

The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

Volume 46

AUGUST

Number 7

“And God Blessed Them”



A Thought for Today

THE MISSION CALL

The great world's heart is aching,
Fiercely aching in the night,
And God alone can heal it,
God alone can give it light;

And the men who bear the message
And who speak the living word
Are you and I, my brothers,
And the millions who have heard.

FREDERICK G. SCOTT

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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

Published monthly by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis 18, Mo. Subscription price, 50 cents per annum anywhere in the world, payable strictly in advance. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at St. Louis, Mo., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 14, 1935. Send all subscriptions, changes of address, and cancellations to Rev. Wm. Reinking, 7209 Nashville St., St. Louis 17, Mo.

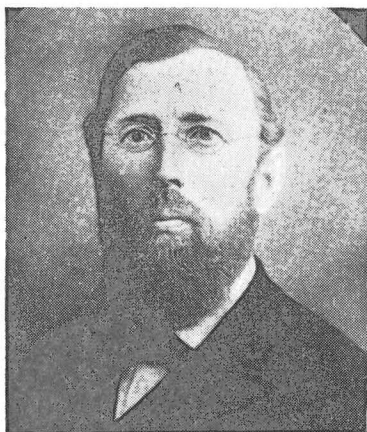
The DEAF LUTHERAN goes to press on the 3d Friday, two weeks before issue. Send all news, pictures, stories, articles to Rev. N. P. Uhlig, Editor, 104 Finley St., Jacksonville, Ill.

Sixty Years Ago

The year 1954 is an anniversary year. It is the sixtieth anniversary of the start of Lutheran preaching in the language of signs. Two days stand out, February 14 and March 4, 1894.

February 14, 1894

In the evening of that day, a man sat at his desk in the little village of Norris, Mich., later called North Detroit and long engulfed by the



Supt. D. H. Uhlig

ever-expanding area of the automobile city. It is quite possible that the writer of these lines, at that time nine years old, sat with his brothers quietly beside the comfy wood stove that heated the room, the study of Daniel Herman Uhlig; but we would be very quiet and page through the interesting books and magazines of Father and listen to the noise of the pen as he was ever writing letters. He was the principal of what is now called the Lutheran Institute for the Deaf, which at that time used German as the medium of instruction, and his title was "director" instead

of "superintendent," as we now would call such an official.

Before him lay a German letter that he had received some time ago. This was from a former pupil, Edward J. Pahl, who had written his former teacher that many of the former pupils were living in Chicago and were not being served with preaching services and were going frequently to another church, in which a deaf man was preaching in the sign language. He, Edward Pahl, had read the entire Gospel of Saint Mark that Sunday afternoon and had come to the end of Chapter 16, where Jesus told His disciples to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. The Lutheran Church believes in missions, therefore he wondered why the Deaf did not get preaching services.

Father had become very uneasy upon receipt of this letter. Two years before, at the time of the Columbian Exposition in 1892, he had visited Rev. Augustus Reinke of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Chicago, and had discussed with him the possibility of giving the Deaf of Chicago special attention; Rev. Reinke had during the summers confirmed several Deaf that had been prepared for confirmation by Father at Detroit in the school. But nothing had come of that at that time.

The first Thursday of every month the board of directors of the Institute met in Detroit. In the January or February meeting of the board of directors, Father submitted the letter of Mr. Pahl. The letter was thoroughly discussed, and it was clear to all present that the time had

come to do something about the spiritual care of the Deaf who had been sent out into the world.

As a result of these deliberations, Father was now penning a draft of a letter to Rev. Reinke. The date was February 14, 1894. The draft of this letter was found among the papers that came into my hands after the death of Mother in 1931. It was written in ink on a page from an ordinary composition book and carried the lead-pencil notation "Origin of the Deaf Mission." This letter was sent to Pastor Reinke, and its result was the first service in the sign language to the American Deaf at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Paulina and McReynolds Aves., now Le Moine, Chicago.

