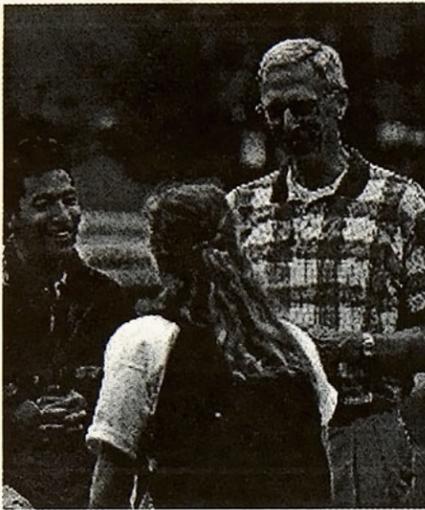


Message From the President



I like to walk about two miles between five and six every morning. Something wonderful has been happening on my walks recently. I walk in light! The long winter nights are surrendering to even longer days. The sun is rising a little bit earlier every morning. In less than a month, the days will be longer than the nights in Minnesota. What a marvel! The change in time of sunrise and sunset is a mysterious phenomenon that I did not experience during the years that I lived near the equator.

The change in seasons reminds us that soon the snow will melt, grass will turn green, and flowers will bloom. Likewise as we enter the last half of the last semester of the 1998-99 academic year we gain academic focus knowing that soon tests will be taken, papers will be written and courses will end.

On a spiritual level, the Christian seasons of Lent and Easter provide opportunity to reflect on life's many changes. Lent is a traditional time for Christians to fast and examine life. Questions about good and evil, right and wrong, sin and salvation receive thought and prayer. Much like disciplined physical exercise prepares an athlete for successful competition, so Lenten spiritual discipline can prepare one to know and do God's will better.

Easter is then like a championship celebration. There is victory over evil in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. May midterm ways and lengthening days provide a context and opportunity for personal spiritual growth in God's grace.

President Bob Holst

The Sword is the work of students at Concordia University in St. Paul, Minnesota. We welcome and encourage the feedback from all readers both within and outside of the Concordia community.

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Christ Works Through Our Limitations

By Angie Seifert

Kate* was intently hanging on every word as I read Genesis Chapters 1-10 to her. I would stop once in a while to see if she was getting tired. She constantly encouraged me to read on. She proceeded to ask me to read some Psalms and New Testament readings. I admire her constant desire to hear God's word. She soaks God's Word up like a dry sponge to water, savoring every moment of its sweet refreshment. Well, Kate can't read. She begs to hear the Word of God. Whenever I visit her, she eagerly asks me if we can have one of our "Bible Studies." She reminds me of how it is so easy for us to take for granted the reading abilities we have and how little we take the opportunity to read God's Word. Not only that but we often fail to see God's presence in our study. When reading through Genesis we reached the Promise that God gave Noah to never wipe the earth out again with a flood. The devotional booklet we also read spoke of God's great promise he kept to send his son Christ as our Savior. God

works in mysterious ways to get his message to us.

Eventually her eyes got weary that night. I helped her into her bed. You see, Kate can't walk either. She has been disabled since birth. Once settled she was silent, thinking intently, she finally said, "Sometimes I wish that I could walk, that my feet would move, so I could tell the whole world about Jesus Christ, my Savior." Tears welled up inside of me. She was yearning to follow Christ by sharing the gospel message, Philemon 4-7a, "I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement." I couldn't help but burst forth and tell Kate what a great witness she is to me to share the gospel. She is a beautiful example of how sharing God's love and spreading God's word is a privilege, not a burden. I let

Kate know that she is sharing Christ with others. Kate shared Christ with me. She shares the love of God with everyone around her. A week later I visited and another friend was there. This person was struggling with faith. She had been exposed to a religion that told her she would receive eternal damnation if she didn't do certain things. Kate would touch her hand and tenderly tell her that "Salvation is a gift from God through Jesus Christ who died for you on the cross and rose again to save you."

Kate's example shows how Christ works through our limitations. The ends of the earth are right next door. God loves us despite our limitations and works through our limitations to spread his good news of salvation that "God demonstrates his own love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" Romans 5:8.

*Name has been changed for confidentiality purposes.

Sword Apologies

The Sword apologizes to the writers who had their articles cut off in the last issue, including Abbie Weiss, Shaunna Trump, Joe Neuenfeldt, and Tim Garrels.

There were technical difficulties involved in sending the newspaper over e-mail to the publisher, causing some articles to be shortened accidentally. Sorry about this error, we hope that the bugs in our new system get worked out soon.

Also, our apologies to President Holst and Jake Hollatz whose names were spelled wrong in the last issue.

Coming Soon to Pearson Theater...

Look Homeward, Angel

Directed by:

John Cunningham

Starring...

Theresa Fitzpatrick

Shawn Deterding

DJ Leffin

Lisa LeGrand

John Morano

SHOWING APRIL 29TH-MAY 2ND