

United Temple Bulletin

P.O. Box 12202

Portland, Oregon 97212

Vol. 5 - Number III

March 15, 1968

From The Pastor's Pen
By Ralph E. Knudsen

In an interesting book by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen on "Ways to Happiness" he reminds us that contentment is not an innate virtue, but it is acquired through resolution and by conquering unruly desires. There are more discontented people in the world than contented people. This is no doubt due to the lack of understanding of life and the inability to evaluate life on its true level of meaning. The Bishop suggests four basic causes for discontent which are: (1) egotism and selfishness (2) envy (3) covetousness and (4) jealousy. Experience supports the contention that there are a large number of discontented people in our communities, and also in our churches.

....It is a mistake to assume that contentment is from the outside because it is from within the soul of man. Sometimes our actions are childish in never being able to appreciate and enjoy the present and its blessings. Contentment is not related to or dependent upon the geographical area in which one lives, even though it may help. Some say they could be happy if they lived in another city or state. Contentment comes from within and is not really affected by the place where we live. Some of the most contented people are those who seem to have the least to enjoy. In our area the beauty of our surroundings ought to inspire us to an appreciation which stimulates our contentment and enjoyment.

Bishop Sheen suggests three means which assist in the development of the contented spirit. (1) Contentment is related to faith. Faith helps us understand the meaning and purpose of life, thus giving a balanced perspective at all times. (2) Contentment is affiliated with a good conscience. The inner self must be content, free from guilt or moral failures. (3) Contentment is associated with life under direction at all times, the control of desires. The ability to select the right and the true greatly adds to the contentment of living.

It is not wrong to want enjoyment and contentment in life. ..."A contented man is never poor though he may have very, very little. The discontented man is never rich, yet he has so very much."

(Source: News Bulletin, First Baptist Church,
Vol. 30 - No. 19, February 25, 1968)

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Lothar Blankenberg
Chicago, Illinois

Birth: Germany, October 23, 1934

Church Background: Lutheran and Metaphysical

Profession: Dental technician

Favorite Activities: "Besides contacting people for the Principles, I like all outdoor activities, especially skiing. I read alot and study E.S.P."

Education: Graduated from high school in 1952. Graduated from School of Commerce in 1955. Came to Canada 1957 and moved to Chicago in 1961. Came to Portland and took prosthetic dentistry at North Pacific Dental College--graduated as a Dental Technician.

It was here in Portland where I met in February 1967, while attending a church service, Esther C. and Maxine A. who introduced me into the wonderful revelation, "our Devine Principles." The Principles clearly explain to me the nature of God and God's plan for mankind. Since I know about the Principles, this great source of light, I gained new hope and new inspiration. I like to express special thanks to John, Esther, and Maxine, who devoted so much time in lecturing this great truth to me. I also like to thank our Chicago Family, who has the great gift of creating a wonderful spiritual atmosphere and giving me always a spiritual upliftment.

(Editors note: We hope each of you will have the privilege of meeting Lothar. He likes people and has an engaging personality. We are glad he is in "Principle" work.)

For Future Use

We would like to feature questions that any of you might have yourself and/or questions that come up in your witnessing to others. These questions may be ones that you don't have answers to and would like to hear how others would answer them. Or you may have answers, but would still like to hear other persons opinions. Then we will need cooperation from everyone else for answers to these questions.

Also, if anyone is inspired to write a guest editorial or other article, please send them to be used. Thank you for your cooperation.