



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

March-April, 1992

St. Louis, Mo.

Volume 84, No. 2.

"IT IS FINISHED"

By Dr. Walter A. Maier Sr.
Late Speaker, THE LUTHERAN HOUR

"The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." Luke 24:7.



What glorious assurance the resurrection of Jesus Christ gives! It proves first of all, and beyond all doubt, that He is, indeed the Son of God, the Almighty Himself, for no mere man has ever been able to come forth from the grave. Only God's Son could truly say of His own life, "I have power to lay it down, and I have

power to take it again," and only He could

give Himself into death for sins of the people and on the third day return to glorified life. You see, then, how all-important it is that the church kneel before the victoriously risen Redeemer, and call Him, as Thomas did, "My Lord and my God." A merely human Christ can never be a resurrected Redeemer, nor help you in death's hour.

The Easter message is the seal of assurance on all of Christ's teaching, for it shows that He spoke the truth with authority, and that He kept His Word. What man can give us unfailing assurance for the heavy problems before us? We must pay for our unbelief, our ingratitude, our forgetfulness of God. Only divine mercy can save us from facing money shortages, unemployment, political disaster and the woes and tribulations of a nuclear holocaust. Only repentant, reverent, God-fearing persons can enjoy the promise of

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EPILOGUE TO MINISTRY IN FAR EAST

The following article is an excerpt from another letter from Dr. Louis R. Jasper to members of the ILDA and which is a sequel to his earlier one which appeared in the November/December, 1991 issue. In this letter, Dr. Jasper relates some of his experiences encountered in his work in Macau. Read on....

"The story of Ng Tek Man continues. Last month, I reported great improvement in his behavior and academic performance. Regression set in about three weeks ago with violent outburst worse than before, threatening and injuring people as well as destroying property. This poor 12-year-old boy receives so little love from his family that his father suggested that we have the police come and remove the boy from school. He would pick up the boy at the police station when he had time. When his step-mother was persuaded to

come to the school to discuss the boy's problems, he was terrified to remain in the same room with her. I had to physically restrain him to keep him in her presence. Some progress has been made in persuading the parents to stop administering physical punishment and to sign release forms permitting the school to take the boy for physical, neurological and psychiatric examinations.

Deaconess Carol Halter has been coming to Macau regularly two days each week. She has started making home visits with some of the teachers and with the social worker. Until now, our limited manpower has greatly limited our ability to bring christianity into the homes of the students. So many of the students come from troubled homes. For example,

EPILOGUE TO MINISTRY: Page 3

CAN THE COMMUNION CUP PASS AIDS?

Rev. Donald E. Leber
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Columbus, Ohio

Can you get AIDS from going to the Lord's Supper? Some people worry about this and stop coming for the Lord's Supper. They are afraid of getting AIDS, flu, colds and other germs from other people. First, we must ask if anyone ever got AIDS from the Lord's Supper? The answer is NO!

Does this mean that no one will ever get AIDS from drinking the same cup as another person? Not necessarily. BUT there are a few things we should remember and know. First of all, the Lord Jesus gave the Lord's Supper to HIS church for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of their faith. He would not use HIS gift to intentionally harm HIS people. Secondly, we know that alcohol is used to kill germs and the wine used in

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"IT IS FINISHED"

God's blessings. If Jesus kept His Word in rising from the grave, He will also keep His Word in rising up to rebuke and destroy those who oppose Him.

Christ's resurrection proves that His self-sacrifice for the sins of the world has been fully accepted by God. Had He remained in the tomb; had His body moldered in the grave near Jerusalem, His death on the cross would have meant no more for us than the murder of 10,000 martyrs in any age of persecution. No man can save you from your sins, even by his death. All the grave stones in the world, were they merged together into a mighty monument of many million parts, would not induce God to forgive any one sin which has ruined your life.

Only God could fully atone for your law-breakings, and only God could break the bonds of death to prove Himself your Lord. If Good Friday, with the voice of final victory from the cross, "It is finished," assures you that everything required for your release from sin has been completed forever, then Easter gives you the divine assurance: death is defeated, sin is vanquished, hell is overcome and Christ has conquered. God has accepted the sacrifice of His own Son for the sins of the world.

