

# *The Deaf Lutheran*



*Ephphatha, that is,  
Be opened.*

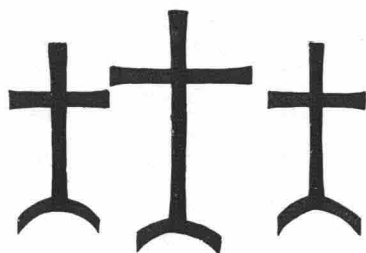
MARK 7:34

Volume 51

MARCH 1959

Number 3

By Thine agony and bloody sweat,  
By Thy Cross and Passion,  
By Thy precious death and burial:  
R. Help us, good Lord.



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 (Serving the Deaf and the Blind)

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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Send subscriptions, address changes, and cancellations to The DEAF LUTHERAN, 210 N. Broadway, St. Louis 2, Mo.

# Membership Cards

The Board of Missions to the Deaf has had printed a supply of membership cards for each of the 4,600 Deaf members of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod. If you are one of these members, you are entitled to one of these cards. If you have not yet received your membership card, ask your pastor to order it for you.

The card you receive has two purposes. 1) It shows that your church recognizes you as a member and that you share the rights and privileges as well as the duties and obligations of membership. 2) It shows that you consider yourself a member of the Lutheran Church of the Deaf.

**What are the rights and privileges of membership?** As a member of the Lutheran Church of the Deaf you have a right to confess your faith in God and in His Son, Jesus Christ, openly and in the company of other people who share your faith (and your membership) with you. You may attend church services regularly. You may worship God with gifts of money to support His church on earth. You may receive the Lord's Supper regularly. You may have your children baptized promptly. If you are a voting member of the congregation, you may vote to elect officers, to plan the budget, to care for the church property, and to help make decisions regarding every phase of your church's program. These are your rights and privileges. If you are a member of the Lutheran Church of the Deaf, no one will tell you that you can't come to church. No one will bar you from church meetings. No one will

refuse you the comfort of Holy Communion.

**What are the duties and obligations of church membership?** As a member of the Lutheran Church of the Deaf it is your duty to see that your church continues to serve the Deaf in every way that it can. You are to see that your pastor preaches the pure Word of God. It is your duty to see that every member is given opportunity to receive Holy Communion regularly. You are to help yourself and the other members grow ever stronger in faith. And you will live before God and in the sight of men in such a way that you will be a credit to your church and to your faith.

**What is the real meaning of church membership?** A church is not a club. There is no such thing as a "social member." You are either an "active member," or you are not a member at all. Even if you carry a gold-plated membership card, the card alone means nothing if you have no faith in God and no zeal for His church. Your membership card has value only if "it shows that you consider yourself a member of the Lutheran Church of the Deaf," that you teach what the church teaches, that you believe what the church believes, and that you worship when, where, and why the church worships.

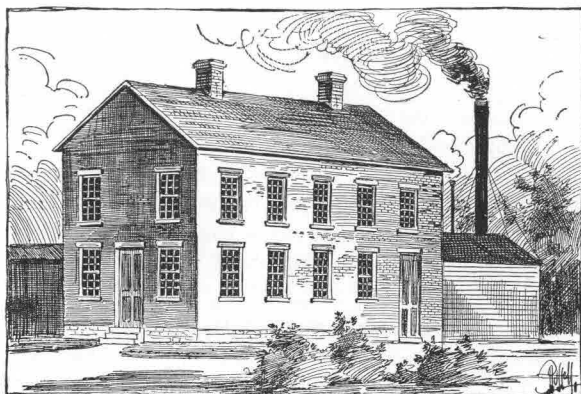
Don't try to be a social member of the church. Don't be an inactive member. Accept your membership card from your church as proof of its love and concern for you. Then earn it by showing your love and concern for the church.

# CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE

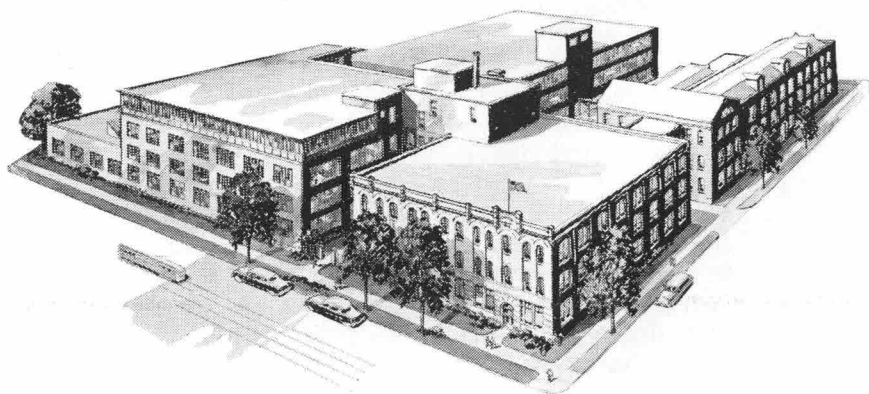
*Is Now Celebrating*

*Its 90th Anniversary Year*

*From  
1869*



*To 1959*



## Meet the Publishers

The DEAF LUTHERAN is published in St. Louis at Concordia Publishing House, 3558 South Jefferson Ave. Here a staff of trained and experienced specialists put together this magazine for the Lutheran churches of the Deaf.

### Growth and Service

The pictures on the left show how Concordia Publishing House has grown in the past ninety years. This growth was the natural result of the valuable service which it offers its customers.

Right now you are enjoying the kind of service that Concordia is proud to offer. Feel the paper this is printed on. It's good paper, isn't it? And look at the print. Those of you who are printers or linotype operators will appreciate the quality here. Each time you pick up your DEAF LUTHERAN you have in your hand the product of the skill and ingenuity of a powerful organization backed by ninety years of experience in the field of religious publications.

### Mail Order Business

Concordia Publishing House issues the largest catalog in the religious field. Your pastor has one of these in his office right now. Even if you live as far from St. Louis as Seattle or Miami, you can still shop at this big religious bookstore by mail. Just ask your pastor to lend you his catalog.

### Books and Magazines

Just to give you some idea of how you can use this catalog to build your own library of Christian literature, here is a list of some of the

books and magazines which you might be able to use:

Lutheran Book of Prayer (\$1.25)

Daily Bible Readings from the Revised Standard Version (\$2.00)

*Little Visits with God* (\$3.00)

*Prayers for the Sickroom* (\$ .25)

*Vital Facts of Life* (\$2.00)

*Make Yours a Happy Marriage*  
(\$1.50)

*Your Child and You* (\$ .35)

*The Miner's Boy* [Martin Luther]  
(\$ .25)

*This Day* magazine  
(\$3.00 one year)

*Portals of Prayer*  
(\$2.00 two years)

*The Lutheran Witness*  
(\$1.75 one year)

For just \$5.00 a year you could subscribe to three good magazines: The DEAF LUTHERAN, *This Day*, and *Portals of Prayer*. With another \$5.00 you could add two or three books to your bookshelf each year. Ask your pastor to help you plan your library. You will be glad you did.

## Did You Know?

*That the Lutheran Church is the largest Protestant church in the world?*

*That eighty million (80,000,000) of the two hundred million (200,000,000) Protestants in the world are Lutherans?*

*That there are Lutherans in almost every country in the world?*

*That there are 7,500,000 Lutherans in the United States?*

*That the Lutheran Church has more full-time ministers to the Deaf than any other Protestant church?*



# *Our Synod*

## Our Foreign Missions Program

The story of the missions program of our Synod, The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, is very interesting. Since the founders had come from Germany to escape the difficulties imposed upon them there, which really burdened their consciences, bound as they were by sincere obedience to God's Word, it was quite natural that they would obey that command of Christ: "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). Having come to America, the land of the Indians, it is not surprising that the first effort to bring the Gospel to others would be an attempt to establish a mission among the Indians.

Pastor Wilhelm Loehe of Neuendettelsau, Bavaria, Germany, was a man whose eyes saw in America a great mission field, and he sent several men to the United States between 1845 and 1850. He suggested that it might be better to establish colonies of settlers near Indian villages and have the pastors of these colonies serve as missionaries than to send special missionaries to the Indians. Such colonies were established near Saginaw, Mich. Rev. E. Baierlein, sent by the Leipzig Mission Society at Pastor Loehe's request, was a very successful missionary in the Michigan area, and the Indians were very sad when he was transferred to India in 1853. The American Indian missions came un-

der the control of the Missouri Synod in 1849. In other parts of Michigan and in Minnesota stations were established; but the entire effort never prospered. As the Indians moved around and as the Indian situation in America showed them to be a vanishing race, so naturally our work among them decreased as a specific effort.

