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The Lutheran Deaconess

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ST. LOUIS, MO., JULY, 1929.

No. 3.

GRADUATION SERMON ON JOHN 21, 16.

IN CHRIST JESUS DEARLY BELOVED FRIENDS;
ESPECIALLY DEAR GRADUATES:—

Finally the hour has come, the hour in which your joy has reached its climax, the hour you have anxiously been looking forward to. Three years of diligent study and work have now been completed. This evening finds you in the sanctuary of your Lord seemingly happy and content. I seem to hear you say with uplifted hearts and hands: For a truth, "the Lord is good, because His mercy endureth forever." And again:—

Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours to-day.

Realizing the loving-kindness God has shown you in the past, we cannot but join you in your hymn of praise by saying: "Amen. Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might be unto our God forever and ever. Amen."

You are now about to launch out into the deep, to enter upon the duties of a deaconess. Indeed, a most noble and worthy profession. But before you enter upon the duties of this profession, Jesus, your Savior, would have you answer Him one question: "Lovest thou Me?" A rather peculiar question, and yet of so great importance. Let us dwell on this question a few moments, the question of our Savior:—

"Lovest thou Me?"

Originally this question was addressed to Simon Peter. This apostle loved Jesus, loved Him most dearly. On one occasion, when all were about to leave Jesus, it was Simon Peter who, in the name of his fellow-disciples, publicly declared: "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that Thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God." Yes, Simon Peter loved Jesus, loved Him most heartily.

But at a later date Peter's love for Christ was put to a test, and it was a severe one. Peter was called upon by his enemies to confess Christ. It was in that critical hour of Christ's captivity when he was confronted with the question: "Art not thou also one of His disciples?" And what did Peter do? Did he confess? Sad to say, he denied his Master, not once, but thrice, denied Him most shamefully. Our hearts are grieved as often as we hear or read this sad account. Undoubtedly this happening may be regarded as one of the darkest periods during the Passion of our dear Savior.

But thank God, there is also a bright side to it. The history of Christ's Passion tells us not only of Peter's denial, but also of his repentance. And how was it brought about? By a mere look of Jesus. Passing by near where Peter was standing, Jesus, we are told, turned and looked upon Peter. How did this affect Peter? We hear: "Peter went out and wept bitterly." Peter wept. Do you see him weeping, shedding bitter tears of repentance? But do you also see the holy angels in heaven rejoicing because of this poor sinner's repentance? Yes, Peter had found his dear Savior again and was assured anew of His undying love to him.

But now the hour had come when the risen Lord wished to reinstate Peter in his office as apostle. Before he would engage in this all-important work, however, Jesus desired to remind him of one thing needful on his part, namely, an unwavering love for Jesus, his Savior. Ah, Jesus well knew the duties he would have to perform and the difficulties that would confront him as apostle; hence His question: "Lovest thou Me?"

You, dear graduates, are also about to enter upon a very noble, praiseworthy, and God-pleasing profession. You are to perform the duties of a deaconess. What these duties are I need not tell you. This information, or rather instruction, you have received at your dear *alma mater*. But for the benefit of those who are not so well acquainted with the work of a deaconess I wish to say that a deaconess has to do not only with the bodily, but also with the spiritual welfare of men. She cares not only

for the sick, the poor, and the needy as we find them everywhere in our parishes, as well as in our various charitable institutions, but above all she has in mind the spiritual welfare of those under her charge. To them she administers the healing balm of Gilead and by word and deed leads poor sinners to Christ. Thus, in the true sense of the word, she becomes and is the forerunner of many a pastor and missionary. Her calling, being a special one, requires a special training, a training in the fear of God.

