



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

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AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

(Seldom in the past has THE DEAF LUTHERAN presented an article of such deep human interest as the following story by a member of our Seattle congregation. While being among the minority, the deaf-blind are nevertheless an important segment of the church at large.)—The Editor

**By Meta Luetzow
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Seattle, Washington**

He saw her sitting on the bus. A large button pinned to her coat indicated she was deaf and had poor sight. Being deaf himself, he sensed her loneliness and sat beside her.



LINDA AND KEN'S WEDDING—Man on right is Mike Hughes from the Lighthouse for the Blind; the girl on the left is Kathy Mack who helped them plan their wedding. They are signing "the top of cake is so high."

Gently taking her hand, he signed, "I am Russell Crase. I am deaf, too." Thus began a friendship that would bring Linda McNair Sting to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church for the Deaf. Only one other deaf-blind person has attended this small congregation of hearing impaired members in Seattle, Wash.

Rev. William A. Ludwig, pastor of the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church for the Deaf in

Western Washington did not find it difficult to minister to Linda and Ken Sting, the man she married several years later. He recalls his first encounter with a deaf-blind person while a seminary student at Springfield, Ill. "When I first met the deaf-blind man at Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Jacksonvill, Ill., I really did not know what to do with him," he said. "First, I observed how the elderly pastor, the deaf-blind man's wife and the other members communicated with him. Then shyly, I tried to talk to him and was amazed he could understand me as easily as any deaf person with good sight do," he said.

In Columbus, Ohio, his pastorate before coming to the Northwest, he served six deaf-blind residents at the home for the aged and infirm. "Thus, he says, "I was prepared to accept Linda and later Ken as full members of the church." Rev. Ludwig is pleased the members are willing to interpret for Linda and Ken and their deaf-blind friends who

AN OPPORTUNITY (continue on page 2)

Prince of Peace, St. Paul to Mark 25th Anniversary May 6

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minn. will observe its 25th anniversary on May 6 with a dinner and afternoon programs.

Rev. George Kraus, Fort Wayne, Ind. will be the guest speaker at the church he founded.

Rev. William Lange is pastor.

1987 CONVENTION THEME CONTEST

Word of God Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa is inviting readers to submit ideas for a suitable theme for the 1987 ILDA convention which they will host.

Got an idea? More than one is welcome.

Mail them to Mr. William G. Zimmerman, convention planning chairman, care of Word of God Lutheran church, 1515 29th St. N.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402.

An Opportunity

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visit the congregation occasionally. "The deaf-blind must depend on others to 'hear' God's Word or learn what goes on at meetings and social functions," Rev. Ludwig said.

At church dinners, members describe the variety of food being served and will assist by placing the desired portions clockwise on the plate. A deaf-blind person's home is also simply arranged for easy accessibility. In unfamiliar places most blind will use their white cane to guide them. Occasionally, members will interpret for the young couple outside church fellowship. When Linda was hospitalized for recurring tumors (the cause of her blindness as an infant) and until the morning she died, interpreters from the church and the Lighthouse for the Blind where Ken works as a drill press operator were with them day and night.

To interpret for a deaf-blind person, the interpreters place their hands under the deaf-blind person's and sign or fingerspell the words being said. Not every person can do this. Some sign too fast; others too slow, and if not adept, the interpreter will not be relaxed enough to keep up.

I was privileged to prepare Linda for church membership. An one-hour teaching session often lasted more than two hours, leaving both of us exhausted. I used objects and teaching aids she could touch and feel to teach God's Word. A globe of the world to explain the word, "Kingdom" and blocks of wood in a knapsack to help her understand sin was like heavy burdens on our back and pushing pins in maps and letting her fingers do the walking through the wilderness or follow the footsteps of Jesus and Paul.

Linda and Ken wanted to be informed of everything that happened in the church fellowship. They could get quite upset if they were not informed. "Who had been baptized? How many visitors were at the service? Where was Pastor Ludwig, if he happened to be gone?" Then Priscilla Lords, Ted Brighton or Greg Deeth, who do much of the interpreting, inform them of the latest events. Ken, who has some vision, often watches the service on a Video Monitor.

