



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

September-October

St. Louis, Mo.

Volume 86, No.5

HOW TO RECOGNIZE A CHRISTIAN

At first glance, this might seem like an easy question to answer. But after we have thought about it a bit, perhaps it is not so easy after all. And just as important is

*You are my
STRENGTH
O God*

another question: "What is the Church?" Please note that the question says "the church" and not "a church." There is a difference.

Our best source of help is always God's Word, so let's go to Acts 2:47 where the Church is defined "as being such people as should be saved," i.e., those who have been saved by faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour; who have had their sins washed away in the blood of God's Son.

To answer our first question, we will go back several centuries to Dr. Martin Luther who explained it very well. He reminds us that when we seek to determine where the church is, we do not go looking for pious people. We first look for the Word of God. He says, "Now, wherever you hear or see this Word preached, believed, professed, and lived, do not doubt that 'a Christian holy people' must be there, even though their number is very small. For God's Word shall not return to Him empty." (Isaiah 55).

Secondly, God's people or the Christian holy people are recognized by the holy sacrament of baptism, wherever it is taught, believed and administered correctly according to Christ's ordinance.

That, too, is a public sign and a precious,

Please see HOW TO RECOGNIZE A CHRISTIAN Page 2

THE BIBLE: THEN AND TODAY

Today, many of us are simply not aware that the Holy Bible is at least one of, if not the greatest, bargains of all time. A Bible can be purchased for as little as a dollar



and a New Testament for perhaps as little as 49¢. But it was not always so.

Before the invention of movable type in the days before Dr. Luther was born in 1483, Bibles were a rarity and one might

cost \$200 (our money), and were much too expensive for common people to own. The invention of printing revolutionized not only the way Bible were made available, but the whole concept of education as well.

Before the first Bible appeared in print

in 1452, scribes spent long hours painstakingly copying the scriptures on sheepskin pages. Done in gold leaf and in rich colors with large, beautiful capital letters, a person with something of value (such as a load of hay) might be permitted to read it for an hour in exchange. It is difficult to visualize Johann Gutenberg's press as the forerunner of today's modern high speed presses.

Aside from Bibles being an excellent bargain, they are far more than that. In them we find the wisdom of the ages; the story of creation and the Books of the prophets and God's promise of a Saviour after man's fall. Best of all, it tells us of the coming of the Christ, His life and teachings and His death and resurrection and return to His Father. It shows us the way to eternal life, a promise given to all who will accept the Saviour into their hearts.

Then, as it does now, a Book that points us to the Bright and Morning Star.

1995 ILDA CONVENTION UPDATE

This issue of THE DEAF LUTHERAN will contain a flyer on combination ticket prices for the convention next summer in Chicago. Early birds can save up to \$10 on tickets if sent in before Dec. 31, 1994. We strongly encourage you to do so, so you can take advantage of the many things planned for this once in a lifetime gathering of deaf Lutherans.

Lodging at the Hyatt Regency-Woodfield at \$75 plus tax per night is not what many of us will consider as cheap. Still, it is possible to save money. Up to four persons are permitted to share a room which means it will cost only \$18.75 for each person, plus tax. Accommodations such as we will find there at costs that low will be a steal! We encourage you to double up and to reserve early for this convention.

Never been to Chicago, the famed "Windy City?" You owe it to yourself to come and during the convention, take one of the tours. Included is a cruise on Lake Michigan lasting two hours; a bus ride and tour of downtown Chicago, which will include lunch and live entertainment while on the lake.

The 6½ hour tour costs \$60 per person, with a registration deadline of April 30, 1995. A flyer will be included in an upcoming issue of THE DEAF LUTHERAN.

Are you a member of that group of dedicated

ILDA members who also belong to the 1000 Club? There will be a special luncheon for these individuals at noon on Saturday, July 1. It costs only \$15 per person, plus your membership in the club. 1000 Club members are those who make an annual pledge of \$10 which is set aside for the needs of the Board of Directors, thus freeing up more funds to support the projects and programs of the ILDA.

Bringing the children and do not know what you will do with them? Babysitting will be provided so that mom and dad can enjoy the convention. Just check the box on your registration and a packet will be sent to you.

There will be banner, choir and skit competition with an entry deadline of June 1, 1995. If your church is interested, be sure and send in your registration.

