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MARK 7:3

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The happy deaf boys at the Church of South India school in Mylapore, near Madras City, South India, smile their greetings. In this issue of the DEAF LU-THERAN Rev. William F. Reinking writes about his visit among the deaf of South India

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THE DEAF LUTHERAN

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You-the Deaf Driver

It happened again — another *accident*! Another *deaf driver*! In the past few months it seems that more deaf drivers have been involved in car accidents than ever before. Does that surprise you?

Immediately you defend the deaf by thinking, "It must have been the other driver's fault." Yes, in some cases that was true, but in other accidents the deaf driver was at fault.

What does that mean? It means that if deaf accidents are on the increase, then insurance companies will have more evidence to show that deaf drivers are poor drivers and therefore should pay double or triple insurance rates. It means that more insurance companies will refuse to sell car insurance to the deaf.

So often we put the total blame on the insurance companies for their unjust rates of insurance and for their blanket discrimination against the deaf as a whole. That complaint is right in some cases. Often we put the blame on the hearing public for their lack of understanding and compassion for the deaf. This also may be true. But we never seem to look at ourselves.

Every driver develops driving habits. Some habits are good, while others are dangerously bad. The deaf driver also develops good and bad driving habits. It is right here where some of the blame for accidents is found.

We have no excuse for careless driving! We have only ourselves to blame for poor driving habits.

The key to safe driving for the deaf is continual watchfulness. Always Alert! ought to be our motto. Our full attention is needed on the road before us, beside us, and behind us. We have no time or attention left over for talking with our passengers. We must watch the other driver and what he is doing. We must respect his position on the road and yield to him in difficult traffic situations.

It is time for us to be better drivers. It is time for us to do something about it. Many deaf are enrolling in the *Driver Improvement Classes for the Deaf Driver* which have recently been set up across the country by such interested people as Judge Sherman G. Finesilver of the District Court, Denver, Colo. If such a class is held in your area, we encourage you to take advantage of it. Every one of us can use improvement.

If no classes of this nature are being planned in your area, then encourage the leaders of your deaf community to look into the possibility of having driver improvement classes.

Let us give ourselves a boost and show the public that we are safe, responsible drivers. Then we surely will *deserve* those lower insurance rates!

The Deaf of South India

A year ago I was invited by the India Evangelical Lutheran Church to conduct a survey of the deaf in South India. The purpose of my visit was to find out what the life of a deaf person was like here and what opportunities existed for our Lutheran Church to help the deaf. My visit lasted two weeks, Oct. 13—28, 1965.

You will notice that I speak of visiting South India. It is here in the states of Madras, with the Tamil-speaking people, and Kerala, with the Malayallam-speaking people, that the Lutheran Church is chiefly working. My visit was limited to this area, where the India Lutheran Church is actively preaching the Gospel.



Deaf students at the Church of South India school in Manamadurai eating their noon meal. Note the absence of knives and forks. The right hand is used to bring the food to the mouth

General Impression of India

In spite of the poverty, the masses of people, the oppressing heat, and the problem of cleanliness, much beauty is seen in India. I shall never forget the miles of white sand beach next to the deep-blue ocean at Madras City or the tall palm trees stretching toward the sky in the desert country north of Nagercoil.

brilliant-hued The flowers against the backdrop of lush green present a picture of never-ending beauty on the drive up 7,000 feet into the hills of Kodaikanal, where the heat of the plains gives way to the pleasant. cool mountain breezes. Even the red clav and the sand of the desert were rich in color, as was the brilliant green of the rice paddies.

One finds beauty in the faces of the people with their dark, flashing eyes and their broad smiles showing glistening-white teeth. I found the people to be very friendly and helpful to strangers.

Yet it must be admitted that India has very serious problems. One of the most serious is the *shortage of food*. When I was there, I often passed long lines of people waiting for their ration of rice. Not all the people would get their ration that day and would have to line up again on the next day. Today the shortage of food continues even worse than before. The *shortage of water* has helped cause the crop failures.

