

What do we believe? One would conclude that after seventy-plus years, we would be able to write a concise answer in our own words; but we can think of no better statement of our belief than Luther's meaning to the Second Article of the Creed in his Catechism.

"We believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is our Lord..." Just that much is being challenged at every turn today. "Who has redeemed us, lost and condemned creatures, bought us and freed us from all sins, from death, and the power of the devil; not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood, and with His innocent sufferings and death; in order that we might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness; even as He is risen from the dead, and lives and reigns to all eternity." Because we believe this to be most certainly true, Ted (Olaf) '52 and myself, Marlene Olson '53, have chosen to serve Him in any place, at any time and in any way He directs.

We firmly believe that we cannot call ourselves people of faith if we live a life that does not require faith.

We will also send by regular mail, a summary of our fifty married years, as a response to this belief system. The result of obedience has been absolute high adventure and personal growth. As we stepped out in faith, we received grace and power to carry out the Lord's direction to a multitude of people all over the world. The following are a few of these examples: Living with homeless, putting our lives on the line working with militant blacks in the sixties, smuggling Bibles into China just prior to the Tiananmen Square incident, helping disabled at a government facility in Japan, adoption of black children, experiencing East Germany behind the wall, having our motivation tested while assisting Native Americans and First Nation people, enjoyed serving many interdenominational mission bases and much more.

We have not "signed off" yet as we counsel and pray with students from Bethany College, missionaries, residents here at our Independent Senior apartment and speak to study groups from the area on our adventures. We also preach at this facility's Sunday Services.

We are grateful to St. Olaf, especially the Christ centered teachers, parents, past churches, children, grandchildren and Christian friends for the impact the Word sent forth, has had on us.

We believe St. Olaf and all Christian Colleges have an awesome responsibility, as a beacon of God's Light of Love, to bring hope to a very troubled world. As Jesus Christ's Name is put to the service, it will not be a band-aid but a permanent reliver of suffering.