



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

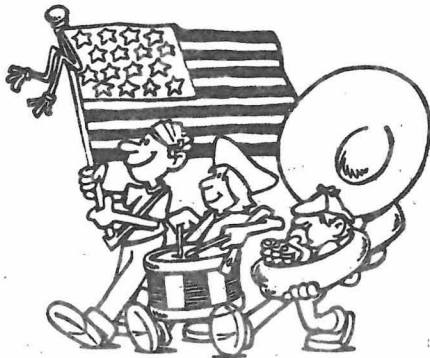
July-August

St. Louis, Mo.

Volume 86, No. 4

MIS-USING FREEDOM

"WE THE PEOPLE, of the United States of America, in order to form a more perfect union, to establish justice, to insure domestic tranquility, to provide for the common



defense to promote the general welfare and to secure the blessings of liberty upon ourselves and our posterity do ordain and establish this Constitution of the United States of America."

ica."

The above paragraph are the words penned by Thomas Jefferson more than 200 years ago and are contained in the Preamble to the Consti-

tution of the United States. All of us who lives in a country where we are guaranteed freedom of worship, freedom of the press, and freedom of speech should ever be grateful to the Lord. Liberty is a priceless possession for which we have, as a nation, paid very dearly since our country was founded by our forefathers. Still, it is often abused. Contrary to what many people think, it does not mean that all moral restraint can be set aside, nor that law-breakers should go unpunished.

Members of the "gay" community are very wrong in assuming that just because this is a land of freedoms, their way of life should be given position of respectability and their views should be allowed a hearing in our schools. In the same way, producers and distributors of pornography completely misunder-

Please see MIS-USING FREEDOM Page 2

AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE

By Armin U. Deye
The Lutheran Journal

The rejection of the Bible by unbelievers since time began has always been a challenge for Christians and a reason for continued prayer that the spirit of God might change their hearts to accept the one and only way of salvation.

In the world of Christianity there still is a divided opinion as to the partial or complete acceptance of the Word as being divine. The Church of Rome (Catholic) states dogmatically (by their own authority) that "the supreme authority instituted by Christ to decide about the Truth of Christianity as contained in the Bible is to be found in the hierarchy of the Church under the infallible and supreme leadership of the Pope of Rome."

This was, of course, challenged by the

great leader of the Reformation, Dr. Martin Luther. When brought before the judges of Worms he said: "Unless I am convinced by the clear testimony of the Holy Scriptures I cannot and will not recant. Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. So help me, God."

As a result, true Lutheranism follows the divine mandate: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (See 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

There is a danger creeping into the ranks of Christianity regarding the authority of Scripture. It seems in the minds of some readers of the Bible today that there is a higher authority for the direction of our

Please see AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE Page 3

The Pubic Speaks . . .

"MAINSTREAMING UNFAIR TO DEAF CHILDREN"

The recent demonstrations at one state school for the deaf have resulted in two articles in a major newspaper ("Students, Parents Protest School for the Deaf," and "Deaf Group: Mainstreaming Wrong Route.") The second "touched" the important issue facing the deaf community.

I am a deaf adult who was "mainstreamed" long before the term was even developed. Speaking from my own experience and observations over the past 40 years, I would not inflict mainstreaming on my worst enemies. While I have no personal regrets looking

back, I wouldn't want any deaf child to have to endure the isolation, communication barriers and social obstacles that exist in the hearing world for the deaf.

The concept of mainstreaming was invented and supported by hearing parents, hearing educators, hearing social workers and hearing bureaucrats for their own convenience and peace of mind.

This same attitude has guided the majority throughout history. The whites in America just knew what was best for the Native Americans, as did the Catholic Missionaries in South America when dealing with native populations. The hearing majority cannot be bothered to listen to deaf individuals and their requests.

I challenge any hearing parents, teacher, politician or social workers to attend a class being instructed in American Sign Language (ASL) for one week and then say mainstreaming deaf students in an oral environment is fair and equal.

Please remember that like immigrants to America who have the ability to learn English, for most deaf children mastering English and speech is not a feasible option.

Please listen to us when we ask that our deaf children not be forced into mainstream programs just for the convenience of hearing educators and administrators.

