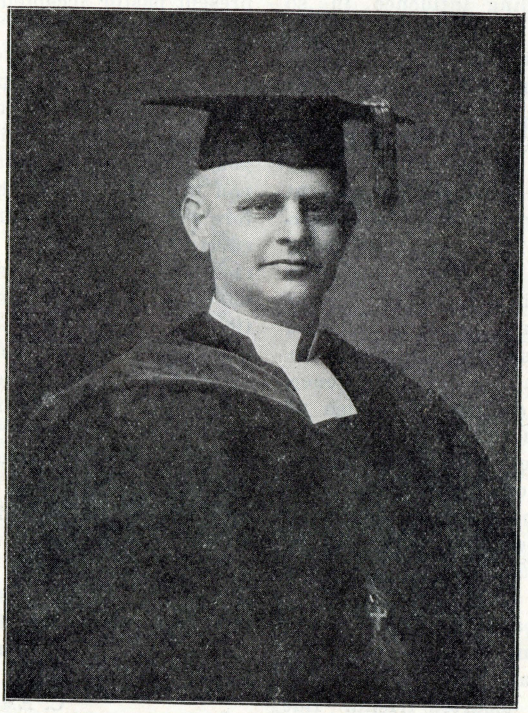
1929

SUPPLEMENT

BETHEL COMPANION

Vol. XXIX Rock Island and Chicago, Ill. No. 3

In Memoriam



DR. A. P. FORS,
Bethel's Pastor 1899—1928.

Foreword to the Memorial Edition

The editor of the COMPANION feels assured that this special number will be welcomed by the many readers of our monthly publication. For this issue is dedicated to the memory of the lately departed and sainted Dr. A. P. Fors, whose life-work in Bethel constitutes an abiding influence in so many lives. As we pen these lines it is hard to realize that Dr. Fors has gone from our midst and that his mortal body lies in a hallowed spot not far from the church he loved and served.

The English sermons delivered at the funeral service, Thursday afternoon, January 17, were taken down in shorthand. Miss Ruth Gustafson was kind enough to attend to this detail, and the congregation is indebted to her for this service. Dr. Peter Peterson, president of our Conference, was also kind enough to furnish us the Swedish sermon he preached. Then the Bethel church resolutions, testimonial by one of Bethel's members, and brief biographies taken from our church papers, we know will be eagerly perused by members and friends.

The present pastor of Bethel would like to add a "mite" to the many fine expressions of appreciation voiced at the bier of our departed friend. But he feels that the following pages are sufficient and repetition unnecessary. But as Dr. Fors' successor he would voice his own feeling by stating that he counts it a privilege to have succeeded such a zealous, faithful and able preacher and pastor. When the present pastor accepted the call issued him, Dr. Fors wrote to him: "I realize that I have not corresponded with you as I should. It is a principle that I have always followed: to let the brother fight it out with his God. Before you came I did my best to recommend you to Bethel. And the meetings before were prayer meetings to the same effect, whether we met at services, societies or committees." Subsequent letters strengthened the bond of Christian fellowship between us and each time he inquired about Bethel and evinced a warm interest in the work.

May then this memorial number become a means whereby recollections of his fruitful ministry may bestir in our hearts a desire to serve the Saviour, whom he served so faithfully, with a larger measure of devotion and a determination given by God's Spirit to coöperate in the task of building up "the body of Christ" in our midst.

God bless the memory of this good pastor and evangelical preacher!

C. EMIL BERGQUIST.

BETHEL COMPANION

VOL. XXIX FEBRUARY, 1929 No. 2

Dr A. P. Fors.

Pastor A. P. Fors, Ph.D., avsomnade på måndagen den 14 januari å Cottage Hospital, Detroit, Mich., där han några dagar vårdats för lunginflammation. Begravningsgudstjänst firades på torsdags e. m. den 17 januari i Bethelkyrkan, Chicago.

Anders Petter Fors föddes den 18 december 1860 i Västra Tollstad, Östergötland, och anlände till Amerika 1880. Han började sin studiebana vid Gustavus Adolphus College samt fortsatte den vid Augustana College, där han avlade maturitetsexamen 1887. Det följande året var han principal for Augustana Academy, Salt Lake City, Utah. Efter fullbordad kurs i vårt teologiska seminarium prästvigdes han 1889 på kallelse från Bethlehems-församlingen i Wahoo, Nebraska. Följande år flyttade han till Rockford, Ill., för att bliva pastor för Emmanuelsförsamlingen. Åren 1891—1899 förestod han församlingen i Geneseo, Ill. Det senast angivna året antog han kallelse till Bethel-församlingen i Chicago, där han kvarstod till omkring två år sedan. Sedan dess har han tillfälligt betjänat Nebo-församlingen i Chicago samt Bethlehems- och Immanuelsförsamlingarna i Detroit, Mich.

Dr Fors tillhörde flera styrelser, bland vilka må nämnas den för Augustana College och teologiska seminaium, för Augustana Hospital och Englewood Hospital. Han var medlem och ordförande av Illinois-konferensens "Board of Charities" och kassör av Kina-missionens styrelse. Dr Fors var också känd såsom grundlig i sina studier, han var en lärd man. Under sin verksamhet i Chicago studerade han vid Chicago universitetet, där han 1904 erövrade filosofie doktorsgraden.

