

HELPING HANDS

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“There is a right time for everything” Ecclesiastes 3:1 EVD ~ by Bryan Eubanks

In Ecclesiastes 3:1 English Version for the Deaf we read: “*There is a right time for everything, and everything on earth will happen at the right time.*” But do we really believe that? Many of us are probably thinking, “*a right time for Covid 19?*” That’s something we don’t want to believe. We live in a fallen world and in this world we face death, disease and pain. Sometimes it is because of our own bad choices. Sometimes it is the result of the bad choices of others. Until Jesus comes back, we will have to continue to face times like these.

I know we are all hoping and praying for a new season of life with Covid 19 gone or under control. Are we preparing for it? Here at **Deaf Institute** we are preparing! A new normal may include changes in our habits for our protection and the protection of others, but **we are making plans for a more fulfilling future.** Plans are underway for **Christ Church of the Deaf (CCD)** to meet for worship in person beginning Feb 7, with safety restrictions. **Rod Burke** will also continue to preach on **Zoom** and **Video Phone** for those who are concerned about their safety with meeting in person. **Western Hills Church of Christ** and **CCD** are making plans for **VBS** June



14-18. We have received word that our **Deaf & Family & Friends Camp** can meet July 15-18 at **Lake James Christian Assembly (LJCA)** in Angola, Indiana. **Tom Wink** is our Dean this year and he has already set up a

FaceBook page (**Deaf & Family & Friends Camp**). **Lake James School of Missions** will be meeting at LJCA July 25-31. Our **All About Deaf Kids Fair** is not meeting in March due to current Covid 19

conditions, but we are planning to get it set up for the Fall, at **Cincinnati State**.

God has used this season of Covid 19 to help us as a staff to become more effective in the use of **technology for outreach.** At age 70, Pam and I still much prefer in person contact with people, but we have been able to continue building **relationships** and **sharing the good news through technology.** Hopefully, in the near future, we will be able to do both.

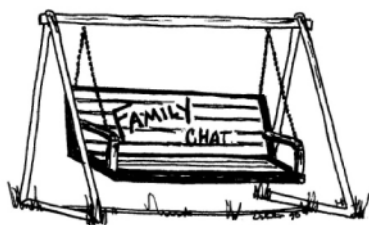


This season of Covid 19 is just one item of prayer concern for our mission work. Many of you know that **Will Dickmann** is serving part-time as our **Assistant Director.** He and his family plan to move from Michigan to Cincinnati in late March so he can start full-time in April. Then, with God’s help, Will steps into the Director’s position in July 2021. At that time, Pam and I will retire and serve as volunteers, rather than paid staff.

We also need your prayers to enable us to find the right people to train for **Kim Irwin’s** position as **Administrative Assistant** and **Pam Eubanks’** position as **Family Ministries Representative.** Both of these are very important part time positions.

Thank you for your prayers and God bless you for helping us make a difference!





“In The Midst”

By Pam Eubanks

How's your journey been since COVID restrictions began? What has changed? What stayed the same? What brings you stability? One of my favorite scriptures is **“The joy of the Lord will make you strong.” (Nehemiah 8:10)** When our children were growing up, we all learned to voice and sign this verse together, as one of our weekly verses. When Bryan asked if anyone had a verse to share, this verse was a fast “go-to” if no one had a new one! What a stabilizing verse for life in these times!

After we first found out **Nathaniel Eubanks** (22 months old at the time) was Deaf, we were trying to find our **“new normal.”** **Cecil Bennett**, founder & first director of Deaf Institute, came alongside us, bringing us books, videos, encouragement, etc. One of his first questions was - **“Have you found any JOY in it yet?”** **That question stopped me in my tracks!** My answer: **“Well, I haven't been looking for it, but I will start looking!”**

Soon after that question, I remember hearing **Nathaniel's laughter in the midst** of playing with his older siblings – it stopped me in my tracks! **Hearing him respond in such a normal way with the beautiful sound of laughter brought me JOY!!!** He didn't have to hear laughter in order to produce it! **It helped me find our new “normal!”**

Our Eubanks clan has a new member, **Amos Brandon Weiss!** Thanks to Facebook messenger video we have been able to chat weekly with the Weiss peeps in their safe surroundings! This past week, there was even popcorn! Recently, **Nathaniel Eubanks** chatted with us when he was on a break during his day at work as a painter in a 14-story Christian retirement facility. It has quite the view in Honolulu, Hawaii! **Paul and Caylyn Eubanks** and the boys live here in Cincinnati, so we get to share meals, fun and games with them often! Last week we enjoyed **David Eubanks** all by himself at our house while Paul had a meeting at the hospital where he is a nurse. So, David cheerfully reorganized our “Grandkid corner” in our living room! Now we have a calmer spot, with a few stuffed animals posed near where I work from home in the living room. It is a

reminder of sweet times with grands. What a bonus for getting more gray hairs and higher age numbers! **Harrison, Pat & Rebekca Green's son**, video-chatted with us recently, while giving us a video-tour of his room, his sister **Brooklynn's** room, and various other points of interest – from a kindergartner's point of view! **Kevin Eubanks**, along with his son, **Ethan**, video-chatted with us outside their home on a rather blustery day, as well! Now, we just need to catch up with **Ben Eubanks**, his daughter, **Bailie** & her hubby, **Hollis Burton** & their 4 children! It's been a joy to also hear how our children are also connecting with each other's families via the various internet choices! So, these challenging times still have **safe, fun ways to keep connecting and enJOY making memories!**

I recently connected with **Amanda Kallmeyer** via Facebook messenger. She told me their family has a new member--a boy to add to the two girls. She shared how **Emalyn** has been teaching her baby brother some signs! How precious is that?



