

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

*Published by the Board of Missions for the Deaf of the Lutheran Synod
of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States*

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Hymn for Ascension Day

Triumphant Victor in the strife,
Great Conqueror of death and life,
Now all Thy earthly days are o'er,
And Thou dost reign in heav'n once more.

Ascended to Thy Father's throne,
We pray Thee, leave us not alone,
But plead for us that we may be
Faithful e'en to eternity.

Take not Thy sacred Word away,
Our mighty comfort, staff, and stay.
And when our prayers ascend on high,
O Lord, to us be ever nigh.

Fix our affections all on Thee,
From earthly cares, oh, set us free.
Direct our thoughts to things above,
And keep us wholly in Thy love.

Someday we also shall ascend
To dwell with Jesus, our dear Friend.
Then with the saints in heav'n we'll raise
To Him our songs of matchless praise.

ANNABELLE SCHOTT

Pentecost

On Pentecost Day the promise of Jesus was fulfilled: "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." Acts 1:8 b. Man, sinful and spiritually dead as he is by nature, receives Christ's divine power through the Holy Spirit to flee sin and to serve Him in joy and gladness. Man is helpless in the matters of conquering sin and of the soul's salvation, but by His Spirit God gives divine strength to conquer the enemies of the soul.

Come to church, therefore, to hear the Word of God; for St. Paul teaches: "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." 1 Cor. 1:21. O. C. S.

Rev. J. A. Beyer

An Easterner by birth, Pastor Beyer spent most of his ministry in the Pacific Northwest and in the north central part of the United States. He was born on Jan. 14, 1895, at Saratoga Springs, N. Y. He entered college in 1909 at Bronxville, N. Y., and graduated from this institution in 1915. For three years he attended Concordia Seminary at St. Louis, Mo., and from 1916 to 1917, while a student, he did supply work at Raton, N. Mex.

After his graduation from the seminary in June, 1919, he was called into the Deaf Mission. His ordination took place on Aug. 31, 1919, in his home town, Saratoga

Spring, N. Y. His brother, Rev. H. A. Beyer, ordained him.

Pastor Beyer spent the month of September of that year at Detroit, Mich., under the tutelage of the now sainted Pastor Wm. Gielow and preached his first sermon to the deaf at Toledo, Ohio.

The call to become the first resident Lutheran missionary to the deaf at Portland, Oreg., was accepted, and he was installed there on Oct. 19, 1919. Seven stations and three State schools, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, were on the missionary's regular itin-



Pastor J. A. Beyer Signing "He Is Risen!"

erary. To reach some of these stations required a great amount of traveling each month.

In September, 1923, he followed the call to St. Paul, Minn., in which field also he traveled extensively, serving stations in the three States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Since it was evident that a chapel in St. Paul was needed to enhance the work in Calvary Congregation, the energetic pastor began to carry on a real campaign to raise funds for this project. His hopes and those of the growing congregation were realized when on April 25, 1926, the beautiful chapel-parsonage was dedicated to the service of the Lord.

That advertising pays was one of the lessons Pastor Beyer learned during his pub-



Children of deaf parents baptized on Easter Sunday at Columbus, Ohio, by Pastor J. A. Beyer. Parents also shown. Included in the Baptism was a colored baby

licity work for the St. Paul chapel, and he has since then been very enthusiastic about promoting publicity for the mission among the deaf by means of stereopticon slides, motion pictures, newspaper articles, and various school and church bulletins, and his efforts along this line have brought blessings and benefits in many ways.

An incident which occurred while Rev. Beyer served Calvary Congregation at St. Paul and one which shows the wonderful ways of our God in promoting the interests of His kingdom is worthy of mention. A teacher of the Mississippi State School, while visiting a member of Calvary Congregation, attended a number of services in St. Paul and later took a course of instruction in the Bible truths by correspondence. Later, in 1938, this teacher was confirmed by Pastor Beyer and immediately began to be of real service to her Master,

Jesus Christ, by assisting two of our Lutheran pastors, Rev. Besalski and Rev. Westermann, in bringing the saving Gospel to pupils of her school.