As more people come into the



Deaf students at the Manamadurai school during the school day. They use slate for writing instead of paper and sit on mats in the schoolroom

larger cities from the rural areas, an *unemployment* problem develops. Although industry is expanding in India, it cannot absorb all those who need work.

The poverty of the people is easily seen, but the most appalling poverty is *spiritual*. It is said that Christianity first came to India in A.D. 62 with the visit of the apostle Thomas. After all those centuries Christianity is only a small minority religion among the millions of Hindus and Moslems. The Christian's heart aches to see people bringing offerings of flowers and food to a stone figure or to see people bathing in "holy water" to cleanse themselves of their sins. How much these people need to hear of Jesus Christ, whose blood can cleanse us from all our sins!

The Lutheran Church - Mis-

souri Synod began its work in 1894 — the same year it began its work among the deaf in the United States. At the present time the membership of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church numbers about 40,000 baptized. Through the work of the radio program "Bringing Christ to the Nations" even greater numbers are now hearing the precious Gospel of Jesus Christ.

But so much more needs to be done, especially among the deaf of India who have had very little opportunity to learn of the Savior, who also loves them.

India's Deaf Population

No accurate statistics are available regarding the deaf population of India. As I talked with various people who work with the deaf here, I heard estimates ranging from 450,000 to 2 million deaf in *all* of India.

In 1962 a survey was made of hearing problems among school children in three cities of South India. The resulting figure showed that 14—18 percent of the children had hearing problems. The figure for the United States is 3 percent.

By using a very minimum figure of one deaf person per 1,000 population, we would come up with a deaf population of 30,000 for Madras State and 13,000 for Kerala State. This gives India another serious problem.

Deaf Education in South India

Christian love and concern brought the first deaf school to India. The Church Missionary Society of England established the Florence Swaiason School for the Deaf in Palyamcotta in 1896. This school is now affiliated with the Church of South India and still receives some support from the Church Missionary Society.

In 1912 the Church of South India opened another school at Mylapore on the outskirts of Madras City.

All of Madras State today has only seven schools — two Roman Catholic, three Church of South India, one municipal, and one private management. Another Church of South India school will soon be opened a little south of Nagercoil. The total enrollment for all these schools is about 1,000 students, but this is only 10 percent or less of the children who should be in school.

In Kerala State the situation is no better with only four deaf schools — one Church of South India and three government schools with a total enrollment of about 350.

The Madras government has shown very little interest in deaf education and has no immediate intention of opening any government schools. It does, however, give financial support to the present schools. The three government schools in Kerala State are wholly inadequate.

Education is very important in Madras State, according to government regulation, because free compulsory education is available to hearing children through high school. Unfortunately this law does not include the deaf. One deaf educator estimated that only 2 percent of the deaf in India can read and write.

The method of instruction in the schools is mostly oral, although in the schools at Palyamcotta and Manamadurai a manual Tamil alphabet was used with some of the older pupils.

A language of signs is also used among the deaf adults, but I was told the language is not standardized. The examples of signs I saw were not at all like the American or Oriental language of signs.

For the most part education in the existing schools continues only through the eighth grade. Teacher training is limited to in-service training. In spite of this and the



Mr. Edwin, headmaster of the Manamadurai deaf school, uses the manual Tamil alphabet to teach his students

lack of equipment, the schools, especially in Madras State, seemed to be doing a good job of educating those who were fortunate enough to go to school.

The schools are mostly residential schools, while those in the larger cities have some day students. In the schools that accepted non-Tamil-speaking children I found two streams of educational systems — one in English and the other in Tamil.

Some vocational training is provided in the schools together with general academic subjects, but this varied from one school to the next. Vocational subjects include mat-making, weaving, carpentry, fiber-making, gardening, needlework, embroidery, tailoring, printing, and bookbinding. Most of the programs were limited because of the lack of funds.