Doktor Fors var tvenne gånger gift. Den 24 augusti 1889 sammanvigdes han med Ada Emelia Toline i Moline, Ill. Hon dog den 19 oktober 1912, efterlämnande sonen Adolf, vilken nu överlever honom. Om några år förenades han i äktenskap med Hanna Johnson, även hon från Moline. Hon dog 1926. Dottern Ruth föddes inom detta äktenskap, och hon kvarlever. Bland de närmast sörjande må ock nämnas tvenne systrar.

(Ur *Augustana.*)

Service at Bethel Lutheran Church for Dr. A. P. Fors.

Thursday, January 17, 1929.
Dr. J. Oden in charge.

Acting pallbearers::
Dr. Conrad Bergendoff
Rev. Gottfrid Olson
Dr. H. E. Sandstedt
Dr. Gottfrid Nelson
Rev. E. K. Jonson
Rev. J. A. Nordling

Honorary pallbearers:
All pastors present.

* * *

Hymn No. 214—"Faith of our Fathers"
Scripture reading and prayer, Rev. C. E. Bergquist.
Song—Mark Love.
Obituary—Rev. P. Martinson.
Song—Mark Love.
Sermon (English)—Dr. C. E. Hoffsten.
Song—"I Know That My Redeemer Liveth"—Mrs. Jennie Ekblom-Peterson.
Sermon (Swedish)—Dr. Peter Peterson.
Song—"Jag vill sjunga en sång om det härliga land"—Mrs. Jennie Ekblom-Peterson.
A testimonial on behalf of Bethel—Mrs. F. T. Westberg.

BETHEL COMPANION

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Pastor C. Emil Bergquist, Editor.
Mr. J. A. Walgren, Mgr., 6200 Peoria St.

Bethel Sw. Ev. Luth. Church
Cor. 62nd and Peoria Streets.

Resolutions.
Hymn No. 603—"I Near the Grave, Where'er I Go."
Altar service and response—A. F. Bergstrom and Rev. C. A. V. Lund.

* * *

Prayer by Bethel's Pastor at Funeral Service.

"Our Father, we would say with Thy servant: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Death nor life, nor principalities, nor powers—nay, not one of them shall separate us from the love of Christ who has revealed God, who has interpreted to us God's plan of saving mankind. We thank Thee this hour that in our midst lies a servant of Thine—faithful, true to his calling, loving the souls of men; Heavenly Father, we would ask Thee that we might be filled with the same assurance that he possessed, that nothing in this life shall separate us from the Christ whom we serve. Father, we would ask that Thou wilt comfort those who mourn his passing, the son and daughter who survive him, and we thank Thee that they are able to look up into the face of Jesus Christ and receive from Him the blessed assurance that those who have died in Christ are at home and that it is far better to be at home with Christ than to be present in the flesh. O Father, Thou knowest the feeling of this congregation—that in this pulpit he preached the Word in season and out of season and ministered in this congregation year after year, and many, through his preaching, have seen the Christ and have caught new glimpses of Him. So this hour, we would also voice our gratitude to Thee that Thou didst call him as the shadows fell and that he is home with that great number, that great throng, that have served Thee, and who have lifted up the crucified Christ. O God, we thank Thee for his ministry in this congregation, and above all, do we thank Thee that he lifted up the crucified Christ in our midst and that his constant prayer and wish was that all might behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. Father, be Thou with us at this service. We ask it all in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit."

* * *

Rev. Martinson, of Whitehall, Mich., made the following remarks:

I was asked to be present at this memorial service and give the obituary; after that, I will make some remarks. — Dr. Fors was very studious; he not only passed through the prescribed courses in college and seminary, but he also pursued studies afterwards. He was one of the first ones who took the Master's degree at Augustana College and Theological Seminary, and after he came to Chicago, he took a course at the University and was awarded the degree of Ph.D. several years ago. He also received the honorary degree of D.D. from the Augustana College.

Dr. Fors was a faithful character and performed whatever he was called upon to do in such a manner that he also attracted the attention of the Conference and the Synod in general. For many years he was a member of the board of directors of the Augustana College and Theological Seminary and also of the Board of Foreign Missions, first of the Board of China Missions, then of the general Board of Foreign Missions. He also was the treasurer of the Foreign Mission Board. He formerly held the position as member of the board of directors of Augustana Hospital and was one of the members of the board of directors of the Board of Charities. He has been the president of the board and also one who was largely interested in the Augustana Home for the Aged here in Chicago.

His life work here in Bethel is an open book, known and read by every one of you. I remember when he came here in 1899. As most of you know, we were brothers-in-law, his wife and my wife being sisters, and the relation acquired when his first wife lived has continued ever since, and it was a pleasure for us to visit in his home and for his family to visit in our home. Whenever we were to go to the same conferences, we always managed, if possible to live together, because I felt that it was an inspiration to be with him and receive help in our mutual work.

Now I want to give you a passage and then just say a few words. In Rev. 14. 12 we read: "Here is the patience of saints, they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." Especially these words I want to impress upon your minds at this moment: "Their works do follow them." I call the attention of the friends present to the words in our Bible where it says: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." Those two words, "good" and "faithful," I will try to apply briefly to the life of our departed friend. There is not one here, or I doubt if there is anyone anywhere, but who is willing to say that Dr. Fors was a good man—good at heart and willing to help whenever there was need of help, and that he went many steps in order to bring help and comfort to those who were in need of help and comfort. He was naturally good, and he came from a naturally good family. This last summer I had the privilege of visiting in his childhood home when I was over in Sweden, and where I was a stranger and not especially related to them. When we came there, especially just to bring a word of greeting, their hearts were open to us and they begged us to stay with them in their homes, and so we stayed there a week and we felt that they were good people—honest people—loving people and God-loving people. Our departed friend came from a family whose hearts were open and ready to help, to serve. But our natural goodness does not fit us for life's work. Dr. Fors realized this as well as anyone else realizes; feeling his own sinfulness, he found grace at the cross, and there alone do our hearts become good, when we are regenerated, when we leave ourselves in the hands of the loving Master. So you here in Bethel and you in the ministry and you friends of our departed friend know that this your friend and our friend carried within him the love of the Master and the love of our souls and your souls.