The **Morgan** family contacted me around Thanksgiving to see if we knew of any families who could use a meal, so we shared three individuals who could benefit by their family's caring thoughtfulness.

The **Blair** family gained a new daughter through adoption this year as well! It's been a joy to see them help in many ways with encouraging other families with deaf children, as well as those who are dealing with adoption. **Chris**, the dad, is a Deaf Institute trustee, and **Pam**, the mom, is such a great includer of people -- young and old! And they just gained another son-in-law!!



In the midst of this new, yet still “temporary” normal form of your dailiness, I hope you will be looking and finding God's “hand-prints” of encouragement... “the JOY of the LORD!”

Is Your Food Running Out? Is it Time to Return to the Port?
by Will Dickmann



As I was evaluating my faith in God prior to COVID pandemic, it was similar to the length of time submariners knew when it is needed to return to the port when their was food running out. However, I went too long surviving with not much left. I dare to say, *“just crumbs”*. The average number of days staying under the water inside the submarine is 70, with enough food. So when you are eating bread with ketchup, you know it is the time to pull back into port. It would be acceptable at that point to say, *“enough is enough.”* Sometimes, we lose track of time and become distracted by many other things in life. This is an implication of having been under the water too long. This is true of my non-active mode on social media. I finally joined Facebook last November after deactivating my account for more than 10 years. I was surprised to see that some of my old friends and old teachers had passed away. I regret that I did not have a chance to reunite with these people.

In the last few weeks there have been positive developments for me connecting with more and more friends through Facebook. I recently had a striking conversation with a friend. I mentioned that I finally chatted with a certain person over **Facebook Video**. He was like, why are you talking to this person? I was suddenly taken aback by his candid comment. I consider this person as my friend, we have taken a few classes together back in high school. **1 Corinthians 2:16 NLT, “Who can know the Lord’s thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?”** But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ. That’s where our perspectives differ (or clash). I share the mind of Christ, I see this person as valuable, even though people of the world don’t clearly see beyond the outward appearance.

In addition to Facebook, I have successfully formed a **Personal Leadership Team**. It

consists of eight people including myself. I may be adding one more person to the team. We have met twice through **Zoom** and will continue to meet in February. My leadership skills are slowly beginning to blossom, thanks to the people I am surrounded with. I have also begun using a consultant for **Leadership Coaching**. He is a well-known Deaf Leader, **Rick McClain**. I have re-started the **Bible Study Life Group** meetings via **Videophone** with **Southwest Michigan Deaf**. We just added one new couple to the group. The excitement is nearing for my family and I to relocate to Greater Cincinnati Area sometime in March!

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of **George & Lucille Burns**
Enon Valley (PA) Church of Christ

In Memory of **Katie Byrnes**
John & Jayne Byrnes

In Memory of **Keith Gardner**
Bryan & Pam Eubanks

In Memory of **Robert Kegerreis**
Ruth Kegerreis

In Memory of **Warner Lasher**
Bryan & Pam Eubanks

In Memory of **Fred & Evelyn Popham**
Bryan & Pam Eubanks

In Memory of **Jack Taylor**
Bryan & Pam Eubanks

In Memory of **Marion & Edith Ulrich**
Lawton & Maria Ulrich

In Memory of **Gene Zerns**
Teri & Von Timmerman

In Honor of **April Tummins**
Ruth Kegerreis



Prayer Requests and Praises

“I pray that the God who gives hope will fill you with much joy and peace while you trust in Him.”

Romans 15:13, English Version for the Deaf

Pray for wisdom for our **Board** on April 24th as we consider choices for our mission work.

Pray for more **Deaf Leaders, Youth Workers and Christian Interpreters.**

Pray for **Ash Huston** as he works with Deaf Teens and helps with other mission needs.

Pray for **Will Dickmann** who is serving part-time as our Assistant Director while preparing to move to the Greater Cincinnati area in 2021.

Pray for **VBS for Deaf Kids June 14-18, Deaf & Family & Friends Camp July 15-18, and Lake James School of Missions July 25-30.**

Pray for ICOM in Richmond, VA, Nov 18-21.

Praise for help from you and organizations like **GE & GCF** who partner with us to help families with deafness through our **Gifts of Hope, Shared Reading Program and SummerTime Kids Activities.**

Praise for **Deaf Missions** as they celebrate their **50th Anniversary, September 10-13 in Omaha** and the completion of the translation of the **ASL Bible.** Go to www.deafmissions.com for more information.

Pray **Corey and Sara Stapp** as they continue their training for Deaf Ministry at **SIBI.**

Pray for God to provide someone to fill Kim's shoes and allow the mission to continue moving forward in an efficient way.

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

Hello all! Ash here

2020 was a crazy year for everyone, including the Deaf Institute teen group. Our first scheduled event was right at the end of March 2020 so we ended up having to cancel it because of COVID 19. Since then we've been meeting online for Bible studies, such as a video series from Deaf Missions, online games like drawing games and mini games, and just chatting and hanging out. We hope that sooner rather than later our options will open up and it will be safe for all of us to meet in person to hold events and fellowship. Until then we will continue staying in touch digitally and trusting that God is in control.

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