

The Deaf Lutheran



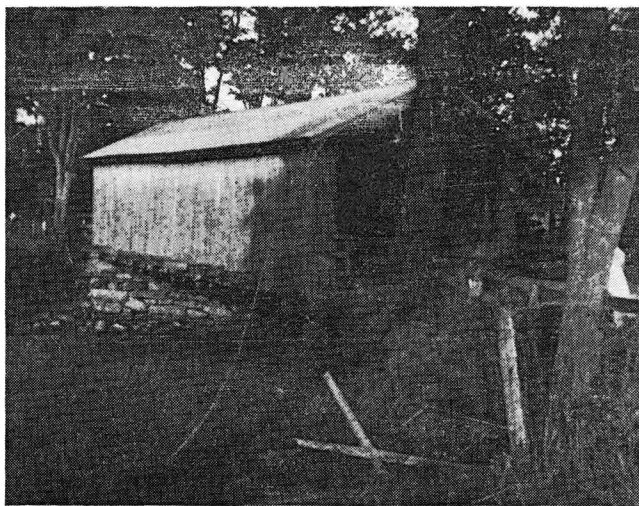
*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

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"Be still, and know that I am God."

— Psalm 46:10

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Cover Editorial

Did you ever hike through a woods and notice the peacefulness of the area? Or did you ever sit on a hillside and enjoy the breathtaking, awesome beauty of a distant mountain range? Or did you ever see a covered bridge surrounded by the stillness of trees and grasslands?

If so, then perhaps you also daydreamed and wished that life could be so peaceful. Life sometimes seems to give us only problems — problems of family and health, of limited choice of employment, of high-cost insurance, of accident and death. The storms of life never seem to end.

Think for a minute, though.

These quiet, beautiful woods, mountains, and country scenes are not always so peaceful, either. Stormy weather often hides the sunshine. But the storm does pass, and stillness comes again.

When the troubles of life come, the Lord says to us: "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46: 10). "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5). The Lord is ready and willing to give us comfort, peace. His Son, Jesus, came to take away the one cause of all trouble. Jesus takes away the guilt and shame of our sin and gives us forgiveness, peace, love, stillness.

In all trouble — *be still!* Praise His name!

Letter from Hong Kong

A Visit to Japan

It was my privilege to spend three weeks in Japan in April of this year right at the height of the cherry blossom time, and I can tell you that blossoms in Japan are every bit as beautiful as you have heard. Even though I was

raised in Michigan where the fruit trees burst forth into beautiful blossoms every year, I must say the Japan blossoms have a delicate beauty that I never saw in Michigan. I wish that all of you could have shared this joyous experience with me.

Third Pan Pacific Rehabilitation Conference

For the first five days of my stay in Japan I attended the Third Pan Pacific Rehabilitation Conference. About 1000 participants gathered from 27 countries. This conference, which began a few years ago in Australia, brings together people involved in rehabilitating all types of disabled people. They share their insights and

success and encourage one another in the further development and expansion of rehabilitation programs.

Japan was a well chosen location for the conference, for the country has made excellent progress in the field of rehabilitation since the war. The royal family encourages the program, and His

Royal Highness, the Crown Prince Akihito, with the Crown Princess Michiko, attended the opening ceremony. Crown Princess Michiko also took an active interest in the volunteer programs during the sessions on the third day.

The conference conducted only one section on speech and hearing rehabilitation. We heard presentations from deaf educators of Japan, New Zealand, and Korea. My only regret is that more attention was not given to the prob-

lems of rehabilitating the deaf. Deafness, the "Invisible Handicap," still presents serious problems, because so often it is not seen. Tentative plans call for the next conference to be held here in Hong Kong in 1968. If this is the case, we shall certainly do what we can to encourage the conference to give more attention to the deaf.

The most encouraging feature of the entire conference was the interest that is developing in all



Yasuni Shrine in Tokyo. This is the shrine of the martyrs where throngs of people come to pray to the spirits of those who gave their lives in the service of their country

countries in this part of the world for rehabilitating the handicapped. Much credit must be given to institutions and individuals in America for their influence and help in training and counselling for the development of such programs.

