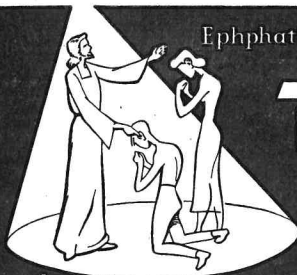


Ephphatha, that is, Be opened. Mark. 7:31-37



The Deaf Lutheran

Board of Missions to the Deaf
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Vol. 44

St. Louis, Mo., December, 1952

No. 12

"So We Built . . . unto the Half Thereof . . ." Nehemiah 4:6

We Really Need It!

The Illinois School for Deaf has over 450 pupils. Space is at a premium. We have the children one day a week after school hours and 45 minutes Sunday mornings, using the vast auditorium with fixed opera seats and an unfinished basement rummage room.

Not until we have our own church with blackboards, desks, and equipment so that we can daily teach smaller groups, can really effective work be done.

Interested students from the near-by Springfield Seminary come weekly to help instruct, gaining experience as future Deaf workers. Let's make this important phase of work profitable by providing proper facilities!

And how can you make churchgoers unless the children can attend regular weekly church services?

The work has been blest, and the interest grows. In 1948 we had 55 children in our classes. Last May we had 87. We need a chapel adjoining the campus that they may get all possible instruction, and not merely crumbs.

We're Over Half Done!

Our small adult Deaf Lutheran group cannot provide the facilities for the instruction of Deaf children from the Northern, Central, and Southern Illinois Districts.

The problem of the worker's residence became acute six years ago. The rented house was sold, and nothing else was to be had. In six months he had six addresses. Then the missionary's wife became an invalid through a stroke. After two years in an unsuitable upstairs apartment a ground-level home was ob-

(Continued on page 77)

Pastor O. C. Schroeder

In October, 1952, a minister to the blind of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod — completed a quarter of a century of service to the sightless. He is *the first and only* minister of our Church to serve the blind uninterruptedly for 25 years.

Pastor O. C. Schroeder began his work in 1927 by editing the *Lutheran Herald for the Blind*. The next year he also began editing the *Braille Bote*, a foreign-language magazine. These magazines were sent to more than 2,000 addresses in the United States and 27 foreign countries. In 1939 he took over the editorship of the *Lutheran Messenger for the Blind*, when Rev. A. H. Kuntz, Synod's first minister to the blind, retired. In the past 13 years Pastor Schroeder also developed our Lutheran Library for the Blind, now located in the synodical office building in St. Louis. The library contains about 800 hand-transcribed religious Braille books. At present Pastor Schroeder serves as the manager of Braille Transcription Department for the library.

(Continued on page 78)

Pastor Possehl Installed

St. Paul, Minn. — Sunday, August 24, was a day of rejoicing for the members and friends of Calvary Lutheran Church for the Deaf. At a service in the afternoon the Rev. Floyd Possehl was installed to be their new pastor.

The rite of installation was performed by the Rev. John L. Salvner, D. D., Executive Secretary of our Board of Missions to the Deaf. The Rev. O. H. Lottes, member of our Board, delivered the sermon on 2 Corinthians 4:7-10. The Rev. C. Bremer served as liturgist, and the Rev. W. Buege, chairman of the Board, assisted in the installation. The hymns were in-

(Continued on page 78)

Two Roads to Christmas

Christmas 1952 is only a short time away. There are two roads to go to reach December 25, Christmas Day.

The one road is the road of the world. It leads downtown, where the streets and stores are gayly decorated, where people are hurrying, looking, buying, often wasting their money. It leads to the vacant lot, now filled with different sizes of Christmas trees, holly wreaths, etc. It leads to the local grocery store with its counters loaded with fancy and tasty Christmas goodies, meats, pastries, candies, wines, etc. At the end of this road is a great colorful Christmas party with exchange of gifts, eating, drinking, and merrymaking. Many people again are walking that way to Christmas, trying to make Christmas 1952 the biggest Christmas ever.

