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The LUTHERAN

Deaconess



Vol. 41, No. 1

Winter, 1964



The Deaconess Interne in Institutional Missions

STAFF THOUGHTS



Developing sensitivity is as important for Christians in their everyday lives as it is for Deaconesses working in the Church. Picture yourself as a person with antennae aimed in all different directions concerned with being "in tune" with the **total** world around you. This is part of living your life to the fullest God-given potential enabling you in turn to give to others.

Be sensitive to your position as a loyal co-worker to your Pastor. The more you live out the meaning of these words "loyal" and "co-worker" the finer and more effective your relationship will be. He is also your Pastor; be sensitive to this and let it enrich your life. In addition to the other people in your life, there will be those to whom you are called to minister—your an-

tennae ought to be aimed in their direction especially. Know the needs, frustrations, and joys of the various age levels—they will sense your sensitivity and respond to it. Then your prime job of bringing them the Living Word will not be something stiff and artificial but part of the unified whole of living with these people. A great deal of sensitivity will be necessary on your part in the whole area of traditions. Here you may often times be required to bend, to give a little, to adapt.

Aim those antennae in the direction of the "outside" world too. Know the latest news events, be aware of the local sports picture—care about the things which make up the lives of those around you. Show by your daily appearance that you care enough about your people to attempt to look your very best—be sensitive to the total image you are projecting.

Finally let me urge you to point those antennae in the direction of your Lord. Be sensitive to the fact that He every day invades your life as you are born again in Christ. Above all, be sensitive to the forgiveness of sins—live with this as the focal point in your life.

(Portions of an address to Deaconess students. 10/63. LHW)

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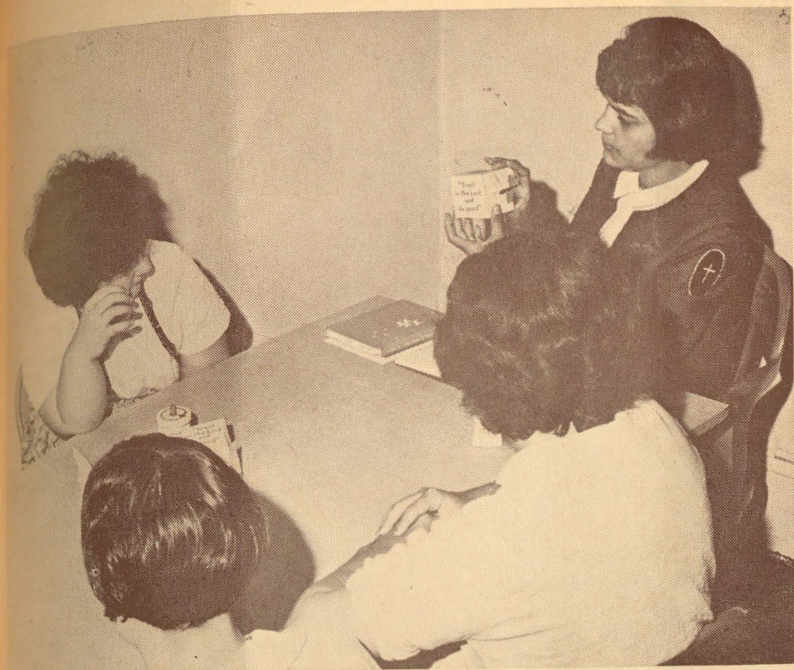
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The EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: The Rev. Walter Gerken; and Deaconess Luciile Wiese.

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A DEACONESS INTERNE IN INSTITUTIONAL MISSIONS



Deaconess Interne Merrilee Melberg teaching children at Fort Wayne State School.

(Pastor Robert Gevers, Institutional Chaplain for the Lutheran Missionary Association of Fort Wayne, Indiana, has, along with Pastor Clarence Mueller, worked with a Deaconess Interne for two years. Pastor Gevers in the following article outlines one of the areas in which he feels a Deaconess Interne can be most effective.)

One of the most desperate needs of people confined to a long-term hospital, a nursing home, a State School or some other similar institution is the need for the **listening presence of another person.**

Attendants, nurses, and other professional people are too busy with necessary routines to listen to the rambling reminiscing of the patient. Visiting friends and relatives are too busy relating everything they have been doing to listen to the petty goings-on in the patient's life.

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Even the visiting pastor or chaplain may be too pressed to "make the rounds" to offer more than a glad hand, a brief prayer, and a remark about the weather.

Here, it seems to me, the deaconess interne, in an institutional setting, can make her finest contribution. Unharried and quiet, she comes! She comes to **listen!**

The Deaconess interne is somewhat limited in her sphere of service. She cannot, of course, preach or serve the Holy Communion. She lacks training and experience to do intensive counseling. But she can serve by listening!



Pastor Gevers consults with Merrilee regarding her week's work.

