



The DEAF LUTHERAN



Official Publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association & the Board for Missions of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

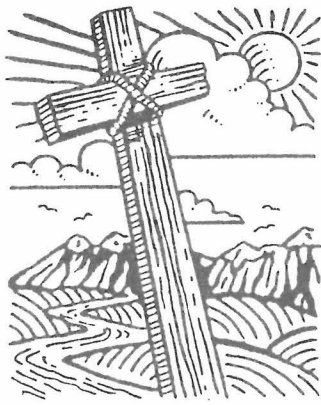
March-April, 1994

St. Louis, Mo.

Volume 86, No.2

GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN

Jesus once said, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13). And on Good Friday, Jesus did just that, and more. Not only did



Our Hope Is In God

He lay down His life for His disciples whom He called His friends, but also for His enemies . . . for the very ones who put Him on the cross. As we remember Good Friday and the glorious resurrection on Easter, the immortal words from the cross stir our consciences: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34). And the Father heard that

prayer and the mission His Son came to accomplish was completed. . . . He died for the sins of the world, yours and mine and all people. But the story does not end there. Indeed, we cry out, "Hallelujah! He is risen." On that first Easter morn, the One who died for us, yes, we who were numbered among His enemies, has risen and lives and now calls us His friends . . . indeed, His brothers and sisters!

Each year, we recount the events of that first Easter so long ago. And each time we come to church, we confess that we believe that story when we recite the Creed. Still, the story of Easter is not over. There are countless thousands who still live as enemies of Christ. Many do so because they have never heard the message of Good Friday and Easter. God sends us to these people. He uses our mission dollars to send missionaries to those overseas, but He wants to use us to reach

those in our own neighborhood and community. And as God works through our lives and words, we can become important tools in that mission effort right here at home.

There is a story about a dying man on one of the South Sea Islands. He talked about heaven and said to the missionary standing nearby, "When I get to heaven, shall first of all thank Jesus for saving such a poor creature as me. Then, I'll tell Him about you, for it was you who first told me the way to heaven. Then I will wait. When you come, oh, what a happy day that will be! I will take you by the hand and lead you to Jesus and say to Him, "Lord, this is the man I told you about!"

A blessed Easter! And may His spirit warm our hearts and instill in us a desire to share the wonderful story with others.

DO NON-CHRISTIANS HAVE MORE FUN?

Does it look non-Christians are having more fun? When we look at some of our non-Christian friends, and life looks easier for them, especially during Lent when we, as Christians, look at what we have given up for the Lord.

Let's take a look at our friend, Mark. On Sunday mornings, he is sleeping late while we are dressing for church. He can go out and live a life full of thrills with all the good looking girls without feeling guilty about what he does. And he seems to have more money to spend, without a church to give to. It seems as if he does have the better life, no guilt, no demands made on his life, especially during the time of Lent.

But what have we really given up for Lent? I may have given up some pleasures and extra sleep time, but what have I really given up?

Please see DO NON-CHRISTIANS: Page 2

WE DON'T NEED THIS!

Baseball trading cards have been around for years now and typically are used to glorify sports heroes. Some of the rarer ones have become quite valuable. All well and good. So what are we getting at here?

Who would have thought that the day would come that this innocent pastime indulged in by thousands of boys would eventually be used to depict color pictures of convicted serial killers, mass murderers and organized crime figures? Splotches of red ink depicting blood are smeared across the murderer's likeness on the front of some of the cards, while the backside gives details of the murder and the weapons used and the killers themselves. This kind of trash is becoming available in many of the same outlets that have dealt in the more traditional kind of cards. What kind

of message is this sending to our kids when these cards appear among their heroes and other role models?

A publisher in California coming out with their latest innovation, "True Crime" sees nothing wrong with the cards and even argues they are a "good idea." One nine-year-old youngster, whose sister had been murdered, was accosted on the playground at school by another who showed him such a card concerning the death of the boy's sister. This publisher has other series available on such topics as Drug Wars, Guns and Gangsters, Crime and Punishment and AIDS Awareness with a free condom in every pack.