One Sunday Linda came to church beaming from ear to ear. "My Ken is coming to Seattle and will work at the Lighthouse for the Blind," she told me. A few weeks later, she introduced her Ken to the entire congregation. When they announced their forthcoming marriage, Rev. Ludwig received a letter from

Linda's mother, Mrs. Alma McNair of Lander, Wyo. (Linda's childhood home) asking if someone from the church could help them with their wedding plans. "You are an answer to a prayer" Mrs McNair said when I phoned to offer my help. Kathy Mack, another member of the church, worked with me. We only offered suggestions, the final decisions were theirs.

We helped choose the wedding garments, flowers and cake. I addressed invitations, reserved sleeping accommodations for five families coming from out of town and even filled out their marriage license forms.

The congregation was as excited as the young couple. It was the first wedding in history of the congregation of a deaf-blind couple. At other weddings the bridal couple repeat their marriage vows with right hands clasped. Linda and Ken could not do this. They had to speak through an interpreter. "I had to invent a new way to 'tie' the knot," Rev. Ludwig said. He first had them repeat their marriage vows and then took the yoke worn around his neck (symbolic of his office as an ordained minister of the Word) and tied it around their clasped hands. At that very moment, they were joined together as one.

Linda and Ken had only three short years together as man and wife and they lived them as an eternity. They were eager to show the members and friends their apartment and the electronic gadgets to help them live in a world of silence and darkness. Ken installed smoke detectors that flash off and on in case of fire. The doorbell works the same way. Around Ken's waist is a vibrator that also let them know if someone is at the door.

Books and magazines are in Braille. Marion Reese, a volunteer Braille worker, types in Braille the titles and dates of their church offering envelopes. The Bible comes in many volumes, each one as large as a metropolitan phone book, making it cumbersome to carry. The interpreter usually signs the Bible verses being read.

The congregation seeks ways to involve the deaf-blind in the Lord's service. They are encouraged to give of their offerings to God and are asked to attend all workshops and other programs of the congregation.

There are limitations as to what the deaf-blind can do to serve the Lord. They can't see to drive a car and must travel around the city on buses. An interpreter would have to

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be present if they hold an office. They can't see well enough to do secretarial work.

It does bother Ken that his deaf-blind friends are not active in church. "I try to tell them about Jesus" he says "but they tell me they are too busy." Rev. Ludwig, who is also deaf, knows full well the frustrations of a deaf ministry says, "Just keep on witnessing and pray. God's Word will reach them."

Since both parents of the couple live out of town (the Harold Stings in Sebwaing, Mich. and the McNairs in Wyoming) the young couple would go to the members for advice and counseling. Ted Brighton and I could always tell when we would be asked to help them. The moment they walked through the door they would ask, "Where is Meta?" And Ken would say, "I want to talk to Ted." They asked advice on Income Tax problems, Linda's health when she lived and problems in their apartment or even to solve a domestic problem.

When Linda was hospitalized my name was placed on the volunteer emergency list. Ken would phone through an interpreter to inform me of Linda's progress and I in turn would reply the message to their parents out of town. The hardest thing I had to do was to inform the parents of Linda's death and to help Ken with the funeral arrangements.

Russell Crase, who had befriended Linda on the bus, came to her funeral, too. She was my friend," he said. "I was the one who brought her to my church. I will miss her very much." Russell's words are echoed by all the members of the congregation, who had come to love Linda very much.

Ken comes to worship alone now and the church members continue to minister to him through the beautiful language of signs. Ken's one wish is that more deaf-blind people would come to his congregation which will give Rev. Ludwig's members more opportunity to serve the Lord.

Rev. Larry Larsen Accepts Call to Serve Navajo Indians in New Mexico

After serving the deaf in central Illinois since 1976, Rev. Larry Larsen moved last month to the Navajo Indian reservation in New Mexico.

If someone kicks you in the rear, it's a good sign that you're ahead of him.