We are especially reminded of the work of Dr. Fors as we think of this congregation. When he came here, there was a chapel on 66th and Sangamon Streets. I visited there many times; there was a little group of over one hundred members, but how they worked! There was work for our departed friend to take hold of, and he tried to reach the people of his neighborhood by starting another mission at 59th and Morgan Streets. Later on, he united the two. He then started other missions, a mission over on this side, over at St. Matthew's and different places, branching out in Sunday school work first and then in other directions. When once I spoke to Dr. Fors, he said: "I make ten or fifteen calls a day. I made so and so many sick calls." Oh! what work our departed friend has put down here in

this his beloved church, in Bethel church, these twenty-eight years, but it is not the work, the outward work, that especially is enduring.

When I was here last night with the family of Dr. Fors, and as I saw the stream of people come up to view the features of the departed pastor, I stopped and thought: "Where are the old people I used to know?" I suppose they have passed away. But I saw this stream of young people go up, and as they departed, I saw the tears running down their cheeks. I thought: "These are the boys and girls who were instructed and taught in Sunday school and in the confirmation classes, and they come to view the features of their beloved pastor." I thought: "Some say that the young people want young pastors, but in the minds and in the hearts of the confirmands of a pastor there is that love that will never die out." It is sometimes the older people who tire, as it were, of their pastor, and they suggest the thought that the young people want a young pastor. The work of a real pastor is the work that I am speaking about to hundreds and hundreds of Dr. Fors' boys and girls. I know that they do remember and that will always remember him who taught them the sacred things of the spiritual life; of faith in the Lord and in the Master. We may rear monuments to the memory of pastors, but the monument that a pastor leaves behind him is the work done in instilling the love of the Master. The Apostle Paul says: "You are our letters, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in the fleshy tables of the heart." O that we could as pastors write into the heart and soul of every one who is intrusted to us *the love of God!* In after years, when we leave our boys and girls, when we have grown old and our hair has become white, they will come up and say: "Pastor, you confirmed us." It touches our hearts, friends, and the fact that they do remember those days is an enduring evidence that the work is not in vain; and so, as I said, "Their works do follow them." Dr. Fors' work will stand here and especially stand when the trumpet is to sound, calling the servants from the different parts of the vineyard to enter into the rest of the Master.

So we thank God, and I know that Bethel thanks God today for the work and the service that Dr. Fors has laid down in this congregation, and we say: God bless him for what he has done! God bless you who have had the privilege to be under his care!

* * *

Sermon by Dr. C. E. Hoffsten, Detroit, Michigan.

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant." Mt. 25. 21.

"For me to live is Christ and to die is gain." Phil. 1. 21.

I will not speak on these words. Their application will become apparent during the remarks that are to be made. I have thought possible that this congregation gathered today wanted to know something about the last days and last hours of Dr. Fors' life. I have been privileged to be a neighbor to Dr. Fors for many, many years; at any rate, twenty years as neighbors in Chicago, and providentially, as has been stated here, neighbors in Detroit. Dr. Fors was taken very seriously ill on Friday, January 11th—that was last Friday morning. He was, however, out in the service of his congregation that same day, undoubtedly with a fever of 101 or 102. You could not keep him back. The doctor came in the afternoon and ordered him to bed with 103 fever. In the evening we received word—Mrs. Hoffsten and I, that Dr. Fors was very seriously ill with pneumonia. He was sick and alone in Detroit—practically, for no one in Detroit knew Dr. Fors or his folks, except us. We made a

call. The doctor came and took him to the hospital, and word was sent to the son, Adolph Fors: "Your father is very seriously ill. You had better come," and Mr. Adolph Fors took the first train, arriving Saturday morning. We were at the station to meet him and to take him to the hospital. His father was still conscious. I went to see Dr. Fors in the afternoon and gave him Communion. Dr. Fors did not say very much during his illness. His weakness was so apparent that it was impossible for him to talk much—to keep up any conversation. I noticed, when the elements were administered, with what eagerness he received them, and it struck me that that was the very first time I ever noticed how eager any communicant was to whom I have given the Lord's Supper, and it struck me as being a symbol of a conquering assurance and faith.

Sunday morning, Dr. Fors lapsed into unconsciousness — a coma, from which he never rallied, and he passed away Monday afternoon at 2:30. Miss Ruth Fors and Mrs. Will Johnson came to Detroit Sunday afternoon, but they could not detect any signs of consciousness in Dr. Fors. Members of the family were called to the hospital at 1:00 o'clock Monday morning, because of a turn in Dr. Fors' condition. He was growing steadily worse, although everything was done in the power and skill of the doctors, and many of them, to stay the course of the disease. Dr. Fors had the "flu," pneumonia and other complications. Just as my son and I arrived at the hospital Monday afternoon, we were met by Adolph who said: "Father has just gone."

