

The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

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*"I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me a drink; I was a stranger, and you took Me into your homes; naked, and you gave Me something to wear; sick, and you looked after Me; in prison, and you visited Me."
(Matthew 25: 35-36 Beck)*

Christmas in Hong Kong

This time of year in Hong Kong is a busy one. The stores are crowded with people doing their Christmas shopping. Some of the larger stores have a person dressed in a red suit with white whiskers called Father Christmas instead of Santa Claus.

Christmas music can be heard over the noise and din of the streets. Although Christmas is not observed in nearby Communist China, the large Communist-owned stores in Hong Kong are gaily decorated for the Christmas season. During the last few years for the first time in Hong Kong's history Christmas decorations have adorned the main streets of the business sections.

The Lutheran Chapel at Nathan Road is right in the heart of the Kowloon business district. The congregation here felt it had an obligation in the midst of all

this Christmas commercialism to let the real Christmas story come through.

Several of the deaf members of the congregation made a manger scene a few years ago. Working from a small picture of the Christmas story on a Sunday school leaflet, the deaf painted a life-size manger scene on plywood. At Christmastime the manger scene is placed on a veranda outside one of the second-floor chapel windows. At night lights are turned on the scene so that people on the street and those in buses can see the picture clearly.

For Christians in Hong Kong Christmas Day is traditionally set aside for baptisms and confirmations. Last year, for example 12 deaf were confirmed and 16 baptized at Nathan Road Lutheran Chapel in Kowloon. Some 157

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These deaf young people of the Nathan Road Lutheran deaf congregation are ready in their costumes to present the story of Christmas at their annual pageant

deaf and hearing attended that Christmas Day service.

In addition the deaf hold an annual Christmas service and program at Concordia Lutheran School in Kowloon. Last year 340 deaf and their hearing parents and friends worshiped at the service and watched the deaf young people portray the Christmas story in a pageant.

In spite of the Communist-

inspired riots and bombings that have happened the last 6 months in the Hong Kong area, the real meaning of Christmas will be celebrated once again by Christians here. Your fellow deaf Lutherans here will again hold their special services to share the wondrous love-Gift God has given us. May their zeal and enthusiasm for Jesus inspire your Christmas preparation and celebration this year. Above all let us pray for one another that we may have God's blessing and strength, and let us pray for the millions of unchurched deaf around the world who have not yet heard of God's love in Jesus.

REV. WILLIAM F. REINKING

New Address
LDMS Financial Secretary

Rev. R. G. Blakely
14 Robinwood Rd.
Norwood, Mass. 02062



Rev. Philip Ho places the hand of blessing upon two young deaf girls as they kneel for confirmation at Nathan Road Lutheran Chapel in Kowloon. Mrs. Chen, on the right, interprets in the language of signs

Shall We Love Them?

Christian Social Welfare In Focus — December

Sometimes pastors are asked, "Does it pay, *really* pay, to spend so much of your time and effort with the men, women, and children in schools and hospitals for the mentally retarded and the mentally ill?"

"Do you feel, pastor, that you are using your time and strength wisely?"

"Should such people be included in your care and responsibility?"

"Could you not use your time to better advantage with less

strain and stress if you would devote it to those who are not so severely handicapped?"

In answer to these questions, first of all, a pastor must say yes, this is the Lord's work — yes, it pays. The effort and time spent with patients in hospitals for the mentally ill, in schools for retarded children, in prisons, and other related institutions brings wonderful returns. Again and again one sees so clearly what God can do with these people. Surely God also loves them and wants them to be His people.

In the second place, time spent with these patients is used as God

directs us to use it. (See cover.) God expects His believing children to share the love they have received in Jesus Christ with all people, especially with the poor, the sick, and the imprisoned. Perhaps other areas of the Lord's work do not demand so much energy and strength, but a pastor would feel he was shirking a vital duty if he did not put all he could into work with these special people.

When a pastor is ordained, he vows to serve the Lord wherever he is called or sent and to serve Him to the best of his ability as God supplies the strength and wisdom.

A pastor's time is not his own. It is God's time. It is the time God has given him for service wherever He might lead or send him. A pastor, therefore, does not feel he is wasting God-given time when he spends hours or even days in this hospital work. He may only regret that he does not have enough time.

