



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

Christmas, 2003

St. Louis, MO

Volumes 95, No. 4

## DEAF LUTHERAN DEVOTION



Rev. Mark Seeger,  
ILDA Pastoral Advisor

Thankful for what?

*"In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

This is a time of year when many people are thankful. The turkey growers are thankful that so many people eat turkey for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The toy makers and toy stores are thankful that parents and grandparents spend so much money to buy so many Christmas presents for the children. Clothing manufacturers are thankful that clothing is a popular gift to give at Christmas. The people who make decorations are thankful that people like to decorate their homes with such a variety of things. Have you noticed that it's not just for Christmas, but now there are people who put up Halloween lights outside their homes, like they do with Christmas light? The greeting card makers are thankful that people like to send Christmas cards to their friends and families, although I'm not so sure the letter carriers are so happy carrying all that extra mail! The malls and stores are thankful that people like to shop, shop, shop and spend, spend, spend. The list can go on and on!

So far, everyone I've mentioned about being thankful are the people who make a lot of money at this time of year, but surely, there are people who are thankful even without making big profits, aren't there? Yes, the school students from kindergarten through college are happy to have between two weeks to five weeks of vacation, even though the schools are too afraid to call it "Christmas" vacation. I wonder who is more thankful for the vacation, the students or the teachers? I know the drivers in major college towns are thankful for the vacation because the roads are not as crowded in the morning! The list can go on and on!

Surely there are other reasons to be thankful, right? Yes, there are. I am thankful for the millions of people through the years who have given offerings to support missions -- including deaf missions! I am thankful for

all the deaf people who invite their families, friends and neighbors to come to church and Bible study to learn more about Jesus. I am thankful for all the teachers, interpreters and pastors who have faithfully brought the good news of Jesus Christ to deaf people and hearing people, alike. I am thankful that God loves us so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to take away the sins of the whole world, and that He has opened Heaven to us, so that we can live eternally with Him. I am thankful that He sent the Holy Spirit to give us faith so we can believe and receive His blessings! The list can go on and on!

Let your list of thanks go on and on, never stopping, but, as Saint Paul says in First Thessalonians, 5:8, *"In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

Blessings to you and yours!

Pastor Mark Seeger,  
ILDA Pastoral Advisor



...a little child shall lead them.  
- Isaiah 11:6



*"... you shall call his name Jesus ..."*

-Matthew 1:21



Our Savior  
is Born

# The President's Report...



*Pam Kane, ILDA  
2003-2005 President*

Greeting in name of our New Born King.  
To the members of International Lutheran Deaf Association and readers of the Deaf Lutheran.

Christmas is just around the corner, people are getting busy shopping for gifts for families and friends. But the true meaning of Christmas is all about the birth of our Savior. Jesus came into the world to save us from our sins and bring us closer to God. That God's greatest gift to us is his beloved Son Jesus.

We as Christian still need to reach out to the lost. Our work for the Lord is never finish. The Lord has instructed each of us to go out and witness about Him to the end of the world. I have heard great awesome stories from Rev. Palmer and Rev Reinke who have traveled to Ghana to

ministry to the hundreds or thousands of Deaf people They were so hungry for God's words that it is never enough they both been ministry to them from early morning till late evening straight through for three weeks and they are still hungry for more. Many got to know the Lord and several were baptized. Praise the Lord!

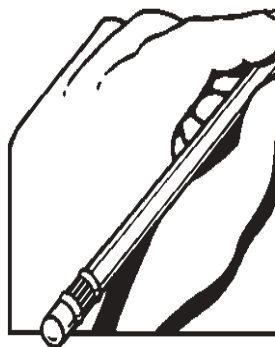
Your mission project fund has helped these two pastors to do the Lord's work. Please continue with your gift toward the Mission Project so that we can continue spreading the Gospel to all.

May Christ fill you all with Love, Peace, Joy, and Happiness at this holidays season.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all always.

*Pam Kane, ILDA President 2003-2005*

## Editorial...



Greeting everyone in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As you may have recalled, I have announced during the 2003 ILDA Executive Council Board meeting that I will resign as editor of *The Deaf Lutheran* newsletter effective after the Fall Issue. No editor was found at the time the Christmas 2003 Issue is being produced so I have continued to work on the newsletter.

During the time I have been working on this issue of the newsletter, Pam Kane and Larry Ginter during GLRC in Pittsburgh, has found a person who is interested in becoming our next editor. Her name is Melissa "Missy" Eichler.

In late January or early February, 2004 I will take the Deaf Lutheran equipment down to Columbus, OH and start training Missy with the Spring 2004 Issue. This will be the trial newsletter to see how well Missy can handle the duty. Let us all welcome Missy!

May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Peace!

*David G. Brown, Editor*



*Melissa "Missy" Eichler*



*Our Savior  
is Born*

**ILDA's Web Site...**  
**[www.DeafJesus.org](http://www.DeafJesus.org)**

## 2005 Convocation...

Kaiserhof Retreat Center, Tomball, TX, Martin Luther King weekend. Hosted by Holy Three-in-One Lutheran Church, Houston, TX. Limited to 100 by invitation.



## Coming in Spring 2004 Issue:

Report and photos from Rev. Seeger about youth mission service project in LA.

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## **Christmas, 2003**

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# GLRC...

*Theme: "Reaching Young Deaf, with Good News of Jesus."*



*Trinity Lutheran Church/Deaf.*

## Great Lake Regional Conference- 2003

My wife and I arrived at the Holiday Inn in Pittsburgh, PA from Cleveland, OH near Trinity Lutheran Church/Deaf on October 24-26. Sixty-five people attended the conference. They were from Toledo, OH, Columbus, OH, Rochester, NY, New York City, and one from Spokane, WA.

On Friday, October 24, we went on a Scenic Pittsburgh Trolley Tour and saw University of Pittsburgh, downtown of Pittsburgh, baseball and football stadiums. We rode up on the train to top mountain of beautiful lights of downtown. We enjoyed our tours. After that we had devotion led by Deacon John Rushtion of Rochester, NY.

On Saturday, October 25 we ate breakfast at cafeteria at Western PA School for the Deaf near church. We enjoyed the workshops and devotions led by Pastor Shirrel Petzoldt and Pastor Gary

Lawson. After lunch we visited Western PA School/Deaf and school has been remodeled. Teachers gave us tours of the school.

After that we had short business meeting. Rich Allen of Flint, MI who was GLRC President, passed away last June. Vice President Brian Grabler of Toledo move up as President. Robert Gore of Toledo was voted as new President-elect.

Diane Francisco came from Spokane, WA because she visited her children in New York. It was good to see her. Seven members from St. Mark Lutheran Church/Deaf drove to PA from New York City about 450 miles. We had good skits and fellowships.

On Sunday, October 26, we had devotion led by Deacon John Rushton and worship service. We had a wonderful time. We are looking forward to conference in Columbus, OH in 2004.

*Written and submitted by Larry Ginter*



*Members from host church, Trinity Lutheran Church/Deaf, Pittsburgh, PA.*

*2003-2006 GLRC officers, l to r: Kathy Burt, Historian; Craig Majewski, Treasurer; Libby Ruppert, Secretary; Robert Gore, Pres-elect; Brian Grabler, President; and Rev. Gary Lawson, Pastoral Advisor.*



*Group shot of GLRC 2003 attendees.*



*Workshops and meetings.*



*GLRC Hosts: Don & Mary Mowl, Chairpersons; Rev. Mark Ruppert; and James Paul, co-chariperson.*



*Cafeteria of Western PA School for the deaf.*



*Scenic Pittsburgh Trolley Tours.*



*Members of St. Mark Lutheran Church/Deaf, New York City.*



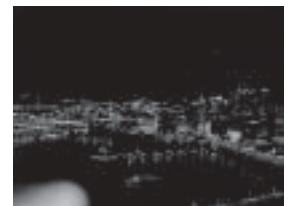
*Alpha Lutheran Church/Deaf, Rochester, NY.*



*Tour riders.*



*Christ Deaf Lutheran Church, Cleveland, OH.*



*Picture of Pittsburgh from tour.*

# News from around the Regions...



## News about our People



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

### Northwest Region...

Cross of Christ, Edmonton, Canada... Jesus has called home **Ruth Crossley** and **Esther Underschultz**.