On Friday night, as Mrs. Hoffsten was standing at Dr. Fors' bedside, speaking with him, she heard these words from his lips: "I think I am going home," that is to say, he had a premonition that his illness would be his last one; that he was going home. Dr. Fors died at 2:20. At 9:00 o'clock Monday evening everything was ready for a memorial service which was held in the Immanuel church, the church that Dr. Fors served, to be brought here to Chicago. A service was held yesterday in the Irving Park church, of which Dr. Fors was a member, Dr. Oden being the pastor.

Last Saturday morning I received eleven telegrams, including those from this congregation, from the Bethel church. Mr. John Westberg wired: "Bethel congregation desires that the funeral services be held in Bethel." I cannot help feeling today that this is a marvelous service in this church. A service of love. God be praised!

May I, as briefly as can be, because I know the limitations on the time at our disposal, state some of the characteristics of Dr. Fors as a minister. In the first place, he was a Christian. Some people think that every pastor is a Christian. I would to God that every man who stands in the pulpit was a Christian. Every Christian minister knows of the experience of sin and grace. Dr. Fors was a Christian. That is the starting point. A man who is not a Christian ought not to become a minister. A Christian is a man of God, convicted of sin, having great fortitude and courage. Dr. Fors was all this, in my estimation, and I think you will agree with me that to a great degree he was spiritually minded. His conversation, his citizenship was in heaven. Let me right here apply the words of the Apostle Paul to Dr. Fors: "To me, to live is Christ." The master passion of his soul was his people; not only the salvation of their souls, but the salvation of souls of others.

He was faithful to the Word of God. He was one of the best expositors of the Word of God. He was an expository preacher. His preaching, his pulpit deliverances were always in accordance with the Word of God. Dr.

Fors was a pastor. He was not only a preacher, but the pastor of one of the biggest churches. They have two ministers in Detroit, one is called the preacher and the other is called the pastor. The preacher attends to the preaching on Sundays, and the pastor attends to the pastoral work of the church. Most of us have to combine the two. Dr. Fors was both. He surely was a very great pastor. Rev. Martinson spoke of his pastoral work in the congregation. He was a true shepherd of the flock. When he came to Detroit, he began in house visiting right away; began in visiting the sick and visited continuously. He was extremely busy during the first months he was there. I heard Rev. Martinson say that this church knows of Dr. Fors as one to whom souls were dear, the souls of the young people and the souls of the old people, and I know how the young people spoke of Dr. Fors and the old people as well.

Dr. Fors was a splendid executive. He had a very large vision as to business, and sagacity, and somehow or other, we have to have that, too.

As I was walking down Sixty-second Street, after getting off the street car, and saw this church with its spire, I said to myself: "This church is a product, under God, of Dr. Fors' labors." He was here from forty to sixty-seven. You take twenty-seven years out of a man's life and you are getting the best that is in him. I said to myself: "That church is flesh of Dr. Fors' flesh, body of his body, and bone of his bone. He gave his life for the church."

Somebody said a moment ago: "What do you do with the preachers in Detroit? they go up there and die." I said: "Dr. Fors was not well when he came here. He gave the best part of his life in Chicago, right here." As has already been stated, Dr. Fors was a builder in a very much larger sense than was stated, even in the local congregation he was prominent. His counsel was always sought. As a brother, he was a real brother, kind, affectionate, considerate, helpful. Every brother of his knows that. The Southern Chicago District always had a fine man in Dr. Fors.

I want to say that Dr. Fors was affectionate, loving, kind, spiritual, and this did much toward making the brothers all feel at home. He was like a father to us all. We looked up to him in a way. He was one man who loved his home. He was married twice. Both wives were dear to his heart. Both of his helpmeets were most estimable women, brilliant leaders. There was a wonderful home life in the parsonage. One felt at home when you got in there. You felt the instant you came in, that you were at home.

The son and the daughter mourn the loss of their father today, but appreciate more than words can tell, the gifts that God gave to them in their father, and in the mother of each of the children—great gifts. Believe me, children are fortunate to have such parents.

"I think I am going home." These were the last words of Dr. Fors. Dr. Fors is home. He has laid down his weary head. He was led by the Shepherd through the valley of the shadow. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

* * *

Predikan av dr Peter Peterson, Illinois-konferensens ordförande.

Text. Joh. 14: 1—3. "Och han sade till sina lärjungar: Edert hjärta vare icke oroligt; tron på Gud och tron på mig. I min Faders hus äro många boningar. Om så icke vore skulle jag hava sagt Eder det; jag gav bort för att bereda Eder rum.

Och när jag har gått bort och berett Eder rum, skall jag komma tillbaka och taga Eder till mig, att varest jag är, där skolen I ock vara".

Vid Jesu hjärta där är lugnt,
Trots stormarne på jorden.
Trots allt som här kan bli mig tungt
är han min frid dock vorden.
Visst brusar djup än här, än där,
men över djupen han mig bär.
Vid Jesu hjärta, där är lugnt,
trots stormarne på jorden.

Så sjunger lärjungen och nådebarnet mitt under tidens häftiga stormar; han har funnit en lugn hamn vid Jesu hjärta. Den Herrens tjänare, vilkens begravning vi fira i dag, har erfarit stormarna på jordelivets hav, och han har funnit vila under och efter storm och oväder i Jesu hjärtas lugna hamn. Nu är resan och arbetsdagen slut för honom; han har sänkt ankar i den evigt lugna hamnen.

Texten och det allvarliga och högtidliga tillfället giver oss anledning att betrakta:

"Vid Jesu hjärta där är lugnt, Trots stormarna på jorden".

