al haber terminado todos los cursos del currículum. Aunque no se requiere ningún grado para inscribirse, se espera que los estudiantes hayan alcanzado un nivel que permita sus participación completa en los estudios.

Hay diez cursos que forman el currículum básico de este programa:

1) Culto Luterano; 2) Doctrinas Denominacionales Comparadas; 3) Educación Cristiana; 4) Escritos de Juan; 5) Evangelismo; 6) Historia de la Reforma Luterana/Vida de Lutero; 7) Homilética; 8) Introducción al Antiguo Testamento; 9) Introducción al Nuevo Testamento/Interpretación de las Sagradas Escrituras; 10) Introducción a la Teología Bíblica/Confesiones Luteranas. Concordia cobra las cuotas respectivas y cubre los estipendios para los tutores.

Para más información favor de comunicarse con el Rev. Leonard Stahlke, Coordinador, Hispanic Lay Worker Program, Concordia Lutheran College, 3400 Interstate 35 North, Austin Texas, 78705, (512) 452-7661.

Hafeezah Ahmad (left), a VISTA worker with Rental Management Enterprise in Milwaukee, WI, talks with contractor Lorenzo Young in a near westside Chicago apartment. Young used housing co-op volunteers to rehabilitate a 16 unit building for Bethel Housing Inc.



## Urban churches share housing strategies

by Joseph Ellwanger

New ideas and mutual encouragement in urban ministry. Those were two of the dividends received by eight persons from Cross Lutheran Church, Rental Management Enterprise, and Lutheran Social Action Conference of Milwaukee during a recent visit to Bethel Lutheran Church in Chicago.

The idea for the visit was sparked by the sharing that took place between the Milwaukee group and Mary Nelson, Director of Bethel Housing Inc., at the 1981 Human Relations Institute.

A two-hour dialog during dinner helped the Milwaukee delegation understand some of the history of Bethel's various ministries. It also addressed the crucial question, "Where do you get your funding?"

One of the highlights of the weekend was a tour of several buildings in the various stages of the rehabilitation process.

A housing cooperative sponsored by Bethel Housing is lowering the actual cost of rehabilitation by 30 percent. This is being accomplished through the use of "sweat equity" on the part of future residents.

Other significant results of the housing co-op include the interaction on the part of all residents (in place of the usual urban anonymity), a sense of ownership of the program, a workable self-management of the building, the development of leadership among the residents, and lower monthly housing costs.

The group learned that one of the keys to the success of a housing co-op in the initial rehabilitation stages is the procurement of a contractor who accepts the concept of the cooperative's goals, and who works well with volunteers. Bethel Housing was fortunate in finding such an individual; a young Black contractor, Lorenzo Young.

The dialog and inspection tour were only a brief exposure to the variety of ministries at Bethel Church. Other activities include a small sewing industry co-op, a food co-op, a senior citizen center, an 8 grade parish school, and a day-care center.

A very important part of the weekend was the Sunday morning worship. It's clear that worship is not a side activity of the congregation, but the central gathering of God's people. It is where the Gospel is celebrated and shared with one another as the Good News that empowers people to be involved in ministry.

As a result of the weekend, a return trip of Bethel's choirs and people to Cross Church in Milwaukee is being planned. The weekend at Cross, an urban parish with many similarities to Bethel, is tentatively set for the Spring of 1982.

For more information, contact Dr. Mary Nelson, Bethel Housing Inc., 367 N. Karlov, Chicago, IL 60624.

The Rev. Joseph Ellwanger is pastor of Cross Lutheran Church in Milwaukee.



## EDITORIAL

# Hold the celebration!

by Susan and Charles Ruehle

We love anniversaries. They're joyful events for our family and they include lots of celebrating.

But on the day of a recent anniversary we weren't really sure if there was any reason to celebrate.

No, our marriage isn't on the rocks. We're referring to the first anniversary of the American Lutheran Church's commitment to divest funds from South Africa.