This training you dear graduates have received. Your experience will grow in your daily work. As you go about performing your duties as deaconesses, your love for Christ will oftentimes be put to a test. Naturally you will meet with people of various types and descriptions, some of whom will be pleasant, content, and grateful, while others will frown upon you, complain, and be discontented and ungrateful. Some will lend you an open ear, while others will say with Felix of old: "Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." Your calling may lead you far away from home, perhaps into distant countries. You may have to accustom yourselves to various modes and climes. At times your hours may be long and strenuous. Little wonder, then, that your Savior puts this question to you: "Lovest thou Me?" True, a sweet disposition, a smiling face, cheerful words, and a good education are things much to be desired and will go a far way in reaching your goal; but they will not go all the way. More than that is needed. To be a true deaconess and to be successful in your work nothing less than a burning and unwavering love for Christ will do. Being a true deaconess, your testimony will be that of the disciples: "We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." Every day will find you at the feet of your Savior, hearing and learning that one thing which is needful. Every day will find you in close communion with your dear Lord and Master, and you will ever remember the words of the apostle: "The prayer of a righteous man availeth much." And God only knows, and those under your care will experience, your love for Jesus, as it will manifest itself so splendidly in your daily life.

But should you find it difficult to love Jesus? Behold Him hanging on the cross with outstretched arms of love. See Him looking down upon you with such condescending love. Hear Him say: "This I have done for you." Yea, Jesus has done all for you. He has shed His very life-blood for you. Even more than that. He who was "delivered for our offenses" was "raised again for our justification," says the apostle. Remember, then, in Jesus we have not a dead, but a living Savior, whose love embraces us on our every way. As a loving Savior He is pictured to you in your Bible. Therefore make this Book your special study. It will imbue you with love to your Savior. Love begets love. And filled with love of your Savior, you will easily overcome all difficulties that may con-

front you, and you will perform your duties with a glad and cheerful heart. Happy they who will be under your care.

It will not be amiss to say that this evening's service, because of its very nature, is an impressive one. It teaches us anew that solemn truth given in the words of St. John: "We love Him because He first loved us." What about our love for Jesus? Our graduates number six, but they really ought to number many more. Ought not this evening's service be an incentive to many a young woman to become a deaconess? We are so sorely in need of them.

True, not all of us can do the work of a deaconess, but every one of us can be a member of our Deaconess Association. Are you a member? If not, then enlist. Do it now, lest you forget it. If I mistake not, the membership-fee is one dollar a year. Just think of it, one dollar a year to alleviate human ailments, to brighten the face of many a care-worn person! One dollar a year to help poor sinners find their way to Jesus. One dollar a year to show your love for Christ also in a material way. I feel assured that out of sheer love for Christ many of you will join this association in the near future.

As to you, dear graduates, we commend you to the loving care of our dear heavenly Father. May He establish the work of your hands upon you; yea, the work of your hands, may He establish it! May He keep you in His grace, so that on the day of His glorious appearance He may also turn to you, saying: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

KARL J. H. STRASBURG.

Ansprache bei der Einführung der Diaconissen zu Watertown, Wis.

Dan. 6, 16.

Wir haben uns hier versammelt, um die Diaconissen, die in unserer Wetkesda-Anstalt ausgebildet worden sind, in ihr Amt einzuführen. Diese Diaconissen wollen nun hinausgehen und in ihrer besonderen Weise Gott dienen, und wir rufen ihnen zu:

**Euer Gott, dem ihr ohne Unterlaß dient,
der helfe euch!**

Unser Text ist aus der Geschichte Daniels genommen. Daniel diente seinem Gott und war fröhlich in solchem Dienst. Aber sein Gottesdienst brachte ihm Not und Trübsal. Er wurde in die Grube geworfen zu den Löwen. Sein König empfahl ihn seinem Gott und sprach: „Dein Gott, dem du ohne Unterlaß dienest, der helfe dir!“ Und Daniels Gott war bei ihm. Er half ihm aus der Not und errettete ihn.

Wir empfehlen diese Diaconissen unserem Gott und sagen: Euer Gott, dem ihr ohne Unterlaß dient, der helfe euch! Ja, der Gott Daniels ist auch ihr Gott. Er hat sie geschaffen, ihnen Leib und Seele, Augen, Ohren und alle Glieder, Vernunft



Pauline Barthel.



Elsbeth Buchholz.



