

Below from: (April 1927). *Silent Worker*, 39 (7), pg. 223.

## Missionary Work Among The Colored Deaf

February 27, 1927.

TO THE SILENT WORKER,  
School for the Deaf,  
Trenton, N. J.

Dear Sir:—May I have space in your magazine, "The Champion of the Deaf," for the following write-up?

It has been and is still quite a problem about missionary work among the colored deaf. They are without spiritual guidance among themselves. The white folks try to help them and when they are taken away by death, they are just as helpless as ever.

They are encouraged by some parties not to recognize their race leaders; they are afraid that one of the race leaders will get too much credit for doing good among them, so they keep up strife trying to pull that race leader down as it has been the case in Chicago.

They seek out the white folks to do the work among them, not that they will have a change of heart, but that they might have the satisfaction of getting the spite out of the race leader.

The white folks who allow themselves to be used as tools to encourage them in their disloyalty to their own race thus making it impossible for them to make progress, are not discharging a Christian duty by them or doing them a service.

To do missionary work among the colored is not to do a favor to them. They have a right to an equal chance with the white man, an equal chance in education to encourage self-improvement and to create high ideals of conduct.

No greater service could be rendered the colored deaf than to help and encourage the ones best fitted to go under training for the ministry and to help them to build up their own churches.

They need white friends, but by taking charge of ministering to their mission only weakens them in self-reliance. Our best friends are those who help us to help ourselves, this field of work is unlimited. I am one of the colored deaf, and the work has been nearest and dearest to my heart and I have felt the great need of a church for the colored deaf where they can worship God in freedom and feel perfectly at home among themselves, and I have been too handicapped because of lack of friends to carry the work on. Those who might have helped me were looking out for their own interests.

So this will always be a problem until the right person comes forward in the right Christian spirit and helps us to solve our difficulties by helping us to help ourselves.

Very truly yours,  
BLANCHE W. WILLIAMS.