This draft of the letter was given by the undersigned to Dr. W. G. Polack on January 29, 1939, at his home. Dr. Polack was at that time in charge of Concordia Historical Society. The paper was placed by him on his desk in my presence with the remark that it would be placed into the file of the Mission for the Deaf because it gave valuable information about the beginning of our work among the Deaf.

Later requests for this document disclosed the fact that it must have been misplaced. However, to authenticate the receipt of this document, Dr. Polack was contacted during the summer of 1946 and in a letter to the writer stated that he had received the paper, adding that he was sure that the document would undoubtedly turn up again somewhere. It must be noted here that changes in the office of the Concordia Historical Society were taking place then, there being no regular appointed curator until Dr. Karl Kretzmann took over the task, and

the entire work of the Historical Society was gradually being reorganized in its present form. And since the paper appeared only as a torn page from a copybook, it is quite easy to understand that it was destroyed as useless.

Fortunately we had copied the document and had translated it into the English language. In this letter to Rev. Reinke, Father stated that he had received the letter from Mr.



E. J. Pahl

Edward J. Pahl, which he enclosed and sent to Rev. Reinke with the plea that it be returned to him later. We know that Rev. Reinke made great use of the letter, and it probably was literally "used up," as it was not found with the draft among valuable papers which Father had preserved with notations, and he certainly would have kept Pahl's letter.

The contents of the letter stated that the receipt of Pahl's letter made the matter of serving the Lutheran Deaf an urgent and inescapable duty; that the board of directors of the Detroit Institute had authorized him, my father, to write Rev. Reinke

if he would not undertake to write a simple sermon and have Mr. Pahl or some other competent signer sign it or be coached by someone to sign the sermon himself; that if he, Rev. Reinke, could not help in this situation, possibly Rev. Fr. Herzberger of Hammond, Ind., might be induced to serve the Deaf, since he was



Rev. Augustus Reinke

known to be a zealous missionary. (Rev. Herzberger later became the noted city missionary in St. Louis.)

It has been reported that Rev. Reinke on the occasion of a baptism had been asked by a Deaf man to preach to the Deaf and that he had answered: "Come to my church in two weeks, because I will have a service for the Deaf then." Authority for this remark was the late Dr. F. C. Streufert, Director of Missions of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod for many years. The present writer had not heard of this account, but if that is accurate, the receipt of the letter from the Detroit Institute with Mr. Pahl's letter had just come into Rev. Reinke's hands and may have caused him to see in it his duty and to be determined to serve the Deaf. It was God's hour for the Deaf, and Rev. Reinke was

the instrument to bring the Gospel of Jesus to the children of silence.

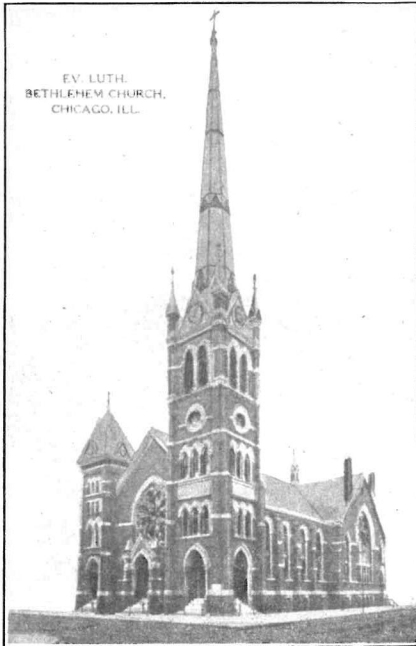
March 4, 1894

That is the day of the first sermon in the sign language at First Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Chicago. Director Uhlig's letter was dated February 14, 1894, Valentine's Day, when he had asked Rev. Reinke to tell the Deaf of the love of God in Christ Jesus. And just eighteen days later, March 4, Rev. Reinke stood before the 16 Deaf and signed "God is Love." That was his text. And out of his effort has grown that vast work of our Mission to the Deaf that tells them that "God so loved the world," including the Deaf, "that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Surely the memory of Pastor Reinke is blest, and we should praise God that He gave him the spirit of devotion to take up this work.

