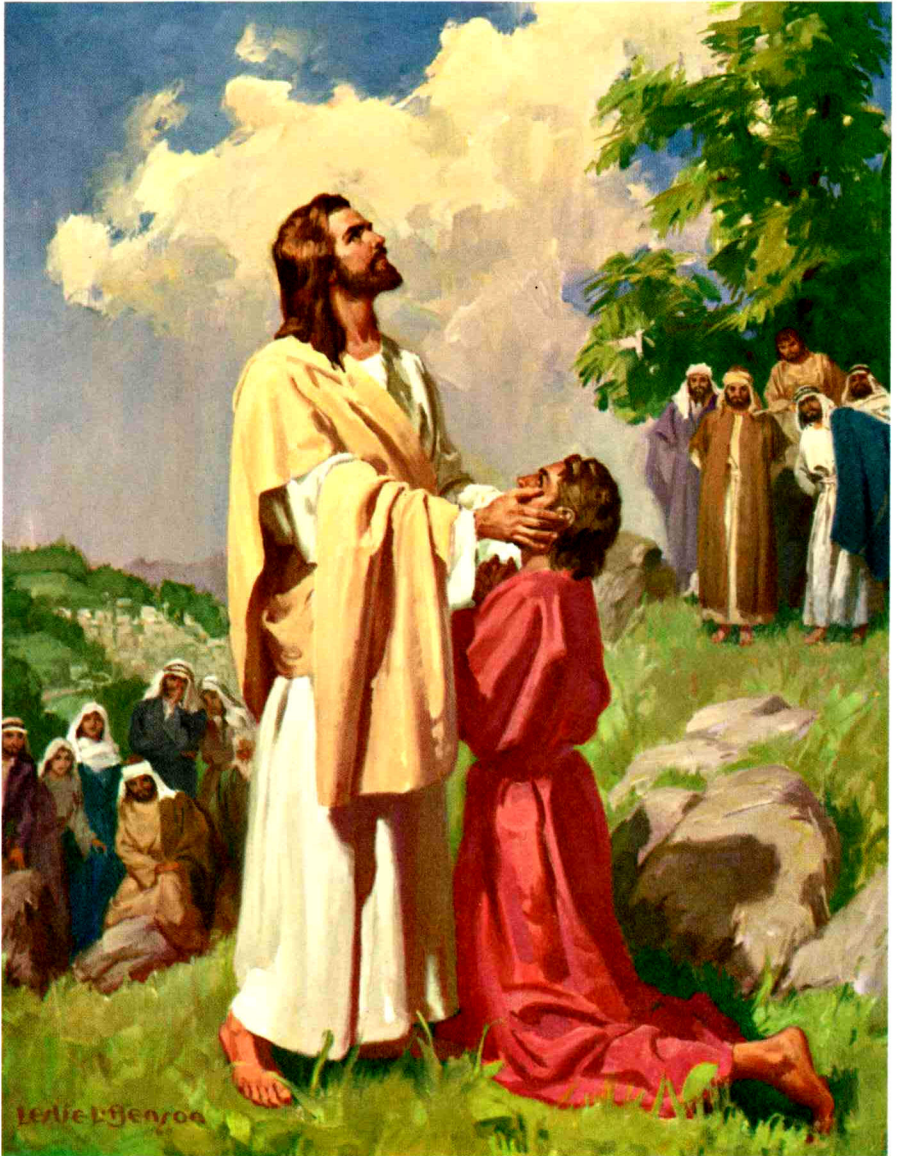




# The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, Be Opened*



## Editorial Comment

In this issue we give much space to the report and recommendations of the Board for Missions' ad hoc committee as it suggests one way to solve the difficult question of administering our Lutheran deaf missions.

We notice by the length of the recommendations and the time spent coming to a conclusion that the committee, together with our pastors and congregations, studied deeply into the question, "Which shall it be—the multi-District plan or a deaf, Ephphatha District?"

For the record, it is only reluctantly that many pastors and deaf laymen accept the multi-District plan as the only possible solution at this present time. Rumblings continue against it, and opposition may again be voiced at the open hearings before the Denver convention begins on July 11.

On the other hand, some pastors and deaf feel that since this is the only possible solution at this time, we should make the best of it. They feel the multi-District plan should be fortified and strength-

ened with guidelines and deaf advisory committees to assure, with God's blessing, the continued growth and success of our mission program under the supervision of the various Districts.