Må vi först erinra oss att vår dyre Frälsare uttalade textens ord till prästkandidater eller pastorer. Jesu lärjungar stodo vid början av deras egentliga ämbetsgärning, och de stodo där med oroliga hjärtan. Så gör varje allvarlig och samvetsgrann prästkandidat och själasörjare.

Hur skall det gå? Skall jag lyckas eller misslyckas? Skall jag utföra min ämbetsgärning "med fröjd eller med suckan"? Så frågar han sig själv och sin Gud.

Lärjungarne hade under de mest smärtsamma erfarenheter blivit utblottade på all egen kraft. Den sanne prästkandidaten befinner sig allestädes och i varje tid i samma utblottade tillstånd; och skulle han vid arbetsdagens början ej anse sig så utblottad på egen kraft så får han nog vara denna smärtsamma fattigdom under arbetsdagens skiftande erfarenheter.

Men vi återvända till lärjungens och församlingsherdens hjärteoro. Vad är det som kommer hans hjärta att ofta klappa oroligt?

Det är för det första frälsningsbekymmer, bekymmer för sin egen själs frälsning och för andras frälsning. Här möta vi "vår förnämsta omsorg i detta livet". Andra bekymmer kunna trycka tungt, men inför "det ena nödvändiga" få de dock en underordnad betydelse.

Dr O. Olsson hade stora bekymmer för Augustana College; han kände som om synoden hade lagt ansvaret för skuldens utplånande på hans skuldror. Innan sitt insamlingsarbete för sitt kära Augustana kom han, trött och sjuk, till min församling i sydvästra Iowa. Jag hälsade honom välkommen och frågade: "Hur står till?" varpå han svarade: "Jag tror att jag skall bli frälst". Han räknade nu allt såsom förlust mot detta ena: "Att vinna Kristus och vara funnen i honom.

Pastorn har oro ej blott för sin egen själs frälsning utan också för sina medmänniskors frälsning. Dr Fors har under sin långa tjänstetid i denna församling haft hjärteoro för varje dess medlems frälsning och hjärteglädje, där frälsningens frukter blivit uppenbara.

Mycket annat ingår uti pastorns, och kanhända särskilt uti pastorns inom Augustana-synoden, erfarenheter, som är ägnat att göra hjärtat oroligt. Hans ställning i yttre hänseende kan under årens lopp framstå ganska obetryggad. Vi tala nu ej om någon särskild församling, såsom vore den en syndare framför andra. Vi åsyfta snarare ett samfundsförhållande, alltid kännetecknande för en tid, då kyrkan är fattig på andekraft och andens gåvor och därför ofta "sätter kött sig till arm och viker med sitt hjärta från Herren". Oftast lägga vi orsaken till rubbningar och slitningar inom kyrkan i våra bristfälliga författningar och vi torde delvis ha skäl härför. Dock torde det påståendet hava grund för sig, att våra författningar förutsätta ett kraftigt och

verksamt andligt liv i församlingen och där ett sådant liv är uppenbart motsvara de sitt ändamål och fylla sin uppgift.

Vi leva dock i en andefattig tid, dock icke den andefattigdom som åsyftas med bergspredikans ord: "Saliga äro de i anden fattiga, ty dem hörer himmelriket till". Där är den förnimbara fattigdomen det tomrum i själen och hjärtat som anden inbjudes att taga i besittning. Här möta vi snarare hjärtan och liv som äro så uppfyllda av världens surrogat för andeliv och andekraft att Guds Ande med sina gåvor får stanna där utanför.

Under sådana tider blir det trångt i omgivning och församlingsliv för vilken kristen som helst, men särskilt för den allvarlige, samvetsgranne och trogne pastorn och själasörjaren. Vår hänsovne vän och broder vandrade med ett krossat hjärta det sista stycket av sin levnadsväg. "Kan jag ej få någon permanent församlingskallelse", så frågade han. "Jag vill så gärna verka; jag vill fortsätta att tjäna". Men församlingar tvekade att utfärda sådan kallelse emedan den anderike, trogne, lärde och erfarne församlingsläraren för några år sedan fyllde sina sextio år. Gjorda erfarenheter ha "övertygat oss om att den ålderstigne pastorn bor ofta trångt inom frikyrkans område. Nog borde Augustana-synoden taga denna sak i allvarligt övervägande och vidtaga mått och steg för att skydda Herrens tjänare mot hjärtekrossande erfarenheter, då de ej längre äga ungdomens livaktighet och hänförelse, utan istället den senare mannaålderns mognad, erfarenhet, stadga och visdom.

Men lovat vare Herrens namn; det finnes ett verksamt botemedel mot hjärtats oro, och det samma erbjudes oss av vår dyre Frälsare i uppmaningen och löftet, "Tron på Gud och tron på mig".

Att tro på Gud och tro på Jesus skänker syndaförlåtelsens frid och liv i Gud. Äga vi dessa skatter, dyre ämbetsbröder och vänner, så ha vi råd att undvara mycket av det som världen aktar stort. Vår käre Gud vill, på lidandets och prövningens väg, föra oss till den punkt, där vi äro nöjda med blott detta enda, "Blott frälst!" Ja, "om än havet brusade och svallade, så att bergen bävade v[illegible] dess uppror"; "om än kropp och s[illegible] försmäktade, så är dock Gud mitt hjärtas klippa och min del evinnerligen". "Herre, när jag har dig, så frågar jag efter himmel och jord intet" — så sjunger den betryckte församlingsherden, under det han längtansfullt väntar på vinnandet av "trons slutmål, själens frälsning".