ILDA conventions are never "all play and no work" or vice versa. As loyal members, your input during the business sessions and vote for new officers to guide the association for the following two years are needed. As we conclude the half-way mark of this decade and near the 21st century, many important things will be discussed.

A centennial celebration happens only once in a lifetime, so be sure and plan to be in Chicago June 29-July 2, 1995. See you there!

BELATED AWARDS FOR PAST CONVENTION HOST CITIES

The ILDA Board of Directors at its meeting in Schaumburg, Ill. in April approved a plan whereby past convention hosts would be presented commendation awards in appreciation for their service in undertaking the responsibility and work of the hosting a national ILDA convention. Since the first convention in 1971, a total of twelve (12) cities in

as many states have entertained ILDA members at their biennial conventions:

1971, Chicago, Ill.; 1973, Kansas City, Mo.; 1975, Washington, D.C.; 1977, Spokane, Wash.; 1979, Memphis, Tenn.; 1981, Los Angeles, 1983, Pittsburgh, Pa.; 1985, Milwaukee, Wis.; 1987, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; 1989, Portland, Ore.; 1991, Toledo, Ohio; 1993, Austin, Texas. For 1995, the convention will be returning to Chicago where it had its beginning 25 years ago.

The ILDA is inviting past convention chairpersons or congregation representatives to be present to receive their award at the banquet Saturday evening, July 1, 1995 at the Hyatt Regency Woodfield Hotel in Schaumburg, Ill.

What really counts is what we learn after we think we know it all.

* * *

Children are like wet cement. Whatever falls on them makes an impression.

CONTINUED: FROM PAGE 1

HOW TO RECOGNIZE A CHRISTIAN

holy possession by which God's people are sanctified. It is the holy bath of regeneration through the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5), in which we bathe and with which we are washed of sin and death by the Holy Spirit, as in the innocent holy blood of the Lamb of God. It is wherever you see the sign that you may know that the church, or holy Christian people, must surely be present.

MIDWEST REGION MEETS

The Midwest Region of the ILDA met in Cedar Falls, Iowa June 17-19 for its annual conference with 70 participants from five states attending the three day forum. Heading the workshops was Rev. Mark A. Anderson of Ster-

ling, IL. The main speaker Saturday evening at the banquet was Dr. Rodney Rynearson, who showed slides of his recent trip to Hong Kong, Macau and India.

Members enjoyed a four hour tour of the John Deere Component Works and Grout Museum.

The Sunday worship offering was earmarked for ILDA Mission Projects. It also voted an additional \$500 for the fund and an additional like amount for THE DEAF LUTHERAN.

Officers for the coming biennium will be Kenneth Darby, president, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Linda Desrosiers, vice president, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Betty Rose, secretary, Roseville, Minn., and Glenda Haefner, treasurer, Blaine, Kan. For pastoral adviser, the conference elected Rev. John Reinke, Omaha.

The 1995 conference will be held in Emporia, Kan. the week preceding the ILDA convention and the 1996 meeting was given to Sioux Falls, S.D.

MILL NECK FOUNDATION OUTLINES BENEVOLENCE PROGRAM

The Mill Neck Foundation for the Deaf Ministry will provide full or partial funding to more than 15 different projects throughout the world in the coming year. Examples of grants to be given include:

Church Interpreter Training Institute, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Concordia Special School, Brazil; Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin (Deaf Hmong); Deaf Missions, Iowa (ASL Bible Translation); LCMS 1995 Youth Gathering, San Antonio, Texas (scholarships for deaf youth); Deaf Youth Ministry Outreach, Philadelphia: New England District--LCMS, (training for deaf, interpreting): St. Matthew Lutheran Church, New York City (Bibles for the deaf members).

Additionally, the Mill Neck Foundation will provide funding support for the provision of interpreters at national, district and special conventions nationwide. Last year, more than \$10,000 was granted for interpreter services to more than 14 different conventions of the LCMS and the ELCA. To God be the glory.

Questions about these grants and the grant application process or the Mill Neck Family of Organizations can be addressed to Dr. Mark R. Prowatzke, CEO, Mill Neck Foundation, Frost Mill Road, Box 100, Mill Neck, NY 11765.

