



Ohio Baptist Conference of the Deaf

Newsletter

Volume I, Issue I



From the Editor

Hello! My name is Beth Tanner, I'm so excited to be publishing my first newsletter as the Editor for OBCD. We have some great things coming up this year. Including our Annual Conference. More details regarding that event will be published in our April newsletter.

Please start saving your money now. Many friends have said, "I wish I could go to camp, but I can't afford it". If you start putting away \$2.00 everyday,

starting today, you will have earned about \$236 to spend toward camp this year.

Not just the Editor

Starting this year OBCD has asked that the Newsletter Editor, Facebook administrator and Webmaster to be handled by one person. If you have questions regarding any of the three sites, please contact me at OBCDinfo@gmail.com

Now with all that said, please know that my job is not to write all the articles for the newsletter. My job is to collect those articles or stories that are of interest to our community. If you have seen information that you would like to pass on to our community, please e-mail me. The more help I have getting information, the better our newsletter will read.

Where are the Deaf Children?

By Beth Tanner

This past year David & Ruby Stecca from DVC.tv went across the country from Illinois to Pennsylvania in search of Deaf churches that had deaf children, on their way to a meeting. In the process, they found several churches on their list that had closed. They also discovered that the Deaf churches they had visited

did not have deaf children. Dave became sick on his journey and wasn't able to attend all the churches he had planned and the churches he visited were few, so I was curious and asked some of our ASBID (Association of Southern Baptist Interpreters for the Deaf) members, if they had deaf children. Out of a list of 244 members only

5 responded. Each mentioned having one to two deaf children in their ministry to the Deaf. There were no Deaf churches responding. So where are the children? Those who lead Children Ministries know that children are more receptive to hearing the gospel. The

...“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Mark 10:14

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Stepping Out in Faith: Answering God's Call to East Asia

"If anyone speaks, it should be as one who speaks God's words; if anyone serves, it should be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To Him belong the glory and the power forever and ever, Amen." 1 Peter 4:11 (HCSB)

Seven countries, five predominant sign languages, and a room filled with people in green shirts. Imagine the scene, a large auditorium with a bright red stage. While presentations are being given there are three sign language interpreters and the Deaf presenter on stage. Worship, sermons, and fellowship give glory to God not by eloquent words or songs, but with hands and expressions. A conference devoted to encouraging and building relationships across Deaf churches in Asia, accomplished not only that but also giving me the experience of a lifetime.

My name is Hayley Shell, and I am currently serving a six month term as a Hands On intern in East Asia. I am a recent graduate with my ASL interpreting degree from Valdosta State University in Georgia. I have the wonderful opportunity to work in two capacities while serving overseas, I work with college students doing outreach on local campuses through a variety of English classes, as well as with the Deaf affinity here in my city. Each day presents itself with new adventures and opportunities to share God's grace and eternal gift with not only locals but also people from all over the world.

It is amazing to look back over my life and see how God has prepared me and given me the passion to serve in this place. I have served locally, nationally, and internationally, all the while being constantly prepared for the next phase of life that God has planned. You may wonder how I came to learn about and love Deaf culture and sign languages, well that has been a work in progress over many years as well. It began with learning sign language to songs

as a child in church, from there I was hooked and as I grew older I sought out American Deaf culture and ASL. My passion only grew as I met, and was able to observe, and communicate with Deaf from other countries while on international mission trips.

Even in preparing for this mid-term trip, God's provision and plan was more than I could comprehend. I had originally signed up for a full-time assignment within the Deaf affinity but then was reassigned to a full-time college outreach assignment. Upon arriving in East Asia I was unaware that I was going to be doing both, as a part-time intern for each. The work I do for the Deaf affinity here is mostly done in an office. I have had the opportunity though to go to language nurture sessions with my supervisor and learn some of the local sign language. I also meet once a week with a local Deaf woman and my supervisor to share Bible stories, which are then in turn passed on from the local individual to others in the Deaf community here.

God has blessed me with so many opportunities to see Him working to further His kingdom within the Deaf communities

around the world. The scenario at the beginning of this article was to give you an idea of my experience at the 13th Asia Deaf Christian Missions Conference. To be able to sum up that entire week would be impossible, since I am still processing much of what happened. The men and women were so proud to be there and to share how God is leading them in ministries in their home countries. It is encouraging to know and see Deaf individuals supporting and encouraging each other from all over the world.

