



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



Official Organ of the Board of Missions of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

MAY, 1974

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

VOLUME 66, No. 5

## Help for Invisible Problem-- Council of Organizations Serving the Deaf COSD

Are you aware that no national organization of the deaf receives United Fund support? Did you know professional fund raisers have refused to consider fund raising drives because "deafness has no visible appeal?" May we tell you about our financial crisis?

This is our last year of government support. The current budget calls for \$59,000 from private sources. This figure is rather appalling, because it is \$16,000 more than we have raised in the past 4 years. (Total of private financial support from 1967 to 1971 was only \$43,000.)

There are hundreds of foundations and corporations in the nation giving financial support to alleviate every conceivable problem and handicap. But how many of them contribute to organizations of the deaf? Letters from COSD to 350 foundations brought no offers of financial assistance. Why not? Because we need a personal contact to get our foot in the door.

We are convinced that hearing people would want to help deaf people - if someone would explain the need.

Will you help open some doors? Put on your thinking cap. Have you had any direct or indirect contact with members of boards of foundations or corporations? Does the company where you are employed make donations to charitable organizations? If you don't know, ask your supervisors. Contact friends and relatives for possible sources of financial aid for the COSD.

You are our contact with Mr. John Q. Public. Our appeal for financial aid must be made through you. Please send us names, titles, and addresses of persons we can contact for foundation or corporation support.

If you can't help us on this level, then how about talking with your local Junior League, Delta Zeta Sorority, Quota Club, Sertona Club, or Lions Club? All of these organizations have a special interest in problems of deaf people. Other civic clubs can be sold on helping deaf citizens. A short explanation to these clubs could result in financial contributions to the council.

The COSD Gold Emblem Club is a pledge to contribute \$1,000 to the council. Will you send us names of relatives and friends we can contact for contributions? If necessary, payment of the pledge can be spread over a 10-year period.

Help can come from many places. The Minnesota Association of the Deaf passed the hat at their convention this year for financial support for the council. They are also having a benefit picnic with proceeds being sent to support the work of the COSD. Is it possible you might do something similar in your area?

The COSD has an important role to play in improving the lifestyle of deaf Americans but we won't even be on the scene if private financial support isn't found soon. How about it, will you help?

COUNCILings Newsletter

Good Luck !

THIS IS THE LAST PART OF THE STORY.  
CONDENSED FROM THE BOOK . . .

## HERE AM I: SEND ME!

By MARY JANE CHAMBERS

(Continued from last month.)

Calmer now, I watched the fire, the manuscript cradled in my arms. Then I thrust my arms forward, ready to toss it into the flames. But I couldn't do it--and my mad alter ego had disappeared.

Feeling foolish, I crept upstairs and put the manuscript away. I would keep it as a souvenir of my fruitless effort to serve God. I closed my desk and placed the cover on my typewriter. I would go on teaching Sunday school, but I would stop calling myself a writer.

### JULIE'S BIBLE

My search for a workable faith progressed at the rate of two steps forward, then one giant step backward. I was too busy bemoaning the backward steps to notice a great breakthrough. A stranger named Julie first made me aware of it.

Julie Cochran was 35 years old and, barring a miracle, would never see 36. What had started as a small lump in her breast two years earlier had now become a monster, slowly destroying her. After several periods of hospitalization, she had been sent home to await death. Her husband Steve, a truck driver, felt helpless. He hired a nurse to stay with her and signed on for extra runs to pay the cost.

Patty Bedford described Julie's plight to the Christian Service class at our March business meeting. "She's a neighbor of mine," Patty told us, "and she's had no church affiliation since childhood. Now she keeps talking about a Bible of her very own." The class decided to give her one, and each of us wrote a favorite Bible verse on a file card and put it in the Bible. Patty promised to deliver our gift promptly.

Easter came three weeks later, with all its hope and promise. Our new sanctuary was still months from completion, so we had our services in the old church. The altar was covered with memorial lilies, given by the congregation. Randy and I had given one in memory of our mothers. After the service I decided it should go to Julie Cochran.

The nurse admitted me and led me to Julie's room. The stranger on the bed turned slightly to look at me. Her face was pale as death itself, and her skin had a transparent quality. A thatch of bright hair--the color of new copper--cascaded off the pillow and seemed the only thing about her that was still alive.

I explained why I had come and set the lily down on the night table next to the gift Bible.

"That's my Bible," Julie pointed out. "It has my name on it."

"Would you like me to read the messages?" I asked. She nodded.

There was the Lord's Prayer and the 23rd Psalm which I read to her first. Then there was a card from Miriam Jackson which said, "Dear Julie, I have always liked this verse from the 14th chapter of John:

*I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.*

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# The DEAF LUTHERAN

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The DEAF LUTHERAN  
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## For Change of Address

Be sure to leave your old address label sticking to this clipping.

NEW ADDRESS

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(Continued from Front Page)

Martha Koontz had also chosen a verse from John which is the Easter story in miniature:  
*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*  
The pain-filled eyes were closed now and the breathing showed signs of heavy sedation. I didn't know whether Julie could hear but I read on. My class--that wonderful assortment of personalities in various stages of Christian development--had, in effect, sent Julie Cochran a crash course in faith.  
"Dear Julie," wrote Donna Pearce, "I hope you will like these words of the Apostle Paul:  
...the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.  
As always, Joy Werner proved herself to be the most spiritually advanced member of the class--several steps ahead of the teacher. She had chosen Romans 8:38-39:  
*For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*  
Julie was sleeping peacefully--almost childlike now. I returned the Bible to its place of honor on the night table and tiptoed away.  
On a rainy day a week later, Julie Cochran, aged 35 years, 2 months and 14 days, crossed the threshold that divides the living dead from the eternally living. She paused for a moment on the brink, then nodded in the direction of her Bible, still on the night table, and repeated the words which had made the last days of her life bearable: "My name is written there."  
I had chosen the verses that I put in Julie's Bible with great care. They were John 14:1-2:  
*Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

I had come to believe this from the depths of my soul.

RICH HARVEST

The building committee decided to dedicate the new sanctuary in November, right before Thanksgiving. The day

was clear with a bright sun and a brisk breeze. The church was constructed of white brick and natural wood which, along with the grass-green carpeting, gave the interior the atmosphere of a pleasant woodland dell. Gold, crown-shaped chandeliers added a touch of elegance befitting a king's house. It was lovelier than any of us had dared hope. It had taken money to build this sanctuary, but it had also required planning, designing, building and decorating. A diverse congregation of humans had--despite their imperfections--worked together with God.

