



ELDA

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



Mark Koterwski
ELDA President

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mark Koterwski

Greetings to everyone!

We held an ELDA Board meeting at Christ the King Deaf Church in West Chester, PA on the weekend of July 18, 2019. We agreed that we needed to work on 5 year vision goals – 1) Develop consistent financial income for ELDA. 2) We will increase our attendance at conference to 70. 3) Promote more Deaf ministries in America. 4) Send a letter to all 65 synods about the Deaf. 5) Develop our relationship with LCCN. Lori Fuller is on the ELM Conference Committee. She works closely with the United Methodist Congregation for the Deaf in Florida. We expect to get an ELM Conference flyer &

Registration form within a couple of months. The conference will held nearby Orlando, Florida during the week of July 19, 2020. Please keep an eye out for the flyer soon.

It was a pleasure to see that ELM's goal worked well between ELDA and the United Methodist Congregation for the Deaf (UMCD). It was a successful event! On August 11, 2019, 7 ELDA members joined with the UMCD group at the Red Bird Mission in Beverly, Kentucky for one week. Jeff Panek and I with our group worked on siding on the side of a roof and built a deck and ramp. One man who has heart problems was not able to build. He had concerns about his grandson who is in a wheelchair and he was not able to access his grandfather's house due to no ramp. On 4th day, it was great to see the grandson was able to access the house with his grandfather, grandmother, father and mother. Chris Hagerty and Mary Edwards with their group worked on the floor of a really badly damaged house. Angela Koterwski, Belinda Panek and Dorothy Sparks with their group worked on clothes and stuff at a Thrifty store and did hearing aids inventory at the Red Bird Mission Clinic. (See Rev. Leo Yates Jr's article in this newsletter.)

I asked you to send me your answer(s) in the last newsletter regarding the statement that came up with the Bible verse – Genesis 8:22 “As long as the earth endures seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease”. One person sent me her comments: 1. Plant thousands of trees! 2. Clean up our rivers, lakes and oceans. 3. Ban use of chemicals. 4. Leave a smaller footprint. 5. Stop burning oil, coal and gas. 6. Think green! 7. Respect the whole earth! These small things can help change our climate so that the weather will be better! We cannot stop tornadoes, hurricanes or flooding but we can make sure we are prepared by building better housing, dikes and moving out of the zones that are prone to flooding, etc. Thanks for your response to my question!

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

CONTINUED

What's up with the ELDA Board?

- 1) The ELDA Board will continue working with the United Methodist Conference for the Deaf for the ELM conference that will be held in Orlando, Florida sometime in July 2020. Please keep watching for the conference flyer and registration form.
- 2) The ELDA Board will be meeting via Zoom on September 23, 2019.
- 3) The ELM Seeds will be meeting via Zoom on September 30, 2019.

Have a great fall!

God bless you all!

Mark Koterwski, ELDA President

RED BIRD MISSIONS

DEAF AND HEARING PARTNERSHIP

By Rev. Leo Yates, Jr. (UMCD)

Deaf and hearing people, both individuals and families, came from a variety of church groups and traveled from different parts of the country to work as partners at the Red Bird Mission Work Camp in Beverly, Kentucky during the week of August 11-16, 2019. The diverse group of about 75 persons represented various racial ethnicities, ranged from hearing well to hard-of-hearing to Deaf, and included some with physical disabilities. The group included lay and clergy, and, of course, sign language interpreters. All of these gathered and embodied the mission team. They came to do much needed home repairs in the Appalachian Mountains.

Several people in work clothing gather around a large building marked Cardinal House.

Work crew is preparing to go to a work site.

This Deaf and hearing partnership was the first of its kind at the Red Bird Mission, and showed how hearing and Deaf people can work together as a team for a common goal. This one-of-a-kind joining together for a missional purpose was led by Bishop Peggy Johnson. Johnson has over two decades of experience in Deaf ministry. Hearing team members



were oriented to some basic signs so they could have simple conversations with Deaf and hard-of-hearing team members. Sign language interpreters were on hand and participated on the mission team to bridge communications when necessary. Examples included daily devotions, worship, instructions at the work-



site, and team meetings.