Faith, Spokane... it was reported that **Elmer & Diane Francisco** and **Gary & Joan Wilson** has arrived home safely from their trip to ILDA Minneapolis. They drove thru what they learned was a tornado in South Dakota!

### Pacific Region...

**Pilgrim, IA...** celebrated their 70th anniversary of God's Blessing in the Deaf Ministry on September 28th.

### Midwest Region...

Calvary, Des Moines, IA... **Pastor Dennis Konkel** work load is becoming wide spread with more mission field locations. **Pat Monroe** who previously worked for the Nebraska District is now working for the Iowa District West as missionary for the deaf. Our Lord Jesus has called **Ileen Dunnington** home last summer. He also has called home **Julia Hefley** and **Albert Mingo**.

### Central Region...

South Wisconsin District... **Rev. John Reinke** and **Rev. Bud Palmer** has traveled to Ghana, Africa late July, early August to help with mission there. They will go back to Ghana in January, 2004.

CRILDA... **Central Region ILDA** convention, hosted by Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church, will be held in Madison, WI on May 20-23, 2004. Theme: *Let's Go Fishing*, Matthew 4:19. Contact Dawn Polzin (e-mail: DLPolzin@msn.com) for more information.

### Dixie Region...

Holy Three-in-One, Houston... **Rev. Larry** and **Elaine Lieder** were in prison around September 21! Actually they didn't do anything wrong... they were there as part of a group of Christian people called *The Epiphany Prison Ministry*. They worked with young men ages 14-20 who were imprisoned for capital crimes. "...I was in prison and you came to visit me." Matthew 25:36.

### Great Lakes Region...

**GLRC...** 51st Conference was held in Pittsburgh, PA on October 24-26, 2003. Due to Allen Rich's death last June, GLRC Vice President, **Brian Grabler**, was moved up to as President for the remainder of Al Rich's term. **Robert Gore** of Toledo was elected as new Vice President of GLRC for 2003-2006. GLRC's 2004 Business Meeting will be hosted

by Columbus, OH. **Larry Ginter**, your Deaf Lutheran Business Manager, has lost his dad last year and his mother this spring and recently he lost his brother. He need your support.

Good Shepherd, Toledo... **Mike McVicker** and Terry Kruse has entered God's Kingdom.

Holy Cross, Columbus... Jesus has called home **Elizabeth Brown** and **James Case**.

## More D.I.T. Students...



Robert Hulgan



Arthur Harper

The followings has completed D.I.T. course Level 1. **Robert Hulgan** of Red Oak, IA and **Arthur Harper** of Lincoln, NE were overlooked during the ILDA convention meeting in June 2003.

## 70th Anniversary...

Pilgrim Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Los Angeles, CA recently celebrated its 70th anniversary of Deaf Ministry. There were about 46 people attended the banquet following the morning special worship service last September 21st. Rev. Dr. Lee Settgast, Executive Director of Nenemiah Project was our guest pastor who gave a wonderful sermon in worship service. Rev. Steven Carlson, Vice President of the Pacific Southwest District was our guest speaker for the banquet. Deacon Charles Kotal and his wife Lee Ann were the co-chairpersons of the event. We also had surprise visitors at our banquet, Rev. and Mrs. Clark Bailey, retired pastor from Oakland, Ca. came to join our celebration. He was our former Pacific Regional Pastor Counselor.

## Deaf Lutheran Retreat in Michigan...

During November 14, 15 & 16, 2003, the deaf Lutherans were trekking from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and other neighboring states and Canada to Marshall, Michigan for a weekend of Deaf Lutheran Retreat.

Pastor David Bush of Fort Wayne, Ind. was leading the inspiring program and Zion Lutheran Church in Marshall helped sponsoring this event.

The exciting program contained inspirational worship, Saturday evening fellowship with Family Follies, skit/talent competitions and cutest baby picture contest. The Retreat ended with a Divine worship on Sunday.

# Mill Neck Servanthood Project 2003...

"You never truly know a person's potential until that person is presented with a challenge and is given an opportunity to succeed." This was the response given by Barbara Lanman, Mill Neck Foundation's Coordinator of Deaf Ministry, when asked about this year's Servanthood Project. Lanman and Mill Neck's Chaplain, Pastor William Wrede, took seven high school students from Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf to Idaho in July and spent six days working hard on service projects.

"This was the first year we served at a camp," said Lanman. The group stayed at the Shoshone Base Camp, a servant event program run by Inland Northwest Lutheran Outdoor Ministries near Coeur D'Alene, Idaho. During their days of service, the students helped paint the lodge they stayed in and cleaned trails on the property. Even though the work was hard, the students agreed it felt good to serve other people.

Students enjoyed the opportunity to interact with groups also staying at the camp. According to Lanman, they had meals together and time to serve together. In fact, she said "It didn't take long before a couple of our students were teaching the hearing students sign language."

The Mill Neck students learned to become a more cohesive team on the camp's "Challenge Course." They worked together through various experiences and problem solving activities. Individually, the students were challenged on the "Rock Wall" as they climbed a 70-foot cliff under the leadership of certified rock climbers. The students also had time to reflect on the challenges and accomplishments they had faced during quiet time on top of a mountain.

"This is our sixth year doing Servanthood. We find that each group is unique. This year's group was unique because they were personally challenged. They learned what it truly means to have a servant's heart," said Lanman. Pastor Wrede was inspired, he said, by "several excellent discussions based on the service they had done." He looks forward to continuing these discussions with the 2003 team and other students on campus this fall.

Each year, funds from the Mill Neck Foundation for Deaf Ministry allow students from Mill Neck Manor to participate in Servanthood Projects all around the country. Students volunteer their time and abilities to improve the lives of others in need. The Servanthood Projects allow students to focus not



*Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf high school students at the Shoshone Base Camp near Coeur D'Alene, Idaho during Servanthood 2003. Left to right: David Torrence, Jonathan Matos, Michael Milazzo, Rhoxanne Cajuelan, Wendy Malone, Ashley Ferrante and Melissa Reano.*



*Mill Neck students on scaffolding paint a dormitory at the Shoshone Base Camp for their Servanthood Project.*

on their disabilities, but their abilities. Through their hard work, students learn responsibility, selflessness and the importance of helping others. Past projects included trips to Phoenix, Arizona, where students worked on an Indian reservation; Kingston, Jamaica, where students helped to build a new school; and New York City, where Servanthood team members worked at soup kitchens and shelters.

Part of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, Mill Neck Foundation for Deaf Ministry provides funds for a variety of ministries with the Deaf throughout the United States and the world in the areas of education, technology and ministry. For more information about Mill Neck Foundation for Deaf Ministry, please call (516) 922-3880.

## Faith In Action...

### Deaf Farmer's Eggs feed the Poor and Homeless

Linda Mahé is a Deaf farmer, living at Legal, Alberta. The family farm is about a 45 minute drive north of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Edmonton. Every Thursday, comes rain, shine, -30° weather, Linda faithfully delivers eggs to Cross of Christ. Thirty dozen of these farm fresh eggs are designated for donation to the "Rock Lutheran Inner City Breakfast Program" (sponsored by historic St. Peter's Lutheran Church, home congregation for Pastor and Mrs. Bauer).

Just as faithfully, Ross Connell, volunteer from "The Rock" picks up the two boxes of 15 dozen eggs

Linda also sells eggs to members of Cross of Christ for own use or special events (Easter Breakfast) at the Church or Pax Natura Ranch. A loving and understanding relationship has developed between those involved over the past two years that this community project of Cross of Christ has been going.

Besides the chicken operation, the Mahé family farm is currently growing hay and grain. Daughters Michelle and Kristi (both Deaf and students at the Alberta School for the Deaf) are involved with their mom in preparing eggs for Thursday



*Left: Linda Mahé*



*Right: Ross Connell*

delivery, as is common in any Family Farm operation. Both Michelle and Kristi attended the weekly Mid-week Bible Class led by Pastor and Mrs. Bauer at the School for the Deaf. Important to Linda is her communion with her Lord through prayer. We all feel the Lord has blessed this special effort to send a message of His love to this inner city community.

Lest we forget, "Dad" Laurier (also Deaf), is a keen supporter of his wife's enterprising spirit. Linda's comment: "I love my chickens."