Oh, for a Thousand

Tongues to Sing

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread thro' all the earth abroad,
The honors of thy Name.

Jesus!--the Name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
"Tis life and health and peace. Amen

FLASH...!!

Pending official receipt of a letter and confirmation by the ILDA Board of Directors, we have a host for the 1997 Convention of the International Lutheran Deaf Association!

The voters' assembly of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Mo. has passed a resolution to host the 1997 convention in the Greater St. Louis area. We rejoice that our brothers and sisters at Holy Cross have applied.

It appears that host cities have all been chosen for the rest of this century.



WITH OUR FRIENDS . . .

It is with sorrow we must report the passing of **Mrs. Frances Burgess** of Omaha who was a faithful member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church and a member of the ILDA.

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Alpha, Rochester, NY, has begun taping worship and praise videos for airing over a five city network, the first to be shown this summer. These will be 30-minutes in length and have hymns of praise, signed dramas and a word or two from Pastor David Boyd.

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The **Iowa District East** deaf will have a new pastor serving them in the person of Vicar Roger Altenberger, who will be arriving in Cedar Rapids July 26 and starting his duties officially on Aug. 1.

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Cory Eckstrom will be another vicar who will be working at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Toledo, Ohio, Starting July 13.

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Another vicar coming to Iowa is **Tim Eckert**, who hails from Collinsville, Ill. He will replace Brian Smith, who returned to the seminary for his last year.

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MEDAL WINNER IN THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS: Craig Vulysteke, a member of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Seattle and the Special Olympic Swim team won a gold medal in the relay race, and a bronze for the breast stroke and back stroke competition. This was Craig's first participation in the swimming competition held at Federal Way, Wash. the first week-end in June. Rev. William Ludwig is pastor of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church for the Deaf.

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Registration reached 2,260 at the convention of **The National Association of the Deaf** at Knoxville, Tenn. July 4-10.

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Another vicar coming to the Midwest to work and train for a year is **Mr. John Kunze**. He will work at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Omaha, Neb. Vicar Kunze is a native of Orlando, Fla. and is the son of a retired Lutheran pastor.

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Emmanuel, Milwaukee, Wis. celebrated an open house Sunday, May 15 with a ribbon cutting for its new addition. Over 230 people were on hand with the Ephphatha choir from Chicago on hand to do Gospel songs for the event! Congratulations are in order!

Rev. Steve Schlund, Delavan, declined a call to serve Holy Cross, Columbus, Ohio.

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The **Dixie Region** of the ILDA will be holding their conference this year at Camp Lone Star, LaGrange, Texas on the dates of Nov. 18-20.

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Mrs. Sigrid Ludwig, wife of Pastor Bill Ludwig of Seattle returned to her native Estonia after an absence of 50 years for a three week visit. She was accompanied by brother and his wife of Minneapolis. Sigrid and her mother fled the country in 1944 during the height of World War II. Planned were visits with former school mates and relatives. She returned home July 20.

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We are heartened by the good recovery of **Pastor Bob Bauer** of Edmonton, Alta. He was hospitalized a while with a heart ailment and spend some time recuperating at home. Apparently he is back in the pulpit (and saddle, probably both!)

A WORD ABOUT PRE-PAID FUNERAL

No one likes to talk about funerals, let alone think if paying for them, which can run into a lot of money. But since we all will surely die sometimes, the matter will have to be considered sooner or later. Which brings us to the subject of pre-paying for them. Is it wise?

Some 800,000 such contracts were sold in 1987 and the figures show they are increasing. The word from here is "be careful when you consider which plan to choose." Some of these plans have some shortcomings which may not be what the buyers wanted. It is generally wise to "shop around" and consider two or three plans from different companies before making a commitment.

Once executed, some of these plans cannot be changed or transferred and earn less than market rates and there is no protection against inflation, which means if costs rise farther along down the road, the buyers' costs will also.