But there is another road leading to Christmas—a very different road. It's a quiet road. There are not nearly as many people on it. But the people on this road are deep in thought. They ask themselves, "Why do we have Christmas?" This road leads them to God's Word. There they find the answer, "All men are sinners and lost to hell. But God had mercy on all people and gave His only Son, Jesus, to the world, for saving all the people from that terrible punishment. And Christmas is the day Jesus came into the world to do that work. It is His birthday." This road leads to repentance, real sorrow for sins, and the wish to put sins away. It leads to faith in God's promise that His Son can truly take away our sins and give us eternal life in heaven. At the end of this road is a quiet celebration of Christmas, with heart and mind centered in the Baby Jesus lying in the manger. The thought comes again and again, as we look at Him: "He came for me. He came to die for my sin." True, the people who walk this road may exchange a gift with friends. There may be a tree with decorations. There may be a fancier meal. But the chief event is *the little Baby lying in the manger*.

After Christmas there will be two roads again. The road of the world will lead back to darkness and fear. The Christmas lights will go out. The gifts will be forgotten. The food will be gone. The people who walk this road will go on as before without real hope or joy.

But the road of the Christian, who has spent Christmas at the manger bed of Jesus, will lead on to joy and peace. The joy of the Savior stays in his heart and grows, becoming brighter with the years. It never leaves him. This joy is truly the beginning of heaven here on earth.

These two roads are open to you. Which will you take?

New Mission Board Secretary

This spring the Rev. C. C. Nieman accepted a call to Independence, Kans., and said good-by to our Board. He served faithfully as secretary of our Board of Missions to the Deaf for five years. Our hearty thanks to him for the work he has done in the interest of our Deaf Church. May God bless him and be with him in his new church.

Thanks to God, Pastor E. R. Drews of St. Paul, Minn., has become our secretary. May our Lord and Savior, who died also for the Deaf, bless him in this work for the glory of His precious name. And may he find joy in the work.
J. L. S.

Baptisms

Mary Ann, daughter of Jacob and Evelyn Vertz, Immanuel Church, Madison, Wis.

Sandra Kay, daughter of Richard and Joan Schenk, Immanuel, Madison; both on August 10, 1952.

Death

Mary Ann Eernisse, laid to rest in Sheboygan, Wis., July 25, 1952.

Marriage

Francis Thompson and Catherine Schara, Baraboo, Wis., at St. John's Church, August 16, 1952.
R. W. M.

THE DEAF LUTHERAN

Official Organ of Lutheran Church Missions for the Deaf

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Bible Readings for December, 1952

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Second Sunday in Advent — Read Luke 12:22-31

The joyful Christmas Day with its wonderful message: "Unto you is born a Savior," is very near. This good word of forgiveness and salvation must fill our hearts with joy and singing and drive away all worries.

Jesus tells us today not to take thought, not to worry about our life, what we shall eat; neither for our body, what we shall put on. We need not worry about food and clothing. God gave us life, He also will give us food; He gave us our body, He also will give us clothes for it. Look at the birds. From whom do they get enough food all through the year? From their God. And we are much better than these birds. He gave us the best He had, His only Son Jesus Christ. Then look at the lilies of the field. King Solomon in all his glory was not dressed so beautifully as these flowers. And these live only for a short time, and then they are thrown into the fire. Much more He will give clothes to us who shall live forever with Him. Why worry and be of such little faith!

Worry helps nothing. By worrying you cannot add a cubit (half a yard) to your height. Therefore why worry about food and clothing? The people of this world do that, for they know not our dear Father in heaven. He knows that we need all these things. Let your first thought be Jesus, who was born to be your Savior and again will come to take you to Himself in heaven. He surely will take care of you in this life.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, I thank Thee for Thy dear Son, who was born and became man that He might die for me. Always let me look to Thee for food and clothing and all that I need. Amen.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

*Third Sunday in Advent — Read Luke 12:32-34**Let Little Lord Jesus Be Your Treasure*

Jesus calls His Christians a little flock. Only few find the way to life. Many are on the way to everlasting punishment. That is true also during the days before Christmas. Many are preparing for this day, but forget the "Christ" in Christmas. Only very few are preparing

their hearts and minds for Him who is born to save sinners.