*Photo and Story by Eleonore Bauer*

# International Lutheran Deaf Association Convention Minneapolis, Minnesota Thursday, July 4, 2003

The meeting began at 8:45 am.

1. **Opening Prayer and Devotion:** Rev Mark Seeger signed the opening prayer and gave us a devotion about Holding Tightly on Jesus Christ. He shared some humorous things about being put on Hold and so on. Shared some biblical comments about Hold.
2. **Welcome:** President welcomed us to the business meeting. He asked Elmer Francisco to be our Parliamentarian and Elmer accepted. He also asked Lester Ahls to be the chairperson of the Resolutions Committee. Lester accepted. President also asked several others: Jeff McGuire, Mark Majewski, Henry Niemeyer and Don Mowl to be our Tellers.
3. **Necrology:** Diane greeted us and asked us to have moment of silence to remember those deceased members as listed under several regions on the screen.
4. **Resolutions:** Lester Ahls came up to the stage and accepted the duty as the chairman for Resolutions Committee. He asked Pastor William Ludwig and Linda Desrosiers to serve with him as well. The deadline for Resolutions would be morning or tonight but hopefully by noon on Saturday.
5. **Nominating Report:** President asked Rev Dennis Konkel to come on the stage. He explained that it would be Richard Norton, the most recent President but he is unable to attend so Pastor Konkel is taking Richard's place. He thanked for the opportunity to serve again. He shared that those who are nominated must be at the convention. Those being nominated are:

President-elect: Greg Desrosiers was still thinking.

Secretary: Erika Sipchen, Arizona and Linda Desrosiers, Vancouver, BC were nominated but both declined. Tim Johnston, the current secretary, came up to the stage to share that he was willing to continue serving for the third term only if there is no other one interested in the position and that By-Laws have to be suspended to allow him to run again.

Treasurer: Jim Sipchen, Arizona, accepted to run again for the second term. Jeff Padon, Maryland, accepted and came up to the stage to introduce himself and share briefly about his experience.

Pastoral Advisors: Pastors John Reinke, WI, Mark Seeger, TX, Matt Nix, SD, Tim Eckhart, IA and Paul Tessoro, TN

There will be election after the coffee break on Saturday. Pastor Konkel asked us to think more about others to be nominated and bring the names to the floor.

6. **Interpreters:** The interpreters were introduced and brought to the stage. The President thanked them for their wonderful interpreting service. Their names were Paula Willing, SE IL near St. Louis, Karen Pale, IL and her husband is pastor of St. John Lutheran Church in Chester, IL, Dori Zhanakas, from Holy Cross Cary, IL, Linda Nix and her husband is Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church for the Deaf in SF, SD and Pat Wittrock from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Burbay, IL.
7. **Special Guest:** The President introduced our special guest, Rev. Rodney Rynearson. RR came to the floor and gave some kind comments saying that it was a real pleasure that he was enjoying it, as he was not planning to come since he was now retired.
8. **Real-Time Captioner:** Lynn Ettl from Stillwater, MN was introduced.
9. **Secretary's minutes:** Tim Johnston came to the stage sharing his efforts as a secretary to the best of his abilities. It was a rewarding experience that he made good progress and improvements. The President has been using him well that I began to realize that it was truly the secretary's duty. There was a slight technical issue since he was informed that he can show previous convention minutes from disk on a laptop connected to screen projector but there was no floppy drive so he gave short summaries on selected items from the minutes. The copies of the convention minutes were already made and inserted in each registrant's folders, which was in light blue color. Also, he explained that he was interested to reconsider in running again for a third term and shared the good reasons as he was interested to work with the existing and potential good officers and involve with the efforts to improve the ILDA Convention format and promote the awareness about ILDA. Diane Francisco proposed to accept the minutes as written. Beverly McCulley, Memphis, TN, seconded it.
10. **Treasurer's Report:** Jim came up and told us that he has been working very hard the past two years. He was having little difficulty with Power Point presentation of his financial report but finished it last night. It was such a wonderful technology so he is happy to see it working. He shared that the treasurer position was a wonderful learning experience, as he never saw so much information was involved and different. He had many experiences with funding and business however none prepared him for that kind of challenge. He admitted that he had a heavy schedule as student, part time worker, and treasurer and so on—it was very challenging and struggling. He was grateful for much encouragement from the ILDA Board. He admitted that two years term was not enough to complete the job well. So he wanted to become more involved in the process and learn more about our programs that he wanted to continue with the progress. The good news was that the financial report was finished but the bad news was that it was not entirely complete. He wanted to share with us how ILDA's financial health is and he had report copies on the table near the water tanks. Preliminary and financial reports between July 2001 and 2003 had lot of problems but he managed to fix them that the amount figures were figured out and corrected. \$15,999.87 was the amount in checking account of General Fund for cash flow income, memberships and donations from 7/01 to 7/03. Total expenses were quite high from two years ago - \$18,876 in total expense. He had been working on reducing the expenses. The savings account and Missions Project Fund, including DIT and Zechariahs Funds for the years 7/01-7/03 was 22,614.37. He admitted having much learning to use the Financial Software well to run the financial reports. He also had trouble with banks in AZ as their policies and processes changed lot for non-profit organizations that they do scrutinize the funds very closely. When he is finished with internship and schooling, he will become more diligent with the treasury books. He thanked us for our understanding with blessings. President verified about latest report being audited so for the record, it has not been audited yet. So his financial report could be accepted with good faith until it is finalized and audited.
11. **President's Report:** President reported that the last two years had been a good experience. Since the last meeting in Indy, it was started from scratch with little support from the past officers but he thanked God for His help and the officers for helping him to continue for the last two year. He shared that some thought he was too old but he felt he could carry out his duties for two years that he thanked God for taking good care of him and his health. LCMS Ministry has been cutting funds that 9 pastors and church workers for Deaf Missions were cut out. He hoped that things would work out better along with ILDA in taking over some of extra responsibilities and ideas. ILDA will support the upcoming Convocation in Houston, TX in 2005. That report will be given later on. He learned lot from using the computer in making communications and chats lot easier. However, some misunderstandings could happen easily. He felt blessed to be a part of ILDA Executive Board as it was a rewarding and challenging experience that he learned lot to become a better leader. He thanked for the support and wished Pam Kane the next new President the best and that she would receive the full support.
12. **Pastoral Advisor Report:** Pastor Bud Palmer came and shared that he was asked to replace Pastor Mark Anderson who had to resign on account of having another new job. This was because he was cut off from Illinois District as they decided to stop funding the Deaf Ministry. So Pastor Bud was willing to take over the temporary duty until the end of the term during this weekend. Pastor Anderson is still continuing to serve as pastor to those three deaf churches in Northern Illinois with some financial support so please continue to pray for him and his family. As for Pastor Bud, he had something to report. He was wearing a different cap because that was African cap as he will be going to travel to Ghana with another Pastor Reinke in next few weeks. There would be a large deaf population in Ghana that the pastors would be there to give lot of encouragement in coming to the faith in Jesus Christ. He shared with us in what they would do more while they are in Ghana. He informed that there would be DIT meeting on Saturday so those who are involved in DIT program and are expected to get the certificates to please see Pastor Reinke. He explained about the 8 levels in DIT program. He mentioned that Rev Roger Altenberger was laid off from LCMS District in St Louis. Pastor Altenberger indicated that DIT program was being changed somewhat to make it possible and sooner for those to become pastors. Task Force (TF) responsibilities were being transferred to Pastor Bud, too. Task Force used to be called the Standing Committee. Those on the TF committee are: Pastor John Reinke, Dr Mark Prowski, Pastor Bill Wrede, Pam Kane, ILDA President-elect, and Sandy Green, the assistant. TF committee was really like high-up position which was somewhat awkward so they were striving hard to manage things out so right and good decisions can be made for Deaf Missions as part of His Kingdom. He asked us to please pray for them, the TF to do a good job. He shared about T-Shirts selling to show the ILY sign from God and the rear of T-shirt said Jesus Christ does love you very much along with well known verse, John 3:16. One exciting development was the development of [www.Deafjesus.org](http://www.Deafjesus.org) website to contain various sermons and devotions from pastors for sermon or bible study. The site was still under ongoing construction. Pastor Reinke came up to the stage to inform that the video camera was set up for those interested ones to sign up and sign out the favorite biblical passages or verses in ASL in a specific meeting room.
13. **The Deaf Lutheran Editor's Report:** Dave Brown shared that the experience as editor was enriching and that DL business continued to be self-sufficient. The reader subscription went down from 803 to 651. Everything continued to be the same as expected such as articles coming in according to the established deadlines. He ruefully that he decided due to personal reasons that he has to leave the post after the September issue has gone out. Some of us expressed the gratitude and desire for him to continue our editor however we would accept his reasons and that a suitable replacement could be found. Dave expressed his willingness to assist and train the next editor.

