

Concordia Theological Monthly



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THEOLOGICAL OBSERVER

LUKE 2:14 IN THE LIGHT OF THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

Prof. B. M. Metzger, reviewing Dr. K. Stendahl's *The Scrolls and the New Testament* (Harper, 1957) in *Theology Today* (April 1958), selects from the symposium, among others, the essay of Ernest Vogt, S. J., which discusses the meaning of the concluding phrase in the angelic chorus at Christ's birth (Luke 2:14). The reviewer writes: "The nominative *eudokia*, in the inferior *textus receptus*, was rendered by the King James translators, ' . . . on earth peace, good will among men.' The RSV translators, choosing the variant reading *eudokias* witnessed by the earlier Greek manuscripts, render the phrase, ' . . . on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased.' The evidence in the Qumran texts not only offers decisive linguistic support for the Semitic construction lying behind the variant *eudokias* but also indicates (as Vogt points out) that 'God's good pleasure refers more naturally to the will of God to confer grace on those He has chosen, than God's delighting in and approving of the goodness in men's lives' (p. 117). Thus the meaning of Luke 2:14 is ' . . . peace among men of God's good pleasure,' that is, among his chosen ones." There is no doubt that the reading *εὐδοκίας* is the authentic one and that the reading *εὐδοκία* of the Byzantine, Caesarean, and other texts is an attempt at clarifying to the reader the somewhat obscure phrase. At any rate in these texts there are many variants which obviously attempt such clarification. But if that is true, would not the emendation which Luther renders, . . . *und den Menschen ein Wohlgefallen*, with its application to all men, much better explain the phrase than its restricted sense, "among his chosen ones"? At least, the thought that God, *Messia nato*, is pleased with all men, agrees very well with the preceding phrase, "on earth peace." JOHN THEODORE MUELLER

THE CALL TO DIE AND TO LIVE

Under this heading, Prof. J. W. Bachmann, in the *Lutheran Quarterly* (February 1958), directs the attention of Christian ministers to their sacred task, closing his article with the following stirring appeal: "But it is a wonderful world, too, where we can know in the cross God's love for us, incompetent and sinful though we are. Secure in that love we can set about our work with a zest which comes from knowing not that we are capable, but that God is capable of using even us. God calls us to call others. What a frightening burden!

What a glorious responsibility! There is something of both, even as the Christian life seems to be full of strange mixtures of joy and sorrow. . . . When we face the responsibility of communicating God's call to others, there is bound to be a mixture of anticipation and hesitation. But in the presence of God and in the community of those who are reconciled to him and to one another, we can know joy in the midst of inevitable sorrows: we can know the life that grows out of dying daily. 'Whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the Gospel's, the same shall save it.' Before that, we read: "Without the cross the call to live is nonsense; without the cross the call to die is impossible. In the cross the call to live and the call to die are not *two calls but one*, the one call which is basic to every other call. We are called to die with Christ in order that we may also live with him." Again: "Men would like to think that if only they could be good-hearted, law-abiding citizens and follow a few simple psychological principles, they and their families would be healthy and prosperous. . . . This is probably the most popular so-called religion of our time, but it is as far from Christianity as the most ignorant superstition of the world's remotest areas."

JOHN THEODORE MUELLER

EXCERPTS FROM RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE

Stockholm.—A bill authorizing the ordination of women as pastors in the Swedish Lutheran Church was passed here by both chambers of the Riksdag (Parliament). Theoretically the measure permits women to receive the priestly office in the state church as of July 1959. It climaxes a fight for the ordination of women begun in 1919. However, the ordination of women ministers will not be possible until the bill is approved by the Lutheran Church Convocation, which will meet in extraordinary session next fall. At its last biennial sessions, held in October 1957, the convocation voted 62—36 against such ordination. Should the convocation again exercise its veto right, a parliamentary measure proposing abolition of this privilege is expected to be submitted to the Riksdag.

Dr. Yngve Brilioth, archbishop of Uppsala and primate of the Swedish Lutheran Church, has submitted his resignation on reaching the retiring age of 67. Elections will be held in the dioceses in June to choose three candidates from among whom King Gustaf will name a successor, probably in August.

Augusta, Wis.—Seven brothers, all ministers, participated in the dedication of the new \$150,000 Grace Lutheran Church here May 4. The Rev. Edmund Schedler, pastor of the 850-member congregation,

said that it was the first reunion of the brothers since they gathered for the funeral services of their father, the Rev. Paul Schedler, Sr., in 1949.