Is it any wonder that crime was near the top of President Clinton's State of the Union address to Congress Jan. 25.

NOTICE

ILDA Treasurer Dennis R. Konkel has a new address and telephone number. All correspondence should be sent to him at:

18609 Chickadee Lane
Gaithersburg, Md. 20879-1730
301-977-1221

CONTINUED: FROM PAGE 1

DO NON-CHRISTIANS

For example, I have given up the fear of God and eternity. I have given up a self-centered, pleasure life style that most of the time leads to a ruined life. I have given up a past guilt. It has been washed clean. Not to mention adultery, which tears families apart, alcoholism, drug abuse and a hate filled life.

During Lent, when your Christian faith can seem like such a burden, think of all the bad, harmful things your faith has saved you from. Think of the love you know exists for you in God. Giving it up for Lent--is it worth it in the end?

"Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him. Do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret, as it only leads to evil. For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the lands.

It is hard to live a Lent filled life, but in the end it is worth it!

--St. Philips Lutheran Church
Philadelphia, Pa.

1894-1995
THE CENTENNIAL OF DEAF MINISTRY
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD
and the
25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION

June 29-July 2, 1995

Woodfield Hyatt Hotel
Schaumburg, Ill.

"BEHOLD, I SHALL MAKE ALL THINGS NEW"
Rev. 21:5

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND



"HE SAID HIS RECOVERY WAS A MIRACLE, SO HE SENT
THE CHECK TO THE CHURCH INSTEAD OF YOU!"

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

Many of us will remember that delightful family from South Australia, John and Sandra Hoopmann and their children, Ben and Amber. John spent two years in this country studying for the pastoral ministry at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. before returning to Australia to begin work there. Their Christmas letter this year outlines the events of the past year and plans for 1994. Read on. . . .

"The birth of the Christ-Child has one very good thing about it . . . it gives us a yearly chance to remind all our friends of why God sent His Son into the world as a babe at Christmas time. This is what Christmas cards should be doing, instead of all this crass materialism of Santa Claus giving out presents, riding Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer, and getting stuck upside down in chimneys, and these cards showing Christmas in Australia! Goodness, if it wasn't for God's greatest Gift to us, would we have Christmas? Or even Easter? When we really think of this fact it really does show the far reaching "visible" touch of God's hand on our calendars, and therefore, on our lives, and we wonder how is it, that so many people don't see this, and so they reject God. Surely, Satan is far cleverer than we think, so, there is much work for Christians to do.

Well, we have survived another year. John has completed another year of seminary studies in addition to his church work, which gives him very little time for relaxation. But there is light starting to appear at the end of the tunnel, which will become full on the end of 1994. Hopefully then, the pressure of studies will ease off somewhat, and he will be able to have more time with Sandra, and kids, Amber and Benjamin. John says he "is up to his eyebrows in the Hebrew language" and has to do Hebrew III plus three other subjects in 1994 to complete his B.TH (same as Master of Divinity) . . . and by then he will have turned 50! He still doesn't have any interpreters because of the expense.

Sandra still has a two day a week job which even though it is not an ideal arrangement, nevertheless, gives us much needed income. John's part time situation is likely to stay that way, partly because of his studies, and partly because of the financial situation the churches are facing at the moment.

Amber is starting to develop into a young lady, those same changes that have affected all of us when we grew up, and for some of

us, with all its terrible growing pains. She attended a big Scout Cuboree Camp the past year, plays the recorder and was selected as one of two to learn Japanese from her school. Ben is a delightful little boy who is rapidly shedding his baby ways, an absolute joy to have around.

Our deaf church work is slow, numbers attending are steady, always more at church services than at Bible studies. There are plans to increase services to a weekly basis, rather than twice a month, even though some regulars have said they just cannot attend every week. Nevertheless, these are old folk, who I suspect may be too set in their ways, because surprisingly, it is the younger ones who are in favor of the weekly worship. So we will trust the Lord to see how it will work. . . .