Actually, as we think about this, the important thing is not the form or structure of our Lutheran deaf missions. What is important, however, is our use of God's Word to bring the message of life and forgiveness in Jesus Christ to all the deaf. God gives us the power through His Word and Spirit to share Jesus and His love. The form or structure, of course, may help us in our work for Him, or it may hinder us, depending sometimes upon the personalities of individuals involved.

The ad hoc committee's report in three parts—the history of its study, its basic concerns, and its recommendations—has been printed in Synod's *Convention Workbook*, pages 38–40, with additional brief comment on page 25. On the following pages we present this report in an edited form with commentary.

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*Business manager: Rev. Earl Thaler, 31 West Beacon St., West Hartford, Conn. 06119*

The convention's Floor Committee 1 studies memorials and recommendations on mission matters. After its members have studied the ad hoc committee's report, the floor committee will conduct open hearings during which anyone may appear to support the plan or oppose it. Perhaps some of our regional conferences will send spokesmen qualified to speak on behalf of their fellow deaf on any of the issues involved.

At the conclusion of the open

hearings the floor committee on missions will prepare its resolutions. At the proper time during the convention the resolutions will be passed out in written form to the more than 1,000 pastoral and lay voting delegates for further discussion and action.

Since your editor is serving his circuit as a pastoral voting delegate, the DEAF LUTHERAN will carry a firsthand report of the synodical convention's decision. Watch for it.

## History of the Ad Hoc Committee's Work

The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, meeting in convention at Detroit in 1965, adopted the Mission Affirmations with their emphasis on involving the congregations and Districts of the Synod in a larger and total mission program. The same convention called for reorganization of all synodical missions under a single Board for Missions. These measures brought the proposal that deaf mission work be included with the mission program of the Districts.

This proposal for a change in the administration of deaf missions was presented to the mem-

bers of Ephphatha Conference meeting at Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Ill., in July 1966. Here our missionaries to the deaf met with members of the Board for Missions staff for the first discussion on the future of Lutheran deaf missions. At this meeting it became very clear that the congregations, pastors of deaf missions, and mission executives of the Districts would need much more information and time to study these matters on the local level.

Many questions on procedure were raised. For example: Who would administer and subsidize a

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missionary who serves the deaf in two or more geographical Districts? How would the problem of communication be overcome so that the deaf might participate in the local District's activities? Strong feelings were expressed, all stemming from a deep concern for keeping our deaf missions strong and growing.

The 1966 Ephphatha Conference requested the Board for Missions to appoint an ad hoc committee of the board to study this matter. This committee would be made up of the six regional counselors, the officers of the Ephphatha Conference, and the Board for Missions staff personnel.

The original ad hoc committee consisted of Pastors Louis Jasper, Norbert Borchardt, Walter Westermann, George Ring, Martin Kosche, and Rodney Rynearson, regional counselors; Pastors Clark Bailey and E. Theo. DeLaney, Ephphatha Conference officers; Pastor H. W. Rohe, secretary for deaf missions; and Pastors O. H. Reinboth and Reuben Schmidt of the Board for Missions staff.

Several changes have taken place. Pastor Jasper accepted a call to the Hong Kong area deaf missions, and Pastor Earl Thaler took his place on the committee. New officers of Ephphatha Conference were elected, and Pastors Frank Wagenknecht (later William Lange) and Robert Blakely joined the committee. Pastors Jasper, DeLaney, and Wagenknecht are no longer members of the committee.

## Committee Meetings

1. The first meeting of the ad hoc committee was held in Saint Louis, Oct. 31 to Nov. 2, 1966. Before attending the meeting, each man was asked to study and report on a specific area of deaf missions in the light of the new proposal that the Districts administer deaf missions. The seven areas of study were (1) deaf congregations; (2) educational centers; (3) scattered deaf; (4) evangelism and outreach; (5) recruitment; (6) training; and (7) overall philosophy and long-range objectives of deaf missions. The last-mentioned area received the most attention.

2. The second meeting was held Feb. 1 and 2, 1967, after the North American Missions Conference in St. Louis. The committee prepared a consensus statement and study guide for presentation to the Board for Missions, the missionaries to the deaf, and the regional deaf lay conferences.