Listening means not just hearing words spoken by another, but it means being alert and sensitive to the feelings and ideas **behind** the words of the patient. Listening involves waiting—

waiting for the patient to feel comfortable and secure in your company, waiting for him to get past the usual social pleasantries, waiting for him to give expression to how he **really** feels and thinks and believes.

The phrase of a song comes to mind: "Love is a waiting game." And that's right! In the person of the deaconess interne the Love of God reaches to the patient. But Love does not merely brush by. Neither does Love push or pry. Love waits, and when the Heart's door opens Love floods in.

The deaconess interne is a channel for that Love, especially in the ministry of listening.

This is **not** to say that the interne does no talking. (What woman could possibly exercise that much restraint!) But she listens "first and mostly," so that when she does speak she uses the right and the best words to direct the patient to the **Word!**

There are opportunities for the deaconess interne to serve in other capacities in an institutional setting, such as Sunday School and Bible Class teacher. But I truly believe her finest contribution to the many hundreds she meets in her interne year is her ministry of listening.

STATEMENT

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The Lutheran Deaconess has a free circulation of over 18,000 copies per issue mailed both to individuals and in bulk to groups within the Church.

New Refrigerator at Deaconess Hall



The new bronze-colored refrigerator at Deaconess Hall. This was a gift from the Cleveland Deaconess Society.

COLLOQUIUM PLANS ANNOUNCED

A colloquium on "The Diakonia of the Church in a New Age" has been planned for May 1-3, 1964, to celebrate 20 years of partnership in the education of Deaconesses by Valparaiso University and the Lutheran Deaconess Association. The colloquium will take place on the campus of Valparaiso University. This has been made possible through a \$5,660 fraternal benevolence grant from Aid Association for Lutherans, Appleton, Wisconsin.

Participants will study the nature of the Diakonia as well as recommendations for expansion to enable the church to make fuller use of the talents God has given his people and which can be utilized in special ministries in various areas. A primary objective of the colloquium will be to implement the enlargement of the area of service to the church-at-large.

The weekend activities will begin on Friday evening and conclude on Sunday noon. Approximately 50 people will be participating. The Rev. Dr. Roland Wiederaenders, First Vice President of Synod, will be the preacher for the Sunday morning service.

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR DATES ANNOUNCED

The Lutheran Deaconess Conference will meet at Concordia College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 29-July 1. This three-day meeting will be followed by a two-day Seminar, also taking place on Concordia's campus. This will be the Conference's first attempt at a Seminar meeting combined with the annual Conference meeting.

Gifts from Students



Linda Bachoritch, left and Carol Hellweg, right, admire Richard Cammerer's painting of the Good Shepherd—a gift to Deaconess Hall from the off-campus students living there in 1962-63.

LDA FINANCIAL CONDITION BASIS OF DISCUSSION

The Plenary Board of Directors of the LDA met January 17, 1964, at Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Indiana. The morning session included routine reports and general business.

In the afternoon session the present financial difficulties of the LDA were discussed. Vital statistics concerning the financial situation are as follows: At the end of the fiscal year we had a deficit of \$8,187.85. At the end of this semester we will owe Valparaiso University approximately \$4,000 in scholarship money.

Our debt retirement bill on Deaconess Hall due July 1 will be \$14,000 principle, plus approximately \$2,500 interest. Our friends have been faithful and our support is growing—for this we are thankful. However, the growth in contributions has not been large enough to match the rapid expansion of our program. Our budget has nearly doubled over the past five years. (1957-58—\$66,672.00. 1963-64—\$102,000)

It was resolved at the board meeting to appoint a planning committee constituted for the purposes of liquidating our debt, considering the expansion of our present plant and considering the manner in which the Association may be regionally organized.

DEACONESSSES AT WORK IN NIGERIA

Mary Ann Medjrich: Deaconess Nurse

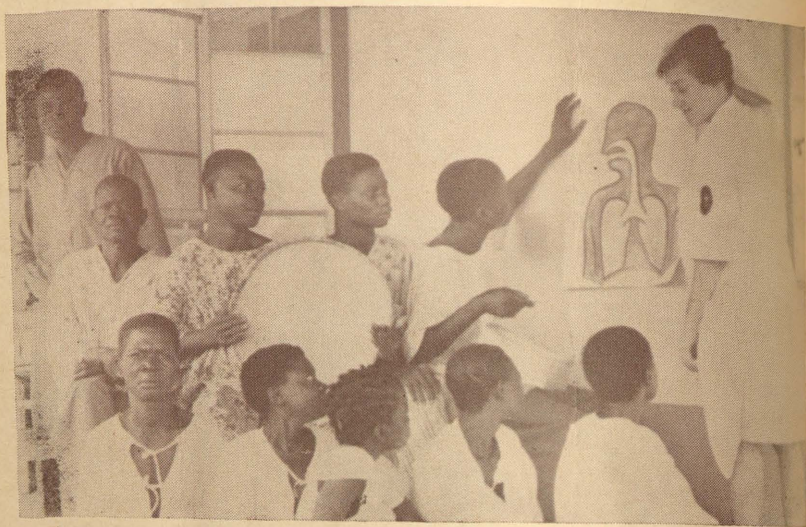
When Deaconess Mary Ann arrived at Eket, she was put to work in the TB ward of the Evangelical Lutheran Hospital. Here she not only cared for the patients, but also helped with the teaching. As an aid to her teaching, Mary Ann wrote a pamphlet and designed a corresponding flip chart. Two out of every six nights she is on call for any emergency that might arise.



