



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

Fall, 2001

St. Louis, MO

Volumes 93, No. 3

## DEAF LUTHERAN DEVOTION



Rev. Mark Anderson,  
ILDA Pastoral Advisor



See page 10 in this newsletter for more about this magazine and where to order it.

Hope that every one of you has had a nice, howbeit hot and muggy, summer of rest and play lately. There are two certain publications I have faithfully and eagerly been reading for the past two years since I first saw those magazines at my wife's home (hearing) church. The name of the first magazine is:

### Good News

I highly recommend this magazine for all of you because this publication is wholly confessional orthodox Lutheran. *Good News* deals with chief teachings of the Bible intended (meant) to help foreign seminary students who use English as their second language. Since this magazine uses simple yet clear English, I am positive that you will find *Good News* easy to read if you want to grow stronger, not only in faith in Christ, but also in confessional orthodox Lutheran faith. That will help you appreciate your Lutheran faith even more and will at the same time help you explain your faith more clearly to your non-Lutheran Christian friends, for example, Baptists and Assembly of God. And non-Christians friends (Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons) as well. What is more, *Good News* uses lots and lots of illustrations, graphs and pictures that makes reading even more enjoyable and help you remember better, too, when you share!

*Good News* touches on important topics such as: Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Heaven and Hell, Law and Gospel, Prayer, Creation, Word, Feelings and Faith, Kingdom of God and Book of Revelation, just to name a few.

I strongly encourage you go see your pastor about this wonderful magazine called *Good News* as he can order it for you. *Good News* publishes two or three magazines every year. In fact, before LCMS President Alvin Barry was called to his eternal home last February, he highly recommended in his one

of his last articles this excellent reading material for all pastors and church people.

The name of the second magazine I also recommend is:

### The Voice of the Martyrs (VOM)

A Lutheran Romanian pastor who spent 14 years in Romanian Communist prisons for sharing his Christian faith founded the VOM. His name was Rev. Richard Wurmbrand who just was called to his eternal home last spring. You can read more on his life and sufferings in a book entitled *Tortured for Christ*.

The monthly magazine gives sordid and amazing details on our brothers and sisters in Christ who live in all countries very hostile to Christianity. Those Christians actually face jail and/or torture every day while they are moved by Word to share God's love bravely with all lost people around them. It is so unbelievable to read how ready our brethren are to accept punishment of death just for sharing Jesus! They are true martyrs who choose to suffer death rather than to deny Christ and who make sacrifices to bring the Kingdom of God to those millions who are on the way to everlasting lake of fire and brimstone.

Once again, I strongly encourage all of you to read those two excellent and inspiring magazines *Good News* and *the Voice of the Martyrs*.

ILDA Pastoral Advisor

### TELL THE

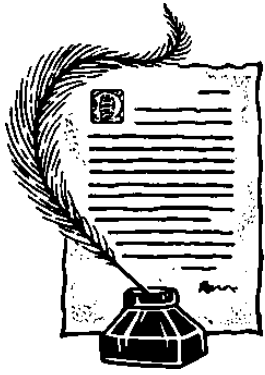


GOOD NEWS



"Let light  
shine  
out of  
darkness"  
- 2 Corinthians 4:6

# Editorial...



Greeting everyone in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Wow! The 16th Biennial, ILDA 2001 Convention, at Marriott Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana on June 21-24, 2001 has gone smoothly. We all have enjoyed getting together again.

Many, many thanks go to the 2001 Indy team for their extra hard work with this convention. Winona Alter and her troop has put in a lot of work to make this convention a success! Good job!!!!

You will find in this issue four pages of photos from the convention. Photos and notes from the Board Meeting that has taken place before this convention will be printed in the next issue of *The Deaf Lutheran*.

I did a lot of driving in a one month period. After driving home from Indianapolis on June 25th, my wife and I left Ohio on July 6th for Des Moines, Iowa. In Iowa, we attended Calvary Deaf Church's morning worship service and then in the afternoon, former ILDA president, Dennis Konkell's ordination service as new deaf pastor. It was our first time in the state of Iowa. I thought Iowa was all flat land, but to our surprise, the state is rolling hills! We found out that the state of Iowa was named after a woman.

