

The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

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Number 3



**“Thy Word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path”**

Psalm 119:105

Arrival in Hong Kong

August 1st! My family and I looked forward to our arrival in Hong Kong on that date almost from the time I accepted the call to serve the Lord in the Far East. When we arrived at the airport and passed through customs, we suddenly learned that many oth-



A warm reception awaited Pastor and Mrs. Louis Jasper and their three daughters at the Hong Kong airport

ers had also been looking forward to our arrival. The airport was crowded with a welcoming committee of people from the two deaf congregations, children from our Lutheran Deaf Evening School, missionaries and teachers.

Even before we left New York, I had no doubt about the Lord's will for me to serve Him in Hong Kong. As we traveled to Hong Kong, we stopped off in Japan and Taiwan. There I visited many deaf groups and congregations. I spoke with school officials, church leaders, and pastors. At times I visited people in nice clean buildings. Sometimes I saw people living in tiny, filthy, smelling huts. Every place I visited, I said to myself, "No need for me to go any further. Right here is a lifetime of work to be done." I had no doubt before and surely I have no doubt now. In New York the Lord had blessed me with many experiences and helped me develop some skills that He wants me to use here in the Far East.

So easily we can accept the blessings of God every day with-

THE DEAF LUTHERAN

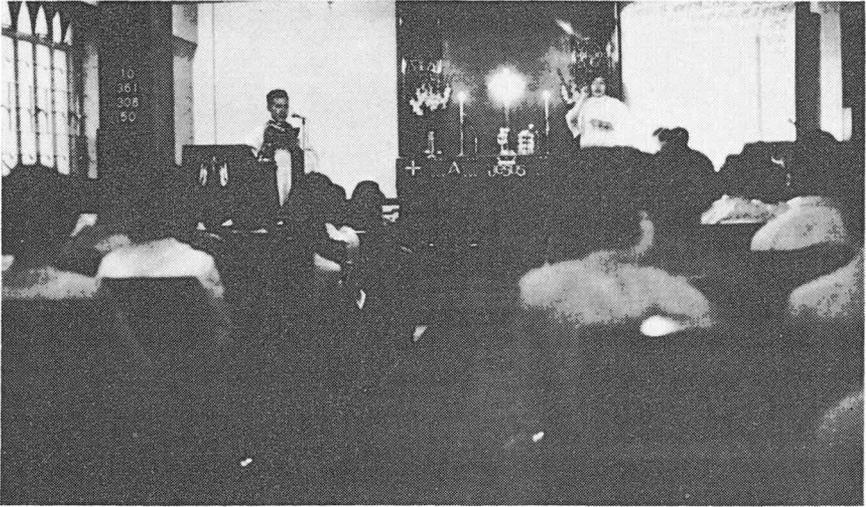
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The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

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THE DEAF LUTHERAN goes to press on the 1st Friday, 4 weeks before issue. Send all news, pictures, stories, and articles by the 12th of the month, 7 weeks before issue, to Rev. Martin A. Hewitt, Editor, 1221 Virginia Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44107.

Send subscriptions, address changes, and cancellations to Rev. Earl Thaler, Subscription Manager, 31 West Beacon St., West Hartford, Conn. 06119.



The deaf gather at the Nathan Road Chapel in Kowloon for a worship service of thanksgiving for God's blessings in bringing Pastor Jasper to Hong Kong. Pastor Philip Ho conducts the service, while Mrs. Chen interprets in signs

out seeing how great those blessings really are. We do not appreciate God's blessings until we see people who have much, much less. In many places in Asia the deaf have so little. More than 200 deaf children in Hong Kong, for example, will not receive an education because of the lack of enough schools. In Taiwan as many as 25 deaf children are taught in one class. Even in Japan, which offers better education for the deaf, almost nothing spiritual is available. Our Lutheran Church is only beginning to work with the deaf in many Asian countries.