--James Snyder
10840 Shagbark Lane
Dubuque, Iowa

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MIS-USING FREEDOM

stand what's involved in liberty if they claim their rights are being violated whenever the government takes action to curtail their activity. The liberties guaranteed to us in the Constitution are not a license for us to harm other people or to corrupt their morals by sinful behavior on our part. It has often been debated just what the language would have looked like in the Constitution if the author could have foreseen how those liberties would have been interpreted 200 years later.

We only experience true freedom when we operate within the limits of God's laws. Anyone who advocates or practices evil under the flag of liberty is deceiving himself and others. They may be convinced they are enjoying life, but in reality, they experience feelings of frustration, emptiness and dread. They are like the false teachers of Peter's day who promoted unholy contact in the name of Christian liberty. In truth, they are themselves prisoners, enslaved to their practices which are taking them to their own destruction.

During this month of July, as we celebrate the 218th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, let us, as members of God's family, ever be careful to maintain a correct concept of liberty. Remember, if we mis-use our freedom, we will lose it.

"While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption." See 2 Peter 2:19.

BUILDING PLANS POSTPONED

Calvary Lutheran Church, Des Moines, Iowa has had plans to construct an addition to its building for many months. A questionnaire was sent out to members early in the year with about 21 returned. Results showed less than 15 were in favor of the addition and even fewer would be willing to support it.

With this information in hand, it was moved and passed to suspend construction until a future date. Architectural fees were returned to the church and a letter was sent to the LWML to turn down a gift of \$10,500 that had been offered.

It is still hoped, however, that the addition will eventually be built but at this time, it is not known when.

RYNEARSON GOES TO FAR EAST

One of the traveling-est people we know of has to be Dr. Rodney R. Ryneanson, Counselor of Deaf Ministry in St. Louis. We saw him twice in March and April in Chicago, where we attended the centennial worship service and the ILDA board meeting. He had just returned from a visit to Macau and India, where he had an opportunity to see first hand what God has done for deaf ministry in these far away lands.

He was welcomed in Macau a bit after 2 a.m. after a 27 hour flight by Rev. Louis Jasper, who serves at Concordia Special School there. A meeting with some government officials brought out some very good news: a pledge of regular support for the educational program at the school was made.

Another school visited was the Hong Kong Lutheran Deaf School. With the Chinese New Year looming, only a few students were there, but Pastor Ryneanson describes the school as a 'fantastic' place, with staff very friendly and helpful.

Following a visit to the U.S. Embassy and the Lutheran Church of All Nations, he took a flight to Madras, India via Singapore. There he was taken to visit two schools in Vellore and Pernambut. Also visited were schools in Ambur. The pastor mentioned that renting a car, complete with driver, gas and his expenses for five (5) days was \$150 (try and do that here in the U.S.! Ed.)

Pastor Ryneanson was the speaker at two events, one before about 60 teachers from four Lutheran Schools and another to preach at a local hearing church.

One of the interesting aspects of his trip was a tour of a watch factory where about

2,000 people are employed. He reported that 150 deaf were working there, or about 7½ of the work force, which seems remarkable when you think about it.

It has often been said "that half of the world does not know how the other half lives." This was certainly demonstrably true when Pastor Ryneanson described one location with a room 10'x14' sandwiched between two factories. A door to the rear leads to a 4'x4' kitchen and another door leads out front to an open space of about 4'x10'. In that small room with a single light bulb, 12 deaf and 13 blind children study, play, eat and sleep. It is their only home, as their parents have abandoned them. Yet, they had a fantastic demonstration program telling of the love of Jesus, says the pastor.

With many dedicated Christian people working in four deaf schools, three blind schools and six other institutions, the blessings of God were plainly evident, for which we give God thanks.

THE DAHMANNS OBSERVE 25TH

Rev. Roy L. and Becky Dahmann were the honorees at a 25th anniversary reception given by their congregation on Sunday, June 26. The celebration followed church services in the morning at the Fellowship Center of Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Fremont, Calif.

We join their many friends and parishioners in wishing them all the blessings our Lord bestows on those who serve Him and many more years of happiness.

Minds are like parachutes: they only function when open.

CONTINUED: FROM PAGE 1

AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE

lives than the Bible. One might rightly ask if the social order of the day decides what is right or wrong. Here are a few examples: Do the statements of the Bible really speak clearly about the matter of abortion and euthanasia? Are our morals in business directed by God's Word? Is sin really a transgression of God's commandments and merits His punishment or are sins just aberrations of the day?