After Des Moines, we had five days of free time before going to St. Louis. So we camped in a state park (Rathbun Lake) in Iowa. It turned out to be very hot with bugs and half a dozen of raccoons at our camp site. So after two nights of camping, we decided to take a side (unplanned) trip to Kansas City and Topeka, Kansas. We stayed

in Kansas City for the three remaining nights. Good thing because there happened to be a severe thunderstorm with 4 inches of rain the following evening! We did really enjoyed touring Kansas City. While in KC, we called up and had a visit from a former family that we knew for a couple of years from Faith Lutheran (hearing) Church LC-MS when we were living in Mansfield, Ohio.

In St. Louis, we attended Mill Neck's John of Beverley Award dinner/presentation. Ms. Beatriz Raymann and ILDA were the two recipients of the awards. See page 5 in this newsletter for photos. We have arrived home safely on July 16th after driving 2,424 miles on this trip. Also, while in St. Louis, we attended the Sunday morning worship service at Holy Cross Deaf Church. After the service, we joined the church's members to tour a new building that they are considering on purchasing. Holy Cross has sold their old church building and will be moving. More information about this will be published in the D/L when the move is completed.

David G. Brown, Editor



## New Officers for 2001-2003 ILDA...

1999 President-Elect **James Swalley** moved up as 2001 President.

**Pam Kane** was elected as President-Elect.

**Tim Johnston** was re-elected as Secretary.

**Jim Sipchen** was elected as Treasurer.

**Rev. Mark Anderson** was re-elected as Pastoral Advisor.

Thank you Dennis Konkell, for your volunteer in searching candidates for new officers.

## 1999-2001 Mission Project...

During the ILDA Indianapolis '01 Convention, ILDA's Mission Project has only reached **\$33,993.11** of the \$55,000 goal!

The 2001-2003 ILDA Mission Project Goal has been voted to be at **\$47,500**. Lee Ann Kotal of California is ILDA's new Mission Project Chairperson.

Thank you Pam Kane for serving as Mission Project chairperson for six years!



**SUPPORT  
OUR  
MISSIONS**

## Coming up Next...

### "Let Thy Holy Angels Be With Us"

Come and join us as we celebrate the 17th Biennial Convention in Minneapolis, MN. The Mall of America is a short walk from the Hilton Hotel at Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport area.

Hosts: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf, 1101 University Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414.  
V/TTY: 621-331-2474



## Right Hand Award...

The Board of Directors chose Clarence F. Schultz for the Right Hand Award during ILDA Indianapolis '01 convention.

Thank you Richard and Natalie Norton of Texas, for your volunteer in searching candidates for the Right Hand Award.



**A ROUND  
OF  
APPLAUSE!**

# The Ordination of Dennis Konkel

July 8, 2001



*The Reverend Dennis and Susan Konkel. Dennis has served as ILDA 1997-99 President.*



*Rev. Dennis Konkel and wife, Susan, look over the refreshment food!*

## Participants:

The Preacher - Rev. Jerold Munz; the Liturgist - Rev. Roger Altenberger; the Officiant - Rev. Paul Sieveking; the Assistant - Mr. Marion Van Manen of Calvary Deaf Church.

## Assisting:

The Pastors and Missionaries of the Des Moines East and West Circuits, Iowa District West, Iowa District East, and Nebraska.

Dennis Ray Konkel was born in Pontiac, Michigan on July 11, 1948. He attended Michigan School for the Deaf. His parents abandoned him so a Polish Roman Catholic family fostered him.

After he graduated from high school, he entered Gallaudet University to begin his studies to be a Chemistry researcher. It was at this time that he became a Lutheran under Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf - LCMS. He graduated from Gallaudet on May 18, 1973 as a Chemistry major.

In October, 1973, he got an US Government job as a chemist at National Institute of Health in Maryland and then a job as a brain scientist.



*Ordination service for Dennis Konkel.*



*The Reverend Dennis Ray Konkel!*



*Rev. Dennis Konkel with pastors.*

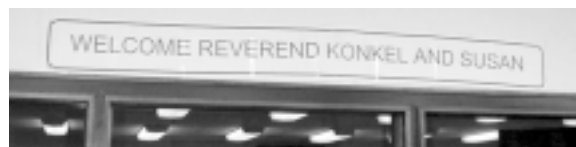
In March, 1997, after much prayer and careful consideration, he decided to go to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis to become a deaf Lutheran church pastor or a Missionary at Large. Upon completion of his academic studies in the Summer of 1999, he began to serve his one-year vicarage at Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Indianapolis under Pastor Jerold Munz's supervision.