Last October, the ALC convention declared its judgment that divestment from corporations doing business in South Africa is the most effective strategy for combating apartheid. The convention asked that divestment take place in a prudent manner that is consistent with legal requirements and that does not place undue risk on the ALC investment portfolio. (See November 1980 VANGUARD)

### Looking Back

As we reflect on the activity of this past year, it's not clear what the ALC has done. Reports indicated that the trustees studied the issue for many months, finally adopting a response this past May which stated that in the buying and selling of securities, where economic considerations are equal, the trustees will "choose in favor of the company not doing business in South Africa."

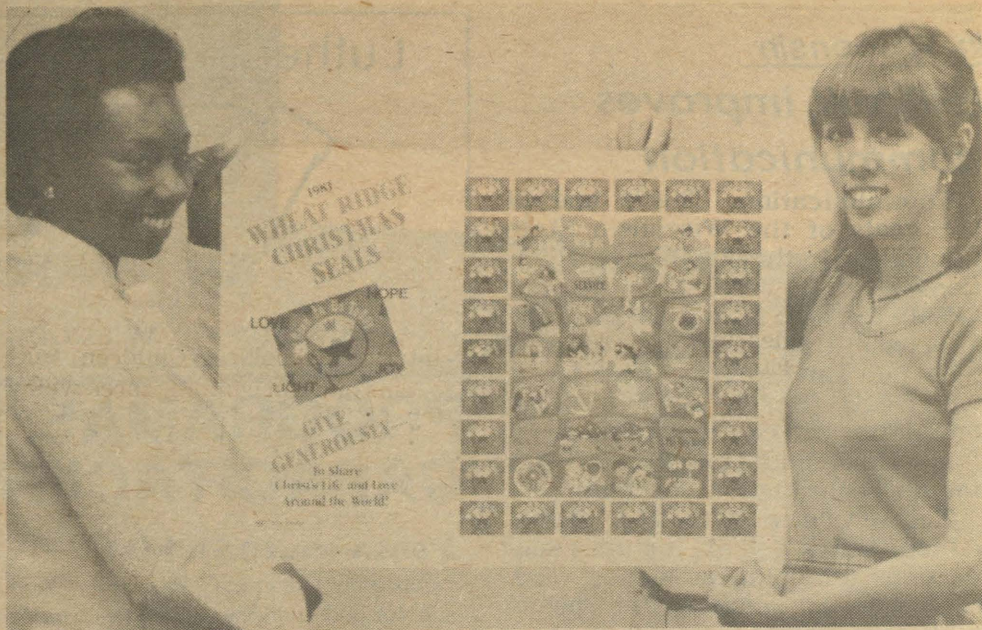
In June, the trustees reported to the ALC Church Council that stock in four corporations had been sold and that the ALC still has holdings in 22 corporations at work in South Africa.

### In the Meantime

Since June we haven't read about any further action. We have, however, read reports that repeat arguments opposed to divestment. Most of these arguments were presented to and rejected by the ALC convention over a year ago. The motto appears to be "keep up the talk because it's virtually impossible to withdraw."

We're in favor of continued discussion. But in the meantime, what's happened with the 22 corporations in the ALC portfolio? We don't believe that the trustees current response to divestment is the only possible "prudent" answer.

In any event, we'll wait for more action before we plan the celebration.



### Born in us today...

Wheat Ridge secretary Juanita Tryman (left) and Seals artist Wendy Brusick display a poster showing the 1981 Wheat Ridge Seals which Ms. Brusick designed. Seals contributions help support some 50 projects annually in health, education and social service. Haitian resettlement work in Florida, church-related community organization projects in Detroit and in rural Oklahoma, and career development for urban youth in Chicago are among Wheat Ridge's current ministries. For information contact Wheat Ridge, 7 South Dearborn, Chicago, IL 60603; 312/253-1182.