Our church gave us a lot of support when they decided at a committee meeting to paint the exterior of our house. This big job has already had three working bees, and the last one on Dec. 4 finished the job. The house was getting very shabby with paint peeling off, etc. and with the hot Australian summer coming, badly needed attention. I simply didn't have the time to do it myself, so now, already, our house is looking very nice and up-to-date in the current trend of warm colors. We are very grateful for this. The church's chairman said this was a wonderful opportunity for the church members to work together and to know each other more.

John did a trip to Melbourne in Victoria (about 600 miles) for the first time in connection with his work. He was invited over by the Deaf Ministry connected with the Ringwood Lutheran Church who received this impetus from the late Dr. George Kraus. With the Lord's blessing, it went very well, and all of us hope that will be the start of a regular ministry to the deaf there. The city has 2.7 million people, and has no pastor for the deaf in any denomination as of yet!

John and Sandra Hoopmann and Family

JESUS CHRIST

He was born in the stable. His friends were fishermen and tax collectors. He had no wife and no children. He never traveled far, never wrote a book. He died when he was still a young man.

And yet. . . . HE CHANGED THE WORLD FOREVER!

NEWS FROM HITHER AND YON . . .

The annual **Great lakes Region Winter Camp** was held at Camp Mowana near Mansfield, Ohio Jan. 14-17 with an unknown number of people in attendance. This event is usually very attended, however.

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The annual Christmas letter from **Concordia Special School** in Porto Alegre, Brazil contained an unusually desperate plea for help and assistance in the coming months. The letter speaks of a "Challenge to keep Concordia School for the Deaf alive." Some school professionals have had to be dismissed and its food program closed.

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Has **any deaf person** tried to order a quick meal at a fast food drive-in and been refused service because the lane was for intercom orders? Such a case is to be tried in court in Los Angeles. The suit is expected to further define the rights of the disabled under ADA regulations. We have heard that McDonald's has solved the problem at one of its outlets in Jacksonville, Ill. near the Illinois School for the Deaf.

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Emmanuel, West Allis, Wis. used its new worship chapel for the first time on Dec. 19 to host its Christmas party. The church is served by Rev. Bud Palmer.

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Rev. Paul Dorr has the call to the north Wisconsin District field vacated by Rev. Steven Schumacher, who accepted a call to a hearing church in Carrollton, Mo. We have

not heard Pastor Dorr's decision yet.

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Rev. Robert Case of Pilgrim, Los Angeles, retired Jan 30 and move to Houston, Texas. He has the call to Silent Lutheran Church, Madison, Wis., which he is being asked to serve during his retirement. We do not have any word on what he will finally decide.

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With only two attending members left, services have been ended by **Pastor Bud Palmer** at Sheboygan, Wis. There will, however, be interpreted services at St. Mark's in Sheboygan.

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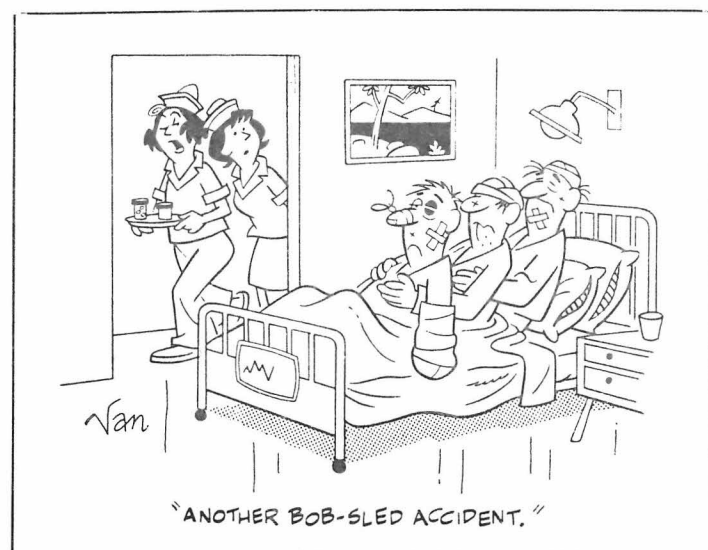
Little Megan Hofstede, daughter of William and Jill Hofstede of Christ Lutheran Church in Silver Spring, Md. was the recipient of some of the generosity of the Men's Breakfast Club there recently. Megan became ill shortly after birth with spinal meningitis and was in the hospital for three weeks. The club raised \$1,000 for her medical expenses which was matched by AAL Branch 2302 with another \$1,000 making the gift total \$2,000. The family expressed deep thanks to God and the club members for the gift of help.

