

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States*

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Doris Heil

God Is So Wonderful!

God is wonderful!
He made heaven and earth,
He made day and night;
God is so wonderful!

He made the stars and the moon,
He made the flowers and the trees;
God is so wonderful!

He made Adam from the dust of the ground,
He made Eve from the rib of Adam;
God is so wonderful!

He reigns supreme in heaven,
He watches over us constantly;
God is so wonderful!

He sent His only-begotten Son
To save us from our sins;
God is so wonderful!

Why don't we stop and think of Him
For a little while
Every day of our lives?
God is so wonderful!

DORIS HEIL

The Rev. Alvin E. Ferber

A pastor who has always shown his deep interest in every phase of the work among the deaf and who has had 24 years of experience in this blessed work is Pastor Alvin E. Ferber of Kansas City, Mo.

His birthplace is Belvidere, Minn., and he attended Concordia College, at both St. Paul, Minn., and Fort Wayne, Ind., graduating from the latter in June, 1920. Then he attended Concordia Seminary at St. Louis, Mo., and upon completion of his studies at that institution in June, 1924, he received and accepted the call into the Deaf Mission.

At the Ephphatha Conference sessions held in Omaha, Nebr., in July, 1924, Pastor Ferber was present, and on Sunday, July 20, he was ordained by the chairman of the Board, the Rev. A. H. Kuntz. After gaining a little more knowledge of the sign language under the tutelage of Dr. J. L. Salvner at Minneapolis, Pastor Ferber took charge of the Kansas City field in September of that year, succeeding the Rev. E. C. Baker.

The Lord has signally blessed Pastor Ferber's faithful service among the deaf in three States, Kansas, Missouri, and Colorado. For a while he also served stations in the State of Oklahoma. At present he preaches in seven cities in Kansas — Atchison, Herington, Leavenworth, Marysville, Olathe, Salina, and Topeka; two in Colorado — Denver and Colorado Springs, and two in Missouri, namely, Kansas City and Joplin. At the State School in Colorado Springs, Colo., he instructs five pupils, and at the Kansas State School at Olathe 83 children attend his weekly instruction classes. Pastor Ferber writes concerning this work: "The way in which parents and school officials permit us to share and proclaim the Gospel and the manner in which our loyal deaf support the pastor and the work causes us to feel most grateful."

Also among the colored deaf of Kansas City Pastor Ferber has held regular services every

two weeks with an average attendance of 12 in the services. Two adults were instructed and confirmed by the missionary, 20 hearing children whose parents are deaf and 2 colored deaf children have been baptized. This work started in 1929. In one of the latest bulletins of the Kansas City Lutheran Mission Association, Pastor Ferber is given credit for being instrumental in starting preaching services also for the hearing colored people, combining this work with his deaf mission program.

As new members were being added to the Kansas City congregation from year to year, the pastor and members decided to organize



MOORE STUDIO Rev. A. E. Ferber

a congregation and then work towards the purchasing of property and building a chapel. Plans were made, money was collected, and in 1940 a suitable location was found in a very beautiful section of the city. The property was bought, and within another year construction of the new church and parsonage was begun. The dedication of the new building took place on July 12, 1942. This was a day of great joy for the members of Pilgrim Lutheran Deaf Congregation, and the membership began to grow until at the present time the congregation numbers 53 communicants. Regarding the construction of the chapel Pastor Ferber writes: "Surely the Lord is to be praised as He showed us the way to proceed and led us in the entire project through His wisdom and

love. At one time our committee was ready to postpone the building of the chapel; however, as we began, one feature after another developed in our favor, so the two buildings, chapel and parsonage, became a reality even sooner than we had anticipated."

The Kansas City missionary has had the privilege, among other interesting experiences, to minister unto two rather unusual persons, one of them a fine old deaf Christian lady living at Liberty, Mo., who during her childhood met President Abraham Lincoln and shook hands with him. The other was a deaf-blind Negress at Atchison, Kans., who took care of three blind hearing people. One of the three was an aunt to the deaf-blind Negress, who had gone to a slave plantation and kidnaped the girl as an infant in order that she might be freed from slavery.

Other positions held by Pastor Ferber aside from his regular work were as chairman and as secretary of the Greater Kansas City Pastoral Conference and as editor of the *Lutheran Missions and Charities Bulletin* of that city. For a number of years he also wrote the Bible study lessons published in the *DEAF LUTHERAN* until recently, when these were discontinued.

Our sincere prayer is that God grant continued strength, help, and blessing to this fellow worker in all his future undertakings for the welfare of the deaf.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Who Should Be Baptized?

(Continued)

We have learned that our Lord and Savior Jesus wants all people to be baptized, also little children; that the Apostles baptized families, and therefore also children; and that children need Holy Baptism because they are born in sin of sinful parents. And still some people will not bring their children to be baptized.

In Holy Baptism the Holy Spirit Works Faith in Little Children

Some people say: "Why baptize babies? They cannot, and do not, believe." Does the Bible teach this? Indeed not; you cannot find

one verse in the whole Bible which says that. But it does say that they can believe. Jesus called a little child and set it in the midst of His disciples and said that if they would not become as little children they could not enter into the kingdom of heaven, and then added these words: "Whoso shall offend (make fall into sin) one of these little ones which believe in Me . . ." (Matt. 18:6). Indeed, the Holy Ghost does work faith also in the hearts of the little ones, and surely that more easily than in grownups.