The Savior of All

The Lord Jesus is the Savior of all mankind. He not only loves those who are mentally and physically healthy, He also loves those whom God in His wisdom has given some mental or physical defect.

In the Parable of the Great Supper Jesus tells us that the king sent his servants out into the lanes and back streets of the city, into the hedgerows and slums to bring in all whom they found —

the blind, the maimed, and the halt. The king wanted his house filled for the banquet. In the same way God sends us all — His people, His servants — into those forgotten areas of the city, into the hospitals, institutions, and prisons — that these people too may know Jesus and the way to heaven.

I suppose other areas of service to God may be easier and more enchanting than visiting the wards of a large hospital or the cell of a prison. After serving some 47 years in such places as these, however, I have yet to find a work that gives a more soul-satisfying reward. During these long years of service as pastor and missionary in many hospitals and institutions I have found evidence of God's power, grace, love, and mercy that is beyond all understanding.

Yes, It's Difficult

Certainly it is not always easy, nor is it always pleasant. Often the flesh is tempted to give up and quit. Often the pastor is discouraged, weary, and might well think, "What's the use? It's hopeless, so frustrating, and apparently fruitless!"

Then, when the pastor is so "down-in-the-dumps," God shows His power — the power of His Word, the power to do what He pleases! Often I have been reminded of God's Word in 1 Corinthians 1: 26-28:

Now remember what you were, brothers, when God called you. Few

of you were wise, or powerful, or of high social status, from the human point of view. God purposely chose what the world considers nonsense in order to put wise men to shame, and what the world considers weak in order to put powerful men to shame. He chose what the world looks down on, and despises, and thinks is nothing, in order to destroy what the world thinks is important. (TEV)

During my ministry in mental hospitals and prisons I have seen the truth of this Word of God. I often stop and think that my time and energy given in these places was well spent. My only regret and wish has been that I had more time, more wisdom and ability to serve the Lord here.

Yes, it does pay to try to reach these lowly ones. If God's love can touch these people in this world and work wonders, how much more will it bless those who are gathered in the harvest into eternal life!

God's Word Works

Let me tell you how God's Word touches people and changes them. When His Word is used, it does not come back to Him void or empty, but it has the power to do what God wants.

In "X" city, for example, we visit a large hospital for the mentally ill. Here thousands of men, women, and children are confined. The grounds are beautifully kept, and the hospital is modern to the last detail. Looking at it from the outside, one would never picture a world of misery, unspeakable

loneliness, and suffering that one finds behind those walls. Let us visit some of our people.

Here we know a young man, whom we will call "Vic." Hopelessly ill, Vic could not read or write. He could not speak, nor could he hear. He was so terribly alone! This poor soul showed no emotion and did not respond to any word. For two long years all efforts to reach him seemed wasted. Vic simply would not respond.

One day I came to work with him, and suddenly he responded! It was as if some unseen hand had raised the curtain, and the sunshine poured into a dark place. Vic began to sign. Pointing to a picture of the Good Shepherd, he said, "He loves me!"

From that moment on he joined in the signing of hymns and prayers. He began to tell things that the doctors had never understood about him. Amazing? We were all but moved to tears of wonder and thankfulness to see what God had done. Oh yes, it pays! Today Vic is physically ill, and it seems that the Savior will soon call him home. How we shall miss him when that day comes.

Other Blessings

Mr. "R" is a true hillbilly. He has never seen the inside of a school. For years he was sullen and bitter—an angry man. He was ready to fight at the drop of a hat. He was a man the other patients feared. Ward attendants were leery of him.

Today Mr. "R" is very friendly and meets everyone with a real smile of welcome. Now he knows Jesus Christ as Savior, and he knows Jesus loves him. How happy he is in this knowledge! He has learned to sign and now can express his thoughts and feelings. Pointing to the picture of Jesus in Gethsemane, he said, "He leads me to heaven!" See what sharing Jesus can do?

We could go on and tell about Mrs. "B," a deaf-blind-mute who now often leads in the signing of the Lord's Prayer. For many years she was only a lump on a log.

Mr. "P" is another example. Today he never fails to come to the altar to kneel and pray. A few years ago he was a hopeless case, but today he is a happy child of God!