Jesus tells them: "Fear not." They have a good Shepherd. God the Father gives them all the blessings of His kingdom through Jesus Christ. A wonderful gift!

They do not make money and the things of this world their chief aim and treasure. They sell what they have and remember the poor, also the poor sinners who know not the Christ Child, the Savior of the world. Blessed are they! The wicked have bags that grow old. They have treasures that fail and fade away. Thieves break through and steal them. Moths destroy their fine clothes. But they that worship the little Lord Jesus have bags that do not wear out. Their hearts are full of faith and love and joy. Jesus and His Word and His blessings are their treasures. Thieves cannot break through and steal their good things in Christ Jesus. Moths cannot destroy their beautiful dress which is Jesus' blood and righteousness.

Their treasure is in heaven. Jesus is their Treasure who now sits at the right hand of God. They sing: "Thou, O Christ, art all I want; More than all in Thee I find." Do you belong to this little flock? God grant it. Then blessed are you now and forever!

PRAYER: Little Lord Jesus, for me Thou art born. Be Thou my Treasure now and forever. Be Thou my One and All in life and death. Amen.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

*Fourth Sunday in Advent — Read Luke 12:36-40**Be Ready Always for His Coming Again*

During these days before Christmas we Christians speak and sing so much of Christ's first coming. We love to think of Him as the Babe of Bethlehem. And rightly so, for He is come to save you and me from sin, death, and the devil. And He has finished His work. Salvation is ready for all. May this be our chief Christmas joy!

But that should make us think also of His second coming. Before He went into His bitter suffering and death, He said: "I will come again and receive you unto Myself." As the believers in the Old Testament waited for His first coming, so we believers of the New Testament are waiting for His second coming.

We should be ready always for His coming again on the Last Day. And twice He says "Blessed are those servants" whom He finds watching when He comes at any hour of the night. When our Lord and Master comes again, He will take His believers into heaven for the marriage of the Lamb.

If a man would know what hour the thief would come, he would watch and not let the thief break into the house. Jesus will come suddenly, as a thief in the night. Therefore watch and be ready. He will come when people think not. Worship the little Lord Jesus, accept the Babe of Bethlehem as your Savior, and you will be ready when He comes again.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, let me trust in Thee, who didst come to save. Let me be ready when Thou wilt come again. Amen.

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25

Read Luke 12:41-44

Bring the Christmas Blessings to Others

Let us learn the wondrous story
Of our great Redeemer's birth;
Spread the brightness of His glory
Till it cover all the earth.

"Glory to God in the highest!" The Christmas angel tells us: "Unto you is born a Savior." Are you rejoicing in this Savior? Is the Christ Child your chief Joy during these days? Then this is a blessed day for you, a day of joy and peace and hope.

Rich blessings God gives you in this Christ Child. And these blessings are not only for you, but for the whole world. You are a manager of these blessings. And God wants you and me to be faithful and wise managers. Wisely we should do what He commands. He wants us to bring these blessings to others, just as the steward of a king or ruler gives to everyone under him his share of food at the right time. His master expects him to do this. So our Master tells us to give these blessings of Christmas to other poor sinners. We should make known this good word of the Savior born for all. We should help to bring it to them who as yet know not the true Christmas joy, so that they shall have a "merry Christmas" indeed.

Jesus will come again, and we shall be happy if He finds us doing His work, spreading the glory of His name, and building up His king-

dom. And then what? We shall enter into heaven with Him and rule with Him over all.