God's Word is the final authority of Christians and may we ever hold that Word Sacred.

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

ILDA BOARD MEETING

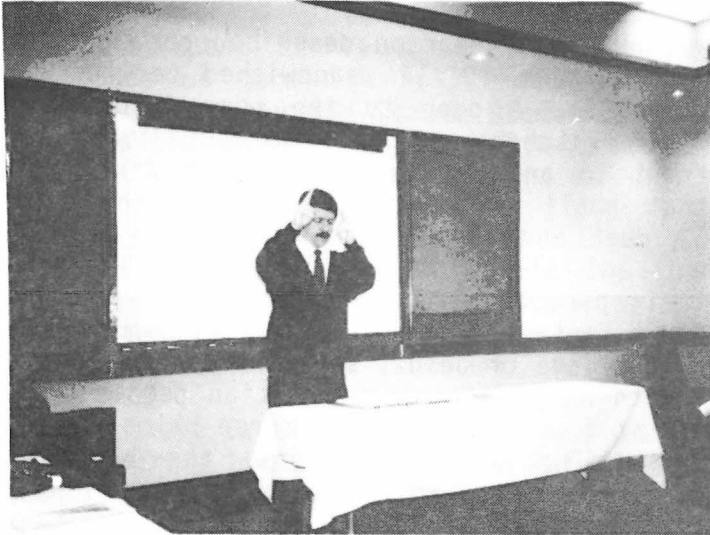
Holding its first meeting since the last convention in Austin, Texas, the Executive Committee and Board of Directors gathered at the Drury Inn in Schaumburg, Ill., a suburb in northwest Chicago to map plans for

the centennial event to take place in the summer of 1995.

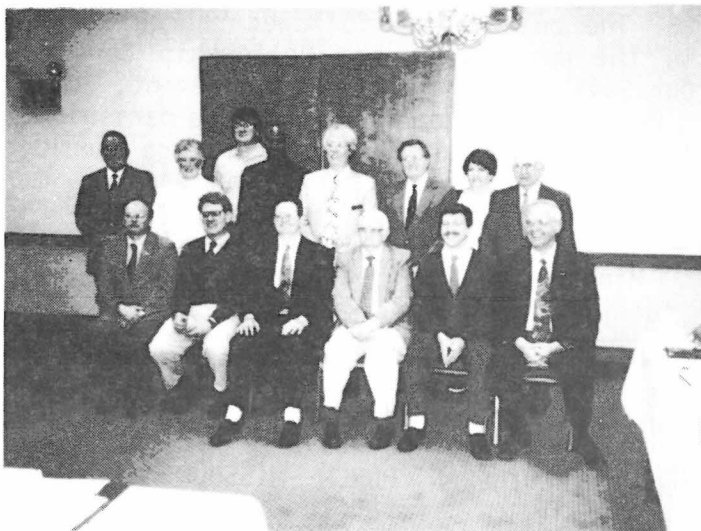
Because 1995 will be an election year for officers in the ILDA, President Madding urged all regional presidents to be sure and send in election results to Lester Ahls, editor of **THE DEAF LUTHERAN**, for publication, preferably by Jan. 1, 1995.

The Articles of Incorporation of the International Lutheran Deaf Association were approved by the Secretary of State of the State of Missouri on Dec. 20, 1993. Incorporation was one of the pre-requisites to obtaining either Auxiliary Status or RSO (Recognized Service Organization) status in the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod. The application of the ILDA for such status in the Synod has been given to Dr. John Schuelke of the LCMS Board of Directors. As of the time of the Board meeting in Schaumburg on April 15-17, no reply had been received. A motion by President-elect Larry Gorton to have the Articles of Incorporation made a part of the minutes of this meeting were carried.

A final decision on ticket prices for the 1995 convention and costs for tours have yet to be made and hopefully, will be announced in the pages of this publication as soon as they become available. The meeting recessed to allow members to tour the Hyatt Regency Hotel where the convention next year will be held. Every one should find the accomoda-



"ALL HONOR TO GOD"--ILDA pastoral adviser, Rev. Ed Bergstresser appears to be signing these words during one of the many devotions held during the board meeting in Schaumburg, Ill., April 15-17.



ILDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS--Front row, (L to R) Dennis Konkell, treasurer; Larry Gorton, president-elect; Ronald L. Madding, president; James Swalley, secretary; Rev. Ed Bergstresser, pastoral adviser, and Dr. Rodney R. Rynearson, synodical representative. Back row: Warren Burford, Great Lakes; Mae Madding, Northwest; Jeff McGuire, Dixie; James Cheese, Eastern; Irwin Bowsby, Central; Arthur Harper, Midwest; Lee Ann Kotal, Pacific and Donald S. Mowl, ILDA historian (not a board member).



LOOKING FORWARD TO CENTENNIAL--Meeting in Chicago to plan for 1995 Centennial event were (L to R) Elmer Francisco and Lester Ahls, **DEAF LUTHERAN** staff; executive committee members Dennis Konkell, Larry Gorton, Ron Madding, Jim Swalley, Rev. Ed Bergstresser and ILDA historian, Don Mowl.

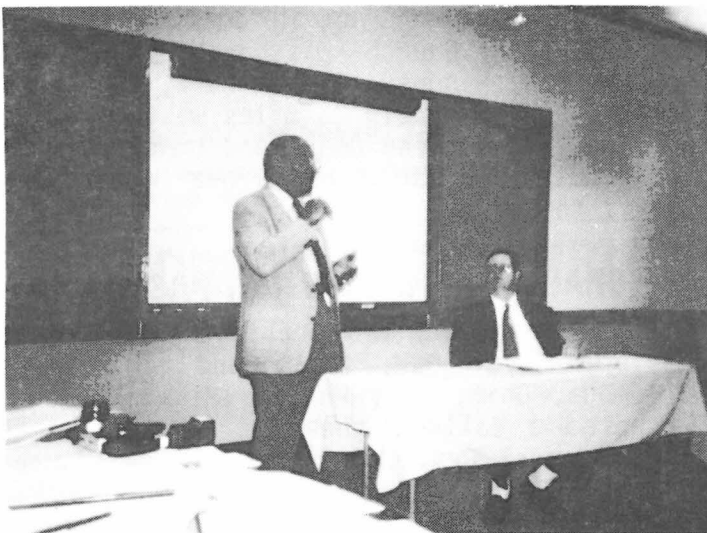
TS IN CHICAGO

tions very good.

One cloud on the horizon that the board discussed was that there is no site yet announced to hold the 1997 convention. Normally, this would have been decided at the Austin convention and a whole year of planning already past. A suitable site is still



MAKING A POINT—Synodical Representative Dr. Rodney Rynearson defines a point during one of the sessions held at the Drury Inn near Chicago. Seen here from the left are Ron Madding, president; Lee Ann Kotal, Pacific; Treasurer Konkkel; Dr. Rynearson; Elmer Francisco, business manager, *The Deaf Lutheran*; Archie Marshall, St. Louis and Art Harper of Midwest.



ADDRESSING THE BOARD—Archie D. Marshall, St. Louis, who created the design for the cover of the 1995 convention booklets, discusses his work with board members. Listening attentively is President Ron Madding.

being sought and will be announced when known. Two possibilities are being considered, but nothing definite can be announced at this time.

In making his synodical report to the board, Dr. Rodney Rynearson took the pleasure of reporting on his recent trip to the Far East, which included visits to Hong Kong, Macaus and India. It was a very uplifting report when he described how God is blessing the work being done in those lands. Among other things, he also mentioned how the St. Louis Seminary is attempting to obtain funds to finance a John of Beverley of Deaf studies, now vacant since the passing of Rev. Dan Pokorny.

Approximately eight vacancies remain among the fields of deaf ministry as this issue goes to press.

The next meeting of the Executive Council and the Board of Directors is not expected to take place until just before the next convention. An exception would be urgent business that required a meeting to be held.

CURRENT FIELD VACANCIES

Wausau, Wis.

Royal Oak, Mich.

New York, N.Y. St. Mark and St. Matthew are both vacant.

Madison, Wis.

Columbus, Ohio

Los Angeles, Calif.

Jackson, Miss.

Philadelphia, Pa. Served by Pastor Joseph Varsanyi on a contract basis.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa and Waterloo, Iowa. would have been vacant following the departure of Rev. Michael MacDonald to Charlotte, N.C. However, the East Iowa field will be filled by a vicar, Roger Altenberger in July.

