

Williams, Blanche (1929). Are Colored Deaf Neglected? *Silent Worker*, 41 (4) p. 210-211.

Are Colored Deaf Neglected?

4726 South Parkway,
Chicago, Ill., Nov. 20, 1928.

Dear Sir:

Two years ago, I wrote an article on Missionary Work among the Colored Deaf, in the hope that some one would come forward and help solve their problems for them, but as yet there has not been a remedy, instead of which their problems have multiplied. In a city like Chicago, where there are so many pitfalls and snares around every corner, it is a pity that what might have

been an achievement of merit and a solution to all their problems, turned out an utter failure, breaking up their peace and throwing them into a turmoil, out of which, at present, there seems to be no escape, just because a deaf minister, under cover of the story of Livingstone's heart being buried in Africa, trying to give the impression that he possessed the same sterling qualities of nobleness of character that Mr. Livingstone did, and that he was as unselfish and would help to uplift the colored deaf out of darkness. So, instead of promising to get a salary for one of the colored deaf to carry on the work among themselves, he persuaded the bishop to appoint his own daughter to look after the colored deaf people, to relieve him of some of his burdens. A meeting-place, which belonged to colored people and was managed by colored people, she would not allow the colored deaf to hold meetings without her father, discouraging the attempts of the colored deaf to organize a club of their own, making peace among them impossible. The club was organized nevertheless, but the ill feelings engendered made it hard to get things smooth sailing. There being no money to carry on the work by the colored deaf themselves, the club did not function well; as a result the club has been broken up and they are an easy prey to the vices of life, with no thought of preparing for the hereafter, or improving their minds, or putting their talents to good use. Instead of setting a good example for their brothers and sisters in other states, they have made a bad impression on the whole world. But they are not to be blamed because this is the kind of missionary work that they have been treated with.

But we, the colored deaf, are helpless to stand up and fight for our rights. The only remedy is to help one of them to get the means to get out and clear up all the mess, that some good credit might be reflected upon the colored deaf and to make places for bright boys and girls who are now in school to fill, upon graduation, with credit to themselves and to the school from which they graduated.

BLANCHE W. WILLIAMS.