The gist of the consensus statement was that deaf missions should not be transferred to the Districts at this time, so that further study might be carried out. It recommended that the Synod meeting in convention at New York (July 1967) delay any decisions in order to allow more time for careful consideration of this matter. The 1967 New York Convention (Resolution 1-22) instructed the ad hoc committee to continue its study and to report to the Denver convention in 1969.

3. Ephphatha Conference met at Mill Neck Manor a few days after the New York convention. The committee heard again the views expressed by Ephphatha Conference and studied the New York convention resolutions.

4. On Nov. 8, 1967, during the LCUSA Mission Conference in Chicago, the ad hoc committee met again. Dr. William Kohn, executive secretary of the Board for Missions, and Eugene Debenport of Business Services, Board for Missions, also attended the meeting. The committee's study had narrowed to two alternatives: (1) an Ephphatha District, a non-geographical subsidized deaf District; or (2) the "multi-District plan," deaf missions being administered by the respective geographical Districts. Two subcommittees were appointed by the chairman, one for each alternative. They were asked to study

and produce detailed documents for the next meeting.

5. The next meeting was held in St. Louis, July 10, 1968, and the two subcommittees presented their reports. They were also presented to the members of Ephphatha Conference during their meeting, July 11—16, and were discussed at length.

6. The sixth meeting, Sept. 4 and 5, 1968, in St. Louis again heard the reports of the subcommittees and discussed the matters thoroughly. At this meeting the ad hoc committee prepared this report and recommendation for the convention of Synod meeting in Denver, July 11—18, 1969. It submits its concerns and recommendations to the Synod for its consideration and action with the prayer that the Lord of the church will continue to bless and prosper the mission to the deaf.

## Basic Concerns for Administering Deaf Missions

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *The "basic concerns" were produced by the ad hoc committee as part of its report to the Denver convention of Synod, meeting July 11—18, 1969. These concerns are set in italics. Commentary explaining these concerns has been written by Rev. Herbert W. Rohe, secretary for deaf missions.*)

In developing a program for administration of deaf missions through the Districts the ad hoc committee felt that adequate consideration must be given to 17

basic concerns.

These concerns were the result of a long-term self-study and self-examination on the part of our leaders in our mission to the deaf. They are an honest and careful expression of those elements and policies in our past which we feel have brought a measure of success to our mission. We are convinced they will, under God's grace and blessing, assure progress and success in the future.

These concerns should be a part of the policies and thinking of the men in our Districts who will be responsible for our deaf mission in its expansion and administration.

As I discuss these concerns, I will use the term "Board for Missions" for the synodical board and the term "District mission department" in referring to the Districts. The mission activity in the Districts is not always performed by a separate board for missions.

*1. That the Board for Missions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod continue to support the development of the ministry to the deaf in terms of adequate personnel and their esprit de corps; in terms of overall work for mission outreach through expansion of fields, intensification of work within a field; in terms of adequate financing and the procurement of items of equipment peculiar to deaf work.*

The Board for Missions will continue to review reports from the fields and from the District mission departments as to the ongoing operation and progress of the work among the deaf.

The Board for Missions will also be concerned with the training of personnel and the recruitment of workers both at the college level and at the seminaries. The recruitment and courses at the senior college and the seminaries will be improved in order to maintain an adequate supply of qualified workers.

The training of deaf young men

and women at the Lutheran Lay Training Institute for full-time service as lay assistants to our pastors will be maintained. At present the board seeks to place five deaf students each year at LLTI. These students will be recruited from Gallaudet College graduates and from other training institutions whose graduates may qualify for LLTI entrance. Other Gallaudet graduates majoring in "religion-philosophy" courses may also qualify for service in our mission as parish workers.

Then the question of expanding fields is important. On occasion the possibility exists for expanding the work within a particular field, but for some reason the District associated with the field is not able to support the expansion. Then the Board for Missions would be free to begin and support the new program in cooperation with the related Districts, congregations, or field.

The Board for Missions will stand ready to assist a District or field in acquiring such items of special and unique equipment necessary for a satisfactory and adequate ministry to the deaf.

*2. That the identity and visibility of deaf work be maintained and increased on the local, national, and international levels.*

The overall identity of the mission to the deaf as a concern and part of the mission work of the Synod will be maintained just as Synod's other special ministries are continually identified and

publicized in Synod's public relations and mission education media. Hearing congregations, Districts, and foreign fields will be kept informed and aware of the programs for deaf work.

