

# HELPING HANDS

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Institute of Christian Education



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**“I say this because I know the plans that I have for you.”** Jeremiah 29:1 ~ by Bryan Eubanks

Do you ever find yourself saying **“Why Lord?”** I have, on numerous occasions. We have great plans that seem to be a good idea. Then stuff happens. This has been one of those years. We were making plans for our **All About Deaf Kids Fair** at CCU and had reserved the facilities. We were also scheduled to teach the **Deaf Ministries Class** at CCU this spring. But then! CCU closed. Our class was no more and we didn't have a location for the Fair. For us, this was a problem and an annoyance. For those who worked at CCU, it was devastating. They lost their jobs. There were students who no longer had a school to go to. Many folks are still out of work. Thankfully, most of the students were able to find



other schools. And for us, **Cincinnati State ITP** stepped in. Thanks in part to **Dawn Caudill** (left) we were able to move the Fair to their facilities at no charge. God says, **“I know the plans that I have for you.”**

Before the Corona Virus hit, we made plans for the All About Deaf Kids Fair which God blessed in spite of changing locations. About 250 people participated in this event. **Ash Huston**, our new part-time teen leader, was part of that group. (pictured, next column, leading the “Elephant Game.”)

Since Covid-19, Ash has continued his work, but we had to rethink plans of how to reach these Greater Cincinnati Deaf Teens. Ash is still reaching out and has started an online Bible study fellowship for deaf teens. (see Ash's update on Page 3.)

Corona has affected us in a lot of ways. **VBS for Deaf Kids, Deaf & Family & Friends Camp**

and **Lake James School of Missions** all had to be cancelled for 2020. There were also other closures and changes. Church buildings have closed, camps have had to reschedule or cancel activities.

Some mission buildings have closed and some missionaries have been



pulled from the harvest fields. But God knew all this ahead of time and His work continues.

Did you know Pam and I are both 69? At the recommendation of our doctors, our children and our board, we have agreed to reduce our work hours. This will allow us to keep serving while we train new leaders and plan for the future of the mission. Wait a minute! **Did I just say “plan?”** Yes, I did, but as usual with the understanding that **“God willing” the things we are planning will happen.** And if not? That's OK too. Jeremiah 29:11 says, **“I say this because I know the plans that I have for you.”** God knows our hearts and He also knows what's best for us. We are trusting Him to lead us.

Many of you are looking forward to getting to see what the new normal will be. We are too! God already knows what it will be. He can say, **“I know the plans that I have for you.”**



## “Known vs. Unknown”

by Pam Eubanks

Here we are . . . in the midst of unknowns regarding COVID-19. Where were you when the news began spreading through various media? **What changed for you that day?** What stayed the same??

I remember being at home by myself after Bryan went to the office. I was overwhelmed, trying to wrap my brain around the magnitude of this pandemic. I walked outside in our backyard. I noticed the birds were busy fluttering around the trees and garden, doing their usual “search and seize” for worms & seeds . . . grabbing straw and sticks to build nests. I saw flowers beginning to show their leaves, stems and buds! The early flowers were starting to bloom! As the days went on, **I noticed more and more things that were still healthy** and in the process of brightening our neighborhood. The birds were still singing, prepping for new life in their nests. Tulips, Daffodils, Irises, Honeysuckle, and Lily of the Valley were sharing their scents and beauty.



Yes, friends have been infected with the virus; some have died; some are getting better. Our son, **Paul Eubanks**, is an ICU nurse, caring for patients with the virus. His wife, **Caylyn**, is a hospice nurse, going to homes of patients. Prayers for them are going up to the Father.

I checked the mail at some point that afternoon. I grabbed the contents and went inside to see if there was anything more than ads and bills. **There was a letter from Greater Cincinnati Foundation!** Every year they offer a **SummerTime Kids Grant** for non-profit organizations to apply for funds to engage kids

in fun, educational activities in the Greater Cincinnati Communities. We received a SummerTime Kids grant again this year!!! **Yes . . . I cried!!! Happy, thankful tears!!**

***In the midst of so many unknowns,  
our Heavenly Father knows!***

GCF has helped Deaf Institute offer our **Summer Reading Program**. We are able to hire Deaf adult reading tutors, who go into homes where a deaf child lives. The tutor helps the family learn to read three children’s books during the summer, using English and ASL. In the midst of the summer, the families also get to be actively connected with a Deaf adult, and the Deaf community! We have monthly activities for all the families and tutors involved, so they can get to know each other in a fun, family-friendly environment!

