



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

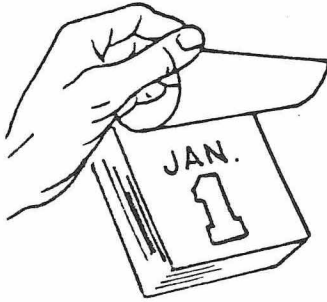
January-February, 1990

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1990: A NEW YEAR OF TIME

"Happy New Year" is what many of us have been saying to our friends, families and co-workers as we enter a brand new year and usher in the nineties and the last decade of the century.



One youngster had this riddle for his dad: "How do you make time fly?" When the father replied he did not know, the boy answered by saying, "You just throw

the clock out the window."

For a young person, that may be quite hilarious, but for the rest of us on the other side of 40, it may not be so funny. For those of us with graying hair, time may be going by plenty fast without tossing a timepiece through the air. And even thinking about time may prove a bit discomfiting--especially at the start of a new year.

As we look into 1990, we see a block of time. Before us are 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes and 31,536,000 seconds of time. And all of this . . . every bit of it . . . is a gift of God. We have done nothing to earn it, or even deserve it or purchase it. Just like the air we breathe, it comes to us as a part of life.

The gift of time is not ours alone. God gives it equally to each of His children, rich or poor, educated or not, strong or weak--every man, woman or child has the same 24-hours every day. Another important thing about time is that you cannot stop it. There is no way to slow it down, turn it off, or to adjust it. Time marches on. You cannot bring time back. Once a minute, or an hour or a day is gone, it is gone forever. Yesterday will never come back.

And remember, too, that if yesterday is lost, tomorrow is uncertain. We may look

ahead to a full year's block of time, but we have no guarantee that we will ever experience any of it. As we read in our Bibles from the Book of Proverbs 27:1, we find these words: "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."

Quite obviously, then, time has to be one of our most precious possessions. We can waste it; worry over it or spend it on ourselves. Or as good stewards for the Lord, we can invest it in the Kingdom of God.

The Bible has a lot to say about time. Mostly, it warns us to be careful about how

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Ephphatha Award--1989

Reverend Walter L. Busby, of St. Augustine, Fla., is the 1989 recipient of the Ephphatha Award given by the Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries, Detroit, Mich. The award was given on July 10 at the



Reverend Busby addressing the LCMS convention at Wichita, Kan.

57th convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Wichita, Kan. Reverend Busby is in his 19th year as resident chaplain and missionary-at-large to the deaf in northern Florida for Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Florida-Georgia District.

LINCOLN AND CHRISTIANITY



16th

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
MARCH 4, 1861 ☆ APRIL 15, 1865

This year on Feb. 12 marks the 181st anniversary of the birth of the 16th president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, who is known as the "Great Emancipator" and among the more common people, as "honest Abe." History shows us that both titles were well deserved. But was Abraham Lincoln a true Christian?

The memory of Lincoln is enshrined forever in the hearts of his country men. The immortal Gettysburg Address, which he wrote on a train enroute to the famed battlefield in Pennsylvania, is a must in many high schools, and many people can recite it from memory. His likeness is engraved on a mountain in the Black Hills in South Dakota; it also appears on countless postage stamps. The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. draws thousands of visitors every year. Was this man a Christian?

Abraham Lincoln is known to have had a godly mother, who taught him the Ten Commandments from the Holy Bible. She also read him many verses from the "Good Book" which helped him stand the test of time, both at home in Springfield, Ill. and later in Washington, D.C., where he was president during the years of the Civil War.

Abraham Lincoln had many agonizing times, while he was president of the United States, not only because it was war time but also

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we use the time God gives us, lest we use it unwisely. From our Bibles, the apostle Paul encourages us to make the best use of our time that we can from both the Books of Ephesians and Colossians.