3. *That the deaf have a voice in their own affairs on local, national, and international levels.*

The deaf congregations and leaders will be consulted, recruited, and urged to take an active part in the conduct of the work among the deaf in their respective circuits, in the District, and in the Synod.

4. *That the voice of the deaf be heard in District planning; for example, a subcommittee on ministry to the deaf.*

As Board for Mission policy suggests, the Districts will form and establish a "deaf committee" to consult and advise the District mission department on the planning, development, and expansion of work among the deaf. The committee shall, where possible, consist of a deaf lay leader, a teacher of the deaf, and others active in religious work among the deaf, such as pastors, parents or relatives of the deaf, social workers, and so forth.

5. *That a program be developed to nurture spiritual growth in stewardship of life individually and corporately.*

A good example of this type of program is the deaf missions emphasis on total field stewardship. Here the headquarters city's congregation treats the preaching sta-

tions in a mother-daughter relationship. The field stations are represented at the field fiscal budget and planning meetings. Every member of the field receives the financial reports, pledges his support, and contributes toward the field budget with weekly envelopes.

6. *That policy provide an optimum degree of uniformity of administration of deaf missions across District lines, so that the work will not suffer in its geographic expansion across District lines.*

The geographic field structure of our deaf missions should not be hampered by efforts to administer the mission according to District lines. For example, the newly created Iowa East Field includes cities which are located within the Central Illinois District. These cities are geographically closer to the Iowa East pastor than they are to the Central Illinois pastor and are therefore best served by the Iowa East pastor.

7. *That the deaf congregation and its pastor be free to exercise individual creativity and initiative in experimental projects indicated by local needs and peculiarities.*

An experimental ministry of this type might be one which departs from the usual Sunday morning formal worship service to a service employing the visual and dramatic arts in order to make the Word of God more meaningful to the deaf. It might



also be a ministry which adapts itself to the use of new scientific discoveries in electronics, such as the visiphone and others.

8. *That certain aspects of deaf mission work will require comparatively heavy and continuous subsidy. For example, programs for deaf religious education, services for the deaf in hospitals and other institutions, facilities to serve deaf youth and the aged, counseling and social services for small scattered groups, and others.*

An example of what this means may be found in the current efforts of the national deaf organizations to upgrade the quality and efficiency of interpreters. A nationwide Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf has been formed. RID may specify that its registered members receive a set hourly rate for interpreting. If in a given area the work among the deaf will require the use of such registered interpreters to maintain Lutheran instruction and worship, we may be required to pay the established interpreter's fees.

The high cost of such interpreters should not hinder the progress of our mission. If Lutheran interpreters who will donate their services or who will serve at reduced fees are not available, and if the deaf are unable to carry the cost of "outside" or non-Lutheran interpreters, the church should stand ready to assist them in maintaining their worship ser-

vices even though the costs are great.

Another example is the great distance our missionaries serving the deaf are often required to travel to serve small numbers of deaf in scattered groups or institutions. If the costs are counted by how many people are served, it may be considered a waste of funds. However, it very often happens that our missionaries travel 50 or more miles to minister to a single deaf person.

9. *That factors peculiar to the deaf be taken into account when Districts make their annual budget "proposals" to congregations.*

District budgets are often set on the per capita basis; that is, at an average contribution for all members of local congregations. In larger congregations a higher level of giving is maintained because the wealthy members make up for the limited giving of poorer members. Smaller and poorer congregations often have a lower per capita giving level because they do not have wealthy members to raise the average. The deaf generally fall into this second type because of their hearing handicap. Their lower earning power must be taken into consideration when Districts assess a deaf congregation.

Furthermore, in most fields the deaf in preaching stations are served monthly. Their giving is, as a result, lower than that of members who worship weekly. If the District assesses the deaf

field on a per capita basis, the deaf field will have difficulty in trying to meet its "fair share."

While an attempt is being made to overcome this problem by unifying the field in a stewardship program (see concern 5 above), the lower income level of most deaf members will not allow a very high giving level. Districts must be realistic and fair to the deaf.

Another factor which is often found in deaf mission fields and which Districts must take into consideration is that large numbers of deaf members are in institutions (hospitals, homes for the aged, and schools) and have no real income. A per capita assessment in such field would place an impossible burden upon the income-earning members in the congregation.