Perhaps it is difficult for you on one side of the world to feel that you are actively doing mis-

sion work on the opposite side of the world. With the help of my monthly reports the distance between us may not seem so great. It is equally important that you help build this feeling of closeness and cooperation in the work of the Lord. We will be very pleased to hear from you through letters and other communications about our church's work among the deaf on your side of the world.

May the Lord watch over us wherever we are and bless the work we do in His name.

REV. LOUIS R. JASPER
68 Begonia Road
Yau Yat Chuen
Kowloon, Hong Kong



Part of the welcoming party that greeted Pastor Louis Jasper and his family on their arrival in Hong Kong last August 1st

A Gift Earmarked for the Far East

A few weeks ago a \$200 gift was received earmarked for mission work among the deaf in the Far East. The gift was received from the Cedarloo Christian Fellowship, a Bible class organization in the Cedar Falls-Waterloo, Iowa, area.

In the past few years this deaf group has contributed \$575 earmarked for the Lord's work among the deaf in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the Philippines. We certainly thank them and others for their generous gifts for deaf foreign missions.

Our readers' interest and prayers for our Lutheran Church's work among the deaf in foreign lands is deeply appreciated. Your continual gifts for this mission may be sent through your Lutheran Deaf Mission Society (LDMS), earmarked, if you wish, for any foreign deaf mission field. **Please note the new address:**

***LDMS Financial Secretary
Rev. R. G. Blakely
14 Robinwood Rd.
Norwood, Mass. 02062***



What Luther Says

Let God Speak

Let the man who would hear God speak, read Holy Scripture.

Scripture is God's testimony concerning Himself.

The Holy Spirit Himself and God, the Creator of all things, is the Author of this book.

After all, no book, teaching, or word is able to comfort in troubles, fear, misery, death, yea, in the midst of devils and in hell, except this book, which teaches us God's Word and in which God Himself speaks with us as a man speaks with his friend.

The entire Bible does nothing else than give a person to understand what he was, what he is now, what behooves [is necessary for] him, and what his works are. It informs him that he is completely undone. Secondly, it tells what God is, what pertains to Him [what belongs to Him or what He is like], what His works are, and especially His mercy in Christ. HIM it leads us to understand, and through His salvation it conducts us from earth to heaven, to the Godhead.

(This excerpt is from *What Lu-*

ther Says, an anthology compiled by Ewald M. Plass, Concordia Publishing House, 1959, and used by special permission of the publishers. Ed.)

New Translation in Demand

New York, N. Y. Although some people insist that the Bible is a religious relic and that even God is dead, there is an unprecedented demand for Scriptures in modern languages. A little over 10 months after the American Bible Society published "Good News for Modern Man," the New Testament in Today's English Version, more than four million copies had been distributed. In addition the ABS had placed print orders for at least another two million copies.

God's Word Shared Around the World

New York, N. Y. Since the first Bible came off Johann Gutenberg's crude press more than 500 years ago, at least one book of the Bible has been published in 1,280 languages and dialects. During

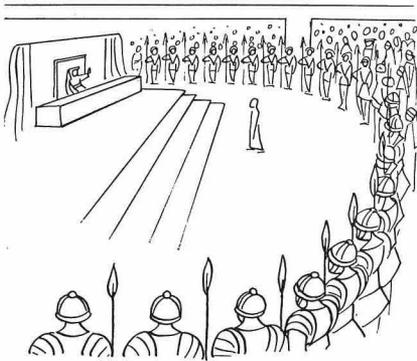
1966 alone the United Bible Societies distributed more than 93 million Scriptures. Churches and individuals supporting the American Bible Society, the largest of

the 35 national Bible societies comprising the UBS, made possible the distribution of almost 62 million of these Scriptures.

It Happened for You!

Jesus Sentenced to Death

At every Passover Feast the governor was in the habit of setting free any prisoner the crowd asked for. At that time there was a well-known prisoner named Jesus Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want



me to set free for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus called the Christ? He knew very well that they had handed Jesus over to him because they were jealous.

