

HELPING HANDS

Published by the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Institute of Christian Education



Visit us at www.deafinstitute.org or e-mail us at staff@deafinstitute.org

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“Like Sweet Perfume” ~ by Will Dickmann

“Now He uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume.”

2 Corinthians 2:14b NLT

What an inspiring statement for Christ believers hoping to inspire the rest of the world like a sweet perfume. It looks like a TALL task initially. We are taking a few steps at a time. It is an exciting and fulfilling responsibility, but we are not promised that it will be easy work. It's imperative to fully rely on God, not ourselves. Remember this much used quote, “Rome was not built in a day.” We do not know how long it will take, but we are doing our best to capture our mission!



We are experiencing several changes; however, it doesn't change our mission work at all. We are simply seeking His will together and praying about how we can respond to the needs of younger generations and families in impactful ways. Let's start with the name.



DEAF STREETLIGHT

It will be **Deaf Streetlight**, even though, the legal name will remain the same, **Deaf and Hard of Hearing Institute of Christian Education**.

Why **Deaf Streetlight**? Great question! It is to ensure the deaf community that there's still **HOPE** in this confusing world. It will signal a safe place where deaf people can gather under that light to see each other and chat, and a guide for those who are lost or need to get back to the Lord. There are a few other perspectives on the meaning of the new name. We recently finalized the logo and mission statement.

Our newly adopted Mission Statement is: “**Deaf Streetlight's mission is to connect deaf individuals with community, family, Jesus and His church.**”

A few more announcements: The **All About Deaf Kids Fair** is still scheduled for March 12th at **Cincinnati State**. Please register at www.deafinstitute.org. It will not take much of your time. Our **Deaf & Family & Friends Camp** plans to meet July 14-17 at **Lake James Christian Assembly (LJCA)** in Angola, Indiana. **Corey Stapp** is our **Dean** this year. A Facebook page (**Deaf & Family & Friends Camp**) is being set up with information like camp theme, flyer, registration, etc. In the Fall, the **National Christian Convention of the Deaf** will take place in Rochester, New York on October 7-10. You can go to www.nccdeaf.org for more information.

In Memory of Duane King

On the behalf of Deaf Institute/Deaf Streetlight, we grieve the loss of Duane King who passed away on January 25 of this year. Duane founded Deaf Missions in 1970. We are grateful to partner with Deaf Missions through the years. Duane's desire was to do whatever was needed for the deaf to know Jesus. The Bible translation in American Sign Language was completed not too long ago knowing that deaf people can better understand the gospel in their heart language. He and Peggy received an honored servant Lifetime Achievement award for their lifetime of outstanding services to the Deaf at the National Christian Convention of the Deaf (NCCD) in 2004.





"I LOVE Deaf Institute!"

by Pam Blair

Last week I was sitting in another virtual meeting with the school district. District Meetings are not my favorite things, nor are virtual meetings. The purpose of the meeting was to request additional support and services for my daughter. In other words, she's too much of a handful.

The conversation was full of all the negative behaviors my child has, and how hard she is to handle. The conversation was full of all the stuff she does wrong, "the bad things".

I found myself saying things like "She has a beautiful smile! Her giggle is contagious. She is creative and curious. She has a sweet spirit. I wanted to shift the conversation to all the wonderful things about her! How much she has improved and grown. If only they could see my child the way I do!

To be honest, I was down. I never envisioned having a child who would need this level of support. I mean, I never envisioned having a special needs child period. But God usually does lead us down paths we never would have thought we'd travel.

Thing is, we CHOSE this. We adopted this precious sweet, spitfire girl into our family knowing full well the level of special needs she has, and still we chose her! We have a huge benefit most families do not have; we knew her needs and said yes.

Most families do not have the privilege of knowing ahead of time what they are in for. Most are swept away, or blindsided with a special need's diagnosis, or a diagnosis of deafness or

hearing loss. Most families do not know until time has passed and their child is not meeting certain developmental milestones.

Regardless of the situation, there is always a grieving process. You grieve that your child will be different. You grieve that your child will have a harder road to travel. You grieve the unknowns. You grieve the loss of dreams. While we knowingly chose this special kiddo to join our family, we too have had to grieve these things.

But, there's beauty in the grieving. There's beauty in letting go of how we thought things would be. There's beauty in watching God work despite us. There's beauty in recognizing our own limitations and relying fully on God. We must



surrender our will and realign ourselves to God's plan. That's when God steps in right where we are and fills in the gaps that we cannot fill on our own. God takes all our imperfections and turns them into something far more beautiful than we would originally dream or anything we can do on our own.

THIS is the reason I LOVE Deaf Institute. They came alongside and walked this journey with us. Deaf Institute sees the beauty in each person, the value of being God's child, and wants to help and encourage families.

I am excited, humbled and honored to be a part of this mission. It is my desire to connect with and support other families in similar situations; families who have struggled just like us. If you want to connect, please reach out to me. I'd love to chat with you!

We design our events with the whole family in mind. We want to help you connect with each other and with God. Our next event coming up is the All About Deaf Kids Fair on March 12 from 10a.m to 3:00 p.m. This is the perfect time to come meet others on a similar journey. I hope to see you there!