Economic Condition of the Deaf

Employment among the deaf is a most serious problem, especially because even the hearing people cannot find work. Employers seldom have the patience or interest to hire the handicapped. The schools do what they can to place their graduates to work, and they have some degree of success. It would be fair to say, though, that the majority of the deaf have either very limited or no employment at all.

It is interesting to note that the Madras State government has taken an interest in this aspect of the deaf and has appointed one man as the employment officer for the handicapped. He has succeeded in placing a number of handicapped into jobs, but the task is so overwhelming for one man who has so many looking to him for help. Recently, however, he has helped establish the Society for the Welfare of the Handicapped. He hopes to make many more people aware of the handicapped and their problems through this group.

Social Status of the Deaf

In Indian society it appears that the deaf generally are tolerated and not rejected. On the other hand, they receive no understanding or sympathetic attention in the good sense of the word. The general feeling seems to be that



A class of older students at the Palyamcotta school have their class period under a shade tree. As a school uniform the girls wear a bright-green sari and the boys khaki pants and shirts

the deaf person has been touched by fate and therefore his condition must be left unchanged.

In the family situation the deaf are given some work to do, but usually the desire to have them educated for a better life is not there. Every deaf person who cannot read or write is very limited in the home and village. He is accepted but not equal with the hearing.

Besides the teachers in the deaf school only one other person works with the adult deaf. He is Mr. Christopher, a trained teacher of the deaf who works out of the Palyamcotta school and is supported by deaf and friends of the deaf in England.

Mr. Christopher makes home visits, counsels the deaf, tries to

help them find jobs, interprets in court, publishes a monthly paper, and arranges an occasional social outing. One of his great problems is to reach with some form of meaningful communication the deaf who cannot read or write, especially when they are in trouble with the courts.

The All India Federation of the Deaf is active mostly in North India. In South India I heard of two small deaf clubs in Madras City, but that was all. The deaf do form strong ties with their schools and usually try to come back once or twice a year for alumni get-togethers. In two schools I found women graduates who had never left the school. They stayed to earn their living there by various kinds of needlework. It would seem then that the life of the average deaf person in India is very lonely and very limited.

Deaf and Religion

The deaf of India do not know much about Christianity. The adult deaf who cannot read or write and the children who never go to school know nothing about it. Only those deaf who have attended classes in one of the Christian schools have any Christian knowledge.

Here religious classes are held and chapel devotions conducted, but all of this takes place before or after school hours, according to government regulation. The Christian schools are also very hesitant to baptize at school because they fear the government would bring charges of proselyting against them.

The only work being done to bring the Gospel of Christ to the deaf outside the schools is the work being done by Mr. Christopher. He conducts services for the deaf in six cities in South India. In 1964 he reported a series of Gospel meetings in one city which resulted in 10 deaf declaring themselves for Christ.

In Kerala State Christian work is limited to the Christian teaching at the Church of South India



The first-grade class at the Roman Catholic school in Madras City. The nun has been trained at a school for the deaf in Belgium

school in Tiruvalla and some religious teaching being done at the government school in Trivandrum by the Christian principal of the school. We must be grateful to God for the precious few deaf who have come to faith in Christ, but the Christian church in India must be more concerned about the many deaf who have had no opportunity to learn of Christ.

An Opportunity for the India Evangelical Lutheran Church

Interest in the deaf by our Lutheran Church in India goes back to 1917. An item appeared in the DEAF LUTHERAN in that year stating that Missionary Lutz in Nagercoil tells of seeing deaf but being unable to reach them since neither the missionary nor the deaf knew the language of signs.

In 1954 the Board for Missions to the Deaf requested Rev. Arnold Lutz, a missionary to India and a former missionary to the deaf in Sioux Falls, S. Dak., to write up a report on the needs of the deaf in India. Rev. Lutz presented a very complete report with recommendations for action. He urged missionaries be sent from the States to work with the deaf, but it was at that time that the government of India refused to allow any more American missionaries to enter the country. This plus other factors led to no further action on the report.