In other words, if a District insists on abiding by a per capita assessment under the conditions indicated above, the mission field would have to be granted additional subsidy in order to meet its "fair share per member quota," or the assessment would have to be reduced.

*10. That the highly specialized nature of the ministry to the deaf ordinarily requires full-time missionaries whose time shall not be divided with another phase of ministry.*

This is a fact one cannot argue. Though pastors have tried repeatedly in the past to serve both the hearing and the deaf, it has just never worked. It always hap-

pened that the work with the deaf never progressed or that it failed completely.

In a few cases pastors have served a dual ministry for a time, but they could not do so on a permanent basis. It has also happened that a pastor serving both deaf and hearing in one parish accepted a call to another area. His successor failed to serve the deaf, and the deaf turned to the services of the full-time pastor in another field or joined another denomination.

*11. That the recruitment and training of full-time personnel shall remain the primary responsibility of the synodical Board for Missions.*

I discussed recruitment and training of workers under Concern 1. The emphasis should be placed on the word "primary" in Concern 11. A District may call a pastor to fill a need within the local District even though the pastor does not know the deaf or their language. It is understood that preservice training would be required. However, if an ongoing supply of full-time workers is to be adequately maintained, the Board for Missions will have to be concerned with the recruitment and training of workers at our colleges and seminaries. In-service training of the members of Ephphatha Conference will also remain the concern of the Board for Missions.

*12. That a spirit of unity among workers and congregations be nurtured.*

Ephphatha Conference and the regional conferences are referred to here. "Birds of a feather flock together." None is so lonely or isolated as he who must bear his cross alone. The ministry to the deaf is a lonely ministry and has its unique and peculiar sociological, psychological, and theological problems.

*13. That the way should be left open for the development of a "Deaf District" if such promises to be the better method of administration at a future date.*

It is the feeling and conviction of a number of our pastors and congregations that because of the unique nature of deaf missions and because of the problems of communication, the work among the deaf might best be administered as a separate District.

We are mindful that the English District originated because of a language problem. Similarly, the deaf mission is a language mission. It has at times been termed a "foreign mission" at home.

However, at present it is felt that because of problems relating to subsidy and because our deaf congregations are now operating in nearly every District of Synod, it would be best for the work among the deaf to be related to the Districts in harmony with the policies of the church in North America.

*14. That the talents and abilities of the deaf in leadership and administration be developed and utilized.*

One of our greatest mistakes in the past has been that we failed to use the very real and great talent of our deaf leaders. The deaf have often been subjected to the desires of the "hearing leadership." This has been true in education, rehabilitation, and social service as well as in the church. Our Synod has lost at least a dozen dedicated deaf clergymen to other denominations because we have not made it possible for the deaf to qualify for service in the church.

The deaf have established their own civic, social, athletic, and financial organizations led and administered wholly by deaf laymen. We have to a very small extent utilized some of this leadership in the church by establishing deaf congregations. This was unique in our Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod work throughout the first half of this century.

However, by and large, even in this we have tended to paternalize the deaf and depend upon "hearing" know-how. Much more can be accomplished in the church by training and letting the deaf manage their own affairs. This we intend to do in our regional conferences, retreats, and workshops. The program at LLTI is also a step in this direction.

*15. That for the purpose of interdependence and a spirit of unity, the deaf congregations maintain regional conferences and form an International Lutheran Deaf Association.*

The "deaf world" knows a Na-

tional Association of the Deaf, an American Athletic Association of the Deaf, a Professional Rehabilitation Workers among the Deaf Association, and a Council of Organizations Serving the Deaf, all of which are national deaf organizations with some "hearing" affiliation. The formation of an International Lutheran Deaf Association comes late. Other denominations are already organized in this way. We are the last of the major denominations to form an international organization.

It is felt that, by reason of the communication problem, many of our deaf members will not benefit fully from District conventions and other District and synodical gatherings. To keep the deaf congregations aware of what is going on not only within the District but also within the Synod and world mission programs, an International Lutheran Deaf Association is necessary.

*16. That adequate educational and devotional material expressly tailored to the needs of the deaf be produced.*

Although we have come a long

way in providing adequate materials for deaf worship and instruction and have produced liturgies, lectionaries, and hymnbooks for translation into the language of signs, many more materials are necessary, especially in religious education for deaf children at all age levels.