Four people working, installing posts for a ramp.

Deaf and hearing people were working together.

The Deaf and hearing mission trip to Red Bird Mission Work Camp was the result of discussions at the 2018 Deaf ELM (Episcopal, Lutheran and Methodist) conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. As the Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries (of Global Ministries) and members of The United Methodist Congress of the Deaf (a national caucus) met in Las Vegas, they discussed ways to promote the involvement of Deaf and hard-of-hearing youth and young adults. Conversations and prayers led those present to discern and elect to do mission work with Red Bird Mission, a United Methodist missionary conference. Other Deaf ELM participants then discussed the idea further, and agreed that they wished to support the plan of partnering together for the mission. Bishop Peggy Johnson offered to lead and assist with planning the mission trip, and extended an invitation to her cabinet to participate

and work with Deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

Sign language interpreter is on a stage, with a projection screen behind her.

A sign language interpreter is working.

While the Deaf and hearing members were there to serve and do renovations, their presence, their Deaf culture, and their shared faith were highlights for the Red Bird Mission Work Camp staff and the families they served. Staff and families were fascinated by the use of sign language and how the Deaf and hearing partners interacted and worked together to complete the missional work. The Deaf and hearing mission partnership represented new possibilities for future collaboration and partnerships. Rev. Dr. Tom Hudspeth, an elder in full connection who serves at Lovers Lane UMC in Dallas, TX, said, "Sign language is a visual sign of grace to share with the community we serve." "We had about 75 people on the work crew, which included 20 who are Deaf and hard of hearing," said Bishop Johnson. Coming together to do mission work is one of many ways to recruit Deaf and hearing youth and young adults in Christ's work.

Several people are on a stage; they are talking and signing back and forth.

A Team-building exercise is done with both the Deaf and hearing team members.

With this in mind, plans are being considered for future mission trips where more Deaf and hard-of-hearing youth and young adults will be invited to join a mission team. Keep a watch on future mission trips.



ELCA DEAF MINISTRIES DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Dear ELDA Friends--
September brings the beginning of the fall season, one of my favorite times of the year. I appreciate the cooler weather, the colored leaves, the return to routines and classes. I am one of the people who enjoys having

four seasons of the year that we can see, touch, and feel in our daily lives.

One thing I did this summer, which I have done for 11 years, was to serve as a camp chaplain for a week-long special needs camp for Deaf adults. Camp Pecometh is on the eastern shore of Maryland and is run by the United Methodists in an air-conditioned retreat center. This year we had 49 campers and many staff from PA/DE/MD. It is a volunteer effort spearheaded by Bp. Peggy Johnson and Carol Stevens whom many of you met at our ELM conferences. The campers enjoy the daily Bible stories, drama, art & crafts, swimming, archery, boating, and Deaf games like Dingo. Our theme this year was "Friendship" focusing on King David & God, David & Jonathan, David & Mephibosheth, and our friendships with each other. This week of camp is the highlight for many of these campers. If you know any deaf adults who might benefit from this camp, or you want to have something similar in your area, please contact me or Carol Stevens (carolstevens100@hotmail.com)

began her classes this summer and is currently in Hebrew classes at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. I recently joined her and other seminary interns and supervisors at a two-day retreat at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge. God has blessed her with skilled interpreters, a caring staff, and supportive students. Lori has had time to visit three of our ELDA ministries: BOLD in Minneapolis, CTK in West Chester, PA, and she will visit WOLD in Lancaster, PA next month. This is her time to explore different kinds of Deaf ministries, try new things, develop her skills, and experience how other leaders use their gifts. Please keep her in your prayers!