For several months Lenore Brock had been hounding me to resubmit my book. The faults in the Apollo capsule which had caused the tragic fire had been corrected, the space program was on the move again. I had forgotten about the book and I did not want to be reminded. But Miss Brock kept after me. Finally, to appease her, I agreed to send the manuscript in again.

The letter of acceptance from the publishers came two weeks after the dedication of our sanctuary. And even when they sent me a check, I still found it difficult to believe. They raced to the printer with the manuscript so its publication would coincide with an Apollo moon shot.

Suddenly, I had it all--the life of a successful author. I appeared on television and radio. The book was featured in THE READER'S DIGEST (See "DON'T LAUNCH HIM--HE'S MINE!" THE READER'S DIGEST, July '69.) I had a box of fan mail from people all over the world. Stories about me appeared in a dozen newspapers. Admirers sent me flowers and gifts.

Feeling like a philanthropist, I contributed a tithe of the publishers' check to the church. And I discovered that I was no longer bitter that God had not seen fit to let me donate the organ. It's not the amount of money a person contributes that is important. It's the relationship between the donor and God. The person who gives a tithe of his earnings--freely and joyfully--is richly blessed by his personal relationship to God. The man who willed the \$60,000 for the organ missed the joy of giving it personally.

For years I had pitied the faithful handful who do virtually all the church work. Indeed, this tiny group toils short-handed in the heat of the day while the uninvolved majority sit glassy-eyed in the shade. But I know now that the Joy Werners and the Martha Koontzes are toiling because they have met the Keeper of the vineyard, and he has changed their lives.

### ALLISON'S DILEMMA

Allison never attended another of my classes after our blowup. What gossip I overheard, I tried to ignore. Now we were to meet again.  
On a Monday morning as I raced through the supermarket, I ran smack into her. There was a moment of embarrassed silence and then Allison said, "I can see we're both well organized this morning."  
We laughed. "You're looking much happier," I said.  
"Well," she paused. "Yes and no. Doug got a divorce, and he wants me to marry him. But now..."  
"Isn't that what you want?"  
"I thought so, yes. Heather has volunteered to go to an institution, if Doug and I will take care of the girls. But the problem is we both want to get married in church, and neither his nor mine will allow it. His rector said absolutely no chance and Reverend Marsden is still thinking about it. He said he'd go to the district superintendent, if some church leader supported us."  
We spoke a while more and separated. I wanted to go home and think. I had turned the whole question of Allison and Doug over in my mind many times. I was still convinced it had been wrong, that I, myself, could never have respected a man who would desert an invalid wife. But the words of a recent lesson echoed in my memory, "Judge not, that ye be not judged."  
I went to the phone and called Allison and offered to speak to Reverend Marsden with her.  
That good man was surprised when Allison and I walked into his office together, but he seemed relieved at having support. I told him I had recently decided that it is not necessarily weakness which has made the modern church bend and seemingly even break some of its own rules. Perhaps it is a sign of strength: the recognition that God is the judge. "That's a good way of putting it," he said. "I'll borrow your words when I talk to the district superintendent."

The wedding was held in the new chapel, a small room



off to one side of the sanctuary. I picked up Andrea and Hobie and drove them to the church, where Randy and our boys were waiting. Andrea, now a young lady of 12, was wearing a new dress in the same shade of pink as her mother's, with a corsage of pink carnations. Hobie wore a new blue blazer with a white carnation in the buttonhole.

Across the aisle on the groom's side of the chapel, Doug's three daughters, each wearing a pink corsage, had taken their places. When their father, looking handsome and solemn, walked up to the altar, they nearly burst with excitement.

My feelings during the ceremony were ambivalent. I was glad that Allison was happy, and that Doug seemed so devoted to her. And the children appeared to be overjoyed at belonging to a whole family again. But hanging over this scene was, for me, a shadow.

Was it better to have one complete family--with a pitiful leftover--or to have two broken families with eight miserable members?

I was glad that God is the judge.

#### THE REAL CHURCH

My story should have ended here, with all of us living happily ever after, basking in the warmth of Christian fellowship and enjoying our beautiful new building. But that is not what happened.

During the period following the dedication of the new sancturay, I noticed a subtle change coming over the leaders of the congregation. If they had been housewives with brand new homes, they would have been called "house-proud."

I was asked to stop cluttering up "our beautiful new building with junk"--meaning the used clothes we were collecting for victims of a local fire. A nursery school, which met during the week, was objected to because of the "wear and tear on the building and the fingermarks on the window glass." The property committee even questioned the use of the building by a group of deaf mutes who needed a meeting place. "Are any of them members of this church?" we were asked.

And then, one night in December, the church burned down!

The structure was practically all brick. The fire department was one of the finest in the state. The fire was discovered early, the firemen responded promptly. Most of the spectators thought that the fire would be extinguished quickly.

Instead, alarm after alarm went out to other fire companies in the area. Finally, 100 firefighters fought the blaze--but flames shot 200 feet into the sky, and when morning came, a few mounds of scorched bricks marked the church site.

By the time we reach our fourth decade of life, most of us have sampled a variety of tragedies, failures and disappointments. We have learned that we are all transients on this earth--mortals whose lives are fragile and fleeting. But until that horror-struck night, I had never once imagined that this beautiful new sanctuary could disappear so quickly. Learning of it was one of the most profound shocks of my life.

I do not wish to imply that the fire was God's judgment. In spite of the proprietary attitude, I am certain this congregation has as much concern and compassion for its fellow man as most churches. And if God burned down all of the churches that disappoint him, the fire engines of the world would be bumper to bumper, responding to one gigantic fire alarm.

Two days after the fire, services were conducted in a nearby junior-high-school auditorium. There was nothing the least bit churchlike about the meeting place; like all schools, it smelled of glue, vegetable soup and gym clothes. But the minister stood on the stage and gave the call to worship in a firm, confident voice: "Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sancturay: praise him in the firmament of his power."