14. **The Deaf Lutheran Business Manager's Report:** Larry Ginter shared that it was an experience to serve as DL Business Manager that everything is going well as seen in his report and that he will continue to serve as business manager as usual even wishing that Dave Brown can continue to function as editor but understood his personal reasons. He expressed the interest of taking over that prompted a discussion of finding funds or someone to train him in using certain layout editing software. A motion should be made at the convention about this.
15. **President-elect Report:** Pam Kane thanked us for the support that she was able to serve the two year term as President-elect as it is with desire and duty to serve for the great Lord across the nation and other nations as seen in her solo signed song last night.
16. **Law Committee Report:** Pam Kane came back to the stage again and started the power point presentation on the Proposed ILDA Handbook's By-Law Changes. All proposed changes are seen in the report handout. Any discussion to the proposed changes has to be on hold until tomorrow morning. She asked us to ponder these changes for any further changes or accepted with a vote tomorrow. President indicated that any change needing to be changed further would have to be referred to the Law Committee for further study and preparation for next convention.
17. **2003 ILDA Host Pastor:** Pastor Gehlbach came up and shared some announcements about the plans for today and three workshops tomorrow but indicated that business meeting is still very important tomorrow. He signed the closing prayer thanking the Lord for the inspiration with the help of Holy Spirit to feel motivated to serve the Lord in spreading out His Word and helping others come to know Jesus Christ.

Meeting was put on hold at 10:30 am and will be resumed tomorrow sometime at 8:30 am.

### Friday, July 5, 2003

The business meeting began at 9 am.

President greeted us and indicated his wish that we would be able to complete all business matters on time since we began about 30 minutes late.

1. **Finance Committee's Report:** Jim came up and showed us the Power Point presentation of the Budget Review for the past fiscal year from 7/01/2001 to 6/30/2003. The expected income total would be \$7,800 but the actual income total turned out to be \$15,999.87. The income came from Membership dues, God's 1000 Club dues, donations, interest income from LCEF and Savings and previous ILDA Convention 2001 income and ILDA Pins fund-raising. The expected expenses total would be \$19,000, while the actual expenses turned out to be \$12,566.29 resulting in net revenue of -\$11,200 and \$3,433.58, respectively. So that would mean a positive profit so it turned out to be good than expected so God is very good. However, we still need to be very careful in how we spend our money. It was only good thing that ILDA Convention in Indy turned over a profit that they could give the money back to ILDA General Fund. That was wonderful. Now as for the proposed ILDA 2003-2005 Budget for the fiscal years from 7/01/2003 to 6/30/2005, the expected income would be about \$10,000 for those similar incomes as listed earlier plus any additional fundraising as we can do it! For the proposed ILDA 2003-05 Budget from 7/2003 to 6/30/2005, the expected expenses would be about \$15,000 to cover the expenses for Executive Board meetings both in 2003-04 and 2004-05 as well for Convention expenses in 2005, office/miscellaneous expenses (postage, copying, etc.) It is the hope that we could reduce the total expenses down by \$4000. We communicate via the internet so we can reduce the postage and call expenses. That is pretty much about it as we continue to be very conservative. There were some questions and clarifications. There will be audit by independent auditors, which would be more objective when reviewing the financial reports. He is working with that process and it was a long process but our finances are helping that we are over about \$79,000. We are still very careful considering the cutbacks across the nation, mission districts and organizations and so on.
2. **Missions Project Chair's Report:** Erika Sicphen came up and shared that she was given the duty a year ago. She learned lot and developed a brochure. She thanked Pam Kane for being so helpful in bringing her up to the speed about Missions Project program and funds. We have a total of donations about \$24,942, which will be distributed to those mission funds that the board approved two years ago after the convention. It was about 52.5% of our goal that we were short of about \$22,058 in reaching \$47,000 target goal. The newly proposed Missions Project Listing are as follows:
  - 2003-2005 Missions Project
  - Tentative Listing
  1. DIT/Zacharus Fund - \$7,000
  2. ILDA Public Relations/Video Project (pending review) - \$5,000
  3. Starfish Learning Center - \$3,000
  4. Ghana Outreach Training - \$2,000
  5. India Outreach Training - \$2,000
  6. www.Deaffesus.org - \$3,000
  7. Brazil Outreach Training - \$1,500
  8. World Mission - Deaf Mission Society - \$1,500
  9. Pax Natrua Ranch (Canada) - \$1,000
  - Total - \$26,000

A motion came up with a suggestion in cutting down the ILDA Video Project by \$3,000 and redistributing that into Ghana, India and Brazil with \$1,000 each, as these missions are more important. The president explained that the above listing was already set by the board so one would have to wait until 2005 to make the suggested changes. One made a correction in saying that the members have the right to make the amends as its still part of our ILDA so it was acknowledged that amends could be made during the New Business section.

3. **Law Committee's Report:** Pam Kane shared that after showing the proposed changes yesterday the members had the time to review them so now is the time to discuss any changes. She went through each proposed changes to see if there are any changes. One made a point in saying that these changes weren't needed to be discussed on the floor but these would be taken care of by the board. So these changes would appear in the Deaf Lutheran Newsletter for their review and send any comments to her via mail or e-mail.
4. **Nominating Report:** Pastor Konkel came up explaining that those members with yellow ribbons can vote, while those without can't. Pastor Palmer came up and signed a prayer asking for His wisdom and Holy Spirit into our minds and hearts to help us ponder and vote for the right person to serve on the Executive Council for 2003-2005. Pastor Konkel introduced his four tellers and asked us to please vote on a piece of paper - be sure to print/write the names clearly not forcing them to figure out like those election auditors in FL! Greg Desrosiers, Vancouver, BC accepted to run for the President-elect. Elmer Francisco, WA, proposed to accept him by acclamation, however it was indicated that it would be nice to take time to ponder and vote after hearing what Greg has to say. But the vote was already taken place to accept Greg Desrosiers. Passed! Greg wanted to share his visions and thoughts. He indicated that it will be a challenge due to financial cutbacks and fundraising efforts. He will investigate additional ways of obtaining additional funds from other sources. David Bunton, WI came up and proposed to accept Tim Johnston for Secretary by acclamation as there is no one interested or nominated as most declined. President explained that Tim Johnston is willing to continue the officer position but he already was finishing the second term so according to the Constitution and By-Laws, two terms are limited so a motion is needed to suspend that. David Bunton made the motion to suspend the ILDA Constitution and By-Laws and his motion was seconded by Carol Ann Seeger, TX. Passed. Tim came up thanking and sharing some comments. Jim Sipchen, AZ and Jeff Padon, MD are two candidates for Treasurer position. Each gave his comments and goals. Voting took place.
5. **Jr. ILDA Chair's Report:** Megan Gehlbach, pastor's daughter, gave a report for Sara McKinney who wanted to let us know that they were having wonderful times at Valleyfair amusement park and Mall of America.
6. **Convocation Report:** Pastor Mark Seeger, TX came up and informed us that the report wouldn't be long but it might take no more than three hours. (laughing) The first convocation happened in 1980 in Madison, WI setting up the goals for the deaf ministry for next few years. How many may remember those goals, which might not happen except for some. So in 1997 in Kansas City, Mo new goals were set. Next convocation will be in Jan 2005 during the Martin Luther King weekend. Right now they are setting up the steering committee so some of members will remain but will select new members by invitation only, however they are open to advice or nominations. The reason for having convocation in Houston so the people from North can escape the cold. He shared about three areas to cover, where Deaf Ministry was in the past, where we are now and where we are going in the future. The future thing seems to be a problem but he is not a prophet. He can't share or set the goals but he can imagine that we will be focusing on the youth, what the congregations are going to do and how the funding will work, especially for the pastors and church workers. There will be about 100 people in the attendance. Convocation is by invitation and is a planning kind of thing, while the convention is a meeting and voting thing. Invitations in the past were to different kinds of people of different faiths to give us an idea of what were going on, what were the problems/challenges and what they were like that it was over 200 in Wisconsin. The last time it was for LCMS people only so we are doing it again however good selections of certain groups will be invited with an effort to make it a good range of varied interests and concerns.
7. **Nominating Update:** The winner of the treasurer position is Jim Sipchen, Az. Five Pastor Advisors came and introduced themselves along with some comical comments. The pastors were: John Reinke, WI, Mark Seeger, TX, Tim Eckhart, IA, Matthew Nix, SD and Paul Tessaro, TN.
8. **Resolutions:** Lester Ahls announced that he along with two others, Linda Desrosiers and Pastor William Ludwig are having a meeting at noon today.
9. **Special comment:** Pastor David Bush was asked by the President to share some comments. Pastor Bush shared that he trains our future pastors for the deaf and future church interpreters for the deaf ministries. The brochures on Church Interpreter Training Institute (CITI) were passed out with the hopes that they would be given to any potential pastor or interpreter to attend and improve their signing skills especially the religious signing part.