In the first fifty years of its history, the missionary efforts in the Missouri Synod were largely concentrated upon gathering the incoming settlers from Germany and establishing congregations. This was called "Inner Missions," and in another story we shall talk about this phase of the work now called Home Missions. In this chapter we are talking about foreign missions: bringing the Gospel to foreign lands and to peoples of other languages than English.

Since Synod's founders came from Germany, the German language was the language of our founders. In Germany (and Switzerland) great missionary societies had developed, such as the Neuendettelsau, Halle, Leipzig and Basel Missions, which sent missionaries to Asia and Africa and other continents. Rather than launching upon separate missionary expeditions, our members supported these German mission societies.

In 1893 two faithful missionaries in India were dismissed by the Leip-

(Please turn to page 43)

## From the Executive's Desk

Greetings to everyone! Just a few more weeks now, and it will be Easter Sunday. What a happy day that is! Everyone looks so pretty in his new Easter clothes. The children are very excited, looking for Easter eggs. There will be plenty of pretty and delicious Easter candy. Families will gather around their tables maybe to eat the Easter ham. But what is the real reason for the happiness we feel at Easter time? It is the fact that Jesus lives! The grave is empty, and Jesus has overcome the power of sin, death, and the devil! We know that when we believe in Him He can free us from sin and take us to heaven. But we cannot have Easter without Lent. Christ could not rise again from the dead if He did not first die. And so when you read this, you will still be in the time of the year the church calls "Lent." I sincerely hope that all of you who have midweek Lenten services to study the story of Jesus' suffering and death are going regularly to be with your Savior during His suffering. Just stop and think what your Lord Jesus did for you. You deserve an eternity of suffering because of your sins. Jesus suffered that eternity of suffering for you when He was nailed to the cross. That is why we call Jesus our Substitute. He took our place when He suffered and died. How thankful we must be to Jesus for freeing us from an eternity of suffering! How happy Easter will be when we think again of the empty grave and know for sure that Jesus is our Savior!

How can we show our thanks to Jesus for saving us? We can do that in many ways. We can tell Him thanks in our daily prayers. We can be in church regularly to hear and

study His Word. We can take others to church with us. Why doesn't each one of you readers find someone who does not know the Savior and let that person be your responsibility? That would make your Easter even more happy. We can live for Jesus and show Him how much we love Him. Also we can bring our gifts of money to church every week to show how much we thank Him.

In 1958 the Deaf who came to our Lutheran churches brought a little more than \$104,000 in gifts to Jesus. That is a good beginning. But there is much more we can do. If each one of our 4,600 Lutheran Deaf had given five cents a day more to Jesus, then the church would have received \$83,950 more than it did. There is so much work for the church to do. So many people still have never heard about Jesus. Why don't we all decide this Lenten season to show our thanks to Jesus by giving more of our money to Him in our churches?

When we give to show our thanks to Jesus, then Easter will be a still happier day for us. It will make us feel very good to know that it was our dollars that helped other people learn to love Jesus, who died and rose again for all. Happy Easter to all of you!

WILLIAM F. REINKING

*I know that My Redeemer liveth.*  
Job 19:25.

### CORRECTION

The Dixie Conference will meet **April 11—12** at Memphis, Tenn.





## Mission Board Buys Parsonage

The Board of Missions to the Deaf purchased a parsonage for the Memphis Field shortly before Christmas. It is located in north Memphis near the Crosstown Sears store. Pastor



**The newly purchased parsonage in Memphis** and Mrs. Bottlinger moved into their new home January 1.

The new parsonage is a three-bedroom home of Early American design. Mr. Joe Zellner, member at Immanuel Lutheran Church and influential real estate broker in Memphis, acted as agent in the sale of the old parsonage, in need of many repairs, and in finding a location more convenient for the Deaf in Memphis. Mr. Louie Johnson and Mr. James Wardell, members of Grace Church for the Deaf, served on the committee in charge of choosing the new parsonage.

Members of Grace and Peace con-

gregations helped the Bottlinger family move into their new home. Mr. Ralph Davis supplied a truck, while Mr. James Wardell and eight members of Peace Church helped with the job of moving.

