

# The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that  
Be opened.*

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Number 5

## “Ethiopia Will Stretch Out Her Hands unto God”



Easter Service at St. Philip's, St. Louis

## A Thought for Today

Christ Is the Light of the World  
"How the world is groping for  
light! Behold, darkness covers the  
earth and gross darkness the people!  
One by one the candles of man's

reason have been lighted and lifted,  
but one by one they have sputtered  
and gone out and left the darkness  
deeper than before. None of them  
has produced the Light of life."

*The Springfielder*

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#### Minister of the Deaf and the Blind

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

These ministers preach in more than 275 cities in our land; they conduct classes in religion at over 50 city and 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.

### THE DEAF LUTHERAN

Official Paper of Lutheran Churches of the Deaf

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# A Door in India?

(Continued)

In the last issue we heard how Missionary Arnold J. Lutz, now on furlough in the United States and planning in September to return to India, looked into the matter of the Deaf in India and reported to our



Missionary Arnold J. Lutz

Board of Missions to the Deaf. He considered chiefly the prospects among the Tamil-speaking people, since 60 per cent of our work in India is among the Tamil-speaking natives, about 39 per cent among those speaking Malayalam, and a very small part among the Kanarese.

## The Deaf Population

While in general the Deaf population in the world is estimated to be about 1 in every 1,500 to 2,000 people, Pastor Lutz figures it to be

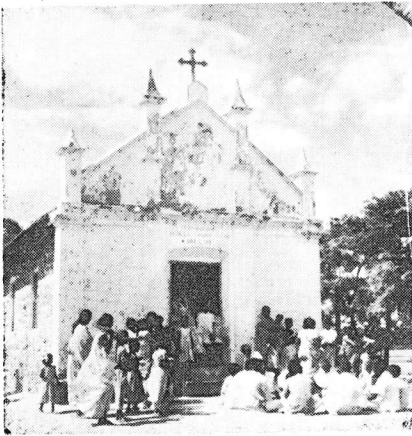
closer to 1 in 1,000. On the basis of this estimate the Deaf population in the Tamil-speaking area of India would be about 20,000. The Indian Government took a census in 1951 of the Deaf population, the returns of which were not available to Rev. Lutz at the time of his survey in 1953. In a very brief and incomplete scrutiny of an area of 15,000 he himself discovered nine Deaf children between the ages of three and fifteen. The adult Deaf were not counted. On the basis of this check he took the figures as being about 1 to every 1,000 persons.

## Educational Facilities

The Tamil area lies approximately at the southern end of India. India, we recall, is shaped like a large triangle with one corner pointed directly south, the triangle pointing into the Indian Ocean. In the Tamil-speaking area are three residential or boarding schools. Two are affiliated with the Church of Southern India, and one is Roman Catholic. This school and one of the Church of S. India schools is in the very large city of Madras, in the northeastern section of the Tamil area. The third school is at the southern end of the Tamil area in Palamcottah, about 350 miles south of Madras.

The average attendance at these three schools is 150. The scholastic level of all three is not above the middle school level, corresponding about to our junior high schools. The government is showing more interest recently in the education of the Deaf by attempting to raise the minimum qualification requirements of the teachers. This step should eventually raise the educational level of the schools. The Palamcottah school gives limited industrial

training also to regularly enrolled students of the school. The government has suggested that this school try to give such industrial training to adult Deaf, but the school at present is not prepared for such a project.



A Lutheran Church in India near Missionary Lutz' Home

### Literacy Among the Deaf

In India, in general, 10 to 15 of every 100 people can read. Among the Deaf the rate is about 2 of every 100. A greater percentage of Deaf have attended school, but many drop out before advancing to the point where they can be classified as literate. Very few Deaf children are entering these schools voluntarily. Many parents are not interested in educating even their hearing children, much less the Deaf children. When they must withdraw children from school, the Deaf are usually the first to be withdrawn. While some sections of India have laws demanding instruction for children, these do not apply to the Deaf. In the last five years general conditions have been improved. But since it is necessary that the child be able to read before intensive religious instruction can begin, we see that

there is a crying need for more educational work among the Deaf in South India.

