



# ELDA

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION  
A MINISTRY OF THE ELCA**

**Volume 17 • Fall 2022  
Issue 66**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### LORI FULLER

Hello, friends and family of the ELDA community!

First of all,, ELDA Board wants to thank World of Life Deaf Lutheran Church for hosting a successful ELDA Conference in June of 2022 in Lancaster, PA. It was wonderful seeing old friends and meeting new friends. At the conference, we explored the topics related to the theme of "Walk in Faith" and celebrated 30 year anniversary of ELDA! The next ELDA Conference will take place in the summer of 2024. This time where?! In the Black Hills of South Dakota! Thanks to Heartland Ephphata who will be hosting this conference. So start making plans to come!

In the meantime, you may have noticed some changes here with ELDA Board since the last newsletter. ELDA Assembly has voted for the following people to be the next ELDA Board: Lori Fuller as President, Jeannie Fischer to continue to be the ELDA Vice President, Mark Koterwski as Treasurer, Linda Fairbanks as Secretary, Janie Barlow as Spiritual Director, and continuing as our ELCA liaison,



Beth Lockard. Please see below for additional information on who the ELDA Board members are!

Lori Fuller, ELDA President:

- I'm a recently ordained pastor of a new Deaf ministry called, "Palms Deaf Church" in Palm Coast, Florida.
- I'm married to Curt with three children ages 25, 10, and 9! In addition, our family has a zoo of 4 dogs, 2 guinea pigs, numerous fishes, and a blue/gold McCaw!
- I enjoy being in the great outdoors as much as possible and reading.
- I hope to see ELDA continue to grow strong in action with outreach and partnership with communities. We are stronger together!

**Jeannie Fischer, ELDA Vice-President:**

I am Jeannie Fischer who grew up with deaf parents, one sister, and one brother in Lancaster, PA. I married a hearing and wonderful husband, John and we raised 3 hearing grown-up sons. It is certainly fun to experience both sides of deaf and hearing families. I am a member of WOLD ever since I was young! I am currently a president for WOLD council committee and a Vice President for ELDA!

**Mark Koterwski, ELDA Treasurer**

- I have been involved with ELDA since 2004 as Vice president (2004 -2006) and president (2006 - 2014) and (2018 - 2022).



# Inside this Issue



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Pastor Beth gives a post-conference report and tells us what to expect.**



## CONFERENCE REPORT

**See pictures and read about the happenings from the conference in Pennsylvania.**



## SPIRITUAL ARTICLE

**Thanksgivin! What is that?**

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

## CONTINUED

I am currently the treasurer (2022 to present).

I grew up in Chicago. I graduated from Gallaudet University in 1989 within Recreational and Leisure Studying.

Currently, I work as a Senior Community Support Specialist at Communication Service for the Deaf for 32-plus years.

I enjoyed camping, playing cards, and video games.

### **Linda Fairbanks, ELDA Secretary:**

My very first experience with ELDA dates way back to when I attended my first ELDA conference in Lancaster PA! Even though I was new to ELDA, I fell in love with the Lutheran Deaf people and the organization. When I attended my second conference as a delegate from Christ through Hands Ministry, I was voted in as Secretary. I remained in my role for 2 terms, (8 years). After a two-year hiatus, I returned to the board as Vice President. While in that role with Mark Koterwski as President, we were the ELDA Conference 2014 Co-Chairpersons for the conference in Chicago! It was a great conference where the Episcopal and United Methodists joined ELDA at the conference. It was also at that conference, that I was elected President! It was during my term that we sent a small Deaf group to Nigeria. Now I'm back on the ELDA Board as secretary and I'm also staying in my role as the ELDA Newsletter Editor.

Thanks for putting your trust in me for the next 4 years!

