



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

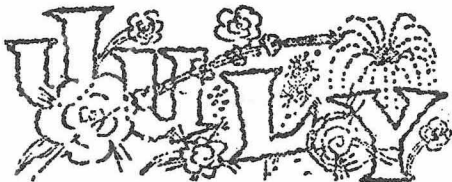
July-August, 1987

St. Louis, Mo.

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The Blessings of Liberty

GOD BLESS OUR NATIVE LAND



On July 4, 1987, the United States of America will celebrate 211 years of liberty. This freedom has given us the right to choose our own government, elected officials, to vote, and a right to self determination. It also gives all citizens the right to worship God as their conscience dictates.

Down through history, there have been many forms of government, some good, some bad. Many will agree that our form of democracy

EMMANUEL, MILWAUKEE, OBTAINS NEW BUILDING

Emmanuel Lutheran church, Milwaukee, Wis., which had worshipped at 4328 West North Ave. for a number of years and sold its building a few months ago, has obtained a new building and expects to close the deal May 1 and begin holding services in June.

Services have been held at the Wisconsin District office building located at 8100 W. Capitol Drive since moving out of the old church and the members are truly excited about having services once again in their own church home.

The new location at 98th and Lincoln Ave is in need of many improvements and a new addition is being considered. Remodeling the present structure is another venture being planned with a new altar, carpet among the things needed. At least \$5,000 has already been realized for these projects and more is needed. An ice cream social and beef dinner in March brought in \$500.

We rejoice with our brothers and sisters in Milwaukee!

is the finest yet that man has been able to devise. While it may not be absolutely perfect, it has given us many freedoms not enjoyed by other people of this world, and one of these has to be the right to gather in a place of worship.

Many people may not realize this, but being a Christian bestows dual citizenship on all of us who believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and King. This faith gives us "citizenship in heaven" (Phil. 3:20) and underlines our responsibility to God and country. As Christians, we are not to hold back, but to be leaders in local, state and national positions of responsibility, and point out to these leaders examples of how we can please God.

This nation was founded by men seeking religious liberty and we are the only nation on earth whose coinage bears the words, "In God We Trust." After more than two centuries of enjoying God's bountiful goodness as a nation, we must confess that many of us have, in many instances, completely forgotten Him. Our gods have become an addiction to drugs, alcohol, pornography, foul language, materialism, and being lovers of self more than lovers of God. Some of us just throw up our hands and ask, "What is happening to our country?"

GOD BLESS OUR LAND (continue on page 2)

NOTICE

ILDA President Lester Ahls regrets to inform everyone that 5,000 brochures of ILDA's 1985-1987 mission projects are all gone. No more will be printed until after the 1987 convention is over, at which time a new 1987-1989 mission program will be formulated. Those churches which requested brochures should request new ones later in the year.

We regret the inconvenience this may have caused.

DEAF/HEARING JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE

Rev. Steven R. Schlund
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Delavan, Wis. 53115

Jan. 18, 1987 was both a happy day and a learning experience for the members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church of the Deaf and Our Redeemer Lutheran church in Delavan. On that day, the two congregations worshipped together as sister congregations at Our Redeemer with Pastor Steven Schlund preaching simultaneously in both signs and voice from Romans 10:17 with the theme, "Are You Deaf or Hearing?" Pastor Schlund also interpreted for Rev. David Lieske of Our Redeemer as he led the liturgy. Mt. Tim Mumm, a teacher at

the Wisconsin School for the Deaf, interpreted the congregational responses in the liturgy. Deaf worshippers sat in front of the church where they had a clear view of the service and of the Holy Cross choir, which sang, "Holy, Holy, Holy."

Many favorable comments were heard about the service from members of both churches and plans are already being formulated for more cooperation and fellowship between the two congregations with a joint worship being planned in the fall during Deaf Awareness week.

(This is an idea whose time has come and we may be seeing more of this cooperation in other churches. Ed.)

CALLS DECLINED

Rev. Martin Hewitt, pastor of Faith Lutheran church, Spokane, Wash., has declined the call to Calgary, Alta., Canada.

Rev. John Fritz has returned the call to Silent Lutheran church, Madison, Wis. Rev. Fritz resides in Missoula, Mont.