Minerva Klockziem.

und alle Sinne gegeben. Er hat sie vor allem erlöst. Er hat seinen Sohn auch für sie Mensch werden lassen. Der hat sie erlöst, erworben und gewonnen von allen Sünden, vom Tod und von der Gewalt des Teufels, nicht mit Gold oder Silber, sondern mit seinem heiligen, teuren Blut und mit seinem unschuldigen Leiden und Sterben. Christus hat auch für sie ein Kleid der Gerechtigkeit erworben, mit welchem sie vor Gott bestehen können. Und weil sie nicht aus eigener Vernunft noch Kraft zu Christo kommen und das Kleid der Gerechtigkeit anziehen konnten, so sandte Gott ihnen seinen Heiligen Geist, der sie bei der Hand nahm, zu Christo führte und durch den Glauben ihnen das Kleid der Gerechtigkeit anlegte. Schon durch die Taufe hat Gott sie angenommen als seine Kinder und dann schon einen ewigen Bund mit ihnen gemacht, daß er nicht ablassen wolle, ihnen Gutes zu tun. Durch sein Wort hat er sie auf dem schmalen Wege erhalten, ihnen Ruhe für ihre Seele, Frieden mit Gott und die Hoffnung des ewigen Lebens gegeben. Betroßt können sie zu ihm hinaufschauen und sagen: „Mein Herr und mein Gott!“

Diesem Gott wollen die Diaconissen dienen. Das ist ja die Aufgabe eines jeden Christen hier auf Erden: er soll seinem Gott dienen. Darum hat Gott ihn abgesondert von der gottlosen Welt, daß er ihm diene in seinem Reiche. Aber die Diaconissen wollen in ihrer besonderen Weise Gott dienen. Sie wollen an Kranken und Armen, an Waisen und Epileptischen, an Greisen und Greisinnen als Gemeindegewestern ihrem Gott dienen. Und das ist wirklich ein Gottesdienst. Damit dienen sie ihrem Gott. Denn unser Heiland hat gesagt: „Wahrlich, ich sage euch: Was ihr getan habt einem unter diesen meinen geringsten Brüdern, das habt ihr mir getan.“

Aber das ist nicht so leicht. Der Teufel haßt solchen Gottesdienst. Die Welt verachtet solchen Gottesdienst. Und das eigene Fleisch will nicht Gott dienen. O wie viele Schwierigkeiten stellen sich da einem in den Weg! Aber „dein Gott, dem du ohne Unterlaß dienest, der helfe dir“, helfe dir über alle diese Schwierigkeiten hinweg! Hat er nicht gesagt: „Fürchte dich nicht, ich bin mit dir; weide nicht, denn ich bin dein Gott. Ich stärkte dich, ich helfe dir auch, ich erhalte dich durch die rechte Hand meiner Gerechtigkeit“? Wo immer ihr auch sein

mögt, und nähmet ihr Flügel der Morgenröte und blicbet am äußersten Meer, so würde nicht nur Gott da zugegen sein, sondern daselbst würde seine Hand euch führen und seine Rechte euch halten.

Darum haltet offene Fenster gegen Jerusalem. Wendet euch fleißig im Gebet zu eurem Herrn. Bittet ihn:

Herr, stärke deine Kinder
Und mache die zu überwindern,
Die du erkaufst mit deinem Blut!
Schaffe in uns neues Leben,
Daß wir uns stets zu dir erheben,
Wenn uns entfallen will der Mut!
Gauß aus auf uns den Geist,
Dadurch die Liebe fließt
In die Herzen,
So halten wir getreu an dir
Im Tod und Leben für und für.

So zieht denn in Gottes Namen hin, und euer Gott, dem ihr ohne Unterlaß dient, der helfe euch!
Amen.

M. S. R o m e n s e n.

INSTALLATIONS.

At Fort Wayne.