Planning ahead is a good idea in that it spares the family at a time of grief from having to make hasty decisions and perhaps some unwise ones that would not be the choice of the deceased were he or she to make the decisions themselves. Again, the word from here is **caution**.--Copied

THE CHURCH IS ALWAYS ASKING FOR MONEY

Sometimes you hear people say, "The church is always asking for money." **That statement is not true.** It is the world that is always asking for money, not the church. When did you last go to the grocery store and the checker failed to ask you for money? Your mortgage company asks for money with unfailing regularity. If you are like most people, each month brings a new collections of bills

MID-SOUTH DEAF GATHER IN MEMPHIS

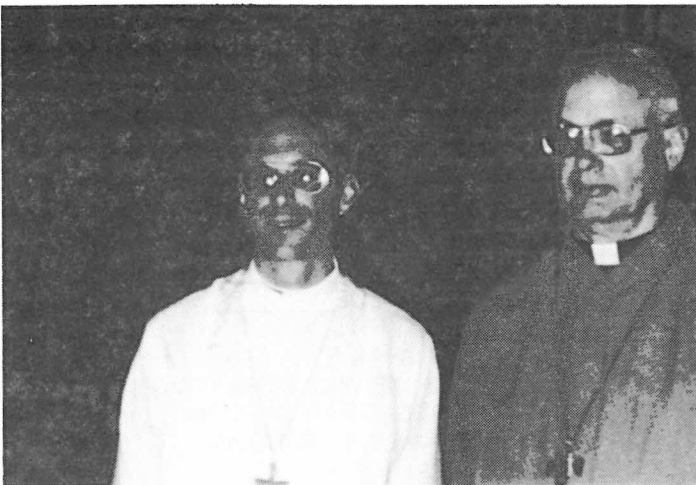
A first ever meeting of deaf Lutherans that may become an annual event happened in Memphis, Tenn. on Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1. Participants from Jackson, Miss., North Little Rock, Ark. and Memphis gathered to commemorate the 100th anniversary of deaf ministry in the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod.

An open house at Eternal Mercy Lutheran Church in Memphis welcomed everyone with a banquet following at Wilson World. Dr. Rodney Rynearson presented slides showing visitors what was being accomplished in India, Macau and Hong Kong. According to the writer, Rynearson could not stress enough the wonderful mission work being done through the schools there.

The meeting concluded with worship and Holy Communion on Sunday. Pastor Rynearson preached on "Bringing People to Jesus." A potluck followed the service.

WE praise the Lord for eyes that hear and hands that speak!

--Submitted by Esther Mahnken



MEETING AT MEMPHIS--Rev. Paul Tessaro of Eternal Mercy Lutheran Church and Dr. Rodney Rynearson shared a moment together for the photographer during the Mid-South gathering.--Photo courtesy Esther Mahnken

to be paid. Are any of them from the church? Who withholds a percentage of everything you earn? Your Uncle Sam does that. Your Father in heaven does not!

There is no free lunch--except at the church. You can attend worship every week; there is no admission charge. If you are in the hospital, the pastor will visit you. Where will your children be married? Hundreds of people receive a bulletin each week. None receives a subscription notice as with other publications.

What do you do when your loved one dies? What will it cost? The funeral home will certainly charge for its services. Your church will not. The church building will always be there when you need it--clean, cooled and with kitchen and nursery provided. You make full use of it and never pay a dime. None will even know whether you contribute or not.

You have to pay taxes to provide your children 'free' public education, but your church operates a Sunday school which will give quality Christian education with absolutely no cost or obligation. The church requires no membership fee, no annual dues. It never sends its members a bill. Is there any other organization in the world that functions that way? I don't know of any. You see, the truth is the church "asks for money" LESS than anything else you can think of.

Consider this paradox (a paradox is a statement that may seem absurd, contradictory and unbelievable, but may still in fact, be true) compared to the government and bill collectors, the church almost never asks for money. Yet of all the things your money could be used for, very few are more important than what the church provides. The church is here to share the love of Jesus Christ Himself. Our money goes to serve Him. The church will continue to provide ministry in Jesus' Name to everyone, whether they can afford to contribute or not.

Isn't that something you would like to be a part of?

A minister saw a little boy about five years old looking at a scroll honoring their war dead. The little boy asked the minister why all the names were there. The minister said, "They are the names of all the boys who died in the service." The little boy asked, "Which service--the 9 o'clock or the 11 o'clock one?"