Japan General Conference

A few days after the rehabilitation conference I boarded a train in Tokyo with fellow missionaries for a 4-hour trip southwest to a small city called Kiyosato which is in the heart of the southern Japan Alps. The trip cut through the beautiful mountains and valleys with their cherry and plumb orchards in blossom. People along the way were preparing their lands for the next rice crop.

Kiyosato is at an elevation of 5,000 feet, and, much to our surprise as we walked off the train, we found ourselves in a blizzard. I was not prepared for cold weather and had left my top coat back in Hong Kong. Fortunately, I had brought along a sweater which served me well during the next few days. I had not seen snow for over a year, and, while it did not last long on the ground, it was a thrilling sight once again.

The next morning as we walked from our dormitory to the main lodge for breakfast, the view was simply breathtaking. Behind the main lodge rose majestic peaks with the new snow cover. Way off in the distance jutting skyward was the snow-covered Mount Fuji, and all around us were the



Praying to the spirits of the dead. They come, they bow, they clap their hands, a moment of meditation, a small coin tossed into the box, and then they leave. How heavy a Christian's heart is as he sees this meaningless motion

green valleys with their stately pines. The lodge where we stayed was part of an agricultural experiment by a Christian missionary. He had successfully shown that dairy farming could be done in Japan. So at every meal we found at our place a tall glass of cold fresh milk.

Sleeping accommodations were Japanese style, although the food was Western. We slept in rooms with a *tatami* (a rice straw mat) floor. On this were placed our *futons*, very heavy blankets. For our pillow we used bags filled with beans of some kind, something like the bean bags children play with in America. Our covers were much thicker *futons* which kept us quite warm during the

night. Actually it provided a very comfortable and restful sleep.

Another interesting feature of our stay in Kiyosato was the *ofuro*, the Japanese bath. An *ofuro* is a large tub filled with very hot water which can hold four people. Before entering this water, one lathers himself with soap and then rinses off so that he is clean. Once he has washed, one enters the *ofuro* for relaxation. I must have spent about 15 minutes or so the first time I entered this bath. When I came out, I actually found myself weak, it had been so relaxing. This is one feature of Japan that I would like to bring to Hong Kong.

The Japan General Conference gathers all of our missionaries and Japanese pastors together. I had an opportunity to stress the need for Christian work among the handicapped, especially the deaf. I was pleased to see the interest and response to my remarks, and I am hopeful that the Lord will lead our Japan conference eventually to take some action to work among the deaf. A report has been submitted to the conference giving them some concrete suggestions as to what action could be taken.

A Visit to Niigata

After the Japan General Conference, I accompanied Missionary Victor Zwintscher on his return trip to Niigata on the west coast of the island of Honshu. It is about a 4-hour train ride from Tokyo. This is an area of our

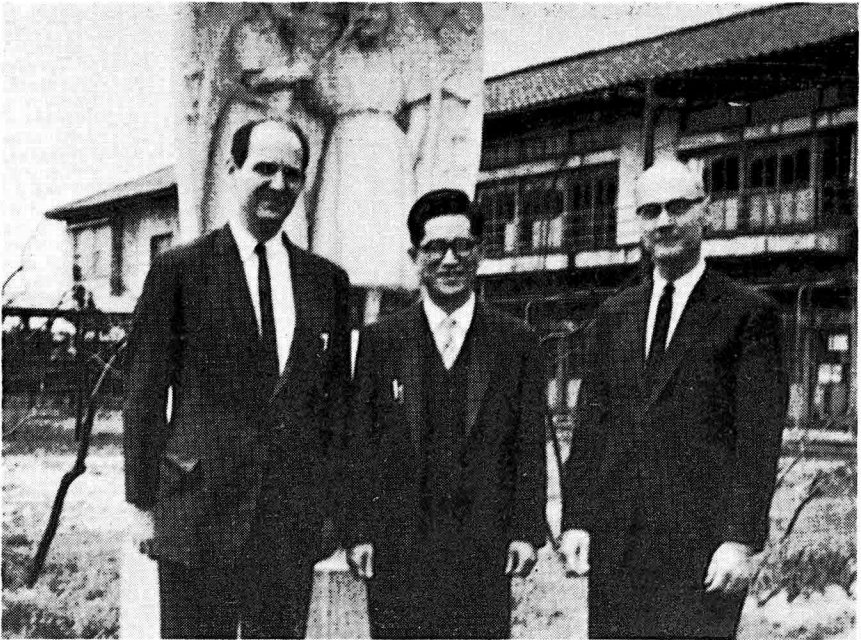
Japan work I have never visited before.