### **Janie Barlow, ELDA Spiritual Advisor:**

• Greetings, I am new to ELDA. I attended, for the first time, the 2022 ELDA Conference in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Before I headed back home to Minnesota, I was elected Spiritual Advisor for ELDA for the next four years! I am not sure what others saw in me but I can tell you, this was a surprise! I came to Pennsylvania thinking that I will just learn, meet mostly new people, network a bit, and see what an ELDA conference looks like, and what the experience is like! Imagine my nerves! However, I want to pass on 'thank you's to those who believe in me and made me feel welcome at the conference. With God's help, I will do the best I can to honor this position within ELDA. I am married, for 11 years, to my wonderful Deaf husband and we have two beautiful, silly, full-of-life CODA boys (ages 6 and 4) and we are expecting our third in 2023. I am employed at Bread of Life Deaf (BOLD) Lutheran church as the Communications Coordinator in the church office. I am a very active member at BOLD and am also currently Vice President of the BOLD Church Council. I look forward to meeting more of you and learning about ELDA over the next four years!

### **Pastor Beth Lockard, ELCA Liaison:**

• I'm a pastor of Christ the King Deaf Church, a dual parish in West Chester and Philadelphia, PA

• I'm the part-time Deaf director of Deaf Ministries for



the ELCA and serve as a liaison between ELCA and the ELDA ministries and members.

- I'm married to Bill (my crazy half) with three adult sons, one stepson, and five grandchildren plus a DEAF cat!
- I enjoy calligraphy, reading, gardening, politics, and history.
- I hope to see ELDA continue to grow strong with outreach and service plus collaboration with our partners in other church groups.

ELDA Board wants to thank Jeff Panek and Don Rosenkjar for their service with wisdom and hard work in the past ELDA Board. We would not be where we are without all the people who worked hard throughout the 30 years at the ELDA Board. Thank you!!!!

Thank you and I for one cannot wait to see what God is up to for ELDA in the next 30 years and beyond.

God's peace, Lori Fuller ELDA President

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends--

It was wonderful to be together again at our recent ELDA Conference in June. We salute our gracious hosts at Word of Life Deaf Lutheran and the many people who led workshops and worship, gave skits, interpreted, hosted our Amish tour, and met before and after the conference for Board meetings and the pastoral workers' retreat. After attending all of those events, I think you will agree with me that it was a very productive and joyful week. God's blessings on the new officers who were chosen to lead ELDA!

I rejoice that our ELDA banquet worship offering was enough to pay for the costs of Deaf seminarian Samuel Dimas' second full year of seminary tuition, books and handouts, interpreter, and part of his maintenance costs. We wired him the ELDA gift in early August. He sends his love and thanks and has shown us his high grades for his first year. We thank God for this opportunity to raise up another Deaf pastor.

For those of you who missed the special ELDA 30th anniversary pictures and video collection put together by Pastor Russ Rockwell, you can view them at WOLD website at <https://www.wordoflifedeaf.org/elda-2022-conference>. We hope to get this onto our ELDA website later.

Our next hosts for 2024, Heartland Ephphatha Ministry in Sioux Falls, have already chosen a site and are preparing for our conference in western South Dakota near Mt. Rushmore.

Prayers are with Pr. Russ Rockwell whose long-awaited sabbatical (postponed two or three times because of the pandemic) instead became a period of waiting for, undergoing, and now recovering from surgery. He will then have a second follow up surgery. God, our great Physician, knows our needs and timing before we do!

Our ecumencial partners at United Methodist Congress of the Deaf have invited us again to join them at Red Bird Mission on August 6--12, 2023 in Kentucky. Please check out the information in this newsletter and make a \$50 deposit by October 1, 2022. Working together to support the Appalachian community is a good way to serve and have fun together. Let's get an ELDA team together!

As the new bivalent vaccine has been approved for a yearly covid shot, hopefully our ELDA ministries can be better protected as we plan more in-person events this fall and winter. The CDC also encourages us to get our flu shots as they predict a rough season. Let us continue to safely do God's Work with Our Hands!

