

improvement over the former Roman Catholic system that many protestants...liberal and conservatives...rushed to join its early expression. Hindisght is 20/20 vision in these cases.

#### The German Situation

Any attempt to understand the German situation must include some knowledge of the condition of Germany after World War I. The loss of the war had been debilitating...the land felt humiliated...their leader was living in exile in the Netherlands...and they had an imposed state government (the Weimar republic) for which they were neither prepared nor enthused. The new republic seemed to carry the vestiges of defeat and the populist leader, von Hindenburg, was in himself a reminded of the war that had been lost and the offensive treaty that had been imposed. The strong pride of the Teutonic spirit was "in the dumps". The rise of National Socialism came as a rejuvenating force...it would bring back solid political rule...the trains would run on time again...the pride of the nation would be reasserted and the Germanic people would not have to look like goats in the political world. The cry of nationalism was raised and the Hitlerian spirit grabbed the day. The nation had a leader again and was asserting its own destiny, not that which the League of Nations had sought to impose on it. To understand how the Fascists got a full grip on Germany...that much must be understood.

Part of the Christian community was so impressed with Hitler that a "Faith Movement" was put together...largely of loyal Germans who as Christians wanted to support the new party. This group did not prosper long but made much of the Vatican Concordat of 1933 in which Hitler promised religious liberty and many other benefits to the church. When the strong tone of anti-Jewishness became more evident (there was a long reaching resentment of Jews in much of central Europe) and the triumphant tones of a new militarism were heard, some German leaders formed the Ministers Emergency Association...M. Niemoeller being the chief leader. Out of this group would come meetings in Barmen in 1934 in which both Lutheran and