

HELPING HANDS

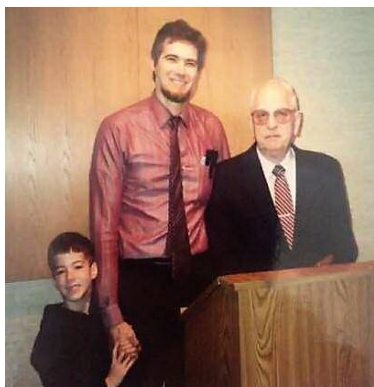
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“Hold On To the Hope We Have” ~ by Bryan Eubanks



“We must hold on to the hope we have, never hesitating to tell people about it. We can trust God to do what he promised.”

Hebrews 10:23 ERV

Over 30 years ago Cecil Bennett

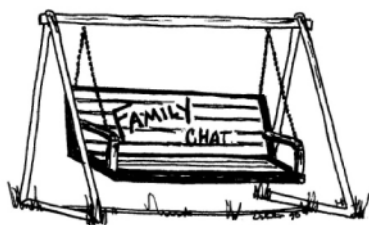
was hoping for a person to take over as Director of the Deaf Institute. He had been praying and searching for several years. God is good and with Cecil’s help and training, I was able to become Director. We have hoped and prayed for several years for someone to take my place as Director. Once again God proved to be good and He provided **Will Dickmann**. He will officially take over in July and he will be our first deaf Director .

God willing, Pam and I will retire and serve as volunteers, rather than paid staff. We are already scheduled for several events including our **Families First Summer Activities** for families with deafness which start in June and run through August, **Western Hills Church of Christ** and **Christ’s Church of the Deaf (CCD) VBS** June 14-18, our **Deaf & Family & Friends Camp** July 15-18 at **Lake James Christian Assembly (LJCA)** in Angola, Indiana, **Lake James School of Missions** July 25-30, **Deaf Christian Leaders Conference & Deaf Missions Celebration** September 9-12 in Omaha, and **ICOM** November 17-21 in Virginia.

Our hope is to get a lot of loose ends cleared up by July. *We 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. God provided **Veronica Matthews** to take on part of Kim’s responsibilities. We are still looking for someone comfortable using both sign language and spoken English to work with Will and Veronica.

No two people do things exactly the same. I am not Cecil and Will is not me. That’s a good thing. Each person brings their own gifts and talents into a position of responsibility. I am looking forward to seeing how God uses Will as the mission Director. Will and our board are already looking at making some *changes to improve our mission outreach*. Hopefully you will soon be blessed by an improved website, a new FaceBook page and more use of technology for sharing God’s word and our mission work.

We have developed *relationships* with many of you through our years of *sharing the good news*. We feel blessed and don’t want that to end. Pam and I hope to continue to meet and share with many of you in person as well as through our personal FaceBook pages and calls. *Our hearts, our prayers and our support are still with the mission and with all of the wonderful people like you who help to make it possible. God bless you for helping us make a difference!*



Found Any Joy?

By Pam Eubanks

After we first knew **Nathaniel Eubanks** (who was 22 months old at the time) was/is Deaf, we were trying to find our “new normal.” **Cecil Bennett**, Founder/1st Director of Deaf Institute, came alongside us, bringing us books, videos, and encouragement. 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 watching for it!”*

With the help of family, friends, and our church family, we were quickly immersed in the culture and language of the Deaf. Just as importantly, we met other families with deaf and hearing members. Cecil continued being an adopted grandfather throughout the rest of his life! He took us many places to visit churches, camps, & Vacation Bible Schools. He wanted to help people realize “up close and personal” how the church family can come alongside a family when one of their members has hearing challenges.

Before we learned about Nathaniel's deafness, **Sarah Nickels**, a college student from Cincinnati Bible College, who is Deaf, started coming to our church, Western Hills Church of Christ. Other college students decided to begin a signing choir. And the person leading it set up a series of free sign language classes, which were **scheduled to start... the Wednesday evening AFTER we found out about Nathaniel's deafness.**

Cecil invited our family to go with him several places to share about the mission outreach of Deaf Institute. He was brave to include our crew in his travels...then five children. Since he and Rena had six of their own, he was obviously prepared for our crew! He was in his late 70's at that time.