May He find you doing His work when He comes again. Bring this glorious Christmas message to all people in the world, with true Christmas joy saying: "Unto you is born a Savior." Then you are a faithful and wise steward, and you shall rule with Him forever!

PRAYER: Dear Christ Child, thanks to Thee for the many Christmas blessings of forgiveness, peace, and life. Let me joyfully bring these blessings to others. Amen.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

Read Luke 12:45-48

Turn to Jesus and Serve Him in Love

Today is the last Sunday of 1952. Another year of God's grace has rolled by. What have we done with this wonderful grace of God in Christ Jesus? Have we made use of it to the glory of our Savior's name and the welfare of our neighbor? Or have we perhaps despised His love and forgiveness and thought lightly of it? Have we perhaps read our Bible, the Word of grace, only very little and not always gladly heard and learned this Word in church? Have we perhaps done very little toward bringing this Word of salvation to others. When we think of the old year, we must feel ashamed. During these last days of the old year let us turn to our crucified and risen Savior and ask Him for forgiveness.

Hurry and do it! Our Lord Jesus will come again in a day when people expect Him not and at an hour when they think not. Be ready always! Another year gone by! Time is getting short! But so many do like the servant in our lesson. They perhaps say: "Jesus never will come again," or, "He will not come for a long time." Then they hurt and harm their neighbor, eat, drink, and get drunk. Many will close the old year in such a way. What if Jesus should come the last night of the old year? Many will not be ready and cannot enter the heavenly kingdom with Him. Let us close the old year watching and praying. They that know the Lord's Word and prepare not, shall receive many stripes, a terrible punishment.

PRAYER: Dear Lord Jesus, forgive me my many sins of the old year. Wash me clean from all sin in Thy blood. Help me to serve Thee in love. Amen.

J. L. S.

So We Built

(Continued from page 73)

tained, for which Synod pays \$100 a month until the new parsonage is done.

God bless the women! Our Central Illinois L. W. M. L. gave \$10,000 toward a building, adding another \$2,000 this year. A plan approved by the Deaf Mission Board was estimated to cost \$47,000 four years ago. Synod's Board of Directors voted us \$15,000, the Church Extension Board \$10,000 and recently \$5,000 more on a short-term basis, the latter repayable February 1, 1953.

Salem Church of Jacksonville, itself facing a school building project, gave us \$3,000 for a site plus several thousands more. Others came forward. The \$50,000 was complete.

April 1, 1951, ground was broken. Then steel was up. Finally in October work was begun in earnest, but was stopped by a hard winter. By May the structure was under roof and the windows in.

But the cost of building had mounted tremendously since the original estimate was made in 1948. We ran out of funds. The committee feels we can't build till more funds are on hand.

Unfinished business: Pouring the chapel and basement floors; heating and electrical work; lathing, plastering, and finishing the residential wing; sidewalks; garage; and work on grounds. We need at least \$20,000. And we hope for funds for some teaching equipment. Much of the chapel equipment has been donated.

We Can Complete It!

While the "Conquest for Christ" effort was on, we held our peace. We must now rekindle the interest. If we can only tell the Christians, we know that funds will be available. Pastor Uhlig cannot collect in the congregations. Where would he find the time? Besides the Deaf school, he serves adult Deaf groups in nine cities, a monthly 2,000-mile round trip. In addition, he teaches a weekly Springfield Seminary sign-language class. Family duties require his presence at home nightly.

The building belongs to Synod, not to a local congregation. It's not any District's project. *This is a Lutheran project for all Illinois.* Synod will have a valuable asset whereby to reach the Deaf children (ages 5-20) of the

State while they are at Jacksonville. They then are scattered all over the State and are unreachable.

Over half done! It surely can be completed easily! Thus: *Thankful children of the day school and Sunday school classes can help.* Fifty years ago now "A Dime from Every School Child" built the first Deaf chapel and parsonage in Milwaukee and gave the Chicago chapel fund \$1,000. A little 50-children Sunday school in Olmsted wanted to help as much as possible and sent us \$100!