In April, 2001, he accepted call to be Missionary at Large (MAL) for the Iowa District West. On May 18, 2001, he graduated from the Seminary.

He married Susan Haselhuhn of Cass City, Michigan on June 2, 1973. They have two deaf daughters, Sara, 26, and Darla, 20.



*Calvary Lutheran Church for the Deaf, 3909 E. 42nd St., Des Moines, IA 50317*



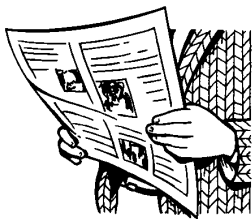
*Part of the huge reception crowd!*



*Calvary ladies served refreshment.*



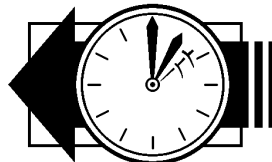
# News from around the Regions...



## News about our People



### SET YOUR CLOCKS



### BACK

October 28, 2001

**Remember to  
send to the D/L  
editor your  
church's  
newsletters!**

## Northwest Region...

**Cross of Christ, Edmonton, AB...** Last March the church had an Information and Recruitment evening of *Legion of Frontiersmen*. Sgt. Doug Ferguson gave a presentation on "What is means to be a Frontiersmen - a short profile of the Deaf members of F Troup." Major Rev. Bauer announced that he will be padre for High School Student Youth Parliament on April 5. Gary Andersen was promoted to Corporal.

Last April a special project was given to the Youth Parliament by the Royal Canadian Legion. Pastor Bauer has been asked to be chaplain for the day. Some 83 young grade 10 students and MLA's attended.

D.I.T. (Deaf Institute of Theology) - Joanne Walmsley and Jerry Douziech begins Level Two studies. D.I.T. is funded by ILDA Mission Project!

Faith Deaf, Spokane, WA... **Clyde and Charlotte Catron** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 7th.

Montana Lutheran Deaf Camp was held on August 16-19 at Big Fork, Montana.

## Midwest Region...

Calvary, Des Moines, IA... now have a new pastor, **Rev. Dennis Konkell**. Rev. Konkell will also serve as MAL for the Iowa District West. Ordination service was held on July 8th.

Word of God, Cedar Rapids, IA... **Irene Anderson** went home to Jesus on February 28th. **Rev. Fred Leighty** now serves as pastor for Word of God Deaf Church and serve as MAL for the Iowa District East. **Rev. Tim Eckert** has been serving as pastor in this area since Rev. Roger Altenberger has taken his new job in St. Louis as LCMS World Mission director late last year. Rev. Eckert now serve in the Quad Cities area.

**Rev. Tom Phillips** has accepted call to become the pastor in New Holland, IL and will serve the Deaf in Central Illinois and Jacksonville.

Midwest ILDA has met at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca in June. **Bill and Barb Zimmerman** has put in much time and work in this conference.

## Central Region...

Peace Deaf, Indianapolis... **Lynn Frye, Sr.** has entered God's Kingdom on May 19th.

Thank you members of Peace Deaf Church for your patient and hard work with ILDA's 2001 convention!

**Fort Wayne Seminary Campus...** was damaged during a tornado storm on May 26th. 95% of the trees were wiped out.

**Russel and Betty Jo Healey** spent their 50th Anniversary in Key West, Florida on first week of April for 3 weeks with Russel's family. They were married on April 3, 1951 by Rev. Francis J. Gyle at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Mo.

## Dixie Region...

Jesus Deaf, Austin, TX... Former missionary to Macau, China, **Jennifer Knaack** has married Aaron Ceyanes in June in Florida! They now reside in Austin. **Roger Serna** and **Kathy Bailey** were

married on April 28th. New email address for the church is: [JesusDeafLutheran@AustinTexas.com](mailto:JesusDeafLutheran@AustinTexas.com).

## Great Lakes Region...

Alphia, Rochester, NY... **John Rushton** has been installed as a Deacon on May 20th.

Trinity, Pittsburgh, PA... Jesus has called home **Ruth Cupps** to heaven.

## Eastern Region...

Christ Deaf, Silver Spring, MD... **Don Peterson** and Clifford Geffen were selected as two new members to The Board of the Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf. They are the first deaf members on this Board.

## LCMS...

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod President **Rev. Dr. Alvin L. Barry** as gone home to Jesus on March 23rd. He has served as President since 1992. Rev. Barry was the church body's 11th president and the first to die in office.