Rev. Bottlinger became pastor of Grace and Peace Lutheran churches for the Deaf in Memphis on July 1, 1957. Each congregation has thirty-one members. Pastor Bottlinger also serves preaching stations in the North Dixie Field. This field extends from Hot Springs, Ark., to Atlanta, Ga., and from Birmingham, Ala., to Nashville, Tenn.

Mrs. Bottlinger is the former Bernice Shedeck of Yukon, Okla. She is a graduate of the Oklahoma School for the Deaf. Mrs. Bottlinger attended Gallaudet College in 1951—52. Pastor and Mrs. Bottlinger were married June 16, 1957. Their



**Rev. and Mrs. Wayne C. Bottlinger and daughter, Theresa**





Elders of Grace Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Memphis, Tenn. On left: Mr. James Wardell; on right: Mr. Louis Johnson

daughter, Theresa, is ten months old.

Grace Lutheran Church for the Deaf worships at Trinity Lutheran Church, where a chapel was dedicated for the use of the Deaf in 1950. Peace Congregation uses the chapel of Calvary Lutheran Church, but both Calvary and Peace will move soon to a church which Calvary purchased from Redeemer.

## Gives Deaf Congregation \$2,000

*New York.* Mr. Endrees, a long-time friend of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Jackson Heights, presented the congregation with a gift of \$2,000.

The presentation was made as part of a Christmas party at the church in Jackson Heights. Over eighty Deaf and their friends attended the hot supper and party which followed. They played party games and exchanged gifts.

Student Pastor Orlin Anderson received a gold wrist watch from Mr. James Price and gifts of money from members of the church.

The supper was prepared by Mrs. C. Borgstrand, assisted by Mr. James Price and Mrs. Louis Brook.

## Three Baptisms in Omaha Field

Kathy Lou, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Lingner, was received into the family of Christ through Holy Baptism in a service at Council Bluffs, Iowa, December 7. Sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Smith.

In Sioux City, Iowa, Rev. E. Mappes baptized Derwin Cronier Coleman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Loren Coleman. Derwin's sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Arvin Massey of Sioux Falls, S. Dak.

In a private hospital service the infant sister of Mr. Anton Wajda, a member of the Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Omaha, was baptized by Rev. E. Mappes.

## Pastor Rohe Speaks at Missionaries' Conference

*Buffalo, New York, January 14.* Rev. H. Rohe of Alpha Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Rochester, N. Y., spoke on "The Missionary Aspect of the Book of Acts" before a group of missionaries in Buffalo. Pastor Rohe's presentation was part of a two-day program for missionaries of the Eastern District.

The conference was arranged by the Eastern District Mission Board for missionaries serving "young" congregations within that District. The Eastern District includes all of Pennsylvania and most of New York State west of the Hudson River.

## Mrs. O'Neal H. Cross

*Los Angeles, Calif., January 13.* Mrs. O'Neal Hendrix Cross, faithful member of Pilgrim Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Los Angeles, passed away on New Year's Day after a short illness. She had just reached her seventieth birthday. Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Arnold T. Jonas and W. H. Lange at the Winbigler Memorial Chapel in Santa Ana, Calif. Mrs. Cross had been living in Santa Ana with her son.

Mrs. Cross was well known in the Memphis area. She was baptized in Memphis by Rev. W. Westermann in 1946.

She is survived by a son, two daughters, three grandchildren, and three sisters.

## Memorial Gift

*Des Moines, Iowa.* A memorial gift of \$54 was presented to Pastor L. M. Stacy for the Iowa Deaf Field from the Van Mersbergen family and friends. The memorial gift will be used to purchase an adding machine. The gift was in memory of Harriett Van Mersbergen's father.

## Collect \$113 for Missions

*Omaha, December 25.* The Lutheran Deaf congregation in Omaha gathered \$113 for missions during its Christmas service.

A portion of this money will be used to support the Foreign Mission program of the Lutheran Church.

Read Pastor Uhlig's article on Synod's Foreign Missions in this issue of the DEAF LUTHERAN.

## Killed in Auto Crash

*Washington, D. C., December 25.* Mr. James Kelley, 24, was killed instantly at 2 A. M. Christmas morning when the car in which he was riding struck a safety island. The driver and two other passengers escaped with injuries.

Mr. Kelley was returning home from an errand at a relative's house when his driver was blinded by the headlights of an oncoming car. The right front of the car, where Mr. Kelley was sitting, received the full impact of the collision. His neck was broken.