Rev. Lutz continues to show a great concern for the deaf, and



Rev. Arnold Lutz stands at the right in Grace Lutheran church in Madurai. During the week the church serves as an elementary school. This is a very common practice among the Lutheran churches in India. A divider separating these two classes was moved away for our picture

he was most helpful to me in spite of his busy schedule during my visit to India. The India Evangelical Lutheran Church has now appointed Pastor Lutz as advisor to a committee of three Indian pastors, one from each district synod. This committee will serve the Home Mission Board of the church as an Advisory Deaf Committee. It is to this committee that I have submitted my report for study and follow-up.

In my visits with the missionaries in India, the Indian pastors, teachers, and lay people I found interest and concern for the physical and spiritual welfare of the deaf. To translate this concern into action, several suggestions were made dealing with all aspects of the needs of the deaf.

It will be up to the India Evangelical Lutheran Church now to consider these needs and, led by the Spirit of God, to develop programs that will meet the needs. I would ask that you remember the leaders of the Lutheran Church in your prayers that God will grant them the wisdom, courage, and foresight they need as they concern themselves with the needs of the deaf along with their other great responsibilities.

Work among the deaf in India will not be easy work, and progress and success will not be seen for a long time. The program will be set up on a long-range basis. However, the need and the challenge is clearly before us. I am firmly convinced that the Lutheran Church with its history of deaf work has a particular responsibility for the deaf not only in the United States but also among its sister churches and mission fields.

May it be God's will that the India Evangelical Lutheran Church show that it has been sent by the Lord in love and concern to reach out to fill the needs of the deaf, helping them not only to regain their human dignity but, most important of all, to gain the status of the redeemed children of God.

REV. WILLIAM F. REINKING St. Louis. Mo.

GLEANINGS

FIFI D



LWML Grants \$1,000 to Deaf

Vancouver, B. C., Can. At their biennial convention July 12—14 the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Alberta-British Columbia District, presented a check of \$1,000 to Trinity Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Vancouver. This is their second gift to the congregation designated to help pay for the property on which their new chapel will be built.

The presentation of the gift was made to Mr. Alex Brodie, who represented his congregation. Mr. Brodie, in a speech of acceptance, thanked the league for their zeal in the Lord's work and their wonderful support of our church's mission to the deaf.

The league also voted to gather an additional \$4,000 in the 1966 to 1968 biennium for chapel furnishings.

Trinity congregation also has a LWML society. Mrs. Myra Tribe served as delegate to the convention.

The convention was also impressed with the "Silent Magic Act" presented by Mr. Dennis Day.

The B.C. Silent Minister

Welcomes New Pastor

Denver, Colo. Members and friends of Bethel Deaf Lutheran Church, Denver, gathered on July 17 to witness the installation of their new pastor, Rev. Donald W. Zuhn, and to meet and welcome him and his wife to Colorado.

Rev. Walter Enge of Colorado Springs, president of the Colorado District of our church, conducted the order of installation. Rev. Herbert W. Rohe of St. Louis, secretary of Deaf Missions, was guest preacher.

Pastor Zuhn, son of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Zuhn of La Grange, Tex., was born Aug. 23, 1940. He attended our church's schools while preparing for the



Rev. Donald W. Zuhn

ministry: Concordia College, Austin, Tex.; Concordia Senior College, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. He graduated in May 1966 with a bachelor of divinity degree from the seminary.

Rev. Zuhn has had much contact with the deaf during his school years. He attended special classes taught by pastors working with the deaf in Fort Wayne and St. Louis. Pastor Zuhn also served his vicarage year in Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf of Montana under the guidance of Rev. Rodney R. Rynearson.

Last June 19 Rev. Zuhn was united in marriage with the former Miss Kathryn Beltz, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Walter Beltz, St. Cloud, Minn.