Something marvelous happened that morning. For one thing, the congregation was swelled by members who had been alienated for some reason and now suddenly realized the pettiness of their grievances. And there also were the apathetic who had never known how much attending church meant until the opportunity was lost.

Using some borrowed Baptist hymnals, the congregation sang such old familiar songs as "Jesus Loves Me" and "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." The words were reassuring.

The church also discovered new ties with other denominations. That morning at least a dozen nearby congregations sent contributions. Along with their offering, the practical Presbyterians sent two collection plates. And the

nearby Catholic church took up offerings at early Masses and presented a check for \$1000.

Within a month, the congregation was worshipping in its hastily refurbished old sancturay--and making plans for rebuilding. But the perspective of that congregation has changed. Those of us whose names were inscribed in the cornerstone learned much from the tragedy. Most important of all we learned--oh, how thoroughly we learned!--that a church is not a building. The real church is people--a community of believers worshipping God.

As a member of that community, I have found my entire life changed. After years of hacking my way through jungles of doubt and rebellion, I have discovered that what God really asks of us is to serve others. It is my hope and prayer that a multitude will discover the joy of living by the philosophy of "Here am I: send me."

The End.

\* \* \* \*

Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) members are helping in the ministry to native Americans through their support of the Center for Indian Ministry and Studies (CIMS) at Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Neb. AAL is a fraternal life and health insurance society with headquarters in Appleton, Wis.

AAL's more than one million members are providing a grant of \$11,800 to assist in the research and development of specific programs which will foster greater intercultural awareness, understanding and appreciation. Dr. William F. Heinicke, associate professor of education at Concordia, now is the curriculum director of the K-12 school on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation located at Busby, Montana. Dr. Heinicke will work closely with CIMS Director Ralph Redfox at Concordia in the numerous areas to be researched to improve the educational opportunities for Indians.

Also financially participating in the experimental effort are the Montana, Nebraska and Wyoming districts of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LC-MS); the Board for Missions of LC-MS and Concordia.

During the 1965 to 1967 years, AAL members supported another minority project of the LC-MS Board for Missions known as the Indian American Outreach Program with grants totaling \$32,000. Providing such assistance is another way AAL members continue to express their common concern for human worth.

\* \* \* \*

*"There is a mystery in human hearts, and though we be encircled by a host of those who love us well and are beloved, to every one of us, from time to time, there comes a sense of utter loneliness."--Anonymous*

## Another Sleepless Night

By Meta Luetzow

Oh, Lord, on this bright and beautiful morning I come to you in deep humility. I have spent another sleepless night, pondering and thinking, and trying to find why my heart aches as it does. Why am I disturbed, oh Lord? Why the despair in my heart? It's Christmas, a season to be joyful and yet I am sad.

Is it because I'm seeing and hearing things I do not want to see and hear? Write the story of the Deaf, you ask. Tell the hearing world what you have seen. Tell them how the Deaf serve their Lord, how they love and how they live in a world of silence. I'm not trying to say "no" this time Lord. I remember well when I tried that. Ten years ago You asked me to bring God's Word to the retarded residents at the State School for the Retarded in my city. Oh, yes, I answered the call didn't I. But You remember the excuses I made riding on the bus that first day. "Twenty-one miles is just too far to go each week." "It's going to cost too much." I even asked You Lord to help me say no to the Chaplain so he would not be too disappointed in me.

But you had other plans for me and you brought to my remembrance my favorite Bible verse, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." I kept coming back each week and I thank You for being with me all these years and for letting me see and experience a joy I've never known before in teaching.

Then why am I disturbed now, oh Lord? Is it because I'm looking deep into the hearts and minds of the Deaf for

(Please turn to Page 7)

# Pastor Fred Gehrs Installed In Vancouver



The Installation of Pastor Fred P. Gehrs was held in Trinity Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Vancouver, B. C., Canada, on November 4, 1973, at 3:00 P. M. About 125 persons were in attendance. Attending pastors for the deaf were Wayne Bottlinger, John Beyer, William Ludwig, George Natonick, and George Winkler. Deaconess Grace Jewett of Hope Lutheran Church was also present. Lutheran pastors from near-by churches assisted by speaking prayers and blessings to Pastor Gehrs. The benediction was given in the following order: The Service Leader, Rev. W. Bottlinger; The Response Leader, Rev. G. Natonick; The Preacher, Rev. W. Ludwig; The Interpreter, Rev. J. Beyer; The Officiant, Rev. F. Gabert of Vancouver, B. C.; The Pastor-elect, Rev. F. Gehrs; and the Choir, members of Trinity Lutheran Church for the Deaf.

Rev. W. Ludwig gave a very heart-warming sermon. Since we all are of the one body of Christ, we all must accept our duty to our Lord. For some this duty is preaching, for others it is teaching, carpentry work, house-wife work, etc. There are many ways to share the Lord's Good News and we all should encourage action for the Lord.

A beautiful reception followed the service. Many deaf and hearing guests came from the states of Washington and Oregon.

Praise God for sending Rev. F. Gehrs to become our new pastor!

--Harold Arntzen

# Some 'Lost' Pictures Found



Rev. and Mrs. Hauptman hold up the Anniversary Cake.



Rev. Myron Prok, Regional Counselor of the Great Lakes Region, congratulates Pastor Hauptman.



Several guests looking at the scrap books filled with photos and other memorabilia of Pastor Hauptman's twenty-five years-or-so ministry to the deaf.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

for

May 1974

1 .....Acts 3:13-19.....	13.....John 14:1-12.....
2 .....1 John 2:1-5.....	14.....Acts 9:26-31.....
3 .....Luke 24:35-48.....	15.....Psalm 22:26-31.....
4 .....Revelation 5:11-14..	16.....1 John 3:18-24.....
	17.....Psalm 145:8-13.....
	18.....Revelation 21:1-5..
5 .....Acts 2:36-41.....	19.....Acts 8:5-17.....
6 .....1 Peter 2:20-25....	20.....1 Peter 3:15-18....
7 .....Acts 4:8-12.....	21.....John 14:23-29.....
8 .....John 10:1-10.....	22.....Acts 10:25-48.....
9 .....Psalm 100:1-5.....	23.....1 John 4:7-10.....
10.....John 10:11-18.....	24.....John 15:9-17.....
11.....Revelation 7:9-17..	25.....Revelation 21:10-23
12.....1 Peter 2:4-9.....	26.....1 Peter 4:13-16....
	27.....Psalm 27:1-8.....
	28.....John 17:1-11.....
	29.....1 John 4:11-16.....
	30.....Psalm 103:1-22.....
	31.....Acts 7:55-60.....