*17. That deaf congregations, preaching stations, and pastors serving the deaf recognize the fact that they are the concern of the Districts and have a responsibility to the District President's office.*

Some of our deaf congregations are already members of a synodical district. However, since deaf congregations have largely felt a responsibility toward the Synod rather than toward a District and have not understood the relation of the Districts to the Synod, they have not been anxious to join a District and have not recognized a responsibility toward circuit counselors and District officers. The Board for Missions is now urging all deaf congregations to become members of the local Districts.

## Recommendations to the Denver Convention

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *After studying and drawing up the 17 concerns previously explained, the ad hoc committee wrote the following recommendations. The committee encourages Synod to act with these recommendations in mind when deciding the future of deaf missions next month in Denver. Rev. H. W. Rohe again provides the explanation.*)

### 1. Administration of Work Among the Deaf

WHEREAS, The 1967 convention of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod gave the assignment to the ad hoc committee of the Board for Missions to continue the study of the administration of deaf missions; and

WHEREAS, The ad hoc committee has completed a careful and detailed study of this matter; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Board for Missions conduct the work among the deaf in North America as part of its North American mission program; and be it further

*Resolved*, That individual consideration be given to congregations, Districts, and workers in the implementation of the above resolve; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Board for Missions set general policy for the administration of deaf missions, including such areas as the administration of a field, field expansion beyond District geographic boundaries, capital programing, providing full-time workers, striving to achieve necessary uniformity, guaranteeing resources to the Districts for work among the deaf, etc.; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Board for Missions sponsor the Ephphatha Conference for workers among the deaf and that the Ephphatha Conference be an official pastoral conference with required attendance; and be it finally

*Resolved*, That the Board for Missions periodically review the administration and structure of deaf missions.

### **Commentary on First Resolve**

This means simply that the deaf work will be conducted by the Districts according to the present North American mission policy, just as the Districts are now responsible for institutional missions, campus ministries, and all other special ministries in North America.

Organized deaf congregations will be urged, if they have not yet done so, to become members of the local District. They will receive subsidy from the District in the same way that all other missions are now subsidized. As the transfer is made and until the Districts have time to add deaf work to their request for subsidy and/or to their budgets, subsidy for deaf missions may come to the Districts from the synodical Board for Missions.

At the same time our deaf congregations and fields are changing their fiscal operations to conform with those of the Districts. For instance, a congregational treasurer will administer not only the offerings of the members of his local congregation; he will now administer also the total offerings of the field and the subsidy to the field as provided by the Board for Missions and/or the District. Some fields, on the other hand, have no central congregation or treasurer. In that case the funds will be administered by the District treasurer. Any subsidy from the Board for Missions would then flow through the District office.

### **Commentary on Second Resolve**

The transfer of deaf work to the Districts will be accomplished in scheduled procedural steps

established with each District, deaf congregation, and deaf field. We recognize that the transition may be delayed in some cases where special problems exist.

It is our intent that all Districts and congregations set Jan. 1, 1970, as the date for final action if these resolutions are passed by Synod's Denver convention next month.

### **Commentary on Third Resolve**

The work among the deaf, as well as all mission endeavors of Synod, is always the responsibility of the Board for Missions. Therefore, the Board for Missions has the obligation and responsibility to suggest general policy for the direction of the mission endeavors of the Districts.

In particular, it will be the board's objective and goal to enable the Districts to carry out the work among the deaf in those areas where the deaf work is unique and differs from the normal and usual manner in which the administration and expansion

of mission work is conducted in the Districts. Some of these areas are mentioned specifically in the resolve: field administration, field expansion, capital programing, recruitment, and adequate financing.

### **Commentary on Fourth Resolve**

The Board for Missions and the workers among the deaf recognize the need for an annual conference as an in-service training facility. (See remarks on Concerns 1 and 11 in the previous article.)

### **Commentary on Fifth Resolve**

This resolve clarifies one way in which the Board for Missions, as stated in the third resolve, will maintain its responsibility and concern for the deaf work. Districts shall expect the board to review the mission to the deaf in order to improve its administration and structure if such improvement is indicated and thought necessary. (See remarks on Concerns 1 and 13 in the previous article.)