Then I must tell you about "Bill" who daily walked and talked with Jesus. Although Bill

was deaf and almost totally blind, he heard and saw his Savior. On his deathbed when we told him that his Friend was coming to take him home, he answered, "Oh, I am so glad!" Today Bill is with that faithful Friend where there is no more sorrow, pain, or woe, no more loneliness and tears!

Do you ask, "Pastor, does it pay?" Yes, thank God, it does pay! We *know* this work of love is important. We have this assurance that God wants us to do it. Shall we gladly spend our time where our Savior calls us to serve? As long as He wants me to, I shall! But what about *you*? When your friends are sick at home or in the hospital, do you visit them and comfort them? When you see that some poor individual needs help, do you give it? May God give you the courage and the love to share Jesus!

CHAPLAIN W. A. WESTERMANN

Exploring in the Bible

God is a very important part of our lives. It is He who has made us what we are. It is He who gives us all we need for our daily living. David knew this and often praised God for His greatness and goodness.

In your Bible read Psalm 145. This psalm is one of David's songs of praise to God.

In the exercise below join together the two parts of the psalm verse that belong together.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Great is the Lord | a. the praise of the Lord. |
| 2. His greatness is | b. in all His ways. |
| 3. The Lord is good | c. and greatly to be praised. |
| 4. The Lord is just | d. that call on Him. |

5. The Lord is near to all e. unsearchable.
 6. My mouth shall speak f. to all.

David often praised God for His forgiveness. In your Bible read Psalm 51 and 1 John 1:7-10. God wants to give forgiveness to everyone. But first God leads people to *repentance*. That means that a person knows his sin and shame, turns away from that sin, and prays to God for forgiveness. Surely, if we confess our sins to God, He will forgive us.

David also praised God for His creation. Read the following Bible verses and match them with the list of God's wonderful creation: Psalm 8: 3; 24: 1, 2; 65: 6, 10, 13.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. seas | 4. mountains |
| 2. earth | 5. showers of rain |
| 3. flocks | 6. heavens, stars, moon |

We too should praise the Lord. We should praise Him for His greatness and goodness, for life and health in this His created world, for forgiveness, and especially for the gift of the Savior, Jesus, His Son. *How excellent and majestic is His name in all the earth!* (Psalm 8:9)

Answers on page 186.

— The Question Box —

Dear Reader,

The Question Box is your corner. Here we intend to answer any of your questions that may be of interest and help to your fellow deaf Lutherans. Up to now questions have come only from the Great Lakes Region. We are looking to the other parts of the country and hope to hear soon from the rest of you. We invite you to send questions about church teachings, church history, or church practices to me at the address below.

The questions and answers for this issue were posed and written during confirmation instruction last year by Gallaudet student, Miss Kaye Peacock, and Rev. Harry Hoemann.

REV. WILLIAM A. LUDWIG

Q. *What is the chief work of the church?*

A. The chief work of the church is to bring people to faith in God and to strengthen the faith that people have in God.

Q. *How does the church do this work?*

A. First, the church is interested in people who are *not members*. The church goes to them to tell them about the Savior, Jesus, and to help them in any way that the church can. This is called *mission work*.

Some people live near the church. Mission work means that

members of the church will invite these friends and neighbors to come to church and join the church. They will visit these people who are not church members and try to bring them to faith.

Other people live in other countries. Mission work also means that church members give money to send doctors and missionaries to these countries and build churches there.

Second, the church is interested in its own members. The church wants to strengthen each member in his faith in Jesus and train every member for doing the work of the church.

The church does this through its worship services, where the members hear the Word of God preached and explained, receive Baptism and Holy Communion, and are taught what Christians are to do. Here the money Christians give to God is also used to support the office of the minister, who leads the congregation in its work of teaching, preaching, and giving the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Q. *How does each church member help with the work of the church?*

A. Each church member can help with the work of bringing people to faith by inviting people to come to church, encouraging them to become members, and bringing people to church with him on Sunday.

He can help with the work of bringing people of other countries to faith in Jesus by giving money to support doctors and missionaries who preach to these people.

Each member can support the work of strengthening the faith of every other member, too. He can do this by contributing money and time to the upkeep of the church building and by sharing the cost of the pastor's salary. Each member of the church can help by serving as a church officer, teaching in the Sunday school, or working on special projects of the church. Each member can help with the worship service by serving as an acolyte, lay reader, usher, or member of the choir. Each member shares his faith in Jesus by going to church every Sunday and by being friendly and welcoming the other people who come to church.