Are you interested in serving on LHRAA's board of directors? Would you like to recommend someone else? Send name(s), address, and brief background to the chairperson of the board's nominating committee, Dr. Faith Burgess, Lutheran Theological Seminary, 7301 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19119. Deadline: February 1.

# Recommendations from the 1981 Institute

During the 1981 Human Relations Institute, participants passed six recommendations to the Lutheran Human Relations board of directors and to the larger church. Those recommendations are summarized below. The actions of the board of directors are included with the summaries. You are welcome to request copies of the complete resolutions by contacting Lutheran Human Relations, 2703 N. Sherman Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53210, 414-871-7300.

#### 1. RECOMMENDATION ON MEETING HUMAN NEEDS

This recommendation covers the "disastrous effects of the federal government reversing fifty years of continuing struggle to meet basic human needs." The recommendation denounces the present government policy as an unjust and callous response to human suffering. It calls on LHRAA members to monitor current policies and act in faithfulness to the Gospel.

*The Board will continue to monitor the issues raised by this resolution. The VANGUARD will be the primary vehicle by which these issues are addressed.*

#### 2. RECOMMENDATION ON AN INCLUSIVE CHURCH

While rejoicing in current action regarding greater unity in the structure and ministry of the Lutheran Churches in the U.S., the Institute participants recommended that such action should be representative of an inclusive church. The recommendation states that appointed or elected boards, committees, or task forces working on the unity issue include racial minorities, lay persons and women.

*The Board has sent the recommendation to members of the Committee on Lutheran Unity with a cover letter underlining the concerns of LHRAA for an inclusive Church.*

#### 3. RECOMMENDATION ON THE FAMILY PROTECTION ACT

The Institute participants recommended that the Family Protection Act, as it is currently being studied in Congress, be opposed on the grounds that it denies equal justice for all people. It called upon the Lutheran Council to "continue its efforts to oppose this misguided legislation."

*The Board affirmed this recommendation and has communicated its opposition to the Family Protection Act to the Lutheran Council's Office of Governmental Affairs in Washington, D.C.*

#### 4. RECOMMENDATION ON PRINCE OF PEACE CORPS

This recommendation cites cutbacks of the VISTA program, and the reliance upon churches and church agencies to meet the needs of poor people. Judicatories were called upon to establish a "Prince of Peace Corps" as a vehicle for recruiting people to volunteer a year or two of their lives to work in congregations and agencies dealing with the issues and needs of the poor.

*The Board affirmed this recommendation and is keeping abreast of past and present volunteer programs. LHRAA will encourage church bodies to enable these programs whenever possible.*

#### 5. RECOMMENDATION ON INFANT FORMULA

This recommendation is an affirmation of the senators and representatives who "so courageously cast their vote in favor of the World Health Organization code on Infant formula." It also urges LHRAA members to send letters to their senators and representatives congratulating them

on their stand. LHRAA members are encouraged to support the work of those groups and individuals working on the implementation of the International Infant Formula code.

*The Board affirmed this recommendation and shared it with persons concerned through a news release. LHRAA has had responses from the White House, from Senator David Durenberger (the author of the bill), and INFAC. VANGUARD will continue to follow the progress of the International Infant Formula Code.*

#### 6. RECOMMENDATION ON THE ERNEST LACY DEATH

This recommendation is in regard to a July incident in Milwaukee where a 22-year-old Black man died while in police custody. Institute participants commended the Milwaukee Police and Fire Commission for its unanimous decision to suspend the officers involved until an investigation was complete. The recommendation also asked for a policy requiring the suspension of officers in any case where a person dies in police custody under circumstances other than self-defense. It also expressed sympathy to the parents, family and congregation of Ernest Lacy.

*The Board affirmed this recommendation and staff shared it with individuals concerned. It was sent out as a news release. One response was from Arthur Flemming, chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, stating that he was urging the U.S. Department of Justice to conduct an investigation into the Lacy death. A Coroner's inquest was held, and jurors determined the police officers should be charged with reckless homicide.*

## COMMENTARY

# Nestle: At it again

by Helen Roang

In May, by a resounding vote of 118-1, the World Health Assembly meeting in Geneva adopted an International Code for Marketing of Infant Formula (See May 1981 VANGUARD)

The code empowers each member nation to set up its own enabling legislation, and it strongly urges infant formula companies to change their marketing practices to conform with Code guidelines.