All About Deaf Kids Fair
Fun For the Whole Family! Kids, Teens, Adults.
All are Welcome!

COMMUNITY
Saturday March 12
10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
Cincinnati State
3520 Central Parkway
Cincinnati Ohio 45223

FREE LaRoosa's Pizza Lunch,
Entertainment, Information, Gifts, Crafts, Games, Stories, Connections.
Meet old friends and make new ones! Be in COMMUNITY with other Deaf people.

Please RSVP Online: deafinstitute.org (RSVP not required but strongly encouraged!)
Questions contact Pam Blair: pam.blair@deafinstitute.org

*All booths/activities will be signed and voiced for Signing Impaired.



**Deaf Institute Celebrates
Many Years of Service and
Welcome
New Director and Family
Ministry Representative**

By Werner Hallabrin, Trustee

Many new and long time friends came, from near and far, for the **Deaf Institute's Celebration of Service** on Saturday, November 6th, 2021 from 2-4 p.m. The theme was "**Living a Legacy.**" The Celebration was held at **Cincinnati State Community College**. Many attended in person and via Zoom to celebrate with us as we honored the many years of faithful service by **Bryan and Pam Eubanks** and welcomed **Will Dickmann** as our new Director and **Pam Blair** as our new Family Ministry Representative and **Veronica Matthews** as our new Administrative Assistant.

Distinguished recognition was also given for many years of service to **Thurman Grass** who served on the Board of Trustees, and

Kim Irwin who served as **Administrative Assistant**. Our special thanks to **Dawn Caudill, Gail Maue, Jessica Snyder and Phyllis Wilson, our Planning Committee** for their arrangements. A delicious meal was provided by **LaRosa's**. There were presentations to the honorees and a signed song by the Dickmann and Blair children. It was a wonderful celebration enjoyed by all who attended.



ICOM Missions Report

By Werner Hallabrin, Trustee

Praise the Lord for a great **International Conference on Missions (ICOM)** in Richmond, Virginia. This year's conference, held November 19 to 24, 2021, was the first major public event with **Will Dickmann** as our new Director. It was a valuable learning experience



and an opportunity to meet many other successful missionaries for future contact. There were many informative workshops. In particular, the workshop by **Deaf Missions** highlighted the complete **Bible translation in American Sign Language**, the first in any of over 100 sign languages used around the world. Many thanks to **Markie Sunderhaus** and **Melanie Moore**, who came to interpret for worship and workshops.

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Don Sellers

Kay Sellers

In Memory of Marion Holmes

Bryan & Pam Eubanks

In Memory of Barb Grass

Scott & Beth Nolan

In Memory of George & Lucille Burns

Enon Valley Church of Christ

In Memory of Sharon Goble

Bryan & Pam Eubanks

In Memory of Marion & Margaret Holmes

Richard & Lydia Coyle

In Memory of Barney Green

Bryan & Pam Eubanks

In Memory of Elmo & Christine Flynn

Don & Donna Flynn

In Memory of Evelyn Stoffregen & Katie Byrnes

Judith Sobota

In Memory of Duane King

Bryan & Pam Eubanks

Deaf Institute



Prayer Requests and Praises

“I pray that the God who gives hope will fill you with much joy and peace while you trust in Him.”

Romans 15:13, English Version for the Deaf

Special Prayer Request: We humbly ask for your prayers as we carefully consider our current building situation for the Deaf Institute. Increased safety concerns and potential expensive repairs have prompted exploration of a new location. If you know of any small building or house in Hamilton County, Ohio that might meet our needs, please contact us.

Pray for wisdom for **Will Dickmann**, his family and our **Board** as we continue transitions and for mission needs.

Pray for the family of **Duane King**, Founder of Deaf Missions and for Deaf Missions as they mourn his loss.

Pray for the All About Deaf Kids Fair on March 12, 2022 at Cincinnati State.

Your prayers and support help make a difference in the lives of families with deafness.

Pray for the Deaf and Family and Friends Camp on July 14-17, 2022 at Lake James Christian Assembly and our Dean, Corey Stapp.

Pray for NCCD October 7-10, 2022 in Rochester, N.Y.

Praise for the completion of the translation of the ASL Bible. Go to www.deafmissions.com for more information.

Pray for ICOM 2022 in Columbus, Ohio on November 3-6, 2022.

Pray for God to provide someone to fill the **Teen Director** position to allow the mission to continue moving forward in an efficient manner.

Praise for the support from you and organizations like **GE & GCF** who partner with us to help families with deafness through our **Gifts of Hope**, **Shared Reading Program** and **Summer-Time Kids Families First Activities**.

Pray for successful **Families First** Programming for 2022 and **Pam Blair**'s transition as **Family Ministries Representative**.

Pray for our next **Deaf Institute Board Meeting** on April 23, 2022.



Touching Hearts"

Our Hands . . .

"His Love . . .

"Return Service Requested"

3515 Warsaw Avenue
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of Christian Education

INSTITUTE

DEAF and Hard of Hearing

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