Installation services were held on Pentecost Sunday at Immanuel Church, Fort Wayne, Ind., of which Rev. Wm. Moll is the pastor. There were six graduates, the largest number recorded in the annals of the Fort Wayne training-school. Pastor K. Strasburg, of Ossian, Ind., delivered a most impressive sermon. The ladies of the Fort Wayne Deaconess Auxiliary had arranged a reception for the graduates at Immanuel Parish Hall. The mixed choir of Immanuel Church rendered a suitable selection, and the graduates sang the familiar hymn "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," according to a new melody.

The graduates are: Pauline Barthel, Elsbeth Buchholz, Minerva Klockziem, Rena Ruppenthal, Esther Schabacker, Margaret Spencer. Miss Schabacker has volunteered to serve in the field of Foreign Missions in India. Miss Spencer is located at Beaver Dam, Wis., to take the place of Deaconess Gertrude Oberheu, who is going to India this fall as a missionary deaconess. Miss Spencer will have charge of the operating-room and the X-ray work. Deaconess



Rena Ruppenthal.



Esther Schabacker.



Margaret Spencer.

Pauline Barthel will enter the services of the Children's Friend Society of Minnesota and North Dakota. Pastor F. Glabe is superintendent of this association, whose work has been highly recommended by State officials. Two more graduates are to be placed at Beaver Dam.

Pastor John Barthel, of Lincoln, Ill., father of Deaconess Graduate Pauline Barthel, delivered an appropriate address at the commencement exercises of the graduates from our Lutheran Hospital. He spoke on the words of St. Paul: "The love of Christ constraineth us."

At Watertown.

Installation services were held at Watertown, Wis., on Sunday afternoon, May 5, at St. John's Church, of which Rev. Herman F. Eggers is the pastor. The following four graduates have finished their two-year course at our Bethesda Training-school: Martha Theilmann, Lydia Lutz, Minnie Hecht, and Martha Schmidt. Pastor M. J. Nommensen, of Juneau, Wis., preached the German sermon, choosing as his text the words recorded in the Book of Daniel, chapter 6, 16: "Thy God, whom thou servest continually, He will deliver thee." Pastor William Naumann, chaplain of our Bethesda Lutheran Home, had selected the 105th verse of the 119th Psalm as the text for the English sermon. In the introduction he stated that our deaconesses will be a great blessing in the field of missions and charities as long as they make the Word of God a lamp unto their feet and a light unto their path.

"The Bible pictures to us the lives of many men and women who are shining examples in their devotion to duty. We read of men and women who did great things in the kingdom of God by leading others to the knowledge of the Savior. It is well for all women who wish to train for special service in the great fields of missions and charities to study the lives of the women of the Bible who did great things in God's kingdom. Let me set before you the example of four God-fearing women as a lamp unto your feet, namely, the examples of Lydia, Abigail, Miriam, and Phebe.

"According to Acts 16, Lydia was one of the first-fruits of Paul's preaching in Europe. She accepted Jesus as her Savior and desired to serve Him who had bought her so dearly with His blood. She said to Paul and Silas: 'If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come unto my house and abide there.' She considered it a privilege to serve the messengers of Jesus. The faith and love of this noble woman helped materially in building up the congregation at Philippi, which, in later years, on several occasions supplied Paul with means to continue his blessed work in other cities.

"As Lydia's faith and love were a blessing to the congregation at Philippi and a great encouragement for Paul and his companions, so also the services of our deaconesses, prompted by true faith and love, will be a blessing to many.

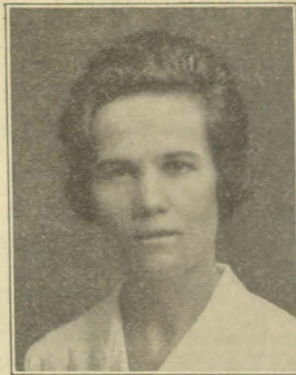
"To serve Jesus very often requires great courage and wisdom. These virtues were a great asset in the life of Abigail, a woman of the Old Testament. She is called a woman of good understanding. Abigail used the Word of God as a lamp unto her feet and was successful in preventing David from committing murder. While she warded off destruction from herself and her own people, she showed great concern for David's spiritual welfare. David fully acknowledged her wisdom and courage, saying: 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me.'