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The second **National Deaf Senior Citizens Conference** will be held at the Hyatt Regency and the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio on Sept. 29 through Oct. 2, 1994. The conference, which follows the first held in Austin, Texas in May 1992, highlights as its objective the establishment of a new national organization of, for and by senior citizens with quality services to deal with problems of deaf senior citizens.



THE HOOPMANN FAMILY--Sandra, holding Ben, Pastor John and Amber. 1989 photo taken at CTS, Fort Wayne, Ind.

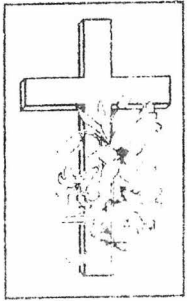


THE QUESTION BOX

Why does Easter always come on a different date each year? This question was posed to Rev. William A. Ludwig, who now serves our Seattle field, 25 years ago. It is a very fitting question to discuss again, seeing as how Easter comes on April 3 this year.

Pastor Ludwig replies:

Easter, the feast of the Resurrection of Christ our Saviour, was universally observed



by the early Christians perhaps before any books of The New Testament were written. These early Christians, however, did not agree when to celebrate Easter. The Jewish Christians wanted the festival of the death and resurrection of Christ celebrated at the time of the Jewish passover, which could come

on any day of the week, the 14th of the month of Nisan in the Jewish calendar. The Gentile Christians insisted that the holy day be observed on Sunday, since Jesus rose from the dead on Sunday. The two groups followed their own ideas for more than 200 years.

The early in the fourth century the famous church historians Eusebius mentioned the problem of selecting the date of Easter to the Roman emperor Constantine, who was a

Christian. Under Constantine's influence the Council of Nicaea met in A.D. 325 and decided our present custom of observing Easter. The problem was not yet solved, however, for the eastern churches followed a different calendar than the western churches and continue to celebrate Easter on a different date.

In 1582 the Gregorian calendar was adopted and the western churches celebrated Easter on the first Sunday after the full moon which happens on or after March 21 (the vernal equinox). Thus the earliest date possible for Easter is March 22 and the latest April 25. Today, most churches celebrate Easter on the same date, but many are not happy that the date of Easter should vary from year to year.

The exact date when Jesus rose from the dead years ago is believed to be either April 8 or 9. Of course, this glorious resurrection happened on a Sunday, and many believe Easter should be fixed Sunday closest to those dates.

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Our God, Our help in ages past,
Our Hope for years to come,
Our Shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal Home!

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun. Amen.

1994 CONFERENCE DATES

ILDA Board of Directors and Executive Committee: Drury Inn, Schaumbury, Ill., April 15, 16 and 17. Tentative agenda centered around planning for 1995 ILDA convention and Centennial of Deaf Ministry.

MIDWEST REGION: Holiday Inn, Cedar Falls, Iowa, June 17, 18 and 19. Conference theme, "I Love to Tell the Story."

GREAT LAKES REGION: Cross Country Inn, Holland, Ohio (suburb of Toledo), July 29, 30 and 31.

NORTHWEST REGION: L.O.M.A. Center for Renewal (Camp) north of Issaquah, Wash. Aug. 19, 20 and 21.

CENTRAL REGION: University Village, Chicago, Ill., May 6, 7 and 8.

EASTERN REGION: Ramada Inn, Clifton, N.J., June 24, 25 and 26.