ILDA 25TH ANNIVERSARY

13TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

HYATT REGENCY HOTEL - WOODFIELD, SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LCMS DEAF MINISTRY
100TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR SAVIOR DEAF LUTHERAN CHURCH

HOSTED BY
NORTHERN ILLINOIS LUTHERAN CHURCHES OF THE DEAF
JUNE 29, 30 AND JULY 1, 2, 1995

CONVENTION THEME: **"BEHOLD, I SHALL MAKE ALL THINGS NEW"** Revelation 21:5

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| REGISTRATION/PROGRAM BOOK (REQUIRED)..... | \$20.00 |
| THURSDAY (RECEPTION)..... | FREE |
| FRIDAY (BRUNCH)..... | \$15.00 |
| FRIDAY (EVENING APPETIZER)..... | \$15.00 |
| SATURDAY (BANQUET)..... | \$45.00 |
| SUNDAY (BRUNCH)..... | \$15.00 |
| TOTAL FOR TICKETS..... | \$110.00 |

| | BEFORE DEC. 31, 1994 | BEFORE MAY 31, 1995 | AFTER JUNE 1, 1995 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| COMBO TICKET SPECIAL | \$80.00 | \$90.00 | \$100.00 |
| NON-MEMBER OF ILDA, add | \$10.00 | \$10.00 | \$ 10.00 |

note: to save \$5.00, pay \$5.00 to ILDA Treasurer for membership before April 1, 1995

DENNIS KONKEL, ILDA TREASURER
8712 34TH AVENUE
COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740

LODGING: Please contact Shirlene Williams, Head Registration, for Hyatt Hotel Room Registration Forms or call 1-800-233-1234 voice or 1-800-228-9548 TDD of Hyatt Regency of Woodfield-Schaumburg, IL, 1800 East Golf Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60173.
ILDA Convention Lodging (Thursday-Saturday).....\$75.00 per night

OPTIONAL PACKAGES: Please use other forms for the following options
CRUISE TOUR GOD'S 1,000 LUNCHEON YOUTH SERVICES

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
 AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

- [] CHECK HERE IF YOU NEED SPECIAL DIET/SPECIAL SERVICES. WE WILL SEND YOU SPECIAL SERVICES APPLICATIONS UPON RECEIPT OF THE REGISTRATION FORM.
- [] CHECK HERE IF YOU NEED BABYSITTING FOR YOUR KID(S). WE WILL SEND AN INFORMATION PACKET UPON RECEIPT OF THE REGISTRATION FORM.

MAKE CHECKS/MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO: **1995 ILDA COMMITTEE**
 MAIL TO: **SHIRLENE WILLIAMS**
EPHPHATHA DEAF LUTHERAN CHURCH
7956 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING DR
CHICAGO, IL 60619



ILDA

25TH ANNIVERSARY

13TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

HYATT REGENCY HOTEL - WOODFIELD, SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS



Deaf Lutheran Congregations are invited to participate in the Banner, Skit and Choir competitions at the 1995 ILDA Convention in Schaumburg (Chicago), IL. All entries must have a Christian message. Banner and skit entries may have a message based on the convention theme, "*Behold, I shall make all things new.*" (Revelation 21:5) The registration deadline for the competitions is June 1st, 1995.

BANNER COMPETITION

Banners must have the following dimensions: Width between 32 and 40 inches
Length between 48 and 60 inches

Banners should be based on the convention theme. The ILDA Committee has 8-foot poles and floor stands to display your banner. If you are unable to bring your own horizontal rod to hang your banner, the convention banner committee can provide a 1-inch rod. Each banner must have the name and address of the congregation on the back.

SKIT COMPETITION

Skits should be based on the convention theme, and limited to ten (10) minutes in length. There is no limit on the number of actors/actresses in a skit. Entrants must provide their own costumes, props, etc. Competition will be limited to the first ten (10) congregations registering for the skit competition. All congregations sending entries will be informed if they have been accepted or not. Skit competition will take place on Thursday night, June 29th, 1995 as per 1995 ILDA schedule.

CHOIR COMPETITION

The choir competition will be two parts: choir with deaf directors and choir with hearing directors. Choirs may sing one or two songs with a combined length of not more than five (5) minutes. Songs must have a Christian message. Choirs must provide their own equipment, if any. Competition will be limited to the first six (6) choirs registered for competition. All congregations sending entries will be informed if they have been accepted or not. Choir competition will take place on Thursday night, June 29th, 1995.