Because of this incident, the interest which the St. Paul missionary had shown for many years in developing and expanding the work among the deaf in the South, was intensified, and together with the Executive Secretary, Dr. J. L. Salvner, and the Board, the matter of making a special survey of the Southern field, especially the Texas and Oklahoma territory, was discussed. In March, 1947, Rev. Beyer was asked to make such a survey, and on the basis of his report a new missionary was immediately called to serve the Texas-Oklahoma field.

In May, 1947, the Board called Pastor Beyer to the newly created field at Columbus, Ohio. He was installed there on June 29, 1947. Thus he took over a part of the vast territory heretofore served by the Rev. Th. Frederking. This field comprises central and southern Ohio and a part of Indiana. Pastor Beyer also teaches weekly religious classes at the Ohio State School at Columbus and visits regularly at the Home for the Aged and Infirm Deaf in Westerville, Ohio.

Surely we have every reason to believe that Pastor Beyer, under God's blessing and guidance, will experience the same measure of success in Ohio as in his former places. God grant it.

A New Worker for the New England States

The writer of these lines left Minneapolis Feb. 15, met with representatives of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League at Springfield, Ill., in regard to a building for our work in Jacksonville, Ill., addressed the student body of our Springfield Seminary, then went on to St. Louis for several interviews regarding our work, and also attended one of the sign classes. We then stopped off at Columbus to see what could be done in regard to Pastor Beyer's housing problem and finally arrived at Boston, where Pastor C. Roland Gerhold, who has accepted the call into our work in the Boston area, met us. With him we spent about six weeks preparing him for our work, helping

him in getting the work established, and then commissioned him on Sunday, April 4.

Of course, during these six weeks our main purpose was to have Pastor Gerhold learn the sign language. Every day we signed, and signed, and signed. March 14 the first Lutheran service for the deaf was held in First Lutheran Church (the Rev. P. Brauer, pastor). Six deaf and hard of hearing and about 50 hearing friends attended. In this service our new missionary took over the entire liturgy, while the writer preached the sermon. On Easter Day our second service was held with nine deaf, three hearing, and three children. Pastor Gerhold again took over the liturgy and also signed two Easter hymns. Our final service in Boston took place on Sunday, April 4, in which our new worker was commissioned as missionary to the deaf in the New England States. Eight pastors of Boston and vicinity assisted. The sermon for the occasion was delivered by the writer. Eleven deaf and about 125 hearing friends attended. We heartily thank God for this new missionary.

Pastor Gerhold is very much interested in our Mission to the Deaf, signs very clearly, and only needs practice to become more skillful in the use of the sign language. He also is taking lip reading lessons from Miss Martha Bruhn, a well-known teacher of the art of lip reading. Likewise Mrs. Gerhold is learning the language of the deaf and is able to converse somewhat with them. Their daughter Lyta, four years of age, is able to spell her name on her fingers. They have another girl, Chrysteen, age five months. May our good Lord be with Pastor Gerhold and his family and grant that he be a blessing to many deaf and hard of hearing.

Together we visited a number of schools for the deaf, the first one being the one at Randolph, where Pastor Gerhold weekly instructs eleven children. Miss Lucy Bruhn kindly assists him, taking the group of smaller children. Another school that we visited is the American School for the Deaf at Hartford, Conn., the first school for the deaf in the United States, founded by Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet in 1817. Mr. Douglas, the principal of the school, made our stay there a most pleasant one. While there, we also heard a lecture by

Mrs. Spencer Tracy in regard to the John Tracy Clinic of Los Angeles, which deals especially with deaf children of pre-school age. From there we went on to Springfield, Mass., to visit the school there attended by six children. Other schools visited are the Northampton, Mass.; Mystic, Conn.; Providence, R. I.; and the Boston Horace Mann Schools. We thank the principals and teachers of these schools for the welcome extended to us. We surely enjoyed visiting the various classes.

A number of organizations of the deaf and hard of hearing also were visited, and thus we became acquainted with many deaf and hard of hearing. We also enjoyed our visit at the Home for Aged Deaf at Danvers, Mass., an ideal place for deaf to spend the evening of their lives. Thanks to Mrs. Edmunds, the matron of the Home, for showing us around. Upon request we conducted an Easter service, preaching to them about our risen and victorious Lord and Savior. The twenty-four deaf at the Home, six deaf from the vicinity, the matron, and the nurse attended.