Ladies' and men's organizations can help. Mothers and fathers know the heartache of parents with handicapped children.

Memorial wreath folders have been asked for and are ready. All Illinois pastors will receive them upon request, also pastors in the Dixie Deaf Circuit.

Thankofferings by grateful parents that their children are not marked or handicapped are surely appropriate. Look at the lower picture on the left. Do you see that little lad, the third from the left? He is an albino, the rear part of his hair is natural brown color, the fore part of hair and head is white. He sees poorly, hears not and speaks not. He could be your child! Have you ever thanked God that your child or grandchild is not marked or handicapped?

Let's Finish It Now

Yes, let's finish the job! Nehemiah could see his walls and the city rebuilt. We have seen the chapel taking shape. Scores of Deaf children love to stand around, watching and waiting. The project has been a stimulant to our work at Jacksonville and to the adult Deaf throughout the State. In several cities candidates for Baptism and confirmation are preparing for a joyful dedication-Baptism-confirmation service.

The builder, who is not taking a cent profit, says that it will take three months to complete the work. *We hope that the thankful echo of Christians in Illinois and the Dixie Deaf Circuit will speedily bring in the needed cash.* We just ask for the crumbs. But there were twelve baskets of such after the Master touched the bread. His "Ephphatha!" opened the ear and the mouth of the Deaf man; it will open the hearts and purses of enough thankful fathers

and mothers so that less fortunate parents may at least have their children get as much Christian instruction as possible. Let's do it now! Money should flow through the regular congregational and District channels for the *Jacksonville Deaf Chapel Fund*. N. P. U.

Schroeder

(Continued from page 73)

During the past quarter of a century Pastor Schroeder received approximately 65,000 Braille or ink-print letters from the blind and their friends. A typical letter from a reader states: "I am sending you my new address so that I do not miss a single copy of your fine magazine. I want to thank you also for sending me the *Messenger* these many years. I find much comfort in its pages." To God alone all glory!

Possehl

(Continued from Page 73)

terpreted in signs by Mrs. Strasser, Mrs. Berger, Miss Ward, Mrs. Koch, and Mrs. Youngdale. Miss Eunice Cordes was organist.

Chairs in the aisles were needed for the large group which met for the service. At the reception for the new pastor and his family, the ladies of the congregation served refreshments.

The new pastor of Calvary Church has for the past three years served the Deaf in New Jersey. Before that he served the Deaf thirteen years, first in Oklahoma-Texas, then in the North Atlantic States. He graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., in 1939.

The former pastor of Calvary Church, the Rev. Robert F. Cordes, who accepted the call to serve the Deaf in Sioux Falls, S. Dak., preached his farewell sermon in St. Paul on August 10.

The Deaf of St. Paul and the cities which will be served by the Rev. Possehl may well rejoice because the Lord so soon gave them another pastor. May the Lord shower His blessings upon the Word of God in the St. Paul field and in every place where His Word is preached. C. B.

WHENEVER a great man talks on something he knows nothing about, he weakens his influence. — J. H. Jowett.

1953 Budget

Board Asks for \$151,000

Detroit, Mich., July 4—8. Pastor William Buege, chairman, Board of Missions to the Deaf of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, announced that the Board is asking a \$25,000 raise in its 1953 budget. [Final action of Synod at St. Louis, September 10—11, allotted \$151,000 for the Board's use.] This is where the money goes:

| Item | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 (asked) |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| Preachers' Salaries | \$ 71,464 | \$ 74,304 | \$ 91,088 |
| Preachers' Traveling | 18,622 | 18,232 | 21,000 |
| Preachers' Rent | 12,393 | 13,581 | 10,620 |
| Postage and Supplies | 1,511 | 2,000 | 1,800 |
| Preachers' Houses (Payment) | 5,556 | 8,750 | 15,229 |
| Preachers' Pensions | 2,157 | 1,800 | 3,500 |
| Print, DEAF LUTHERAN | 2,884 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Board Expenses | 559 | 500 | 600 |
| Expenses of Exec. Sec. | 710 | 650 | 750 |
| Ephphatha Conference | 855 | 800 | 900 |
| Moving Preachers Secretary and Telephone | 356 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| | 317 | 180 | 560 |
| | \$117,384 | \$125,797 | \$151,017 |