Niigata is mainly rural with one large city, Niigata City. Here I had the opportunity to visit a deaf school. About 99 percent of all deaf children in the Niigata Prefecture are now in one of the Prefecture's two deaf schools. This is a much higher percentage than usual, since the national average points to only 60 percent of deaf children in school.

The medium of instruction is lip reading and speech, although the children communicate with each other on the playground and outside of school with signs. This school, as all Prefectural schools, contains elementary school, three years of high school, and three years of senior high school. Vocational training includes wood-working and a metal shop for boys and Japanese and Western dressmaking for the girls. The principal stated that all of the graduates had jobs and earned a salary approximately the same as a hearing high school graduate.

With its 106 schools for the deaf throughout the country, Japan has taken care of the problem of educating the deaf quite well. However some principals of these schools are giving second thought to total oral training and think that some kind of manual communication would also be helpful.

No Christian work is done among the deaf in the Niigata area. Here is an area where our church could begin religious work, but we must trust the Lord



(L. to r.) Rev. William Reinking; the principal of the Niigata City Prefectural School for the Deaf; and Rev. Victor Zwintscher, missionary of our Lutheran church in Niigata, pose for this picture before a statue honoring Helen Keller. The Niigata City Prefectural School for the Deaf is in the background

to lead and guide us for such a decision.

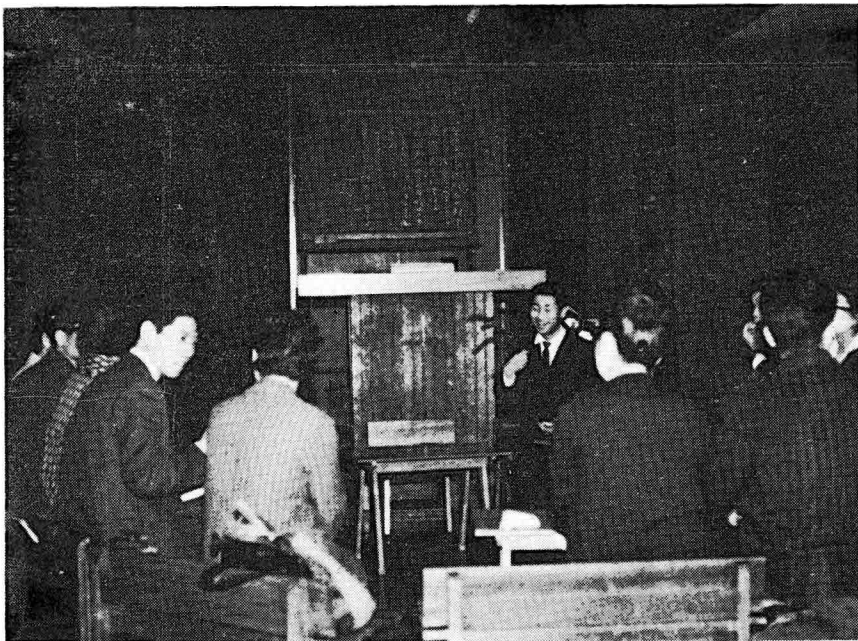
After visiting the Niigata deaf school, I spent the next two days visiting some of our Lutheran hearing churches and discussing general missionary work in the Niigata area. Here Christian work is extremely difficult. The area is mainly rural, and the people are more hesitant to give up their non-Christian worship.