"In her calling a deaconess is bound to meet at times with difficult situations, situations requiring courage, circumspection, and tact. But there is no cause for worry. We read in the Epistle of James: 'If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and it shall be given him.' Our most important aim must always be the welfare of the souls of those with whom we have to deal. If this is done by you in the modest way of Abigail, the day will come when some of those whom you have had the privilege to help will say to you: 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me.'

"To be successful in your deaconess calling, you are to show true enthusiasm and energy.



Martha Theilman.



Lydia Lutz.

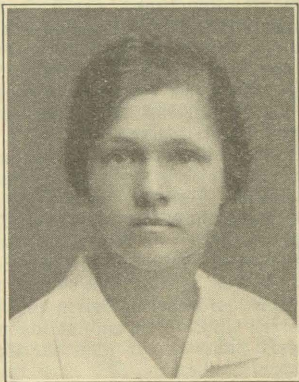


Minnie Hecht.

These virtues were an asset in the life of Miriam, sister of Moses. Stirred with holy enthusiasm, she called to the women of Israel: 'Sing ye to the Lord; for He hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath He thrown into the sea.' She made the right use of the gifts which God had bestowed upon her, seeking the honor of God and the spiritual uplift of the women of her people.

"Thus also to-day a deaconess will prove a real blessing by stirring the members of a ladies' aid or of a mission society to help furthering the cause of Christ's kingdom.

"One more woman of the Bible I would desire to point out to you. It is Phebe, of whom St. Paul makes honorable mention in the last chapter of his letter to the Romans. Phebe was *officially* called to serve the congregation at Cenchrea in the capacity of a deaconess. She was to help in looking after the sick and the needy. The very name Phebe is significant. Phebe means the 'shining one.' Her faith in



Martha Schmidt.

The services were enhanced by a selection well rendered by the mixed choir of St. John's Church as well as by a hymn sung by the graduates together with the deaconesses in training.

The good ladies of St. John's Church served an excellent lunch at the parish house.

It seems as if the day set aside for installation services at Watertown will be considered a splendid occasion for the home-coming of Bethesda graduates.

A welcome visitor at the installation services was Miss Hanser from the City Mission of St. Louis. She delivered a very interesting lecture on her work among the sick and the needy. She was very glad to learn that Miss Lydia Lutz, one of the four graduates, will enter the service of the Lutheran Convalescent Home at St. Louis.

Miss Martha Schmidt will go to Whiteriver, Ariz., to help at the Lutheran Orphans' Home for Apache Indian orphans. This mission is conducted under the auspices of the Wisconsin Synod. Miss Minnie Hecht will take a year of special nurses' training at our Beaver Dam Deaconess Hospital. Miss Martha Theilman will, for the present, stay at Bethesda, where her services will be highly appreciated.

May the Lord bless the labors of all of our graduates!

TRANSFERS AND NEW CALLS.

Deaconess Erna Heck, formerly assistant matron at the Buffalo Hospice, has been transferred to our Bethesda Home at Watertown. Because of ill health, Mr. and Mrs. Sabrowsky, who had faithfully served the institution for over two years as house parents, felt themselves constrained to seek other employment. Miss Heck will discharge some of the duties formerly incumbent upon the matron.—Deaconess Cora Leader has gone to Buffalo.

Martha Herzberg is taking Cora Leader's place at the Old Folks' Home at Arlington Heights. She will be graduated from Beaver Dam. Margaret Leader has accepted a position in the Old Peoples' Home at Belle Plaine, Minn. She writes us that she is feeling quite at home in her new field of labor. Rosa Bremer, a Fort Wayne graduate, who served as matron in the

Christ shone forth in deeds of ministering love. She no doubt had words of true comfort for those who were in spiritual distress. The Word of God was a lamp unto her feet. May this Word ever be your guide as you are ready to go forth to serve your fellow-men out of love for Him who first loved us!"