Many people use the New Year to make resolutions. Why not resolve to give more of our time to the Lord in 1990? No matter what we do with the time we have, there will never be any better spent than that which is given in the service to the Lord and His church.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

that his son, Tad was gravely ill. When Tad died, the nurse caring for the boy comforted Lincoln with words of God and pointed him to the Cross of Christ. Lincoln told a friend, "when I came to Springfield, I was not a Christian. When I came to Washington, I was not a Christian. When I came to Gettysburg, I was not a Christian."

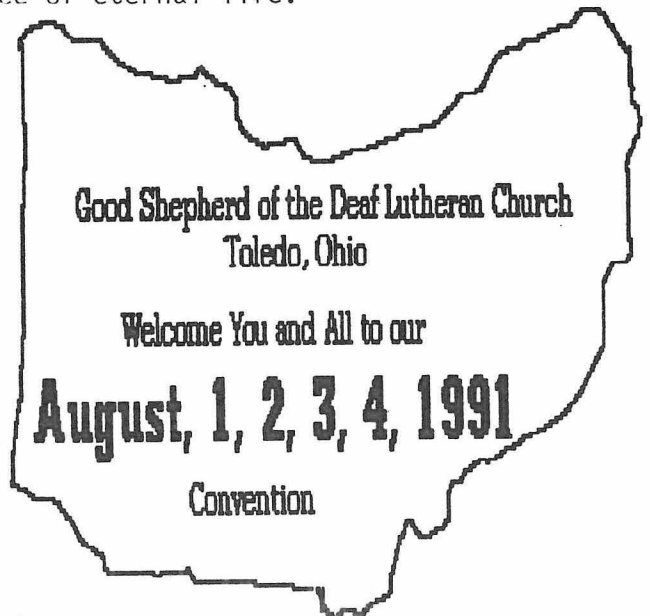
It was not until he viewed the crosses of the thousands and thousands of the war dead that he came to consecrate his life to Christ. The 'Great Emancipator' who had been instrumental in freeing the thousands of slaves was now, himself free the greatest scourage of mankind, the bondage of sin. He gave his life to Christ.

A letter has recently been discovered in the archives of a Presbyterian church in Washington which Lincoln attended and signed by him on April 13, 1865 just 24 hours before he was assassinated by a pistol shot fired John Wilkes Booth showed his intention to make a public confession of his faith in Christ the following Sunday on April 18, 1865

As all the world knows, Mr. Lincoln did not live to make that public confession. But his letter of intent is all that we need to know he is now with the Lord.

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life," saith the Lord. "No man cometh to the Father except through Me." John 14:6.

It matters not what your station in life is. Morality, respect, uprightness and even a belief that we are 'good' is not enough. It is only at the cross of our crucified and risen Christ that we have the blessed assurance of eternal life.



DEAF AUSTRALIAN ATTENDS CONCORDIA SEMINARY

Matthew 9:37-38: "Then saith He unto His disciples, "The harvest is truly plenteous but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest."

Time and time again, we have heard it said that more, not fewer, deaf pastors are needed in our churches. Since the ordination of the first pastor to serve the deaf, who was himself deaf, Rev. William A. Ludwig more than 30 years ago, at least six men have heeded the call to the Holy Ministry, who are either deaf or hearing impaired themselves.

The following article, written by John Hoopmann of Adelaide, South Australia, who is currently enrolled in the pastoral program at Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. is being printed verbatim and unabridged, for the enjoyment of our many readers.

--The Editor

MY STORY

By John Hoopmann

A story has to start somewhere, and with a person as well. I think this story may have started in the early 1970's, when I, as a deaf person, wasn't satisfied with worshipping with hearing people in the several Lutheran churches in my home city of Adelaide, South Australia. I couldn't understand the music of the liturgy, the hymns and the pastor's sermon. Worshipping in different denominations produced the same results. So, what was wrong? Then, I chanced to go to a

Roman Catholic deaf church service; and this was the first time I had been able to follow a service from start to finish! Wow! But, there was no Protestant church who was doing anything for the deaf people in Adelaide; which has a population of a million people. My father, who is a pastor, told the South Australia District convention of the Lutheran church that something should be done for the spiritual welfare of the deaf people; and this convention moved that mission work among the deaf was to proceed. So, the first church service was held at Christmas 1974. A pastor willingly took on this job of working with the deaf in addition to his full-time college chaplaincy; and services were held on a regular schedule.