## THE MULE & THE WELL

A mule fell into an old dry well. Its owner thought it dead, so he started shoveling dirt into the well. But the mule was only stunned, so with each shovel of dirt he shook it off, tromped on it, and

before too long walked out of the well. That's the spirit to have! Discouragement can "down" us--but perseverance brings us out. "We can do all things through Christ." Heaven is our goal.

--Selected



What's Your MQ?

(Mission Quotient)

Here is a short 4-minute "fun quiz" to test your knowledge of your church and its work. The answers are somewhere in this paper.

- 1. The Lutheran Church--Mo. Synod has missionaries in (a)54 (b)21 (c)35 nations around the world.
- 2. The Missouri Synod operates 16 colleges and seminaries in North America. Yes No
- 3. My church body opened 123 new congregations in 1957, and in 1970 it opened . (a)135 (b)38 (c)241
- 4. "The Lutheran Hour" is broadcast in 41 languages in countries. (a)125 (b)20 (c)110
- 5. Our largest overseas Christian day school has an enrollment of 1,034 and is located in (a)Tokyo (b)Manila (c)Hong Kong.
- 6. In May 1971 pastor-candidates were graduated from our two seminaries and were assigned to congregations. (a)220 (b)900 (c)150
- 7. In North America 20% of the population belongs to no church. Yes No
- 8. The Lutheran Church-Mo. Synod has the highest record of giving per member among the three largest Lutheran bodies. Yes No
- 9. Last year adults joined our church body through confirmation. (a)10,300 (b)26,074 (c)19,483
- 10. How much does it cost to produce one episode of our TV program "This Is the Life"? \$

Answers to MQ Quiz

- 1. Our Lutheran Church has missionaries in 35 nations or dependencies around the world.
- 2. 16 colleges and seminaries. Do you know which one is the closest to you?
- 3. Only 38 new congregations were opened in 1970
- 4. "The Lutheran Hour" is heard in 125 countries with an estimated audience of over 40 million.
- 5. Hong Kong International School, with a staff of 68. It is self-supporting.
- 6. 220 ministerial graduates.
- 7. Wrong. 60% belong to no church.
- 8. The Mo. Synod has the highest record of giving per member among larger Lutheran bodies. In 1970 it was \$123.87.
- 9. Last year 26,074 adults joined our church body. 73,591 children were baptized.
- 10. It costs approximately \$35,000 to produce one "This Is the Life" program. 17 will be made in 1971. This does not include cost for time on the air. 26 per year are a practical minimum.

Do You Also Know The Answer To These Questions?

- 1. Last year my congregation gave \$ to world missions.

- 2. This year my congregation pledged \$ for world missions. We are keeping our pledge. Yes No Don't know
- 3. For next year my congregation will increase decrease pledge the same amount for world missions.
- 4. My personal giving has increased decreased remained the same during the last 2 years.

EVENTS IN 10 YEAR HISTORY OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE DEAF

- MARCH 31, 1963.....MARCH 31, 1973
- 1963-Dedication of our new church took place on March 31, 1963, with over 500 people in attendance at two services.
- 1964-Building fund drive for the new Educational wing was launched.
- 196 Vicar Russell Johnson came to assist Rev. Frank Wagenknecht.
- 1965-Ground-breaking and building of the new Educational wing took place.
- 1966-Educational wing was dedicated to the Glory of God on March 27, 1966. In August we purchased two houses near the Church for \$27,000.
- 1967-The old house near the church was town down to make a new parking lot. 45th Anniversary Celebration of our Church was observed.
- 1968-The house on the corner lot was remodeled and rented to the Counseling Center. 5th Anniversary of our church building was celebrated. Afterward, Rev. Frank Wagenknecht accepted the Call to serve the Rogate Church in Florida. The Farewell Sermon and Dinner were held on June 9, 1968.
- 1969-Rev. George C. Ring was installed as our tenth pastor on May 18, 1969.
- 1970-Rev. F. Wagenknecht was the guest speaker, along with Rev. Ring, during the Burning of our mortgage note and the dedication of our pipe organ on June 21, 1970.
- 1971-25th Wedding Anniversary Celebration for the Rev. and Mrs. George C. Ring on June 13, 1971. 25th Anniversary of the Holy Ministry in honor of our pastor, Rev. George C. Ring on October 17, 1971. Dedication of the Enza Ludovico Conference Room took place on November 7, 1971.
- 1972-50th Anniversary Celebration of Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf took place with over 500 people attending during the all-day events. Rev. F. Wagenknecht and Rev. Herbert Rohe were the guest speakers.
- 1973-Rev. George C. Ring accepted the Call to serve the Iowa field. Farewell Sermon and Dinner were held on February 25, 1973. 10th Anniversary Dedication and Celebration of Trinity Chapel will take place here on April 8, 1973. Rev. Daniel Pokorny, Chaplain to Lutheran Students of Gallaudet College, Wash., D.C., will be our guest speaker.

Remembering

It is a year for remembering in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod as the members celebrate its 125th anniversary.

It is good to remember our beginnings. I have stood at the muddy backwater on the Mississippi River where the founders of our Missouri Synod landed in Missouri - a place overgrown with trees and underbrush. I have visited the log cabin of very humble construction which still stands in the bluffs near there. What spirit made people who had comfortable homes and lives in Germany come to such a forbidding land? Perhaps it was the same pioneering spirit that led people to try to settle the "Nebraska Desert" at about the same time.

They were pioneers, true enough, ignorant of the hardships and sorrows that awaited them in the new land. But they left their homes in Europe for the same reason so many others had left - so that they could be free to worship their God according to the truth as they understood it from the Bible. They left in a spirit of faith, trusting themselves and their future to God.

The new arrivals set to work to build their homes, their churches, their schools. They also began to reach out to other Lutherans who shared their beliefs. *Der Lutheraner* magazine began to be published in 1844 and helped greatly to bring scattered Lutherans together. Most members today read the English *Lutheran Witness*, but *Der Lutheraner* is still published also. By 1847 the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod was founded with its first goal being "to preserve unity of doctrine." Dr. C. F. W. Walther, founder of *Der Lutheraner*, was the Synod's first president. Synod has had only eight presidents in its 125 year history. Our present president is Dr. J. A. O. Preus.