Rev. Reinke had a very large congregation, reported to have been numbering 5,500 souls at that time. Three of his four sons that became pastors were successively his assistants at First Bethlehem. Pastor Reinke was well fitted for the work of signing; he was an alert, enthusiastic personality, fifty-two years old at that time. In his congregation he had had a number of Deaf whom he, as was stated before, served orally. But he had already acquired a limited use of the sign language, and so it was not too difficult for him to get a sufficiently large vocabulary of signs in a short time to give that short sermon. It is said of him that he walked along the streets making signs to the surprise of some of his old members and the amusement of some of the young-

sters who took a delight to imitate his signs.

Immediately Rev. Reinke was in great demand. Regularly he journeyed to Milwaukee to preach to the Deaf there; he went to Fort Wayne, Monroe, Mich., Louisville, Ky., Elkhart, Ind., Cincinnati, and



First Bethlehem Church, Chicago

St. Louis in that same year. He carried on in 1895, and then in May, 1896, he made a strong appeal to our Synod to take over the work, and Synod enthusiastically took up the task, and under God's blessing we see the fulfillment of Revelation 3:8: "Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it; for thou hast a little strength and hast kept My Word and hast not denied My name."

It was well that Synod took it up. Rev. Reinke lived only three short years after Synod took up the work,

dying of typhoid-pneumonia November 18, 1899, only 58 years old. The others herein mentioned have also gone to their eternal home: Rev. G. Speckhard in 1879, D. H. Uhlig in 1913, Edward J. Pahl in 1946, but the work of the Lord is going on now for sixty years and will go on; and we should not forget the men that were the instruments in God's hand who have done a great service to the Deaf of America and perhaps of other parts of the world. U.

Special Notice

Several times during the last 10 years, people have asked whether lay delegates might attend sessions of Ephphatha Conference. Another request came this year.

After much discussion, the Conference asked the Secretary to write to the persons involved. Conference explained that Ephphatha Conference is not a miniature synod with representatives of pastors and laymen. Ephphatha Conference is a meeting for *pastors*, where they can talk over their problems and gain encouragement and better knowledge for their work.

The regional conferences, held all over the nation, are representative meetings where the different congregations of Deaf should send their delegates. Here is the place to talk over *your* church problems and gain encouragement and better understanding for *your* share in the work for Christ.

THEO. DELANEY

*Secretary, Ephphatha Conference
of Lutheran Pastors for the Deaf*

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Our Deaf congregations should make use of their right and privilege to become voting members of the Synodical Districts in which they are located by making application for voting membership and submitting their constitutions.)



Editorials

Summer Church Attendance

A common complaint in summer is that people do not go to church at all or only seldom. It is refreshing, therefore, to see groups that show real loyalty by going to church even when the weather is unfavorable. Recently an item in a report from Kansas struck us as being worthy of general attention. Kansas was one of the hottest States this summer. July 11 the lowest official temperature of the entire State was 106 degrees, and often the range was above 115 in spots, going even as high as 120 degrees. Still a brother pastor could report record-breaking attendances at several places during these hot days. That is certainly commendable.

It can be reduced simply to this: Is the Word of God dear and precious enough to us to seek it even at the cost of personally uncomfortable circumstances as weather too hot or too cold? It may be hot or cold, but still we eat; and God's Word is the bread of the soul. A lover will visit his loved one despite great heat or cold; shall we neglect "Jesus, Lover of my soul"?

A CHILD of God can see more on his knees than can a philosopher on his tiptoes.

THE MAN who humbly bows before God is sure to walk upright before men.

Many will not go a block or two, while others, anxious to get the blessings of God, will drive for miles and miles to be in His house and get His blessings. Jesus spoke truly when He said, "Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it." Israel was singularly blessed, but cared for other things more than for God's Temple; but there came a time when the Word was "precious," that means it could hardly be found. So may come the time when it may be very hard to attend church in our country. Persecutions may overtake us in America. "Seek the Lord while He may be found."
U.