Yet the Holy Spirit is at work in the hearts of individuals, and our mission is growing slowly. I had the privilege of sitting in on a Bible class of ten women one Tuesday morning at Rev. Zwint-

scher's home. I spoke to them about the needs of the deaf, and they assured me they will pray that the Lord would lead us and bless Christian work among the Japanese deaf. None of these women have been baptized, but it was clear that all of them knew and loved their Savior.

Other Christian Work

Christian work among the deaf in Japan is at about the same stage it was when I visited there in 1960. Ephphatha Church is still the only church for the deaf in Tokyo and is served by Rev. Ishida. I was privileged to wor-



Rev. Ishida, pastor of Ephphatha Church in Tokyo, speaks informally with his members following the Easter morning service. Note the blackboard. Rev. Ishida uses only a few signs and depends on writing to bring the main points of his message to his people. He speaks clearly to his members who are all former students of oral schools. At the present time the oral method is the only method used to teach the deaf in Japan

ship with this congregation on Easter Sunday morning. It was a thrill to join with the deaf in rejoicing in the Resurrection of our Savior, but it was also sad to see only 12 at the service. The Japanese government has estimated the total number of deaf in Japan to be 146,000 — a great number to be reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Oriental Deaf Christ Evangelistic Church Inc. has been established by the Coryells, a mother and daughter team. They have been in Japan for thirteen years and are training deaf evangelists so that the work can be

indigenous. They presently claim to have about 3,000 members.

Rev. Maekawa of the Free Methodist Church continues to work with a group of deaf in Osaka, and I was told that the Southern Baptists still have a group in Kyoto.

The newest development of Christian deaf work has been done by the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church in the southern island of Kyushu. One of the Japanese pastors has a very severe hearing loss and has established deaf work in his area. He also uses two deaf as evangelists or parish workers.

Nippon Rowa Gakko

Wonderful work has been done for the deaf by the Nippon Rowa Gakko, the Japan oral school of Tokyo and the only Christian deaf school in Japan. Rev. Reischauer, the father of the present United States Ambassador to Japan, established this school several years ago when he learned that his own daughter was deaf.

The Nippon Rowa Gakko has been an outstanding pioneer in deaf education. Presently, a special program has been started for preschool children. A dormitory has been built across the street to house mothers of the small deaf children. In this way the

mother can attend the classes with her deaf child and so learn to work with the child at home. In the beginners' class in April I saw children of 22 months to 3 years of age.

Every Saturday morning a Bible study hour is conducted, and a worship service is held twice a month on Sunday afternoons. The principal of the school, Mr. Ooshima, is not only an outstanding educator of the deaf, but also a very fine Christian. Any deaf child who is fortunate enough to attend this school will receive a fine education, and, more important, he will learn to know Jesus Christ as his Savior.



Preschool class of deaf children at Nippon Rowa Gakko in Tokyo. This is the finest and the only Christian deaf school in Japan

We Must Pray

All the work that has been done for Jesus has only scratched the surface. A great opportunity and challenge stands before our church. However, with the rise of the non-Christian religions, the increasing prosperity of Japan, and the feeling of nationalism, Christian work in general is not easy in Japan. It must have the

guidance and blessing of God. May God hasten the day when many more deaf in Japan will be able to learn of Jesus. May God guide our church to establish worship services and Bible classes for the Japanese deaf. And you, dear reader, can have a part of this work, too. Remember our mission in your prayers.

REV. WILLIAM REINKING
Kowloon, Hong Kong



Rev. Ernest C. Mappes (center) is congratulated by Dr. Oliver R. Harms (left), the President of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, upon receiving the John of Beverley award for outstanding work in providing spiritual help for the deaf. Mr. Melvin Luebke (right), headmaster of Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf on Long Island, N. Y., presented the award at the Detroit convention, June 18

John of Beverley was the first clergyman known to have been vitally interested in the spiritual needs of deaf children. The Long Island school for the deaf named its award in his honor

Pastor Mappes, after serving the deaf for 44 years, retired from the active ministry on July 1. He was a pastor in the Omaha, Nebr., Field. (See article next page)



FIELD

GLEANINGS

Rev. Ernest Mappes Retires

Omaha, Nebr. Rev. Ernest C. Mappes has retired from the active ministry after serving his Lord and our Lutheran deaf for 44 years.

