



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

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EARTHQUAKES, PAST AND PRESENT

By Rev. Roy L. Dahmann
Memorial Lutheran Chapel for the Deaf
Fremont, Calif.

GREETINGS in the name of our loving and gracious Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. As we near Advent once more, we remember He came to earth as a humble child at this Christmas time. In an ever changing world, may His unchanging love bring you peace and joy!

Tuesday, Oct. 17, 1989 will go down in California history as an "earth shaking day." Certainly, everyone who was awake and alive felt the strong tremors that afternoon. Perhaps you are still "shaking" inside with fear of unknown future tremors. I have felt the ground in San Lorenzo where I live shake again several times since the "great quake of 1989."

I want to remind you of the great "earth shaking" event that happened almost 2,000 years ago. We celebrate it every year at Christmas time. The Son of God was born as a human person. There was no earthquake. (God saved that for Jesus' death on the cross.) No, Christ was born without much notice here on earth. His mother, Mary, gave birth to

SPECIAL VIDEO AVAILABLE

Would your church or congregation like to learn more about the special education ministry conducted by Dr. Louis R. Jasper in Macau? The Board for Mission Services has produced a video of approximately 20 minutes to tell the story of this mission effort in that far away country.

Dr. Jasper says that the film depicts much better on video than countless slides and words could convey.

For a copy, contact the office of Rev. Steve Hughey, Board for Mission Services, The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, 1333 South Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, Mo. 63122-7295.

HIM in a place for cattle. HIS birth was announced only to some shepherds who were out in the fields at night watching their sheep. (Luke 1:26-56 and 2:1-20) Only later did "wise men" from the East come to worship HIM and give HIM gifts. (Matthew 2:1-12).

Yes, there was no "earth shaking." But, this was truly the most earth shaking event for all the earth's peoples. For you see, God loved the world (that means "all people") so much that HE gave HIS only Son (Jesus Christ). Now anyone who puts their trust in God's Son will not be lost (in hell) but will have life that continues forever (in heaven). John 3:16.

One thing we often forget is that God is not like us. "For MY thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways MY ways" declares the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are MY ways higher than your ways, and MY thoughts (are higher) than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8-9. Read the whole chapter and note verse 12.)

The prophet Elijah learned this lesson when God came to him on the mountain. Please read 1 Kings 19:9-18. God did not come with a great show of power in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire. Elijah, you and I expect

Please see EARTHQUAKES: Page 2

REV. BILL LANGE RETIRES

After 38 years of serving the Lord, Rev. William H. Lange retired from the Holy Ministry on Oct. 4. His last pastorate was at Joy of Jesus Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Peoria, Ill.

Pastor Lange and his wife were honored at a reception and farewell dinner at Trinity Lutheran Church on Sunday, Oct. 4 from 2 to 5 p.m.

We wish the couple many happy retirement years and blessings from the Lord whom they have served so well.

EARTHQUAKES

God to come with a great "fireworks display." But, instead, God comes to HIS people in a gentle voice, that is, through HIS Word. God makes HIS presence with HIS people known through HIS Word. Then they are filled with peace, joy and courage to serve HIM.

Like me, you have probably celebrated many Christmases in your life time. (I won't ask how many you have celebrated, if you don't ask me!) Maybe Christmas makes you want to say, "Bah! Humbug!" because it is not an "earth shaking" event for you anymore. If that's true, please stop and think for a moment. What makes you tired of Christmas? Is it all the gift buying, parties, hurrying and stress? Or, are you tired of remembering Christ's birth and death for you and all people? If your reason is the first one, then I have a simple solution for you. Pay more attention to the real reason for celebrating Christmas Celebrate Jesus' birth as Saviour through Bible reading, prayer, and worship at church. I **can promise you**, that will give you a fresh new outlook on Christmas. And, **it will fill you with peace and joy!**

If you are tired of celebrating Jesus' birth, then you have a much more difficult problem. There is something wrong with your faith. If it has grown tired, weak or bored, then you are in real danger of losing your faith in Jesus as your Savior from sin. The only answer is to run to God in prayer and ask HIM to make you new in heart, mind and spirit again. HE will do that through HIS holy Word. Turn to HIS Word daily in Bible reading. Then pray regularly. And come and worship HIM together with HIS people as often as you can. Let God support you through Christian brothers and sisters. Let your LORD speak/sign to you in Bible readings, sermon and worship services. Receive HIS strength

and comfort in HIS sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper.