Churches with known vacancies are Bethel in Denver, Colo. and St. Phillips Lutheran church, Philadelphia, Pa.

God Bless Our Land (continue from page 1)

Could we have become too independent? Can it be that we have taken this God given freedom for granted? Can it be that all of the heroes who have died in our wars to keep these freedoms that we enjoy today, have died in vain? And what about our Pledge of allegiance to the flag, in which we recite the words, "One nation, under God. . . ." Has this become meaningless?

On this fourth of July, let us not only celebrate the basic freedoms that we enjoy, but remember, also, the ultimate freedom we have through faith in our Holy and Triune God, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. This freedom from the terrible punishment of sin is the most important of all the many freedoms we enjoy as His people.

Jesus said, "If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." And on that first Easter, so long ago, that is precisely what Jesus did on the Cross at Calvary: He set us forever free!

Remember this year, as we celebrate our nation's Independence, that we have even a greater freedom earned for us by our Saviour's death and resurrection.

Yes, indeed, we are truly free!

CALL YOUR PASTOR!

Hardly anyone appreciates getting second hand news, and this is doubly true of our pastors, who serve us with God's Word. Especially when it concerns life threatening situations, illnesses, family troubles or even happy events!

Call him **before** you enter a hospital for whatever reason, or any time there is a serious illness in your family.

Before engaging a lawyer to solve the problem between you and someone.

Before or after your baby is born.

Before a wedding takes place, allow an advance notice to your pastor.

Before an emergency may arise such as death or serious illness, call the pastor without delay.

When faced with grief, call the pastor.

When you are depressed and you need someone to talk to.

Before leaving for school or college, or else, going away. Leaving for military service would be another example.

When you know about someone who needs spiritual help.

When someone is arrested for any serious reason.

When you have questions about the Bible, your faith in Christ or your service to Him.

When you need help carrying out a task in the church.

Before you are ready to move.

--The good Newspaper for the Deaf
Charlotte, N.C.

Think about this: "If you were on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?"

WHAT ABOUT THE NEW LUTHERAN CHURCH?



Board for Communication Service
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
1333 South Kirkwood Road
Saint Louis, Missouri 63122-7295

From April 30 to May 3, 1987, representatives of three Lutheran churches met in Columbus, Ohio for the constituting convention of a new Lutheran church, the Evangelical Lutheran church in America (ELCA). Throughout the balance of this year and into 1988, we will be hearing more and more about the ELCA, which will begin operations next January.

With headquarters in Chicago, the ELCA will unite the 2.9 million Lutheran church in America (LCA), the 2.3 million member American Lutheran church (ALC) and the 110,000 member Association of Evangelical Lutheran churches (AELC). By comparison, the Missouri Synod has 2.7 million members. We hope that the following information will answer some of your questions--and those others may ask you--about the new church.

WHY ISN'T THE MISSOURI SYNOD A PART OF THIS NEW CHURCH?

As much as we would like to be a part, we will not be in the new church because we believe that God's Word calls for us to have complete agreement in what we believe and teach before we demonstrate external unity, whether it be communing with each other, sharing our pulpits or actually merging with other church bodies. Unfortunately, we do not now have such agreement with the merging Lutheran church bodies.

HOW DO WE DIFFER WITH THE MERGING CHURCHES?

Most of our differences boil down to three areas:

1. The doctrine and authority of Scripture. We believe that the Bible is without error in all that it says. The merging churches avoid making that statement, saying, for example, that Scripture is not necessarily trustworthy on such matters as history and science. Differences between the LCMS and ELCA on the authority of Scripture also help to explain why the new church will ordain women to the pastoral office, while we do not.

2. Subscription to the Lutheran confessions. We bind ourselves to all the doctrinal

content of the Lutheran Confessional writings of the 16th century because we have studied them alongside the Bible and have come to the conclusion that they teach what the Bible teaches. The merging churches bind themselves only to the central teachings of the confessions and not to their entire doctrinal content.

3. The level of agreement necessary to join together in one church body. While we believe that the Bible requires agreement in all that the Bible teaches, the merging churches hold that disagreement in some matters of doctrine, such as the mode of Christ's presence in Holy Communion, do not prohibit church fellowship.