Until all of this legislation is in place it's more crucial than ever to continue the Nestle Boycott. Here's why:

Having lost the battle on the international level (Nestle fought the Code every step of the way) the company has recently mailed out a slick "press release" to hundreds of thousands of people, asserting that it supports and will follow "the stated aim of the Code," so there is no longer a need for the Boycott. But the facts show that the situation is very different.

FACT: In late July, 1981, Arthur Furer, Nestle chairman, told a delegation of high-level church leaders (representatives of the National Council of Churches) that his company will not follow specific crucial Code provisions until forced by law



to do-so in each of the 118 countries which voted for its adoption.

FACT: Nestle further told this church body that it will continue its policy of lobbying government officials to undermine and water down the WHO Code.

FACT: The Nestle Company has stated prominently and publicly that it will be glad to hold further discussions on

the subject. Therefore, the National Council of Churches has set up numerous negotiation meetings. To date, there has been no response from the company to those invitations.

Nestle is a huge, powerful corporation. It has the clout to sabotage the entire WHO CODE process. The boycott must continue, because it is working.

Financial reports indicate a 16% loss for U.S. Nestle in 1980. This economic impact is our only weapon. Simply stated, when we don't buy Nestle products, the company loses money. When the Boycott reduces profits by an amount greater than the formula promotion develops sales, Nestle's unethical promotion will stop.

Ten million dying babies have no advocate but us against this corporate giant. Join the international movement of people of good will who are outraged by the Baby Bottle Scandal. Please, continue to boycott Nestle and help bring the WHO Code home.

Helen Roang, from Edgertown, Wis., is the former vice president of the American Lutheran Church Women/Southern Wisconsin District.



## resources we recommend

### Indochinese Refugee bibliography

The Indochinese Materials Center has published an eighty-five page bibliography of materials for working with Indochinese refugees. The catalog includes resources from the IMC and twenty-five other organizations. It includes text and workbooks for teaching English, curricular and supplementary materials for teaching Vietnamese, Cambodians, Laotians, and Chinese speaking Indochinese. There is also material on resettlement and general information concerning Asians. FROM: Indochinese Materials Center, U.S. Department of Education, 324 East 11th Street, 9th Floor, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106.

### Women

A fine collection of articles on and about women's issues. This is the June issue of the Newsletter from the Women's desk of the Lutheran World

Federation. It's 34 pages long and contains an interesting Bible study: "The crippled Woman is set free" ... FROM: Women's Desk, Lutheran World Federation/Department of Studies, 150 Route de Ferney, CH1211, Geneva 20, Switzerland.

### Interracial books for Children: Bulletin

This bulletin contains three well written articles dealing with racism and sexism in children's literature. One article of special note is titled: "Whitewashing White Racists: Junior Scholastic and the KKK." This is an important resource for persons working with children's literature. Also available from the Council on Interracial Books for Children is the 1981-1982 Catalog on Racism and Sexism resources for educators. FROM: Interracial Books for Children, 1841 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10023.



Welcome...

Julura Fleming and Pastor Mick Roschke talked during an open house at the Lutheran Human Relations offices in mid-October. The event, for over 50 guests, took place during the fall meeting of the LHRAA Board of Directors.

## PERSPECTIVE

...once again the government is playing games with my basic right as a citizen of this country

For the first time in my adult life, I've had to think about my right to vote. I've always believed that this right is guaranteed to all citizens. As a matter of fact, when I became eligible, I rushed to the election commission to add my name to the roll. I felt good because I could help determine who was going to run the government on my behalf.