With Thanksgiving,  
Pr. Beth Lockard  
Director, ELCA Deaf Ministries

# SPIRITUAL ADVISOR'S COLUMN

JANIE BARLOW, BREAD OF LIFE DEAF



## THANKSGIVING! WHAT IS THAT?

Autumn is fast approaching; some of us are still experiencing the heat of summer, others are already experiencing the beginning changes of colors in the trees. With autumn time comes a season of changes which can lead to togetherness. What do you think of when you hear/see the term 'thanksgiving'? Perhaps you will think of giving thanks with your family and counting your blessings, maybe your community, a sense of unity or the good old holiday with your favorite comfort foods. Perhaps your sense of community is your church, your deaf community, or perhaps you're thinking of your own family and what that community looks like. Maybe you're thinking of all the ways that you can show support and give thanks. I feel that thanksgiving, the act of giving thanks, leads to community and unity.

**Community:** This word has many different meanings to each person. We all, as the body of Christ and as Christians, have a duty in the name of God and his son, Jesus, to follow their example. The verse from 1 Thessalonians 5:14 reminds us that as *'...brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.'* As individuals, we should gently but boldly practice this verse towards our own spouses, our children, people in our families, people in our churches, and the people in our local communities. With the example of Jesus, this is for anyone and everyone, both locally and globally! We have multiple partnerships within the ELDA all over the country as well as the world! What a beautiful community! You may need to step out of your comfort zone for this practice, and yes, you will make mistakes (we are only human, after all!), but that is why we have each other to continue to hold support for one another. This leads me to the next word.

**Unity:** This word is a challenge these days. It is easy to gather from multiple news sources and see how divided the world and our own country seems to be. However, with prayer, faith, and time, unity is possible! We are all a part of the body of Christ. When I was asked to be the spiritual advisor for ELDA, my first thought was "I don't have any experience?! I'm just a lay person." After some prayers, thinking, and talking with others, I realized that my role in ELDA is just a small role in part of many others, all working together - just as a body itself does! I wouldn't be alone! A body has many parts



and functions, yet they all work together and belong together. The bible tells us this in Romans 12:4-5 - *“For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”* We all belong together, no matter how difficult the path may be or how far away we may be from each other, God means for us to work together in different ways and in different roles. Upon our different roles, we will gain different experiences. Do you thank God for the experiences in your life, both the good experiences and the bad experiences? Yes, I said both the good and bad.

**Thanksgiving:** What does giving thanks look like in our modern day to day life? What does this look like in our church’s season of Thanksgiving? For the church, it will be a time of appeals (donations) from their communities and partners to help with their general budget in hopes to cover costs of future business needs, meetings, utilities, and general day-to-day operations. Giving donations in His name to support the church is a way of thanking God for that church and/or organization and allowing them to continue to do His work that He desires for our communities, both local and worldwide. It will also be a time of reminding people to give thanks to God and all that He does for us day to day. Speaking of day to day lives, our lives are not always full of sunshine and perfect days! We will have bad days and days where we feel like, perhaps, we do not want to give thanks. I admit that being a working mother with young children, I find this especially challenging some days to give thanks. And, with all that is happening in the world, it is sometimes easy to get wrapped up in the news and despair. However, each day, there IS good. You need to look for it and find it. God is always with us and in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, we are reminded to *‘rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus’*. This includes thanking Him in the times we just feel we are frustrated with something we think God wants for us and we are having a hard time getting there; in the times where we are at our wits’ end and just do not understand or see the positive, good parts; in the times we are going through a rough ongoing experience; or we are just plain having a bad day. Look for the good, it’s there - I promise! Taking some time to reflect and looking for the good takes a lot of practice too. The good can come in many forms; a person reaching out to you, an unexpected gift, some rays of sunshine shining through (literally) or a rainbow, perhaps you see a favorite animal or color of yours, or a simple act of love and thanks by getting a hug from someone else. I can’t tell you how much an unexpected hug or an unexpected gesture of love from someone in my family makes my day. Whatever your day to day life looks like, through the frustrations and through the celebrations, be sure to thank God for all of it, and thank the people around you too!