While Pilate was sitting in the judgment hall, his wife sent him a message: "Have nothing to do with that innocent Man, because in a dream last night I suffered much on account of Him."

The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask Pi-

late to set Barabbas free and have Jesus put to death. But the governor asked them, "Which one of these two do you want me to set free for you?" "Barabbas!" they answered. "What, then, shall I do with Jesus called the Christ?" Pilate asked them. "Nail Him to the cross!" they all answered. But Pilate asked, "What crime has He committed?" Then they started shouting at the top of their voices, "Nail Him to the cross!" When Pilate saw it was no use to go on, but that a riot might break out, he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, "I am not responsible for the death of this Man! This is your doing!" The whole crowd answered back, "Let the punishment for His death fall on us and on our children!" Then Pilate set Barabbas free for them; he had Jesus whipped and handed Him over to be nailed to the cross. (Matthew 27: 15-26)

The Death of Jesus

At noon the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours. At about three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud shout, *Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?* which means, "My

God, My God, why did You abandon Me?" Some of the people standing there heard Him and said, "He is calling for Elijah!" One of them ran up at once, took a sponge, soaked it in wine, put it on the end of a stick, and tried to make Him drink it. But the others said, "Wait, let us see if Elijah is coming to save Him!" Jesus again gave a loud cry, and breathed His last.

Then the curtain hanging in the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split apart, the graves broke open, and many of God's people who had died were raised to life. They left the graves; and after Jesus rose from death they went into the Holy City, where many people saw them.

When the army officer and the soldiers with him who were watching Jesus saw the earthquake and everything else that happened, they were terrified and

said, "He really was the Son of God!" There were many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee and helped Him. Among



them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons. (Matthew 27:45-56)

From "Good News for Modern Man," the New Testament in Today's English Version with line drawings by Swiss artist Annie Vallotton, published by the American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10023. Copyright 1966.

The Suffering of God's Child

A Lenten Meditation

God's Word teaches us that suffering, affliction, and pain have a meaning, a purpose. David emphasizes in his psalms that sufferings are good for us, because they help us stop breaking God's law and encourage us to do only what God wants. Sufferings and afflictions show us our human weakness and foolish pride and lead us to lean on our heavenly Father

for deliverance. They are tests through which God strengthens our faith in Him.

In this meditation we will think about a special kind of suffering which the Lord explains in 1 Peter 2:20-21, *If you suffer for doing good and take it patiently, God is pleased with you. This is what you were called for, seeing that Christ also suffered for you and left you an example so that you'll follow in His steps.* (Beck)

Suffering for doing good is a unique trial of God's child — the most difficult to accept.

If we do wrong, we expect to be corrected and to suffer the consequences of our mistakes. We do not enjoy feeling the pangs of guilt or even being shown our faults. When we have no one to blame but ourselves, we expect and accept the pain and shame our own sin gives us.

Our feeling is different, however, when we try to do good and help someone, and then others blame us for not minding our own business. It is heartbreaking

to us and we are tempted to feel very bitter when others blame us for doing only good, falsely accuse us, or misunderstand why we try to help.

This happens when we try to share Jesus with members of our congregations who have for many different reasons stopped going to church. They are suspicious of us and call us "pushy." It hurts us when our honest and sincere efforts are resented, unappreciated, or misunderstood.