## Alpha Lutheran Church of the Deaf has a Deaf Deacon...

May 20, 2001, Alpha Lutheran Church of the Deaf and Eastern District of Buffalo, NY has appointed John Rushton as a deacon. He is the first deaf deacon in the history of Alpha Lutheran Church of the Deaf. He has been a member of Alpha Lutheran for years and is a member of LCMS and current president of Greater Lakes Regional Conference under International Lutheran Deaf Association. Over 10 pastors from other churches in the Rochester area including, Rev. Ruppert, deaf ministry from PA and Rev. Wrede of NYC joined the joyful service and praised the Lord for the new deacon at Alpha Lutheran Church of the Deaf. The members of Alpha are looking forward to having Deacon John lead workshops, giving Lord's Supper, visit hospitals, visit seniors at their homes, attend services in Jamestown once a month, and lead bible study and others. The only thing he cannot do is perform weddings. He has worked as lay leader for years and the Eastern District gave him a deacon certificate few weeks ago. John's mentor, Rev. Brian Smith, associate pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, Penfield worked with congregation president, Troy Olivier to prepare for the installation service. At the same time, John Rushton is studying at D.I.T. (Deaf Institute of Theology) through using internet to communicate with a teacher from Lutheran Church of Missouri Synod., St. Louis, Missouri. At the same day, we had a special event, called "Welcome Home Sunday" which included worship at 11am and then installation began at 4 o'clock in the afternoon at Alpha Lutheran Church of the Deaf, 1969 S. Clinton Ave., Rochester, NY 14618



## JOHN of BEVERLEY AWARD

**Presented to Beatriz Raymann  
and to the International Lutheran  
Deaf Association (ILDA)**

*for their lifelong commitment to service among  
God's people who are Deaf in this country and  
the world; for their perseverance in their calling;  
for their far-reaching contributions rendered in  
Christian humility; for their servant leadership  
and their consistent desire that, in all things,  
Christ should have preeminence.*

**July 15, 2001  
St. Louis, MO**



*Beatriz Carmem Warth Raymann  
accepted her John of Beverley award.*



*Ms. Raymann gives her  
acceptant speech.*



### *About the John of Beverley Medal...*

Created in 1958 by the internationally renowned sculptor-artist, Donald DeLue, the John of Beverley Medal is awarded in recognition of accomplishments which directly affect and positively improve the lives of those who live in a world of silence. The medal was named for John of Beverley, an English clergyman who lived at the close of the seventh century. Mentioned by the Venerable Bede in his Ecclesiastical History of the English nation, written about 734 A.D., this English Bishop was the first person of record to teach a Deaf person to speak. To date, twenty-seven persons and one organization has received the award.



*ILDA's 1999-2001 President, Richard Norton,  
accept the award in behalf of ILDA.*



*Past President, Richard  
Norton, gives ILDA's  
acceptant speech.*



The International Lutheran Deaf Association (ILDA) is an organization committed to spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ among Deaf and hard-of-hearing people through mission work in the United States and around the world. Within local congregations, ILDA works to tell Deaf people in our communities about the salvation we have in Jesus. The main focus of ILDA is to support Lutheran mission work with Deaf people in other countries by providing them with money, prayers and people to do the work.





DO APPRECIATE IF YOU WOULD DO THAT.

NEXT WE HAVE FINISHED WITH OUR DEBATION AND I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE SOME INDIVIDUALS. WHO IS OUR PARLIAMENNA HAD TAN

MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED  
BY GETTING THAT'S A GOOD CLAR  
AND MAKE UP FOR THAT ABOUT  
THAT. THAT IS CATCHY SENSE BY  
LOVES THE TEAM HAVE EXTENDED  
TO THAT CAN HAVE MORE THAN ONE  
HITTING FIRST TWO TIMES

THESE ARE THE NAMES OF THE  
MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN  
ENCOURAGED BY GETTING  
THAT'S A GOOD CLAR  
AND MAKE UP FOR THAT  
ABOUT THAT. THAT IS  
CATCHY SENSE BY  
LOVES THE TEAM HAVE  
EXTENDED TO THAT CAN  
HAVE MORE THAN ONE  
HITTING FIRST TWO  
TIMES