--Fulton J. Sheen

PEACE IN A TROUBLED WORLD

By Rev. Mark Seeger
Alpha Lutheran Church
Rochester, N.Y.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27

Lebanon, Iran, Iraq, Northern Ireland, Central America, Nuclear weapons in Europe, Nuclear weapons in Cuba, "The Day After" . . . Grenada and on and on and on. . . .

What's going on? Why doesn't all this hate and war stop? Won't there ever be peace? Aren't you afraid? These are questions that I have heard recently. The first three questions, I don't have the answers for. I can say that there is war and hate because people are sinful and refuse to live as God wants them to live. I can say that Satan is in charge of many governments and leaders in the world. I can say that as long as Jesus is not first in everyone's life, there will be hate and war. It's sad, but it is true, the world doesn't have nor give peace.

The last question, Am I afraid? I can answer with a strong and loud "**NO.**" I am not afraid. I may die in a nuclear war; I may die in a robbery attempt; I may die in a car accident, but I'm not afraid.

Jesus has given me peace. He hasn't given me control over the things that happen in this world, but He has given me His peace. A non-christian cannot see the hope and the future blessings. But, as Christians, we can see hope. Jesus gives us the hope of eternal life with Him. He came to earth to live among us, to die for our sins, and to rise from the dead so that we can live with Him forever. That is what we believe, and that is why we have hope. Because of that hope, we also have peace. We know that no matter what happens on earth, nothing can separate us from God's love in Jesus Christ.

How will I die? I don't know, nor does it matter. Death is something I don't fear because I am going to live with my Savior forever. That gives me peace.

I pray that you have the same peace through the same Savior, **JESUS CHRIST**, our Lord.

Deaf people without Jesus are just like hearing people without Jesus . . . lost forever in the place of unquenchable fire that the Bible calls Hell. Accept Jesus as your personal Savior today. Don't wait until later.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES: WHO ARE THEY?

By Vicar Brant A. Engel
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Columbus, Ohio
(Bible references by Editor)

It has been brought to my attention that some members of Holy Cross have been approached by the Jehovah Witness people. I feel it is important that you know some basic facts and teachings of the Jehovah Witness, so if they come to your door, you will know what they are talking about. The J.W. are a big challenge to Christians for several reasons. Their teachings are opposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They are opposed to the Christian church and they say the Christian church belongs to the devil. They deny that Jesus is true God and deny the work of the Holy Spirit. They also say that their teachings are the "only real truth" that came from the Bible.

Let's examine some of these statements by the Jehovah Witnesses in the light of divine Scripture:

1. The Christian church belongs to **Christ**, not the devil. It is His body. Find this in Romans 12:5.

Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it. Ephesians 5:25

Christ is the head of the body, the church: Colossians 1:18

The church is the bride of Christ: Revelation 22:17; also read the parable of the wise and foolish virgins in Matthew 25:1-13.

2. Jesus Christ is **true God**. "All power is given unto Him: Matthew 28:18

". . . and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by Him." See I Corinthians 8:6

Being made so much better than the angels as He hath by inheritance. Hebrews 1:4

3. The Jehovah's Witnesses deny the work of the Holy Spirit.

And they were filled with the Holy Ghost, and began. . . . Acts 2:4

The promise of the Holy Spirit as written in John 14:16-18

The Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth. John 16:13

". . . the spirit quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing . . ." John 6:63

The first chapter of Genesis mentions the Spirit of God moving over the face

of the waters.

No man can say that Jesus is Lord, but by the Holy Ghost-conversion.

The Jehovah Witnesses are well known for their witnessing on street corners and knocking on doors. They witness because they are working hard to earn their salvation. Because they do not believe in hell, they have no fear of eternal punishment but they are afraid of not meeting Jehovah's standards for salvation. So they continue to work hard to keep on the good side of Jehovah. Their witnessing is not motivated by a love for God, but motivated because of a terrible fear of Him.