Do Not Keep Your Little Ones Away from Jesus

When mothers brought their young children to Jesus that He should touch them, the disciples scolded them and told them to go away. When Jesus saw this, He was much displeased and said: "Suffer (let) the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not" (Mark 10:13-14). Jesus says this also today to people that will not bring their little ones to Jesus in Holy Baptism. Come, let us not displease Him, but bring our little children to be baptized, that they believe and be cleansed from sin.

Select Christians as Sponsors for Your Child

Two or three witnesses should be chosen. Baptism is very important for a Christian, and therefore he must be sure of it. These witnesses should testify that he was baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Therefore Jesus also says: "In the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established (found true)" (Matt. 18:16). Any person may be asked to be a witness, but as sponsors, as godfather or godmother, only true Christians should be taken. In the child's name they renounce the devil, and all his works, and all his ways, confess faith in the Triune (Three-in-One) God, and also promise that their godchild shall be brought up in the teachings of God's Holy Word, especially if the parents should die, and then daily pray for it. Therefore we should take Lutheran sponsors that know the Lutheran teachings and love the Lord Jesus.

Do all you can for little children that they be brought to Jesus and stay with Him unto life everlasting.

J. L. S.

Vacations

During the warm months of summer many church members are inclined to forget their religion and Christian duties. Have a happy vacation, but do not forget that there is no vacation from God. Take God into your plans in spending your free time. Without Him and His blessings your joy may easily be turned into sadness and sorrow. Think of the many accidents which occur on the highways, lakes, and streams of our country and of the many wanderings from His fold. The Good Shepherd calls us also in the summer months. May we heed His loving call.

Plan to go to church also in the summer. Travel is no excuse to remain away from service. Dangers to body and soul increase during vacation. Remember your prayers morning and night. You will then return to your duties refreshed not only in body but also in spirit. Jesus says: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God." Matt. 6:33. O. C. S.

Two Rules

There are two good rules which ought to be written on every heart:

1. Never to believe anything bad about anybody unless you positively know it to be true.
2. Never to tell even that, unless you feel that God is listening while you tell it.

Statements of Dr. Martin Luther

A Christian man is the most free lord of all, subject to none but God.

Faith is a lively and bold confidence in God's grace.

A Christian man is the dutiful servant of all, subject to everyone.

A Christian should always be joyful.

Faith develops responsibility; love develops service.

Who knows Christ, knows all.

I have so much to do today that I shall have to pray three or four hours.

God help us to seek not our own, but His glory!

No one in Christendom has a right to do harm.

They are not Christians who would go beyond the Word and appeal to force.

We ought not always to serve God with labor, but also with resting and recreation.—*Zion Servicemen's Messenger, Milwaukee, Wis.*

The Empty Pew

The Empty Pew has an eloquent tongue. It speaks so that all may hear. To the preacher the empty pew says, "Your sermon is not worth while." To the visitor it whispers, "You see, we are not quite holding our own." To the stranger looking for a church home it suggests, "You had better wait a while." To the members present it proposes, "Why don't you go visiting next Sabbath, too?"

The empty pew kills inspiration and smothers hope. It dulls the fine edge of zeal. The empty pew is a weight. The occupied pew is a wing.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Detroit, Mich.—The following pupils from the Michigan State School in Flint were confirmed on May 16 in St. Paul's Lutheran Church in a combined service: David Bascom, Lorraine Brethauer, Janice Ewer, June Weimann, Richard McCumber, Donald Mitchel, and Arthur Sutton.

On May 23 these four pupils from the Detroit Day School were confirmed in Redeemer Lutheran Church, also in a combined service: Leona Francis, William Knight, Richard King, and Frank Rauth.

Mr. John Pittner became a communicant member of our Church through confirmation in Monroe on June 20.

May God grant to all these new members of His Church the grace and strength to remain faithful and to receive life eternal through faith in their Savior.

On May 15 Malcolm Tigwell and Betty Higgins were united in holy wedlock in Port Huron.—Charles Budge and Doris Dowling were married in Capac, Mich., on June 5. May God grant these young couples a long and happy married life.

N. E. B.

Montana—Spokane Field.—On June 27, 1948, Candidate August L. Hauptman was ordained and commissioned as missionary to the deaf in Montana and Spokane, Wash. The Rev. E. T. Leckband of Great Falls, Mont., was the officiant. The Rev. L. Helmsstetter, Secretary of Missions for the Montana District, delivered the sermon, and Vicar D. E. Simon interpreted the service for the fifteen deaf who attended.

Rev. Hauptman had served the deaf of this field for two years, beginning in September of 1945 to July of 1947, when he had to return to Concordia Seminary at Springfield, Ill., to complete his studies for the ministry. Vicar Simon served the field during this

past year and will return to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis for two more years of study. The Lord has richly blessed our efforts during the past three years, and we pray that He will continue to do so in the future to the glory of His name and the salvation of many deaf.

A. L. H.

Lutheran Ministers to the Deaf

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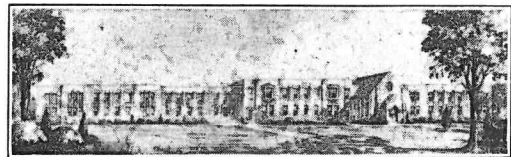
Minister to the Deaf and the Blind

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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