Yet, at the recent national assembly on Lutheran Social Ministry I was jolted from what may have been a case of complacency. Through a session entitled: "Civil rights under attack" which I moderated, I learned that racial and ethnic group people were about to lose the protection of the voting rights act of 1965.

Why, I wondered, is there a desire to drop a vital and effective piece of legislation which has assured racial and ethnic group people full participation in the political process? Why, after so many people have fought, lobbied, served jail sentences, and died, to assure this basic right of all people, is the government so insensitive to the needs of people?

Not only did the administration's position raise those questions for

me; it raised some feelings. I felt frustrated and angry because once again the government is playing games with my basic right as a citizen of this country. That's ludicrous! The right to vote is fundamental for all people! It's an opportunity for voices to be heard.

I also felt threatened with all the budget cuts, the high interest rate, the high prices of food and shelter, and the desire of the rich to get richer at the expense of poor people; this symbolizes one more aspect of life being whittled away to a mere branch of nothingness.

I am very concerned about this vital piece of legislation which effects racial and ethnic group people. It provides hope. It guarantees the gains which have been made and opens the political processes to even greater involvement for people who have traditionally been excluded from the political arena.

I trust the Senate will see the issue as one of equal protection of this basic right rather than an opportunity to encourage discrimination and racism.

*Editor's Note: Last month the house approved, by an overwhelming majority, an extension of the Voting Rights Act which has the support of many civil rights organizations. The struggle to get this bill approved in the Senate is expected to be very difficult.*

*The Rev. Richard Perry is a member of the board of LHRAA and director of Lutheran Minority Ministries, North Carolina Synod of the Lutheran Church in America.*

## RICHARD PERRY

## BOOKS·BOOKS·BOOKS

### Truth about the Klan

**VIOLENCE, The KU KLUX KLAN, AND THE STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY**

**Council on Interracial Books for Children**

**New York, 1981 paper, \$4.95**

"What the Klan cannot stand is for the truth to be told about it. That is what the teachers should do."

This informative booklet and study guide has as its goal meeting the challenge laid down by the above editorial statements from the Nashville TENNESSEAN, a statement which serves as the book's forward. It is a goal of no small urgency. Long assumed to be a strictly southern racist cabal, the Ku Klux Klan has seized upon an era of increased racial tension and economic scapegoating of minorities to promote its program of hatred and violence across our nation.

Recent Klan activity in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, California, Michigan, and Illinois (to mention only some in the north) has stunned communities and sent religious and educational leaders searching for resources to uncover the facts behind the Klan's "new image." The search has met with limited success, and into a relative void steps this valuable educational tool.

Developed at the initiative of the Connecticut Education Association, and with the cooperation of the Council on Interracial Books for children and the National Education Association, the book is aimed for use with high-school youth. A special target of Klan recruiting, youth are easily misled by the new tactics of the KKK, who have learned to temper their public racist rhetoric, dress in three-piece suits and appear on television talk shows. But behind this carefully constructed facade lurks an old story: cross burnings, beatings, bombings, and shootings. To teach the truth about the Klan, one needs accurate and reliable information such as that provided by this book.

The book contains a helpful introduction, and cautions the prospective teacher to employ "critical sensitivity," noting the emotionally-charged climate of the classroom in which the curriculum might be taught. Twelve pages of

concise background information are followed by eleven extensive lesson plans, covering such aspects as: birth of the Ku Klux Klan, the death of reconstruction, the beginnings of white supremacy, the civil rights era, thoughts of an ex-klansman, and two on myth vs. reality.

Also included are a glossary of terms and an excellent annotated bibliography of books, printed materials, audio-visual aids, and addresses of organizational sources of additional information. Throughout the book is illustrated with photographs, historical documents and drawings which confirm the true danger of the Klan, old or new.

The sponsoring organizations are to be commended for their work in preparing this long-needed resource, for which wide use ought to be urged. Congregations, parents and concerned citizens should promote the use of this curriculum in local school systems.