För någon pastor torde även lönen vara knappt tilltagen och prästbefordringen har låtit vänta på sig inom Augustana-synoden. Den sanna, prästbefordringen kommer dock till slut, då överherden själv möter sin från verksamhetsfältet hemkallade tjänare med orden: "Väl gjort, du gode och trogne tjänare. I en ringa ting har du varit trogen. Jag skall sätta dig över mycket. Gå in i din Herres glädje".

Att tro på Gud och tro på Jesus ger ej blott ett hopp bortom tiden, utan det utgör även en källa av tröst och styrka under själva arbetsdagen. Det innebär att göra gemensam sak med Herren i alla livets och ämbetets angelägenheter och uppgifter. Då avlägger pastorn sin ämbetsrapport inför sin Herre; då frambär han sina och sitt folks behov till honom; för honom omtalar han förtröstansfullt sina bekymmer. Han står väl med sin överherde, han är förtrogen m[illegible] honom; med honom har underherden allt gemensamt. Inför ett dylikt fö[illegible] hållande Överherden och underherden emellan måste den senares hjärteoro lägga sig och han erfar åter och återigen att "Vid Jesu hjärta, där är lugnt, trots stomarne på jorden".

Och nu till sist, blott denna textens sluthälsning: Blir det för trångt på jorden, kommer Herren och tager sin tjänare hem till sig. Då lärjungar med bekymmer och smärta lyssnade till Mästarens avskedsord och med hjärteoro tänkte på framtiden, pekade Herren uppåt, bortom Österlandets stjärnehimmel, och sade: "I min Faders hus äro många boningar. Om så icke vore skulle jag hava sagt eder det; jag går bort för att bereda eder rum, och när jag har gått bort och berett eder rum skall jag komma tillbaka och taga eder till mig, på det att varest jag är, där skolen I ock vara".

Dr Fors var ivrigt sysselsatt med tillfällig församlingsvård i Detroit. Han vandrade i den starka kölden gata upp och gata ned, uppsökande församlingsmedlemmar, besökande de sjuka och inbjudande de utomstående till Kristus och hans församlings gemenskap. Just då kom hans överherde och sade: Nu skall jag komma och taga dr Fors till mig, på det att varest jag är, där skall ock min tjänare vara, och så utbyttes tidens oro mot ett ostört lugn vid Jesu hjärta, ty Vid Jesu hjärta där är lugnt, efter stormarne på jorden!

* * *

To the Memory of Dr. A. P. Fors from His Confirmands. By Mrs. F. T. Westberg.

In Numbers 23 the 9th and 10th verses in part, we read as follows:

"From the top of the rocks I see him
and from the hills I behold him,
Let me die the death of the righteous
and let my last end be like his."

Dr. Fors was a great lover of nature and at his summer home at Lakeside we have watched many a sunset together. As the sun went down into the waters of Lake Michigan he would remark most reverently about the beauty of the sky as the rays shot upward and outward from the departing lord of the day. He never seemed to tire of this scene.

"So when a good man dies,
For years beyond our ken,
The light of the life he leaves behind
Falls on the paths of men."
LONGFELLOW.

Dr. Fors' sun has set but the rays from his life will color many souls through the years that are ours to live; we cannot know how far his influence is felt nor can we hear how many tongues are praising him today, but unto each of us who have experienced the touch of his life upon ours the light lingers.

To his confirmands he was more than just the pastor. He was a great artist who prepared the canvas of our lives and taught us to use colors that will not run. To confirm means that he helped us in our early youth to be firm as we went out to meet the world; he drew the picture so well that I know we will keep the faith.

The artist has gone on, but the picture he painted grows dearer as the years go by and its value will increase as we carry on for the Master whom he served and whom he taught us to love.

Kipling writes:

"When earth's last picture is painted,
and the tubes are twisted and dried,
When the oldest colors have faded,
and the youngest critic has died,
We shall rest, and faith! we shall need
it—lie down for an aeon or two,
Till the Master of All Good Workmen
shall set us to work anew!!

And only the Master shall praise us,
and only the Master shall blame;
And no one shall work for money, and
no one shall work for fame;
But each for the joy of working; and
each, in his separate star,
Shall draw the Thing as he sees it
for the God of Things as They are!

And so we will say, "Good night, Dr. Fors, lay down your weary head upon the Saviour's breast; sleep on and take your well-earned rest."

Resolutions.

The Board of Administration met last Tuesday night (Jan. 15th) and requested the pastor and the secretary to give an expression to the sentiment of sorrow and loss occasioned by the death of the former pastor Dr. A. P. Fors.

The committee elected to convey or interpret this sentiment felt that a set of resolutions would be too formal and stereotyped, for conventionalized phrases are apt to be lacking in warmth of feeling and directness of personal thought. It is our desire, if possible, to voice in a few, brief paragraphs the mingled feeling of sorrow and thanksgiving that pervades our congregation, sorrow because of the circumstance over which no mortal has control that Dr. Fors is no more as far as the physical self is concerned, thanksgiving that Bethel is privileged to have him home again in the midst of members and friends whose affection for him was unaffected, deep and enduring.

It is difficult upon an occasion like this to give adequate expression to the place that Dr. Fors occupied in the hearts of our entire church membership. Others have given an estimate of the character of his service and have evaluated the fruits of his ministry. That he was a gifted leader endowed with commanding ability, tenacity of purpose, great energy and perseverance is self-evident. He was a great leader, constantly pressing forward to new objectives. In short he was a "creative type," one who always sought new fields for Christian service.