*Convention minutes continued on next page.*

*Convention minutes continued from last page.*

10. **2001 ILDA Convention Host Chair's Report:** Winona Alter came and shared that about 205 attended the convention and only 35 requested refunds. She felt that the convention was very successful as lot enjoyed and became interested to work with deaf people. The only disappointing news was that they had to pay a penalty of \$7,000 because they did not meet the hotel's expectations. The profits of the convention went to ILDA's General Fund.
11. **2003 ILDA Convention Host Chair's Report:** Mark Johnson came up and noticed that lot enjoyed the convention very much and liked the new ideas with the registration that may help raise more money. About 220 came to the convention and about 12 for Jr. ILDA. Jr. ILDA is for any children of the ILDA Convention attendees. There was lot of fundraising efforts to help reduce the costs. He reported that he is hoping to see more growth in ILDA that it can happen on other weekend other than July the Fourth weekend and more members are joining in the future so ILDA continues to grow and thrive.
12. **Nominating Update:** Pastors Reinke and Seeger were tied so voting took place again.
13. **New Business:**  
The first six motions were made in the ILDA Board of Directors meeting.

**Motion #1 was made by Pacific Region President, Jack Burns, (seconded by Midwest Region President Glenda Haefner) to accept and carry the Proposed By-Law Changes to the Convention floor to be approved and voted upon this coming Saturday. Passed.**

The first motion was dropped because the proposed by-laws changes will appear in the Deaf Lutheran newsletter for the feedbacks.

**Motion #2 was made by Eastern Region President Wayne Bomegesser (seconded by Larry Ginter) to accept the Missions Project report as presented. Passed.**

The President would like to move forward to discuss the motion #3.

**Motion #3 was made by Midwest Region President Glenda Haefner (seconded by Janice Mancill) to accept the 2003-2005 Missions Project Tentative Listing. Passed.**

2003-2005 Missions Project  
Tentative Listing

1. DIT/Zacharus Fund - \$7,000
2. ILDA Public Relations/Video Project (pending review) - \$5,000
3. Starfish Learning Center - \$3,000
4. Ghana Outreach Training - \$2,000
5. India Outreach Training - \$2,000
6. www.DeafJesus.org - \$3,000
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8. World Mission - Deaf Mission Society - \$1,500
9. Pax Natrua Ranch (Canada) - \$1,000
- Total - \$26,000

Motion #3 was about accepting the proposed Missions Project tentative listing so Erika Sipchen was asked to come up and describe each mission fund and its purpose. She asked us to please make donations towards Missions Project funds during the offering time tomorrow and from now on!

**Motion #4 was made by Rev. John Reinke (seconded by Jack Burns, Pacific Region President) that ILDA Convention format be changed slightly to have business meeting to occur on Thursday morning and the tours in the afternoon so the rest of the weekend, Friday to Sunday, can be focused on the workshops. Passed.**

Fourth motion was shown, explained and debated but it was removed by Pastor Reinke since another similar motion will appear next.

**Motion #5 was made by Jim Sipchen (seconded by Jack Burns, Pacific Region President) to establish a Committee study ways to give some kind of Senior Citizen discount or scholarship with the amount be a pro-rate based on the years of membership in ILDA. Passed.**

The President felt that this motion should be passed over to the ILDA Board for further review and study. Passed.

**Motion #6 was made by Jim Sipchen (seconded by Pam Kane, President-elect) that ILDA Treasurer create a master charge account for ILDA to contain any ILDA related expenses/charges. Passed.**

There were some good discussions on that motion along with good points as there were other ways and restrictions that it would be best to refer it to the board for further study or dropped as there were other ways, anyway. The president felt it would be best to carry it to the board for the further study. **Passed.**

14. **Nominating Update:** The past presidents came to help with the prayer and vote counts for Pastoral Advisor. It turned out that Pastor Mark Seeger would be our next Pastoral Advisor.

The meeting was put on hold at 12 pm and will be resumed at 1 pm.

**Motion #7 was made by Lester Ahls, IA (seconded by Diane Fancisco, WA) to change the section in the Constitution/By-Laws to allow the President have two terms (2-year/term).**

There was an important discussion since the bylaws required that the motion be printed in the Deaf Lutheran newsletter for further consideration about 90 days prior to the convention even though that originator sent in that motion 90 days in advance. Pastoral Advisor, Pastor Palmer, came up to the stage at the request of the president but Pastor Palmer clarified that he was asked to carry out the small remainder of the term when Pastor Mark Anderson had to resign. Not much time was available to read and become familiar with the constitution and bylaws so he strongly advise us not to dwell too much on the business matters as we should be more concerned about the missions and ministry efforts to spread out the Gospel to other weak or unbelievers. The president agreed and suggested that this be brought over to the Law Committee. **Passed.**

**Motion #8** was moved by Carol Ann Pickell, IL, (seconded by Jack Burns, CA) to have ILDA donate \$1,000 to Pastors Reinke and Palmer's trip to Ghana. Carol quickly moved to make a call to close the motion with a vote and it was seconded by May Lou Harrel, AK. **Passed.**

**Motion #9** was moved by James Swalley, IN (seconded by Jack Burns, CA) to have ILDA look for a replacement for the editor of the Deaf Lutheran after the fall issue is mailed out. **Passed.**

**Motion #10** was moved by Dee Mills (seconded by Elmer Francisco, WA) to have DIT people, pastors, deaconesses or vicars be involved with the banner competition because they would know the meanings of Biblical verses. **Failed.**

**Motion #11** was made by May Lou Harrel, AK (seconded by Bev McCulley, MO) to have the ILDA Host Committee get the badgers identified by the position titles for the officers. **Passed.**

**Motion #12** was made by May Lou Harrel, AK (seconded by Marilyn Aspnes) to have the convention minutes be printed in the convention program book. **Failed.**

**Motion #13** was made by May Lou Harrel, AK (seconded by Marilyn Aspnes) to have the workshops to contain the Bible stories translation and so on. President felt it would be rise to carry that motion to the next ILDA Convention Host Committee for further consideration. **Passed.**

**Motion #14** was made by David Bunton, WI (seconded by Barry Dischinger, NY) to change the ILDA Agenda for 2005 as follows:

Thursday  
10:00 am Registration Open  
1:00-1:45 pm Open Worship  
2:00-6:00 pm Business Meeting  
7:00 ILDA Program  
Intro - 2)skirts - 3) banners 4)choir etc..  
Friday Workshops (Spiritual)  
Evening Fun/excite - Example: Bible games/questions  
Saturday Spiritual Workshops continued  
Evening Banquet  
Sunday Bible Study Worship Home

The president felt that this motion will be better off be carried over to the 2005 ILDA Convention Host Committee, as they will take care of all of that. **Passed.**

**Motion #15** was made by Lester Ahls, IA (seconded by Harry Niemeyer, IL) to have the motions that will be made within next two years be written and sent to the secretary for distribution. **Passed.**

Three suggestions were made by Anne Enhrichmann, PA a) to have constitution and bylaws handbooks on ILDA be freely distributed to the members; (It was clarified that they are available on the ILDA website.) b) to have next ILDA Conventions be held on University campus to save costs; (It was referred to the ILDA Convention Host Committee.) and c) to have a new fundraising position be added to the board. (It was referred to the Finance Committee.)