Working in an office most of the time may not be what you think of when you think about a missionary out on the field. Honestly, it wasn't what I thought of at first



Hayley Shell, ASL Interpreter served a six month term as a Hands On intern in East Asia

either. However, I have learned that it takes God working through an office to accomplish and support what you see and hear about God working in the fields. My current project is translating and interpreting sign language learning materials from ASL into written and spoken English. Not all Hearing people who feel called to outreach among

Deaf in other countries know ASL, so I am working to make the sign language learning materials available to them. It is a long and tedious process, but as each section is completed I feel more excited and encouraged for what doors this may open for individuals around the world.

One of the great things about the Kingdom of God, is that we are called to be a part of it. We are not called to keep the truth we have found to ourselves. I may never know the impact that I have had on others while serving here or anywhere that God takes me, but the impact that others leave on me continues to be life changing. I know that until my final breath, God's work through me is not complete. My term here in East Asia is quickly coming to a close. In January I will be returning to the United States, where I will be starting my next new adventure in Ohio. From there, I am not sure where He will take me. Please pray that I will continue to step out in faith, encourage others along the way, and strive with excellence to bring God the glory with everything He leads me to do.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Hayley has moved back to the United States and is now living in Liberty Township, Ohio. If you would like to contact her, you can e-mail her at hayleyshell1@gmail.com

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State Convention of Baptists in Ohio

Presents

Lunch is provided.

Church Songs in ASL

Space is Limited!

March 14, 2015

CEU's pending

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

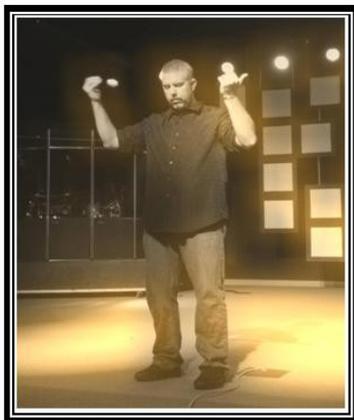
Location: State Convention of Baptists in Ohio
9000 Antares Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43240

\$40.00 per person

Have you ever wondered why signing music in your car is different than you signing music in front of people?

It's a fact. Come and learn Rev. Steve Dye's methods and some reasons why we are different in our music signing in different situations.

Come and join us for a day of learning, laughter, and fellowship!



Rev. Steve Dye serves as the Deaf Pastor at a new ministry called "The Deaf Gathering", which meets at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky. He also serves in evangelism and performs music in ASL all around the country. He has been in leadership roles for the past 19 years. He has been a strong voice in encouraging change in many churches to "think outside the box" and to become prayer warriors within and outside of the church. He has a beautiful wife of 20 years, Mandi, who has supported and served alongside Steve everywhere he goes. They share three awesome kids: T.J. (19), Faith (12), and Kamayla (9).

Mail checks payable to SCBO and mail to Sam Kelley, SCBO, 9000 Antares Ave., Columbus, OH 43240

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone/Text: _____

E-mail: _____

Registration is due by February 13, 2015

9000 Antares Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43240

<http://ohiobcdeaf.weebly.com/>
<http://www.scbo.org/>

We're on the Web
ohiobcdeaf.weebly.com/

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Where are the Deaf Children? (cont'd)

Bible says *"I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."*

Mark 10:15 Please do not misunderstand and think an adult cannot accept Christ, but the willingness to believe gets harder as people get older. The fact that only one percent of the Deaf call Jesus their personal Lord and Savior, this is a group that is not getting reached. The International Mission Board has added the Deaf to their list of people groups that are in need of being reached with the Gospel. They are also in search of Deaf missionaries to send to other countries to reach the deaf, but are find-

ing a shortage of those who are willing or capable to go. The North American Mission Board is also seeking those who are interested in starting Deaf churches. They would like to increase the number of Southern Baptist Deaf churches in each city to three per major city.

David has decided that he could only work with what DVC.tv has the ability to do. He has decided to work on two projects this year to help reach those children. A few parents went to David and told him how they use DVC.tv's shows for their child to watch on a tablet while sitting in church, because

there is no class for them. Due to this information, his second project is to develop an internet tv show of a Sunday school class. This would allow the child to see a Bible study in their own language, with children their age and language levels. DVC will be developing their own curriculum written specifically to the deaf child. He also asks Interpreters who are interested in starting Deaf Ministries in their hearing churches to focus on starting Bible classes for Deaf children instead.