If you do these things, then you will be ready to truly celebrate Thanksgiving, too. You can thank God for all the earthly blessings HE has given you. But, you can also thank HIM for giving HIS Son, Jesus Christ, to be born at Christmas, to die on Good Friday and to rise to life again on Easter Sunday. Talk about an "earth shaking event": Jesus broke open the grave (tomb) and destroyed death's power over HIS people!

YOUR CHURCH extends a warm invitation to you to come and worship our God and Saviour during the Holidays and share in the joys of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

As we near another holiday season and close out another year, our thoughts just naturally turn to Thanksgiving. That day-long celebration with Christmas to follow soon after will be here before we know it. In order to make the most of this time of Thanksgiving it is always good to stop and think . . . how has the Lord blessed me? During the past year, some may feel that the Lord hasn't done the best job of blessing them. The economy has not improved as much as we had hoped at the start of 1992. There have been layoffs. Some have experienced health problems. I'm sure we can all think of something that has not gone too well this year. Maybe we think of those things too often and fail to think of all the blessings we have received.

Still, the Lord has stood by us through the times of need . . . that's a blessing.

Often, the needs of our daily living change our attention and force us to depend more fully upon our Lord, and that, too, is a blessing. And just think of all the things we just take for granted: food, friends, health, life, fellow Christians, family, special talents and abilities that make all of us unique. And we remember that we have a loving and gracious Father who cares for us and grants us forgiveness of sins through faith in His son. All of these and more come from the hand of God, for which we ought to give thanks.

Jesus

is the reason for the season!

A Word to the Wise . . .

PROTECT YOUR CREDIT CARDS!

Some people think that money will "go out of style" sometime and much of the every day business will be done using 'plastic' or more correctly, credit cards. Since these cards are widely accepted almost everywhere, it is only natural that some unscrupulous people would try run scams on innocent victims. So it behooves us to protect ourselves.

NEVER give your credit card number over the phone to someone calling you. Only give your number to businesses you are certain are legitimate, and only if you call them.

If ordering merchandise by mail, know what the return policy is. Some businesses will allow only exchanges, not refunds.

NEVER give your credit card number to a company without checking it out first. If you receive a postcard telling you that you have won a prize, but must pay a handling fee to collect the prize, it is probably a scam. Check with the Better Business Bureau or the State Attorney General's office. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

THREE NEBRASKA COUPLES OBSERVE 50TH

Not very often do we have three couples observing the 50th anniversary of their marriages from the same state, and which occurred within a month of each other during the height of World War II. Two of the couples were married together in Las Vegas, Nev.

at 8 a.m. on Aug. 21, 1942 after traveling by train to meet their boy friends who could not come to Omaha by car due to gasoline rationing and tire shortages. Both grooms were working in California at the time.

Leonard and Lucille Eggelston and Everett and Ruth Degenhardt got back together again on Aug. 29 to celebrate 50 years of married life at Bethany Lutheran Church in Omaha.

* * * *

Long time Pastor Walter D. Uhlig and his wife, Stella of Lincoln who are now retired from the ministry and from Walter's professorship of church history at Concordia College in Seward, observed theirs at a dinner at the Cobbler Inn in Lincoln which was hosted by their children, Ellen, Diane, Gerald, Lawrence, Edward and Kenneth on Sept. 12.

The Uhlig's were married on Sept. 13, 1942 at Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel for the Deaf in St. Louis.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to all three couples and their families and our wishes for God's continued blessings on their lives together.