One thing that makes the Jehovah Witnesses different is that they hate the Christian religion. They have made up a story about Jesus. They teach that Jesus is not God, but that God made Jesus. Jehovah is the only Saviour for them. Jesus was made as an angel and when He came down to earth, the angel part was removed and Jesus was only a man. So it was only as a man that Jesus died on the cross, and a man's death is not good enough to pay for the sins of the whole world. They also deny that Jesus' body was raised from the dead. But they cannot explain where His body went and also why it was not found in the tomb.

4. Jehovah's Witnesses claim only a man died on the cross.

The malefactor (thief) on Jesus' right during the crucifixion called Him "Lord." Luke 23:42

Just before Jesus died, He cried out with a loud voice, "Father. . ."

Luke 23:46

The centurion recognized Jesus for what He truly was: A sinless, righteous man.

Luke 23:47

5. Jesus' death atones for the sins of the whole world.

Who will have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

I Timothy 2:4

Behold the Lamb of God what taketh away the sins of the world. John 1:29

The free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. Romans 5:18

Son of Man is come to seek and save that which was lost. Luke 19-10

"Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men?" Yes!! But What Else Did the Angels Say?

Every year at Christmas time, we see the message of the Christmas angels printed everywhere;

"Peace on earth, Good will toward men!"

You see it on Christmas cards . . .

"Peace on earth."

You see it on television ID logos . . .

"Peace on earth."

You see it on big signs and city buses:

"Peace on earth."

You see it in the government's wish for the New Year . . .

"Peace on earth, Good will toward men."

BUT HOW? How do we get true peace? Nobody ever tells us the rest of the angels' message. It's too "religious" . . . too "embarrassing" . . .

"FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY . . .

A SAVIOUR, WHO IS CHRIST, THE LORD."

Man will never know true peace in this life until he finds that peace in Christ, the Lord.

WHO ARE THEY? (continue from page 4)

The Jehovah Witness religion is **NOT** a christian religion. Their teachings do **NOT** agree with the Bible. They take the Bible and twist and change what the Bible says and they confuse people with their explanation. As Christians and believers in Jesus Christ, we know that salvation is based on Jesus' death and resurrection. We know that we can do nothing ourselves to earn salvation. Jesus is the One who freed us from sin, death and the power of the devil and earned for us eternal life. We need to study God's Word daily, so that we will know what the Bible says. Then we will be prepared, with the help of God, to know if people preach and teach the Word of God falsely, which is what the Jehovah Witness people are now doing.

Watch out for the Jehovah Witnesses and their bad news. Don't be tricked by their smooth talking, because what they will be telling you is **FALSE**.

You have the truth at your fingertips . . . all you have to do is pick up your Bible and read it.

Don't let it sit on your table and collect dust. If you don't open your Bible, you will never find out what God is telling you.

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12

HIM WE PROCLAIM

From an address by Dr. Ralph Bohlman
President, Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod
July 1983

It is **HIM**, our Tribune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit--who motivates and inspires all of us. We do not proclaim ourselves, our congregations, our church body. It is **HIM** that we proclaim. He must be the center of all our activities in the church--and He, alone, must

receive the honor and the glory. May that be a distinguishing mark for the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod in the years ahead.

May it also be said that ours is a church body of people who proclaim **HIM** together. We have formed congregations, gathered around His Word and sacraments, in order to worship **HIM** and serve **HIM** as His people. As congregations, we have formed a Synod, and the Synod



has formed districts, so that we, walking together under His Word, can serve **HIM** more effectively by training our pastors, teachers and other church workers together, by performing our deeds of love in the name of Jesus Christ, together.

There are many things we do together in the Synod--at local, regional, national and international levels. As we do them together, may it be obvious to all involved and all who observe us that the primary purpose for which we work, worship, pray, serve and reach out is to proclaim **HIM**.

This is an exciting time to be alive and an exciting time to be in ministry in the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod. It is a time to look ahead, to build on our strengths, to seize the opportunities that are ours under the Holy Spirit's guidance.

IT HAS BEEN SAID . . .