**How will this summer reading program happen?** We are confident our Heavenly Father, who is very creative, will help us plan this program to fit with the families and tutors in safe, fun ways. Thankfully, through the internet, FaceBook, etc, people have already been able to connect for many kinds of encouraging, engaging interactions! **Pam Blair** has been helping me with the planning and vision for this summer. One thing is for sure: we will be encouraging the families to LOOK and SEE (Matthew 6:25-30)!



***Pam Eubanks with the Blair Family at STK***



## Deaf Teen Ministry Update

by Ash Huston



*Ash Leading a game at the All About Deaf Kids Fair*

Hi, everyone! Ash here. I've been working at the Deaf Institute for about five months now and want to tell you what I have been doing. Sadly, we had to cancel some events we planned but we are going to do them once we are able to again! Some of the events we did are **Silent Dinners** and **All About Deaf Kids Fair**.

I have met with **Chris Blair** several times while he mentors me and we work together to plan events and ideas. During one of these meetings I got to meet the youth minister at **LifeSpring Christian Church** and discuss him and the youth group at LifeSpring having fellowship and involving our teen ministry and I am very excited about that.

At the Silent Dinners, I like to play card games with the teens who attend. We chat and play and talk about other events we want to do. That is part of why I like the idea of doing a **game night**. At a Silent Dinner I asked the teens **"What kind of events do you want to do?"** And two of them told me they want to play games together. We planned a game night but sadly we had to cancel it because of COVID-19. We will schedule it again when we know it is safe.

Another thing I was working on was teaching an **ASL class** at **Mount Carmel Church** of

**Christ**. I still plan to teach this class but COVID-19 means it is delayed.

Because we are stuck at home, I have started an **online Bible Study for Deaf Teens**. We meet on Zoom and enjoy chatting and catching up before we start the Bible study. We want to make this a face to face Bible study when we can.

I hope everyone stays healthy and safe!

**Psalm 46:1-2** *"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea."*

### Mixed Blessings

We have had to cancel some events. We have also lost some good friends who are now home with Jesus. With the fears related to Covid 19, we were concerned that our **Summertime Kids Program** would have to be canceled, but the **Greater Cincinnati Foundation** has provided a grant to help with this and has given us freedom to vary from our original plans for the safety of the families. So with God's help and some creative thinking, we will continue to serve these families.

### Memorial Gifts

In Memory of **Elaine Carson**  
Bryan & Pam Eubanks

In Memory of **Janice Eckerle**  
Jerald Eckerle

In Memory of **Glenna Grass**  
Bryan & Pam Eubanks

In Memory of **"Buddy" Sarno**  
Bryan & Pam Eubanks

***Precious in the sight of the LORD  
is the death of his faithful servants.***



## Prayer Requests and Praises

**Never stop praying. Give thanks to God at all times. That is what God wants for you in Christ Jesus.**

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18, English Version for the Deaf

**Pray** for wisdom for our **Board** as we consider choices for the mission work of **Deaf Institute**.

**Praise** for **Ash Huston** who joined our staff part-time to work with Deaf Teens and help with other needs.

**Praise** as **Will Dickmann** has accepted the position of part-time Assistant Director of DI.

**Pray** for more **Deaf Leaders, Youth Workers** and **Christian Interpreters** to reach deaf kids, teens and adults with good news.

**Praise** for Opportunities for families with deafness through our **Gifts of Hope** and **Shared Reading Programs** and **SummerTime Kids Activities**.

**Praise** for another successful **All About Deaf Kids Fair** which was held at the **Cincinnati State Conference Center**.

**Pray** for **Deaf & Family & Friends Camp, VBS for Deaf Kids** and **Lake James School of Missions**. *They all had to be cancelled for 2020 due to Covid-19, but should resume in 2021.*

**Pray** **Corey and Sara Stapp** as they train for Deaf Ministry.

Pray for Bryan & Pam as he preaches and teaches at the **Overland Park Church of Christ Deaf Ministry** in Kansas, **Sept 27**.

Pray for **Deaf Missions' Jubilee Celebration** and the **Deaf Leaders' Conference, 9/30-10/3**.

Pray for **ICOM** in Indianapolis, **Nov 18-22**

*Your prayers and support help make a difference in the lives of families with deafness.*

### Introducing Will Dickmann

**Our new Assistant Director**



I am thrilled to join Deaf Institute as part-time

Assistant Director. I graduated from Cincinnati Christian University in 2009 with a B.S. in Youth Ministry. In 2014, I obtained a Master's degree in Sport Administration from Liberty University. The majority of my work experiences have been with deaf and hard-of-hearing students in residential schools. I also served as a Youth Leader in 2007-08 at Christ's Church of the Deaf in Cincinnati. I am married to my beautiful wife, Aalia. I am blessed to have three children - Amira, Maryam, and Nabeel. Currently, we live in Kalamazoo, MI.

**Please pray for DI during this transition.**

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