

HELPING HANDS

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Institute of Christian Education



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Tomorrow???

by Bryan Eubanks

“What you should want most is God’s kingdom and being right with him. Then all these other things you need will be given to you. So don’t worry about tomorrow. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Tomorrow will have its own worries.”

Matthew 6:33-34 English Version for the Deaf

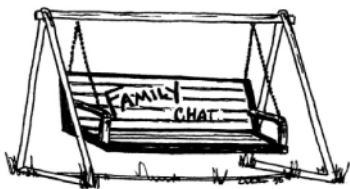
Ocie Wakefield used to say, *“If you’re gonna pray, don’t worry, but if you’re gonna worry, don’t pray.”* Well, I love that phrase but I also struggle with it. I think I inherited the worry gene from my grandmother, **Lona Eubanks**. You would think after seeing all the answered prayers through our 28 years with the mission that it wouldn’t be an issue. But I think my precious wife, **Pam Eubanks**, would tell you that my mind goes 100 MPH. I am always considering all the things that need to happen. I am trying to figure out how God is going to resolve these issues. But once I am confident that we are doing things His way, life gets better. God is in control; we are simply His servants.

I am so thankful for our board and advisors, led by **Mike Galagan**. They are wise and faithful Christians. They help us to keep moving in the right direction. One of the big issues we are facing now is who will step in for Pam and me. They will need to take control of the mission and make it even more effective in today’s technological world. **We are looking for folks who love God, His Word and people.** The world is changing and we need to be able to reach out face to



face and also through electronic media. We need younger folks who can relate better to younger Deaf. We want to find people who have a passion for reaching the Deaf with the good news. This is our primary purpose. **“God’s Love . . . Our Hands . . . Touching Hearts.”** *But who will this be?* So far, only God knows the answer to that. We need your prayers to help us in our search. Pam and I are both fully committed to the work of the mission, but we are also both 69 years old. It’s time for younger people with more energy and talents to step up to this challenge.

Our mission has **Six Main Focuses:** 1) **Informing About Deafness,** 2) **Teaching Sign Language,** 3) **Developing Interpreters,** 4) **Encouraging Deaf Ministry Training,** 5) **Starting and Encouraging Deaf Ministries and Deaf Churches,** and 6) **Serving the Deaf.** We are involved in all of these primarily in the tri-state area, but are also reaching Deaf in the Midwest and Eastern USA. The task is huge! Our staff is small, but God has provided many volunteers to help us do His work. Some of what we do allows us to partner with larger organizations like **Cincinnati Christian University, Cincinnati State, Deaf Missions and Deaf Teen Quest.** By partnering with them, we can more effectively do the work God has given us. *Please pray for us as we seek to do His will and determine what areas need to be our primary focus in this changing world and Deaf Culture.*



Sunday Worship by Pam Blair

One Sunday during worship my deaf son, Nate, decided to count my grey hairs. This was rather amusing and I went with it because, let's face it, there's just enough grey there to keep him busy for a few minutes. Other Sundays he has enthusiastically waved to people he knows sitting up in the balcony. He has stood to show off a necklace, or a book, etc. to people behind him. He has counted the lights in the auditorium and even traced the shapes in the stained glass. Often we play word games like finding all the "a's" in the bulletin, then the "b's" and so forth. He really enjoys word searches.

There are lots of other things we discuss with our hands during worship. Like, explaining "Lion and the Lamb" means God is like the Lion because He's all powerful. Jesus is like the Lamb because He was innocent and sacrificed for us. When we sing "Lion and Lamb" it's the same as singing God and Jesus." Those are "nicknames" (*Nicknames? How else do you explain it?*). Yes, we did see lions at the Zoo.

The preacher reads from Matthew 5 and Nate gets excited. Why is his brother-in-law Matt's name up on the screen? Well, it's not talking about our Matt. It's a book in the Bible that tells us all about Jesus' life. The "5" is how far in the book to look to find this story. And yes, Jesus is preaching. Yes, just like Mr. Dan is preaching right now (*which I am not getting to listen to!*) Yes, Jesus was like Mr. Dan. Well, actually, Mr. Dan is more like Jesus.

Then there is hunger and thirst. Well, that doesn't mean to really be hungry, that means to really want. So, we hunger and thirst for Jesus as if we haven't eaten any food for a long time. *Yes, longer than it took mommy to cook dinner. I know, dinner was late this week. Sorry.* But, remember how hungry you were? *We should WANT to know Jesus that much!* One Sunday Nate explained *he likes to wear his flip flops because he can slip them off and feel the vibrations better.* In the process of feeling vibrations, he discovered he could pick up an ink pen. That of course led to him dropping a pen in order to pick it up with his toes. He soon discovered

he could use his toes to write on his leg with the ink pen. *How many people can say they can write using their toes?* Nate likes to discuss the worship leader's outfit each Sunday. He's already identified several he wants to get my husband, Chris, for Christmas. He lets me know who has a drink, who is standing, clapping, and where each of our friends are sitting.

Nate is deaf. He is 15 years old. We adopted him from China at age 12. Previous to being adopted, Nate had no language. He had never gone to school. He never learned to write his own name in Chinese. He didn't even know he or anyone or anything else had a name. Since coming home three years ago, Nate has quickly learned ASL and his language has blossomed. Now he's very "talkative" (With his hands!). He readily shares whatever happens to be on his mind. Language-wise, he's only 3 years old.