In times such as these it is most comforting to remember God's Word, *If you suffer for doing*



Your Editor —
Rev. Martin A. Hewitt

This picture was taken the evening Good Shepherd of the Deaf congregation, Toledo, Ohio, gave Pastor Hewitt a farewell dinner and gift, Jan. 20. You can see he is pleased. Besides the farewell dinner and the

congregation's well-chosen gift of a Schaefer desk pen set, Pastor Hewitt is happy because the Toledo congregation now has its own resident pastor (Rev. Larry Harris) and because his own field of Northern Ohio has been cut in half

We want to keep our editor smiling, so let's have a "keep your editor happy" month! Send him a letter. Tell him what you like about the *Deaf Lutheran* (or don't like). Give him some ideas what to include in future issues. If you like to write, send him a story or article about anything. Send in black and white pictures of your congregation's activities. Let's help our editor make the *Deaf Lutheran* a magazine deaf Lutherans eagerly want to read

Send your ideas, news, and pictures to

Rev. Martin A. Hewitt, Editor
1221 Virginia Avenue
Lakewood, Ohio 44107

good and take it patiently, God is pleased with you. He will bless you for it.

The life of Joseph in Genesis 37—50 is a good example of one who suffered patiently when hated by his brothers for doing good, sold by them as a slave, falsely accused and punished in jail. God blessed him for it. Joseph later told his brothers, *You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.* (Genesis 50:20)

We remember that Christ Jesus also suffered patiently for us and gave us an example to follow. As we suffer innocently for doing good, we are led to a deeper appreciation of His sufferings and a fuller understanding of His great love for us. How much love and patience He had when He accepted in our stead the suffering we deserved for our sin! Jesus Himself did no wrong, and yet He suffered patiently *with* us and for us.

The history of England tells of King Henry VIII, who disguised himself as a beggar and went out at night upon the streets of London to see how the commoner fared. He was arrested and thrown into prison. There he suffered through the night without light, food, or fire. But it was only then that he understood the plight of the poor and was able to help them.

How often a son or a daughter, after growing up and becoming a

parent, has said, "I never knew what sacrifices my parents made for me until I myself became a parent."

So you and I cannot begin to know the depth of Jesus' suffering nor the height of His great love for us until we ourselves



have suffered as He did. This is, in part, what St. Paul means when he says in 2 Corinthians 4:10, *We are in our bodies always being killed with Jesus so that you can see in our bodies the life of Jesus* (Beck) or in Galatians 2:20, *I was crucified with Christ, and I don't live any more, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in my body I live by believing in the God and Christ who loved me and gave Himself for me.* (Beck)

When we suffer, you and I also develop a deeper appreciation of and sympathy for the sufferings of our fellowman. In this God's Word urges us, *Remember those in prison as if you were in chains*

with them, and those who are mistreated as if you could feel it. (Hebrews 13:3 Beck)

When we suffer for doing good, Christ again becomes our example in how we must patiently bear it. His first words from the cross were, *Father, forgive them; they don't know what they are doing.* (Luke 23:34)

We have received God's gracious forgiveness for all our many

wrongs, so we can also forgive the few times people have caused us to suffer for doing good. We pray every day, *Our Father in heaven . . . forgive us our trespasses [sins], as we forgive those who trespass against us.*

Let us remember that our heavenly Father always blesses the good we do and turns the evil doing of others into blessing, too.

REV. HERBERT ROHE



FIELD

GLEANINGS

News from the Great Lakes

First Pastor Installed for Good Shepherd Congregation

Toledo, Ohio. Jan. 21 was a long-awaited day for Good Shepherd of the Deaf Lutheran Church, Toledo, for on that Sunday their first resident pastor, Rev. Larry Harris, was installed. Some 112 members and friends attended the impressive service at 3:00 p. m.

The congregation was pleased to see 16 area pastors of both hearing and deaf congregations present to welcome Pastor Harris. The service was conducted by Rev. Martin Hewitt, who organized Good Shepherd Congregation in 1966. Rev. Herbert Rohe, secretary for deaf missions, was

the guest preacher for the occasion and encouraged the congregation and its new pastor in their "Ministry of Peace" (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). The rite of installation was performed by Rev. Edgar M. Luecke, pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Oregon, Ohio, and acting president of the Ohio District of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod. Following the service the congregation invited all guests to stay for a reception and fellowship hour welcoming Pastor Harris and his family.