But he is essentially remembered amongst us today as the fatherly counselor and pastor. This church structure is a monument to his persevering and untiring ministry. But after all the external is a means towards an end: the winning of men and women for the crucified Christ. There is a sincere sorrow in Bethel everywhere. Dr. Fors ministered to the sick and dying as a faithful steward of the mysteries of God. In many homes he gave comfort and cheer. These are not merely words; they embody a sincere truth.

For twenty-eight and a half years he labored in this community. Under his leadership Bethel passed through different developmental stages. There was the stage of growth, then of expansion, still further the church building program. Towards the close of his great ministry here another developmental stage was reached. Like other Lutheran churches the members moved over widely distributed areas and a new situation and problem was confronted with characteristic energy and practical insight. Though his will-to-do was unimpaired yet he realized his physical strength was waning and bereft of the presence of his beloved wife who preceded him in 1926 he decided to resign.

There are shadows in every ministry; and his was no exception. But we believe and are assured that all was forgotten and all was forgiven for the Master Himself said: "forgive as I have forgiven you." The shadows have lifted and we are thankful that this servant of God is now at home with Christ which is "far better."

Last night when his remains arrived, while the church bell tolled, members of this congregation stood in reverent silent sorrow as the pastor of the church offered up a prayer at his bier. There was no violent expression of grief but the tenderness of affection displayed as they looked upon his features was itself something that is to be experienced rather than described. And few of us will forget the scene toward midnight when the lights of the church were put out and the altar lights remained. The elevated replica of Thorwaldsen's Christ

was illuminated and directly below lay the mortal remains of Bethel's spiritual guide. The resurrected Christ seemed to breathe his peace to the pastor who had fallen asleep after an arduous day's labor.

This, then, is Bethel's sentiment. And may I inject a personal note into this statement. His successor feels grateful that he enjoyed the confidence of his predecessor whom he counts as one of the great Lutherans of this country. The letters which I have received breathe a prayer that Bethel may continue its God-given task: the upbuilding of the kingdom of the Christ. The greatest tribute to this man's memory, we feel, is to follow the Christ whom he preached in season and out of season. There are within these walls today many who have had the privilege of sitting at his feet, and who possibly have lost an active interest in this church where they pledged their loyalty, not to the pastor for he is but a man, but to the Master whom this pastor served so faithfully. At his bier we would speak on his behalf: "I preached to you the crucified Christ. My entire ministry was devoted to that one objective: the salvation of souls. The tribute you pay me today," he would say, "touches me. But the greatest tribute you could pay me would be to come back to the Father's house, and work for the kingdom of Christ. The night cometh when no man can work."

A Letter.

Bethel Congregation, Rev. C. E. Bergquist, Pastor.

Dear Friends:

We appreciate your expression of sympathy in this our deep sorrow. The passing of our father is a great loss to our family and to the many activities he was engaged in.

We heartily are in accord with Rev. Bergquist's sentiment when he urged the Bethel people to show their love for Dr. Fors by showing still greater loyalty to the church. They will in this way fittingly perpetuate his memory. May his example inspire us to still greater service in the Kingdom.

Very sincerely yours,

RUTH AND AXEL FORS.

Chicago, Ills., Jan. 28, 1929.

Sista skrivelse av dr Fors.

Vid Immanuelkyrkan, Detroit, Mich., där dr A. P. Fors för herdestaven, fortgår församlingsarbetet som vanligt. För årsstämman, som hålles den 14 januari, rapporterar pastorn alla föreningarna inom församlingen i livlig verksamhet. Så ha de äldre damernas förening under året samlat över $2,000, ehuru den räknar blott omkring 55 medlemmar. Fru. O. Lundell återvaldes till föreningens omtänksamma ordförande, och har föreningen för det kommande året delat sig i fyra grupper, som tävla med varandra om vem som kan samla mest. De icke blott ge trustierna en handräckning nu och då, utan ha ock lovat på en subskription till ny kyrka en rätt så god summa.

Därnäst kommer Lutherförbundet med omkring 75 medlemmar under Albert Hedlunds ledning. De ha det svunna året insamlat en god rund summa och ha just i dagarna inköpt ett 100-tal av synodens nya sångbok samt insatt i kapellvåningen ett utmärkt piano just i går, som var av nöden, ej blott för föreningen vid sociella program i kyrkans undervåning, utan ock för söndagsskolan, vars primäravdelning samlas i kapellvåningen. Brotherhood, eller männens förening, med ett 40-tal till medlemmar och hr John Dahlin som dess nye ledare är ock i stadig verksamhet. Dessa föreningar äro alla i livlig verksamhet för församlingens finansiella stöd som ock för dess sociella behov och synnerligen för att samla för ny

kyrka, ,som väl behöves för söndagsskolan och vid festligheter.

Pastor Gideon Olson från McKeesport, Pa., kallades till lärare den 12 november, men som han innehar en åtminstone för tillfället förmånligare kallelse till Bethlehemsförsamlingen i Brooklyn, N. Y., är det ovisst om han kommer. Tre fabrikörer och en fastighetsmäklare garantera en löneförhöjning på $600, om han blott komme. Denna ungdomlige pastor behöves så väl här i Detroit med dess stora möjligheter.