PACIFIC REGION: Original dates of June 10-12 have been canceled due to conflicts. New date and site to be announced, tentatively set for Fall of 1994.

DIXIE REGION: No announcement.



GRACE-WHAT IS IT?

"It is finished!"

The three words that changed the world



When we go to church, we often hear the word, "grace." Yet, many of us may not truly understand what is meant by the word, "grace." What then is meant by it?

The **grace** we are talking about is **NOT** a prayer at meal time, although it is common to say grace before meals, especially in Christian homes. Nor is the "Grace" a girl's name. We are talking about the grace of God, the grace that makes it possible for you and me to be Christians. It was the discovery of this grace by a monk named Martin Luther that changed him into a man who challenged the whole church of his time. The grace of God is something that Christians refuse to give up although they may have to die for it.

So, what is this grace of God? Grace is **GOD'S UNDESERVED LOVE, HIS UNEARNED FAVOR THROUGH JESUS CHRIST."**

The New Testament makes it clear that salvation is from beginning to end by God's grace. Here are a few Bible verses.

God is rich in mercy. Because of **HIS** great love for us, even when we were dead in sins, made us alive together in Christ (by grace you are saved), and raised us up Christ, and made us sit with **HIM** in heavenly place, in

Christ Jesus. So that in the ages to come **HE** might show the exceeding riches of **HIS** grace in **HIS** kindness toward us through Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:4-7). "Being justified freely (gift) by **HIS** GRACE through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (Romans 3:24) ". . . there is a remnant (of Jewish believers) according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then it is no more of works: otherwise grace is not more grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more grace . . ." (Romans 11:5-6) ". . . (if) you are justified by the law, you are fallen from grace." (Galatians 5:4).

God has saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." (2 Timothy 1:9) We believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we (Jewish Christians) shall be saved, even as they (Gentiles Christians) (Acts 15:11) "My grace is enough for you: for MY strength is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9) Sin shall not have control over you: for you are not under the law, but **under grace.**" (Romans 6:14).

This little story may help make it a bit clearer. . . .

She was enjoying their new car! It was the first new car they ever had. She liked the smell of it as she drove alone for the first time. She went sailing around the corner, almost floating on cloud nine . . . and smashed into the side of another car coming the other way! The other car was badly damaged, and their car was ruined! After she discovered she was unhurt, only badly shaken, she reached for the insurance papers in the glove compartment. A note from her husband fell out. She read: "**Remember, dear, it is you I love.**"

That is a beautiful picture of grace. Grace is being loved when you need it most but deserve it least. She needed to know her husband loved her, even though she wrecked the new car.

God knows we often make a wreck of our lives through sin and selfishness. But God says something like this: "**Remember, it is you I love.**" I know you have 'totaled out' the opportunities I gave you. But I love you anyway. MY Son died for you. I forgive you. You have a clean beginning, a new life."

That's God's grace. That's God's love for us in Jesus Christ.

--Copied

ASSURANCES OF THE BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless thee and keep thee,
The Lord make His face shine upon thee and
be gracious unto thee:

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee
and give thee peace.

God chose these words to convey a special blessing to His people. In three meaningful phrases the Lord assured His people of daily bread and protection, daily grace and favor, daily recognition and peace.

With this benediction the church terminates its worship services. At every Baptism, wedding, and funeral the pastor pronounces the ancient blessing. It follows the Christian everywhere, assuring him of the nearness of the Triune God.

The first arm of the benediction is God's pledge that He will provide for your bodily needs. Have you ever "seen the righteous forsaken" or his seed "begging bread?" God also promises to keep you, protect you. Has He not given you assurance that He will give His angels charge over you to keep you in all your ways?

In the second part of the blessing the Lord asserts that you receive daily favor and redeeming grace. Whence comes the shining radiance? It comes from Him "who only hath im-

mortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach." No man has seen this "blessed and only Potentate, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords" but Jesus declared Him and revealed His grace. By that grace you are saved.