During this time Pastor Mappes was missionary in the Omaha Field of Deaf Missions and was responsible for the establishment of the Des Moines, Iowa, and the Sioux Falls, S. Dak., fields.

In a special worship service on June 13, deaf and hearing friends honored Pastor Mappes and gave thanks to God for his many years of faithful service. More than 400 persons attended the service and the reception that followed.

It was Pastor Mappes' sincere wish that he be given no personal gift. Therefore, members and friends purchased a three panel bulletin board enclosed by glass doors as a memorial for the many years of faithful service by their beloved pastor. Rev. Mappes' witness to the love of God in Christ continues as the Word is displayed in prominent beauty to worshipers at Bethlehem Church, Omaha.

REV. HERMAN GRAEF

Eastern Lay Retreat

Bronxville, N. Y. The annual Lutheran Deaf Retreat for the

Eastern Region was held June 11 to 13 at Concordia Collegiate Institute, Bronxville. Approximately 60 participants from New England, New York, New Jersey, and Maryland met to discuss the topic, *Partners with God*.

Pastors Hoemann, Jasper, and Gerhold introduced the theme by describing how it happened that we became God's partner. Each



Wayne Schafer (left) and his pastor, Rev. Clark R. Bailey, pose for a picture following Wayne's confirmation on Palm Sunday, April 11, at Memorial Lutheran Chapel for the Deaf, Oakland, Calif.

Wayne, a day student at the California School for the Deaf, Berkeley, received private instruction at his home on Saturdays.

speaker emphasized God's action in establishing a partnership between God and man. Pastor Hoemann spoke on *God's Adoption of Sons*. Pastor Jasper described God's people as *Heirs of Heaven*. And Pastor Gerhold explained on the basis of John 3:16 how God planted faith in the hearts of Christians and so made them *Believers in Christ*.



Vicar and Mrs. Wendell Peterson (right) of New York meet Mr. & Mrs. William Martini of Baltimore during the Friday evening get-acquainted gathering at the Eastern Region's retreat at Bronxville, N. Y., June 11-13.

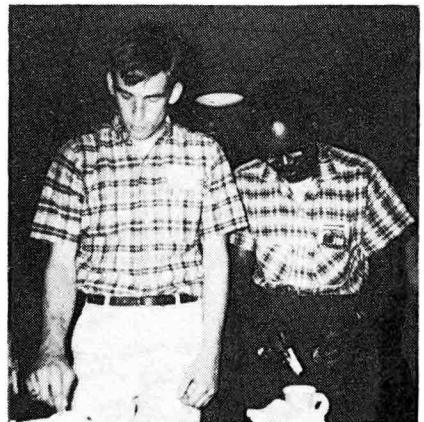


Regional Counselor Rev. C. Roland Gerhold chats with a participant at the retreat.

Following these presentations the assembly broke up into small groups to discuss the two remaining sub-topics: *God's Action as Our Partner* and *Our Action as God's Partner*. Emphasis was given to the important truth that God calls each person to his occupation or profession in life so that he may serve God with the abilities which God has given him. Moreover, if it is God who calls us to our tasks and supports us in

our work, we ought also to share with the church a percentage of what we earn in our earthly calling.

During the business meeting on Saturday night officers were elected for the coming year. Mr. Richard Hall was elected chairman; Mr. William Martini, vice-



Participants of the Eastern Regional Retreat enjoy a refreshments break.