However you do community, unity, or give thanks in the next few months and for all time moving forward, just remember that with God, anything is possible! Daily, always give praise, thanks, and prayers of any kind to Him; He is always listening and always is with

# ELDA CONFERENCE

## 2022 IN LANCASTER, PA



WOLD article and photos sent by Luanne Bartens Word of Life Deaf Lutheran Church (WOLD) hosted the ELDA Conference last June 23-26 successfully. It was tough with COVID but we made it. Huge thanks for all the wonderful teamwork. 50 people attended. There were fun and interesting workshops, a personal Amish tour, and nice worship. Then on Saturday night before closing, 10 more people came to the banquet. The presentation of the '30 years anniversary of ELDA with videos and pictures on PowerPoint (set up by Pr. Russ and presented by Pr. Beth) was delightful with numerous great memories. The food was fabulously delicious along with a full sheet of anniversary cake with buttercream icing. We had anxiously waited for the award ceremony to start. The City on a Hill award (for any congregation or organization in recognition of outstanding work) went to LCCN, Lutheran Church of Christ-Nigeria. We were thrilled for them. The Shining Light award (for individuals in recognition of outstanding work) was given to our pastor, **RUSS ROCKWELL!** Whoohoo!! We nominated him and we are glad he received the award. This award is well deserved. He's been our pastor for 21 years. We have learned a lot more about God through worship and especially bible study. Our faith has grown extremely BIG! On top of all he does to support our faith, he has taught us about

church responsibilities, finances, and the details of WOLD's annual budget planning. He empowers us to take on these roles. This award means a lot to us to be able to give our HUGE thanks to him and to share how we have been blessed through him. He's a wonderful pastor and we truly appreciate him a lot! Congratulations, Pr. Russ! We love you!



# ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN

## NORTH HOLLYWOOD CA

by Marsha “Vae” Goeken (St Matthews Lutheran Church)

After New York City, Los Angeles has the highest ratio of homelessness at 63,706. There are Deaf people who are also homeless, and they are largely “invisible”. Here at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church in North Hollywood, it houses one of Los Angeles’ largest and ambitious program to address the wide needs of the unhoused, known as NoHo Home Alliance. It partners with virtually every worthy agency and organization to make the program effective and useful — with one exception: services to the Deaf. So, a small group of Deaf folks, after preparing lunches for the homeless (we make 100 Peanut and Butter and Jelly sandwiches each 3rd Saturday of the month ).

After that, we sat around a table, and wondered where are the unhoused Deaf? Each week, perhaps a thousand people would visit the program. We know NoHo Home Alliance is committed to serve everyone, but there’s something missing. NoHo Home Alliance did place a few Deaf folks in places to sleep, but the number is far too low. So, we decided to form a new task force, and that it is truly Deaf-Centered. Instead of waiting for a Deaf person to show up, we intend to do outreach work, by visiting sites both at St. Matthew’s and beyond where we “suspect” there would be some Deaf individuals living on the street. There’s one interesting story: during the time I was at the church doing volunteer work, I thought one person receiving food might be Deaf. I decided to find out and sure enough, he was Deaf. He said he had been coming to St. Matthew’s for the past TWO years for showers, clothes and something to eat , and he had no idea on how to communicate his need to find a bed, or a place to sleep with safety. The problem, as it appears that volunteers who are Deaf tend to work in the kitchen or anywhere else that they do not deal.



# NEWS AND NOTES

## LIVING LUTHERAN

In the “Living Lutheran” magazine, from August 2022, there were two articles related to ELDA. The first article as you all may know relates to the ordination of Rev. Lori Fuller who became a Pastor at Palms Deaf Church, a new church in Florida. Rev. Lori is also President of ELDA.

The second article in the same magazine describes a Lutheran church in Dennison MN which was built by a deaf person who was an architect. Olof Hansen designed the church so that anyone in the church audience can read lips.

To read more of the two stories, check out the links below:



<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2022/08/worship-designed-for-all/>  
<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2022/08/i-want-them-to-know-God/>

## THANKSGIVING APPEAL

The Thanksgiving Appeal funds will cover the ELDA Officers’ travel expenses, office supplies, envelopes & mailing stamps, and interpreters if needed, Quickbook (bookkeeper), and the Non-profits organization state fee and N-990.

Thank you! Any questions, please contact Mark Koterwski, ELDA Treasurer.

