



# ELDA

Volume • 9 Issue • 29 October 2012

*Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association*  
*a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)*

## FROM MARK KOTERWSKI

### ELDA PRESIDENT

Heartland Ephphatha Ministries (HEM) hosted the ELDA Conference in Sioux Falls, SD this summer. The conference was held July 12 – 15, 2012. Sixty people attended. Our theme was “Love in Action”. We

had several workshops to learn different ways we can help and

work with other people in this country and around the world. We went to “Kids Against Hunger” to pack rice in bags. They send food around the world to places where they do not have enough food for children.

We also learned about missions that several deaf people from ELDA had experienced in other countries. They showed their love in action by helping other people to make life better for others.

We had field trips to Falls Park, Butterfly House, and Wild Water West. Also, we had skits from several different churches that related to the theme “Love in Action”. We sure enjoyed watching them and we enjoyed laughing too. On behalf of the ELDA Board, We want to say many thanks to HEM for their hard work to make the event successful!!!

We hope that you will continue with Love in Action by participating any events or activities to help other people who need our help. Please remember what you learned during the workshops. If you have already or plan to attend any event or activity to help other people, we would love to hear from you. We want to include your activity in ELDA newsletter to

**PLEASE REMEMBER WHAT YOU LEARNED DURING THE WORKSHOPS. ”**

share with other people (optional).

We have a new plan for our conference for 2014!!!! We are so excited for a new chapter of the ELDA conference. The ELDA Assembly agreed that we will have conference with Episcopal Conference of the Deaf (ECD) at same place. The ECD have agreed as well. It will be in New York. It is really a very exciting opportunity. The ELDA Board and ECD Board will meet sometime within a year to work together to prepare and get ready for the conference in 2014. Please keep an eye for more information in ELDA newsletter in near future!





# FROM PASTOR BETH

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## ELDA DIRECTOR

Dear ELDA Friends--

It was wonderful to be together again in July as we celebrated "Love in Action!" I want to commend our hardworking ELDA hosts, Heartland Ephphatha Ministries and Peace Lutheran Church for their efforts, creativity, teamwork, and fundraising that made this conference a success. We had a very productive pastoral workers' meeting Sunday through Tuesday followed by an energetic Board meeting Wednesday and Thursday before all the delegates arrived. If we count the interpreters and other guests, I heard we had just over 70 people attending from nine states!

Besides our business meetings, trips to the Butterfly House and Sioux Falls, workshops, and our closing banquet and worship service, we had the opportunity to participate in a couple service projects that fit with our "Love in Action" theme. Some of us made special hand-stamped greeting cards while chatting each evening. Most of us were able to participate in the Kids Against Hunger project where we were able to assemble meal packets to feed 6912 people in two hours. These special mixes of rice, soybean, and spices meet the nutritional requirements needed to maintain good health. We worked fast and hard and some of us started dancing!

Another neat part of our conference was the teen youth group. We had a nice mix of 12 Deaf and CODA teens doing activities together. They are our future leaders and we hope they will develop their leadership skills for future events.

Speaking of future events, our next conference will be held with the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf. Pr. Susan Masters will be keeping us informed. As I understand it now, the meeting place will be Syracuse. This new experience will be important for both ELDA and ECD in many ways.

Blessings to all,  
Pr. Beth Lockard  
ELCA Deaf Ministries

## ECD AND ELDA

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Hi Greg and ECD Board,

I want to say many many thanks to ECD for this opportunity by have us to join with ECD for the conference for 2014. I am really excited to see this happen. I want to say many thanks to Pastor Susan for her motivation and spirit as she introduced your team to us about possible to have conference with ECD at same place. As Pastor Susan mentioned, ELDA Assembly have agreed that we can have conference with ECD in New York for 2014. We need to work together to see how we can put two organizations together for the conference at same place. This will be a new experience with a lot of positive.

Please let us know when you plan to have a meeting regarding conference in New York for 2014. We want to know how we can participate to help with ECD Board with planning to make conference successful as possible. So we can discuss with our ELDA Board to see if we all are available and make arrangement to travel to meet with your team if necessary.

We agreed that Pastor Susan Master will be liaison between ECD Board and ELDA Board. Please feel free to contact Pastor Susan. She will share with us. Again, I am looking forward to meet with you and ECD Board!

God Bless you all,  
Mark Koterwski  
ELDA President

# FROM LINDA FAIRBANKS

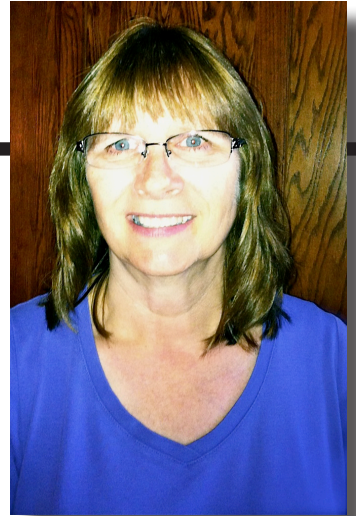
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## ELDA VICE PRESIDENT

Hello! My name is Linda Fairbanks and I would like to thank the ELDA conference delegates for your vote of confidence in electing me as your Vice President for the next 4 years! I am looking forward to serving on the ELDA Board again after being off for 2 years. Some of you might remember me as ELDA Secretary for 8 years. I enjoyed that job very much!