Now Thank We All Our God



Now thank we all our God
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God
Thro' all our life be near us
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace
And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next!

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven:
The one eternal God,
Whom heaven and earth adore!
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be forever more.

*Behold!
the King of
Kings*

ROAMING THE REGIONS . . .

Faith Lutheran of Spokane, Wash. will be observing their 65th anniversary Oct. 16-17 with Rev. Wayne C. Bottlinger as guest speaker. Pastor Bottlinger comes from Vancouver, B.C.

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A bit of news from a former Iowa resident now living in Wisconsin: **Paula Willig**, formerly of Guttenberg, Iowa, has nearly completed the requirements for a Masters Degree from Western Maryland College in teaching interpreting. With three summers of a four-summer program finished, she is teaching at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in their interpreter training program. Her husband, Rev. Mark Willig, is campus pastor at Calvary Lutheran Church and University Chapel in Whitewater.

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It seems strange to be thinking about winter retreats in October, but the next one will be held for the **Great Lakes Region** at Camp Mowana in Mansfield, Ohio on the dates of Jan. 15-18, 1993.

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The **Rev. Marcus P. Sims** will serve as the vacancy pastor for St. Phillips Lutheran Church in Philadelphia while there is no pastor. The parsonage will be rented out to reduce indebtedness during the interim.

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How cum dept: The law separating the church and state prohibits prayer in public schools. Another rule requires parental consent to dispense aspirin. Many of these same schools will now allow free condoms to any student who asks for them with no parental consent at all! What is our world coming to? There must be something wrong with our way of thinking.

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A three-hour "PIGS" workshop was conducted by **Rev. Donald Leber** at Jesus Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas Sept. 27-29 ending with a dinner at 5 p.m. on the 29th. Pastor Leber has done many of these seminars at deaf churches.

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Rev. Darrell Gehlbach was mistakenly listed as having attended the Synodical convention in Pittsburgh, Pa. this summer. We apologize for the error.

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More "**alphabet soup**" coming up: Would you know what 'CODA' stands for? It means "chil-

dren of deaf adults." A rather new organization has sprung up with children of deaf adults who can hear and who must bridge the gap between two different cultures. CODA just ended its 7th annual international convention in New Orleans last month. Its next meeting will be in Spokane, Wash. July 15-18, 1993.

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Well, well!!! It's about time! Have you ever gone to a fast food restaurant and wished you didn't have to get out of the car to order? McDonald's in Jacksonville, Ill. has a new "**McHandy Menu**" and a new device that allows deaf people to order! The place is near the Illinois School for the Deaf.

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A new telephone relay service started for deaf Iowans Aug. 1 and managed by **US Sprint**. For TDD users, the number is 1-800-735-2942. For voice callers, 1-800-735-2943.

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Concerned about where and how much you will have to pay to have your TDD fixed? A new company in Dallas, Texas offers low-cost repairs with a \$25 labor charge plus parts. It also will repair decoders. **Cam/Tronics** is located at 1507 Capital Ave., Suite 103 Plano, Texas 75074. Phone number is 1-214-423-6381.

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Iowa's deaf magician, **Rickie Rowray** of Cedar Rapids, Iowa traveled to Kiev, Russia during September to attend World Deaf Magician Festival. He is a member of Word of God Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids.

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The **Youth Gathering** in New Orleans saw 22,500 youngsters brought together for the 5th National Youth Gathering of the LCMS. We know that some deaf young people were there, but unsure of the exact number. The Sunday offering was an incredible \$106,000 which was divided among local, district national and international groups.

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Cross of Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Edmonton, Alta. observed the 30th anniversary of the dedication of their House of Worship during Canadian Thanksgiving weekend, on Sunday, Oct. 11. Guest preacher was Rev. Orlin Anderson of Calgary, Alta.