Each member of the church, by being an *active* member, can help strengthen the faith of every other member. This is exactly what God wants His people to do.

Address your questions on any church-related subject to: The Question Box, Rev. William A. Ludwig, 360 Morse Road, Columbus, Ohio 43214

Meet a Fellow Deaf Lutheran

George Lawther

Several months ago when a new educational unit was sorely needed at Trinity Lutheran



Church of the Deaf in Pittsburgh, Pa., the congregation was a few thousand dollars short to complete the building. This problem was quickly eliminated when Trinity found it had a man whose talents lay in the area of building and cabinetmaking.

George Lawther's love for Christ put him into action immediately. He became a foreman for the deaf corps of workers who tiled and painted. He never stopped working himself. For many nights faithful George would burn lights late at night in the church as he worked to finish the educational wing. He gave more than 500 hours of his time.

Trinity Congregation thanks God for men like George. He has not always been a Lutheran. But God brought him to our church and gave us his talents and consecration, so that our Lord's kingdom among the deaf in Pittsburgh might spread. George is serving

the congregation as head trustee — a difficult task, to see that the entire church is kept in good shape.

George lives with his wife, Grace, in a beautiful home, which he built himself. They have three married children. Their grandchildren are a source of much joy to them. But their chief joy is Jesus Christ, whom they love as their Lord and Savior.



Rev. Robert Corl, missionary to the deaf in the northern Wisconsin field, volunteered some of his time to serve as interpreter and advisor at the Wisconsin Association of the Deaf exhibit booth at the State Fair held at West Allis. Here he speaks with an interested family

Answers for Exploring in the Bible

- | | |
|------|----------------|
| 1. c | 1. Psalm 24:2 |
| 2. e | 2. Psalm 24:1 |
| 3. f | 3. Psalm 65:13 |
| 4. b | 4. Psalm 65:6 |
| 5. d | 5. Psalm 65:10 |
| 6. a | 6. Psalm 8:3 |

Directory of Regular Sunday Services

The listings in this directory are limited to those congregations that conduct regular services every Sunday.

In addition to these, your Lutheran missionaries serve 184 preaching stations throughout the United States and Canada.

If you are interested in these unlisted once-or-twice-a-month services in your state, the pastor serving your area is listed on page 192 of this magazine. He will be happy to answer any questions.

For your information as you read this directory, "SS" means Sunday school, "BC" means Bible class, and times listed are a. m. except where noted otherwise.