Let us rejoice! Happy Easter.

the Lord's Supper contains alcohol. Also the cup is made of silver and silver also kills germs. The pastor wipes the cup after each person's drink, so that lessens the chance of any germs being passed to another person.

Thirdly, if none of the above satisfies your thinking, then you have available to you at Holy Cross the small individual glass to use. So you understand that no one has an excuse not to come to the Lord's Supper. The Lord Jesus offers you HIS gift. Will you refuse it? I hope not.

(Editor's note: It is pretty well established that the germ that causes AIDS is very fragile; that it cannot survive outside of the human body; that infection is nearly always acquired through sexual activity with an infected person, shared hypodermic needles and contaminated blood. Persons who maintain a monogamous relationship with their uninfected spouses, abstain from drugs and sharing needles are virtually assured of remaining worry-free.)

1992 CONFERENCE DATES

EASTERN REGION: June 26, 27 and 28 at the Days Inn N.E., Philadelphia, Pa. The theme will be "Love One Another." Host congregation, St. Phillips' Lutheran Church, 11047 Bustleton, Philadelphia, Pa.

MIDWEST REGION: June 19, 20 and 21 at Mahoney State Park, Ashland, Neb. Host congregation, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Omaha, Neb. Conference theme: "A.L.L." (Almighty, Loving, Living)

CENTRAL REGION: May 1, 2 and 3 at Hoffman house, Rockford, Ill. Hosting the event will be Rockford Lutheran Church for the Deaf.

NORTHWEST REGION: June 19, 20 and 21 at Concordia College, Portland, Ore. host congregation, Hope Lutheran Church of Portland.

GREAT LAKES: At Rochester, N.Y. Dates and site to be announced.

PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE: Dates and site to be announced. Host congregation will be Valley Lutheran Church, Sacramento, Calif.

The 12th biennial convention of THE INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION will be held at the Austin Marriot Hotel, Austin, Texas on the dates of June 24, 25, 26 and 27, 1993. TEXAS AND THE ILDA WELCOME YOU! Plan to attend.

CONTINUED: FROM PAGE 1

EPILOGUE TO MINISTRY IN FAR EAST

one teen age boy named Ng Kam Mok lives in one small rented room with his younger sister and his mother who bears the social stigma of being divorced and thereby vulnerable to exploitation when seeking employment in a system which makes no provision for something like a minimum wage. Little consideration is given by the public to the fact that the boy's father is addicted to gambling and physically abused his family. The school's social worker is a Christian (not yet a Lutheran), but her professional training so strongly influenced her thinking that she has difficulty sharing her personal faith with the students and their families. Carol Halter and I are working to help her to see herself as a Christian social worker.

The spiritual program of the school experienced a setback at the end of January when Rev. Lo terminated his employment as school chaplain in order to spend more time with his family and church work in Hong Kong. We really need to identify, recruit and train

some full time church workers who are natives of Macau and who are not likely to emigrate. We hope to begin that process by opening an after school program for students such as Ng Kam Mok who do not even have a place at home to do their homework or to socialize with their friends as well as non-handicapped children living in the immediate area of the school. We pray that the Lord will lead us to find some youth workers who will be receptive to training and eventually blossom as evangelists and pastors.

We are living in great suspense right now because the new governor of Macau has announced significant cuts in the budgets including the one for education. The new fiscal year begins on the first of January and we still do not know how much subsidy will be available from the government for the next 12 months.

As usual, we need your prayer support. We should never underestimate the power of God to perform miracles. On the contrary, we should live in genuine expectation of the wonders of His love. Rejoice with us in the Lord as we work together to share the Gospel message."

Sincerely,

Louis K. Jasper



AT CONCORDIA SCHOOL IN MACAU--These photographs, taken near the end of November, show Dr. Louis Jasper instructing his students.

SCANNING THE REGIONS

Ms. Alice L. Hagemeyer, for 34 years the world's first deaf public librarian, retired from her job at the District of Columbia's main library building on New Year's Eve. Deaf since infancy, Alice is a native of Wyoming and was educated at the Nebraska School for the Deaf and went on to graduate with a degree in library science from Gallaudet University in 1957. She is active in the ILDA's Eastern Region and in the ILDA and can usually be found at our biennial conventions.