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Peace Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, held

ERILDA CONVENES IN PHILADELPHIA

About 80 persons registered at the Days Inn N.E., in Philadelphia June 26- 28 for the Eastern Region Conference with Barbara Wenker as chairperson. Attending were representatives from eight churches which make up the Eastern Regional Conference: St. Mark, New York City; Christ Lutheran, Silver Spring, Md.; Chapel for the Deaf, Charlotte, N.C.; St. Matthew, Newark, N.J.; St. Phillips, Philadelphia; Lutheran Church for the Deaf, West Hartford, Ct.; St. Matthew, Elmhurts, N.Y., and St. Mark in Towson, MD.

Some highlights of the meeting included a decision to donate 50 per cent of its mission fund to the ILDA for its mission program and the remainder to be split between two ERILDA projects: Son Rise (Lutheran) Camp in Pottersville, N.Y. and the Lutheran Camp for deaf children in Ohio.

Four regional churches presently have pastoral vacancies, but the members are main-

taining their activities and their faith through continued work with their churches and congregations.

The next conference will be held at St. Matthew in Newark, N.J.

Christmas Bells

Grace L. Dimm

I cannot hear the Christmas bells
Ring out in sweet acclaim
But I do know what their message is,
Christ's birth they do proclaim.
Now I can see a shining star
Atop a Christmas tree,
This tells the wondrous story,
Christ was born and died for me.
Within my heart they story lives,
I know that I'll do well
Because I see the Christmas wonders
And I haven't heard the bells.

CONTINUED: FROM PAGE 4

ROANING THE REGIONS . . .

its dedication and open house for its new Helen Ridge Parish Hall and Lutheran Women's Missionary Kitchen on Nov. 15 during church services. The new addition is part of an ambitious four phase master building project started in the late 1970's.

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As this final issue of THE DEAF LUTHERAN for 1992 is being typed, we hear that Millie Francisco, wife of the paper's business manager, Elmer Francisco, of Spokane, Wash., is in the hospital with cracked ribs and two more spots of cancer. Millie maintains a strong and fervent trust in our Saviour, despite all the problems with her health these past few years. We keep them in our prayers.

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HAPPY ANNOUNCEMENT: Mikalah Jade Anderson, born March 21, 1992, joined the family of Rev. and Mrs. Mark A. Anderson of Sterling, Ill., on Aug. 15, 1992. Little Mikalah was baptized at Ephphatha Deaf Lutheran Church in Chicago on Aug. 30, 1992. Congratulations!

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The newest member of God's kingdom is William Patrick Kois, who arrived to make his home with Rev. and Mrs. Darrell Kois of Altoona, Iowa on Sept. 16, 1992. He was baptized on Oct. 4.

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.

12th Biennial Convention
INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION
Red Lion Hotel-Austin Airport
hosted by
Jesus Lutheran Church of the Deaf
AUSTIN, TEXAS

July 1, 2, 3, 4, 1993
Theme: "Jesus Is the Lone Star"
PLAN NOW TO ATTEND

AUSTRALIANS RECEIVE FIRST DEAF PASTOR

More than 10 years after he was first asked to consider the ministry and finally deciding to make it his life work, John Hoopmann became a fifth generation pastor in the tradition of his family when he was ordained at Zion Lutheran Church in Glynde, South Australia last Oct. 27 (1991). A former printer and world traveler, Pastor Hoopmann is married to the former Sandra Williams and they are the parents of two children. The Hoopmanns resided in Fort Wayne, Ind. while John attended Concordia Seminary in its colloquy program. While in this country, the couple made many friends and were frequently called upon to be guest speakers, usually at some church related event.

John's reaction to being asked to be a pastor could best be summed up with the words, "What, who me"? He admits to being amazed that God can use him in the ministry.