Our New Circulation Manager

Ephphatha Conference wished it, and the Board of Missions to Deaf appointed the Rev. Wm. Reinking, St. Louis, to the position of Circulation Manager of the Deaf Lutheran. He is in charge of the mailing list, and subscriptions, cancellations and money should be sent to him. His address is

Rev. Wm. Reinking, 7209 Nashville
St. Louis 17, Mo.

THE BIBLE is the one window of hope in this prison through which we look into eternity.

HOPE FOR the best until the worst comes, and when it comes, make the best of it.



Little Rock, Ark. — One hears much about bettering race relations between the races of the world. In our country the question of peaceful relations between the Whites and the Negroes is sometimes a burning question. In general we can say of the Deaf that they are sensible and tolerant in this matter, witness the service at this city on June 24; when Pastor Thies conducted his regular service, there were thirteen white people and ten Negroes present, and a very friendly atmosphere was evident. That is as should be; Galatians 3:28 says, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond (slave) nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." Where there are men of good will, there will be peace.

So also at Memphis on May 30, when Pastor Reinking of St. Louis preached at Grace Deaf Church in the morning, Grace celebrating its annual mission festival. In the afternoon he preached to the Negro Deaf at the Co-Operative School, and both groups met at the parsonage in the evening for a social gathering.

Los Angeles, Calif. — The senior Sunday school class of Christ Church came to visit Pilgrim Deaf Congregation and to give a gift for missions to Pastor Arnold Jonas. There were more than 90 people in the church service that morning as these young people saw how we learn about God and worship Him in sign language.

Indianapolis, Ind. — **Lillian Jourdan** is a new member of our flock, having been confirmed some months ago. She has proved herself very faithful.

Six times within two months did we walk to open graves. At Indianapolis, **Toni Herrin**, the seven-month-old infant of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Herrin, was laid into his grave; at Cambridge City it was **Mr. John Boyd** who departed this life, at the age of 86; at Elwood, Ind., **Mrs. George Sattler** died at the age of 70; at Muncie, **Mrs. Waneta Vorhees**, aged 55, was called home; and at Indianapolis, **Mrs. Leona Jackson**, aged 83, and **Mrs. Ada Long**, 86, were laid to rest. "Prepare to meet thy God" is the message of every funeral. K.

Milwaukee, Wis. — The 53d anniversary of the dedication of Emanuel Church for the Deaf was commemorated in a service on April 25. In the evening of that day, at a social gathering, Mr. Yachtman Sue, president of the congregation, presented a stole to Pastor Mueller in behalf of the church, and a large picture of Christ was hung in the meeting room in appreciation of the fifteen years of service that Pastor Mueller has now rendered the Milwaukee Deaf congregation.

Spokane, Wash. — Dr. Gaertner will be the main essayist at the Northwest Lutheran Conference August 13—17 at Spokane. He will also deliver the sermon in the Sunday service.

Great Lakes Area Regional Conference

The Ev. Luth. Institute for the Deaf was the meeting place of the Great Lakes Area Regional Conference at Detroit June 19 and 20. Despite a heavy downpour the attendance was very good; there were over 100 delegates in the business sessions and about 200 at the banquet Saturday evening, and over 150 at the Sunday morning services.

A very interesting and helpful essay was read by Mr. Clarence Schultz on "Stewardship," which emphasized that all we have is a gift of God and that we therefore must be willing to use our gifts and talents right as God wants us to do. Pastor Frederking of Cleveland spoke on "The Lutheran Church and the Deaf," and Pastor Kosche spoke on "Personal Mission Work." A con-

stitution, prepared by the late John Berry, was discussed and accepted.

Comparing the attendance and the interest in the affairs of the conference this year with that of former meetings, it can definitely be stated that every year there has been a marked increase over the previous years, which is a very good indication that these meetings are filling a need. A suggestion to meet every two years instead of annual meetings was voted down. Next year the meeting is to be held at Columbus, Ohio.

