



Lutheran World Action BULLETIN

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Unexpected Gifts Provide Salary For Missionary Doctor in Africa

At the last meeting of the Commission on Younger Churches and Orphaned Missions, Dr. Fredrik Schiotz, executive secretary, told this amazing story of providential supplement to the tightly stretched LWA budget for 1949.

From Dr. George Anderson, the mission superintendent in Tanganyika, Africa, Dr. Schiotz received word in February that a German medical missionary, Dr. W., whom the government had interned during the war and proposed to return to Germany, had been granted permission to remain in Tanganyika if the mission would employ him. Dr. Anderson had for a long time been seeking to secure this man's release for missionary service but had given up all hope that this might be granted. The government's reversal in this matter left Dr. Anderson unprepared to place the medical doctor on salary for the mission. He well knew that the 1949 budget was stretched as tight as a drum. Nevertheless, he wrote to Dr. Schiotz to see if anything could be done.

Dr. Schiotz had to reply, "There is no further room in the 1949 budget. You could request the other missionaries to try to provide Dr. W. with subsistence for a year and then include him in the staff for which askings will be made in 1950."

Dr. Schiotz was keenly aware of the need for additional funds for all the orphaned mission fields. Minimum askings had been cut to the bone before the attempt was made to squeeze them all into the LWA budget for 1949. Even with a dozen shoe horns they wouldn't fit. So every field had to be told to cut into the bone and find a way to reduce their budgets even farther. Small wonder that there was no room for "expansion," even to gain a badly needed medical missionary. Tanganyika, of course, has been operating with a mission staff one-third its normal pre-war size.

There seemed to be no solution to the problem of how to support Dr. W. Then things began to happen.

From Palestine three congregations of Arab Christians sent in \$173.64 to be used for missions. They termed this an expression of gratitude for the aid given by Lutherans in America. It represented Christmas offerings by the congregations in Jerusalem, Beit Jala and Bethlehem. This initial support was forwarded to Tanganyika for Dr. W. and his family.

Then came another surprise — an anonymous gift, prompted by a disturbed conscience. Years ago a Sunday School teacher had made personal use of \$10 from a mission fund of which she was treasurer. In repentance she now gave \$1,000 to be used for missions. Half of this was designated for Dr. W. by the congregational officers who forwarded the funds to the National Lutheran Council. An account of the Tanganyika doctor had appeared in the March issue of *The National Lutheran*.

Praise God for this unusual aid in an unusual emergency.



This young man is learning to be a tailor. The material being cut was a gift of Lutheran World Relief distributed through CRALOG. See story on Page 2.

Dr. Schiotz On Tour Of Orphaned Mission Fields in Africa

Dr. Fredrik A. Schiotz, executive secretary of the Commission on Younger Churches and Orphaned Missions, left by plane April 19 for South Africa, first stop on a 15-week tour of orphaned mission fields.

Landing at Johannesburg, South Africa, Dr. Schiotz visited the fields of the Berlin and Hermannsburg Mission societies. He is now in Tanganyika, East Africa, where he is to spend two months.

From Africa Dr. Schiotz will go to England for the first meeting of the Lutheran World Federation's Commission on World Missions, meeting at Oxford, England during July. Before returning home he will also attend the meeting of the executive committee of the Lutheran World Federation at Oxford, July 16-20, and will go to Germany to confer with secretaries of German mission societies which receive aid from Lutheran World Action funds.

Dr. Schiotz plans to return to New York early in August.

Still Time To Order Vacation Bible School Material -- But Hurry!

If you are still making plans for your Vacation Bible School, or for your Sunday School for that matter, it's worth your while to investigate the material prepared by Lutheran World Action. Since the April issue of the LWA Bulletin was mailed, several hundred cards have been returned to the LWA headquarters, requesting samples of the material or ordering it for use in schools, but there is still a good supply on hand.