There was one assignment that I was working on as Secretary that was not completed and I look forward to working on that again. Let me explain: during my two terms as Secretary, I tried to find other Lutheran deaf ministries or churches that have interpreting services available for their deaf Lutherans. I wanted to invite those deaf people from the churches or ministries to join ELDA. I sent out information on ELDA and the Interpreter Workshop that was held in Minneapolis along with a cover letter from Pastor Beth Lockard to all of the signing churches listed in the ELCA directory. The information was sent out twice; once by mail and also by email.

Much to my surprise, I did not hear back from any of the interpreting ministries or churches! I have been thinking of new ways to reach those deaf Lutherans. If any of you have ideas, please contact me! Thanks!



## HOPE FUND

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Here are the guidelines for our Hope Fund to help organizations. If you'd like to give to the HOPE Fund please let us know.

- Beneficiaries shall be restricted to Deaf people and organizations.
- Demonstrated need may include schools, disaster relief, non-profits, and stipends for volunteers.
- Legitimacy: a candidate must be verified to the satisfaction of the ELDA board.
- The grand fund may be transferred to the recipient's bank in USA or carried by a volunteer to recipient's country if it is outside the USA.
- The recipient will be requested to furnish the ELDA board documentation with photos and narration on how the money was spent. This will be submitted to the person designated by the ELDA board.
- The board will begin the process of considering granting funds at its monthly board meeting. The candidate will be vetted, whether it is an individual or organization, to prove its legitimacy. At the next board meeting, the board shall review all findings before deciding whether the funds shall be granted.
- Standing Rules: New information or updates will automatically become blast email to the ELDA address list which will include contact(s) at each Deaf Ministry and its member, such as but not limited to:
  - Annual Dues letters to each Deaf ministry by January 30 of each year
  - Newsletter issues
  - Reminders for Lenten Appeal (HOPE Fund - March/April) and Thanksgiving Appeal (General Fund - Sept/Oct)
  - Mission Page and pictures; list past mission projects supported



# JAMAICA MISSION TRIP

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## 2012

Four ELDA members: Dorothy Sparks, Mike Gray, and Pastor Beth & Micah Lockard joined a group of 16 Deaf and hearing people (ages 13 to 70) from three states for a ten-day journey to Montego Bay, Jamaica in June. Our mission was to work with the students and staff of Jamaica Christina School for the Deaf which is located in the mountains above the coastal city. Most of our group prepared for leading a Vacation Bible School for the 44 youth and the rest of us prepared to train the staff in using new Deaf Education methods and materials to help make visual learning easier for the students. We brought with us 14 suitcases full of donated supplies including a copier and fax machine, a couple DVD/video players and other equipment. We also distributed ASL gospel story books and activity books from Mill Neck School for the Deaf in New York and children's underwear collected from many church groups.

Because the school had no facilities for visitors, we stayed in a nice hotel on the Bay where we were able to eat a buffet breakfast and dinner each night. There were long days with morning devotions at 6:45 a.m. and getting on our bus for the bumpy one hour ride to JCSD at 7:30 a.m. We ate a rice and beans lunch with the student each day and returned to our hotel around 4:30 p.m. We had a couple hours to relax and eat dinner before evening meetings to prepare for the next day's activities. Each participant had to raise \$1400 to attend. We are thankful to ELDA for giving each of us a \$200 grant from the HOPE Fund to use towards our expenses.

Mike, Micah, and Dorothy worked with the kids each day doing Bible story lessons and drama, crafts, and games. We even brought fake snow for the kids which they loved. Dorothy taught some girls how to dance at church on Sunday. Pr. Beth worked training teachers and on the last day, each teacher received a flash drive with many resources to use for the school year. We hope next time we go, we can have a separate group working only with the teens.

The school is set on hilly terrain and only half built. Each time a mission group comes from America or Canada, they will try to build part of the school. JCSD is waiting for the high school and vocational buildings to be built and the second floor of the kindergarten and Special Ed building. One mission team built a playground.

While we were there, a mission team from Texas built some sidewalks and benches. The kids play informal volleyball and soccer. They use small colored stones to play checkers. Their dorm beds are bunk beds and they have a few clothes. Many of the kids come from very poor families and never get enough food when they are home for weekends or vacations. The staff is underpaid and often the principal and director go without pay. Jamaica has 12 schools for the deaf but only one big one in Kingston receives government funding. Four schools receive funds from Caribbean Christian School for the Deaf (CCCD) which has a donor base in America. The rest of the schools are poor isolated rural schools that do their best to meet the needs of the children. Jamaican culture looks down on the deaf and disabled and many are abused.