In 1977, I took a long awaited world tour of six months, which was to include the World Deaf Olympic Games in Bucharest, Romania. I spent a very interesting two and a half weeks in Israel, seeing all the historical Biblical places like Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron, Jericho, Nazareth, Capernaum, Bethany and Jacob's Well at Shechem. I also had a swim in Lake Galilee, the River Jordan and the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea is so buoyant and extremely salty that it is almost impossible to drown in it! Then, I toured Greece, Crete, Morocco, all of Europe, England and Russia. I returned to Australia through your country, America.

Why America? I was very keen to see (and worship) in some of your Lutheran churches for the deaf; and to learn how you have your worship services. Also, I wanted to meet some of you and your pastors for the deaf. You see at that time in 1977, there were no full-time pastors for the deaf in any Protestant church in all of Australia! "The Deaf Lutheran," which I received regularly in Australia, had a list of all the pastors and their addresses. I was able to use this list, and in four weeks, I was able to worship at St. Matthews in New York, Holy Cross in St. Louis, and Pilgrim in Los Angeles. This was quite an eye-opener for me.

About two years later, the District president, Dr. C. Koch, asked me to be a pastor for the deaf! WHAAAAT!! You've gotta be joking!! A deaf man as pastor?

What a crazy idea! But he was serious about

MY STORY

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THE HOOPMANN FAMILY AT FORT WAYNE--Sandra, holding baby Benjamin, Amber and the author.

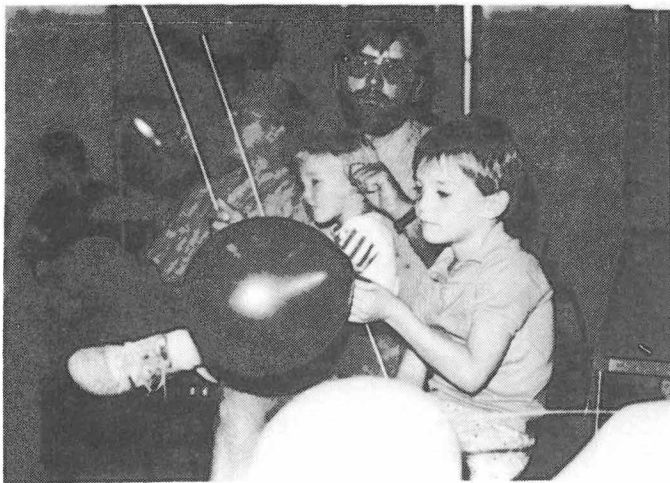
DIXIE FALL RETREAT MEETS IN LA GRANGE, TEXAS SEPT. 29-OCT. 2

A Lutheran family retreat with over 50 attendances and children and three pastors gathered at Camp Lone Star, LaGrange, Texas, Sept 29 to Oct. 2 for worship, study and workshops. Recreation included some various activities enjoyed by everyone such as walking in the woods, swimming, boating, throwing frisbees and just getting in a bit of socializing. Afternoon temperatures were reported in the 90's. All three deaf congregations were involved, from Dallas, Austin and Houston. Rev. Michael King of Austin led evening devotions.

Leading at least one of the workshops was Rev. Mark Anderson, formerly of Newark, N.J.,



PASTORAL RAP SESSION--Mark Anderson makes a point as Ron Friedrich, left, and Mike King listen during a break in the retreat at Camp Lone Star, LaGrange, Texas.