The material is essentially the same as was used last year, except that it has been brought completely up to date with the addition of seven pages of supplementary material. The same packet includes 21 items, 16 of which may be ordered in quantity. The pupil's manual includes lessons on the LWA activities with exercises and review problems.

Where local conditions make it difficult to use the material in Bible school classes, pastors will still find it useful for sermon material or for use in Sunday School presentations of LWA. The major portion of the material as well as the pictures have not been used in other literature.

All samples and orders for Vacation Bible School material should be sent to the LWA headquarters at 231 Madison Avenue, New York 16, N. Y. Area distribution centers are NOT handling this material.

However, the regular area distribution centers have recordings which may be used with the Bible school material. They include five records which are to be used to supplement the lesson material.

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Dr. Empie Visits Europe On AMG Invitation

Dr. Paul C. Empie, executive director of the National Lutheran Council, is spending May and June in Germany under the auspices of the Education and Cultural Relations Division of the American Military Government.

During his assignment, Dr. Empie will be in close association with German church people who represent various phases of religious activity. He will remain abroad during July to attend the meeting of the executive committee of the Lutheran World Federation at Oxford, England.

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A CHECK FOR \$1,000 WAS RECEIVED recently from a woman who specified that it should go to Lutheran World Action projects in South America. Presumably it will go to the work of resettling Lutheran displaced persons on that continent.

Lutherans in Cologne Dedicate Rubble Church from LWF

*By The Rev. M. O. Dietrich, European Representative
of the U.S.A. Committee for the Lutheran World Federation.*

On my desk in the Geneva office of the Lutheran World Federation, there stands a perfect miniature replica of the famed Cologne Cathedral. In spite of heavy damage done by air attacks in the immediate neighborhood of the cathedral, this shrine of the Roman Catholic church remains like a miracle relatively undamaged. The nave itself it still walled off to the public, but the choir is again in full use. When I stepped into this church briefly some weeks ago, I was greeted by several men gowned in heavy red robes. They silently thrust empty plates towards me, asking for an offering for the rebuilding and repair of their church.

The little silver replica stands upon a heap of photographs which were taken upon the occasion of the dedication of the second Lutheran rubble church in Germany. This little church stands in one of the industrial suburbs of Cologne and it is the insignificant rubble church which interests me very much more than the imposing edifice of the Cologne cathedral.

On a cold winter Sunday morning, I drove through the desolate streets of Mülheim on my way to the dedication services which were conducted in this "Notkirche" upon the occasion of presenting it to the glory of God and to the service of His people.

The procession of pastors and vestrymen moved from a nearby rebuilt house down the wet, slippery streets toward the church which now stands in the midst of ruined and hollow houses. The members of the parish were already in their pews. But by far not all of them, because the new church had room for only 400 people. Many more would gladly have come, but they would have to await another service later on in the day or on some other Sunday.

Special cards of invitation had been sent to specifically chosen people from the congregation and the neighboring parishes. Those who had gathered in their evenings or on Sundays to chip and to sandpaper bricks, those who had dug in the ruins to locate usable rubble, those who in a dozen ways had applied their time and their talents to make this church possible, were among those who were privileged to attend.

As the service opened, the vestrymen moved to the altar and presented the altar vessels of the old church to the pastor, who citing biblical quotations, placed them reverently in their proper place. Two retired pastors of the congregation, humble and glad, stood alongside the local pastor as he conducted the service and the synodical president, who conducted the act of dedication. The link with the glorious past of

