



Anabaptist Deaf Ministries

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Spring 2006

God Is Moving by Marybeth Moore, Staunton, VA

I would like to tell you about something exciting beginning in Staunton, VA! In 2001 when our family moved to the Shenandoah Valley, we assumed at the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind (VSDB) we would easily find a Deaf ministry to plug into. When we discovered there were no Mennonite Churches with interpreters and no churches at all with programs for Deaf kids, we thought, we'll have to build one! It took us 2 years and a United Methodist Deaf Camp in Maryland to find a regular interpreter. We had numerous conversations with people interested in reaching out to the students at VSDB but nothing materialized. Then, the Spirit used a birthday party and adolescent hormones to do what adult meetings and planning could not!

In Nov of 2005, for our son Mynor's 13th birthday, we had a sleep over party with the students of VSDB. Since VSDB is a residential

school, a sleep over means the entire weekend including church on Sunday. Much to our surprise, the boys enjoyed going to a church with an interpreted service, something they had not experienced before. They also enjoyed the fellowship meal and the "cute girls" in the youth group. They asked to come back!

They couldn't attend our Sunday services at Springdale Mennonite, but did come to Wednesday evening youth group. Anywhere from 1 to 8 Deaf youth joined our hearing youth group. It quickly became evident however, that the group at Springdale was not meeting the spiritual needs of these young Deaf people. The youth at Springdale have "grown up" in the church and are being disciplined. These Deaf youth have never been exposed to church. They have never been told God's Story and need to learn about the Good News.

In mid-February, we had dinner with some friends of ours, who, unknown to us, have been praying for three years about starting a Deaf Ministry for the youth at VSDB. It didn't take long for our conversation to turn to action. On March 1st, we started Deaf Teen Fellowship. We meet on Wednesday evenings for storytelling, activities and fellowship. We are using the Chronological Bible Storytelling method to teach the youth about God's story, from the beginning, to the Cross, to eternity. We hope each of them will come to see how he or she is a part of this amazing story.

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Eastern USA Deaf Family Camp

Anabaptist Deaf Ministries along with First Mennonite Church of Lancaster, Pa are excited to announce your first Deaf Family Camp (DFC) to be held near Lancaster, PA.

Our first annual DFC will be in April or May of 2007 at Black Rock Retreat Center in Quarryville, PA.

This retreat is for anyone with deafness in their family. However, it is organized so that hearing parents and their Deaf children can interact with Deaf Christian adults in an informal environment. Hearing parents with Deaf/HH children, Deaf/HH

adults with hearing children, Deaf/HH teens. There will be workshops for parents and childcare will be provided by individuals that sign.

It will be a wonderful time of reconnecting with your family, meeting new friends or perhaps renewing old ones. Look for more information about Deaf Family Camp 2007 in future publications. If you want to know more now or would like to reserve your room, contact sandys@goshen.edu or call Sandy at 574-535-3077.

Deaf Family Camp Spring 2007 You don't want to miss it!



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Justin Kauffman (top)

Montana Teen Gets Involved by Sandy Slabaugh

Local Montana youth Justin Kauffman and other Deaf teens from the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind involved in the group Expressions of Silence are teaming up with the Mormon Tabernacle choir to give the performance of a life time. Expressions will perform for The National Association for Music Education at their national conference in Salt Lake City. The choir began almost 10 years ago and has since

moved audiences regardless of hearing status to tears. Justin stated, "The parts I like doing in Expressions of Silence is being able to prove to people that deaf can use music in any way that we need to understand." Look for their performance on PBS to be aired in the near future.

Justin, a junior at MSDB was also recently involved in the Deaf academic

bowl which took place in New Mexico. They placed 6th out of 16 teams.

Justin plans to attend CSUN, California State University at Northridge to major in education with an emphasis on Deaf ed. When not at MSDB, Justin and his parents attend Mountain View Mennonite Church in Kalispell, MT.

Deaf Teen Wallyball Nite by Sandy Slabaugh

It was January 22, 06 our Deaf Ministry Advisory group's (Deaf & hearing adults from Goshen area) first ever Deaf Teen Nite. Would anyone show up? If so how many, maybe this would be a total flop. In spite of our worries, we had a good turn out. We played Wallyball, ate, socialized, had a brief devotion and said our good-byes until the next month.

To be honest that's how it goes each month since then. We never really know who

will show up or how many or exactly what is going to happen. But that is the wonderful thing about hanging out with teenagers.

The impetus behind the idea of Deaf Teen Nite was to provide an environment in which Deaf Teens could meet and socialize with Christian Deaf Adult role models.