ARIZONA

Phoenix, Our Savior

5105 N. 7th Ave.
SS — 9:30. Worship — 9:30
Rev. Theodore Frederking, pastor

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles, Pilgrim

1233 S. Vermont Ave.
SS — 11:00. Worship — 11:00
Rev. A. T. Jonas, pastor

Oakland, Memorial

1011 Grove St.
SS — 9:00, BC — 11:15
Worship — 10:00
Rev. Clark Bailey, pastor

Riverside, Immanuel

5939 Magnolia
See Rev. G. Gehrs for information

COLORADO

Denver, Bethel

750 S. Franklin St.
Worship — 11:00
Rev. Donald Zuhn, pastor

CONNECTICUT

West Hartford, Lutheran

31 W. Beacon St.
Worship — 9:45. Tues. BC — 7:30 p. m.
Rev. Earl J. Thaler, pastor

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington, Christ

5101 — 16th St. N. W.
See Rev. D. Pokorny for information

FLORIDA

Miami, Deaf Zion

15000 N. W 27th Ave.
Worship — 7:00 p. m. BC — 8:15 p. m.
Rev. Walter Busby, pastor
Mrs. D. Myhre, parish worker

ILLINOIS

Chicago, North, Our Savior

1400 N. Ridgeway Ave.
BC — 9:00, Worship — 10:00
Rev. C. Jones, pastor

Chicago, South, Ephphatha

7956 South Park Ave.
Worship — 10:00
Wednesday BC — 7:30 p. m.
Rev. Leroy W. Mason, pastor

Jacksonville, Christ

104 Finley St.
SS & BC — 8:45, Worship — 10:00
Rev. Orlin Anderson, pastor

INDIANA

Indianapolis, Peace

4201 N. College Ave.
SS — 9:30, Worship — 10:30
Rev. Myron Prok, pastor

IOWA

Des Moines, Calvary

7th & Forest Avenue
BC — 9:30, Worship — 10:30
Rev. James Bengelsdorf, pastor

MICHIGAN

Detroit, Our Savior

6861 E. Nevada Ave.
SS — 10:00, Worship — 10:00
Rev. N. E. Borchardt, pastor

Flint, St. Paul's

402 S. Ballenger Highway
Worship — 11:00
Rev. Robert Bremer, pastor

MINNESOTA

St. Paul, Prince of Peace

205 N. Otis Street
SS — 10:30, Worship — 10:30
Rev. A. L. Hauptman, pastor
Mrs. F. Finke, parish worker

MISSOURI

Fulton, at St. Paul's

Highway 54 & Douglas Blvd.
Worship — 8:30 a. m.
Rev. C. Bremer, pastor

Kansas City, Pilgrim

38th St. & Gillham Road
SS & BC — 9:45, Worship — 10:45
Tuesday BC — 7:30 p. m.
Rev. A. E. Ferber, pastor

St. Louis, Holy Cross

101 N. Beaumont
BC — 9:00, Worship — 10:00
Rev. Floyd Possehl, pastor

MONTANA

Great Falls, Christ

11th Ave. South & 34th Street
SS — 10:45, Worship — 9:45
Rev. R. Johnson, pastor

Missoula, Christ

at Higgins & Daily Sts.
Worship — 3:00 p. m.
Rev. R. Johnson, pastor

NEBRASKA*Omaha, Bethlehem*

51st & Lake Sts.
Worship — 9:00
Rev. W. H. Lange, pastor
Vicar Robert Henrikson

NEW JERSEY*Newark, St. Matthew's*

510 Parker St. at Ballantine Pky.
SS — 10:00. Worship — 10:00
Rev. C. R. Gerhold, pastor

Trenton, Nativity (at Savior)

Front & Montgomery St.
Worship — 11:00
Rev. William Aiello, pastor

NEW YORK*Elmhurst, St. Matthew's*

41—01 75th St.
SS — 9:00, BC — 1:30 p. m.
Worship — 11:00
Rev. Daniel Hodgson, pastor
Miss Johanna Becker, parish worker

New York, St. Mark (Mt. Zion)

145th at Convent
Worship — 3:00 p. m.
Rev. Daniel Hodgson, pastor
Miss Johanna Becker, parish worker

Rochester, Alpha

580 Winton Rd. N.
Worship — 10:45
Rev. R. Rynearson, pastor

NORTH DAKOTA*Devils Lake*

SS — 9:00, BC — 9:45
Worship — 8:10
Rev. R. Leonhardt, pastor

OHIO*Cleveland, Christ*

E. 25th & Payne, downtown
SS & Worship — 10:45
Wednesday BC — 8:00 p. m.
Rev. Martin A. Hewitt, pastor

Columbus, Holy Cross

360 Morse Road
SS & BC — 9:30, Worship — 10:45
Wednesday BC — 7:30 p. m.
Rev. William A. Ludwig, pastor

Toledo, Good Shepherd (St. Paul)