For the religious educator, this book combined with study of Scripture and Church Social Statements offers unique possibilities for timely educational ministry with youth and adults. The Ku Klux Klan is a very real danger, not only to the best for which this nation stands, but to the Truth which we proclaim as that which sets free. This book can assist our witness to that Truth.

*Reviewer Bruce Steinway is pastor of Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Willimantic, Conn.*

### EARTHKEEPING: CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

**OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Edited by Loren Wilkinson**

**Eerdmans, 1980, \$10.95**

*Earthkeeping* is a book on lifestyles. It combines inspiration, hard facts and humor to make it an excellent volume for those of us who struggle with love/justice issues and the facts of diminishing natural resources.

What does it mean to be a modern day Adam, put in the garden to "till and keep it," or to be a Noah commissioned to care for God's creation? Is nature only for human comfort and survival and divorced from the sacrificial death of Christ?

The book is the combined effort of various Christian

scholars from a wide variety of disciplines who remind the reader of the theological and historical roots whereby Christian thought revolves more around personal than cosmic salvation. "We have seen the rest of the world merely as background for the human drama of salvation." As a result we have tended to view our power to extract and use natural resources and our pollution and waste as our right.

As one reads the succinct chapters on the historical view of philosophy, economics and political realities, one is made aware of the complexity of the problems but left with a feeling of hope rather than despair.

*Earthkeeping* is a fine discussion book. The sections on agriculture, nuclear power and problems of development are balanced and thought provoking. General guidelines for being good earthkeepers are included to help Christians live out our responsibility to the creator who filled the earth and made us caretakers.

*Reviewer Mary Schramm lives at Holden Village in Chelan, WA*

### MARTIN IS MY FRIEND

**by Eveline Hasler**

**Illustrated by Dorothea Des Marowitz**

**Abingdon, Nashville, 1981**

This book is about Martin. He's a little handicapped boy. It's not easy for him to walk. Some of the grown-ups in the book say he's retarded.

From reading this story I learned that handicapped children can still ride horses, and they can go to school. They can play and go to parks.

I also learned that sometimes when you're afraid to try something, if you do it, you can have fun. Just like me and swimming.

I liked the pictures. I would tell other children; "You should read this. it's a good story."

It would be nice to have a friend like Martin.

*Reviewer Matthew Ruehle, from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is in the 2nd grade.*

*(Editors' note: We thought other adults might like to know about this story in time to do their Christmas shopping.)*



# World Food Day

"It was a phenomenal success, especially when you understand that it was done with an all volunteer staff and limited financial resources."

Patricia Young was giving her reaction to the annual World Food Day events which took place on October 16th.

Young, the national coordinator of the Committee for World Food Day, listed a variety of activities that occurred across the country.

- There was a Presidential declaration, a bi-partisan congressional resolution and statements from all 50 U.S. governors.

- The full day of proceedings at the United Nations focused on world hunger issues.

- Bread for the World released a five year legislative plan for dealing with hunger concerns.

- In many U.S. cities, community-wide coalitions sponsored day long events which featured speakers, displays, educational activities and legislative advocacy.

Young pointed out that many schools and churches were involved in these events saying "We got a

lot of mail from Lutherans asking us for information."

Young feels that 3 basic goals were accomplished by the first year's event.

1. World Food Day has received official recognition from political and community leadership.

2. It's on the calendar of hunger activists. The event will be held on October 16th every year.

3. Preliminary relationships have been forged with non-governmental agencies around the world.

The National Committee for World Food Day will continue its work. It will offer further suggestions on year round planning and programs. As a recent letter from Young stated, "We have to remember that hunger won't be eliminated by a one-day observance. We are building a new network of concerned people willing to carry on the struggle year round and year after year."

For more information, contact Patricia Young, National Committee for World Food Day, 1776 F. Street, NW, Washington, DC 20437, 203/376-2306.