Deacon Dorothy Sparks and I did NOT plan a trip to Jamaica this September as we had hoped. We are looking at 2020 dates. We hope some of you can plan to attend both the ELM Conference and JCSD trip next year. It will be fun to dodge hurricanes!!

We are now preparing finally to get our ELDA letter sent to the 65 ELCA Synods to encourage them to identify Deaf and hard of hearing people in the areas where they have companion synods around the world. ELDA hopes to connect with these Deaf brothers and sisters in some way.

God's peace,
Pastor Beth+

Our ELDA secretary and seminary student, Lori Fuller,

SPIRITUAL ARTICLE

KINDNESS IS A CHOICE

By Don Rosenkjar

Kindness is a choice, a choice to be kind, and often courage and discipline are needed. It is constant and unchanging — it is a face of Christ, not just the smiling face, but deeds and attitudes. In today's environment, it is tough to be kind. Democrats and Republicans cannot hold hands, and work together. United States is at trade wars with China and Europe. Hong Kong is battling against China. If you watch the news on your television, you know the list goes on and on. So, kindness begins at home, at your church, with the people around you. Science has proved that people who have a constant discipline of being kind have less health problems and live longer lives.

I am happy to say that ELM (Episcopal Conference of the Deaf, United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing, and Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association) have joined hands, rolled up our sleeves and worked together out of kindness. One example is this: a group of ELDA members joined with the Methodists with its Red Bird Ministry and performed tasks to improve people's lives, which are living in impoverished parts of our country. That is kindness.

I'd like to lift a paragraph from Red Bird's website:

Red Bird Mission, Inc. and Red Bird Clinic, Inc. 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.

Colossians 3:12-14

God loves you and has chosen you as His own special people. So be gentle, kind, humble, meek, and patient. Put up with each other, and forgive anyone who does you wrong, just as Christ has forgiven you. Love is more important than anything else. It is what ties everything completely together.

Hebrews 13:1-2

Keep being concerned about each other as the Lord's followers should. Be sure to welcome strangers into your home. By doing this, some people have welcomed angels as guests, without even knowing it.

WORSHIP AT LUTHER SEMINARY

ST. PAUL MINNESOTA

By Dorothy Sparks

On September 16, Rev. Michelle Lewis, Lori Fuller and Dorothy Sparks led the worship service at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. After that, we led a workshop about the Deaf Culture. There were about 47 people there. Many of them are Lori Fuller's classmates. The President of Luther Seminary was there. She used to live in Washington DC. She is familiar with Gallaudet University. A few professors were also there. They asked many good questions. For the first time, we feel connected to the Luther Seminary. Jody Nyenhuis who is a MDiv program coordinator there, and has a Deaf sister. We were so pleased to work with her to arrange for this event. We are looking forward to working with Luther Seminary again in the future.



LUTHER SEMINARY IN ST. PAUL, MN.

ELDA THANKSGIVING APPEAL

by Linda Fairbanks

The ELDA Thanksgiving Appeal

By Linda Fairbanks

Being thankful is not just for the Thanksgiving holiday. We give thanks year round. The ELDA Thanksgiving Appeal is one time a year that you or your church can donate to ELDA.

Donations in any dollar amount helps the ELDA Board manage its expenses and helps with their conference trips. In the past, we got money from the ELCA headquarters but we cannot rely on those funds coming from ELCA. The HOPE Fund and the Zechariah Fund helps those who want to go into Deaf Ministry or go on mission trips and the two funds are fed by the Thanksgiving Appeal.

The ELDA Mission trip to Nigeria was a success and now ELDA has formed a new partnership with LCCN –Deaf Church. This partnership is important because our donations will go directly towards the Deaf Church and School in Nigeria. Jamaica is another informal mission that ELDA supports.

Won't you or your church help us in our Thanksgiving Appeal? Please send a check made out to ELDA to our Treasurer. The ELDA Board thanks you very much for your generous donation.