*And more conventioners during the business meeting!*



*Detroit Lutheran School for the Deaf students posted for this reunion photo.*



*Some of the ILDA Board and Regional officers lined up on the stage.*



*Signing Hands Choir of St. Luke Methodist Church performed during the Banquet.*



*Conventioners enjoying Saturday evening Banquet dinner.*



*More Banquet attendants!*



*Conventioners attending Sunday morning Bible Study preached by Rev. Jerry Munz.*



*Deaf Lutheran Business Manager, Larry Ginter, performed his duty at the display table.*



# ILDA Competition Awards...



## 1st Place Banner Winner -



Hope Deaf Univ Chapel, Lincoln, NE

## 3rd Place Banner Winner -



Memorial Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Fremont, CA

## 1st Place Skit Winner -



Holy Three-in-One, Houston, TX

## 2nd Place Skit Winner -

Holy Cross, Wisconsin

## 2nd Place Banner Winner -



St. John Deaf Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN

## 1st Place Group Choir Winner -



Silent Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Madison, WI

## 1st Place Choir Winner -



Pam Kane of Christ Deaf Lutheran Church, Cleveland, OH.

## 2nd Place Choir Winner -



Vicky Davis of Silent Lutheran Church, Madison, WI.

## 3rd Place Choir Winner -

Mary Mowl of Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Pittsburgh, PA





Rev. Donald Leber of California posted for this photo.

## D.I.T. Certificates...



Rev. Roger Altenberger presents Richard Norton the D.I.T. Certificate.



Rev. Roger Altenberger presents Alan Rork the D.I.T. Certificate.



Left, LCMS Deaf Ministry's chief, Rev. Roger Altenberger shows his wares to Donald Mowl. Center, Barbara Lanman of Mill Neck Foundation shows her wares to several visitors.



Rev. Roger Altenberger presents Nancy Kicks the D.I.T. Certificate.



Rev. Roger Altenberger presents Scott Wilson the D.I.T. Certificate.

Also receiving the D.I.T. Certificate are Joe McCury and Robert Wendsher.



Above, Mark Johnson gave his report on the coming ILDA 17th Biennial Convention, to be held in Minneapolis, MN on July 3-6, 2003. Right, are members of his committee. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of the Deaf is host. Theme will be "Let Thy Holy Angels Be With Us."



D.I.T. certificates were awarded during Saturday night's banquet.



Rev. Roger Altenberger presents Pat Monroe the D.I.T. Certificate.



Winona Alter, right, chairperson of ILDA 2001 convention, transfer ILDA's banner to ILDA 2003 convention host, Mark and Linda Johnson.



## Good News Magazine...

During ILDA's Board Meeting before the convention, ILDA Pastoral Advisor, Rev. Mark Anderson reported of a very good magazine and suggest that everyone subscribe to it.

Contact the magazine: **Good News**, 6973 Chippewa St., St. Louis, MO 63109. Telephone is 314-645-1919. Fax number is 314-645-1294. Email address is [info@good-news.net](mailto:info@good-news.net) for more information.

## Deaf Institute of Theology (D.I.T.) Program...



**Join D.I.T.!**

D.I.T. offers leadership training classes on 8 different levels. Some of these levels include: *The Caring Leader, The Organizational Leader, The Small Group Leader, Worship Leader*, etc. All members—male and female—are eligible to study levels one to three. When a male has completed all 8 levels, he will be eligible to become an ordained pastor.

All of the study can be done in your home. We will send you books, materials, and ASL video tapes. You will have four months (or less) to work on the course. You will work with your pastor on projects in your congregation. When you have completed a level, ILDA will give you a certificate at their biennial convention. For more information talk to your pastor.

Would you like to be a more effective leader? Would you like to share Jesus with a friend? Get an enrollment form from your pastor.

D.I.T. is funded through ILDA's mission project goal for almost 5 years now. See the Spring 1999 issue of *The Deaf Lutheran* newsletter for more information and photos. Past newsletters can be found on the web site: [www.LCMSdeaf.org/ILDA](http://www.LCMSdeaf.org/ILDA)

It was reported during the ILDA Board Meeting in Indianapolis that there are now 46 students in the D.I.T. program.

