PART III

CURRENT ISSUES AND EVENTS CONCERNING LUTHER

As indicated in the Autumn 1983 issue of AUSS in "A Tribute to Martin Luther" (pp. 291-294; see especially p. 292), one of the main reasons for deferring this special Luther issue of our journal into 1984 was our purpose to be able better to survey some of the events and literature of the Luther Quincentennial Year. The present section of our journal seeks to accomplish this purpose through its four main components: (1) an article by the editor on some of the more prominent issues currently of interest in Luther studies, as evidenced by literature and other discussions (such as interconfessional dialogues); (2) a brief bibliographical essay covering major works on Luther which have appeared in America in 1983 (with some attention, too, to 1984); (3) reports on three of the more significant Luther-Year conventions in the United States (by persons responsible for organizing and convening these conferences); and (4) an overview of two of the European celebrations of the Luther Quincentennial-in Uppsala, Sweden, and Erfurt in the German Democratic Republic (the former by Ellen S. Erbes, who was in Uppsala at the time of the celebration; and the latter by Daniel A. Augsburger, a participant in the research congress which he reports).

Numerous publications—from scholarly journals, to popular magazines, church papers, and the general news media—have, of course, reported in profusion on the events of the "Luther Year." Nevertheless, it is hoped, believed and trusted that the presentations given herein will provide their own unique contribution towards broadening the horizons concerning the events and developments of that "Luther Year," and will enlarge and enhance our understanding of the impact of Luther's life and work upon our own day.

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