RETREATS ARE FOR FAMILIES--Shown here are Richard Norton, Austin, Texas, and his two boys, Cody and Kyle during a meeting. In the background is Stephen Usner. Photos courtesy of Stephen Luke.

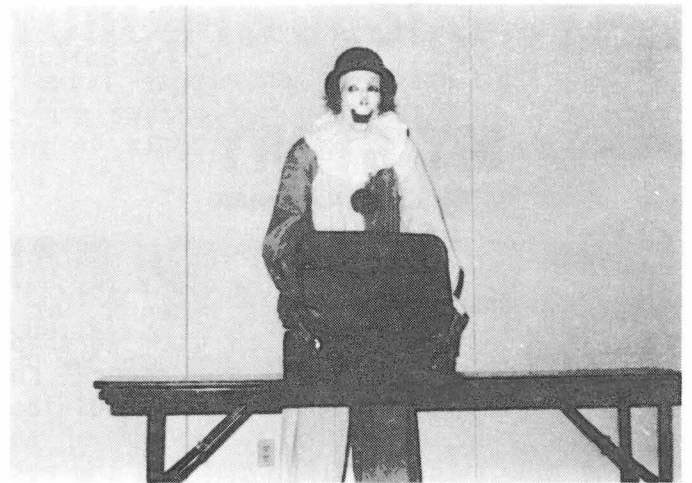
and now of the Northern Illinois District as Missionary at Large. He spoke on matters of money management including budget, stewardship and marriage.

Dixie President Steve Luke reports that Pastor Anderson was kept quite busy fielding questions from the audience on the correct use of finances and what the Bible teaches on the subject.

Conference President Steve Luke of Dixie reported to the group on the recently ended ILDA convention in Portland.

Sunday's activities included an interesting study in Eschatology, or the study of last things led by Rev. Anderson and a clown performance by Rev. Ron Friedrich of Dallas during the worship service.

The 1990 Dixie Conference will meet in western Arkansas Sept. 14-16.



GUESS WHO?--This is Rev. Ron Friedrich of Dallas, Texas, dressed as a clown doing pantomime during worship services on last day of retreat.

Hoopmann Family "Adopted"

The Sunday morning Bible class of Holy Cross Lutheran church, Delavan, Wis., has adopted the Hoopmanns as their mission project for the coming year. What a splendid idea!

Any more churches out there looking for something to "adopt" for 1990?

Sage advise--Learn from the mistakes of others. You cannot live long enough to make them all yourself.

It never occurs to teen-agers that some day they will know as little as their parents.

OPENING INVOCATION FOR STATE SENATE OFFERED BY REV. STEVEN SCHLUND NOV. 9

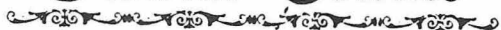
Rev. Steven R. Schlund was invited to give the opening invocation at the State Senate in Madison, Wis., on Thursday, Nov. 9. According to Chief Clerk Donald Schneider, there is no record of anyone ever simultaneously signing and speaking the opening senate prayer.

"Each day the legislature is in session a clergyman begins the proceedings with prayer," a spokesman said. "We believe it is very

important for us to reflect upon and request divine guidance prior to the day's deliberations. We appreciated Rev. Schlund's willingness to serve the members of the senate in this manner. The simple act of signing the prayer reminded us all of our important responsibility to represent all Wisconsin citizens."

Rev. Schlund serves Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Delavan, Wis., where he has been since July 31, 1983.

Funeral Services



GEORGE H. DIETZ

George H. Dietz, of Commerce City, Colo., a long time resident of the Denver area and loyal member of Bethel Lutheran Church of the Deaf passed away Friday evening, Sept. 22 following his second coronary bypass operation the previous day at Presbyterian hospital, Denver. The first operation had been performed in 1981. Both George and his wife had attended the ILDA convention in Portland and the Midwest Regional Conference in Kansas two months earlier and appeared to be in excellent health, so his passing was entirely unexpected.