### Communication Among the Deaf

Hearing people often think that the Deaf have a natural ability to express themselves in sign and motions which other Deaf can understand without difficulty. But it is not so. Just as a hearing child must learn the words by hearing them and practice speaking them, so the Deaf child must learn by seeing, and its signs will be self-invented motions for the very few most necessary things of its life. But such signs are no more usable with other Deaf than with hearing people unfamiliar with them.

The schools in India have no standard signs. Most teaching is done through lip reading, and each



Street Preaching in India

school has its own signs, so that really only the alumni of that particular school can readily communicate with one another. Rev. Lutz, who expertly uses the standard American sign language, says he found the signs of India to be very much different from those over here.



He makes the true observation that one standard sign language for the Deaf is a wonderful blessing. They have no finger alphabet. If they wish to spell, they trace the letters in the palm of their other hand. It is readily seen that very much development of schools and of a standard uniform sign language is needed in India, as it is for any country that is backward in education and literacy.

### The Social Situation of the Deaf

Strange as it may sound, the Deaf of India have practically no contact with one another. Those not having been at school seldom know another Deaf. If they would know one, the lack of a commonly accepted and understood sign language would keep them from talking freely with one another. Even those who made friends at school lose contact after leaving school. They seldom know the location of the others' homes. Then there are other things that are peculiar to India, such as the caste or class system that separates the natives into classes which do not associate with one another. So for various reasons there is but little social contact among the people of both sexes. In Madras an Indian gentleman has taken an active interest in the Deaf, inviting a group of young men weekly into his home for social activities. The members of this group have been educated in English.

### Economic Status of the Deaf

The Deaf, because of their handicap, are not readily received by the hearing world. Indian society shows no particular sympathy for the problems of the Deaf. Since industrial employers seldom have the patience to employ or train handicapped

people, the Deaf have trouble finding employment. There are neither government nor private agencies to help, and many Deaf become beggars. Few are financially independent. Only the Madras Government has shown an interest. It has proposed that a school set up an industrial department for the Deaf. This has not as yet materialized, but the proposal shows at least a promise of better things to come.



Normal School Students at Ambur, India,  
Training School

### Religious Conditions in India

Christianity is hardly known to the Deaf of India. The illiterate as well as the children not going to school know nothing of it. A very small group born in Christian circles can be said to be familiar with Christian environment but with nothing beyond that. Fortunately, the same barrier that keeps a knowledge of Christianity from them, keeps also from them the knowledge of Hindu beliefs, though they may become more easily susceptible to the superstitions of Hinduism. The only Deaf who can be said to have a knowledge of religion and more particularly of Christianity are those who have attended one of the three

residential schools for a reasonable length of time. Except for the permanent school residents the number of professing Deaf Christians is practically zero.

There has been no one to follow up the work among the alumni of the schools. Years ago an effort was made by the Palamcottah school to



Distributing Sunday School Leaflets in a Market Place, a Standard Evangelistic Program

serve the alumni of that school, but it has been given up. Since that time they follow in that school the policy of not even baptizing children at school. The policies and practices of the Catholic Church in this respect were not investigated. But limited inquiry revealed no public ministry to the Deaf, whether Protestant, Catholic, or otherwise. This is the condition that cries to us for help.

### The Challenge

If the work of bringing the Gospel to India's Deaf is to be taken up, we must understand the situation and recognize the problems facing us. When our Church took up the ministry to the Deaf in earnest in America, the education of the Deaf was well taken care of. We were

dealing with literate people that used a standard system of signs. The Deaf of America grew up in an area strongly influenced by Christianity, and many had a Christian background in home and school. Such favorable circumstances are almost totally lacking in India. Furthermore, when our Synod took up the work, a nucleus of Lutheran Deaf was found in many places, and congregations sprang up around these groups. This was the result of the work of the Detroit Institute for the Deaf, which had been serving the Deaf for twenty years. In India we should have to begin without this advantage. But these disadvantages and difficulties should not deter us from beginning the work of preaching the Gospel to India's Deaf. They rather challenge us to begin the work. The field is before us to be entered. What shall be our answer?

Missionary Lutz then proceeds by pointing out that it would be advisable to begin by establishing a school. The worker or workers would have to prepare themselves to use the language of the land and search for ways to reach the Deaf. A sign language will have to be developed and taught, a tremendous task in itself. Pastors acquainted with the language and customs of India would have to be employed and native workers developed. This would be a long and arduous undertaking.