As of this date Good Shepherd Congregation becomes the center and headquarters of the newly formed Western Ohio Field. Pastor Harris plans to continue scheduled services in Monroe,



This is an interesting picture. Pastor Martin Hewitt (left) and Pastor Larry Harris greet members of Good Shepherd of the Deaf Lutheran Church, Toledo, Ohio, following Pastor Harris' installation as pastor of the congregation, Jan. 21

Pastor Harris meets his members for the first time while Pastor Hewitt says his farewell to the Good Shepherd deaf. Pastor Hewitt served the congregation 4½ years before the present division of his Northern Ohio Field. Greeting Pastor Harris is Mrs. Judith Speweike (right), while Mrs. Gail LaClair bids farewell to her former pastor

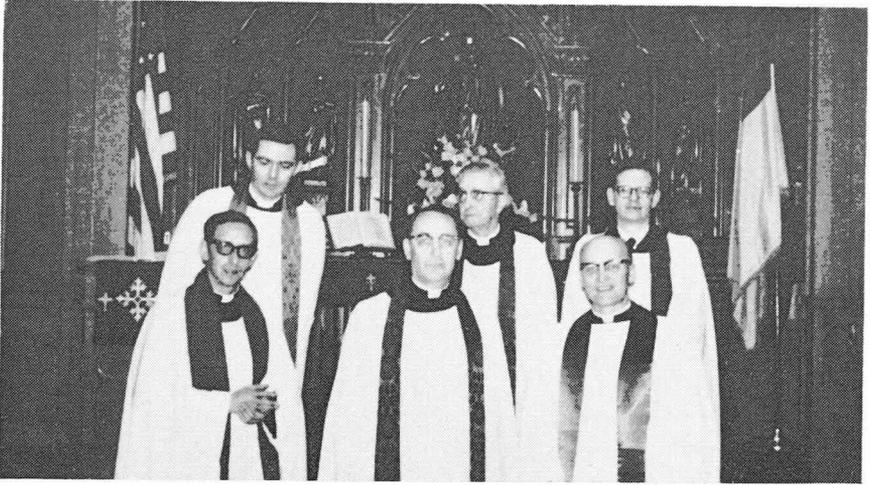
Mich., and in Findlay, Lima, and Defiance, Ohio. He will also visit Fort Wayne, Ind., to help Pastor Myron Prok teach the language of signs to our church's future pastors.

The Western Ohio Field was formed to help relieve the work load of the two existing Ohio fields—presently served from Columbus by Rev. William A. Ludwig and from Cleveland by Rev. Martin Hewitt. With the division of these two fields and the forming of a third, the Lord will continue to bless our Lutheran Church's work in Ohio.

Before coming to Toledo, Pas-

tor Harris served Hope Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Portland, Oreg., and the Oregon Field for 3½ years. An Ohioan by birth, he served internships in deaf missions in the Newark, N. J., Field (1960—61), the vacancy in the Rochester, N. Y., Field (6 months, 1962), and the Texas-Okla. Field (1962—63). Pastor Harris and his wife Shirley have been blessed with two daughters, Deborah Lynn (4) and Rebecca Sue (2).

We welcome Pastor Harris and his family to the Great Lakes Region and pray God's blessings upon his work in the Western Ohio Field.



While Pastors Harris and Hewitt were greeting the members of Good Shepherd Congregation, the pastors who participated in the rite of installation for Pastor Harris and the laying-on of hands grouped themselves for this picture

First row (l. to r.): Rev. Carl Beuschlein, Trinity Lutheran Church, Toledo; Rev. Edgar M. Luecke, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Oregon, Ohio, acting president of the Ohio District; and Rev. Herbert Rohe, secretary for deaf missions, St. Louis, Mo.