Mail your Thanksgiving funds to:  
Mark Koterwski, Treasurer  
5101 S. Marion Rd. Apt. 309  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

# URGENT: RED BIRD MISSION

## IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING AT THE RED BIRD MISSION

REGISTRATION FORM  
DEAF ELM MISSION TRIP TO RED BIRD MISSION, BEVERLY, KENTUCY  
AUGUST 6-11, 2023

*And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"  
Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." Isaiah 6:8*

ALL **CHECKS** SHOULD BE **MADE OUT TO RED BIRD MISSION**  
ALL **FORMS** AND **CHECKS** SHOULD BE **SENT TO:**  
Rev. Patti Ravilious  
4528 Cagney Lane  
Middletown, Delaware 19709

**DEADLINES:**  
**REGISTRATION FORM and \$50 per person REGISTRATION FEE**  
due to PATTI **by October 1, 2022**  
This is a NON-REFUNDABLE commitment fee.  
**REMAINING \$375** is due to PATTI **by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.**

\*\*\*\*\*

PLEASE FILL OUT **ONE FORM FOR EACH PERSON** GOING TO RED BIRD  
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Prefix (Mrs., Mr., Dr., Rev., etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Address – Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City and State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Church affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Church location (town and state): \_\_\_\_\_

BEST/QUICKEST WAY TO COMMUNICATE with you, check one and fill in access information:

Phone (text): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (talk): \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Relay service: \_\_\_\_\_

**HOW DO YOU IDENTIFY YOURSELF?** (Choose as many as apply to you.)

- Deaf
- Hard-of-hearing
- Hearing
- Interpreter
- Pastor
- Lay person
- Male
- Female
- Toddler (up to 5) free
- Child (6-9) \$212.50
- Teenager (10-18) \$425
- Adult (young and strong) \$425
- Adult (middle-aged and enthusiastic) \$425
- Adult (old and wise) \$425
- (other) \_\_\_\_\_

**Skills** (e.g. carpentry, plumbing, masonry, simple household repairs, electricity, etc.)

---

---

**Talents** (e.g. preaching, teaching, ASL interpretation, organizing, sewing, cooking, driving, etc.)

---

---

**Challenges** (e.g. difficulty walking, food allergies, Diabetes, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

---

**TRANSPORTATION:**

How do you plan on getting to Red Bird Mission?

- Drive either by yourself or in a van with a group
- Fly to nearby airport – Name/location of airport \_\_\_\_\_  
If flying, what transportation will you use to Red Bird? \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_



# Red Bird Mission Work Camp



“A praying people answering  
peoples’ prayers”



Changing lives since 1921  
[www.rbmission.org](http://www.rbmission.org)

## About Us

Red Bird Mission and Clinic have been providing ministries in this region of the Appalachian Mountains since 1921.

Today the need remains critical in this isolated, rural distressed area. Chronic poverty, lack of jobs, poor housing, and rugged mountainous terrain provide obstacles to a fuller life for the residents of this area. Red Bird Mission and Clinic strives to meet these needs through ministry in five areas: Education, Health and Wellness, Community Outreach, Economic Opportunity, and Community Housing Improvement.



## MISSION STATEMENT

Red Bird Mission, guided by Jesus Christ, empowers individuals and advocates justice by providing spiritual, educational, health, and community outreach ministries in southeastern Kentucky.



### Work Camp Rates

\$425 per person (\$50 deposit required within 90 days receipt of Group Application)

- ◆ \$225.00 meals/lodging
- ◆ \$200.00 project material donation  
\* Based on the project(s) your group sponsors, you may be required to make an additional donation to cover material expenses.