A letter from the couple is being printed in this issue with the hope our readers will enjoy it as much as I have.--The Editor

3 May Street
Firle, S.A. 5070
Australia

Dear Lester and Betty:

How are you? We are all reasonably well, though Sandra does have her ups and downs . . . her feet are worrying her, because spurs have developed in the heels, which is most uncomfortable. We have had a very busy time settling back into Australia, so letter writing has fallen way behind. Now that John has started his mid-year break from the Seminary, we hope to make up some of this leeway, and to do all the other things that had to be put off.

Amber has settled in well at her new school, St. Paul's Lutheran at Enfield, about 20 minutes from our home. Fortunately, we have a school car pool, so I get to drive Amber and three other girls to school on three mornings only, so from there, I go straight to seminary for morning classes. By the way, Amber is in grade 3, equivalent to American grade 4. Benjamin is a littled boy now . . . sigh . . . how we miss his baby ways! We feel like having another baby, but enough is enough, especially at our age. Ben can put some words together and is very good at sorting out jigsaw puzzles, just loves cars, varooming, but (hope he doesn't do this later) loves having imaginary head-on collisions! If he is slack at obeying his dad,

the mandatory 3 count always quickly brings him scurrying into obedience! He is going through the stage of saying "why" to everything, even after you have just told him why!

Sandra is back to her old job, (yes, the Dept. of Transport, S.A. government kept the job for her after 2½ years) working two days a week. John is working as a pastor for four days a week, or for a better reason, is on four-fifths salary of a full time pastor. Of course, it doesn't always work out at four days a week, some times it is more like seven days a week. Any way, with Sandra working, we are getting by financially, so we are thankful for the many blessings God gives us.

John is still studying at the seminary, this time its Luther Seminary. It is much smaller than the one in Fort Wayne. He will be studying for the next three years attempting to do four subjects each year (two subjects per semester), plus an Hebrew intensive for six weeks in the mid-semester break next year. The Hebrew is apparently much more thorough than at Fort Wayne, because there is still Hebrew II and III after that intensive. He is regretting that he didn't do this in Fort Wayne, as it would have saved him time and effort here, but the Lord must have had His reasons and he accepts this. John finds it a real juggle trying to combine being a pastor, yet still a student, and often feels he doesn't do enough for either. Oh, for an eight day week!

His colloquy oral exam went okay, but he had shocking back pains at that time which didn't help. The drugs which helped him so wonderfully in USA didn't do the trick this time, but the physiotherapy did, even if it took four weeks.

John was ordained on Oct. 27 (1991) in a beautiful service in his home church with the ordinator being the President of the Lutheran Church of Australia, Dr. L. Steicke. His father was one of the seven assisting pastors. The installation serviced took place three weeks later on Nov. 17, this being in the chapel of the Royal South Australia Deaf Society. This was probably the first time in the history of this chapel (built in 1929) that an installation service was held, because in all this time, the deaf have never had an ordained pastor before. What they had was a missionaryary or layworker, but these

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AUSTRALIANS

men retired or left in the late thirties; that's 60 years ago! So a generation or two among the deaf have had no pastor or lay-leader since then till 1975 when the Lutheran Church decided that something should be done. John has been well received among the deaf community, got a lot of good PR in the local papers but getting them into church is quite another thing! There has to be a lot of visiting and inviting them into our home to try and get the Gospel across to them, but this really can't start properly until John gets his studies finished.

The hearing aide given to John by Deaf Ministry of Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne are very invaluable, he can't do without them but John badly misses having the assistance of sign language interpreters at the Seminary simply because there are no Lutherans here who can sign, and the professional interpreters charge \$25 per hour which is too high. But what makes it worse is that for any day they are hired, there is a minimum fee of \$75 which includes travel expenses, even if he only wants them for one hour. For four out of five days, John has only one subject, whilst on Mondays, he has two, with chapel in between. So John has to manage without interpreters for the rest of the de-



AT THE ORDINATION SERVICE--Newly ordained John Hoopmann stands in the forefront of this group picture at Zion Lutheran Church, Glynde, S.A. on Oct. 27, 1991. (left to right), Vicar David Byrce, Pastor Kevin Bell, Rev. Neville Sandon (interpreter), Rev. Hoopmann; Pastor Walter Hoopmann (John's father) Dr. Lance Steicke, president of LCA and Rev. Len Tschärke.