We could perhaps say with some pride and rejoicing in God's blessings and mercy that our church body has come a long way from those early log cabin days. But we hope and pray that we will always remember and imitate our ancestors' concern for true Bible teaching and their willingness to sacrifice all for the freedom to worship God in truth.

--from *The Silent Visitor*, Omaha, Nebraska

## Musings of a Churchmouse

By Herman the Mouse

Dear Friends of Mine,

The other night I had another dream. Some would call it a nightmare. The precise location of my dream is not important. It could have occurred anywhere.

Children dressed in their Sunday best had gathered in force on the church parking lot fifteen minutes before Sunday school sessions began. In the finest tradition of American demonstrations, the children were picketing the Sunday school--or rather, picketing the parents.

Without cease for one hour the children led a zig-zagging snake dance around the parking lot chanting slogans and waving signs. At the head of the procession was a gigantic banner carrying the words: SUNDAY SCHOOL BOYCOTT WE WON'T GO UNTIL MOM & DAD GO.

Numerous posters and placards were waving under the Sunday sun. Some samples:

UNFAIR TO CHILDREN!

TAKE US--DON'T SEND US

MOM & DAD ARE SUNDAY SCHOOL DROPOUTS

DO AS I SAY--NOT AS I DON'T DO

DOWN WITH CHAUFFEURISM

WE GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL--WHY DON'T YOU??

True to his holy resolve never to get involved in politics, the pastor didn't participate in the demonstration, but his fiendish grin expressed complete approval.

My dream was interrupted early on Sunday morning. The dream closed as a child began relentlessly beating me over the head with a placard. When I awakened, it was just my son, Perrico, playfully hitting me over the head with a pillow and announcing that it was time to get ready for Sunday school.

What I have to say now is what you would call Children's Lib. The children are like many in our society who have no public voice. They seldom write newspaper articles or seek the limelight before television cameras. They cannot defend themselves. They are physically smaller than us parents and thus at a disadvantage. Secondly, they are the product of their parents. Children are very much at the mercy of their parents. The unborn, yet living, baby has no voice should its mother decide to have an abortion. Every day children are victims of brutal beatings at the hands of their parents. Many are simply abandoned.

So today I am raising my voice in behalf of the children. My defense does not have overtones of the Lord of the Flies movie, and I am not advocating flippancy or disrespect of parents. I'm for firmness but not duplicity, for parental authority but not for dishonesty.

Raising children is a seemingly impossible task. It requires the patience of Job, the sacrifice of Abraham, the wisdom of Solomon, and the strength of Samson. It is a God-given task. God has placed children in our care--an awesome responsibility.

Unfortunately, our position sometimes goes to our heads. On occasion we become "drunk with power." I have found myself to become on occasion a veritable tyrant and despot. Children are convenient and submissive "whipping boys" for venting my frustrations that have nothing to do with what our children did.

I have harped at my sons for courting danger by skipping over mouse traps. The other day I suffered no little

embarrassment when I got my own tail caught in one. I complain about their excessive snacking habits on Cheese-nips but condone my own appetite for cheese-cake ice cream, as "necessary sustenance."

Anger is okay when we parents are angry, but when the child does it we find it inexcusable. When we go into a rage, we're "just letting off steam." When a youngster expresses his anger, it is a tantrum. Curse words from the mouths of children are mortal sins that must be washed out with soap. When we curse, it is just a "habit."

And here's where honesty comes in. We're afraid to admit that we're wrong. If we admit guilt, we fear we are losing control, eroding our authority as parents. I don't think that admitting we're wrong demeans us before our children. It exalts us. Suddenly, in their eyes we become human.

I remember reading somewhere about a teenage son who had rebelled under a strict and stifling atmosphere in the home. He ended up in a lot of trouble with the law, etc. and even killed his father. After the boy's trial and sentence he was heard to say of his father: "He was too perfect. If only he could make a mistake...just once." "Perfect" people are hard to love.

Christ had a lot of love and respect for children. The Gospels teem with examples. Jesus chides the disciples (rebuked them is a better word) when they pushed the children away as too much of a nuisance. Christ cared for the children. He "took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them." He praised their warm and humble trust: "Except ye become as little children, ye shall in no wise enter the kingdom of heaven." He protected them with the warning that it would be better for a person to be dropped into the ocean with a millstone around his neck than for him to be guilty of offending "one of these little ones who believe in Me." Jesus loved the children. And children warm up to that kind of attitude.

The month of May is "Family Month" in the church. It's time to renew the home. And only the parents can do it. It's our responsibility. But we can't do it alone. Only the forgiving grace of Christ can make our homes something like "a piece of heaven." Only the Holy Spirit's renewing power can help me act more like the heavenly Father toward those closest to me. May God grant it...beginning with my hole in the mopboard!

Everly yours,  
Herman

P.S. See you--the whole family--in Sunday school and church. Let's have a public demonstration--of faith and love.

--from *Shalom*, newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church, Sacramento, Ca.

## 55 YEARS IN DEAF MISSIONS IN CHICAGO

Recently a group of present and former Lutheran workers with the deaf in northeastern Illinois gathered at the home of Lay worker and Mrs. Robert Oettel in Chicago. Present were two former pastors of Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Revs. Arthur C. Dahms and Ernest J. Scheibert, along with their wives; Rev. and Mrs. Fred Allen and daughter Amy, and Ms. Ruth Fangmeier. Unfortunately, Rev. and Mrs. John Nickerson, and former pastors to the deaf Herman Graef and Robert Bremer could not be present due to other engagements.

During the evening's discussion it was discovered that Rev. Dahms had entered deaf work in Chicago in 1918, when he became pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf, while Ms. Fangmeier entered deaf work in Chicago 55 years later, in 1973, when she became Social Worker on the staff of Lutheran Child and Family Service, specializing in social work with the deaf.

The group spent an enjoyable social evening reviewing previous happenings, present events, and future plans in the Lutheran Churches of the Deaf. Even though Pastor Dahms became a pastor of a hearing church in 1936, and Pastor Scheibert retired in 1966, both are still fluent in sign language and remain keenly interested in bringing the glorious news of salvation to the deaf.