## **2. Development of Lay Leadership in Work Among the Deaf**

WHEREAS, There is a need for the deaf laymen to have a voice in the administration of work among the deaf; and

WHEREAS, Effective administration of the work among the deaf depends on the involvement and leadership of the deaf; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for Lutheran deaf to exert a greater influence on the deaf society; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Synod and District boards seek the counsel and active participation of the deaf in the administration of the mission; and be it further

*Resolved*, That The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod provide for the development and involvement of deaf lay leadership in Christ's mission; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the synodical Board for Missions enable this lay-leadership development in the formation of an International Lutheran Deaf Association, as well as regional meetings of the association.

### **Commentary on First Resolve**

The Board for Missions recommends that a “deaf committee” including deaf lay leaders be formed in each District as an advisory body to the District mission department. One concern of the Board for Missions and the workers among the deaf is that, because members of the District mission departments are elected at each convention, there may not always be persons in the District missions department who are acquainted with and knowledgeable in deaf work. The deaf committee will provide a more permanent body of persons knowledgeable in deaf work as an ongoing resource

to the District mission department. (See remarks on Concerns 3, 4, and 14 in the previous article.)

### **Commentary on Second and Third Resolves**

An International Lutheran Deaf Association with regional meetings will provide the best means for the development of lay leadership and active participation of the deaf in Christ’s mission. This ILDA will be patterned after other national deaf organizations, both religious and secular, which have demonstrated their effectiveness in deaf leadership development. (See remarks in previous article on Concern 15.)

## **3. Recruitment and Training of Deaf Workers**

WHEREAS, The requirements of public institutions and agencies for the deaf make it increasingly necessary for workers among the deaf to have specialized training; and

WHEREAS, It has been increasingly difficult to recruit men for service in the deaf mission without providing adequate training programs; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Board for Missions develop adequate policies for recruitment, pre-service, and in-service training of workers among the deaf, including provision for sabbatical leaves to obtain formal training.

### **Commentary**

To maintain a unified program of recruitment and training of workers, it will be necessary for the Board for Missions of Synod to be responsible for such programs at the national level. Of course, the deaf worker may become involved in District training programs, and the District may

also recruit workers for deaf missions.

The resolution, however, clarifies and guarantees that Synod’s Board for Missions will continually be concerned with recruitment and training of deaf workers. (See also remarks on Concerns 1, 11, and 12 in previous article.)

# COSD at Work

## **Improved TV Programing Proposed to Benefit Deaf**

A recent report from the Council of Organizations Serving the Deaf stated that the federal Office of Telecommunications Management, Executive Offices of the President, is studying the following COSD proposals for improving the enjoyment of TV programs by the deaf:

1. At the time emergency bulletins and civil defense alerts are broadcast on TV, display brief wording of it on the screen while reporter is speaking or immediately thereafter.

2. In TV talk shows, news broadcasts, and various interviews, flash the name of all speakers on the screen (now seldom done) and topic or key (cue) words.

3. Flash frequent scores in sportscasts, especially in basketball.

4. For some outstanding TV

movies, flash the topic or partial dialog on the screen as is done with foreign films.

5. Publish available facilities for hearing-impaired in TV guides.

6. Representatives of television broadcasting companies meet with representatives of the hearing-impaired to explore the matter further, including exploration of ways to restore this lost TV audience.

COSD emphasized that a large number of the 20 million deaf and hard of hearing in the nation are older people. For them television could and should be a vital element in their daily lives if they could understand more of the programs without depending on a hearing interpreter or without having to turn up the TV volume control to the annoyance of others.

COSD is confident that the major TV networks will cooperate in this venture.

## **News Notes of Interest**

### **XI International Games for the Deaf**

The American Athletic Association of the Deaf is planning to send a team of 80 deaf athletes to Belgrade, Yugoslavia, this August if the required \$200,000 can be raised. This would cover training, equipment, and transportation for the athletes and their coaches.

Events will include track and field, swimming, basketball, wrestling, shooting, cycling, soccer, tennis, gymnastics, volleyball, and table tennis.