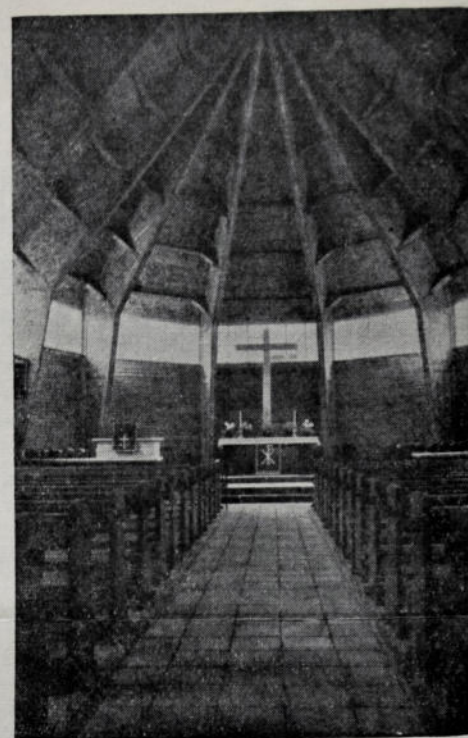
the church was made very visible when these two white-haired pastors briefly spoke their deeply felt greetings to their congregation.

The a capella singing of the choir beautified the service with its messages taken from Bach, Schütz and Buxtehude. The sermon was preached by the representative of the Lutheran World Federation, who spoke of the significance of a church which was emerging out of a landscape of turmoil and dismay in this day. He linked up this new rubble church with the people of the congregation and their loyal endeavors with fellow Christians abroad who refuse to abandon or forget their German brethren behind the miracle of every church. It was an unforgettable service which was conducted in this unpretentious chapel there at the foot of a huge 10-foot, rough-hewn cross standing four square feet behind the altar.

After the service, Pastor Lechner and I strolled and climbed about the neighboring property. Adjoining the church on all sides, were ruins, rubble and debris. It was there that the people had gathered in full faithfulness and recovered the material necessary for the rebuilding of Zion's walls. One quick afternoon raid on a September Saturday in 1944 had succeeded in creating all these ruins and it had now taken these people several months to excavate the bricks needed for the House of God. A stone's throw from the new church, stood the empty hulk of the once proud Martin Luther Church into which at least eight rubble churches would have fitted. High in its lonely tower, there still hung a bell which has remained silent since the day of the great raid because far and wide no ladder could be found to reach it in its lofty and distant position.

And then it occurred to me how odd this was: usually a congregation moves from a small modest building to one which is larger and better equipped. But here I found myself among people who having been deprived of their former building with all its glorious memories were now thrilled that they could move into a simple chapel of the Lord that stood almost camouflaged in the same brick bareness with the ruined walls all around.

This is obviously a faithful congregation, valiantly upholding its Protestant tradition and faith in the midst of a strong Roman Catholic majority. All reports speak of their loyalty and generosity. Even the two retired pastors had gone tirelessly from home to home, gathering funds so that the congregation could meet its share of the expenses. From the children had come the heavy altar candles and from the women of the congregation, the paraments. Scores of people had come regularly, simply to



This is an interior view of the Cologne rubble church, about which Pastor Dietrich writes in the accompanying article. This is one of 25 or 30 which are being built by bombed-out congregations, with the help of Lutherans in America. From the 1948 LWA total of \$4,097,791, officials allocated \$300,000 to help build rubble churches.

build by the labor of their bare hands, and now we hear — as the best report of all others — that the church is filled every Sunday with Christian worshippers.

It is impossible to repeat the many expressions of gratitude which I heard that day. The ears of the American churches should be burning continually with joy. But perhaps significant, in the midst of all of them, is the statement made by the vestry president, members of whose family have served with a sense of responsibility in the vestry for almost the entire 200 years of the congregation's history. He is a prominent business man of the city of Cologne and in his startling forwardness, said publicly: "Without your decisive aid, we simply would have no church."

When the pastor wrote his report concerning this momentous day in the life of his congregation, he concluded with these words: "Once again our grateful hearts wing their way to the hearts of those abroad who have become our helpers. It is our sincere hope that the contact which has now been created between them and us should not be broken by what — visibly and invisibly — ought to be maintained. We should be most happy if now and then a guest would come to us from our American churches in order to see our Martin Luther Rubble Church and to become acquainted with our congregation. We would be very happy if our friends abroad would tell us of their hopes, of their work, and of their congregational life, and that those who until now are unknown to one another might all learn to make real the word of St. Paul, 'Bear ye one another's burden'."