When we look within we are depressed;
When we look around we are impressed;
When we look at Jesus we are blessed:

"What I am is God's gift to me;

What I do with it is my gift to Him!"



1984 REGIONAL ILDA CONFERENCES

CENTRAL REGION:

Holiday Inn
 Jacksonville, Ill.
 April 6, 7 and 8, 1984

PACIFIC REGION:

Pilgrim Lutheran church (Parish Hall)
 Los Angeles, Calif.
 May 18, 19 and 20, 1984

MIDWEST REGION:

Camp Sunnyside
 Des Moines, Iowa
 May 18, 19 and 20, 1984

EASTERN REGION

Gallaudet College
 Washington, D.C.
 June 8, 9 and 10, 1984

NORTHWEST REGION

Camp Trinity
 Flathead Lake, Mont.
 July 20, 21 and 22, 1984

GREAT LAKES REGION:

Lansing, Mich.
 July 27, 28 and 29, 1984
 Location not available

DIXIE REGION:

Holiday Inn
 Gulfport, Miss.
 August 3, 4 and 5, 1984

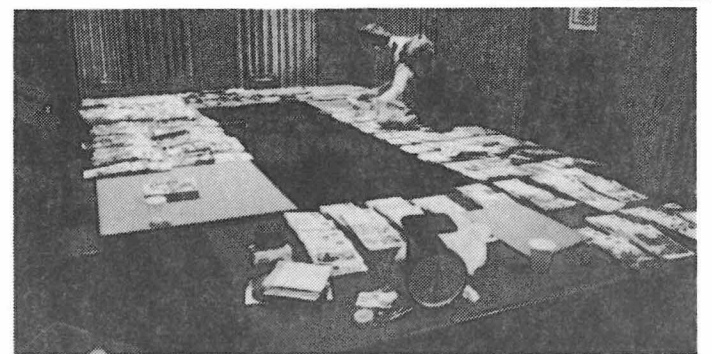
"THAT'S NOT MY JOB!"

This is a story about four people: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

--Unknown



REV. STEVEN R. SCHLUND, left, Holy Cross Lutheran church, Delavan, Wis., accepts posthumous award honoring the late Rev. Martin Kosche for his family at ILDA convention. Making presentation is Charles J. Kotal, ILDA president.



PEORIA, ILL--Mary Etter and Dorothy Rash of Joy of Jesus Lutheran church sorting devotional materials prior to shipment to Nigeria. Members of the congregation are active in foreign missions, handling several projects.

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits:

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;

Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagles.

Psalm 103:1-5

"Him we proclaim, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man mature in Christ."

Colossians 1:28

Lord's Supper for Members Only

Dear Pastor Larsen:

Why does your Lutheran church only give the Lord's Supper to members--and not to anyone who comes? Jesus gave the Lord's Supper for everyone--not just Lutherans. I do not agree with your rules. --A Lady Who Wonders

The Pastor Answers:

The church, like many other organizations, has certain rights and privileges that are set aside for members only. Some of those privileges are for Christian weddings and funerals, voting at meetings, and the Lord's Supper.

In a similar way, only members can vote in any kind of club meeting. Only lodge members can have a lodge funeral. Only citizens of the United States can vote or run for office. Only people with a drivers' license can drive a car. Only members of an auto club (as AAA) can get free maps, etc. Every group or organization needs some rules to live by, or we would have a big confusion. Non-members who do not support a group would be running the business of those people who do support it, which would be unreasonable.

With the Lord's Supper, our rules are not meant to keep anyone away from this blessing of Jesus, but rather to keep the celebration of the Lord's Supper from becoming cheap and losing its meaning.

I think that when you visit a Lutheran church if you are not a member, you will find that you may speak with the pastor about your faith in Jesus and ask that you receive the Lord's Supper. If you have accepted Jesus as your Savior and are willing to say so, and if you believe and understand the meaning and purpose of the Lord's Supper, that pastor will welcome you to share it with the members.

But, if you have no idea what the Lord's Supper is for or what it means, or even worse, if you have no faith in Jesus as your Savior, but just want the Lord's Supper so you won't feel left out, then it would be most wrong for the pastor to give it to you.