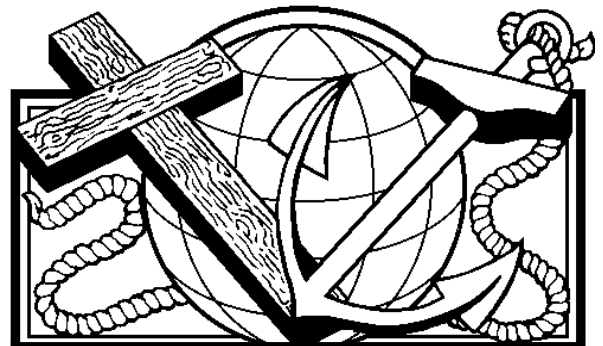
## Advertising Rates...

## The DEAF LUTHERAN

The following rates has been established for advertising in *The Deaf Lutheran* newsletter. Ads must be in good taste, related to Christianity, and of interest to deaf Lutheran readers. Typewritten or email text are preferred. Photos and camera ready arts can be submitted by mail or sent by email in "jpeg" file format. Contact Deaf Lutheran's Editor at [TheDeafLutheran@aol.com](mailto:TheDeafLutheran@aol.com) for more information on how to submit ads.

The rates are as: \$500 for full page; \$250 for half page, \$75 for quarter page; and \$62 for one-eighth page size advertisement.

Advertising help provide some income to *The Deaf Lutheran* staff for travels to different regions.



## ILDA 2001-2003 Mission Projects Goal... \$47,500

1. DIT / Zacharus .....	\$11,000
2. ILDA PR Video Project .....	\$5,000
3. Sao Paul Lutheran Church of Brazil .....	\$2,500
4. Republic of Madagascar Schools for the Deaf .....	\$2,500
5. Summer Camps (California, Nebraska & Texas \$3,000 each) .....	\$9,000
6. Ghana .....	\$2,000
7. Macau (missionary) .....	\$2,000
8. New York West Camp .....	\$2,000
9. Concordia School for Special Education (Macau) .....	\$1,500
10. India Parsonage Improvement .....	\$3,000
11. Nyandarua School of the Deaf .....	\$3,000
12. Pax Natrue Ranch (Canada) .....	\$1,000
13. Starfish Learning Center .....	\$3,000

*Lee Ann Kotal of California is our new mission project chairperson. She can be reached via email at: [LAKOTAL@aol.com](mailto:LAKOTAL@aol.com).*



## More church lisitings...

In the fall of 2000, we began a deaf mission at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Oakmont, Pennsylvania, with the assistance of Mission Developer, Rev. Mark Ruppert.

Redeemer Lutheran Church  
1261 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Oakmont, PA 15139  
(412) 828-9323  
[www.redeemer-oakmont.org](http://www.redeemer-oakmont.org)

Interpreted Sunday School and Worship  
2nd and 4th Sundays of each month  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Worship: 10:45 a.m.

contact: [driscoll\\_karen@hotmail.com](mailto:driscoll_karen@hotmail.com)

# Blessed To Be A Blessing

## Mill Neck Manor Students Provide Hurricane Relief For 2001 Servanthood Project



*During the 2001 Mill Neck Manor Servanthood Project, students Ronald Duran and Victor Ulrich help Mill Neck Building and Grounds Manager, Jim Higgins, build shelves in a woodshed at a North Carolina home damaged by Hurricane Floyd. The Servanthood Team traveled to Rocky Mount, NC in early May to help rebuild and repair damaged homes.*

When students at Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf traveled from New York to Rocky Mount, North Carolina for Mill Neck Foundation's annual Servanthood Project, they were only gone for one week. However, during that time, the work they did and the amount they grew as individuals with hearts to help others was immeasurable. From May 3-11, the Servanthood Team traveled to Rocky Mount to aid in clean up and rebuilding after the Hurricane Floyd disaster of 1999. This year's team comprised of eight high school students, four staff members from Mill Neck Manor and a nurse from Phoenix, Arizona.

For the project, the Team worked with Lutheran Disaster Response, an organization that sets up crews at "disaster" areas around the country. Mill Neck Foundation for Deaf Ministry, who sponsors the trip, worked with Lutheran Disaster Response in 1998 in South Dakota, the first year a Mill Neck Servanthood Team worked on such a project. Lutheran Disaster Response coordinates with volunteer groups, like Mill Neck's Servanthood Team, under the guidance of a Lutheran Disaster Response supervisor. During their time in Rocky Mount, the Mill Neck Team worked with Dale Percy, who was their supervisor in South Dakota. The team also worked with the Tri-County Interfaith Initiative, who provided housing at a local church for the team, and who also has been helping hurricane victims.