In the rural Goshen area, we don't have a large centrally located Deaf population. Our goal is to provide

a time for people to connect with each other in a non-threatening way. This is also a opportunity for ASL students to practice using sign language, learn from and develop friendships with the Deaf people in our community.

Thanks to the Goshen College Recreation Fitness Center for allowing us to use their facility at no charge and to College Mennonite Church for their financial support.



Are you, someone you know or a group you're involved with doing something to impact and learn from the Deaf community? If so, we'd like to hear your story. Please email your stories to sandys@goshen.edu



Indiana Deaf Teen Nite Group 3/26/06

On March 18th, Tom Humphries, author of "Deaf in America," came to Goshen College to give a workshop about his new book "Inside Deaf Culture." About 150 people (Deaf & hearing), interpreters, ASL teachers, and ASL students attended. Interpreters, Alan Champion and Steve Phan met with fifteen of GC's ASL interpreting majors before the workshop began. They shared about how they had prepared for the assignment and also

gave the students plenty of valuable advice. The workshop lasted six hours. Tom covered many historical periods of Deaf culture including how Deaf culture evolved and the slow acceptance of ASL as a real language. Tom compared schools for the Deaf from the past to the present in regards to how they were structured and are managed. Tom also shared his own experiences of growing up "hearing impaired"

and going to a local public school, of the rise and fall of the oralist movement and the possible causes of why Deaf clubs disappeared. He concluded his presentation with a statement of what Deaf people want in the future: for their language, culture, and history to be preserved and continued for years.

Laura hails from Sylvania, Ohio and is a 2nd year interpreting major at Goshen College.

Looking for a Few Good Board Members

Do you know someone who may be called by God to share their skills with the Anabaptist Deaf Ministries Board (ABDMB)? Is God directing you to recommend them to this board? Now is your opportunity! At its spring meeting the ABDMB agreed that God is leading this board to expand its membership. Board Member qualifications:

Committed to become thoroughly acquainted with and supportive of the ABDMB mission and goals. Mission statement: *To facilitate, encourage and support Deaf people and their families to, 1. receive the Good News of Jesus Christ and, 2. actively participate and serve in an Anabaptist or*

other Christian church.
Dedicated Christian (Deaf or hearing), who has ties to an Anabaptist church/denomination. Does not need to be a member of an Anabaptist related congregation, but is familiar with and supports the theology of Anabaptism.

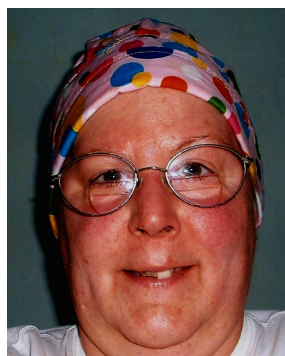
Has the ability to:
Commit to the necessary times to attend board meetings (usually twice a year).
Listen, analyze, think clearly and creatively.
Work well with people individually and in a group.
Carry a church wide vision

and not only a local vision.
Has expertise in areas, such as:
Organizational and/or financial management.
Marketing and/or fundraising.
Strategic and/or long-range planning.
Legal, investment or accounting experience.
Does this sound like someone you know if so, contact Sheila Yoder, current chair of the ABDMB at sheilasy@goshen.edu or 574/535-7061 (v/relay) or scheduled video phone capability at IP#199.8.233.74.

Bonnie Geiser Resigns from Board

Long time board member Bonnie Geiser from Ohio recently resigned her position on the board due to ongoing health problems. Bonnie's legacy extends back to the late 1980's when she served on the Deaf Ministry Advisory Committee for the former Mennonite Board of Missions. Bonnie was a wealth

of information and a joy to work with. Her insight and concern for reaching Deaf people for Christ has and will continue to impact ABDM. We pray for Bonnie's improved health and God's blessings upon her and her family. Thank you for your years of service. — ABDM Board



Bonnie

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**Spreading the gospel in the Deaf
community by equipping families.**



God Is Moving, cont'd from pg. 1

Last Wednesday, twenty youth sat riveted, while Harry Wood, one of our Deaf leaders, told them the story of Creation. We then had a blast with the youth acting out each part of the story. We can see they are excited and want to continue attending.

We give thanks that the Spirit can use those adolescent hormones for God's purposes! Please join us in praying that God will lead us as we continue to share with these wonderful teens!



Deaf Teen Fellowship Staunton ,VA

Marybeth & Chris Moore live in Staunton, Va with their 2 sons Mynor (13) & Mario (6) both boys are from Guatemala and Deaf. Chris is a Family Nurse Practitioner and Marybeth works part time as a Registered Nurse at the VSDB. Their family enjoys traveling together. In 2003 they visited the Maranatha School for the School for the Deaf in Jamaica.