gree course. The hearing aids have made the students at the seminary aware that there is a deaf student among them for the first time, but they are still not aware that he has to lip-read virtually nonstop. However, they and the professors are gradually "waking up." Also, there is a blind student here as well who wants to become a pastor; he has a seeing eye dog which accompanies him to every class. A rather unique situation, having a blind student and a deaf student at the same time at this small seminary which churns out an average of six to eight pastoral graduates every year.

It was lovely to get back into our home again at 3 May Street, Firle. Our home was looked after very well by the two tenants we had . . . absolutely no trouble. Right now, John has a six week mid-year break (July) and he is trying to repair or rather, replace the fence between our house and the neighbor's. The fence was attacked savagely by white ants (termites) and when he removed some climbing ivy, the fence promptly fell over! So now he has been busy pulling out the old posts and putting in new ones which the neighbor had already bought. Then he has to do something about getting shelves for all his books, which are all over the floor. (Wonder if Pastor David Bush of Fort Wayne ever got his books off the floor yet, as John tried to help him get his bookshelves together before leaving USA! Any volunteers for this end here?) Yes, John has his office in our home; he may start a second office in the Deaf Society later, but this needs a lot of work done first. John's two subjects this semester are Early Church and Synoptics. Both are interesting subjects, but very time consuming. Next semester will be philosophy, New Testament Theology and Comparative Symbolics. If he passes, he will be three quarters finished towards his degree. Still a long way to go!

We may be having our first visitors from USA, or should I say Canada, since leaving the country of Uncle Sam. Pastor and Mrs. Bob Bauer from Edmonton hope to be here in June. (The Bauers were down there earlier this year . . . see the September/October issue of the paper . . . Ed.) Absolutely wonderful to have Bob and Elsie here for four days!! They have a son and wife with a new baby living in Hamilton, New Zealand, hence

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AUSTRALIANS

the reason for their visit. Any more from USA?

Our last Easter service went well even if there wasn't many attending, as most deaf go away for this extended week-end. John split the sermon into three sections (1) Good Friday, (2) The Grave and (3) The resurrection. At the end of (1) he had the lights turned off for three minutes, one for every hour when Jesus was forsaken by God the Father on the cross. He also used that opportunity to present the banner made by the ladies of Calvary Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Des Moines, Iowa. He used the banner to present the theme of the Easter weekend, and that with the lights switched off gave the deaf a better understanding of what the Christ has done for us.

We still slip into the occasional Americanisms of ASL, but our Auslan is still improving. However, we miss signing in Amlan, and if we had our choice of language, we would pick Amlan again. What makes it easier is that a lot of Amlan signs start with the first letter sign, whereas a lot of Auslan doesn't. However, a teacher of Auslan here queried what was our first sign language experience, and Sandra had to admit that she learned Amlan first in the Phillipines which explains her preference.

The weather is now going on to winter, whilst you are getting ready for summer. We've had a lot of very beautiful sunny days the last two months, and some of the few de-

cidious trees here remind us of the plethora of the magnificent colors that we were fortunate to experience in Indiana. How we miss the Fall!!

Last April, a 136 year old church with a heritage listing, was totally gutted in a huge fire. It was a beautiful Anglican Church . . . two youths were seen running away as the fire started, so we'll see if the police say its arson. This church had a social conscience, and did a lot for the street kids, single mothers and homeless, so whilst admirable, may have caused a grudge. Turning the other cheek can be very tough at times.

Well, must get this off to you, it's been in the computer long enough. . . .

Love,
John H.



CUTTING THE INSTALLATION CAKE--Pastor Hoopmann and his wife, Sandy, smile for the photographer following his installation on Nov. 17, 1991. Others are not identified.

The DEAF LUTHERAN

November-December, 1992

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