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A fund raiser was held by the AAL Branch in Columbus, Ohio to obtain funds for a possible kidney transplant for the son of **Rev. and Mrs. Ed Bergstresser** of Pittsburgh, Pa. This was matched by AAL and a check totaling \$2,250 is being sent to the family.

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The annual **Winter Retreat**, held every year at Camp Pioneer, Angola, N.Y., will be held at a different location this time. This year's event on Feb. 28 to March 1 will be at Camp Mowana near Mansfield, Ohio.

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Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio celebrated the 25th anniversary of the dedication of its church building on Nov. 3. The banquet speaker was Mr. Ed Corbett, superintendent of the Ohio School for the Deaf. Preaching on Sunday was Rev. Paul Stanko of Dayton, Ohio.

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The Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf will hold its biennial convention at the Marriot Hotel and Marina, San Diego, Calif. on the dates of June 28-July 2, 1992. Contact: Vicki Slater, 3417 Volta Pl., Washington, D.C. (202) 337-5220.

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Holy Three-In-One Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas is sponsoring some workshops on Aids, Alcohol and Drug Abuse with some speakers fluent in sign language coming in to lecture on these problems.

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Word is getting out about the big protest staged by the student at the **Wisconsin School for the Deaf** at Delavan over the dates of Nov. 17-18. It appears that the youngsters wanted more staff skilled in ASL (American Sign Language) and staff who were deaf themselves. "Just asserting our rights to our language and culture," one person wrote to the local paper. This reminds us of a similar

outburst at Gallaudet University some time ago when the students protested the appointment of a new president who could not sign and insisted on a deaf person being chosen as president. They won their case.

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The **1993 convention fund** account stood at \$1,419.61 as of last Oct. 31 with approximately 19 months still to go.

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Seven members from the high school group who are members of **Holy Cross Lutheran Church**, Delavan, Wis., are planning to travel to New Orleans, La., for the National Youth Gathering on the dates of Aug. 1-5, 1992. They have been busy with fund raising to pay for the trip.

1991-1993

ILDA MISSION PROJECTS

MISSION PROJECTS GOAL--\$20,000

YES!! I want to help bring God's Word to many other people through the ILDA Mission Projects. Enclosed is my offering of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to: Mr. Dennis Kondel, Treasurer, ILDA Mission Project, 8712 34th Ave., College Park, MD 20740. May God bless both the gift and giver. All contributions are tax deductible.

Zacharias Fund	\$ 3,000
Hong Kong Deaf School	1,500
Concordia School, Macau	1,000
Bible Studies in Simple English	2,000
Lutheran Deaf Church, Ghana	2,000
Brazil Teaching Materials	1,000
Recife (in Brazil)	2,500
Child of Nazareth School	1,000
TIM (Together in Mission)	4,000
Pax Natura	500
Deaf School in India #1	500
Deaf School in India #2	500
Deaf School in Lebanon	500
Total Mission Projects	\$20,000

FROM HERE 'N THERE . . .

Rev. Mark A. Anderson was the speaker at a Week-end Winter Retreat at Rosholt, Wis. Jan 31- Feb. 2 for members of Emmanuel, Milwaukee, Silent of Madison and Holy Cross, Delavan, Wis.

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Lay Worker Richard E. French of Seattle flew to Fremont, Neb. Nov. 19 to arrange for the funeral of his mother, Mrs. Caroline A. Longbine, 84. We extend our sympathy to Dick and family.

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Archie D. Marshall, St. Louis, was the subject on an interesting article in the Mill Neck Newsletter for December, 1991. Archie, who is a former editor of **THE DEAF LUTHERAN** and currently president of the Central Region was written up as a "bridge builder between worlds and races." A 1979 recipient of the John of Beverley Medal, he elaborated on his experiences as a deaf person and being colored, noting that 'being colored was a greater handicap than being deaf' which he describes as profound since losing it at the age of six to spinal meningitis.

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Jose G. Chavez, a maintenance worker for 20 years for Goodwill Industries of southern California and a member of Pilgrim Lutheran



MAIL CALL--They say the mailman always rings twice, but this one did not have any mail for us . . . delivering the mail on his route in Gresham, Ore. is ILDA President Ron Madding.

Church in Los Angeles was named 1992 Goodwill Worker of the Year from a field of 900 contenders by his fellow workers and Goodwill's governing board. A native of Mexico, he emigrated to Los Angeles at age 23 and became fluent in ASL in the years since.