Lutheran Boarding-school for Indian Children on the Stockbridge Reservation at Gresham, Wis., has been sent to Beaver Dam to relieve the distressing shortage of help at the hospital. A graduate from Beaver Dam will enter the Stockbridge Mission this fall. A request from the orphanage at Addison, Ill., to supply this institution with a deaconess has come to us through the superintendent, the Rev. M. Vetter.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Three deaconess students at Beaver Dam are reported on the sick-list. May the Lord grant them a speedy recovery!

We are glad to have with us again at our Fort Wayne school Miss Grace Nordman, who had been compelled to discontinue her studies because of illness.

The Deaconess Home is soon to have a new garb. The rear porch, which was near the point of collapse, has been reinforced. The painters expect to have their job finished by the time the Walther League Convention opens. The hydrangeas in the front yard are a beautiful sight to behold.

The Lutheran Exhibit at Hotel Sherman in Chicago was better and much larger than any previous exhibit featuring Synod's multiple work.

Pastor M. Ilse, city missionary of Cleveland, O., showed excellent taste in arranging the exhibit of the Associated Charities, which includes the deaconess display of pictures. We have received many promises from individuals to boost our deaconess cause.

We also had the pleasure of meeting our representative in the Southern Nebraska District, the Rev. F. Korbitz, who has proved himself a faithful and an enthusiastic supporter of our deaconess cause.

Installation services at Beaver Dam will be held, God willing, on the second Sunday in August, in the morning service. Five graduates will be installed.

Our Pittsburgh Lutherans are still in the lead as to the amount of contributions received thus far in 1929 for our deaconess work.

Deaconess Gertrude Oberheu, who was stationed at Beaver Dam since last October and who expects to leave for India this fall together with her brother, is taking a special course in Sanitary Science and kindred subjects at Western Reserve College, Cleveland, O. She has been enabled to take this course through the liberality of the Fort Wayne Lutheran Ladies' Missionary Society.

A memorial wreath of \$5 was received through Rev. F. Korbitz, of Eagle, Nebr., in memory of a member of his congregation.

An invitation to attend the marriage of Miss Ina Kempff to Mr. Walter Meyer, on the 29th of June, was received at our office. Miss Kempff was our first deaconess graduate. She finished her training at Fort Wayne in 1922 and was

called to serve as superintendent of our Deaconess Hospital at Beaver Dam. She was well qualified for this position, and her work was signally blessed. From Beaver Dam she was transferred to Detroit, where she served faithfully in the City Mission under the direction of Pastor O. Turk. We wish her and her husband God's richest blessings. She will make her home at Milwaukee.

Aus dem Diaconissen-Arbeitsfeld.

Zu Monat Mai ist die Zahl unserer Diaconissen um zehn gestiegen. Am 5. Mai fand in Watertown die Einführung von vier Diaconissen statt. Der Gottesdienst wurde, wie in vergangenen Jahren, in der St. Johanniskirche (P. F. H. Eggers) abgehalten. P. Rommenen von Juneau hielt die deutsche und P. Naumann, unser Kaplan in der Bethesda-Anstalt, die englische Predigt. Der gemischte Chor der St. Johanniskirche sowie der Bethesda-Chor der Diaconissen und Diaconissenschülerinnen trugen passende Lieder vor. Von den vier Diaconissen ist bereits eine, Lydia Luß, nach ihrem Arbeitsfelde in St. Louis abgereist, wo sie im lutherischen Invalidenheim (Convalescent Home) angestellt ist. Diaconisse Martha Schmidt tritt in den Dienst der lutherischen Mission unter den Apache-Indianern im Staate Arizona ein. Diaconisse Martha Theilmann wird in Bethesda tätig sein, während Diaconisse Minnie Hecht nach Beaver Dam geht, um in unserm dortigen Diaconissenhospital ein Jahr lang den Krankenwärterinnenkursus mitzumachen.