Sunday, March 4, we were in Brooklyn, and there we were asked to preach at both the English and the German services, then addressed the Sunday school. In the afternoon we preached in beautiful St. Matthew's Church for the Deaf to seventy of our deaf friends. After the service we addressed them again, speaking words of encouragement to them. In the evening we preached a sermon in Newark, N. J., to thirteen deaf and addressed them again after the service. Also Pastor Gerhold spoke a few words to them in the sign language, both in Brooklyn and in Newark. At Springfield, Mass., two services were held March 21, fifteen deaf and a number of our hearing Christians attending the afternoon service and about twenty deaf being in attendance in the evening.

Thus the weeks passed by rapidly, and Monday, April 5, we wended our way home, arriving there on Tuesday afternoon. May God's richest blessings be and abide with Pastor Gerhold in this blessed work unto the glory of our Savior's precious name and the salvation of many souls. And we conclude with this prayer for more workers: "Lord of the harvest, send forth more laborers into this Thy vineyard."

J. L. S.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Detroit, Mich. — It pleased God, in His wise providence, to call out of this life the soul of John Burgess. Mr. Burgess was confirmed two years ago and proved to be a faithful member of our congregation until the end of his life. The Lord took his soul on Feb. 27, and he was laid to rest on March 1. He is survived by his wife, two sons, and two daughters. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."

The following adults were confirmed in Saginaw on the first Sunday in March: Mrs. Alva Sonnsmith, Miss Margaret Sonnsmith, Mrs. B. Tappan, and Mrs. E. Wambach. May God give them the strength to serve Him all the days of their lives, and to continue in the true saving faith until death. N. B.

Montana-Spokane Field. — Classes were begun in September at the Montana School for the Deaf in Great Falls for the 1947-48 school year, with 30 children enrolled in the two Lutheran classes. Four of these are already communicant members, and five have begun instruction for confirmation.

John Reid, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hood, was baptized in St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Butte, Mont., on Oct. 28, 1947. Mrs. Elmer Francisco and Miss Adele Mudro were the witnesses to his Baptism. May the Lord, who has brought him to faith, keep him in His grace and bring him to His everlasting kingdom.

On Jan. 17, 1948, Mr. Clark E. Goodall and Miss Katherine Boggio were united in holy wedlock in Park City, Mont. Mr. Goodall is the hearing son of deaf parents, and Miss Boggio is a deaf girl. May the Lord bless their marriage with many years of happiness.

At Bozeman, Mont., on Jan. 23, Mrs. Mabel Hawes was received into communicant membership through the rite of confirmation. May the Lord keep her in His grace and in true faith.

After an illness of many months Mr. Charles Goodall of Park City, Mont., was relieved by the Lord of his suffering at the age of 83 years on March 9 and was laid to rest on March 12 at Park City. Although unable to get around for the past few years, both he and his wife were ever eager to hear more about their Savior Jesus Christ.

Mr. Alfred Bury and Miss Lois Eby were united in holy wedlock in Trinity Lutheran Church at Billings, Mont., on March 21. May the Lord give them a very blessed and happy wedded life.

On Jan. 25, 1948, the first voters' meeting since 1940 was held in Spokane. A new constitution for the church and repairs for the chapel were discussed. After several meetings a new constitution was adopted, and all the material was obtained for refinishing the inside of the chapel. With the coming of warmer weather, the members hope to complete the repairs themselves. At the voters' meeting on Feb. 22 the following officers were elected: A. Anderson, President; H. O. Silk, Vice-president; J. Skoglund, Secretary-Treasurer; J. Moore, P. Axling, N. Barney, Board of Elders; W. Thomas, J. Skoglund, F. Lobaugh, Board of Trustees.

D. E. SIMON

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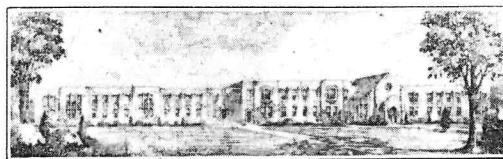
Minister to the Deaf and the Blind

Rev. O. Schroeder, B. D., 1648 E. 85th St., Chicago 17, Ill.

These ministers preach in more than 200 cities in our land; they conduct classes in religion at many State schools for the deaf. You will find them ready to serve you; call upon them or write to them. The deaf need God's Word.

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