Buck Hill Falls, Pa.—The proposed merger of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council was hailed here as a "dramatic symbol" of the ecumenical movement, by Dr. Henry Smith Leiper of New York, executive secretary of the Congregational Christian Missions Council. He told more than 100 leading churchmen at the annual meeting of the United States Conference for the WCC that the union, "consummated in principle at Ghana in 1957, will be completed in 1960 at the World Council's next assembly."

Buck Hill Falls, Pa.—Forty-three of the 170 member communions of the World Council of Churches admit women to the "full ministry," Dr. Roswell P. Barnes of New York, executive secretary of the United States Conference for the WCC, reported here. He said 24 other denominations "ordain women to a limited ministry of one kind or another." Of the remaining council members, he said, 76 "do not ordain women," and there is "no up-to-date" information on the other 27.

New York.—George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, was named to receive the 1958 Quadregesimo Anno award of the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists (ACTU), it was announced here. He was cited for his "courageous actions toward instilling in the American labor movement the principles of social justice and charity as enunciated by the Roman Catholic Church in the great social encyclicals."

Washington, D. C.—Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Patrick J. Ryan, chief of Army chaplains, has advised the senior chaplain at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga., not to give official approval to the erection of a statue of St. Maurice, patron of the foot soldier, unless Protestant objections are withdrawn. In a letter to Chaplain (Col.) Albert C. Wildman, a Presbyterian USA minister, Chaplain Ryan said that St. Maurice is the patron of all Roman Catholic infantrymen but that he is not necessarily the patron of foot soldiers of other faiths. He warned the base chaplain not to involve the intercreedal chaplain branch in a sectarian controversy.

Chaplain Ryan, a Roman Catholic, made it clear that the project was initiated by lay officers at Fort Benning and was not one with which the chaplains have any connection. Erection of the statue was protested in letters to President Eisenhower by the General Commission on Chaplains and Armed Forces Personnel, a Protestant group representing 37 communions, the National Lutheran Council, the Southern Baptist Convention, and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Durham, N. C.—Some 250 North Carolina Negro ministers attended an all-day conference here designed to add 250,000 Negro voters to the state registration books. The session was sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The meeting was the first of a series of statewide rallies planned in the South.

Little Rock, Ark.—Testimony was completed in chancery court here in trial of a suit brought by 10 Negro clergymen and attacking the constitutionality of two state laws aimed at preserving segregation.

Karachi, Pakistan.—Several hundred thousand Christian farmers in Pakistan, who were dispossessed by fleeing Indian Moslems ten years ago, will be given new land by the government.

Pakistan President Iskander Mirza gave the assurance to Dr. R. Norris Wilson, executive director of Church World Service, now visiting the agency's centers in 22 countries. CWS is the relief arm of the National Council of Churches in the U. S.

Santa Barbara, Calif.—Dr. John W. Behnken, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, said here the denomination is not "aloof" from the rest of Lutheranism. Consultations toward bridging theological gulfs which have kept Missouri Synod Lutherans separated from most other Lutheran groups will be continued, Dr. Behnken told delegates to a meeting of the church's Southern California District. He said the Synod will be represented at meetings (at Oslo, Norway, in August) of the commission on theology of the Lutheran World Federation.

New York, N. Y.—Property valued at more than \$3 million has been turned over to the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church at Guntur, India, by the United Lutheran Church in America. Dr. Earl S. Erb, executive secretary of the denomination's Board of Foreign Missions, said the property includes eight hospitals, a college, five high schools and training schools, and 800 elementary schools. In addition, the United Lutherans are deeding 2,000 churches, chapels, and auxiliary buildings of worship to the Indian Church. Official transfer of the property was made at ceremonies in St. Matthew's Church in Guntur.

Washington, D. C.—The crime rate in the United States set a new all-time record in 1957, J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, disclosed here. A total of 2,796,400 crimes were known to police in 1957, an increase of 9.1 per cent over the previous record set the year before, Mr. Hoover said in the FBI's annual publication "Uniform Crime Reports."

London. — The dropping of religious opposition to birth control was recommended by a Church of England committee in a report to be submitted to this summer's Lambeth Conference of Anglican and Episcopal bishops throughout the world. Most of the committee's report, a 220-page book entitled *The Family in Contemporary Society*, was devoted to arguments for and against birth control. It was prepared by a group of 19 theologians and sociologists appointed at the request of Dr. Geoffrey Francis Fisher, archbishop of Canterbury. The committee was headed by Canon Max Warren, general secretary of the Church Missionary Society.

"The more we understand of our procreative powers, the more responsible we are for the way in which we use them," the report said. "If our conscience will not tolerate, when we know how to prevent it, a torrent of infant deaths, no more should we, with the knowledge we have, encourage an ungoverned spate of unwanted births."