Mr. Kelley was a member of the Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Washington, D. C., where he had been baptized, confirmed, married, and from which he now has been buried, all within the space of two years. Pastor Walter Westermann was his minister.

A large number of people attended the funeral December 29 to show their high regard for Mr. Kelley. Principal mourners were his wife and parents.

## Los Angeles Announcement

Since January 25 Pilgrim Lutheran Church for the Deaf has been holding its services at the parish hall of Grace Lutheran Church at 936 West Vernon Ave., Los Angeles. The congregation will meet there until the new church is completed sometime this summer.

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*The Son of Man [Jesus] is come to save that which was lost. Matthew 18:11.*

## OUR FOREIGN MISSION PROGRAM

(Continued)

zig Mission because they stood firm in the doctrine that the Bible is God's Word and that the Holy Spirit gave not only the ideas but also the words to the writers. These two men were Pastors Theo. Naether and F. Mohn. They were received in the Missouri Synod after they in a colloquy [examination] had given proof of their stand on doctrines of Scripture. They were commissioned in St. Charles, Mo., on October 14, 1894, as the first missionaries of our Synod to India. They began work in South India, where Pastor Naether died of the dreaded plague after only eight but richly blessed years of work. In the plague epidemic he would not refuse to minister to the sick and dying Christians.

God prospered the work of the faithful missionaries. Synod always realized that Gospel preaching in foreign lands needs native pastors, men of those countries and of that language, who have become Christians and who would then preach the Word of God to others. Therefore theological seminaries are usually established, and ours at Nagercoil, India, has furnished many workers.

On January 9, 1958, the India Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized, which manages its own affairs but is being supported by our Synod. Thus after 63 years there has developed a church of 28,268 baptized souls (over 2,000 were added in 1957 in all the stations in India); these are being served in 304 congregations and 103 preaching stations by 90 Indian pastors, 26 American missionaries, and 130 catechists and evangelists. There are 94

elementary schools and four high schools conducted in the India mission, with 11,996 pupils enrolled. There also is a hospital at Ambur, a clinic at Wandoor, a child-welfare station, and a printing establishment, and numerous reading rooms are maintained.

The picture which must be told of our work in China is not as pleasant to tell as that of India. It became a war casualty after World War II.

Rev. E. L. Arndt, formerly professor at our Concordia College in St. Paul, Minn., is the father of that mission. He just could not bear to think that the 400 million Chinese should be forgotten. So in 1912 he stirred the hearts of many Christians of the Lutheran Synodical Conference with his appeals for China. The China Mission Society was founded, which in 1913 sent him to China, where he began work in Hankow. A man then of 49 years of age, he was so tireless that within six months after taking up the study of the difficult Chinese language he began to preach and teach and to translate Lutheran Confessional literature into Chinese, even hymns. September 27, 1914, he baptized his first converts. Synod took over the mission in 1917. A seminary at Hankow was opened in 1922. The work expanded, and native workers moved inland, and things were going well. Then the wars took their toll. Internal political difficulties in 1927 constrained all workers except Rev. Arndt to leave for seven months. He died in 1929.

After the war, work was again taken up, and things went well. Then the rise of Communism under the People's Government forced many workers out of the country. Many Chinese Christians gave up

their life in persecutions. The last missionary left China in 1952.

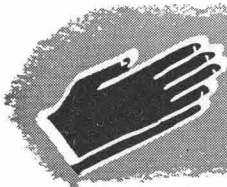
But the seed was sown; and God knows how much fruit it brought forth; may He grant that the seed strewn out may continue to bring results! The night of heathenism in China will give way to a morning of light someday, if it pleases God.

Work of our Synod has since been taken up with good results in the Philippines, Japan, New Guinea, in Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, Venezuela, Paraguay, Chile, and many other countries.

Now all this is among the hearing. But everywhere there are deaf people too. What about these? Is our work being done at enough places and among enough peoples, as some people sometimes say? No; there still is much to do.

Let us support the great work of bringing Christ to the nations with prayers and gifts. May God bless our Deaf with interest to become really concerned about the souls of Deaf in Asia, Africa, and elsewhere. The Deaf Mission Society, which has set as its goal the bringing of Christ to Deaf in other countries, has made a little start; let us not forget that earnest work may eventually bring about the beginning of foreign mission work among the Deaf of the world. Even if our number is small, let us not forget that Christ had only eleven men to whom He said, "Go and tell!" and see what has been done by their work when they let the Holy Spirit sweep them on to hard tasks and even death, but in the end to glorious victory.