428 N. Erie St.
SS — 11:00
Worship or BC — 11:00
Rev. M. Hewitt, pastor

OREGON*Portland, Hope*

1700 NE 132nd St.
SS — 9:15, Worship — 10:30
Rev. Larry Harris, pastor

PENNSYLVANIA*Pittsburgh, Trinity*

409 Swissvale Ave.
SS & BC — 10:00, Worship — 11:00
Rev. Frank Wagenknecht, pastor

SOUTH DAKOTA*Sioux Falls, Trinity*

101 S. Mable Ave.
SS & BC — 9:00. Worship — 10:00
Rev. George Ring, pastor

TENNESSEE*Memphis, Grace*

210 Washington St.
SS — 9:00. Worship — 10:15
Rev. Donald Leber, pastor

Memphis, Peace

1008 E. McLemore Ave.
SS — 2:30 p. m. Worship — 1:00 p. m.
Rev. Donald Leber, pastor

TEXAS*Austin, Jesus*

1307 Newton Ave.
Worship — 11:00
Rev. Don Haug, pastor

Dallas, John of Beverley

7611 Park Lane
SS & BC — 9:00. Worship — 10:30
Rev. William E. Duey, pastor

WASHINGTON*Seattle, Our Redeemer*

1101 15th Ave.
BC — 10:30, SS & Worship — 11:00
Rev. John A. Beyer, pastor

WISCONSIN*Delavan, Holy Cross*

116 Walnut St.
SS — 8:00, BC — 9:15
Worship — 10:00
Rev. M. Kosche, pastor

Madison, Silent

1929 Huxley St.
Worship — 9:30
Rev. Robert Corl, pastor

Milwaukee, Emmanuel

4328 W. North Ave.
BC — 9:00. SS — 9:45
Worship — 9:45
Rev. Martin E. A. Mueller, pastor

CANADA — ALBERTA*Edmonton, Cross of Christ*

115 St. & 60th Ave.
SS & BC — 9:30. Worship — 10:30
Rev. Robert A. Bauer, pastor
Miss J. Torgerson, parish worker

BRITISH COLUMBIA*Vancouver, Trinity*

School Ave. at College
(2900 Kingsway)
SS & BC — 10:30
Worship — 11:00 & 7:30 p. m.
Thursday BC — 8:00 p. m.
Rev. Wayne Bottlinger, pastor
Mr. Alex Brodie, lay worker

MANITOBA*Winnipeg, Jesus (Immanuel)*

College & McKenzie
Worship — 11:00
Rev. F. P. Gehrs, pastor



LIGHT FOR YOUR WAY

Daily Bible Readings for December

Prepare the world for the coming of Christ.

- Dec. 1** — **Isaiah 53.** All unbelief, every desire for sin's pleasure, each act of wrongdoing, and the guilt and shame of every person's sin — even yours — have been laid on the suffering Christ. Pray that God may give you faith to accept His good news of forgiveness for your own personal needs.
- Dec. 2** — **Romans 1.** The Gospel of Christ gives power to forgive, to love all people, to overcome every temptation to sin. Pray for those who are slaves of sinful habits that they may grip the power of Jesus with faith.
- Dec. 3** — **Romans 2.** Knowing that God will truly and justly punish those who do sin should make you grateful for His forgiving mercy in Jesus Christ. Pray that all who love the Lord Jesus may daily witness to their faith. Pray also for Rev. Daniel Hodgson, Elmhurst, N. Y.
- Dec. 4** — **Matthew 24.** War, unrest in the world, the spreading of God's good news to all nations and peoples, and man's continual lying to himself by foolishly and willingly living the way of sin are signals of the end of the world. Pray that you and your family may hope for heavenly joy and be ready when Jesus comes.
- Dec. 5** — **Matthew 25.** Have you used time, talent (ability), treasure, and tribulation (suffering) to serve Jesus? Pray that you may share your blessings in faithful service to Jesus.
- Dec. 6** — **Luke 21.** Temples, precious stones, kingdoms, and honors perish and are taken away. Only God and His Word give you something of eternal value. Pray that those who live only for earthly profit may turn to God and His Word.
- Dec. 7** — **1 Peter 4.** Do those near you who live selfishly know that you carry the name of Jesus Christ? Pray for all Christians who must suffer for their faith.
- Dec. 8** — **Revelation 22:1-9.** False pride or two-faced action has no place before God. He is able to take that sin from us and instead satisfy us with the water of His Word. Pray that you may find joy in regular worship in God's house.