John Riddlebaugh of Columbus was chosen president, Mrs. Sara Riddlebaugh vice-president, and Earl Froelich of Cleveland secretary. K.

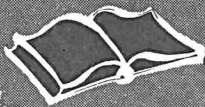


Great Lakes Regional Conference, Detroit, June 19—20, 1954

Council Bluffs, Iowa. — Ronald Sutcliffe, Kenneth Derby, and Loretta Loosemore of the Iowa School for the Deaf are among five grad-

uates from here who passed exams allowing them to enter Gallaudet College at Washington, D. C.

V. M.



Know Your Bible

Genesis

The name of the first book of the Bible is **Genesis**. This word really means generation or beginning, and we might properly describe the first book of the Bible as the book that tells us of **the beginnings**.

It tells us of the beginning of the world, of life, of domestic relations, of institutions, of the moral order, of families, of tribes, of nations, of sin and its results, of God's plan of salvation through the Messiah, and of the nation of the Jews that would bring forth the Messiah.

Moses is the author who wrote the book. He lived about 1500 B. C., according to the history that is generally accepted in the Christian world. The story of Genesis ends really about 350 years before Moses lived; but that need not trouble us since we know that "all Scripture is written by inspiration of God," and the Holy Spirit gave contents and words to the writers.

The book contains **fifty chapters**. In these chapters we have the story of the Patriarchs, the "old fathers."

Chapters 1 to 5 tell us the story of the old fathers, beginning with **Adam, to Noah**. Best known of the Patriarchs of this period are Adam, Seth, Enos, Enoch, Methuselah and Lamech. In this section the grand first chapter, sometimes called the "Creation Hymn," is outstanding. The story of Paradise and the first sabbath, the institution of marriage, the story of the fall into sin, of the murder of Abel by Cain, and in

chapter five the condensed history of that period makes these five chapters worthy of frequent reading all at one time in one sitting. In chapter three, verse 15, we have the first promise of Jesus.

In **chapters 6 to 11** we have the story of the Patriarchs from **Noah to Abraham**. Here the story of God's punishment of the wicked world through the great Flood takes up most of the pages. The story of the building of the great tower and the confusion of languages is told. Also more names of leaders and their families and brief references to noteworthy events in their lives.

Chapters 12 to 50 tell us the story of Abraham, "the father of the faithful," and of Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, and take us to the time when the people of Israel came into bondage in Egypt.

The life of Abraham is told us in **chapters 12 to 25**. Beginning with the solemn "call," we see him leaving his home and going to a strange country, because "by faith he so-journed (wandered) in the land of promise." He is shown us to be a man of faith, but human also, who made mistakes. If you want an intensely interesting section to read, read chapters 12—25:10, for it is a grand story full of glorious things. Read it as a section by itself in one sitting, that story of Abraham.

Chapters 25:10 through chapter 27 give us the shorter story of **Isaac and Rebecca**, beautiful and yet filled with sadness and heartaches, all

written for us, who have the same experiences to make us wise and strong.

Chapters 28 to 36 give us the **life of Jacob**, with his weaknesses and strong faith, his sorrows and triumphs, another section to be read as one piece belonging together.

Chapters 37 to 50 have one of the most interesting stories ever written, **Joseph**, injured, faithful, patient, wise, famous, a type of resemblance to Jesus, our Savior.

Read these sections, read them often; they are interesting, glorious. U.



Studies in Luther's Catechism

Table of Duties

Of Subjects

(Matthew 22:21; Romans 13:5-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-3; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13, 14)

Every government is of God. Christ's followers who believe in His sin-cleansing blood and love Him are friends of the government and its best citizens. They honor and obey it, support it, and pray for it, as we shall see in this study and the following.