Does your congregation keep in touch with former pastors with the deaf who might now be a pastor in a hearing church in your area; or with retired pastors with the deaf?

--Mr. Robert Oettel



Lutheran Deaf Mission Staff

the first time and seeing their loneliness and frustra-  
tions because they are not sharing it with my brethren?

Is this what the Pastor for the Deaf meant when he  
said, "You'll have to expose yourself to the Deaf?" I  
could boast couldn't I, "I exposed myself to Skid Road  
when I wrote the article about the Skid Road Mission," I  
told him.

But You know Lord what I did that time too. You saw  
me hang my coat outdoors for hours after I got home to air  
out the Skid Road odor. You know how my skin crawled for  
two evenings after the fist two visits on Skid Road and  
how I wished I had changed my clothes before coming to the  
Lenten Services, for I felt like I had brought home every  
bug on Skid Road.

Yet You let me go into the street room and talk and  
share with the Skid Road bum my faith and my witness to  
them. You let me see them as real persons in need of a  
Savior. You let me look at them through Your eyes.

Then why do the tears fall now Lord, why do I feel  
such guilt and aching in my heart? I can't go back to  
relive what I haven't done for my Deaf brethren, the past  
is behind me, I know and confess I have not gone out of my  
way to know and understand the Deaf. But I am learning  
and on this quiet morning I come to You repentent of my  
past failures and with a firm desire to change my ways.

Let me write the story Lord, let me put Your Words  
down on paper so all the hearing world will know and  
understand the world of silence for the Deaf. Give me  
wisdom and understanding to put down what You mean to  
them, how they serve You. Let me show my hearing brethren  
the weakness and strength of the Deaf brethren. Let me  
write the article so every hearing person will want to  
seek out their Deaf brethren and share with them their  
love and faith in You dear Savior.

Now lift my weak knees, my aching heart, dry my tears  
for it is Christmas and You came down to earth as a baby  
and your tiny hands reached out and found the cross for  
me and for my Deaf brethren. Amen.



The Monkey's Viewpoint

Three monkeys once dining  
in a cocoanut tree  
Were discussing some things  
they heard true to be.  
What do you think? Now  
listen you two,  
Here, monkeys, is something  
that cannot be true,  
That humans descended from  
our noble race!  
Why, it's shocking--a  
terrible disgrace.  
Who ever heard of a monkey  
deserting his wife,  
Or leaving a baby to starve  
and ruin its life?  
And have you ever known of  
a mother monk  
To leave her darlings with  
strangers to bunk?  
Their babies are handed  
from one to another  
And scarcely know the love  
of a mother.

And I've never known a  
monkey so selfish to be  
As to build a fence around  
a cocoanut tree  
So other monkeys can't get  
a wee taste,  
But would let all the cocoa-  
nuts go to waste.  
Why, if I'd put a fence  
around a cocoanut tree,  
Starvation would force you  
to steal from me.  
And there is another thing  
a monkey won't do--  
Seek out a cocktail parlor  
and get in a stew!  
Carouse around and go on a  
whoopee disgracing his  
life,

Then reel home madly and  
beat up his wife.  
  
They call this all pleasure  
and make a big fuss...  
They've descended from  
something,  
But not from us!

--Copied



A HOME...

is the Laugh of a Baby,  
the Song of a Mother,  
the Strength of a Father,  
the Warmth of Loving Hearts  
the Light from Happy Eyes,  
Kindness, Loyalty  
and Comradeship.

HOME...

is the First School  
and the First Church  
for Young Ones,  
where they learn what is  
Right, what is Good,  
and what is Kind.  
where one goes for  
Comfort when hurt  
or ill.

★★★★★★★★★★

ADDITION TO THE DIRECTORY OF  
WORSHIP SERVICES

FLORIDA

Miami, Deaf Zion  
15000 NW 27th Ave, Opa Locka  
Bible Class - 9:45 a.m.  
Worship - 11:00 a.m.  
Rev. Ervin Oermann

Rev. Herbert W. Rohe, Secretary for Ministry to the Deaf  
500 N. Broadway, St. Louis, Mo. 63102 314-231-6969