The benediction comes to rest in a tender Hebrew idiom which conveys the idea of partiality: "The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee." As God was partial to the Israelites, so He is partial to the believers in His Son.

Peter borrows from the Old Testament assurances of partiality when he tells Christians scattered throughout Asia Minor: "Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people." The apostle reminds Christians that they are closely related to God, who loved them with an everlasting love and made them heirs of salvation.

Whenever you hear the benediction, remember that God is partial to you. He gives you a special nod of recognition in a world of sin and sorrow, unbelief and scoffing and rebellion against His Word. He gives you peace that passes all understanding.

Live your life, Christian, in strength of this divine benediction.

--The Lutheran Witness

25 YEARS AGO

Rev. Clark R. Bailey was honored on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of his work as a pastor and missionary to the deaf. The event, which took place in Oakland, Calif. with over 80 people present, was a complete surprise to the pastor, who thought it would be a planning session for the two fields in the Bay and Great Valley areas.

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Delegates and members attending the Dixie Regional Conference in Miami, Fla. were encouraged to become "fishermen" and to "go out into the deep of the world to catch (invite) people to come and see Jesus" by Rev. Ervin Oermann.

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Church leaders of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Elmhurst, N.Y. held a retreat at Pocono Crest on the mountains of eastern Pennsylvania Oct. 19-20 led by Rev. Hodgson.

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Rev. Earl Thaler was honored Nov. 3 on the occasion of the 10th anniversary as a pastor.

The 75th anniversary of the work among the deaf of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod was duly noted and observed in March 1969. The first services for a congregation of deaf Lutherans was preached in Chicago on March 4, 1894.

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"It's not easy to change boats in mid-streams," but Marion Van Manen is doing it by going back to school for a 2-year course at the Lutheran Lay Training Institute in Milwaukee, Wis., after being a union printer for many years.

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Former NAD President Bob Lankenau was featured in THE DEAF LUTHERAN as a young chemist rising to the position of supervisor of The Firestone Tire and Rubber Co.'s largest chemical laboratory.

*"Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
His understanding is beyond measure."*

Psalm 147:5

NEW METHOD OF CLASSROOM INTERPRETING BEING USED IN IOWA UNIVERSITY

A freshman in pre-ceramic engineering at Iowa State University, Ames, is using a court reporter whose high-tech note-taking device ensures that he misses nothing in his chemistry and math classes. As the instructor lectures, his assistant punches the words into her short hand machine. A portable computer instantly translates that into words and displays them on a screen in front of the student.

Better Than Signing

Unlike sign language interpreters, the student misses nothing if he happens to look away to the chalkboard, because the instructors' words will still be on the computer screen when he looks back. He can even get a print-out of the lecture if he wishes. A comment made is that "she types faster than a signer and there is more detail on the computer." The student prefers to take his own notes, and if everything were put in a transcript, there would be too much conversation not relevant to the subject.

Working Well

Using this particular method, the student expects to get As and Bs in his classes. The first time he arrived on campus, the school's college of engineering was not sure how they could meet his special needs. Because of the technical nature of the courses he would be taking, having an interpreter was not a good solution in many cases. But like good engineers, the school hit on a highly innovative and high tech answer. There were some tricks

to be learned at first for the technical classes, but gradually a vocabulary was built up in the computer, making it some what easier as time went on.

Costs

The assistant would not state what she charges for the service she provides, however, rates are believed to be consistent with what a regular interpreter would charge, or close to it. The Associate Dean of Engineering said that providing the service for hearing impaired students "isn't cheap" and he was not sure where the money to pay for it would be coming from. But it seems to be the answer to some interpreting problems.

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

"Christ the Lord is risen today,"
Sons of men and angels say.
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heavens, and, earth, reply.

Love's redeeming work is done,
Fought the fight, the battle won.
Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er;
Lo, He sets in blood no more.

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell.
Death in vain forbids His rise;
Christ has opened Paradise.

Lives again our glorious King;
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Once He died our souls to save;
Where thy victory, O grave? Amen.

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