I WILL HAVE FRIENDS AND RELATIVES IN THE NEW CHURCH, AND THEY SEEM TO BELIEVE THE SAME AS I BELIEVE. I'M CONFUSED.

It can get quite confusing. There may be many people who will be members of the ELCA whose faith is in agreement with the official teachings of the Missouri Synod. At the same time, there are serious doctrinal differences between our two churches. But even while recognizing these differences, we should always remember that all those who believe in Jesus Christ are our Christian brothers and sisters.

DOES OUR NOT BEING A PART OF THE NEW LUTHERAN CHURCH MEAN THAT WE HAVE NO REAL INTEREST IN LUTHERAN UNITY? ARE WE BEING HARD HEADED?

It's not stubbornness, but a desire to be faithful to God's Word that keeps us from being part of this new church. The Missouri Synod has always sought Lutheran unity, but unity that is in accord with what the Bible teaches about church fellowship. One of the Scriptural necessities for external unity is agreement in doctrine.

WILL WE DO ANYTHING TOGETHER WITH THE NEW CHURCH?

There's much we can and will do together. We will continue to cooperate with the new Lutheran church in such matters as world relief and refugee work. We have also expressed our willingness to participate in theological

THE NEW LUTHERAN CHURCH (continue on page 5)

'SWINGING AROUND THE REGIONS . . .

Rev. Robert A. Bauer was honored on the 30th anniversary of his ordination and installation as pastor to the deaf in western Canada at Cross of Christ Lutheran church at Edmonton, Alta. on Sunday, Oct. 26, 1986. He entered the holy ministry on Oct. 14, 1956. Following services, a potluck luncheon was served and entertainment afterwards. Pastor Bauer was presented with a gift by the congregation.

Donald Peterson, a professor at Gallaudet University and a recipient of one of the last John of Beverly awards, underwent corrective surgery on the retina of his right eye. Also from the District of Columbia area is Mr. Gerald Ahrens, former president of the ER-ILDA, who injured his left elbow after striking it and resulting in surgery to repair the bursa sac.

We were sorry to learn that Mr. John Shipman who is superintendent of the Wisconsin School for the Deaf is hospitalized with tuberculosis.

Western Washington Lutheran Church observed its 75th anniversary May 30-31 with Rev. Arnold T. Jonas, former pastor of the western Washington field present as both banquet speaker Saturday evening and guest preacher on Sunday. Pastor Jonas is now retired and living northeast of Sacramento, Calif.

The 1987 meeting of the Pacific Region of the ILDA (PR-ILDA) has been postponed until 1988 and the next meeting will be hosted by Memorial Lutheran church in Fremont, Calif.

Rev. Donald Zuhn, Minneapolis, has accepted to serve as adviser to the Midwest Regional Conference, succeeding Rev. Ray Leimkuehler, who resigned and accepted a call to a hearing church at Barnes, Kan.

Rev. Richard Reinap, Austin, Texas, was honored last Dec. 14 on the occasion of his 10th anniversary of his ministry there. Rev. Glenn O'Shoney, president of the Texas District, was the guest speaker, who spoke on Psalm 98, emphasizing praise, celebration and job. Following the service, Pastor Reinap was presented a gift. Refreshments were served, with a cake saying, "Happy 10th Anniversary, World's Greatest Pastor."

For those who know Dale Van Hemert of Des Moines, Iowa, they will be pleased to know that Dale has made an almost miraculous re-

covery from a malignant brain tumor which was regarded as terminal. The ravages that the disease did has greatly limited his physical functions and he must undergo much physical therapy before he can return home, which he is eager to do. He is alert and clarity has returned to his mind, for which we are thankful. God heals in wonderful ways.

Rev. William C. "Bud" Palmer of Milwaukee was guest speaker at an open house at Christ Lutheran church in Washington, D.C. March 4-6.