Full-Time Pastors

Rev. Fred H. Allen, 8448 S. Indiana Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60619	(312) 994-5697
Rev. Orlin S. Anderson, 104 Finley St., Jacksonville, Ill. 62650	(217) 243-2528
Rev. Clark R. Bailey, 4911 Anna St., Warren, Mich. 48092	(no phone yet)
Rev. Robert A. Bauer, 5808 113 B St., Edmonton, Alta., Can.	(403) 434-1671
Rev. Robert G. Blakely, 6922 Hyde Park Dr., Dallas, Tex. 75231	(214) 341-2216
Rev. Walter Busby, 220 San Marco, St. Augustine, Fla. 32084	(904) 829-6743
Rev. David Leroy Carstens, R. 2, Box 587E, Connellys Springs, N. C. 28612	(704) 397-5152
Rev. Robert M. Corl Jr., 1929 Huxley St., Madison, Wis. 53704	(608) 249-8076
Rev. Paul Dorr, c/o Emmanuel L. C., 4328 W. North Ave., Milwaukee, Wis. 53210	(no phone)
Rev. A. E. Ferber, 246 East 74th Terr., Kansas City, Mo. 64114	(816) 363-3596
Rev. Theodore Frederking, 9902 N. 5th Ave., Phoenix, Ariz. 85021	(602) 944-1911
Rev. F. P. Gehrs, 7441 113th St., Delta, B. C., Canada V4C 5B2	(604) 594-2918
Rev. G. A. Gehrs Jr., 6262 Soledad, Riverside, Calif. 92504	(714) 689-8380
Rev. C. Roland Gerhold, 510 Parkers St., Newark, N. J. 07104	(201) 485-2260
Rev. Larry Guenzel, 1530 Creek St., Rochester, N. Y. 14625	(716) 671-5944
Rev. Francis G. Gyle, 6129 Shirley St., Halifax, N. S., Canada	
Rev. Don Haug, 4388 Harvest Lane, Houston, Tex. 77004	(713) 529-5567
Rev. August Hauptman, 3476 Drummond Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43606	(419) 472-5586
Rev. Martin Hewitt, 6301 Alamo, St. Louis, Mo. 63105	(314) 725-8349
Rev. Daniel Hodgson, 59 Maxwell Rd., Garden City, N. Y. 11530	(516) 248-2357
Rev. Louis R. Jasper, 32 Oxford Road, 1st floor, Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong	859687
Rev. A. T. Jonas, 1207 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90006	(213) 737-3963
Rev. Charles Jones, 47 Elm St., Foxboro, Mass. 02035	(617) 543-8891
Rev. Martin Kosche, 116 Walnut St., Delavan, Wis. 53115	(414) 728-5980
Rev. W. H. Lange, 5070 Lake St., Omaha, Nebr. 68104	(402) 558-5672
Rev. Donald Leber, 4787 Scheibler Rd., Memphis, Tenn. 38128	(901) 386-3130
Rev. Roger Leonhardt, 308 E. 14th St., Devils Lake, N. Dak. 58301	(701) 662-3267
Rev. William Ludwig, 6547 46th Ave. N. E., Seattle, Wash. 98115	(206) 524-2283
Rev. Robert Muller, 5301 42nd Ave., Hyattsville, Md. 20781	
Rev. Jerold Munz, 1575 Street Rd., Apt. D-99, Warminster, Pa. 18974	(215) 674-3474
Rev. George Natonick, 2417 NE Ainsworth, Portland, Oreg. 97211	(503) 281-4480
Rev. W. O. Neisch, 5049 Wishingwell Dr., Flint, Mich. 48507	(313) 694-5944
Rev. John Nickerson, 903 No. Golf Cul-de-Sac, Des Plaines, Ill. 60016	(312) 824-1446
Rev. Ervin Oermann, 1431 NW 202 St., Miami, Fla. 33169	(305) 652-4319
Rev. Marlow Olson, 4928 Guilford Ave., Indianapolis, Ind. 46205	(317) 283-1351
Rev. Allan Page, 841 16th St. S. E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403	(319) 362-6528
Rev. Daniel Pokorny, 4703 Montgomery Pl., Beltsville, Md. 20705	(301) 937-2704
Rev. Myron Prok, 2085 Wascana Ave., Lakewood, Ohio 44107	(216) 228-0776
Rev. Richard Reinap, 3808 11th Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55407	(612) 824-8968
Rev. George C. Ring, 2700 E. 40th Court, Des Moines, Iowa 50317	(515) 265-6987
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Rev. Marlin Sampson, 5505 Diamond Heights, San Francisco, Calif. 94131	(415) 589-1246
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Rev. Walter D. Uhlig, M. A., M. S. T., 605 S. Churchill Ave., Sioux Falls, S. D. 57103	(605) 338-4605
Rev. George Winkler, W. 3614 Wellesley, Spokane, Wash. 99205	(509) 326-3227
Rev. Donald Winkler, 469 Park Overlook, Worthington, Ohio 43085	(614) 846-8942
Rev. Donald Zuhn, 12154 E. Ohio Ave., Aurora, Colo. 80012	(303) 366-7748

Part-Time Pastors

Rev. N. E. Borchardt, 11719 Evanston Ave., Detroit, Mich. 48213	(313) 527-7023
Rev. W. Ferber, 617 14th St., S., Fargo, N. Dak. 58101	(701) 235-5661
Rev. Martin E. A. Mueller, Pastor Emeritus, 2670 N. 46th St., Milwaukee, Wis. 53210	(414) 445-7231
Rev. Delbert Thies, 3802 N. 48th St., Omaha, Nebr. 68104	(402) 453-8832
Rev. Frank Wagenknecht, 1625 Woodridge Dr., Clearwater, Fla. 33516	(813) 581-5414
Rev. W. A. Westermann, 4712 Muirfield St., Fort Wayne, Ind. 46805	(219) 485-0539

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Mr. Gilbert Berninghaus, 2511 N. 51st Ave., Omaha, Nebr. 68104	(402) 558-2487
Mr. Alex Brodie, Apt. 214, 1400 E. 11th Ave., Vancouver 12, B. C., Canada	(604) 879-8148
Mr. Robert D. Case, 1511 Cranford, Memphis, Tenn. 38117	(901) 682-0832
Mr. Don Fairman, 3726 Fifth Ave. N., Great Falls, Mont. 59401	(406) 452-2382
Mr. Robert Oettel, 1041 North Long, Chicago, Ill. 60651	(312) 261-1851
Mr. Marion J. Van Manen, 1632 Hollenbeck Rd. No. 3, Sunnyvale, Calif. 94087	(408) 735-8825
Mr. Wilhelm Wegner, 502 E. Washington St., Delavan, Wis. 53115	(414) 728-6584
Mr. Harold Ziprick, 4328 Morley Trail, Calgary 48, Alta., Can.	(403) 282-7718

Parish Workers

Miss Ruth Fangmeier, 2107 N. Cleveland, Chicago, Ill. 60614	
Miss Carol Hedensten, 1280 Marshall No. 3, St. Paul, Minn. 55104	(612) 646-6771
Deaconess Grace Jewett, 5331 N. E. 28th Ave., Portland, Ore. 97211	(503) 281-4487
Mrs. Doris Myhre, 955 N. 34th St., Milwaukee, Wis. 53208	(414) 344-4786

Vicars

Mr. Shirrel Petzoldt, 41-56 76th St., Elmhurst, N. Y. 11373	(212) 335-4649
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International Lutheran Deaf Association

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President-Elect — Elmer Francisco, 10004 E. Mission, Spokane, Wash. 99206	
Secretary — Archie Marshall, 3743 Palm St., St. Louis, Mo. 63107	
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Midwest — Dale Paden, 1680 Whitmore, Omaha, Nebr. 68112	
Northwest — Bob Kosanovich, 1405 67th Ave. E., Tacoma, Wash. 98424	
Pacific — Harold Thuve, 3218 W. 153d St., Gardena, Calif. 90249	

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Dixie — Rev. Donald Leber, 4787 Scheibler Rd., Memphis, Tenn. 38128	
Eastern — Rev. Daniel Hodgson, 59 Maxwell Rd., Garden City, N. Y. 11530	
Great Lakes — Rev. Myron Prok, 2085 Wascana Ave., Lakewood, Ohio 44107	
Midwest — Rev. Walter Uhlig, 605 S. Churchill Ave., Sioux Falls, S. Dak. 57103	
Northwest — Rev. William Ludwig, 6547 46th Ave. N. E., Seattle, Wash. 98115	
Pacific — Rev. Clark R. Bailey, 2406 107th Ave., Oakland, Calif. 94603	