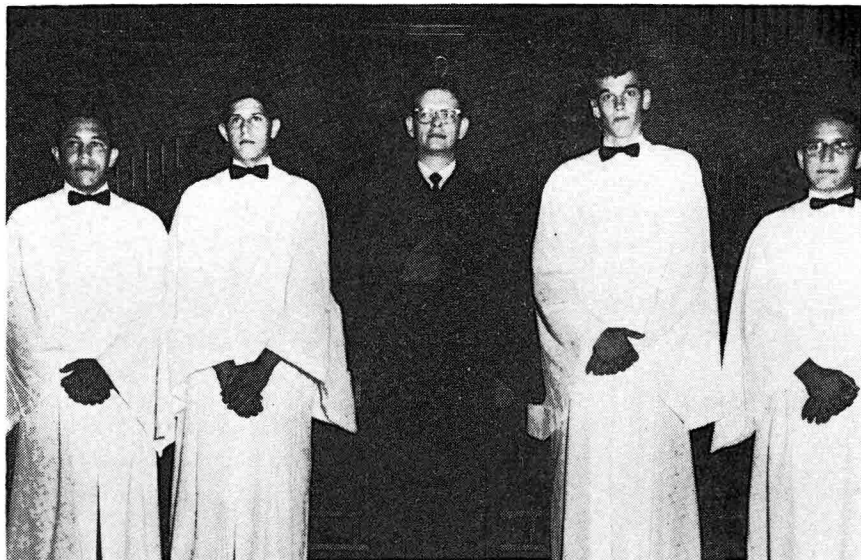
chairman; and Miss Norma Bushey was re-elected secretary.

The morning worship service was held at the Village Church of Bronxville with Rev. C. Roland Gerhold serving as preacher and Rev. Robert Blakely interpreting the liturgy.

REV. H. W. HOEMANN

NOTICE

**Central Regional Conference
scheduled for September
in Milwaukee, Wis., has been
postponed
until spring, 1966**



Confirmation class at Columbus, Ohio.

On Sunday, May 23, four students of the Ohio School for the Deaf renewed the promises made for them at their baptism when they spoke their confirmation vows of faithfulness to Jesus until death.

(L. to r.) Frankie Cassese, Cleveland; Alan Sutton, Mansfield; Rev. William A. Ludwig, pastor of the Columbus, Ohio, Field; Vernon Kline, Columbus; and Greg Johannsen, Wooster.

Devotions

This month we read the book of Acts. This is a short history of the work of the Apostles in starting churches and spreading Jesus' Word to the world. From chapter 1 to chapter 12 Peter is

the central character. Chapters 13 to 28 tell of Paul and his work.

Following the reading, we have added a few words to encourage you to think quietly about God's Word.

We also encourage you to pray.

Talk to God. He always hears you. He will answer your prayer if you believe. We have suggested some prayer topics.

Pray for your pastor, for all the

missionaries to the deaf, their wives and special workers. The date on which their names appear is their birthday.



LIGHT FOR YOUR WAY

Daily Bible Readings

for September

- Sept. 1** — **Acts 1:1-14.** The ascension of Jesus is the beginning of the story of the church. Pray for Mrs. Ottilie Ferber, pastor's wife, Fargo, N. Dak.
- Sept. 2** — **Acts 1:15-26.** Matthias willingly accepted a difficult task. Ask God to give you work to do for Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to bless your work.
- Sept. 3** — **Acts 2:1-28.** God gave great power to waiting hearts and minds. As a Christian, you should want and expect such power from God. Ask for the courage to trust the Holy Spirit's guidance.
- Sept. 4** — **Acts 2:29-47.** The church grows when men speak the Word of God. Pray for Mrs. Rhoda Rynearson, pastor's wife, Spokane, Wash.
- Sept. 5** — **Acts 3:1-16.** If you had Peter's power and courage to heal, would you also use it to glorify God? Pray for confidence and for love to use your abilities to praise Christ Jesus.
- Sept. 6** — **Acts 4:1-22.** Your own experience in Christ is often your best witness. Pray that the officers of your congregation will experience the love and power of God.
- Sept. 7** — **Acts 4:23-37.** The congregation, united in praise and love, feels the power of God. Ask God to bless your congregation with such hope and to unite its members in His love.
- Sept. 8** — **Acts 5:17-42.** Peter disobeyed the government when he preached Christ. You may have to disagree with the practice and ideas of your community to live and teach about Christ. Pray for Rev. Frank Wagenknecht, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Sept. 9** — **Acts 6:1-15.** Stephen was not afraid to work for Jesus and speak for Him. But some people hated his words and looked for ways to hurt him. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your friends into the fellowship of the church.