### What's included in your fees?

- \* Project materials, van, and tools (donations are gladly accepted)
- \* Knowledgeable and enthusiastic crew leader
- \* Evening devotions and programming
- \* Good food, good stories, and cozy cabins



### How will you serve at Work Camp?

- |                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| ◆ Flooring           | ◆ Roofing                 |
| ◆ Siding             | ◆ Interior/Exterior Walls |
| ◆ Bathroom Remodel   | ◆ Build Room Additions    |
| ◆ Kitchen Remodel    | ◆ Underpinning            |
| ◆ Build/Repair Decks | ◆ Basic Electrical        |
| ◆ Wheelchair Ramps   | ◆ Basic Plumbing          |
| ◆ Painting           | ◆ Build Steps             |
| ◆ Gutters            | ◆ Landscaping             |

### Limited opportunities to serve at Red Bird

- |                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| * Serve in the Craft Store     | * Serve in the Senior Center |
| * Serve in the Community Store | * Serve in Outreach          |

\*Limited service opportunities must be pre-approved!



## Red Bird Mission

70 Queendale Center  
Beverly, KY 40913

Phone: (606) 598 - 5133

Fax: (606) 598 - 0906

E-mail: [RBMworkcamp@rbmission.org](mailto:RBMworkcamp@rbmission.org)

### Daily Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

- 7:15am Devotions
- 7:30am Breakfast
- 12:00pm lunch
- 4:00pm Return to Barn, check-in and load for next day
- 5:30pm Supper
- Monday/Tuesday-Leaders breakfast meeting
- Thursday-Clergy breakfast meeting



### Evening Programs

- Sunday-7:00pm Orientation and Worship
- Monday-7:30pm Mission Presentation
- Tuesday-6:30pm Ice Cream and Craft Store shopping
- Wednesday-7:30pm Talent/No-Talent Night
- Thursday-6:30pm Ice Cream , 7:30pm Closing / Communion



# INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY REPORT

## NIGERIA, TOGO AND HAITI HAVE DEAF MINISTRY AND SCHOOLS

### NIGERIA

Dear Partners in ELDA in the ministry for the deaf, on behalf of the LCCN Deaf Center and School, thank you very much for standing with us as we continue to bring God's message to the Deaf people. We want them to understand their reasons for existing through our work among the Deaf, and you (ELDA) have been our local partners in many ways in finances, prayers and support. We look back and see that God has done so much for us in the deaf ministry over the years back through your faithful and consistent partnership. To God be the glory and blessings to you. As I write this, I have thought of many things to include but I know I have limited space and many can't find time to read such; therefore I will just share some headlines to help you understand how much your partnership has moved us as a ministry among the deaf.

Since the coming of the new bus(Van) we started thinking of outreach ministry (Evangelism), but the other challenge is fuel.

Church ministry is one of our core activities, and we have continued despite different challenges. I am glad to say we have seen many turn to Christ, although they have been in the church all their lives. Our teachings help them understand that being in Christ brings a transformation that makes God's Kingdom move more visible.

Thank be to God! Samuel Dimsa will soon complete his studies in Seminary and join the ministry

Training at the Deaf leadership conference, all 12 of us from Yola and Deaf from Taraba state, including. Pastor Albert Pana who is also deaf, and he leads the Taraba deaf people while

myself with the deaf in our bus. The bus didn't have any problems on the road; we got there safely and came back safely, praise God.

We had beautiful memories, 2nd--7th August 2022 at the Christian leadership conference with the theme: "Be a Good Undershepherd" 1 Peter 5:2-11th -14 th August 2022, for 4 days national conference for the deaf women with the theme: "Women of Honor", Proverbs 31:29-3. I will include my welcome message here:

Welcome Goodwill Message By the President Rev. Mrs. Ruth Ulea, I pray that our NLWL this year will be honoring God and that our supporters' database will grow so that we will cover more ground and make God's kingdom more visible. I would also like to say this part by reiterating that the task ahead of us is not the work of the president, vice president, secretary or some few individuals only, it is a task for every member of the NLWL and it's our task to make our dream a reality. The theme for this year's conference is " Woman of Honor". My honorable women in Christ. It is my sincere honor and indeed a great privilege that I on behalf of the NLWL and the executive Christian mission for the deaf church Nigeria welcome all to this year's conference 2022 held in CMD Ibadan. On behalf of the NLWL, thank you so much for standing with us as we continue to bring God's message to our women, to help them understand their reasons for existing through our deaf women in our society with righteous messages. In this journey, there are those who can contribute a million or a hundred and still some tens of thousand and other thousands. What is