Second row (l. to r.): Rev. Robert Bremer, St. Paul Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Flint, Mich.; Rev. Henry Hartenberger, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Toledo; and Rev. William A. Ludwig, Holy Cross Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Columbus, Ohio, whose Central Ohio Field was also divided to give the new Western Ohio Field three preaching stations

Eight other area pastors attended the installation service, including Rev. Paul Single, president of the Ohio District, whose daughter is a member of the Lima, Ohio, deaf group, and Rev. Norbert Borchardt, Our Savior Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Detroit, Mich., Great Lakes regional counselor

Belated Welcome

May we of the Great Lakes Region extend a belated welcome in the pages of the DEAF LUTHERAN to Pastor Rodney R. Rynearson and his family, who arrived from Spokane, Wash., last summer to be installed as pastor of Alpha Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Rochester, N. Y., and missionary

to the Western New York Field.

Pastor Rynearson and his wife Rhoda have been blessed with three boys, Timothy, Stephen, and Peter. By now they are settled in their new home area in Rochester, and we look forward to meeting them at the Great Lakes Regional Conference in Cleveland this coming June.

New Building Plans

Rochester, N. Y. Alpha Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Rochester a few years ago purchased a church building from the Episcopal Church. The building needed some repair and remodeling, but the congregation was glad to get a home.

On Dec. 16 the congregation signed a contract for \$61,000 to

add a fellowship hall and office wing to the church. The addition will include an office, workroom, two restrooms, a large fellowship hall, and a parking lot behind the church building.

In addition the congregation plans to remodel and paint the present building to make it more worshipful for a deaf congregation.

REV. ROBERT BREMER, *Reporter*



LIGHT FOR YOUR WAY

Daily Bible Readings for March

Include the following in your prayers this month:

- that God's Word and Spirit may lead many unchurched deaf to faith in Jesus.
- that the straying members of your congregation may return in love to worship and serve the Lord.
- that God may forgive your sins and give you an understanding of His greatest gift.
- that God may give you a full understanding of your work for Him and the courage and joy to do it.
- your pastor and the leaders of your congregation.
- our church workers who celebrate birthdays this month:
 - Pastor Orlin Anderson, Jacksonville, Ill. (3-1)
 - Mrs. Polly Peterson, pastor's wife, Decatur, Ill. (3-7)
 - Mrs. Lorena Mueller, pastor's wife, Milwaukee, Wis. (3-8)
 - Mrs. Martha Beyer, pastor's wife, Seattle, Wash. (3-10)
 - Mrs. Sonja Leonhardt, pastor's wife, Devils Lake, N. Dak. (3-12)
 - Mrs. Florence Finke, parish worker, St. Paul, Minn. (3-15)
 - Pastor Delbert Thies, Omaha, Nebr. (3-17)
 - Pastor Myron Prok, Indianapolis, Ind. (3-20)
 - Mrs. Ellen Lange, pastor's wife, Omaha, Nebr. (3-30)

Theme: “Jesus Sends Out His Workers.” The heavenly Father sent Jesus to prepare the way to heaven for people by dying on the cross. Now Jesus sends His believers to share the Good News with everyone.

March 1 — Jonah 1:1-17. Jonah tries to escape when God sends him to Nineveh. God stops him and leads him to do his God-given work. Am I trying to escape God’s plan for me?

March 2 — Jonah 2:1-10. Salvation is the work of God and not of men.

March 3 — Jonah 3:1-10. Through Jonah’s preaching the people of Nineveh are led to saving faith. In His grace God spares the city.

March 4 — Jonah 4:1-11. Jonah does not appreciate God’s grace and does not want the Ninevites to be saved. Are we more ready to see people punished than to lead them to salvation?

March 5 — Hosea 1:1-11. Hosea’s love and faithfulness to a faithless wife is a picture of God’s continuing love for His unfaithful people Israel. Although I often fail God, God in His continuing love never fails me.

March 6 — Hosea 4:1-19. In His divine judgment God permits His faithless people to suffer what happens when they do not believe, but sin instead.

March 7 — Hosea 5:1-15. God lets His people experience failure and trouble so they may learn to trust in God and not in themselves.