At the 1965 Deaf Olympics held in Washington, the Americans won 23 gold medals, 36 silver, and 28 bronze against a field of 681 competitors from 27 nations. However, the Russian deaf ath-



## The Question Box

**Q.** *Why is it a sin to gossip?*

— A reader in the Great Lakes Region

**A.** (Part 1 of four parts) Gossip is a sin against the Eighth Commandment, which says: *Thou (you) shalt (must) not bear (carry) false witness (stories) against thy (your) neighbor (any deaf or hearing people you know or meet).*

Gossip is not just an evil habit or weakness. Any talk against our neighbor to destroy his good name and reputation and to make his life miserable is sin. Thus God forbids it.

The Lord also uses this commandment to urge us to *defend our neighbor, speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything.* When a person gossips against someone or accuses him, don't be interested. Speak *for* the victim, whether he is guilty or not; take his part, and defend him against the false reports. To "put the best construction on everything" means to think always about the good side of the accused person and to explain true things in his favor.

Thanks to Jesus Christ, who never spoke a false word, who obeyed the Ten Commandments for us and paid for our many sins with His holy blood! But we sometimes fail to keep this Eighth Commandment; we sin. Let us confess our sins to Him and pray for forgiveness and strength to follow Him without speaking false witness against our neighbor.

We pray: *Dear Jesus, fill our hearts with good thoughts about others, and help us to speak well of others with love.*

REV. WILLIAM A. LUDWIG

Next month, Part 2 of this four-part series.

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

letes carried the firsts with 35 gold, 18 silver, and 9 bronze medals.

Once again the USA will be challenging the traditional athletic superiority of the Russians. Contributions are deductible for income tax purposes and may be

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*Motorist's Prayer:* "Teach me to use my car for others' need, nor miss through love of speed the beauties of Thy world, O Lord."

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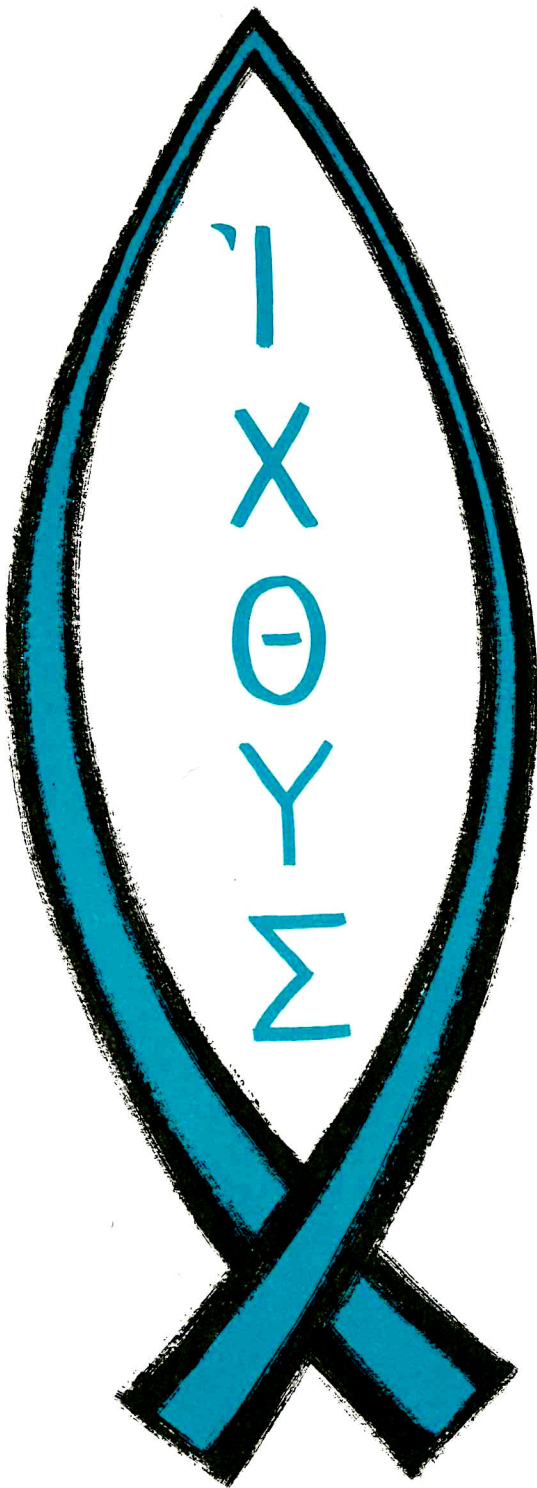
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