Honor Parents and Masters

Of our duty toward our government God already teaches us in the Fourth Commandment: "Thou shalt honor thy father and thy mother." Luther explains this Commandment, saying: "We should fear and love God that we may not despise our parents and masters . . . but give them honor." Yes, we owe our parents and masters great honor, *all* parents and masters in home, school,

church, and also in the government. Paul writes in Romans 13: "Render [give] to all their dues: honor to whom honor is due." We should honor our government, because we have learned from God's Word: "The powers that be are ordained [given] of God." Paul calls them "God's ministers [servants], attending [doing] continually upon this very thing," that is, the punishment of evildoers and the praise and protection of them that do well. Therefore "it is our duty to honor them and to esteem them great as the dearest treasure and most precious jewel upon earth" (Triglotta, pp. 625, 150).

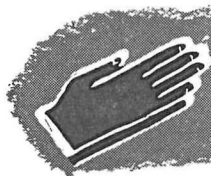
Honor Our Officials in Every Place

It is God's command and wish that we honor our president, governor, mayor, police, and every other official of the government. They are God's servants given unto us for our good. And a Christian will gladly do that for his Lord and Savior that His name be glorified. God grant it!

J. L. S.

THE Word of God in daily doses is the best antidote to unbelief, temptation, and worldliness.

MORE Bible study and more prayer in the home means more power in the church.



Devotions

Selections are from "Feeding on His Word," a daily Bible reading guide for 1954 by the Board for Parish Education of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, 210 N. Broadway, St. Louis 2, Mo. Obtainable there, 5 cents.

SUGGESTED USE

1. As you open your Bible, say: "Speak, Lord, Thy servant hears."
2. After finding the place in the Bible, read the short explanation given under the date.
3. Now read the words of the Bible. *Read slowly, and think what each verse says.*
4. Read again the short explanation and the prayer, adding what is on your heart and perhaps the Lord's Prayer.

Sunday, August 1 — Mark 8:1-9

Sometimes people wonder how they can "make ends meet" (pay all their bills). In this story from the life of Jesus we see that He takes care of us. All we have comes from God, and He will take care of the necessary things of life. We must trust Him.

Prayer: Help us, O Lord, to trust You for all our needs as we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." Amen.

Monday, August 2

Romans 6:19-23

We are free from sin; that means we are free to serve God because we love Him and want to thank Him for sending the Savior to free us from sin. Now our lives can be holy, useful, and happy because of Jesus.

Prayer: Our loving heavenly Father, we ask You to give us the gift of eternal life. We receive it through faith in Jesus, and we thank You. Amen.

Tuesday, August 3

Jeremiah 31:22-34

When God led His children out of Egypt, He gave them the Law. They could not keep (do) the Law, so Jesus kept it perfectly instead. Believers in Christ therefore get a new mind and heart, willing to obey God.

Prayer: Make us to know You as the One who forgives our law-breaking because Christ, our Savior, kept the Law perfectly for us. Amen.

Wednesday, August 4

Matthew 10:24-31

When God created the world, "God saw everything that He had made, and . . . it was very good." God loves even the little birds, but He loves us so much He sent a Savior so we can live with Him in heaven forever.

Prayer: Help us, Your servants, work for You willingly, O Lord; and let us become more and more like our Master, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Thursday, August 5 — Acts 14:8-23

In this world we have many sufferings, but the Bible promises us that “all things work together for good to people who love God.” Therefore we suffer patiently.

Prayer: Send rain, we pray, O Lord, where it is needed to make crops grow, and supply our cities with water; this we ask through Jesus, our Fount of Living Water. Amen.

Friday, August 6 — Psalm 125

“The Lord is round about His people” means He guards and protects us just as the hills around Jerusalem helped protect the city from enemies.

Prayer: Make our trust in You, our Protector, so firm that it will be as strong and lasting as the mount the Psalm writer speaks about. Amen.

Saturday, August 7

Genesis 13:5-13

Often we can avoid arguments with relatives or friends by giving them first choice, as Abraham did. Let's learn from him.

Prayer: Give us Your Spirit of peace so we may stop strife (arguments) and live in peace and happiness. Amen.