- Dec. 9 — 1 Peter 5.** Let God's care move you to joyful trust in Him. Pray that all proud, thoughtless, worried people may repent and believe in the coming Christ. Pray also for Pastor W. O. Ferber, Fargo, N. Dak.
- Dec. 10 — 1 Thessalonians 5.** By your actions and feelings in church do you help and encourage others to prepare for the coming of Jesus? Pray that your pastor and your congregation may help each other do the will of God.
- Dec. 11 — 2 Peter 1.** God has given you the record of eyewitnesses in the Word of Scripture. Pray that the Holy Spirit may lead you through the Word to full trust in Jesus and His love.
- Dec. 12 — 2 Peter 2.** You can know a false teacher when he denies, cannot accept, or changes God's Word. Pray that all Christian churches more and more may be faithful to the Word of God.
- Dec. 13 — 2 Peter 3.** God delays His coming to judge. Do you show Him your thanks for this delay by repentance and service? Pray that many — both hearing and deaf — may repent of their sin and believe in Jesus before He comes to judge.
- Dec. 14 — Jude.** Near the end of the world the enemies of Jesus will join the church to deceive the faithful. But you remain strong in your faith and promise to wait patiently for the mercy of Christ. Pray that all who have promised to be faithful to Jesus may trust Him to the end.
- Dec. 15 — Ecclesiastes 11:1-6.** Encouraged by the love of God, may you share your blessings without fear with those in need. Pray for the widows, the orphans, the aged, and all who lack the necessities of life.
- Dec. 16 — Revelation 18.** The world and its riches seem pleasant, but they will not last into eternity. Pray that God will bless the spreading of His Word in areas of the world where governments hate Him.
- Dec. 17 — Revelation 19.** The God who has all power and authority rules over all. Pray for the youth of the church that they remain faithful to serve Jesus.
- Dec. 18 — Revelation 20.** Let Satan and his evil friends oppose us; when they stand before God, they have no power. Pray that Christians who must meet daily temptations may keep in mind the picture of our final victory.
- Dec. 19 — Ephesians 1.** The Lord chose us to be His own. You do not yet understand the greatness of His gift, your hope. Pray that God will bless your congregation that all may serve Him together with love and forgiveness. Pray also for Pastor W. Bottlinger, Vancouver, B. C., Can.
- Dec. 20 — Micah 5:1-4.** Born in Bethlehem, Christ Jesus rules in all eternity. He has called you into the security of His flock. Pray for the unchurched deaf of your city that they may also know and love the Savior.

- Dec. 21 — Matthew 1.** With Joseph you believe in Jesus, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, to be your Savior from sin. Pray that the homes in your congregation may plan a Christ-centered Christmas celebration.
- Dec. 22 — John 9.** Jesus came to give spiritual sight to us when we were blinded by pride and sin. Pray that the light of Christ may chase away your love of worldly things as you prepare for Christmas.
- Dec. 23 — Matthew 2:1-12.** God's Word leads you to the cradle of Jesus. Pray that the gifts you give may be a reminder of Jesus, the greatest Gift.
- Dec. 24 — Luke 1:26-38.** Are you prepared for the coming of Jesus, as Mary was, in humble obedience and rejoicing? Pray that the witness of your congregation to the birth of the Savior may lead many to faith.
- Dec. 25 — Luke 2:1-20.** With the shepherds you will hasten to the manger and share your Christmas joy. Pray that your Christmas celebration may give glory to God for the birth of Jesus.
- Dec. 26 — John 1:1-14.** Christ, the eternal Word, came to show you the grace and truth of God. Pray that Christians may witness for Jesus at social gatherings in Christmas week.
- Dec. 27 — Revelation 4.** The Church Triumphant — the faithful who have died and gone to heaven — sings praises of glory and honor to God for His mercy and power. Pray that those who mourn the death of loved ones may find comfort in this vision of heaven. Pray also for Pastor C. Bailey, Oakland, Calif.
- Dec. 28 — Revelation 5.** The Son of God has sympathy for our sorrows and will help. Pray that those who suffer from sickness that will never heal may find hope in Jesus.
- Dec. 29 — 1 Corinthians 9:16-23.** The joy of faith is giving faith. Pray that your congregation may grow in the work of soul-winning.
- Dec. 30 — Revelation 7:9-17.** God has raised you from spiritual death to live a new life in Jesus Christ. Pray that the assurance of resurrection to eternal life might increase your love and service.
- Dec. 31 — Revelation 21.** Christ is the Beginning and the End of all time and life. Pray that people may have sincere repentance for sins done in 1967 and a growing hope in the mercy of Jesus. Pray also for Alex Brodie, lay worker, Vancouver, B. C., Can.

Remember Ebenezer and pray:

We thank You, O Father in heaven, for Your Gift beyond all words, for Your grace beyond all explanation, for Your peace beyond all understanding, for Your purpose beyond all debate, and for Your heaven beyond all description. We ask one more gift. For those who remember the gift of life during this month, give the simple understanding that You are the Giver and that without You they cannot live. Please give them this gift for Jesus' sake. Amen.

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