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Mrs. Marilyn Gehrs, the wife of Rev. Gerhard A. Gehrs Jr., of Riverside, Calif. passed away Nov. 22 following a stroke. Her husband has served deaf ministry in Riverside for many years.

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It looks like members attending the 1993 **ILDA convention** in Austin, Texas may have the choice of three different tours on Friday which would include dinner. One would go to the LBJ Ranch/Fredericksburg; another would be one to San Antonio and presumably include the famous Alamo and a third would be to Austin. More information will be printed in the pages of **THE DEAF LUTHERAN** as it becomes available.

THE LEGEND OF THE SHAMROCK

Long ago, when Ireland was the land of Druids (a religious order in ancient Great Britain and Ireland before they were christianized) there was a great Bishop, whose name was Patrick. He came to teach the Word of God throughout the country and was well loved everywhere he went.

One day a group of his followers came to him and admitted that it was difficult for them to understand and believing in the **HOLY TRINITY**.

Patrick was lost in deep thought for a minute, then he picked up a leaf from a shamrock and held it for them to see. "Here is a perfect example of the "Three-in-One." The simple beauty of this explanation convinced his followers, and from that day, the shamrock has been honored throughout Ireland.--Copied

ILLEGAL PARKING

Next time you get a ticket for parking where you shouldn't, don't make a big fuss about it. If you were in Japan, the offense could cost you \$1,400 in US funds. Maybe you would want to consider letting them keep the heap.

REV. WALDEMAR O. FERBER DIES

Rev. Dr. Waldemar O. Ferber, 96, senior pastor among ministers to the deaf in the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, passed away Nov. 23, 1991 at the nursing home in Detroit Lakes, Minn., where he had been a resident the past 10 years.



REV. DR. WALDEMAR O. FERBER
1894-1991
(1975 photo)

Ordained in 1917 following his graduation from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, he had served the Lord for 74 years. Dr. Ferber would have been 97 if he had lived two more

weeks.

Dr. Ferber served congregations during the first six years of his work in northern Minnesota, but throat problems led him to enter deaf ministry in 1923 becoming the first resident pastor to serve the deaf in Duluth, Minn. Eventually Dr. Ferber's mission field expanded from Rice Lake, Wis., to the Canadian Rockies covering a distance of over 1,300 miles. Twice each summer, Pastor Ferber would travel to 26 stations in Western Canada to bring the Word of God to the deaf. He would be gone four to five weeks each time. Dr. Ferber also devoted much of his work among young people in the state and provincial schools for the deaf, carrying out the Lord's command "to feed my lambs." The rigors of the work that missionaries to the deaf were called upon to perform in those years was frequently cited by the work done by Rev. Ferber.

Dr. Ferber was preceded in death by his wife, Otilie, who died in 1973 at age 80; brothers Hugo and Gerhardt, both of whom were pastors as was their father. He is survived by another brother, Rev. Alvin E. Ferber of Kansas City, who is 92 and has devoted all his life to serving the deaf, which spans 68 years. Also surviving is one sister, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Services were held at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Moorhead, Minn., with interment at Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Fargo, N.D.

"Blessed are they which die in the Lord from henceforth . . . that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them. Rev. 14:13.

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives who once was dead;
He lives, my ever living Head.

He lives triumphant from the grave,
He lives eternally to save,
He lives all glorious in the sky,
He lives exalted there on high.

He lives to bless me with His love,
He lives to plead for me above,
He lives my hungry soul to feed,
He lives to help in time of need.

He lives to grant me rich supply,
He lives to guide me with His eye,
He lives to comfort me when faint,
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

Amen

WORD OF THANKS

THE DEAF LUTHERAN staff wishes to thank the Men's Breakfast Club of Christ Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, Md. for their generous donation of \$167 to general operating fund of the paper.

Such gifts are graciously accepted and much appreciated in assisting the paper in meeting its month to month expenses.

Many thanks!

RIDDLE: Why is God left handed? A: Because Jesus is sitting on His right hand.