important is that we all keep contributing. All of us are important and needed. In the words of Martin Luther King Jr. “ if you can’t fly then run, if you can’t run, then walk, and if you can’t walk, then crawl. But whatever you do, try to keep moving forward.” Let us keep moving until we get the work done. Amid all that we are facing, I would like to open this conference with the words of the scripture that says “ but as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded “ 2 chron 25:7. No time to give up with those words and a joyful Heart, I declare this conference for the year 2022 August 11-14 be open in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit Amen. At the same time we realized a wonderful living and genuine fellowship in and around the work among the deaf, and I wish you all could believe it was so elevating and inspiring. I personally would like to thank God For His support on our trip. It is with much gratitude that I submit this report to ELDA who are partners with us and to the success that without your prayers, we wouldn’t have made it. God continue to bless you all Sincerely in His service, Rev. Ruth Ulea.

## TOGO (NON-ELDA GROUP)

Azlyn (in the striped skirt) first met Dosseh when the Togo Converge team began sharing the Gospel in Dosseh’s village. The Converge team later met Fabrice in the area near their homes. And then they connected with Mawussé, a Deaf man who teaches Sunday school in a Deaf church in Lome. We (the Deaf Catalyst Team) were asked to go and meet Mawussé, Fabrice, and Dosseh and determine how we can come alongside Mawussé and the Togo team with resources and training that will help create a Gospel movement among Deaf adults and children in Togo!

For additional information about our trip, you can watch this Togo Vision Trip video

[https://youtu.be/ETW6S\\_turmY](https://youtu.be/ETW6S_turmY)

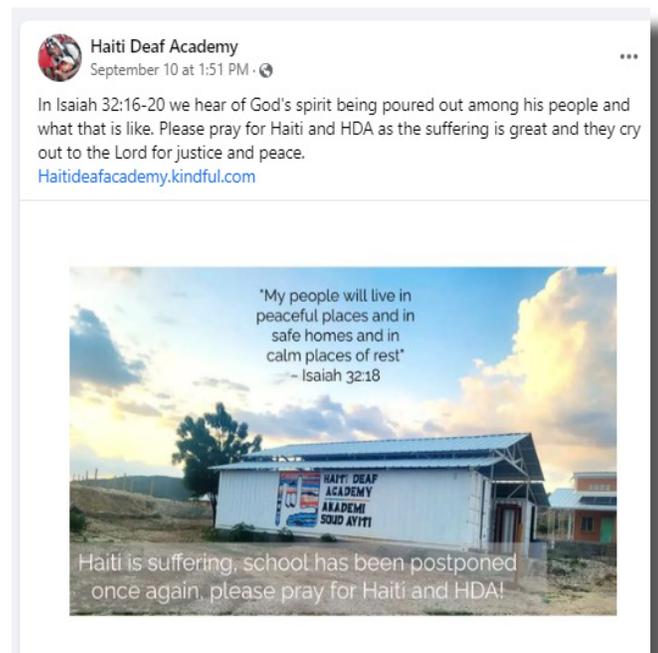


## HAITI

and you can find a Togo Vision Trip Update on my webpage.

<https://converge.org/missionary/meredith-henderson>

Prayers for Haiti and the Haiti Deaf Academy. The school had to be shut down due to fighting in different neighborhoods.





# ELDA MISSION STATEMENT



Mission Statement: The Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association (ELDA) is a national Lutheran organization of Deaf ELCA congregations, interpreted ministries, and their members which supports a core value of ASL and American Deaf Culture. ELDA advocates Deaf-Centered spirituality and empowerment, Deaf global missions and youth outreach, interpreter training, and a biennial conference.

## NEW ELDA Vision:

Vision Statement: “Together as one Deaf Community, with God’s help we strive to build a spectrum of ministries with a diversified Deaf people, passionately engaged in creating and supporting diverse ministries, outreach, communication, and Deaf-Centered leadership development, and worship resources that show the love and grace of Jesus Christ to everyone we meet.”