In memory of Dale and Viola Paden, Omaha, Neb., the Paden family decided an appropriate memorial would be the purchase of a TRS-80 Micro-computer and a Star NX-18 printer. It is felt that these will be effective tools to help do the Lord's work at Bethlehem Lutheran church in Omaha where Robert Oettel is pastor. The new machines were delivered to the church on Feb. 24, Helping with the selection, purchase and installation was Rev. Walter D. Uhlig, who is retired from deaf ministry after many years and living in Lincoln, Neb. Pastor Uhlig also gave Mr. Oettel training in how to use the new equipment, for which he is being given thanks! Many people will have fond memories of the Padens, who were delightful people and staunch supporters of both their church and the ILDA. Dale served on the ILDA board of directors at one time.

The Iowa School for the Deaf at Council Bluffs will receive a new superintendent in the person of Dr. William P. Johnson on Aug. 1. He is presently superintendent of the Illinois School for the Deaf at Jacksonville. Dr. Johnson, 44, is the son of deaf parents, who incidentally, also reside in Council Bluffs, where he grew up. It is interesting to note that Dr. Johnson's forebears farmed the land back in the 1850's on which the school is now situated. He is succeeding Dr. Joseph C. Giangreco, who is retiring and has served since 1964.

A much larger chapel seating 100 people is expected to be ready for occupancy in September at the Chapel for the Deaf in Charlotte, N.C. at which Rev. Frank Wagenknecht is pastor. The congregation has voted to spend \$5,000 for the installation of five faceted colored chunk glass windows, with

'SWINGING AROUND
THE REGIONS

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50 YEAR CONFIRMATION REUNION

We do not very often hear about confirmation classes getting together again, but when it happens 50 years after the fact, that's news!

Such an event will occur on May 24 at Holy Cross Lutheran church, Delavan, Wis., where Rev. Steven Schlund is pastor.

On May 23, 1937, the late Rev. Fred Gade confirmed the following students of the Wisconsin School for the Deaf, also at Delavan:

Yachtman A. Sue, now of Anaheim, Calif., and a member of the board of directors of the ILDA; Albert A. Arneson, Milwaukee, Wis., who was toastmaster at the eighth biennial ILDA convention at Milwaukee; Dorothy (Suhr) Lewis and Theron Lewis, believed to be residing in Rockford, Ill.; Carl Mueller; Alice (Donner) Walsvik, Madison, Wis.; Verle Suhr, Rockford, Ill. and Robert Shields, Milwaukee.

This is truly a unique celebration and we praise God for keeping these people in a remembrance of their confirmation vows made 50 years ago.



The New Lutheran Church

(continue from page 3)

discussions in an effort to overcome the doctrinal disagreements that now divide us.

HOW CAN WE SHOW OUR FELLOW LUTHERANS IN THE NEW CHURCH THAT WE CARE ABOUT THEM?

As our president, Dr. Ralph Bohlmann said in the March, 1987 LUTHERAN WITNESS: "Unity in faith and confession among American Lutherans was a worthy goal of our founders, and it remains a tantalizing dream for us today. To that end, I pray that our congregations, pastors and individual members will continue to exhibit a warm and welcoming Christian spirit towards their counterparts in other Lutheran church bodies. With that attitude, our witness to God's truth, our love for God's people and our commitment to God's work will have a far better chance of being heard and seen by our fellow Christians"

DEFINITION OF A CHRISTIAN

Dr. Martin Luther had a high, and certainly Biblical, appraisal of a Christian:

"A Christian is a child of God, a temple of the Holy Spirit, an heir of eternal life, a companion of Holy angels, a ruler of the world, a terror of Satan, an ornament of the church, a desirable object of heaven, with a heart full of fire, with eyes full of tears, with a mouth full of supplications and with hands full of good works."



PASTORS LEAD DEVOTIONS DURING RETREAT--Rev. Gary Lawson interprets for Rev. Don Leber as he reads during devotions.



CAMP PIONEER--Site of 1987 winter retreat for members of the Great Lakes Regional Conference. The 1986 GLRC also convened here at Angola, N.Y.

'AND THE DEAF SHALL HEAR . . .'

Eileen Schwanke, the wife of a ministerial student at Concordia seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., tells this story of what she feels is one miracle after another which happened during her husband's vicarage at Waterville, Me.

