

Nbr. 75 – January, 2026

### **The Gospel Guarantees Security**

*From a lecture by Dr. Gerhard Aho*

[The Gospel of the Christ Who came to die and rise again] does not guarantee security against suffering and pain. But in a life that is subject to change and decay, it proclaims God as Rock and Fortress.

God is a Father Who loves His children, Who numbers even the hairs of their heads, and Who will never forsake them. Standing on this Rock, Christians can defy circumstances, resist the power of Satan, and conquer death.

*See? WOW!* When we bring the Good News to people, it does things. It guarantees security.

### **Talking Turkey**

Even though I am writing these words about 10 days after Thanksgiving, the heading above does not refer to my recent diet at the holiday feast and leftovers thereafter. I want to talk turkey with C-WOWs about your position as C-WOWs.

At the most recent annual C-WOW meeting, on Nov. 22, only half of CID's C-WOWs joined in. The rest missed what turned out to be a good discussion. Yet this discussion could have been improved with more detailed information from the C-WOWs about the evangelistic efforts taking place in the congregations of their Circuits.

As a C-WOW, your responsibilities largely consist in serving as liaison between the District Evangelism Commission and Evangelism executive on one hand and the Circuit and its congregations on the other hand. That last sentence is a quick summary of the full C-WOW job description at

<https://www.cidlcms.org/resources/cwow/CWOW.Position.Description.pdf>

The C-WOW position amounts to but a modest attempt to revive the older "Circuit Evangelism Representatives" in the Synod. The latter had roots in a 1959 convention resolution where the Synod indicated that then-termed "Circuit Counselors" were "charged with the responsibility of promoting in, and channeling to, their respective congregations of their circuits the co-ordinated and complete program of the Synod and District." To help Circuit Counselors with this sizable responsibility, the Synod encouraged them to select "circuit cabinets" consisting of 3 or more "competent pastors, teachers, or laymen" (1959 LCMS *Proceedings*, 300-301).

Well, CID has C-WOWs these days in part to relieve its Circuit Visitors of some of their burden. (We want them to major in visitation!) It also has you there as C-WOWs so there will be someone else, in addition to the Circuit Counselor, who can promote discussion about and engagement in evangelistic work within Circuits, among their churches.

Unlike Synod's the 1959 resolution, however, there is no determination here that a coordinated program is necessarily being conveyed. C-WOWs are not there to make sure everyone follows some company line on evangelistic tools or techniques. While I try – partly through these annual meetings – to make C-WOWs aware of resources the Synod and the District offers, these remain just that: resources, not requirements. In other words, C-WOWs have never been envisioned as occupying a middle management position, handing down orders. [CONTINUED ON PAGE 2]



**Circuit Witness and Outreach Workers**

*Worth considering:*

**“What Do You Think I Believe?”**

Engaging people in evangelistic conversation always presents challenges. One good general suggestion is to ask questions. Instead of focusing first on what you have to tell someone about Jesus, it is often wise to raise questions for others, to draw them out a bit and give you an opportunity for Gospel witness.

Now, what to do with someone who is hostile to Christianity? Which questions might be put to such a person?

Missouri Synod clergyman Christian Zimmermann was also an airline flight engineer. In the 1980s, a commercial plane on which he was working was hijacked. He ended up being held by Muslim captors. They were acutely hostile to Christianity.

Chris Zimmermann asked them questions. First, he queried them about what they believed.

Having done that, and after hearing them out, he went on with another question: “*Now, what do you think I believe as a Christian?*”

Great idea! Zimmermann’s captors harbored a number of misconceptions about the Christian faith. He was able to correct their faulty understandings. Still more, in the process he could tell them about Jesus.

His idea remains valuable. We too can ask nonchurched people what they think we believe. Then we can respond. Conversation is underway!

This question is good for those who are hostile to Christianity, but not only for them. It can be broached to others also. Consider adding it as a tool for your evangelistic toolbox.

**Talking Turkey [CONTINUED]**

The essence of the C-WOW position is *communication*. I provide “Worth Considering” features in this newsletter so you have at least a little something to say or discuss about evangelism at Circuit Winkels – to say nothing of Circuit Forums or Convocations.

But the relay can go the other direction too. I need to hear from you about what is going on in your Circuit in the field of evangelism: happenings, challenges, needs. Especially now that I am on modified service and working only one day a week for CID, this communication will be more and more vital so the Evangelism Commission and I get a realistic picture of what is going on, or not going on.

A lot of this communication can center at the Circuit Winkels. So, may I ask the following?

- At Winkels, at least some of the time, take time to talk about evangelism in general. You may choose to use some of the “Worth Considering” columns as fodder for the discussion.
- Also at Winkels – if nothing else, perhaps a couple of times a year, for instance in Fall and in Spring – spend some additional time talking about what particular efforts that various congregations are making in evangelism.
- Attend the virtual C-WOW meeting. (We can change the date if the Saturday before Thanksgiving seems bad for many.) This once-a-year event offers a great time for us to tell each other – and for you easily to tell me! – what is happening. And if District appears to be missing the boat when it comes to evangelism, here’s a chance for you to sound the alarm!

– Ken Schurb    [kschurb@cidlcms.org](mailto:kschurb@cidlcms.org)



**Circuit Witness and Outreach Workers**