Diaconisse Margarete Leader, die letztes Jahr ihr Examen bestand, dann aber wegen schwerer Erkrankung ihrer Mutter daheim diente, ist jetzt im Altenheim zu Belle Plaine, Minn., angestellt. Diaconisse Martha Herzberg, die Ende Februar ihren dreijährigen Kursus in Beaver Dam absolvierte, steht jetzt im Altenheim zu Arlington Heights, Ill., in geeigneter Tätigkeit.

Am Pfingstsonntagabend, den 19. Juni, fand in der Immanuelkirche zu Fort Wayne, an der P. W. Moll steht, ein feierlicher Installationsgottesdienst statt. P. Karl Strasburg von Ossian, Ind., hielt die Predigt. Nach dem Gottesdienst ging es in die Halle, wo die Glieder des Diaconissen-Hilfsvereins zu Fort Wayne Erfrischungen servierten. Von den sechs Diaconissen, die ihren Fort Wayne Kursus dieses Jahr absolvieren, steht eine, nämlich Diaconisse Margarete Spencer, bereits im Dienst in unserm Diaconissenhospital zu Beaver Dam. Frä. Pauline Barthel tritt in den Dienst der Kinderfreundgesellschaft von Minnesota. Frä. Eifer Schabader hat sich für den Missionsdienst in Indien gemeldet. Von verschiedenen Seiten sind Bittgesuche um Diaconissen eingelaufen, und es scheint, daß wir auch in diesem Jahre wieder nicht alle Gesuche werden befriedigen können.

Am Vormittag des zweiten Sonntags im August wird in Beaver Dam der Installationsgottesdienst stattfinden. Fünf Diaconissen werden ihr Abgangsexamen bestehen.

Diaconisse Gertrud Oberheu, die diesen Herbst in den Missionsdienst in Indien eintritt, weilt gegenwärtig in Cleveland, um einen Sommertermin im

Western Reserve College mitzumachen, der für ihren künftigen Beruf von großer Wichtigkeit ist. Der Missionsverein lutherischer Frauen in Fort Wayne bezahlt die Unkosten. Fürwahr, ein schönes Beispiel!

Interessantes aus dem Tagebuche einer Diakonissin.

(Fortsetzung.)

So reich auch die Jahre waren, die Emilie Heuser in Jerusalem als Diakonissin zubrachte, so sollte sie doch nach Gottes Rat ihre größte und ernsteste Arbeit in Syrien verrichten. Der Grund, weshalb sie aus ihrer gesegneten Tätigkeit in Jerusalem nach Syrien versetzt wurde, war folgender. Im August 1860 hatten auf dem Libanon Creuzkriegen stattgefunden, die durch ganz Europa Entsetzen hervorriefen. Die Drusen, halb mohammedanische und halb heidnische Bewohner auf dem Gebirge Libanon, hatten unter ihren christlichen Landsleuten ein furchtbares Blutbad angerichtet. In Damastus und Umgegend und über das ganze Gebirge hin waren an die vierzehntausend Männer und Knaben hingebracht und viele Städte und Dörfer in Trümmerhaufen verwandelt worden. Zu Tausenden waren die Kinder und Frauen der Ermordeten in die Küstentäler Beirut, Tyrus und Sidon geflüchtet, wo sie in größtem Elend dahinschwärmten. Auf die Nachricht von diesem furchtbaren Elend sandte der Diakonissenvater Theodor Fiedler seinen Schwiegersohn P. Düsselhof mit sechs Diakonissen nach Beirut, um das Elend dort so viel wie möglich zu lindern. Emilie Heuser war schon vor der Ankunft P. Düsselhofs in Beirut eingetroffen. Wegen ihrer Vertrautheit mit den Sitten und der Sprache des arabischen Volkes war sie eine unschätzbare Hilfe in dem herrlichen Liebeswerk, das sich jetzt in Beirut und an andern Stätten entfaltet. In Beirut errichtete man ein Waisenhaus. Leider konnten nicht gleich alle Waisen dort untergebracht werden. Ihre Zahl war zu groß.