"I was not surprised when the Lord took our sign language class at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection and turned it into a mission outreach. We had acquired sign language skills (with much help from the Mill Neck Foundation-sponsored church interpreter training institute at the Fort Wayne seminary) and we were eager to use them. The first door opened to us was my opportunity

'Swining Around the Regionals

(continue from page 4)

two more being done by the contractor free of charge, which will greatly enhance the beauty of the interior. Other improvements are being made. The church recently celebrated its first anniversary with an overflow crowd of 80 present to hear Rev. George Natonick, Washington, D.C. speak on Jesus' words, "I am the vine and you are the branches."

Bethesda Lutheran Home, Watertown, Wis., has acquired another residence in Springfield, Ill., with the capacity of 14 beds for mentally retarded men and women. Besides serving 650 retarded persons at its main facility in Watertown it has community living facilities in 10 states.

Mrs Roy (Ardella) Klein, Minneapolis, was a patient in North Memorial hospital for open heart surgery recently to replace a valve. Roy and Ardella are both devout church members and have attended many ILDA conventions and Midwest Conferences. We pray for her continued recovery and hope they can attend the convention.

1987 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, who was born Dec. 10, 1787. His birth will be celebrated during Deaf Heritage Week Dec. 6-12, 1987. It should also be noted that some other personalities in deaf culture were remembered in 1985 with the 200th anniversary of the birth of Laurent Clerc, the French teacher who accompanied Gallaudet back to America to begin teaching the deaf in this country and the 225th anniversary of the birth of Mason Fitch Cogswell in 1986.

as a substitute teacher, to occasionally teach a deaf class. Next, I was hired by the local high school as an interpreter/tutor for a deaf student, after which I began my weekly sign language classes at our church. The response was tremendous—a large class of adults and children both from the congregation and the community.

Eventually the makeup of the class, and their reasons for attending, changed. The few who continued were serious about learning to communicate with deaf people, and more than that, they had a real desire to reach out with the Gospel! So we changed gears and concentrated on interpreting sermons, the liturgy and hymns. Three students, Martha Zoller, Twila Kaska and Julie Witham have the support of the congregation and its LWML for a ministry to the deaf. One man furnished video equipment to make tapes for "fine tuning" their techniques. Another member handles PR for the local media. A woman made an "Ephphatha" banner. The ladies guild includes this ministry in their prayers and budget.

There is a very large mission field among the deaf and much to be done, Eileen says. She knows miracles continue to happen.--LWML Quarterly.



Gallaudet university has raised its tuition charges for the 1987-1988 academic year by 14.7 per cent to \$2,734 up from \$2,384 the previous year. Since 1981, tuition charges have risen approximately 130 per cent, or \$350 each year. The increases are said to be far above the national average which is about 7 to 8 per cent.

Clinical trials with multichannel cochlear implants have been approved by the FDA. This is the first time multichannel devices are being implanted in people who lost their hearing either prior to the acquisition of language or during the critical language learning years. It is said the new implants have been very successful in restoring hearing and some speech recognition in adults and adolescents who have learned to speak prior to the onset of deafness.

1989 CONVENTION PLANS

The 1989 convention of the International Lutheran Deaf Association will be held on the dates of July 6, 7, 8 and 9 at the Red Lion Lloyd Center, 1000 N.E. Multnomah, Portland, Ore. 97232. The convention theme will be, "Be Alive." Convention chairperson will be Mr. Ronald L. Madding, 1940 N.E. 57th Ave., Portland. Mr. Madding is currently president of the Northwest Region of the ILDA.

Contributions to the 1989 convention fund are welcomed and should be sent to the 1989 ILDA Convention Fund, c/o Mr. Stanley Miller, 12706 S.E. Riverridge Drive, Vancouver, Wash. 98684.

Psalm 8

Lord, our Lord, Your greatness is seen in all the world!
 Your praise reaches up to the heavens;
 It is sung by children and babies.
 You have built a fortress against Your foes to stop your enemies and adversaries.
 When I look at the sky, which You have made, at the moon and the stars, which you set in their places--
 What is man, that You think of Him; mere man, that You care for him?
 Yet You made him inferior only to Yourself; You crowned Him with glory and honor.
 You made him ruler over all You have made; You placed him over all things:
 Sheep and cattle, and wild animals too; the birds and the fish,
 And all the creatures in the seas.
 Lord, our Lord, Your greatness is seen in all the world!