Chicago. — Separation of church and state in this country is "harmonious and co-operative, for both institutions are founded upon faith in God and belief in man's dignity," Assistant Secretary of State Andrew H. Berding said here. Addressing Protestant editors at the 39th annual meeting of Associated Church Press, Mr. Berding pointed out that "our form of government separates church and state in terms of any control of either by the other."

Berlin. — A special commission of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKID) has started work on a revised version of Martin Luther's translation of the Old Testament. Headed by Bishop Otto Dibelius of Berlin, chairman of the EKID Council, the commission comprises 15 prominent theologians — 10 clergymen active in practical pastoral work and 5 Old Testament scholars. The latter group will watch that the peculiarities of Luther's translation and his typical language will be preserved as far as possible.

Capetown, S. Africa. — Dr. Joost de Blank, Anglican archbishop of Capetown, in a letter to local newspapers, urged contributions to the defense fund for 91 Europeans, Africans, blacks and whites, committed for trial in Pretoria on charges of high treason. The trial is scheduled to open at the end of June.

Defendants include the Rev. Douglas Chadwick Thompson, Methodist minister of Springs, Transvaal. All are opponents of South Africa's apartheid (racial segregation) policies. Originally 156 men and women were arrested in December 1956 on the treason charges, but a long-protracted magistrate's hearing resulted in charges against all but

91 defendants being dropped. Two of the original defendants were clergymen—the Revs. J. H. Calata and W. S. Gave, both African Anglican missionaries.

New York, N. Y.—A Christian Technical Assistance program, designed to speed up relief to the suffering millions of Asia, was proposed here to the executive committee of Church World Service. The program, which would permit interchange of church specialists in agriculture, child care, welfare, and handicrafts, was submitted by Dr. R. Norris Wilson, CWS executive director, in a report on his global tour of church relief and rehabilitation work.

Washington, D. C.—Congressional efforts to strengthen enforcement of Federal laws against the mailing of obscenity received a boost here when senators Estes Kefauver (D.-Tenn.) and William Langer (R.-N. Dak.) introduced a bill in the Senate substantially similar to one just approved by the Judiciary Committee in the House.

Philadelphia.—Evangelical and Reformed Church members were urged to give strong support to public schools, in a statement drafted by the denomination's Board of Christian Education at its annual meeting here. The statement also opposed diversion of tax moneys to nonpublic schools and endorsed the released-time program for religious instruction, higher school taxes and teachers' salaries where needed to improve schools, and a "comprehensive or balanced" curriculum instead of overemphasizing science.

Geneva.—There are nearly 71 million Lutherans in the world, and they represent 32 per cent of all Protestants, according to the 1958 directory of the Lutheran World Federation. Seventy per cent of all Lutherans are represented in the federation, the directory said.

A breakdown showed that 49,600,000 Lutherans belong to member churches of the federation and 5,300,000 to nonmember churches. An additional 15,800,000 belong to the United Churches in Germany.

The directory placed the number of Lutherans in Europe at 59,500,000, of whom 42,900,000 are represented in the federation. Of the 8,400,000 Lutherans in America, 5,700,000 are embraced by the federation.

Berlin.—Church leaders warned here that a new East German decree, banning religious instruction in high schools and colleges, may also be used to subject elementary school Catechism classes to Communist control. They pointed out that the decree, which was promulgated by Fritz Lange, the East German education minister, had already banned religious instruction in the higher elementary school grades.

New York, N. Y.—Federal Judge Archie O. Dawson refused to dismiss a suit brought against the merger of two Protestant denominations into the new United Church of Christ but criticized both sides for bringing a religious dispute into the civil courts. The judge denied a motion challenging the U. S. District Court's jurisdiction to try the case initiated by four Congregational Christian churches and a number of laymen and ministers opposed to the union. He ordered the issue brought to trial.

New York.—Discovery of an important Judean caravan highway in the Holy Land, known as the Way of Shur in the Bible, was announced here by Dr. Nelson Glueck, president of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. He said the road led southwest from Beersheba to Sinai and from there to Egypt. It is mentioned in Genesis, Exodus, and Numbers. Dr. Glueck announced his discovery shortly after returning from a series of explorations in the Negeb, Israel's southern desert. A Biblical archaeologist, his speciality has been the investigation of the arid Negeb and reconstruction of its ancient history.

"Our important discovery lies in the fact that we found two Judean kingdom fortresses overlooking the valley of Ruheiba or Rehoboth," Dr. Glueck said. "The discovery of these fortresses indicates we were indeed on the ancient Way of Shur."

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