Als das Liebeswerk in Beirut einigermaßen im Gang war, kam aus Tyrus und Sidon die Nachricht, daß das Elend unter den dort zurückgebliebenen Wittwen und Waisen noch größer sei als in Beirut. Auf diese Nachricht hin machten sich P. Düsselhof und Emilie Heuser sofort auf die Reise nach Tyrus und Sidon, hauptsächlich in der Hoffnung, verwaiste kleine Mädchen in das Waisenhaus zu Beirut zu bringen. Die Reise von Beirut nach Tyrus und Sidon gehörte zu den beschwerlichsten und gefährlichsten ihres Lebens. Da man nur reizend nach Sidon gelangen konnte, so mußte Schwester Emilie ebenso wie P. Düsselhof die Reise hoch zu Ross antreten. Der erste deutsche evangelisch-lutherische Pastor in Beirut, P. H. Kremer, begleitete sie, und frühmorgens am 19. November 1860 verließen die drei Beirut, geleitet von einem zuverlässigen arabischen Führer namens Mahmud, nachdem sie vor dem Waisenhaus fröhlich ihre Kasse bestiegen hatten. Der Weg, den sie zu reiten hatten, war kaum ein Weg zu nennen.

Sie waren noch gar nicht weit geritten, als ein Gebirgsstrom, der durch die Regengüsse der vergangenen Tage hoch angeschwollen war, ihnen den Weg versperrte. In der trockenen Jahreszeit kann der Strom leicht von einem Schäfflein durchschritten werden; jetzt aber war er so tief und die Stromschnellen so reizend, daß sie sich mit den Pferden

nicht hineinwagen durften, ohne sich der Gefahr auszusetzen, in das nahe Meer fortgerissen zu werden. Was war nun zu tun? Da erschien als Antwort auf diese bange Frage am andern Ufer der türkische Postbote, der ebenfalls zu Pferde saß. Dieser gab einen gellenden Pfiff von sich, und siehe, da kamen mit gravitäischem Schritt drei türkische Bauern vom Felde herangewandelt. Zwei hängten sich dem Pferde des Postboten an die Mähne, der eine rechts, der andere links, der dritte an den Schwanz, damit das Tier von den drausenden Wellen nicht fortgerissen werde. So ging es sicher durch die Flut. Unsere Reisenden folgten nun diesem Beispiel und kamen, die Füße bis halb auf den Rücken des Pferdes hinaufgezogen, einer nach dem andern, leidlich trocken ans jenseitige Ufer.

In der Stadt Sidon angelangt, die damals etwa zehntausend Einwohner zählte, fanden sie bei dem preußischen Bizekonjul, einem Türken, gutes Quartier. Er geleitete sie gleich am nächsten Morgen zu dem Orte, wo sie die großen Haufen von Wittwen und Waisen in unbeschreiblichem Elend fanden. Ach, und welche Szenen spielten sich ab bei der Verteilung von Lebensmitteln an die halbnaekten, vor Frost und Hunger zitternden Menschen, die mit der Eier hungriger Tiere über die Austeiler herfielen!

Eine große Enttäuschung aber war es für Schwester Emilie, daß trotz aller lockenden Liebe und Überredungskunst es ihr nicht gelang, die Scheu und Angst der armen, ausgehungerten Waisenkinder zu überwinden und sie zu bewegen, ihr in die schöne Zufluchtsstätte nach Beirut zu folgen. Sie waren so eingeschüchert und mit so unüberwindlichem Mißtrauen erfüllt, daß sie auch ihre Retter für Mörder hielten und schreiend davonliefen und sich verkrochen.

So mußten sie denn dort unberichteter Sache und mit tiefem Weh fortziehen, doch mit dem Entschluß im Herzen, ein Nothospital an dieser Elendsstätte einzurichten, und zwar so bald als möglich.

Über die Erlebnisse der treuen Diakonissin Emilie Heuser in Tyrus wollen wir in unserer nächsten Nummer allerlei Mitteilungen bringen.

(Fortsetzung folgt.)

BOOK REVIEW.

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Published by the Walther League, 6438 Eggleston Ave., Chicago, Ill.

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F. W. H.

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