N. P. UHLIG



## Devotions

### "Light for Your Way"

#### Bible Readings for March 1959

March 1 — Psalm 13  
March 2 — Psalm 46  
March 3 — 2 Peter 1: 2-11  
March 4 — John 6: 36-51  
March 5 — Isaiah 49: 8-16  
March 6 — Galatians 4: 21-31  
March 7 — John 6: 1-15  
March 8 — Psalm 139  
March 9 — Psalm 27  
March 10 — 1 Corinthians 1: 21-31  
March 11 — Matthew 10: 32-42  
March 12 — Genesis 7  
March 13 — Hebrews 9: 11-15  
March 14 — John 8: 46-59

March 15 — Psalm 38  
March 16 — Psalm 6  
March 17 — Hebrews 12: 1-11  
March 18 — Luke 22: 39-62  
March 19 — John 12: 1-23  
March 20 — John 12: 24-43  
March 21 — Matthew 21: 1-9  
March 22 — Psalm 148  
March 23 — Isaiah 50: 4-11  
March 24 — Jeremiah 11: 18-20  
March 25 — Isaiah 63: 1-9  
March 26 — 1 Corinthians 11: 23-32  
March 27 — Isaiah 53  
March 28 — Matthew 27: 57-66  
March 29 — Mark 16: 1-8  
March 30 — 1 Corinthians 15: 1-26  
March 31 — Isaiah 52: 7-15

"With His stripes we are healed." Isaiah 53:5



## *Bible Quiz*

What is as certain for a man to expect in life as it is certain and natural in a fire that the flame and sparks fly upwards? Job 5:7.

When the prophet Elisha sent his servant Gehazi to the home of the woman of Shunem to lay Elisha's staff upon the face of her dead son, what did he forbid Gehazi to do on the way so as not to lose any time? 2 Kings 4:29.

How often during each year were the menfolks of the Jews commanded to go to the temple at Jerusalem for worship? Deuteronomy 16:16.

What can we answer people if they say that we should not have a collection in each church service? Deuteronomy 16:16 (end of verse).

What can a man in trouble expect from a friend? Job 6:14.

What did the water of the Flood, which killed all living things outside of the ark, really do for Noah and his family? 1 Peter 3:20.

How does the writer of Hebrews call the judgment when a wicked person at last falls into the hands of the living God? Hebrews 10:31.

How much did people have to pay for the head of a mule and for the fourth part of a cab (about 1½ quarts equaled a cab) of dove dung (an almost worthless vegetable) at the time of the great famine in Samaria under King Joram? 2 Kings 6:25.

When false teachers make divisions by leading believers from the truth, they thereby give proof that

a safe influence is not guiding them. What have they not? Jude 19.

At the time of the great famine in Samaria the prophet Elisha foretold the defeat of the enemies and the end of the famine by saying that the next day fine flour would be sold for a shekel. What happened to the lord who doubted him when Elisha said that he would see it but not eat of it? 2 Kings 7:18-20.

What could the nations and their religious leaders do in order to make this a better world to live in? Nehemiah 8:1, 3.

What stands more firmly than heaven and earth? Luke 21:33.

Why did much evil and suffering come to the people of Israel and of Judah during the rule of their kings Baasha and Asa? 1 Kings 15:16.

Two horses being used to pull a chariot, how many war horses of Hadadezer, who ruled the land of Zobah in Syria, did David make lame and useless by houghing or hocking them [cutting the ligaments in their fetlocks or ankles]? 2 Samuel 8:4.

What should Christians never forget? Hebrews 13:6.

How did the Gentiles [people that were not Jews] compare with the Jews when Paul and Barnabas had clearly explained the way to salvation through Jesus Christ? Acts 13:42.

How did the centurion [captain over one hundred men] at Capernaum show that he believed in Jesus? Matthew 8:8.