Nate and Joanna have an interpreter for worship. Being new to language, though, it is quite *fatiguing to attempt to follow an interpreter through an entire worship service.* There is visual fatigue just from attempting to catch all that is being signed. The speed of the message can make it difficult to process all those signs. Often, Nate will get quite worn out, and eventually fall asleep. Often deaf kids will hum or vocalize as a self stimulation. This is especially true when *spending your first 12 years isolated from the rest of the world.* Nate will hum during church and especially during the sermon. *Sometimes I'm actually relieved when he falls asleep so that I can pay attention!* But I'm also embarrassed and feel bad that he falls asleep. We're in the front row for interpreting, so the entire congregation knows everything about us! Thankfully, the conversations with our hands are silent. But we are NOT sitting "still" the way we're "supposed" to sit during

church! (Who makes these rules about what we're "supposed" to do during church?)

I would not trade this for anything! I would not give up looking for Bible words on the screen, or watching his face as he makes a connection with a Bible story we talked about earlier. *I would not trade seeing the light go on* as he realizes the Good Samaritan we talked about earlier in the week rode on a donkey. And Jesus rode on a donkey, too, on Palm Sunday.

There are varied statistics, but all agree that *deaf people are one of the least-reached people groups in the world.* I have



heard it estimated that *less than 2% of all the deaf people in the world are Christian.* Many Deaf people dismiss God as the God of hearing people. All through history this was believed to be true and preached, leaving many to wonder what sins the child or parent committed that condemned this child to a life of deafness. Many believed deaf people needed to speak in order to "confess Jesus as their Savior" or needed to become oral in order to be a part of the church.

All this, and yet, **here I am, the parent of two deaf kids -- I am so privileged!** I am the one who is honored and chosen to get to sit there each week, missing the amazing sermons myself, but having the opportunity to share these short snippets. I pray one day they will be fruitful and develop into a strong faith. I'm honored and thankful that I get to do this! *What a joy it is to literally witness God slowly, patiently reveal Himself to a child that otherwise had no hope or opportunity to hear the gospel.*

How beautiful it is to see God work in tiny steps in this boy's heart each week, slowly revealing more of Himself to my son. How grateful I am that I get to be this precious boy's mom. ***I get to witness the transformation as Nate learns about a God who loves him, and gave His son so that we could all be with Him in heaven.*** Yes, it is tiring and sometimes lonely. But have no doubt. God is present. **God is very real and God is graciously allowing us to witness Him at work.**

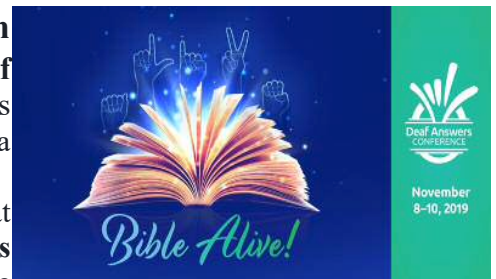
CREATIVE GIVING

Have you ever wondered if there was a way to help the Deaf Institute other than prayers and financial support? **Kevin and Knitta Carter** are members of the **Ligonier Church of Christ**. They remembered us from Church Camp and invited us to share our mission efforts with their church. A group of ladies including **Knitta Carter, Terri Hull, Lueann Edwards** (*Pictured here*) and others purchased blanket material and tied the edges and prayed for the families we will be giving them to. We do this through our **Gifts of Hope Program.**



We introduce hearing parents of deaf children to the potential their kids have with God's help.

The **10th anniversary of Deaf Day** is expanding to a Deaf-led Conference at the **Answers Center** at the



Ark Encounter! During the weekend, **Deaf presenters** will cover a variety of topics and **Deaf actors** will also perform. You will have the opportunity to learn how to study the Bible in American Sign Language. **Deaf children** will enjoy programs and activities.

A unique event t-shirt and a free meal on Saturday are included **if you register by October 15.** If requested by Oct 15, we will provide CART captioning.

Deaf Pastors and Missionaries—Enjoy fellowship and training included with conference registration. The first session is on Friday morning, before the conference begins, and the second session is Saturday morning. Sign up for both!

Interpreters and hearing people with a heart for Deaf ministry—we have sessions for you too! **Interpreters can earn CEU's**, beginning with a pre-conference workshop on Thursday from 6-9 pm.

Find out more at DeafAnswers.com!



Prayer Requests and Praises

"We know that in everything God works for the good of those people who love Him"

Romans 8:28, English Version for the Deaf

Pray for wisdom for our Board as we search for an Assistant Director & Family Ministries Rep. and consider other options for the Deaf Institute.

Pray for more Deaf Leaders, youth workers and Christian Interpreters to reach deaf kids, teens and adults with good news and for Cincinnati Deaf Teen Activities.

Pray for Opportunities for families with deafness through our Gifts of Hope and Shared Reading Programs.

Pray for International Conference on Missions, Nov. 14-17, Kansas City, MO.

Pray for our All About Deaf Kids Fair March 7, 2020 at Cincinnati Christian University

Pray for Deaf and Family and Friends Camp, at Lake James in Angola, IN, July 16-19, 2020.

Pray for Bible Alive! Deaf Answers Conference at the Ark Encounter and the Creation Museum, November 8-10.



We are very thankful for the opportunity to attend the International Conference On Missions. ICOM is a great opportunity for missionaries like us to be encouraged and learn more about effective ways to share the gospel. It is also a great way to see supporters like you and be able to pray together. If you are planning to go to ICOM in Kansas City on Nov 14-17, we hope you will take a few minutes to visit us at booth 1909 or join us in the Deaf Section during the main sessions.

Thanks!

Your prayers and support help make a difference in the lives of deaf children and adults.

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