40TH ANNIVERSARY

Almost passing unnoticed was the 40th wedding anniversary of Rev. LaVern and Joan Mass. Members of Christ Lutheran Church gathered to honor the couple on Jan. 31. Pastor Mass served congregations in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and Kansas City, Mo. before accepting a call to Silver Springs, Md. a number of years ago.

They are currently residing at 9510 Muirkirk Rd., Apt. 303, Laurel, Md. 20708-2747.

ROAMING THE REGIONS

Gallaudet University has announced it has successfully met the requirements of a challenge grant from the Kresge Foundation by raising \$1.6 million in gifts and pledges to qualify for a gift of \$750,000.

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We always try to take notice of couples who have spent nearly a lifetime together (50 years or more) in holy marriage. This time we honor **Ray and Carola Rasmus** of Fremont, Calif. who are members of Memorial Lutheran Church there. They will be celebrating 52 years by donating the flowers at church on June 19.

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Clarence Schulz fell and sustained an injured right wrist in March. They now reside in Fremont, Calif.

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The Spokane (Wash.) **Deaf Center** is settling up a library in honor of the late Millie Francisco. What a splendid idea. The proceeds from a recent "Roaring Twenties Potluck" went to the fund.

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Where were you on D-Day, the 6th of June, 1944? What were you doing? How old were you? What happened that day? This month, 50 years after all that happened, much of the free world celebrated the liberation of western Europe from Nazi tyranny, when allied forces landed in Normandy. The terrible battles that ensued and the high cost in casualties should ever humble us and make us thankful to God for the sacrifices that other have made that we may be free.

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We were saddened to learn of the passing of **Mrs. Anna Joy Walls**, formerly of Pittsburgh and of Scottsville, Va. on Feb. 19. She is survived by her husband of 44 years, Henry D. Both were very active in our Lutheran church and could nearly always be found at ILDA conventions. We will miss her friendly presence at future meetings. Our sincere sympathy to Henry and family.

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Hope Lutheran Church in Portland, Ore. is moving July 1. It is selling its present building at 4936 N.E. Skidmore and moving to another it is purchasing at 4551 N.E. 105th Ave.

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Rev. Roy Dahmann was the special guest speaker at Holy Three-In-One Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas June 3 and 4.

Have you been subscribing to the **Son Shine Ministry** being put out by Holy Cross Lutheran Church in St. Louis? Many people have written in to express their appreciation for this novel idea in Christian ministry, especially for those who are shut in, or otherwise not able to participate in regular worship services. As of April, 108 tapes were being sent from the library in St. Louis. The state with the most subscriptions was Iowa (28). A total of 22 states out of 50 were represented as having subscribers, going as far as Hawaii and Maine.

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A faithful member in our Seattle congregation, **Ted Brighton**, 75, passed away after a long illness in April. He had held many offices in his church over a span of some 40 years.

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A farewell dinner was given to departing **Pastor Mike MacDonald** on June 26. They are moving to Charlotte, N.C. to begin work left vacant by the death of Rev. Frank Wagenknecht on Sept. 14, 1993. Rev. MacDonald has been serving in the Iowa East District for several years.

1994 EPHPHATHA CONFERENCE

The Ephphatha Conference, the annual meeting of pastors serving in deaf ministry of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, will convene at Mahoney State Park, which is located approximately 25 miles west of Omaha, Neb. on I-80 between Omaha and Lincoln.

The dates for this year's meeting are from July 7 to 11.

CHARLOTTE TO HAVE NEW PASTOR

After declining two previous calls to Our Savior, Royal Oak, Mich. and Holy Cross, Columbus, Ohio, Rev. Philip (Mike) MacDonald accepted a call to the post left vacant by the death of Rev. Frank Wagenknecht in Charlotte, N.C. He will conclude his work in Iowa District East on June 26 and move his family to his new field shortly thereafter.

Assuming the work in Iowa East will be Vicar Roger Altenberger, currently at Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. He is expected early in July.