Send a check to ELDA for the dollar amount of your choice to:

Jeff Panek, ELDA Treasurer 625 S. Mary Drive, Tea, South Dakota 57064

MINISTRY NEWS-

WORD OF LIFE DEAF CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

By Luanne Bartens

WOLD celebrated its 25th anniversary at Foxchase Golf Club in Denver (PA) on July 27th. 30 people attended.

The party was originally planned for outdoors, but the weather forecast showed a heat wave in the high 90's for our party.

WOLD board members thought it best to move the celebration indoors with A/C because of the heat, but didn't think it could be moved on short notice (the forecast didn't allow much time!). Board member Bob Tortora made all the arrangements for the party, and contacted Foxchase about moving our anniversary banquet inside. Board members thought it would be impossible.

Lo and behold, it could be moved inside!!! It was so unbelievable! We felt so blessed and thrilled that the indoor space with A/C was available for us!!!

Bob did a beautiful job decorating the room with white and silver balloons on each table, with beautiful white tablecloths and white cloth chairs. (See photo) It looked like heaven. It was perfect! The food was delicious!

We enjoyed the fellowship, especially when some longtime members got up and shared their interesting stories from the time before WOLD was chartered to the present.



THIS IS A PHOTO OF BOB TORTORA, PARTY PLANNER FOR WOLD'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY.



Special guests were Rev. Richard Jorgensen & Rev. Tom McKee, both from the Synod Office. They shared their good experiences with WOLD over the years as well (so did Pastor Russ).

It was a fun and enjoyable 25th anniversary celebration!

MINISTRY NEWS-

CHICAGO LUTHERAN DEAF MINISTRY UPDATE

By Nathan Zastoupil

The Chicago Lutheran Deaf Ministry involving two churches have been busy this summer and looks forward to a busy fall season ahead!

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Schaumburg, Illinois recently had a new T-Coil Hearing Loop installed into their Worship Center last June. There are lots of people at Prince of Peace who wear hearing aids, and they are totally amazed on how wonderful the Hearing Loop works as they can hear much better in worship services! The new Hearing Loop was paid through Deaf Ministry's funds of \$1,850 and the \$10,000 Metropolitan Chicago Synod grant that Prince of Peace earned.

Deacon Dorothy Sparks from Bread of Life Deaf Church in Minneapolis traveled to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Downers Grove, Illinois and led a Deaf Worship Service on June 23. We are very excited to have Dorothy come back and lead two upcoming Deaf Worship Services on September 29 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and December 1 at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. We are truly blessed for the friendship we have together with Dorothy!

Prince of Peace's Deaf Ministry had a successful summer of fundraising to raise money to cover sign language interpreter expenses. There were four restaurant fundraiser events and a minor league baseball game that resulted a total of \$1,084.83 raised over the summer for Prince of Peace's Deaf Ministry! September is National Deaf Awareness Month, and

the Prince of Peace Deaf Ministry is honoring Deaf Awareness Month by providing a free one-hour basic sign language class to their congregation and community for three Wednesday evenings in late September and early October.

Prince of Peace's Deaf Ministry leader Nathan Zastoupil will be doing his deaf presentation of "Growing Up Deaf: The Hard Way" to the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church congregation on October 27. Nathan has done many deaf presentations the past two years at churches and sign language classes at colleges to educate hearing people on deafness, deaf culture and how to communicate effectively with deaf people. His presentations have helped and motivated deaf people to fight for their deaf rights and believe in themselves without giving up.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church will be alternating locations for monthly Deaf Bible Studies this fall. Deaf Bible Study will be at Prince of Peace on October 20 and Gloria Dei on November 17.

We are thankful and blessed for the wonderful friendship that the Deaf Ministries of Gloria Dei and Prince of Peace have together!

MINISTRY NEWS-

WORD OF LIFE DEAF

From Pastor Russ Rockwell, WOLD

In July & August, WOLD's Bible Study class met on Wednesday nights to watch Pastor Russ' collection of Bible movies. Many of the movies were quite good! The "Wednesday Night Bible Movies" were shown in connection to the Bible study we started last fall – "Bible Stories to Know." There were too many movies – and many were *too long!* – to show during our regular Wed. night Bible study, so the group decided summer would be the best time to watch them (it was!).