Please Remember

Your Church is spending this money for you and your congregation. Think of this when you make up your 1953 congregational budget. And thank God for His blessings! Then see what you can do to help your own Deaf Church support itself better.

Bible Quiz

1. For how many pieces of silver did Judas betray Jesus?
2. How many other men were crucified at the same time with Jesus?
3. What was the name of Moses' wife?
4. How old was John the Baptist when Jesus was born?
5. What is the Seventh Commandment?
6. In what city was Jesus on trial and condemned?

From "The Lutheran Messenger" published by Pastor Ring for the Deaf of the Portland Field.

(Answers — page 80)

BELIEVERS can never be good friends with the Lord and yet be separated from one another." — J. H. Jowett.

Field Gleanings

Kansas City, Mo. — Miss Doris Shanks of Osage City, Mo., and Mr. William Doonan of Wichita, Kans., were married at 8 o'clock on the evening of September 6, in a ceremony performed at the Pilgrim Lutheran Church for the Deaf, by Pastor A. E. Ferber.

The bride was given in marriage by her brother-in-law, Mr. Edwin J. Thompson. Her sister, Mrs. Thompson, was matron of honor, and a cousin of the groom, Mr. Edmund Preddy, acted as best man.

Mr. Robert Ferber sang "Because" and "O Perfect Love." His accompanist at the organ was Miss Emilie Arndt. Mrs. Carl Wear and Miss Rhoda White interpreted the songs in the sign language.

The bride was dressed in a suit of royal blue and wore a corsage of light lavender orchids. the matron of honor wore a suit of black faille and had a corsage of dark-pink rosebuds. The groom's mother wore a black gown with a corsage of light-pink rosebuds.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held in the church social rooms. The young couple received many gifts.

They left immediately for a honeymoon in Colorado, after which they will make their home in Wichita, where Mr. Doonan is employed with his father in the electrical business.

Mr. Doonan is a 1946 graduate of the Kansas School for the Deaf at Olathe, and Mrs. Doonan was a 1942 graduate of the California School.

Their many friends wish them many years of happiness.

E. L. WEAR

San Antonio, Tex. — The third Lutheran telecast for this area has been scheduled for the first Sunday in Advent, November 30, and will be under the direction of Pastor Theo. De Laney.

T. De L.

Minneapolis, Minn. — A beautiful painting of the head of Christ, by L. Jambor, has been placed in Grace Lutheran Church for the Deaf. This was a gift from Mrs. Helga Meyer and Mrs. Margaret Wenzel of Jackson, Minn., in memory of their sister, Mrs. Thora Hafften, who was called to her heavenly home on February 29, 1952.

Mrs. Hafften will be remembered as a Christian woman who showed her love for her Sav-

ior by zealous works for her church and by deeds of kindness. But her trust was only in Jesus, who died for her.

C. B.

December

The Spirit of Christ moves through the night...
Peacefully, yet forcefully,

The Christ Child knocks at the living door —
Open your soul, let in the light.

The birth of Christ again has come.