### The Mission School

For many decades one of the most widely accepted agencies for work in India has been the mission school. It would be a very valuable way of implanting the Gospel in the hearts of the Deaf of India. The uneducated Deaf person lacks the

gift of hearing. Since he can't hear, he can't read. He does not recognize words, nor does he understand their meaning. He does not even



An Indian Evangelist

recognize signs beyond a bare minimum. "Teach," the Lord said. This command evidently gives us the answer, and schools are the places where teaching is done. But it would require a missionary, or missionaries, with educational qualifications to teach the Deaf as well as preach to them.

Another approach possible would be the industrial school. In our mission circles it has not been customary to use this agency to any great extent. But why should not this agency be used in the spread of the Gospel as the hospital has been used as an expression of Christian love. It would rather seem that, with the industrial school not available in India, the establishment of such a school would be a very desirable and welcome undertaking. Industrial teaching to enable the Deaf to find employment could well be combined with other educational efforts, and thus both soul and body of the Deaf could be benefited.

[*The Gary system, in which children learn not only with their heads but with their hands.*—EDITOR.] Such a school would have to be placed carefully in order to function successfully.

Missionary Lutz concludes by stating that much could still be said about the subject, but he hopes that God would show us the way and grant His blessing. May a new day soon dawn for the Deaf of India.

Missionary Arnold J. Lutz plans to end his furlough and to take his wife and six children back to India in a few months. (There were five children when they came, but in May God blessed them with another son. Congratulations!) May God lead them safely back, and may He lead us into the foreign fields where there are many Deaf that do not have the light of the Gospel and the knowledge that Jesus died for them, too.

U.

## Our Missionaries in Japan

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod now has 27 American-born workers in Japan, including the Rev. George T. Shibata, a nisei, or American-born, Japanese, who is pastor of Martin Luther Church in Tokyo. Recently the first native-born pastor entered the ranks, the Rev. Kosaku Nao, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church of Kugenuma, south of Yokohama. Synod conducts 31 separate missions in Japan.

MEN are very much worried about the fruit of sin, but the sin, the root of the evil, does not bother them at all.



## Pleasant Days in the Detroit Field

April 1 we were on our way to Detroit. It was a most enjoyable trip, for we could speak the Word to many Deaf.

Friday, April 2, we spent at our Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit. In the morning we attended Director Klein's confirmation class. We again learned what a great blessing it is that Deaf children may attend a school in which they can learn "God's Word and Luther's doctrine pure" every day. Since the day of confirmation was near, it was a general review of all the Christian doctrines. We rejoiced to see how well they had learned the chief teachings of the Christian religion. May our dear Lord keep these young people in His grace unto life everlasting. And while they live here on earth, may they be diligent workers in Christ's kingdom and help to win many more Deaf for Christ to the glory of our Savior's name. In the afternoon Mr. Bellhorn, the principal of the School, took us around to see the kitchen and dining room, the dormitories and study rooms, the recreation rooms, etc. We thank God for this School which has been doing its blessed work with Deaf children for more than eighty years. May God continue to bless the labors of Director Klein, Mr. Bellhorn, and all the teachers!

Sunday morning the regular Sunday service was held in the School chapel. We had the privilege of preaching to more than 200, about 95 of these were children from the School. However, according to a card from Pastor Borchardt, this number was topped by their Easter service, in which 230 adults and several children were in attendance. The church is connected with the School. God has richly blessed the work of Pastor Borchardt. The congregation now numbers 180 communicants. Recently they resolved to be self-supporting, at least, for a year. With the help of God they intend to continue on such a basis. May God continue to bless Our Savior Congregation. May it grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and also grow in number to the glory of God's abundant grace. In the Detroit Public School for Deaf we have six children in our religious classes.

In the afternoon we motored to Flint for a service. A large group had assembled, 130 in all, and 50 were boys and girls from the State School. P. Borchardt was rather surprised to see so many in church and thought that very likely many of them were hearing friends of the local congregation. However, when we bade the people good-by at the door, we found to our surprise that nearly all of them were Deaf. We thank God that we could preach the Word of Jesus and His love to so

many. At the State School Pastor Borchardt has 52 in religious classes.