The movies were part of TNT's series of Bible movies, made during the '80's & '90's. They all did an excellent job of portraying life in Bible times. If you get the chance to watch them, please do!

These are the movies we watched:

Abraham - starring Richard Harris & Barbara Hershey
Jacob - starring Matthew Modine
Joseph - starring Ben Kingsley & Paul Mercurio
Moses - starring Ben Kingsley
Samson & Delilah - starring Eric Thal & Elizabeth Hurley
David - starring Nathaniel Parker & Leonard Nimoy
Solomon - starring Ben Cross
Jeremiah - starring Patrick Dempsey
Esther - starring Louise Lombard & F. Murray Abraham



"After-movie" reviews can be found on WOLD's website. Go to wordoflifedeaf.org/announcements.

ELM MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

Mission Statement: "In the Presence of Jesus Christ, with mutual love and respect, the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf (ECD), the Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association (ELDA) and the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf (UMCD) partner together to inspire and transform the lives of Deaf people."

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

THE ELDA 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 spirituality and empowerment, Deaf global missions and youth outreach, interpreter training, and a biennial conference.

FROM PASTOR RUTH

REPORT

Here is a report from Pastor Ruth Ulea from Nigeria on what she did this summer.



6th July 2019

I attended the late Dr. Isaac and Mrs. Jumoke Agboola house warming ceremony in Likki, Lagos. Isaac Agboola was a Lecturer at Gallaudet University in USA for over Forty years. His wife was my best friend.

24th July 2019

Lunching of the sign language book, second edition was successful, under Chairman Mallam Umaru Tukur, a lecturer at Gallaudet University USA.

He lived in Yola, and bought one book at the price of twenty thousand naira (20,000).

8th August 2019

I attended the service of the late Deacon Bro. Luke Bello at Christian Mission for the Deaf Ikire Ibadan. Luke Bello died at the age of 51. His marriage was blessed with two beautiful children. May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace.

Leadership Conference Report August 5th -11th 2019 Ibadan

The Theme: The Cost of Discipleship Mark 10:45.

The conference attendance was very low due to some financial and transportation problems. Bro Samuel Dimsa and I attended the conference in Ibadan.

God bless you all and thank you for your support.

Rev. Ruth Ulea.

The moment of refreshment during the conference was very great. Indeed, I appreciate the almighty God for His divine presence during the conference and I am sure all the messages were divinely impacted from the start to the end. There was widespread of good testimonies and I give glory to the almighty God for the answers to our prayers. With heartfelt appreciation to the LMF Mission Africa, I could not express enough my gratitude to your steadfast cooperation towards the successful conference. Thank you all.

Really we appreciate your friendship, encouragement, prayers, well wishes etc. You make our work here worthwhile while keeping us going. We look forward to such and a more friendship supports and encouragements from you as we prepare for the bigger task ahead.

The Deaf Christian Evangelistic Association (Nigeria)

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bigger task ahead.

I will not end this appreciation without mentioning LMF for their love, prayers and increased support. You care for us; the Lord will always care for you and all that are yours! Thank you for all you have done.

- Pastor Ruth Ulea



FROM PASTOR RUTH REPORT

Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN) Church for the deaf Cathedral Nassarawo Jimeta Yola

Dear Partners,

Greetings in the Name of our Savior Jesus Christ,

It's another season to recount the gracious hand of the Lord that has remained faithful and steadfast through the past year with His continual leadership of the Centre and church. It's my earnest prayer and conviction that even as the Lord keeps granting us the opportunity to be co-workers with Him, we will not take it for granted but with grateful hearts we return glory and honor to Him. With the hassle of the global economic meltdown and the state of uncertainty in the different areas of life which has left no one squeezed all round us in the Centre can confidently attest to the

fact that the Lord has lifted us higher beyond our imagination, even in the midst of the casting down. To the many who continue to give us support, we are glad that despite the times, your unflinching of the vision of our center is undoubtedly felt and also to those who are sacrificially yielded themselves during the year as of Ma Lilly Krarup touching the lives of others, a big thank you.