Sunday, August 8

Matthew 7:15-23

God has truly blessed our Church by giving us His Holy Word. We should read and study the true Word of God, the Bible, every day and always thank Him for it.

Prayer: Through our reading of Your Word, the Bible, give us a true faith in the Savior so we shall enter into the kingdom of heaven. Amen.

Monday, August 9

Romans 8:12-17

The Holy Spirit leads God's children (believers) to live right. If we follow the guidance of God's Spirit, we will lead happy and God-pleasing lives as His true children.

Prayer: O Holy Spirit, remain in our hearts to lead us in the way our heavenly Father wants His children to live, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Tuesday, August 10

Jeremiah 15:16-21

For us there is joy in the Word of God because the promises in it are meant for us—the promise of a Savior from sin and of happiness forever with Him in heaven.

Prayer: Make us rejoice when we hear the promises of the Bible preached and when we read them daily ourselves. Amen.

Wednesday, August 11

Matthew 10:24-31

Rather than fear people who can harm only our bodies, we should fear (honor) God because He controls where our bodies and souls will be forever.

Prayer: Give us a strong faith that shows in our lives and makes us speak to others about our Savior, Jesus. Amen.

Thursday, August 12

Acts 20:22-36

The Word of God is able to build up and make strong our faith. Its message about God's grace makes us able to inherit heaven with all saints (believers).

Prayer: Give us faithful pastors who speak the true Word of God and show by their holy living that they honor You. Amen.

Friday, August 13

Psalm 119:57-64

A person is judged according to the kind of friends he has. Therefore we Christians should associate with people who honor God and keep His laws.

Prayer: Let my mind be willing to accept instruction in Your laws, O Lord. Amen.

Saturday, August 14

Genesis 18:1-15

God can let anything happen, even things that do not often happen. Nothing is too hard for the Almighty to do.

Prayer: Help us to trust Your promises to us, because we know You are the true and almighty God. Amen.

Sunday, August 15 — Luke 16:1-12

A steward is a manager of someone else's property. All we have belongs to God; He wants us to take care of His property. Are we good or bad stewards?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, You have given us many things to take care of for You. Make us honest managers of our money, our time, and all things we receive from You. Amen.

Monday, August 16

1 Corinthians 10:6-13

In many Bible stories we read about people getting punishment for their wicked lives. The Bible tells us about this so we learn not to do what displeases God.

Prayer: We are tempted like everyone else, but You will help us overcome Satan and say "No" when he tempts us to do evil. Help us, Lord, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Tuesday, August 17

1 Chronicles 29:9-18

God made all things, so all things belong to Him. But He gave them to us to use and enjoy. We should always remember they are His and use these gifts right.

Prayer: Make us willing, O Lord our God, to give money and time to church work; all things we have You gave us through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Wednesday, August 18

Luke 12:32-48

Our heavenly Father wants to give us a place in His kingdom, heaven. The believer considers the promise of a home in heaven as his greatest treasure and thinks of it always with joy.

Prayer: Lord, let us never forget that Jesus will come to take us to heaven. Help us always to be ready for that. Amen.

Thursday, August 19

2 Timothy 1:3-14

Christ was not ashamed to suffer and die on the cross for us. Therefore we should be proud to be called Christians (Christlike) and try to live like Christ.

Prayer: Make our faith true and strong so that we are sure that Jesus, our Savior, is keeping a place ready for us in heaven. Amen.

Friday, August 20

Psalm 119:65-72

We can be glad when sorrow and suffering make us think of God. Sometimes when we wander away from Him, He lets sickness and other sufferings happen to us to remind us to do His will.

Prayer: We do not ask to be free from sorrow, pain, and trouble if You send those things for our good. But help us to understand Your will. Amen.

Saturday, August 21
Genesis 24:50-67

Marriage is a good thing. God instituted it because He said, "It is not good for man to be alone; I will make a helper for him." God leads people together; so we should consider marriage a lasting and honorable thing.