Services were held at St. John's Lutheran church on Tuesday, Sept. 26 with Pastors Darrell Matthews and Bob Miller conducting the service. We extend sincere sympathy to his wife, Charlene, who will make her home in Colorado Springs.

* * *

IRENE M. SEARLES

Irene M. Searles, 59, of Colorado Springs, Colo., died Oct. 9 at her home. She was a loyal member of the ILDA and had attended many conventions with her husband, Harry, before declining health did not permit travel. She was a supervisor at the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind. Interment was in Colorado Springs.

* * *

ELSIE PETERSON

The mother of Mrs. Joan Mass, wife of Rev. LaVern M. Mass of Laurel, Md. passed away on Sunday, Oct. 15. Joan and son, Bobby were able to visit her a few days earlier before she died. Interment is believed to have been in Sisseton, S.D.



INVOCATION—Rev. Steven R. Schlund offers the opening prayer simultaneously in both signs and voice at State Senate in Madison, Wis. on Nov. 9.

NEED HELP WITH SS? CALL SOCIAL SECURITY

Social Security provides toll-free TDD service through 1-800-325-0778. Tdd callers within the state of Missouri should dial ssa's TDD service through 1-800-392-0812. TDD service is available from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. central standard time. After these hours, TDD callers may leave a message to receive a return call the next day from a SS representative. **The service is strictly for TDD users and does not handle voice calls. Voice callers should use Social Security's regular telephone lines.**

Tdd callers will be connected directly with the teleservice center in St. Louis, Mo. to Tdd-equipped personnel. The teleservice center has recently added more lines and newer equipment which, along with a staff increase, will enable Social Security to serve TDD callers better.

WICHITA CONVENTION APPROVES RESOLUTION TO CELEBRATE CENTENNIAL OF DEAF MINISTRY

Resolution 1-16

Whereas, Lutheran congregational ministry with deaf people began in 1894 with a worship service in sign language conducted by Rev. Augustus Reinke in Chicago; and

Whereas, the Synod established deaf ministry as its mission at the 1896 synodical convention in Fort Wayne; and

Whereas, God has richly blessed this ministry, so that there are now 54 congregations of deaf people in the Synod and an additional 200 congregations with interpreted ministry for deaf people, with more than 5,000 confirmed members who are deaf; therefore be it

Resolved, That we give thanks to God for

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD IS JESUS

This year, Epiphany will occur on Jan. 6 and means manifestation, or "showing forth." The renowned story of the Wise Men is exactly that, or an epiphany, for it was at that time that the Christ Child was shown forth to the



representatives of the world. On Epiphany and on the Sundays after, lessons and gospels will show forth Jesus, who is the Christ.

Services during Epiphany are designed to manifest the King of kings, for Jesus the Christ is the Child no longer. Congregations come to worship the King in the brightness of His rising; as priests bringing offerings. The climax is a renewal of the covenant with the King of kings in which we commit ourselves to be His subject-servants against a non-Christian world, still to be conquered for the Master.

St. Matthew's account of the Magi, or Wise Men, is the bonding element for our services during Epiphany. That account is a masterpiece of the Spirit, for in it is a summary of man's true condition and God's Master Plan to lead men to Christ. It begins in darkness, lostness and bewilderment. Scripture is consulted, the source of God's revelation to man. Direction is given, and lo, the Bright and Morning Star is discovered. The Wise Men (We) offer our gifts.

So come, let us retrace the steps of the

His blessings to this ministry and for the gifts that His Spirit has given to His people who are deaf; and be it further

Resolved, That the president of the Synod consider initiating in the 1995 synodical convention the celebration of the Centennial of Deaf Ministry.