PICNIC TIME--Members of Peace Lutheran church, Indianapolis, get together. How many can you identify?

10,000 Expected at 1988 Convocation



Plans are already underway for the 1988 Great Commission Convocation in St. Louis on the dates of Nov. 3-6 with about 10,000 lay persons, pastors and teachers attending, according to recent projections in *THE REPORTER*, a publication of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

The 1980 and 1984 convocations which emphasized evangelism will be expanded to include worship, witness, nurture, service and fellowship. It isn't too early to start planning for those who would like to attend.

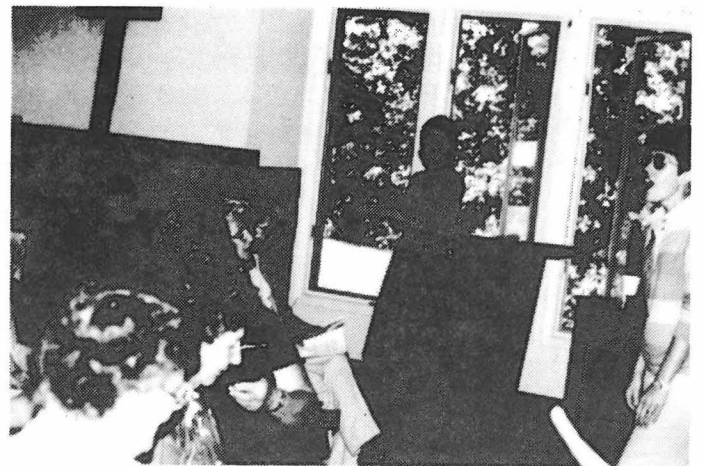
THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Centuries ago, in the Upper Room, bread and wine became living symbols of the life and death of Jesus of Nazareth.

For Christians in all ages, the Lord's Supper has become a dramatic remembrance of His life, a channel of communion with Him, a bond of fellowship among His followers.

Let us break bread together, gratefully remembering Him, earnestly seeking His sacrificial spirit, and lovingly uniting with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

ATTEND Holy Communion often.



LWML RETREAT--Ladies from Peace Lutheran church watch their interpreter during proceedings.

GOD'S SUPPLY--OUR TRUST

We are inclined to associate the word "stewardship" with money, especially with our response to requests for contributions. Stewardship covers far more than that. It applies to the use and sharing of all we are and have.

Even in worship, we give our time, our money and our energy. We use our ears (or eyes!) to listen to God's Word, our voices (hands!) to sing His praise and our hands, also, to greet others. We share our hope and joy with fellow Christians.

In its most beautiful meaning, stewardship speaks first, not of how we use what we have, but of HOW GOD USES US, how we serve and glorify Him. In the usual meaning of the term, a steward manages what belongs to someone else. A Christian steward is one who acknowledges that GOD'S SUPPLY has become OUR TRUST. Before Christian stewards can serve, they must recognize that everything they have is a trust from God. And they must accept and appreciate God's love in Jesus Christ. The art of receiving is basic to the art of giving.

WHAT
WILL BE YOUR
EXCUSE
NEXT YEAR IF YOU
DON'T START TITHING
THIS YEAR? ...

"THAT OLD MALADY, 'SUMMER SLUMP'"

Many churches experience a strange sort of disease which seems to come around most often as vacation time begins. It has different names, but "summer slump" will suffice for our purposes. Summer slump causes us to forget that our churches have needs during warmer weather just as they do at other times of the year.

After fighting off winter blahs, cabin fever, colds, flu and other associated allergies common to cold weather, our churches would like to think things will improve as warmer weather arrives. We tend to forget, too, that air conditioning in hot weather can cost as much as heat in the winter and most of us just take this convenience for granted.

God's blessings come all year round. Let us remember our offering envelopes all year round too.

A CHRISTIAN STEWARD



**WILL PUT
GOD IN
FIRST PLACE**

- In Commitment of Self
- In Allotment Time
- In Dedication of Resources

**BE A GOOD CHRISTIAN STEWARD
PUT GOD FIRST IN YOUR LIFE**

The DEAF LUNDEBAN

July-August, 1987

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