**"The godly rejoice when the Gospel
is widely spread."** Martin Luther

NIGERIAN STUDENT OBTAINS PH.D DEGREE

By Rev. R. A. Bauer, Pastor
Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
Edmonton, Alberta

At the recent convocation/graduation ceremonies at the University of Alberta at Edmonton, Emmanuel Ojile received his Ph.D degree in Educational Psychology and is considered to be the first and only hearing impaired foreign student to graduate with a Ph.D degree. Dr. Ojile, a graduate of Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C. with B.A. and M.A. degrees in psychology, has written and published extensively in the field of deaf education and in particular, deaf education in developing countries.

According to Dr. Ojile, the current scramble by different Christian denominations to establish deaf schools in Nigeria and across Africa could be compared with the period of colonialism when various missionary denominations joined the colonial government to establish schools. Such schools established

became the center piece of academic spiritual launching ground for parents and children of church members. Dr. Ojile feels that "the Lutheran Church with its long track record of serving the deaf across North America and with its world wide membership should be ahead in establishing such functional schools in Nigeria or any other African countries." Dr. Ojile upon his return to Nigeria expects to get involved in such a plan and requested that Lutheran Christians in North America remember him and his family in prayer.

Dr. Ojile and his wife, Agnes are the parents of three children, two of whom were born in Canada. They were active members of Cross of Christ during their five-year sojourn in Canada. The family has returned to their country and Dr. Ojile may be reached at: Special Education Department, University of Jos, P.M.B. 2084, Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria West Africa.



EARNs PH.D DEGREE—Emmanuel Ojile of Nigeria, Africa and his wife, Agnes following his graduation from the University of Alberta at Edmonton.

CORRECTION

The November/December issue of THE DEAF LUTHERAN stated that Rev. David Boyd, pastor of Alpha Lutheran Church, Rochester, N.Y. was "recently installed at St. Matthew in New York City." This is incorrect. We strive to avoid errors, but they still slip by sometimes. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.



A LOOK AT SOME WORDS FOR HOLY WEEK

MAUNDY THURSDAY--"Maundy" comes from the Latin word "Mandatum" which is the word for "command." In English we use the word directly when we say that something is "mandatory." This is Commandment Thursday in that Jesus is commanded by the Father to give His body and blood for salvation. The Son is therefore obedient to the Father's will in doing that. The Son obeys the Father's **mandatum**. And Jesus in His last conversation with His disciples on the night before His last suffering begins says, "I give you a new commandment (a new mandatum) to love one another as I have loved you." And Jesus underscores that obligation with His suffering and death on a cross.

PASSION--The word comes from the late Latin word "passio" which means "to suffer." When we are passionate about something we are involved in, or are committed to, we suffer. Holy Week, therefore is sometimes called "Passion Week" for obvious reasons. It's focus is on Jesus' suffering.

GOOD FRIDAY--Although Christians grieve with Jesus' death, we also rejoice in the end result of the events of that day, that is, that we believe that in His death Jesus destroyed the power of death; that in His death on the cross, Jesus has claimed the victory over death and that when death had done its worst--Jesus remained the victor. We believe that by His death, our sins are forgiven--that Jesus' blood cleanses us from sin, that is by His death that our sins are removed by God, that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away sin. For all of the above reasons, why should one not observe the day

of His death and call it "Good Friday."

EASTER--Comes from the Anglo-Saxon word, "Eastre" which is the name of the old Teutonic goddess of spring. Various languages for thousands of years have had a name for this goddess: "Astarte", "Ishtar" and "Asher-oth." The question is how the word for the celebration of our Lord's resurrection from the dead came to be connected with these names of the old pagan goddesses of spring. It's meaning has been changed and we now observe only the resurrection of Jesus from the grave. That is how it should be . . . our devotion to Jesus whom God the Father has sent to be the means by which our sins are forgiven and we are given new life, and the new life of His love is us showing love for others.

TRY THIS ON YOUR CALCULATOR

The number of books in the Bible; and the age of Ishmael in Gen. 17:25; add the number of churches in Asia Minor in Rev. 1:20; multiply this sub-total by the number of persons in the Trinity; multiply this sub-total by the number of tribes in Israel in Acts 26:7; multiply this sub-total by the number of disciples in Matthew 10:1; now add the number of the beast in Rev. 13:18; now total it. Turn your calculator upside down and read.

Remember . . . there is a big difference between free speech and cheap talk!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TODAY THAT NOBODY BUT A CHRISTIAN WOULD DO?

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