Henry Niemeyer, IL, moved to close the new business and it was seconded by May Lou Harrel, AK.



15. **2007 ILDA Convention Host Bid:** Bonnie White, MD (seconded by Marilyn Aspnes) moved to accept Christ Deaf Lutheran Church, Silver Springs, MD to host the 2007 ILDA Convention in Baltimore, MD. Passed.
16. **2009 ILDA Convention Host Bid:** Karen Beiter, NY informed that Alpha Lutheran of the Deaf, Rochester, NY already tipped in the bid but not mailed the official letter yet. She asked us to please accept their bid.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm as the meeting ran twenty minutes past the expected time so the Resolutions, which would be the last thing to be covered, are going to be taken care of through email and the board. After the approval, they will appear in the Deaf Lutheran newsletter.

*Respectfully submitted in Christ,  
Tim Johnston, ILDA Secretary*



## International Lutheran Deaf Association Executive Council Meeting Minneapolis, Minnesota Tuesday, July 1, 2003

Present: James Swalley, President; Pam Kane, President-elect; Tim Johnston, Secretary; Jim Sipchen, Treasurer; Dave Brown, Deaf Lutheran (DL) Editor; Larry Ginter, DL Business Manager.

Not present yet: Rev. Bud Palmer, Pastoral Advisor

The meeting began at 1:10pm.

1. **Opening Prayer:** President began the meeting with a prayer asking for wisdom and guidance on our meeting.
2. **Secretary's minutes:** Tim indicated that the minutes from last fall in Fort Wayne was done and sent to the EC for reading so no need to repeat but is available from the disk. Pam Kane proposed to accept the minutes as previously read. Jim seconded.
3. **President-elect Report:** Already passed out her typed reports to the members. Most already read hers. She also shared that she passed out the copies of the Handbook Proposals for ILDA
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Jim indicated that he already passed out the report and Mission Project (MP) Receipts report which was prepared by Erika Sipchen, Missions Project Chairperson, who will attend the meeting tomorrow. He shared that in last 1.5 years have been a challenge to him in keeping up with his duties due to ever changing school and work schedules that took much of the needed time to work on finance matters. Also, he admitted that there were challenges with changes in accounting approaches and his desired goals as the treasurer. There was a discussion about one missing reported receipt from GLRC which was in the amount of \$2,500 towards MP Fund. After some time of investigation, it was found so the total for MP Fund would be about \$20,942.56. As for ILDA Treasury, it is about \$49,176.19 in the Savings and \$30,090.28 in the Checking accounts. He is still working on the finances report which is nearly done but should be ready by Thursday in time for the Convention. Again, there was a long discussion on what will be done to the MP funds to be distributed according to each mission fund target according to the voted priority. Also, what next 2003-2005 MP funds will look like which will be done soon for tomorrow's report and vote. Also, there was a discussion that the recipient of designated fund would have to send the report on how the money, which will be received, is to be spent.
5. **Secretary's Report:** Tim shared some items. He has the report from Alice Hagemeyer, ILDA Publicity/Historian, as she is unable to attend so her representative will be Rev. Ron Friedrich. He made the effort to assist with Allen Rich, GLRC President in finding a replacement due to his illness, however he recently passed away. Then Pam Kane came in and assisted that a replacement was found who would be Craig Majewski, GLRC Treasurer and Tim brought over GLRC briefcase which will be given to Brian Grabler, GLRC VP. He shared few possible motions that may happen at the Convention. He was also grateful that 2003 ILDA Host for taking care of hotel room arrangement for the executive, board and non-board members who are coming rather than himself that happened two years ago for 2001 ILDA Host.

6. **The Deaf Lutheran Editor's Report:** Dave already passed out his report. He shared that the experience as editor was enriching and that DL business continued to be self-sufficient. The reader subscription went down from 803 to 651. Everything continued to be the same as expected such as articles coming in according to the established deadlines. He shared ruefully that he decided due to personal reasons that he has to leave the post after the September issue has gone out. Some of us expressed the gratitude and desire for him to continue as editor however we would accept his reasons and that a suitable replacement could be found. Dave expressed his willingness to assist and train the next editor.
7. **The Deaf Lutheran Business Manager's Report:** Larry reported that everything is going well as seen in his report and that he will continue to serve as business manager as usual even wishing that Dave Brown can continue to function as editor but understood his personal reasons. He expressed the interest of taking over that prompted a discussion of finding funds or someone to train him in using certain layout editing software. A motion should be made at the convention about this.
8. **Law Committee Report:** Pam informed that she has a list of proposed By-Laws changes to be reviewed and voted upon on Saturday after the ILDA members who are coming have the opportunity to read and review the changes. The changes that are listed on the last page are already reflected in the orange ILDA Handbooks. There are about 50 orange handbooks to be distributed to the board members tomorrow. One issue that may become a bigger one or not is about making all officers, regional presidents, DL editor/business manager and chairpersons be part of the board so they would receive full expenses paid toward their trips to next convention site because as of now the chairpersons would get only one day complimentary which may not be worthwhile for the hard efforts as a chairperson who might have put forth hard efforts. However regional presidents' registration and lodging expenses will be covered by each region. There was a discussion of how to preserve the continuing interest to serve on the board by allowing the full expenses to be paid for and to motivate the members' interest to attend by offering some kinds of incentives such as bringing in new members then registration fee can be reduced and so on. Another idea would be to give out limited scholarships to new members especially the youth for all expense paid trips to ILDA conventions. One idea was mentioned to create a new position which would be a Youth Representative.

Meeting stopped at 4pm as we completed the EC agenda except for the reports from Pastoral Advisor, Rev. Bud Palmer and a representative for LCMS Deaf Ministry Counselor. It was with the hope that either one or both would show up for ILDA Board of Directors meeting scheduled to begin at 7pm along with 7 regional presidents.

### Tuesday Evening, July 1, 2003

Present: James Swalley, President; Pam Kane, President-elect; Tim Johnston, Secretary; Jim Sipchen, Treasurer; Pastoral Advisor; Dave Brown, Deaf Lutheran (DL) Editor; Larry Ginter, DL Business Manager; Rev. Bud Palmer, Pastoral Advisor; Janice Mancill, Central President; Jeff McGuire, Dixie President; Wayne Bornegesser, Eastern President; Glenda Haefner, Midwest President; Jack Burns, Pacific President.

Not present yet: Greg Derosiers, Northwest President.

The meeting began at 7:15pm.

1. **Pastoral Advisor's Report:** Pastor Bud informed that he was asked to take over Pastor Roger Altenberger, formerly Counselor for Deaf Ministry, as he was laid off as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, to be the chair of LCMS Deaf Ministry Task Force Committee. He felt he was somewhat nervous in giving the weighty report. He said there were about 19 pastors and church workers for the deaf ministry whose jobs were affected. He said that LCMS changed a lot due to dwindling financial support greatly influenced by three possible factors: sluggish economy, objection to 9/11 prayer group consisting of various religious leaders where one Lutheran pastor was at present and growing divisions in the LCMS with those from the conservative end to the liberal end. Pastor Roger made clear that his responsibilities are now given to the Task Force Committee to ensure how the Deaf Ministry activities are going on appropriately. Pastor Bud's opinion is that the Changes may be necessary or may not matter that much since our Lord is still in control so He is also in control of the growing changes. It's possible that He is turning some things around for the better. Pastor Bud shared a parable about three persons with different talents being put in good use or not. So that is probably what is happening. He then went into great details on what each of us can do as with God we can do anything in being better enthusiastic "ministers of the Words" to the lost Deaf/HH and to stop trying to depend heavily on our Pastors for the deaf because they are starting to be disappearing due to unexpected factors and circumstances.