Prayer: Bless our home, O' Lord, and help all of us who live together here to show love and thoughtfulness. Amen.

Sunday, August 22
Luke 19:41-48

Jesus wept because the people of Jerusalem were sinful and did not repent. Jesus is also sorry when we sin and do not repent, because then we cannot receive forgiveness. Let us be sorry for our sins.

Prayer: O Holy Spirit, help us accept Jesus for our Savior now through God's mercy and kindness. Amen.

Monday, August 23
1 Corinthians 12:1-11

The Holy Spirit gives many blessings for our soul. The best and most important of these is faith to confess that Jesus is our Savior. All other blessings come through this one.

Prayer: O Holy Spirit, let us use the powers and gifts You give us to show God's glory and help our neighbors. Amen.

Tuesday, August 24
Jeremiah 7:1-7

God wants us to repent of our sins and wrongdoings and to improve in

living right. For this we need the help of His Spirit.

Prayer: We pray, O heavenly Father, that You will let all things happen right for fatherless children and widows. Help judges decide right so no innocent people get blame. Amen.

Wednesday, August 25
Matthew 11:16-24

People who do not love Jesus find fault with Him, His Church, and His believers. For this they will get eternal punishment. Let us beware and not find fault.

Prayer: Have mercy, O God, upon our nation. We have Your pure Word and many other blessings, but we do not honor You as we should. Forgive us. Amen.

Thursday, August 26
Hebrews 3:7-15

We should daily remind one another that sin makes our hearts hard; it deceives us into thinking it is all right. That makes our hearts hard so we do not learn to do God's will.

Prayer: O Christ, give us a strong faith and trust in You so that it lasts to the end of our life and we will go to live with You in heaven. Amen.

Friday, August 27
Psalms 119:73-80

God decides what things are best for us—health or sickness, happiness or troubles, success or disappointment. We pray as Jesus did: "Not My will but Thine be done."

Prayer: Let us use Your Holy Word to get comfort for our sorrows, sicknesses, and all troubles. Amen.

Saturday, August 28

Genesis 28:10-22

God is always near us, also when we are traveling. Therefore we should remember to worship Him and thank Him for His protection everywhere.

Prayer: O Lord, as You guided Jacob again to his father's house, lead us to our Father's house in heaven. Amen.

Sunday, August 29

Luke 18:9-14

The Pharisee was so proud of himself he thought he didn't have any sins. We must be careful that we do not become proud and forget our sins. We must pray for forgiveness daily.

Prayer: Show mercy to me, God, because I am a sinner and want forgiveness from You because Jesus died for me. Amen.

Monday, August 30

1 Corinthians 15:1-10

Because of God's mercy, love, and kindness we can be His children. The good that we do is only because His love is in our hearts. Jesus says, "Without Me you can do nothing."

Prayer: O Christ, help us to believe truly the wonderful promises in Your Word as we read it or have it preached to us. Amen.

Tuesday, August 31

2 Samuel 22:21-29

We will find much happiness in our lives if we do God's will. "Happy is the person who does not go along with evildoers," the Psalm writer says; and that is true also for us today.

Prayer: Keep us from becoming proud, O Lord, and help us give glory and honor to You. Amen.

W. O. N.



Bible Quiz

Bethesda, the "House of Mercy" in Jerusalem, had how many porches? John 5:2.

What did Jude consider necessary for him to do? Jude 2.

Who complained because Jesus talked and ate with sinners? Luke 15:2.

"The beloved physician" was a name given to which companion of Paul? Colossians 4:14.

What does the Chaldee word "Abba" mean? Galatians 4:6.

Will there be day and night in heaven? Revelation 22:5.

On what day did Jesus make well again the man who was paralyzed for 38 years? John 5:9.

For what were the believers at Rome famous throughout the world? Romans 1:8.

Where were the people to whom Peter wrote his First Letter? 1 Peter 1:1.

How many friends did Jesus take with Him on His last trip to Jerusalem? Luke 18:31.