Själv har jag under dessa fyra månader jag varit bland detta folk förnummit idel vänlighet och tillmötesgående. Men det är unga krafter man väl behöver och helst vill kalla. I dagarna samlas här i Detroit the American Missionary Conference, som eljest om åren samlats i Atlantic City. I sammanhang därmed samlas ock den s. k. The Laymen's Missionary Movement. Det blir ypperligt tillfälle att höra utmärkta föredrag om denna Guds rikes angelägenhet.

Grand Rapids-distriktet har den 23 januari sitt årsmöte härstädes i Immanuelsförsamlingen och vi vänta full delegation närvarande.

Dr Andreas Peter Fors vilar.

Dr Andreas Peter Fors vigdes till griftero torsdagen den 17 januari. Efter blott tre dagars sjukdom fick han sluta sina dagar i Detroit, Mich., den 14 dennes, i en ålder av 68 år och 27 dagar. Sedan september månad hade han betjänat Immanuels-församlingen därstädes under dess vakans. Fredagen den 11 utförde han sina pastorala göromål. Hekommen på eftermiddagen inkallades läkare, som omedelbart befallde att han skulle lägga sig. På aftonen samma dag fördes han till ett lasarett, där han måndagseftermiddag fick sluta. Sonen Adolf och dottern Ruth efterskickades och kommo med det snaraste. På lördagsförmiddag utdelade dr C. E. Hoffsten, pastorn uti svenska Bethlehems-församlingen i Detroit, den heliga nattvarden åt den sjuke, vilken snart därefter blev medvetslös.

En sorgegudstjänst hölls uti Immanuels-församlingen samma afton, där dr Hoffsten predikade på både svenska och engelska. Stoftet fördes till Irving Park lutherska kyrka i Chicago, där dr Fors varit medlem sedan han avsade sig vården om Bethel-församlingen. Här hölls en sorgegudstjänst på onsdagseftermiddagen. Pastor O. B. Hanson från Nebo-församlingen, som dr Fors förestod några månader under dess vakans, började gudstjänsten med bibelläsning och bön. Om kännedom vittnande personalier upplästes utav dr Carl Christenson, varefter församlingens pastor, dr Joshua Oden, höll en kort predikan över Joh. 11: 25. Pastor P. Martinson, en svåger till dr Fors, talade ock över den dödes rika gärning och påminde om att han varit en studiosis hela sitt liv. Dr Fors hade graduerat ifrån Augustana College, tog en full kurs uti seminariet, tilldelades magistergraden vid Augustana College, tilldelades ock filosofie doktorsgraden vid Chicago University, samt fick mottaga honoris doktor divinitatus från sin Alma Mater. En rikedom på blommor hade också funnit vägen till Irving Park-kyrkan.

På aftonen fördes stoftet till Bethel-församlingen på söder, där dr Fors tjänade som herde under ett lopp av 28½ år. Under aftonens stilla timmar fingo hundratals tillfälle att blicka ner på sin forne pastor, som så fridfullt sov.

På torsdagseftermiddagen kl. 2 hölls den egentliga sorgegudstjänsten. Kyrkan var fylld till sista plats. Ett trettiotal utav Chicagos prästerskap, tillsammans med Bethel-församlingens kyrkostyrelse, utgjorde själva "garde de lit." Efter avsjungandet utav en sångvers, läste församlingens pastor,

C. E. Bergquist, ett ord ur bibeln samt ledde i bön. Sångaren Mark Love sjöng "When I survey the wondrous cross." Nu följde personalier utav pastor P. Martinson. Han genomgick den avlidnes livsgärning, börjande med hemmet där borta i Västra Tollstad, Östergötland, till hans sista stunder. Efter åter en sång utav herr Mark Love predikade dr C. E. Hoffsten på engelska språket. Han påpekade särskilt den trogna tjänst och den väldiga livsgärning som dr Fors utfört. Han sade bland annat att Bethel-församlingen och Bethels kyrka utgöra ett monument till dr Fors, ty de representera 28½ år av dr Fors' bästa levnadsår och hans bästa krafter. Dr Hoffsten frambar ock en tacksamhetsintygelse från de församlingar, som dr Fors fått tjäna i Detroit, och sade bland annat att de uppskatta högligen den faderliga vård som den avlidne givit dem. Efter en sång utav fru Jennie Ekblom-Peterson höll dr Peter Peterson, Illinois-konferensens president, en predikan på svenska. Han påpekade bland annat huru tacksam en församling bör vara över en trogen herdes vård och visade, huru då en herde kommer något till åren, blir det ofta trångt för honom. Det var en innerlig och gripande predikan som dr Peterson höll. Efter återigen en sång av fru Peterson, frambar fru F. T. Westberg en tacksamhetshälsning å Bethel-församlingens konfirmanders vägnar och tackade sin käre pastor för den kärlek och den förståelse med vilken han vaktade över ungdomens andliga väl.

En mängd av telegram hade mottagits samt sorgeresolutioner, brev och annat. Trenne sådana upplästes, en från Immanuels-församlingen i Detroit, en från Irving Park-församlingen, där dr Fors var medlem, samt en avhandling från Bethel-församlingen. Begravningsliturgien utfördes utav pastorerna C. A. V. Lund och A. F. Bergstrom, varefter stoftet fördes till Oakhill gravgård där det vigdes till griftero. Irving Park-församlingens pastor, Joshua Oden, jordfäste honom. En stor skara vänner följde sin herde till denna hans sista viloplats.

Dr Fors sörjes utav en son, Adolf, och dottern Ruth, samt andra släktingar.

J. O.

Ur "Augustana".