Flint Deaf Receive Gift

Flint, Mich. The Michigan District Lutheran Women's Missionary League at their convention July 19—21 voted to grant \$5,000 to St. Paul's Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Flint. The gift will be used to purchase pews, altar paraments, and other chapel furnishings for the congregation's proposed new chapel.

The women of the Flint congregation have been considering forming themselves into a chapter of the fine women's organization of our Lutheran Church—the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

News Notes from the Field

The Spokane, Wash., Field received a \$300 gift from the Washington district of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. The gift will be used toward the purchase of visual aids. *Rev. R. R. Rynearson* serves the Field.

As these words are being written our 1965—1966 vicars are returning to their respective seminaries to complete their final year of study before entering the ministry. Vicars Peter Franzman, Daniel Hodgson, and Charles Jones will return to our St. Louis seminary and Vicar Myron Prok to Springfield, Ill. May the Lord

Honored in Sports

Pittsburgh, Pa. Harry Lewis is very active in his church, Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Pittsburgh. He is also an excellent student and has been accepted at Gallaudet College for this coming school year. If you talk to Harry, you never hear a word of his accomplishments. He is very quiet and most humble

He is also very big and strong, for not the least of his accomplishments is his ability as an athlete. He has won letters in all the sports offered at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (W.P.S.D.), Pittsburgh. After much persuasion Harry agreed to have his picture taken with a few of his many sports trophies

The large trophy in the picture was awarded Harry as the outstanding male athlete at W.P.S.D. in 1965 to 1966. The smaller trophy was presented to Harry as one of five all-



stars at the Eastern School Basketball Tournament in New Jersey in 1966

Gallaudet College has not only gained an excellent student and athlete but also a fine Christian be with them in their final year of study. May He continue to bless our Lutheran Deaf Missions with dedicated and able students and pastors.

In the next few issues of the DEAF LUTHERAN we hope to introduce to you our 1966—1967 vicars and our new pastors.

The deaf choir of *Trinity Lu*theran Church for the Deaf, Vancouver, Can., appeared on the program of the Lutheran Choral Festival sponsored by Trinity Lutheran Church (hearing) of Richmond, Can., June 5. The sixmember deaf choir presented their sign version of "Fairest Lord Jesus."

In a recent news release the public relations office of our church commented on the annual statistical summary of the National Lutheran Council. The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod had the highest numerical gain in membership among all Lutheran bodies in North America for the 21st consecutive year. In 1965 the Synod's baptized membership rose to 2,788,241, an increase of 43,667 members over the previous year. The Missouri Synod is the second largest Lutheran body in the United States.

LIGHT FOR YOUR WAY

Daily Bible Readings

for October

- Oct. 1 Matthew 16:13-23. A wonderful confession of faith followed by a stern rebuke. Pray the Lord to give you courage to confess your faith openly, without shame and fear.
- Oct. 2 Mark 9:2-8. Three leaders see the glory of God on the mount of transfiguration. Ask God to give you an understanding of the glory that He has promised you.
- Oct. 3 Matthew 26:30-35. A self-confident man makes a proud promise. Pray that God may give you an understanding of your own weakness, and ask Him to give you the strength to overcome it.
- Oct. 4 John 13:1-10. A true and false humility. Ask God to teach you to accept forgiveness humbly. Pray also for Mrs. Doris Ring, pastor's wife, Sioux Falls, S. Dak., and for Rev. William Lange, Omaha, Nebr.
- Oct. 5 Matthew 26:47-56. Peter takes matters into his own hands. Pray for the deaf in India that the Lord will have mercy on them and send His church to serve them.