After the Flint service we went on our way to Saginaw, the writer's former home. Upon graduating from the St. Louis Seminary in 1901 we held the first Lutheran service for the Deaf in Saginaw and Bay City. Between ten and fifteen attended these services. And God has blessed the preaching of the Gospel in Saginaw during all these years. Today the group numbers 31 communicants. We were happy to see 36 in attendance.

Thanks be to God for His great blessings upon our work in the Detroit Field! The five preaching stations served from Detroit number 93 communicants. May our dear Lord continue to shower many blessings upon our work to the salvation of many blood-bought souls and the glory of Him who died for all and arose again! J. L. S.

**Detroit, Mich.** — The members of our congregation were saddened by the death of **Mrs. John Berry** on



Mr. and Mrs. John Berry

February 28 and of **Mr. John Berry** on March 16. Both were faithful members of our congregation for many years. They were like a father and mother to the members and

## Great Lakes Conference Meets in Detroit

The Great Lakes Conference of Lutheran Pastors and Laymen of the Deaf meets in Detroit on June 19. Sessions begin on Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. An essay on "Stewardship" will be read in the morning. Another essay will be read in the afternoon. Mr. John Riddlebaugh of Columbus, Ohio, is chairman of this conference.

On Saturday evening there is a banquet.

Pastor Simon is the guest speaker in the services on Sunday morning, June 20, at 10 o'clock.

Delegates and guests are housed in the Lutheran Institute for the Deaf at 6861 Nevada Ave., at reasonable rates. Please announce early.

PASTOR N. E. BORCHARDT  
11719 Evanston Ave.,  
Detroit 13, Mich.

pastor of Our Savior Church. They advocated and practiced the principles of stewardship as taught in the Bible, contributing according to their ability for the work of our congregation, of Synod, and other worthy causes. They were also a living proof that conscientious Christians can be joyful people, being leaders in the social life of our congregation. We shall miss them, but shall long remember the good example they set for us. And we humbly pray that the Lord in His mercy will grant to us a good measure of the faith and love that was in them.

Hundreds of our Lutheran Deaf friends will remember Mr. Berry as

a great leader. Many will recall the instructive and edifying essays he delivered at the sessions of the Great Lakes Conference in Cleveland in 1952 and in Indianapolis in 1953. Without undue flattery we can say that he was wise, generous, helpful, kind, and that he possessed other good qualities a good Christian should have. In spite of his great gifts and abilities, however, he was very humble. His chief desire was to serve his Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. The Lord blessed him richly, and he, in turn, was a blessing to many.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord . . . they rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

N. E. B.

## Northwest Lutheran Laymen's Conference for the Deaf

The conference will meet August 13—15 at Spokane. Sessions are held in part in Faith Lutheran Church, Spokane, and in part at Liberty Lake, 19 miles southeast of Spokane, at the Zephyr Christian Conference Grounds. A good program is being prepared, and the arrangement committee is trying to make attendance easier and less expensive (room and board for two days for \$5.50). Details and further information can be had from **L. E. Sandberg**, general chairman, W. 332 Central, Spokane, Wash.

"WE NEED a clear vision that we may know where to stand and what to stand for, because unless we stand for something, we shall fall for anything." — **DR. PETER MARSHALL**

**Arapahoe, Nebr.** — This fine group of Christians, which Pastor Bailey "inherited" from Pastor Mappes, is served monthly by him. They are faithful in attendance and attention and support the Lord's



Group of Deaf, Arapahoe, Nebr.

work very well. The picture of this group in this issue of the **DEAF LUTHERAN** was taken after a service in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Maier (he appears with his dog), but usually they worship at Trinity Lutheran Church the first Saturday of each month. It is somewhat unpleasant, says Pastor Bailey, to wait for the next train Sunday morning at four o'clock and then have a morning and an afternoon service; but he does it joyfully, since these good people are so eager to learn more about God's Word.

**Salem, Oreg.** — In the Easter service of Salem Lutheran Church for the Deaf, conducted in the new building of St. John's Congregation, three new members were added to the group by the rite of confirmation. These are **Agnes and Elmer Peterson** and their mother, **Mrs. Mabel Peterson**. God bless them!

R.

God never puts a man in a place too small to grow.