# IN THE NEWS ...

After meeting with government officials, educators, and North American church leaders, the president of the Lutheran World Federation, Bishop Josiah Kibira of Tanzania, said he was "grateful to the churches for their aid," anxious that there be more and better informing of Americans as to conditions in Africa, and that he had a "wait and see" attitude about a solution to the tense situation in Namibia.

Who are the people who receive the minimum social security payment of \$122 a month? 16,000 are over 95 years old, about 500,000 are over 80, 2/3 are over 70, and 85% are women.

A conference focusing on the scope and seriousness of the world refugee problem will be held at Wartburg College on January 13, 1982. For information, contact Dr. Herman Diers, Convocation Committee, Wartburg College, Waverly, IA 50677

Norma E. Knutson of Minneapolis has joined the American Lutheran Church's Division for Service and Mission in America as director for urban and ethnic ministries. Knutson, who began her duties on October 6th, succeeds James L. Sims, Jr.

After two years of study, the annual assembly of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina (UELCA) has approved, by an overwhelming majority, the ordination of women to the ministry. The UELCA is the first Lutheran World Federation member church in Latin America to approve it formally.

## LCA announces African advocacy efforts

"If you read about SWAPO terrorists in Namibia and it's reported that 10 were killed by South African troops, you can be fairly certain that 8 of those killed were Christian and 5 were Lutheran."

When Pastor John Evenson talks about the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and the one sided news reports we often read concerning the Namibian struggle for freedom, he wants to tell the whole story. Evenson, director for interpretation for the LCA's Division for Mission in North America (DMNA), shares other news that we don't often read. For example, SWAPO refugee camps have chapels with daily worship services. Christian instruction, including confirmation, is carried on regularly.

### Advocacy

"We have had a request, a cry for help" from Lutheran church leaders in Namibia, Evenson said when describing current advocacy efforts of the Lutheran Church in America. He outlined those efforts as falling into several areas:

- **Prayer:** The church is called upon to make intercession both for and with the people of Namibia and South Africa.

- **Solidarity:** Americans are encouraged to write to Namibian Church leaders, to let them know that we support them.

- **Economic and political action:** South Africa is pleased with the present administration's stand on apartheid. It's important that we make our witness and tell the truth. Write to members of congress who support the people of Namibia.

"DMNA is sensitive to the importance of the

U.S. Government's position on Southern Africa issues," said Dr. Kenneth Senft, DMNA executive director, about the Namibia advocacy effort. "Therefore we are trying to keep before the U.S. and Canadian Governments the promise of the right of self-determination by the Namibian

people for their own government."

Evenson relates how a brief exchange with a Namibian summed up the need for advocacy. The young man said, "I've read your Declaration of Independence. That's what we want. Why won't your government help us?"

### Resources

The LCA is producing resources for persons who want to learn and do more about the current situation in Namibia.

A 20 minute film entitled "A Cry for Freedom" was produced and directed by Evenson. The film depicts the present status of the 1.1 million Namibians, the great majority of whom are Black. It also talks about the Lutheran Church's response. The film is available from LCA synod film libraries and distribution centers, nation-wide.

A quarterly newsletter called "Dateline: Namibia" is also being published. It focuses on the issues and people involved in the Namibian struggle. The October, 1981 issue provides background information and includes an interview with the Rev. Dr. Albertus Maasdorf, a Lutheran pastor and general secretary of the Council of Churches in Namibia. The newsletter will be sent to all LCA congregations. Other congregations and individuals may receive the newsletter by requesting it from Evenson's office.

For further information on the newsletter and film, contact the Rev. John A. Evenson, Division for Mission in North America, Lutheran Church in America, 231 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016, 212/696-6840. The film will also be available from LHRAA for a small handling fee to cover postage.



### Dateline Namibia. . .

Dr. Kenneth Senft, executive director of the LCA's Division for Mission in North America (left), and Pastor John Evenson, the division's director for interpretation, look over the first issue of Dateline Namibia. The quarterly newsletter will help individuals and congregations focus on events and issues in South Africa.

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