- Sept. 10—Acts 7:44-60.** Guided by the Holy Spirit, Stephen showed his judges their sin. Pray for Rev. A. E. Ferber, Kansas City, Mo.
- Sept. 11 — Acts 8:1-8.** Where a Christian goes, the church goes with him. Do your friends know you are a Christian? Pray that all Christians may point to Jesus with their words and deeds wherever they go.
- Sept. 12 — Acts 8:26-40.** If God's commands seem unwise to you, remember how Philip obeyed. Pray for the many thousands of Japanese deaf who do not know Jesus. Pray that God would lead our church to teach them of Jesus.
- Sept. 13 — Acts 9:1-9.** Although many still refuse to accept Jesus now, God wants them all to be His people. Pray for Mrs. Hera Borchardt, pastor's wife, Detroit, Mich.
- Sept. 14 — Acts 10:1-23.** God prepares His workers for their task. Wait patiently for Him to lead you. Pray that all members of the church will be ready to understand the needs of others.
- Sept. 15 — Acts 10:24-48.** God Himself led Peter to love all people without prejudice. Pray for Rev. H. W. Rohe, Executive Secretary, Board for Missions to the Deaf, St. Louis, Mo.
- Sept. 16 — Acts 11:19-30.** When God directed them, Christians received His guidance with joy. Pray for Mrs. Janet Leber, pastor's wife, Memphis, Tenn.
- Sept. 17 — Acts 12:1-19.** Would you accept a miracle if it came to you? Pray for the Christians imprisoned by godless men, that they be released.
- Sept. 18 — Acts 13:1-12.** With power and courage the church makes its way. Dare to speak out strongly against its enemies. Pray for Mrs. Sigrid Ludwig, pastor's wife, Columbus, Ohio.
- Sept. 19 — Acts 13:44-52.** People who hear and accept the Good News of Jesus' forgiveness are acceptable as members of the church. Ask God to give our church courage to preach His Word of love and forgiveness to the deaf in the Philippines.
- Sept. 20 — Acts 15:1-29.** After studying God's Word, the church found the truth and followed it with action. Pray for Rev. Donald Leber, Memphis, Tenn.
- Sept. 21 — Acts 16:6-15.** Doors were opened to the disciples, and without hesitation they went forward. Pray for the deaf in the North Chicago field that they live their faith with love for all people.
- Sept. 22 — Acts 17:16-34.** It is not wisdom or intelligence that makes you a child of God, but humble faith. Pray for true humility that you may treat all people as equal in Jesus Christ.
- Sept. 23 — Acts 21:17-36.** Churches led by false teachers may make great mistakes. Be sure as you speak about them you act with love for Jesus. Pray for those who follow false teachings that God would lead them to see their errors and change.

- Sept. 24 — Acts 22:30—23:11.** The solid foundation of faith is Christ. Only be sure that your beliefs agree with His Gospel. Pray for the deaf in the New England Field that they stand firm in their faith in Jesus.
- Sept. 25 — Acts 23:31—24:23.** Sometimes we fail when we try to serve Jesus, but often God turns that failure into a better opportunity. Pray for the deaf of the Indianapolis, Ind., Field that they may willingly serve Jesus through all their lives.
- Sept. 26 — Acts 25:1-12.** Through danger and fear God's will was done, and Paul went to Rome. Pray that God's will be done and His kingdom come, even though this may happen through your trouble.
- Sept. 27 — Acts 25:23—26:32.** Paul was not ashamed of his work, because he stood with Christ. Ask God to give wisdom to your church officers and teachers.
- Sept. 28 — Acts 27:1-26.** God keeps His servants safe for His work. He has reason to protect you. Pray that God will keep all His people safe who must travel for His church's work.
- Sept. 29 — Acts 28:1-16.** Paul helped others when he could, without thinking about his own discomfort or trouble. Pray for the deaf of the Greensboro, N. C., Field.
- Sept. 30 — Acts 28:17-31.** Although his own people arrested him, looked for ways to kill him, and beat him, Paul still tries to win them for Jesus. Ask God to give you the love to forgive others without hatred or revenge.

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