ACTION: Adopted (4)

* * *

In connection with the adoption of this resolution the John of Beverly Award was given to Dr. Elaine Costello of Gallaudet university and the Detroit School for the Deaf presented its Ephphatha Award to Rev. Walter Busby for his ministry and contributions to the education of the deaf.

oriental sages and in doing it, know that we are making our own footsteps towards the King of kings. This is His Epiphany. Behold, Your King.

1990 ILDA CONFERENCE DATES

CENTRAL REGION: Concordia university, Mequon, Wis., June 1, 2 and 3, conference theme not yet decided.

NORTHWEST REGION: Pax Natura Ranch at Clyde, Alta., Canada, Aug. 31, Sept. 1 and 2. Conference hosted by Cross of Christ Lutheran church, Edmonton, Alta. Rev. William Ney of the Alberta/British Columbia District will lead the workshop on "Witnessing Christ in Daily Life."

MIDWEST REGION: Holiday Inn, Roseville, Minn., June 22, 23 and 24. Conference theme will be "Joined Hand in Hand."

DIXIE REGION: Pettit Jean Camp (private) in western Arkansas, exact location not available at press time. Sept. 14, 15 and 16. Eternal Mercy Lutheran church, Memphis, host.

GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE: Concordia college, Ann Arbor, Mich., dates of June 22, 23 and 24.

PACIFIC REGIONAL MEETING: At Fremont, Calif., June 21, 22, 23 and 24. Hosted by Memorial Lutheran church, Fremont. No other details available.

EASTERN REGION: Early summer, New York City. Details unavailable.

MY STORY

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it. However, I explained that I had enough trouble with night school (college) trying to lipread teachers; and I never had interpreters. So, how did he think I would cope with studies at a seminary? Impossible!!

But this man must've had lots of faith in me. He didn't give up. He asked me again a few years later. By this time, I was married; had a house to pay off; and I wanted to have children. Go to the seminary at this time in my life? I dismissed the thought. I could not see myself as a deaf pastor! It was still a crazy idea!

My church, St. James Church of the Deaf, had been expecting a visit from Dr. George Kraus, whom I'm sure, many of you know well. He and his wife, Helen, finally arrived in Australia after a year's delay; and he surveyed the whole situation of what the Protestant churches were doing for the spiritual needs of the deaf. His trip was funded by the Mill Neck Foundation. After visiting nearly all the states, they stayed in Adelaide and he gave lectures at our Luther Seminary. During a weekend seminar for the deaf, Dr. Kraus, Dr. Koch and my pastor all asked me to consider the ministry. But I told Dr. Kraus, surely you know the problems I would have at the seminary! "Yes, I know," he said, "You have to come to America, and we can teach you to be a pastor." He explained that the seminary had a deaf ministry department; have deaf ministry subjects and I knew from "The Deaf Lutheran" that there was a good organization of deaf churches in the U.S.A. I was still amazed that I was still being asked to be a pastor after first being approached nearly ten years before. This time, I thought about it seriously; prayed about it. Did the Lord really want me as a pastor? About a year later, I finally "gave in" and made myself available for the Lord's work.

There was a problem of finance. After one door closed, God opened another. This was the 150th Jubilee Appeal of the Lutheran church in Australia, to celebrate 150 years of Lutheranism in Australia. And so, some of this money was used to enable my wife, Sandra, our five-year-old daughter, Amber and me to travel to Fort Wayne, to begin my studies at Concordia Theological seminary. Five months after commencing studies, we were blessed with another child, a son, Benjamin.

I was really looking forward to studying

under Dr. Kraus, but it was not to be. God had other plans and called him home. First, it was Dr. Koch, who died very suddenly a year before; and now, Dr. Kraus. I wonder why God takes the best away from us? At this time? But God works among us in mysterious ways, far beyond our understanding and always knows what is best for us. The Lord's work must go on. It is a very urgent work. There are deaf people everywhere waiting for the Gospel, waiting to hear (see) the Gospel; so that they may be saved and be with our Lord.