Deaconess Mary Ann and a tiny, premature patient.

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Mary Ann writes, "As far as our church, Christ the King Chapel, is concerned, I work with the senior choir as an advisor and have organized a children's choir. I write liturgies, mimeograph special bulletins explaining a particular occasion or festival in the Church, prepare the Advent wreaths or other special items, organize the ushers, and occasionally teach confirmation or Sunday School."



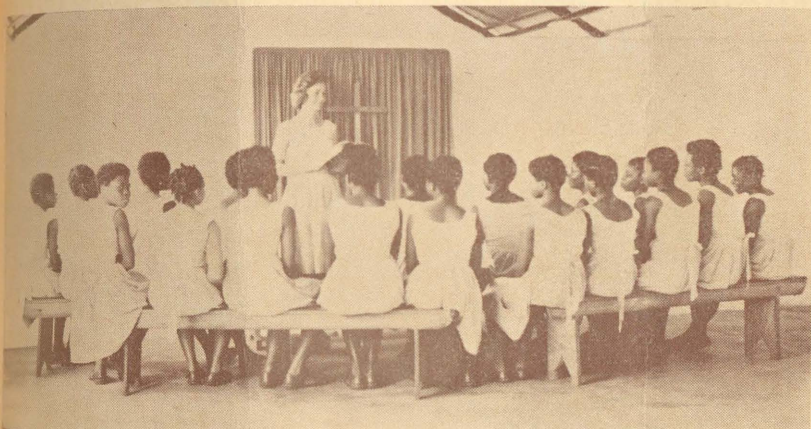
A class conducted by Deaconess Mary Ann using the flip chart she designed.

Deaconess Mary Ann has had to put her versatility into practice during the past months. When the business manager went on leave, she was asked to step in and assume the responsibilities of the business office of the hospital. Here she finds herself in the center of the hospital activity—running office machines, making out payrolls, checking electrical wiring, etc.

Betty Bader: Deaconess Teacher

Deaconess Betty Bader graduated from Valparaiso in 1961 and was sent to Nung Udoo, Nigeria, the following fall. She received her teacher training at Concordia College, Seward, Nebraska. She is acting as principal of Nau Memorial Lutheran School, a two year secondary course for girls with emphasis in religion and home economics. Betty reports to us, "The students, who come from three different language groups, range in ages from 14-21. Some of the students terminate their education after the course; others continue with nurses training or teacher training."

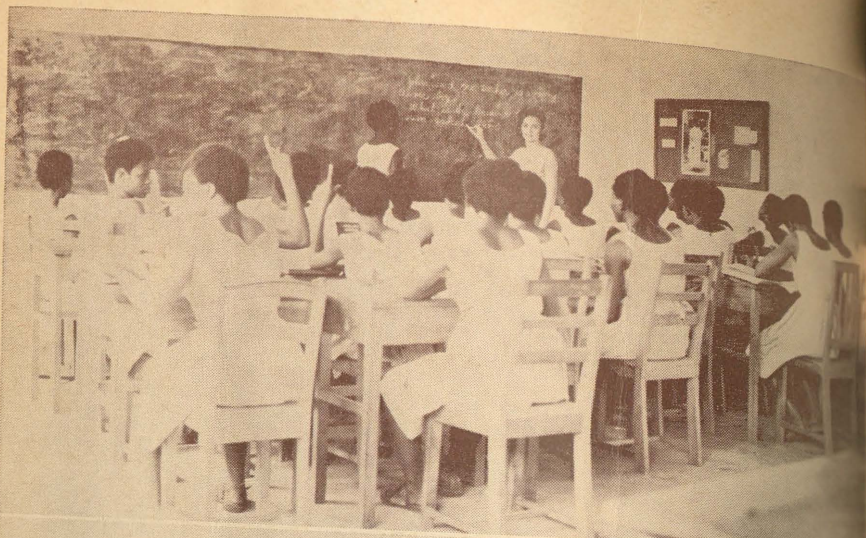
The school has a staff of four teachers, three of whom are Nigerians. Through this school we have both the privilege and duty to speak to many for whom the Lord died and rose again."



A vital part of the day at Nau Memorial Lutheran School—the morning devotions, led by Deaconess Betty.

Deaconess Betty is now in the states on a six month furlough and will resume her duties in July. While home, she is attending the University of Nebraska.

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Deaconess Betty Bader teaching in Nigerian Lutheran School.