- Oct. 6 Matthew 26:69-75. Faith and trust in God are lost in a moment of trial. Ask God to give you a strong faith in times of doubt and temptation that you do not deny Him. Pray also for Rev. R. G. Blakely, Norwood, Mass.
- **Oct.** 7 John 20:1-10. God gives new hope to Peter. Ask God to support you in your hope of an eternal life with Him.
- Oct. 8 John 21:1-8. Peter, soon to be a leader in the church, returns to Jesus. Pray for faith to see God's hand in all that comes to you.
- Oct. 9—John 21:15-23. Jesus again gives Peter his work. Pray that God will support you as you believe and do His work as a member of His congregation.
- Oct. 10 Acts 2:1-16. The first Christian sermon. Pray for the wisdom to speak to the needs of men. Pray also for Rev. Theodore Freder-king, Phoenix, Ariz.
- Oct. 11 Acts. 3:1-16. Because of their faith they had the courage and power to heal. Ask God to increase the love of all Christians as they seek to help the needy the world over.
- Oct. 12 Acts 4:5-22. They were very bold and even spoke before the highest Jewish court. Pray that nothing will separate us from the love of Christ Jesus.
- Oct. 13 Acts 9:32-43. Peter performs wonderful miracles. Pray for the pastor and leaders in your congregation that God may give them much zeal to do His work.
- Oct. 14 Acts. 10:9-23. The Lord shows Peter a vision about the Gentiles, non-Jews. Pray that God will lead us always to offer the love and mercy of Jesus' Good News to all people.
- Oct. 15 Acts 10:34-48. The first non-Jew believes in Jesus and receives the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Pray for Christians of all nations that we may be united in the truth of God's Word.
- Oct. 16 Acts 12:1-17. Peter is freed from prison. Pray for all Christians who must suffer hurt because they were not afraid to speak to others about the Lord Jesus. Pray also for Rev. Larry Harris, Portland, Oreg.
- Oct. 17 Galatians 2:11-18. A conflict between two Christian leaders. Ask God to heal the divisions in the church.
- Oct. 18-2 Peter 1:12-21. Peter speaks his concern for the church to come. Pray for the people who hear our missionaries that they may believe in the Lord Jesus.
- Oct. 19 Mark 3:13-19. John is commissioned with all the apostles. Pray for your pastor that the Lord will give him more strength in his work.
- Oct. 20 Mark 5:35-43. John is one of Jesus' inner group. Pray for yourself that you be drawn closer to Jesus in love.
- Oct. 21 Mark 9:38-50. The disciples misunderstand Jesus' purpose and are corrected. Pray for your church leaders that the Lord will guide them.
- Oct. 22 Luke 9:51-56. Jesus corrects the disciples and their righteous

anger. Pray that your leaders in church will be blessed with more wisdom and patience.

- Oct. 23 Mark 10:34-45. A mother has high hopes for her sons. Ask God to give you humility and courage to accept every task which the church asks you to do.
- Oct. 24 John 13:21-30. John has the favored place at supper next to Jesus. Pray for all the deaf who drive that they may accept their responsibility to be good, safe drivers.
- Oct. 25 Mark 14:32-42. A broken fellowship in Gethsemane. Pray that God may teach you to trust in Him without weariness.
- Oct. 26 John 18:12-18. A silent disciple watches Jesus' trial. Ask God to help you to understand His will in the history of today. Pray also for Rev. James Bengelsdorf, Des Moines, Iowa.
- Oct. 27 John 19:23-27. Jesus gives John a responsibility as He dies on the cross. Pray for all aged Christians that they have rest, mental security, and peace of mind.
- Oct. 28 John 20:1-9. The empty grave gives new comfort and hope. Pray for yourself that God may support you when you are weak and fearful. Pray also for Mrs. Kathryn Zuhn, pastor's wife, Denver, Colo.
- Oct. 29 John 21:20-25. Peter wonders about John's future life. Pray for the courage to work and believe without fear of your future.
- Oct. 30 1 John 1:1-4. John writes to the church. Ask that you may fully experience the fellowship of the church.
- Oct. 31 Galatians 3:23—4:11. We have freedom under God. Pray that your church remains true to the Reformation foundation stones of the Bible alone, grace alone, faith alone.

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