The seminary has been wonderful in helping me cope with my studies after the death of Dr. Kraus. I now have a powerful transmitter-type hearing aid and interpreters for every class. My wife and I are gradually learning American sign Language, which is different from Auslan (Australia sign Language). I have passed all the subjects so far, including the very hard Greek course.

When I look back, I can see God's hand on me, and that He has been gently preparing me all along the way. He led me to meet my wife, who is also deaf and is a Bible college graduate. He led me to start the deaf church in Adelaide with the help of other people. But, I'll admit that I'm still amazed that He can use a deaf person like me. But, if He can use a fisherman like Peter, James and John, a tax collector like Matthew and a pharisee like Paul; then He can use anyone. Are there any more deaf men who could be pastors? Please **consider** it. The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers (including pastors for the deaf) are few. Consider it!!

/S/ John Hoopmann



In the Aftermath of 'Hugo'

CHARLESTON SITUATION CALLED 'GRIM'

Leon Phillips, director of Inter-Lutheran disaster Response said following a trip to the disaster area after hurricane Hugo that "he had never seen anything this bad." Everyone suffered extreme losses-- widespread power losses, property damage and subsequent unemployment. Everyone is underinsured. No one of the pastors meeting to discuss the situation in the devastated area could do so without crying.

The recent string of natural disasters should alert us to God's Word as we find it written in the 24th chapter of St. Matthew where Christ tells His disciples some of the things that will have to happen before He

returns again. There was the earthquake in Soviet Armenia not long ago; another in Mexico City; the "Great Quake of '89' which did extensive damage in the San Francisco area; the hurricane which hit Charleston, S.C.; a tornado which did much damage in Huntsville, Ala. and as this is being written, yet another tremor shook eastern Tennessee. And even one in China, also.

If there is something to be learned from all of this, it is that Jesus will come again, and to keep our faith strong and to watch and pray. As we enter a New Year, let us be as the Wise Virgins, keeping our lamps all trimmed and bright with an abundant supply of oil that we obtain when we attend church and study God's Word . . . regularly.

THE PERFECT CHURCH

I think that I shall never see
A church that's all it ought to be
A church whose members never stray
Beyond the straight and narrow way!
A church that has no empty pews,
Whose pastor never has the blues,
A church whose deacons always deak
And no one is proud, and all are meek;
Where gossips never peddle lies,
Or make complaints or criticize;
Where all are always sweet and kind
And to all other's faults are blind.
Such perfect churches there may be,
But none of them are known to me.
But still we'll work and pray and plan
To make our own the best we can!--Unknown



90 YEARS YOUNG—Rev. A. E. Ferber (right) was honored at Kansas City Sept. 10 on his 90th birthday. William Ragland presented him a check for \$90, one dollar for each year of his life, and balloon on behalf of Pilgrim Lutheran church.

<h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">The DEAF LUTHERAN</h1>	<p>January-February, 1990</p> <p>OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION AND THE BOARD OF MISSION, THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD, PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY CHRISTIAN ARMY OF COLUMBUS, OHIO</p> <p>3RD CLASS POSTAGE PD. COLUMBUS, OHIO.</p> <p>SUBSCRIPTION FEE: INDIVIDUAL .. \$5.00 PER YEAR. CHURCH BLANKET PLAN .. \$4.50 EACH MEMBER PER YEAR.</p> <p>PLEASE SEND ALL SUBSCRIPTION FEES AND ADDRESS CHANGES TO ELMER FRANCISCO, BUSINESS MANAGER, 10004 EAST MISSION, SPOKANE, WASH. 99206.</p> <p>PLEASE SEND ARTICLES, STORIES AND PICTURES TO LESTER AHLIS, EDITOR, 1004 CHERRYWOOD DR., CEDAR FALLS, IOWA 50613.</p>	<p>NON-PROFIT U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT 14444 COLUMBUS, OHIO</p>
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