This is not our idea--look at what God says in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 11, verse 29: "For anyone who eats and drink without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have died."

A person who eats and drinks the body of

Foreign Student Travel Fund

In September 1983, Francis Anwana enrolled at the Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit. Francis is profoundly deaf and came from Lagos, Nigeria, Africa.

Because of the distance involved and the cost of transportation, a fund has been established to support travel for Francis to return home for the summer of 1984 and return to Detroit in September. Without adequate funds he would not be able to go because the family is not able to support this travel.

Generous Christians have come forward to help Francis return home for the summer of 1984 and we enlist the help of readers of the Deaf Lutheran. Many of you are sympathetic with a student being a long way from home for a long period of time. We want you to help support this program.

If you are willing and able to do so, please send your gift to Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf, care of AAL Branch 3092, 6861 East Nevada, Detroit, Mich. 48234.

Your help in supporting this project is greatly appreciated.

the Lord in the Lord's Supper without understanding what he is doing or without faith in Jesus, will bring judgment on himself. It would be wrong and careless for a pastor to give it out to anyone, even non-believers or people who have no understanding of what is going on. For their own good, they should not take it.

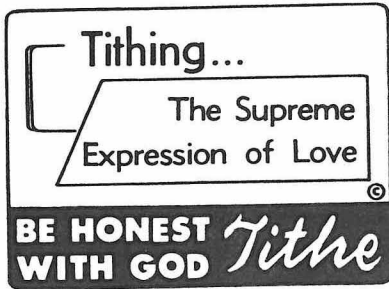
The reason we can and do give it to members is because members have been taught the meaning of the Lord's Supper, and to become a member, they are to publicly proclaim their faith in Jesus as their Savior and their understanding and agreement of what Jesus teaches about the Lord's Supper. We have no way of looking in their heart to see if they truly believe, but then we have done all we can to help them understand and believe.

Remember, when Jesus first established (began) the Lord's Supper. He shared it with His disciples only--on the night before He died. He didn't pass it out to soldiers, to curious people, to everyone, like giving out sausage samples at the state fair.

In the future, if you visit a Lutheran church, speak with the pastor and assure him of your belief and understanding in Jesus and the Lord's Supper--and you will be welcome to share it, too.

Stewardship and Unbaptized Pocketbooks

A story is told about a certain pastor baptizing one of his new converts in a river. As the new Christian approached his pastor,



he suddenly remembered something. "Just a minute," he said as he ran back out of the water, "I forgot to give my billfold to my wife."

"Come back here," shouted the pastor. "There are already

enough people in our church with unbaptized pocketbooks."

Proverbs 3:6 says, "In all your ways acknowledge God, and He will direct your paths." It is possible for us to think right about God, accept all the things the church teaches, be strict about rules for Christian living, be eager to preach to other people, to know the Bible from cover to cover, and and at the same time to close our minds to God's teaching on the Christian stewardship of our money.

Jesus was a bother to people who didn't want to hear about God's demands on their money. One verse of every six in Matthew, Mark and Luke talks specifically about people and their possessions/money. Almost one-third of Jesus' parables talk about money.

If you feel uncomfortable when the church talks about giving, then you probably have a problem in your heart. The Bible teaches clearly that God expects us to give and to support the church. We believe that Christians should give a certain percentage of

College Purchases Pennsylvania School for the Deaf

The historic 33-acre campus of the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (Mt. Airy) has been sold to Spring Garden college in an agreement to be effective July 1, 1984.

The agreement stipulates that if the school has not moved to a new site by the 1984-85 school term, rental space will be provided for one year.

The school, which has operated on the same location since 1892, is seeking a new site and plans to reorganize, eliminating some secondary programs.

Our God, Our Help is Ages Past

Our God, our Help in ages past,
Our Hope for years to come
Our Shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal Home!

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient in Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

their income to support God's work and church. When you were baptized into the Christian church, did your pocketbook go with your commitment?

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