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Rev. Robert C. Blakely, Dallas, Tex. (214) 341-2216
Mr. Alex Brodie, Vancouver, B. C., Can. (604) 879-8148
Mr. Robert D. Case, Memphis, Tenn. (901) 682-0832
Rev. Robert M. Corl Jr., Madison, Wis. (608) 249-8076
Rev. C. Roland Gerhold, Newark, N. J. (201) 485-2261
Rev. Martin Hewitt, St. Louis, Mo. (314) 725-8349
Rev. Daniel Hodgson, Garden City, N. Y. (516) 248-2357
Rev. Martin G. Kosche, Delavan, Wis. (414) 728-5980
Rev. Donald Leber, Memphis, Tenn. (901) 386-3130
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Rev. Ervin Oermann, Miami, Fla. (305) 652-4319
Rev. Daniel Pokorny, Beltsville, Md. (301) 937-2704
Rev. Richard Reinap, St. Paul, Minn. (612) 824-8968
Rev. Walter Uhlig, Sioux Falls, S. Dak. (605) 336-9481
Mr. Marion J. Van Manen, Sunnyvale, Calif. (408) 735-8825
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Churches with TTY units:

Elmhurst, N. Y., St. Matthew (212) 335-8141
Memphis, Tenn., Eternal Mercy (901) 274-2727
Milwaukee, Wis., Emmanuel (414) 871-2700
Newark, N. J., St. Matthew (201) 485-2261
N. Miami, Fla., Deaf Zion (305) 688-0312
Pittsburgh, Pa., Trinity (412) 731-2550
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Sunnyvale, Calif., (408) 736-9216
Dallas, Tex., (214) 368-1371
Warminster, Pa., (215) 674-3474
Delavan, Wis., Holy Cross (414) 728-5980

# Think of Our Lord Speaking To You And Saying...



You do not have to be clever to please me; all you have to do is to want to love me. Just speak to me as you would to anyone of whom you are very fond.

\* \* \*

Are there any people you want to pray for? Say their names to me, and ask of me as much as you like. I am generous and know all their needs, but I want you to show your love for them and me by trusting me to do what I know is best.

Tell me about the poor, the sick, and the sinners, and if you have lost the friendship or affection of anyone, tell me about that, too.

\* \* \*

Is there anything you want for your soul? If you like you can write out a long list of all your needs, and come and read it to me.

Just tell me about your pride, your touchiness, self-centredness, meanness and laziness. Do not be ashamed; there are many Saints in Heaven who had the same faults as you; they prayed to me and, little by little, their faults were corrected.

Do not hesitate to ask me for blessings for the body and mind; for health, memory, success. I can give everything, and I always do give everything needed to make souls holier.

What is it that you want today? Tell me, for I long to do you good. What are your plans? Tell me about them. Is there anyone you want to please? What do you want to do for them?

\* \* \*

And don't you want to do anything for me? Don't you want to do a little good to the souls of your friends who perhaps have forgotten me? Tell me about your failures, and I will show you the cause of them. What are your worries? Who has caused you pain? Tell me all about it, and add that you will forgive and forget, and I will bless you.

Are you afraid of anything? Have you any tormenting, unreasonable fears? Trust yourself to me. I am here. I see everything. I will not leave you.

\* \* \*

Have you no joys to tell me about? Why do you not share your happiness with me? Tell me what has happened since you enjoyed yesterday to cheer, and comfort you. Whatever it was, however big, however small, I prepared it. Show me your gratitude and thank me.

Are you determined to run into no temptations? Have you made up your mind about bad books and bad friendships? They disturb the peace of your soul. Are you going to be kind to that one who has hurt you?

\* \* \*

Well, go along now. Get on with your work. Try and be quieter, humbler, more submissive, kinder; and come back soon and bring me a more devoted heart. Tomorrow I shall have more blessings for you. *Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.* 1 John 4:10.

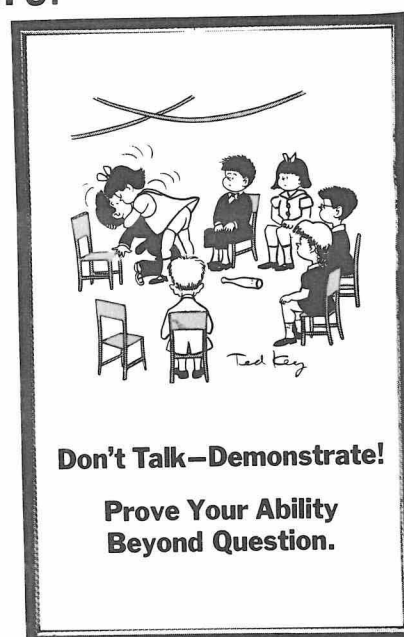
--Reprinted from GOOD NEWS PUBLISHERS Tract 3W01

## CHILDREN'S PAGE



### Dear Readers:

He's smart—



just ask him



## Some Table Prayers

1. Father, we thank You  
for food and the ability to digest it.  
for life and the health to enjoy it.  
for family and the opportunity to love it.  
for the love of Jesus Christ and the privilege to share it. Amen.
2. We thank You, Father, for each other.  
for the opportunity we have to love each other.  
for the differences of personality that enrich each other.  
for the chances to show that we care about each other.  
Forgive us our thoughtlessness toward each other.  
our unkind thoughts,  
our hasty remarks.  
Help us to live together in the forgiveness toward each other that we share in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
3. For everything that gives our life joy -  
the soap that cleanses us,  
the work that keeps us busy,  
the water that refreshes us,  
the food that satisfies us,  
the light that shines around us,  
the family that cares about us,  
the Savior who forgives us,  
the Lord who leads us --  
For everything, Father, we thank You. Amen.
4. We thank You, Father, for the gift of friends and the blessing of friendship. We thank You for the happy hours we have spent together the past day(s). Go with these people now and bring them safely back to their home and their responsibilities. Keep us all strong in Christian love and hope and in service to You and to one another. Amen.

--reprinted from the newsletter of Pilgrim Ev. Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Los Angeles, Calif.