Early in February 14- 16, 2019, we were planning to have Executive female church leaders' conference in Lagos, but due to the election in February it was postponed, to June 6-9 2019 in Lagos, remember also that we are proper because of your prayers, encouragement and support in many different ways for which we are grateful. Please do continue.

We also got a letter of invitation as Guest minister from the Christian Evangelistic Ministry that runs 4 days of leadership Training Conference schedule as follows;-Theme; Faithful Stewardship 1 Peter 4:10 Dates:-31st July-3rd August 2019. Venue; Main Audition Baptist High School Gbodofon, Oshogbo, Osun state, which is not far from Ibadan.

Another upcoming leadership conference is that of Christian Mission for the Deaf in Ibadan, Theme; - The Cast of Discipleship, Mark 10:45 Date;-5th-11th August 2019.

Our appreciation goes to Sis Elizabeth Holtegaard, even after her retirement, she continues to support us during camp and women programs. We will remember her in our hearts always and though she is 71 years old she continues with her writing History of the LCCN. God will take care of her health in the all Almighty Name of Jesus. God continue to bless all of you.





LAUNCHING OF SIGN LANGUAGE BY RUTH AND UMAR TURKU



PASTOR RUTH AND SAMUEL DIMAS COMING BACK IN A LUXURIOUS BUS. THE TRIP TOOK 26 HOURS.



A GATHERING AT THE EVANGELISM CHRISTIAN TRAINING CONFERENCE IN IBADAN



RUTH IS WITH ISAAC AGBODA'S WIFE

FAITH ACTIVIST | HOMELESS ADVOCATE

Twice a week—every Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.—you can see Stephanie Jaeger practicing what she calls “living out faith in action.” Under her direction and staffed almost entirely by volunteers, the St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church NoHo Home Alliance drop-in program feeds and assists 60 to 65 homeless men and women.

“They know that we care,” says Stephanie, 56. “That we see them as human beings and not as human detritus. We believe every human deserves to be treated with dignity.”

Three years ago, when she got the program rolling, Stephanie gave up her official pastor’s office and, with the donation of a water heater, converted it into a shower room for her guests. In addition to being able to take a hot shower with clean towels, visitors to the North Hollywood facility can have breakfast and lunch, charge their phones, receive a bag lunch and fresh toiletries, and meet with medical professionals from the Northeast Valley Medical Center and housing specialists from Family Housing.

The mostly privately funded NoHo Home Alliance’s goal is to get each participant “shelter-ready,” so that when housing becomes available, the person is willing and able to claim it. Since a person’s wallet is often the first thing to go when they become homeless, Stephanie explains, her program assists people in getting required documents such as driver’s licenses replaced, and then provides safe storage. About 48 of NoHo Home Alliance clients get housed each year. Compared to the total homeless population in LA County—now estimated at almost 59,000—that



REV. STEPHANIE JAEGER

number may seem insignificant, but Stephanie isn’t daunted. “We believe small programs are more effective,” she says, referring to the intensive support system NoHo Home Alliance builds around each client. “I see the difference we make with this tiny little program.”

Stephanie was called to the ministry later in life. Her first career was as a tenured professor of German literature and cultural history. In fact, her mother was a refugee from Nazi Germany, so Stephanie’s first language is German. After stints teaching in Canada, Germany and Illinois, Stephanie settled down in Burbank about a mile from her church with her “very supportive” husband, a retired professor of medieval studies, and two daughters, age 17 and 18. Prior to her five years at St. Matthew’s, Stephanie spent five years as pastor at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Santa Monica.