## *Catechism*

### TABLE OF DUTIES Of Civil Government Romans 13:4-7

Good government is a great blessing of God. God sets up government for our good.

#### Good Government Punishes the Evildoers

God says: "Rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil." Governments are to fill evildoers with fear. Paul writes: "If thou do that which is evil, be afraid." How terrible if we had no government! People would not be afraid. They would steal and kill and do many other wicked works without fear. And why should they be afraid? We read in God's Word: "He beareth not the sword in vain." This means the government should use the sword and punish the evildoers. This is God's command, for every ruler is "the minister [servant] of God, a revenger [punisher] to execute wrath upon him that does

evil." We have the FBI, detectives, police force, and judges. These all are to find them that do evil, robbers, murderers, and others, and to bring them before the judge to be punished. What a blessing that we have government officials!

#### Good Government Praises Them That Do Well

God tells us: "Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise for the same." Therefore do that which is good, and the government will honor you as a good citizen, protect and defend you against all evildoers, and so be "the minister of God to thee for good." Thus we live a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

#### Support Your Government

Thank God for it. Pray for it. Gladly pay your taxes. Honor all rulers. This is God's command to you. Do it for Him who loved you and gave Himself for you into that shameful death on the cross!

J. L. S.

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**Springfield, Mass.** — About 25 Deaf attended the Easter service, held at the First Old Church of Springfield. Pastor Donald Boerner conducted it. He is very much encouraged by the manner in which the Springfield Deaf show their interest in God's Word. — The members of the Pilgrim Club of the Deaf usually meet monthly after the service. — **Mr. and Mrs. Abraham**

**Marlowe** and their six-year-old daughter were very happy when the stork brought them another girl on March 28. Congratulations! — Pastor Gerhold, now at Newark, started the work here. We have five Lutheran members, among them Mrs. Klinke, who formerly was a Catholic but now an instructed and confirmed Lutheran.

ERNEST KLINKE

**Pittsburgh, Pa.** — Miss Ann Smith and Mr. Harry Reese were joined in marriage on May 8, and in Meadville, Pa., Mrs. Di Fillipo and Mr. Robert Russ of Erie, Pa., were married. May God Grant these people a blessed and happy married life.

L. S.

**Billings, Mont.** — Wedding bells rang for Mrs. Virginia Bristow and Mr. John Farthing, both of Livingston, Mont., on January 29, when they were married by Pastor A. L. Hauptmann.

In an impressive service on March 18, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Cundy (Dorothy Buckel) were received into membership of the Lutheran Church, he by baptism and she by confirmation. Also their daughters Anna Mae and Rosalyn Lee Cundy were baptized. Mrs. Beulah McFarland signed the hymn "Let Me Be Thine Forever."

(Our reporter, Mrs. McFarland, tells us that she asked Mrs. Cundy

to bake the cake according to the Bible recipe that appeared in the DEAF LUTHERAN some time ago and that the cake was very good. That makes it unanimous, because some of our good ladies of Decatur, Ill., did the same thing, and the results were the same; so we are vindicated. — Ed.)

**Chicago, Ill.** — At special services on March 21 Miss Jennie Wilks and Miss Pirley Williams were received into membership by Holy Baptism, and Miss Eva Mae Ethridge and Mr. Lee Bates by confirmation. May God keep them in His grace.

H. D.

**Jacksonville, Ill.** — Albert Bright, a patient at the local State Hospital, died March 18 after a long siege of illness. Woodrow Asher of Coatsburg, a faithful attendant at our Quincy services, departed this life February 9. Both were faithful believers in Jesus, the Savior. God gave them rest.

U.



## Bible Quiz

Who commanded the sun to stand still? Joshua 10:12.

Why did Paul make himself the servant to all men? 1 Corinthians 9:19.

Who was the first Israelite? Genesis 32:28.

Who was chosen to be the twelfth Apostle instead of Judas, who betrayed Jesus? Acts 1:26.

What name is given to them that are led by the Spirit of God? Romans 8:14.

How many Hebrews were killed

in one day because the people were committing adultery with heathen women? 1 Corinthians 10:8.

What does God promise those that contribute liberally for His kingdom? Malachi 3:10.

What does God say He will do with "lukewarm" people, who say that they are not for and not against God? Revelation 3:16.