## Executive Council minutes continued from last page.

2. **Regional President's Reports:**
  - a. **Dixie – Jeff McGuire:** Jeff greeted us in the name of Jesus Christ and highlighted that each one of us have a duty to spread out God's Words as the witnesses. The region had a Dixie Region convention last October in Tomball, Texas and the guest speaker shared the experiences that happened at the World Trade Center disaster site which was emotional. The seven churches in the region continue to have the serving pastors. He also passed out five reports from 5 of 7 churches.
  - b. **Pacific – Jack Burns:** Jack gave us the reports and shared that Deacon Charles Kotal has done wonderful job in leading the worship services at Pilgrim Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Los Angeles, CA. He completed his study with DIT program. He was officially ordained as of May 2002. He is now licensed to preach and provide the Lord's Supper as well as performing funeral services. One new member was confirmed. However he is having a serious illness as a result of colon cancer but he has been recovering lately along with much prayers. Also, they received an official letter from the district in California stating that the subsidy will be ceased in Jan, 2004. They are still searching for other sources of financial support. So far they are blessed to have two different Korean groups (hearing and deaf) renting their church for their worship and activities every Sunday in their own native languages (voice and manual). They are planning on hosting 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary service in September, 2003. There was a report from Rev Roy Dahmann with details of changes happening.
3. **Law Committee:** Pam Kane shared the emphasis that each regional president is to review the ILDA Handbook and the proposed by-law changes so they can share any feedbacks or corrections for the board meeting tomorrow. She explained that all the changes will be proposed as a block motion on the convention floor for the vote. If one or few changes aren't deemed acceptable will be withdrawn and given to the next Law Committee for further study and to be brought to the next convention in 2005.
4. Jim Sipchen explained how to use the voucher sheet to list the expenses to be reimbursed.
5. Pastor Bud signed a closing prayer and then gave us a short skit on Cain and Abel along with a message that no matter how much we can offer to Lord with honest heart and love, we will still be blessed.

The meeting ended at 9:15pm and will be resumed tomorrow morning at 10am.

### Wednesday, July 2, 2003

Present: James Swalley, President; Pam Kane, President-elect; Tim Johnston, Secretary; Jim Sipchen, Treasurer; Dave Brown, Deaf Lutheran (DL) Editor; Larry Ginter, DL Business Manager; Rev. Bud Palmer, Pastoral Advisor; Janice Mancill, Central President; Jeff McGuire, Dixie President; Wayne Bornegesser, Eastern President; Glenda Haefner, Midwest President; Jack Burns, Pacific President; Greg Derosiers, Northwest President; and Rev. John Reinke, North America Deaf Mission Task Force member.

Visitors: Linda Derosiers, 2005 ILDA Host Secretary; Ron & Ruth Nester.

The meeting began at 10 am.

1. **Opening Prayer and Devotion:** Pastor Bud signed the opening prayer asking for the wisdom and guidance to help us continue to join and lead with His Kingdom. He read a biblical passage from Corinthians. He continued where he began yesterday. He repeated the importance of building good relationships with those who may or may not know the Lord that well as part of the steps in bringing them to the Lord with better understandings as new Christians. He used the whiteboard to give some examples of His doing and our doing such as Grace and Faith.
2. **Eastern Region President's Report:** Wayne shared the updates about the happenings in his region starting first with the church in his home area. The church was already sold few years ago because it was a huge church making it difficult to maintain so they found a smaller chapel with other hearing Grace Lutheran Church. Everything is going well including the opportunity to teach the hearing the ASL on a weekly basis. Both hearing and deaf congregations celebrated their own 65<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of existence which was an interesting coincidence. Much more were shared as he has the reports from other churches in the region. Rev. Gerhold passed away couple of weeks ago.
3. **Central Region President's Report:** Janice greeted us with a report that CR-ILDA had a Regional Conference last June, 2002 at Concordia Theological Seminary. It was with a great success. Rev. Mark Anderson resigned from the Northern Illinois District as Missionary at Large as he got a new job at the DORS due to funding cut from NID but he remains serving as ordained pastor volunteering his time to three deaf congregations in Wood Dale, Rockford and Cary, Illinois. Pastors Palmer and Reinke will travel to Ghana for three weeks starting in mid July. Next CR-ILDA will be held in Madison, WI next May, 2004. She shared some other activity happenings in the region.

4. **Midwest Region President's Report:** Glenda greeted us with love of Jesus Christ. She shared that so much happenings have been this year since the start of 2003 which was incredible and saddening. It was with sadness that many state districts made some cuts that some deaf ministries were shut down. She indicated that we shouldn't collapsed but stick together to brainstorm and strive for the better as the good Lord will never abandon us. New website is being done underway. She shared that she was indebted with gratitude for the opportunity to partake in the trip to Deaf Way II for the ILDA Exhibition efforts. So much has happened in other areas in the region such as shutting down in Nebraska but Deaf church in Omaha, NE is still continuing to thrive in spite of dwindling congregation members. 49<sup>th</sup> Midwest Region Conference will be held sometime this year. She gave a closing remark that new chapter and doors are being opened for us to move forward with full optimism and faith.
5. **Northwest Region President's Report:** Greg greeted us as brothers and sisters in Christ. Greg shared that there were sad news as well as some good news. Much of sad news were that there were some funding cuts that some churches shut down and pastors retired or lost jobs. Some pastors were not able to send any reports. Good news were that church in the Montana continues to be growing nicely and staying steady and that church in Edmonton is growing well under the leadership of aging Pastor Bauer who is already past age 75 years old but he is eager to train 6 DIT students with the desire of finding a Deaf Pastor to replace him. They will have a NWR Conference sometime next year in Great Falls, Montana which seemed to be the site of conference as of lately. He acknowledged that there were struggles, sadness, problems but some happiness and so on but all are given to the Lord with full faith and hope.
6. **Great Lakes Region President's Report:** Craig Majewski, a representative for Allen Rich who passed away couple of weeks ago. Craig is the GLRC Treasurer. He appreciated the opportunity to experience the Board of Directors meeting and thanked Pam Kane for assisting in making it happen as other VP or Secretary is unable to attend. Due to the short notice, he regretted for not getting any reports to be shared with us. GLRC briefcase was being brought over through Tim Johnston from Michigan but no report from Allen because of his serious illness. Tim stood up and shared an update as he was in contact with Allen who requested his help to find a replacement but if none is found, and then he wanted to send in words of regret. Tim attempted to assist in finding a replacement first with VP and then Secretary but thanked Pam for finding one who happened to be from Cleveland, OH. In addition, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary GLRC was held in Cleveland, Ohio last October.
7. **Convocation Report:** Pastors Palmer and Reinke shared an update of the efforts being underway to establish new website called [www.DeafJesus.org](http://www.DeafJesus.org) which would show daily signed devotions and readings along with any relevant resources for our Deaf Lutheran Ministry needs. New purple t-shirt with "A Sign From God" going on sale for \$15 to help with fundraising efforts and free pens with website address marked are already given out to the board members. There will be more to come as time comes along as it was started in the development since March/April.
8. **Law Committee's Proposed By-law Changes Presentation:** Pam Kane led the presentation of the proposed changes to be made and voted upon. The changes were already listed in the handouts. There were some discussions and concerns being shared among the board members. Pam emphasized during the discussions that it is OK to make changes to the wording of the revisions and not to be afraid to suggest such changes, as to make the intent and wording understandable to all of ILDA members. Some questions were asked by Rev. Bud Palmer regarding treasurer's reports and Missions Project reports and why changes were being made; Pam and Jim Sipchen explained about the Missions Project situation and the lapse in mission Project reporting.

**Motion was made by Pacific Region President, Jack Burns, (seconded by Midwest Region President Glenda Haefner) to accept and carry the Proposed By-Law Changes to the Convention floor to be approved and voted upon this coming Saturday. Passed.**

9. **Closing Prayer:** Pastor Bud signed the closing prayer with an earnest request to help us understand and guide these people to You with enthusiastic hearts.

More came and were present: Winona Alter, 2001 ILDA Host Chair; Diane Francisco, Necrology Chair; Lester Ahls, Right Hand Award Chair; Rev. Dennis Konkel, Nominating Chair; Mark Johnson, 2003 ILDA Host Chair

Meeting resumed at 1:10pm.

1. **Opening Prayer:** Pastor Bud began the opening prayer asking for the Holy Spirit to continue to be among us as we strive to ponder and discuss the works to be accomplished for His Glory.