March 8 — Hosea 6:1-11. Hosea urges the Israelites to return to the Lord and receive His healing (v.1). The right service to God is a life of love.

March 9 — Hosea 12:1-14. God judges Judah and Ephraim because their love for worldly things led them to cheat and oppress people to become rich. My true riches are found in God’s mercy, love, and justice, which I should show in my life.

March 10 — Hosea 13:1-16. The only God and Savior of mankind (v.4) is shown to us through the Holy Bible. Lord, give me grace that I trust only You. Amen.

March 11 — Hosea 14:1-9. Israel is urged to return to the Lord in repentance, to trust His love and mercy instead of man’s strength, and to walk in the ways of the Lord. (vv.1, 9)

March 12 — 1 Peter 1:1-25. My living hope in my Savior helps me to rejoice in time of suffering and to live in obedience to the Spirit of Christ.

March 13 — 1 Peter 2:1-25. The Word of God helps me grow spiritually stronger; and by giving my life as a spiritual sacrifice to Christ, I follow Him in a life of humble service to God and man.

March 14 — 1 Peter 3:1-22. I serve my Savior by doing my everyday responsibilities and by showing love and kindness to everyone.

March 15 — 1 Peter 4:1-19. Even as Christ suffered willingly for my salvation, may I in love be willing to suffer in the name of Christ and show forgiveness to those people who hurt me.

- March 16** — **1 Peter 5:1-14.** Teachers in the church are to be faithful in their duties. Safe in God's love and mercy, I can overcome all temptation.
- March 17** — **2 Peter 1:1-21.** Peter shows Jesus as the beloved Son of God (v. 17) and urges us to listen to the witness of God's Word. (v. 21)
- March 18** — **2 Peter 2:1-22.** When we refuse to listen to teachers of lies, we show our appreciation for the truth of God's Word.
- March 19** — **2 Peter 3:1-18.** Our faith must be rooted in the witness of God's Word, and we must stay strong in faith until the Last Day of this world.
- March 20** — **1 John 1:1-10.** Eternal life is the gift of Christ, the Word of Life. Washed clean by His blood, we Christians walk in the light by living in fellowship with each other.
- March 21** — **1 John 2:1-29.** Because God's love has touched us, we Christians now must keep His commandments, love our fellowmen, know the complete forgiveness we have in Jesus, and continue to live in God.
- March 22** — **1 John 3:1-24.** As children of God through faith in Jesus, we must separate ourselves from sin, live rightly in love, and receive strength in faith by the Holy Spirit.
- March 23** — **1 John 4:1-21.** The Holy Spirit is with us as we trust in Jesus and tell others that He is the Son of God. Our faith also is shown as we do deeds of love for God and our neighbor.
- March 24** — **1 John 5:1-21.** My faith in Jesus is God's work and shows others that I have been born of Him and that the Holy Spirit lives in me. Through faith in Christ I have victory over life and power to do God's will.
- March 25** — **2 John 1:1-13.** As a child of God I am to walk in the truth shown by God in Jesus Christ.
- March 26** — **3 John 1-15.** As God's people we must live with respect for the truth God shows us (like Demetrius). We must not let our desires for personal success lead us the wrong way (like Diotrefes).
- March 27** — **James 1:1-27.** When we overcome temptations with God's power, we are blessed with a deeper faith and trust in God and a greater love and sympathy for others.
- March 28** — **James 2:1-26.** Our faith in Christ is to be active, doing works of love for others.
- March 29** — **James 3:1-18.** In answer to God's forgiving love for me may I use my tongue only to praise Him and to help others.
- March 30** — **James 4:1-17.** Walking in humble faith with God and seeking to do His will, may I avoid judging others as sinners.
- March 31** — **James 5:1-20.** Believers: Push away temptations of love for this world's wealth! Instead feed your spiritual life with God's Word and worship and prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus.

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