The 12th Biennial Convention of the International Lutheran Deaf Association
 at Red Lion Hotel-Austin Airport - hosted by Jesus Lutheran Church of the Deaf - Austin, Texas
 Convention Theme "Jesus is the Lone Star" Rev. 22:16

Attendance

Registration	306
Thursday Reception	247
Friday Brunch	266
God's 1000 Club Luncheon	67
Saturday Banquet	292
Sunday Breakfast	259
Sunday Worship	277
Communion	240

Financial Report

Receipts

Preconvention Fund	5,002.86	
Ads/Boosters for book	1,284.00	
Registration Fees	26,076.75	
Other Income	1,138.00	
	Subtotal	\$32,501.61

Disbursements

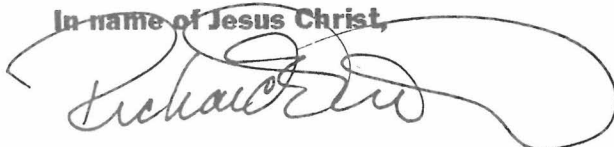
Meals	15,413.55	
Interpreting Services	1,962.00	
Audio Visual Equipment Rental	1,745.00	
Tote Bags	1,651.16	
Program books	979.20	
Lodging (officials)	540.31	
Supplies	599.92	
Miscellaneous	576.66	
Transfers (lodging/tours/membership fees for delegates)	1,743.75	
Refunds	1,294.00	
	Subtotal	\$26,605.55

Distributions

JLCD	4,000.00	
ILDA Mission Project	1,000.00	
Jr. ILDA	104.47	
1995 ILDA Convention	500.00	
ILDA	391.59	
	Subtotal	\$5,996.06

Thank you, JLCD, a small congregation, successfully produced the 12th Biennial Convention of the International Lutheran Deaf Association with Lord's help.

In name of Jesus Christ,



MISSION PROJECTS UPDATE

As of May 30, 1994, ILDA Mission Projects had reached \$10,664.91 as reported by Susan

J. Konkel, committee chairperson. The amount represents about 44.9% of the goal set two years ago at the last convention in Austin, Texas.

TEENAGERS AND SEX

Anyone who knows anything about teenagers know that sex is all they talk about, think about and, some may even say, live for. Right? **WRONG**, say thousands of kids across the country, who, standing before their parents and church communities, are vowing to maintain their virginity until they marry.

„TRUE LOVE WAITS," is a national campaign to encourage teenage abstinence began last April as part of the Nashville Sunday School Board's sex education program and begun to spread to other denominations and organizations.

More and more young people are saying "no" to sex while they are teens. A recent study showed that 70% of all teens, both boys and girls, are still virgins by the time they reach 16. And 18% still are by the time they reach 20.

Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala said recently, "We as a nation need to work together to send the strongest possible signal that all teens, both boys and girls, should be abstinent, stay in school and live with a caring adult."

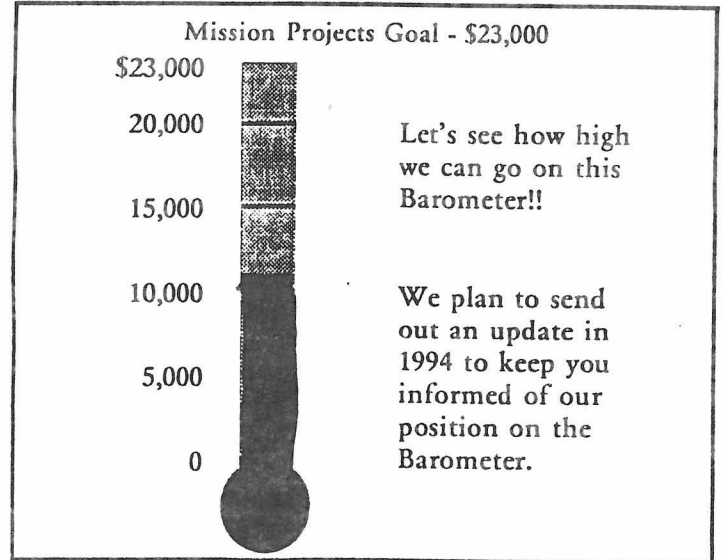
A hotel desk clerk received a long distance call about an overnight reservation.

"Do you want a room with a tub or a shower?" the clerk asked.

"What's the difference?" the caller replied.

"Well," came the patient response, "with a tub, you sit down."

1993 - 1995 ILDA Mission Projects



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 Konkel, Treasurer
ILDA Mission Projects
18609 Chickadee Lane
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

May God bless both the gift and the giver.
All contributions are tax deductible.

The DEAF LUTHERAN

July-August

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