2. **2001 ILDA Convention Host's Report:** Winona Alter gave the report on the successful completion of ILDA Convention proceedings that ILDA was not billed at all but the Host Committee was penalized about \$7,000 due to not having enough of hotel guest rooms booked to qualify for the free convention hall. There was some kind of sliding fee that wasn't part of previous agreement. Little over 200 registered and attended. About 35 asked for the refunds. Everyone seemed to enjoy the convention experience! Greg Derosiers asked Winona for any advice as he will be the next 2005 ILDA Convention Host chair. Winona gladly shared some advices and suggestions. There were some discussions on how the next upcoming 2005 Convention handling can be done better.
3. **2003 ILDA Convention Host's Report:** Mark Johnson first gave the word of appreciation to the ladies who made the efforts to serve us both yesterday and today with food and comfort. He indicated that the convention planning was well handled by only a committee of 20! That was quite an accomplishment. He shared some mistakes, some struggles and happy news such as mistakes in requesting 150 rooms for three days to be 150 per day, trying to get ILDA President to sign the hotel reservation contract/ certificate and getting 30% discount. He gave some caution and advice to the 2005 ILDA Host chairs to be aware of such as sliding fee which could be different among the hotels due to their varying policies. He share much more which can be seen in the report. About 215 registered along with 5 interpreters registered. About 12 registered for Jr. ILDA. Very few asked for refunds but only two donated the registration money to ILDA. He highlighted much about the convention schedule and details along with some fun surprises.
4. **Necrology:** Diane Francisco gave a brief report that she has been collecting and keeping a running record of those sisters and brothers in Christ who passed away since the last convention. She enjoyed the opportunity to work with it.
5. **Nominating:** Pastor Dennis Konkel gave the report about the interested to run for the desired positions as follows:  
 President-elect: Greg Derosiers, Vancouver, British Columbia and John Rushton, Rochester, NY.  
 Secretary: Erika Sipchen, Arizona.  
 Treasurer: Jim Sipchen, Arizona and Jeff Padon, Maryland.  
 Pastoral Advisor: Rev. John Reinken, Wisc., Rev. Matthew Nix, S.D., Rev. Tim Eckert, Iowa, Rev. Mark Seeger, TX, Rev. Paul Terrero, TN.  
 More can still be nominated during this week.
6. **Missions Project Report:** Erika Sipchen gave the report that we fell short of about \$21,000 to reach the target goal of about \$47,000 as we have \$24,942.55 (note: a check of \$2,000 is on way over from the drawer of Pastor Palmer's desk). She shared the names of the missions that will receive the distributed money and it was probably still tentative.

**Motion was made by Eastern Region President Wayne Bornegesser (seconded by Larry Ginter) to accept the Missions Project report as presented. Passed.**

A tentative listing of next 2003-2005 Missions Project was being shared and discussed.

#### **2003-2005 Missions Project Tentative Listing**

1. DIT/Zacharus Fund - \$7,000
2. ILDA Public Relations/Video Project (pending review) - \$5,000
3. Starfish Learning Center - \$3,000
4. Ghana Outreach Training - \$2,000
5. India Outreach Training - \$2,000
6. www.DeafJesus.org - \$3,000
7. Brazil Outreach Training - \$1,500
8. World Mission – Deaf Mission Society - \$1,500
9. Pax Natrua Ranch (Canada) - \$1,000
- Total - \$26,000

**Motion was made by Midwest Region President Glenda Haefner (seconded by Janice Mancill) to accept the 2003-2005 Missions Project Tentative Listing. Passed.**

7. **Deaf Mission Task Force Report:** Pastors Palmer and Reinke shared the updates. Pastor Palmer was given the responsibility to handle the Task Force Committee from Rev. Roger Altenberger as he was laid off from St Louis LCMS District. Pastor Reinke indicated that there are still ongoing changes in the list of future ideas. The big importance is to have ALL people know and believe Jesus as their Savior. The big goal is to train and encourage Deaf Missionaries to spread out the story about Jesus with 200,00 Deaf and Hard of Hearing people every year. The big question is How to DO? Several strategy ideas were: Prayer, Storytelling Training, Missionaries through outreach training and setting up worship, Relationship Training (SG2), Internet Church – DeafJesus.org, Leader Training (ILDA and Regional Training and DIT) and Ephaphatha Conference

name idea. The ACTION plan is needed for each strategy and few things to be considered are who, where, when, cost and evaluation for each specific activity. They also took over the responsibility of handling the DIT program. They shared the new concept to be established at the suggestion by the St. Louis LCMS District which would be "Deaf Mission Society" with the purpose of trying to help a new or old mission station be established or re-established with some funds to help out.

8. **Right Hand Award Report:** Lester Ahls remarked that it seemed to be like an old time that he is now working with the similar matter. He shared an experience of handling an embarrassing situation that he had to improvise when something did not go right that an award with an engraved name was not picked up. It turned out all right when that person who won the vote happened not to be at present. He sent out 36 letters asking for the nominations. Some names had to be removed as they were previously recipients and the fourth one cannot come. Those that were nominated were: Larry Gorton, Washington, Fred Waltz, Ohio and John Woods, NY. The visitors were asked to leave leaving the board members to cast the vote. President Swalley shared the list of faithful services and accomplishments for each nominated person.
9. **ILDA Publicity/Historian Report:** Tim Johnston shared the report, which was obtained from Alice Hagemeyer through the email as her representative wasn't at present, yet. He updated us that Alice is still moving forward with ILDA Publicity Video project such that a different media format will be used which will be DVD instead of VHS format and that her pastor, Rev. Ron Friedrich, who has a good working knowledge about the internet and media that would be a great asset to her committee. She will attempt to obtain the unfinished video work done by James DeBees. Her committee consisted of Linda Desrosiers, Sharon Schwartz and Glenda Haefner. She mentioned the inclusion of ILDA as a partner in the FOLDA's Library project on "ASL Access begins at a library" and will share all related information and sell the Red Notebooks at the booth.
10. **2005 ILDA Host Report:** Linda Desrosiers gave an exciting update on how the Host committee worked hard to plan for the upcoming 2005 ILDA Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia. They found a very good hotel site with close proximity to the convenient transportation by rail to the huge shopping mall from the hotel. The only negative is that the airport is only 20 minutes away with no shuttle service from the hotel however it is currently in the works to have that available in the near future. There are plenty of ethnic food opportunities such as food court in the hotel area as well as other various restaurants at the large shopping mall. Vancouver is truly a multi-cultural city that the experience will be very enriching. The committee had successfully fund-raised a total of about \$11,000 but still need to do more fund-raising. There will be some difference in the currency exchange that Canadian dollar value may be becoming stronger and stronger so we do not know what it will be like in the year of 2005. However there is an advantage that the Americans can itemize the list of Canadian taxes being paid for on the shopping goods and so on that refunds for the taxes paid can be reimbursed by the federal government in Canada. This is called GST. The chosen theme is "Let us praise the Lord from the Mountaintops" from Isaiah 42:11-12 and the date was decided to be on August 4-7, 2005 due to the possibility of better weather. Convention Logo had been designed. Magnets and bookmarks with the logo are now going to be selling at the booth this week.
11. **Old Business:** There appeared to be none since most of them were already taken care of last fall at the Executive Council meeting in Fort Wayne, IN.
12. **New Business:**

**Motion was made by Rev. John Reinke (seconded by Jack Burns, Pacific Region President) that ILDA Convention format be changed slightly to have business meeting to occur on Thursday morning and the tours in the afternoon so the rest of the weekend, Friday to Sunday, can be focused on the workshops. Passed.**

Many discussions were made in support for the motion. Some expressed concerns that we should be aware of.

**Motion was made by Jim Sipchen (seconded by Jack Burns, Pacific Region President) that Senior Citizen discount or scholarship be given with the amount be a pro-rate based on the years of membership in ILDA. Passed.**

**Motion was made by Jim Sipchen (seconded by Pam Kane, President-elect) that ILDA Treasurer create a master charge account for ILDA to contain any ILDA related expenses/charges. Passed.**

Vote was made to close the new business.

12. **Closing Prayer:** Pastor Bud signed the closing prayer thanking Him for the wisdom, guidance and strength in accomplishing His work through the good discussions. He also shared some information on what are the Angels and gave a small and quick workshop on Angels.  
 Meeting was adjointed at 5pm.

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Tim Johnston, ILDA Secretary*

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