## Regional Representatives Meet in St. Louis

For the first time in the history of our Lutheran Mission to the Deaf a special meeting of the regional representatives was held at the Lutheran Building in St. Louis on January 8 and 9. Attending this meeting were the following representatives: Rev. W. A. Westermann, regional representative from the Eastern Region; Rev. A. E. Ferber, regional representative from the Midwest Region; Rev. Theo. Frederking, regional representative from the Great Lakes Region; Rev. W. Ferber, regional representative from the North Central Region; Rev. F. G. Gyle, regional representative from the Dixie Region; and Rev. Geo. W. Gaertner, regional representative from the Pacific Region. Also attending the meeting were Rev. Ernest Drews, chairman of the Board of Missions to the Deaf, and Rev. Wm. Reinking, Executive Secretary of the Board of Missions to the Deaf. Visitors to the meeting included Dr. Herman Mayer, Secretary of Missions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and Dr. A. H. Grumm, First Vice-President of Synod.

To open the meeting Rev. Geo. Gaertner led the group in brief devotions. Following this, each regional representative gave a brief report of his region. The over-all picture shows a slow and steady growth in the number of members in all of our regions. At the present time there are vacancies in the Saint Louis and New York City areas.

Each regional representative presented a topic on different aspects of our work among the Deaf. Rev. Waldemar Ferber spoke on the place of chapels in our Mission program.

Rev. George Gaertner led the discussion on expanding the Mission program of our church. He stressed the importance of work in the big city areas of our country. Rev. Francis Gyle presented a possible change in our regions. At the present time we have six regions in our Mission. It was Rev. Gyle's suggestion that these be increased to eight regions. No action was taken, and this matter is to be talked over in more detail at the Ephphatha Conference in July.

Rev. Wm. Reinking, Executive Secretary of the Board of Missions to the Deaf, spoke on looking forward to 1965 to see what needs our Mission will have by that time. He looks forward to one new missionary being added to our Mission staff each year for the next seven years. This will call for an annual increase in the total budget of our Mission and also an annual increase in the receipts from the various congregations. It is hoped that the total receipts of our Mission congregations will average a 10-per-cent increase for each year during the next eight years. If the communicant membership continues to rise as it has in the past, there should be about 6,800 members of our various Lutheran Deaf churches by 1965.

Dr. Mayer, Secretary of Missions of Synod, spoke on "The Role of Deaf Missions in Synod's Total Mission Program." He mentioned that the Mission to the Deaf was the second and possibly the first big mission project of Synod, having been started in 1896. Even though the Missouri Synod membership is only about 1 per cent of the population of the United States, the Mission to

the Deaf is able to serve a little more than 10 per cent of the total Deaf population. He encouraged the regional representatives to go back to their region and to urge all of our churches to do more to become self-supporting. Dr. Mayer said that the Deaf Mission always receives equal consideration and has an equal voice in the planning of Synod's program of missions. Dr. Grumm, who was also present at this session of the meeting, also made comment on the

importance of this Mission to the Deaf to our Synod's mission program.

Various other topics were discussed at this meeting. Always the idea was, What can our Mission do to improve its work? It was generally felt that this first special meeting of the regional representatives helped to bring the Mission Program among the Deaf closer together and closer to the general work of our Synod.

W. F. REINKING

## Make a Promise to Yourself

God has been gracious to us deaf people. He has heard the cry of many for a church of their own. He has blessed more than one congregation with a beautiful church. But what do our churches for the Deaf lack?

After a congregation has settled in its own church, the members seem to lose interest as the years go by, not only in taking care of the building but even in the support of the church itself. Their attendance and contributions seem gradually to fade away. Where worship and hearing God's Word is concerned, it seems that God has second or last place in the minds and hearts of some people.

I once heard someone say, "Why should I go to church and contribute to its support when I get nothing to show for it? When I go to card parties, I get something for my money."

Pity the poor souls who look forward to receiving earthly treasures instead of the many blessings God so freely gives us as we hear His Word on Sunday in His house!

Others say, "I cannot come because I have no nice clothes." True,

people look on our outside appearance, but God looks on the heart.

Some people have the impression that the church must be supported by affairs. This idea is very wrong. Jesus once said, "My Father's house is a house of prayer; make it not a selling place." God wants His church supported not only by your contributions but also by your regular attendance. Just one hour with Him in His house on Sunday: is that asking too much?

By staying away we hurt no one but ourselves. Remember, God so loved us that He gave His only Son to die on the cross for us. What can we give in return for such a precious gift? One hour in church to thank Him for all He has done for us!

Let us make a promise to ourselves right now to attend church more regularly. Surely God will be pleased with such a promise. And I am sure He will richly reward us with a prize far greater and richer than what we get here on earth.

MRS. L. BROOK

*(Mrs. Louis Brook is a member of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for the Deaf in New York City.)*



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