Please submit your entry registration on or before June 1st, 1995.

1995 ILDA Convention Competition Registration

Responsible Person (Delegate) _____
Church Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip Code _____

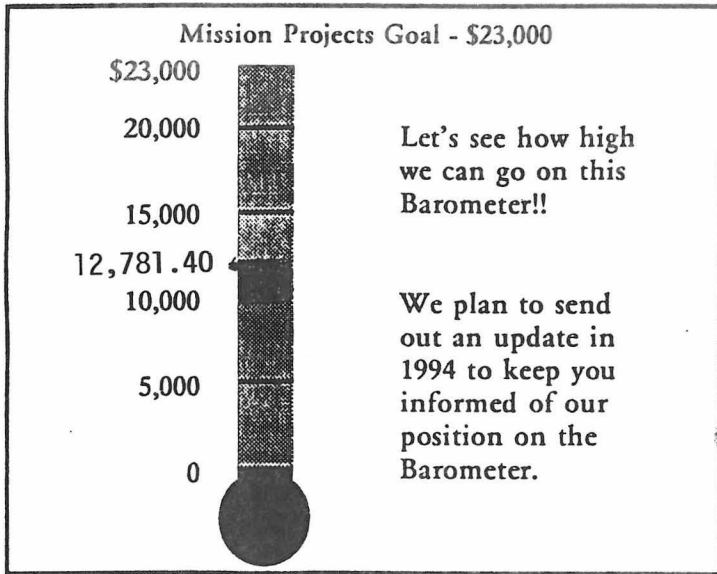
We are entering the competition for: Banner Skit Choir-Deaf Directors
 Choir-Hearing Directors

CUT OFF AND MAIL TO: 1995 ILDA COMPETITION COMMITTEE
EVELYN NIEMEYER
941 S. EAST AVENUE
OAK PARK, IL 60304

MISSIONS PROJECT UPDATE

Susan J. Konkel, chairperson of ILDA Mission Projects reports that as of June 30, 1994, donations and giving had reached

1993 - 1995 ILDA Mission Projects

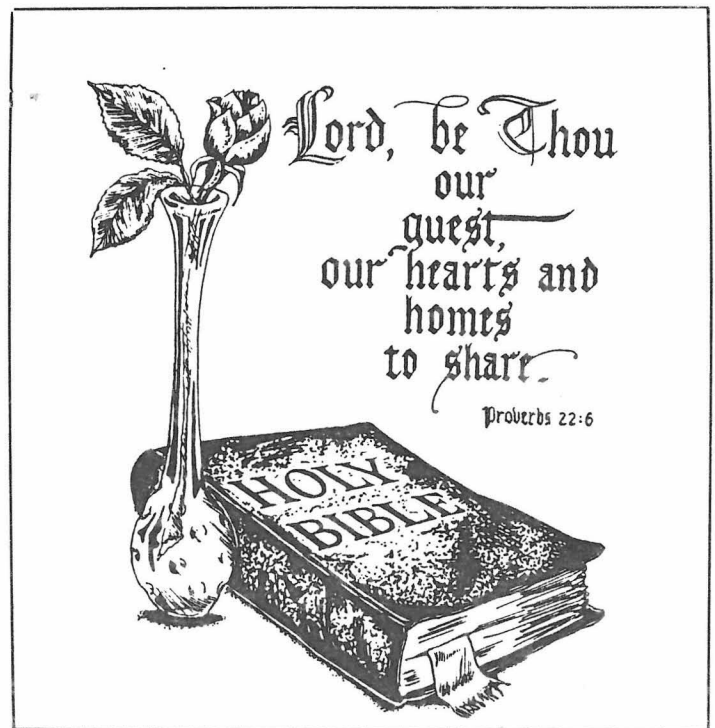


\$12,781.41.

With slightly more than \$10,000 left to raise in about one more year, we are hopeful we will top it!

KIDS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

A new Sunday School teacher had to iron out some problems with the Lord's Prayer. One child had to be corrected after repeating, "Howard be thy name." Another youngster prayed, "Lead us not into Penn Station." Still another surprised the teacher with, "Our Father, who art in heaven, how'd you know my name?"



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

September-October

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