In June, the NoHo Home Alliance was honored in Sacramento as California Nonprofit of the Year for its district. But like many people who do outreach work, Stephanie dreams of a day when her services are no longer desperately needed. “We want to reach a situation where we don’t have to do this anymore,” she says.

—Written by Anne M. Russell and printed in the Ventura Blvd Magazine.

PRAYERS FOR HAITI

PRAYERS FOR HAITI



In spite of widespread protests, Haiti Deaf Academy welcomed students on September 16, 2019.



Most of the boys have returned to school. They are wearing the 1-6 grade uniforms.



Some of the girls have not returned yet. Welcoming each other back to school.



Meredith is with Jr, Din Desley and Sam, September 19th. These 3 were youngsters when they came to Haiti Deaf Academy.

This month they received 2 weeks of masonry training from Extolling International.

Masonry training. Each student is making his own wall.



Thanks to all who volunteered to pray on each date for Leslie and the Deaf mission team in Haiti. Please pray throughout the day (not once!). Encourage others to pray also. We ask God's army of angels to watch, protect, and lead the group as they work with the people who are hungry, thirsty, and in constant danger.

Never stop praying. Whatever happens, keep thanking God because of Jesus Christ. This is what God wants you to do. (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)

Pr. Beth+

PRAY FOR:

SAFETY AS THEY TRAVEL IN A TINTED WINDOW VEHICLE AROUND HAITI

ENOUGH GAS TO GET TO EACH PLACE

HAD STUDENT'S HEALTH AND EDUCATION

ENOUGH FOOD AND WATER FOR ALL HAITIANS

SAFETY & WISDOM FOR TEAM TRAVELING TO/FROM USA/HAITI

GOD:)

WINKS

Recently, as my family was planning a vacation to Seattle/Portland to visit family and friends, I made a list of everyone we hoped to see in the Pacific NW. I knew I wanted to see my Aunt Dorinne (age 86) who was in a nursing home. I emailed my cousin Kent several days in advance to let him know of our plans and we exchanged text numbers.

As we arrived home from a joint CTK/WOLD picnic that Sunday, I received an urgent text from Kent saying my aunt had developed a sudden health crisis and was hospitalized in “comfort care.” The doctor said she had two hours to two days to live.

I quickly texted my brother and sisters in Seattle and asked them to take my mother to visit her older sister ASAP. It was a three-hour drive but they arrived in time and had a wonderful farewell visit with my aunt. The God-wink was that my cousin and I had just “happened” to exchange text numbers and he quickly texted me and I alerted my family (Oregon to PA to Washington).

As my family arrived in Seattle late Monday night, we heard my aunt had “suddenly” improved and the

doctors now thought she would have at least a week, and she was returned to her nursing home.

Later that week Bill and I enjoyed a visit with her and were able to share love and many memories. After we returned home to PA a week later, Kent communicated my Aunt was back to her old self, and beating everyone at Scrabble!

My brother texted, “Wow, from a diagnosis of ‘two hours to two days’ to two WEEKS later? Awesome.” We all marveled at God’s mercy (second God-wink). I was working on a grant at that time and wanted to check a Bible verse. I went to Bible Gateway website and the first thing I saw was their verse for the day: “I will still be the same when you are old and gray, and I will take care of you. I created you. I will carry you and always keep you safe.” Isaiah 46:4 CEV. (third God-wink).

I share this to remind you God continues to communicate with us in so many ways. I see Him “winking” again and again. We are blessed!
Pastor Beth Lockard+

ELDA Online

Remember our website is www.ELDADeaf.org
our facebook page is:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ELDADeaf/>

NEWS

Please help our newsletter! Send me your pictures and stories about your ministry. We’d love to put it in our next newsletter.

September, December, March and June

This is your newsletter; we want to know what topics and articles that you want to see in the newsletters. If there is a person, a church or something of interest that you want us to spotlight on, let us know! Feel free to send your feedback to Linda Fairbanks, lindafairbanks22@gmail.com Thanks!