For this reason, our group set up a plan to support students at JCSD with \$300 sponsorships that will provide a child with clothing, school uniforms, food, and school books for one year. If you or your church can help sponsor a student or students, please contact [Bethlockardctk@juno.com](mailto:Bethlockardctk@juno.com).

Our group was also able to use our Saturday to visit the CCSD Deaf Village and observe the training programs for Deaf adults who make beautiful wooden furniture for hotels, art work, sewing, beadwork, etc. We spoke with Deaf families living in their apartment building. The Village includes a Deaf church and a Deaf pastor. We also visited one of the CCSD schools briefly. We could see what good financial support will do. Our group used the few free hours each day to swim, nap, snorkel, kayak, and shop a bit. On our last day, we took a ride on a glass-bottomed boat across the bay and saw the coral reefs and beautiful fish. The trip will remain in our hearts and minds for a long time,

Our group was led by Carol Stevens of the United Methodist Deaf Ministries. She will be leading a similar trip to Kenya July 21--August 10, 2013 and the cost is approximately \$4000. We hope to return to Jamaica in 2014 if not sooner. Think about being a part of the mission team. It will change your life in many ways.



**JAMAICAN MISSION TRIP: June 18—27** A team of 16 went to work at Jamaica Christian School for the Deaf. Below team member Micah Lockard plays soccer



Above is a typical mountain village. Dirt roads, farming on hillsides, little or no running water. People grow sugarcane, mangoes, yams, etc.



Above Deaf teacher Cate Lewis reads ASL gospel book from Mill Neck (NY) with student.



Above, team member Nathanael Davis chats with JCSD students on steps in front of their open air classrooms. Students are wearing their school uniforms. Above right, team members Mike Gray and Grace Bishop chat with other students near their flower gardens. The students use JSL which is similar to ASL. Below left team leader Carol Stevens, Pr. Beth, and JCSD Board member Pr. Campbell at Faith Baptist Church on Sunday.



Above at Deaf Village with deaf mother Simone and daughter Ashley who knows four languages. At left, tem member Dorothy Sparks teaches dance steps.





# ELDA BOARD MEETING

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- o Resolution #1: That ELDA board establishes a committee to develop strategies to best promotes our ministry at Churchwide. (Included ELDA and Deaf Ministry Video for Church wide 2013)
- o Resolution #2: That ELDA establishes a standing committee to focus on providing training in the following areas: Deaf lay and ordained leaders, future Deaf ministry leaders, and church interpreters.
- o Resolution #3: That ELDA increase efforts to connect with existing interpreted ministries and to identify potential sites for new deaf ministries in various models.
- o Resolution #4: That the ELDA Board work with the ECD Board to explore possible joint ministry, including the goal of a joint conference in 2014.
- o Other Resolution: Criteria for screening pastoral workers (work with ELCA to set up guideline)
  - Must be from ELDA background or from one of our current communion partners.
  - Fluent in receptive and expressive ASL skills, or able and willing to learn ASL as quickly as possible.
  - Demonstrates knowledge and acceptance of diversity within the Deaf community.
  - Ability to learn about local Deaf resources and network appropriately.
  - Stable mental health as evidenced by required ELCA psychological testing.
  - Active and ongoing participation in ELDA.
  - Possess effective interpersonal (people) skills within diverse Deaf community.



# ELDA CONFERENCE

Fun times with friends



Group Picture



Youth Group



Packing Meals for Kids Against Hunger



Saturday Night Worship



Business Meeting



# ***EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION***

*Office of the Treasurer  
c/o Peace Lutheran Church  
5509 West 41st ST  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106  
jbpanek@iw.net*

DATE: Fall 2012  
TO: All ELCA Deaf Ministries  
FROM: ELDA Treasurer Jeff Panek

Dear Friends in Christ:

We have received some generous gifts to Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association during the ELDA conference in South Dakota. The delegates gave a total of \$318. 32. I would like to thank to everyone who have contributed at the conference for your love gifts. Your offerings went into the HOPE Fund to help our Deaf mission outreach.

As we approach the fall season, we encourage each church to remember our annual Thanksgivings Appeal. Gifts to this appeal go into ELDA General Fund to help us pay for the many costs of running our organization. Expenses such as Board meetings, office supplies, awards, interpreters, and other items are covered by the General Fund. We give these gifts in thanksgiving for all God gives us each day. Thanksgivings Appeal donations will be accepted through December 15.

Thanks to all the Deaf ministries who sent in their 2012 dues. Kindly pay your dues if you have not yet done so. We want to keep ELDA doing "God's work with our hands." All checks may be sent to "ELDA" at the above address on the letterhead.

In Christ,

Jeff Panek,  
ELDA Treasurer



***Shining Light  
Award Winner:  
Dorothy Sparks***

***City on a Hill  
Award Winner:  
DEAF Can***