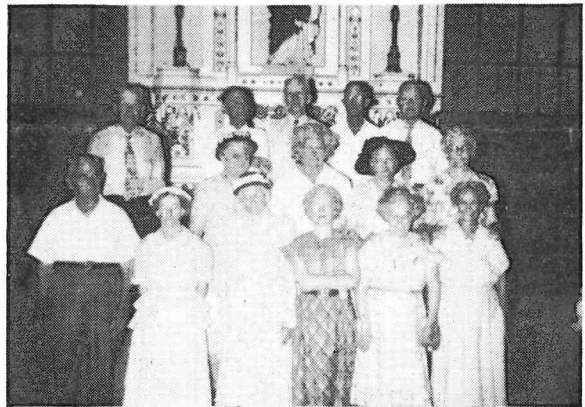
Wordlessly and joyfully

Men give to men good will, and more —
To the Spirit of Christ all men succumb.

But when the time has passed us by,
Mournfully, so needlessly,
The flame dissolves, is seen no more —
Men lose their warmth, and cold draws nigh.

DONALD PETERSON, 1951

(Mr. Peterson is a Deaf graduate of the University of Buffalo and now a student at Gallaudet College. — Ed.)



Fort Smith, Ark., Church Group, June 22, 1952

A MOTHER may forget her child, a father may put out his returning wasteful son; but day by day Jesus stands at the door of our hearts and knocks, and day by day He sadly whispers to our mistaken hearts, "Come unto Me," and "Him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out." — *Farrar*.

A SMILE and a friendly word for the stranger in your pew is a good advertisement for your church.

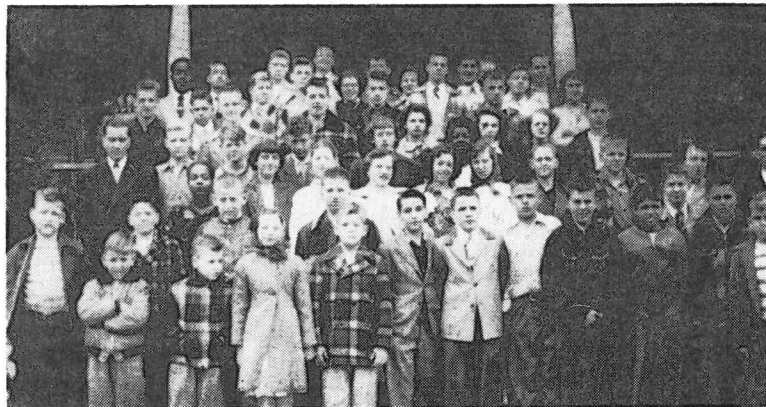
Answers to Bible Quiz

(From page 78)

1. 30; 2. 2; 3. Zipporah; 4. Less than one year;
5. Thou shalt not steal; 6. Jerusalem.

"SO WE BUILT" —

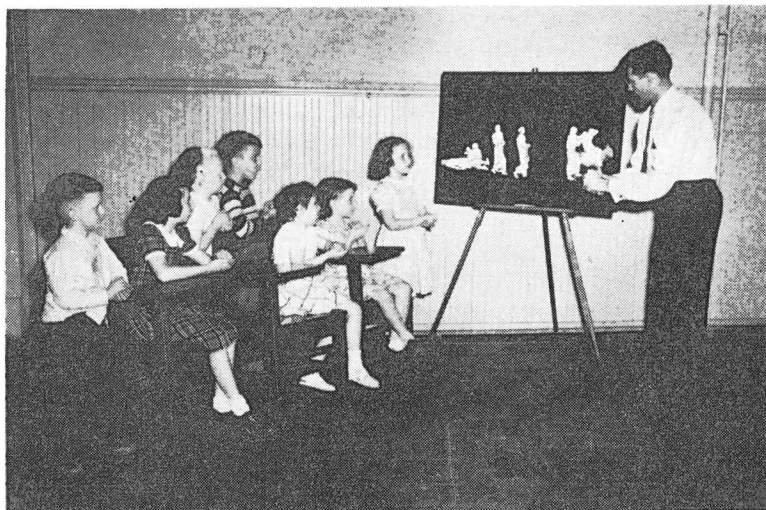
(See First Page)



Now We Are Twice as Many



The Jacksonville Deaf Chapel-Parsonage



Flannelgraphs Are Interesting