Arriving in Rocky Mount, students and staff helped out at two work sites, located a block from the river. It was not as much the actual storm, but the rising waters and flooding caused by saturated grounds that resulted in much of the damage, explained Barbara Lanman, Mill Neck Foundation for Deaf Ministry Coordinator and Director of the Servanthood Project. The Team also helped organize the warehouse that stores tools and items donated for the hurricane relief effort. Mill Neck Manor's Building and Grounds Manager, Jim Higgins, showed some student team members how to build shelves, while other team members sorted and categorized the donated goods.

"The great thing about this Project was that we all worked together as a team," said Lanman. Teamwork was one of the goals of the trip, and their efforts were clearly evident. The first site students worked at was the home of Michael Joe, who had been living in a trailer alongside his home, with his girlfriend, Pat, since the hurricane. The Mill Neck team, working with Joe, primed and painted Joe's house, finishing the exterior after prior groups did repairs on the house's interior. The house was painted a cheery green. "We all painted, we all scrubbed - no one stood around. We were all equal in sharing the work we did," said Lanman.

In a note of appreciation to the team, Joe wrote, "Pat and I thank you for all of your help and love. We will always hold a very special love in our hearts for each and every one of you."

From that site to another, only two houses down, students continued their mission to assist others and do as much as they

could, during their short stay, to help rebuild a life. At the home of Dora Williams, an elderly woman who had been living with her brother, students repaired and painted Williams' home. Williams was the victim of a corrupt contractor, who had taken advantage of Hurricane Floyd victims, and who is currently in prison for his deeds. The Mill Neck Team rebraced her car port, repainted eaves, awnings and flower boxes, sealed her deck and did many other small, but necessary, repair jobs.

Coming so close to having her home fully restored, Williams was truly appreciative of what the students did, but could not resist pushing the team to do a little more. Before concluding their work in Rocky Mount, the team fulfilled Williams' final request - planting flowers in her flower boxes. "You got a real sense that the people in Rocky Mount are still in the healing process," said Lanman.

Self-realizing their potential to help, their talents and their "knacks" for certain jobs, Lanman was proud of this year's team. "They worked very well together. I never heard any complaints, even though we worked very full days. I think we fostered an attitude that you could do anything here. Everyone came away feeling, 'I have something to give, and it was needed.'" Building confidence in their own abilities, students worked well with one another. As a team, they realized that they all needed to do their part, to get to the next task that needed to be done. "The kids could see others' strengths and weaknesses, and they worked around it," said Lanman.

Students were also a model for one another in their work ethic and behavior. Half of the students on this year's team had never participated on a Servanthood Project. Although they did not know exactly what to expect, watching their experienced peers work selflessly set the standard for the entire team. "I saw such growth - especially in those who went on the Servanthood Project for the first time," said Lanman. She was encouraged to see hesitation transform into confidence. Every student had a "self-fulfilling experience."

During their stay in Rocky Mount, the team slept and ate their meals in a local church. Students took turns in cleaning up of meals, had to shower at a local YMCA and used their free time playing games and watching movies. Although the students' energy appeared endless, working long, full days eventually got the best of them. Allowed to set their own sleeping hours, students quickly learned the value of a good night's sleep.

The Mill Neck Manor 2001 Servanthood Team members were: students Shamika Edwards, Ronald Duran, Charmaine Konoki, Joseph Malone, Reyna Quijada, Dalstar Reid, Nelexis Garces and Victor Ulrich; staff Barbara Lanman, Lynn McDonald, Michelle Rocconi, Jim Higgins, and Donna Anthony. Team members were selected by Lanman and Mill Neck Manor School staff based on their academic standing, their willingness to work as a "team" and learn, and their attitudes. One team member who stood out was Higgins. "Jimmy was a godsend," said Lanman. "It was nice to have his knowledge. He became our crew manager, and he worked great with the kids and Dale Percy."

The project was funded in full by Mill Neck Foundation. Through this year's Servanthood Project, students saw firsthand lives that were slapped by disaster. They also saw how their labor and selfless attitudes could touch lives and bring a renewed sense of hope and joy. "No matter what ability or disability the students saw themselves as having, they learned that they were blessed to be a blessing," said Lanman.

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## Don't forget to visit ILDA's Web Site!!!

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Also check with this web site for LCMS World Ministry counselor, Rev. Roger Altenberger's latest report.





# The DEAF LUTHERAN

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