In 1988, we finally decided we needed to help Cecil in some way. Bryan figured we could volunteer once a month on a Sunday night to share with a church within a 50 mile radius of Cincinnati. *So, we prayed about it.* Then as we were taking the children to evening church, Bryan asked me to give Cecil a call after I put the boys in their classes. As I headed to the church's kitchen phone to call, the

phone started ringing, so I hurried to answer. It was Cecil, asking if he could speak to either Bryan or Pam Eubanks! I quickly mentioned who I was and that I was just getting ready to call him to see if we could come visit with him. So, in typical “Cecil” style, he quickly responded, “Ok! Come over after church and we'll talk!” When we arrived, he told us to *go first...so we shared our plan!*

His response: “That's sounds good, but I had something else in mind: I want to semi-retire by the time I'm 80, and Bryan, I want you to take over!” Bryan responded with “We'll need to pray about it and do some figuring of finances, etc.” *Well, we could see God's leading and guiding the juggling we needed to do to “shift gears” in our ministry & family plans, so we obviously said “yes!”* We began our wonderful journey with the Lord and Deaf Institute! Then a couple months after we said “Yes,” *we found out Maleah was on the way!*

As we began traveling, as well as being a family with a child who is Deaf in the midst of six children, **we found many different families who needed help in finding their “new normal!”** So, we brought various things that helped us with our journey and other things for the whole family to enjoy in their “**new normal**” **because deafness affects the dailiness of the whole family**, as well as the friends, neighbors, and relatives. **Becky Samborsky**, a friend from church, suggested we find cloth bags to place the gifts in, so they could use the contents wherever they were. An 'idea' artist from Western Hills Church of Christ, **Paulina Dolerhie**, designed the original logo for “Gifts of Hope!” **Norene Engled** & her sister, **Carol Hankins** supplied cloth bags with our Gifts of Hope & Mission logos imprinted. Many people and churches help us provide books, sign language videos, games and gifts for the whole family. **General Electric volunteers' annual Holiday Hope Campaign** shares gifts, books & toys for our bags!

Father God really knows how to bless in so many creative ways!

Please pray for the next “Family Ministry Representative.”

Light at the End of the Tunnel

by Will Dickmann



The dark world can't be forever dark; there is a light somewhere. You just have to seek for it. When it comes, the light will become bigger and bigger. The question is *when you see the light at the end of the tunnel, what is your first reaction?* Overjoyed? Hopeful? Disappointed? I imagine that some people would want to remain in the dark, not wanting to go out of the cave. It has become a comfort zone for many. **Change can be hard.** We resist growing and experiencing some changes. Perhaps transformation is a better word. Like many, I can understand that sentiment. However, we are not alone. We have a loving God waiting to protect and bless us. **Lamentations 3:25** says, **“The Lord is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for him.”**

A few weeks before we made the move from Michigan to Northern Kentucky, my wife, **Aalia**, expressed to me, “If I am feeling homesick, please give me two weeks to adjust and be respectful with my coping.” It was hard on her leaving her mother, brother and our community. Of course, I absolutely understood her feelings at that time. Do you want to know what happened to her after moving into our new home? She absolutely loves our new home, new surroundings, and new people. She never experienced the homesickness she was afraid of. Wow! I did nothing to improve the situation. **It was all the Lord's work.** We were also grateful to have our wonderful “second” parents, **Steve and Shelly Chu**, from Michigan. They helped us with the move.

We are settled in, but we're still unpacking. I am extremely humbled and thrilled to be able to work in the office after working from home in Michigan. We have been attending **Christ's Church of the Deaf** via **Zoom** weekly. We look

forward to visiting churches in the area. I am excited about attending **Deaf & Family & Friends Camp** in **July 15-18** with my family. **A Facebook page has been set up for Deaf Institute and for camp.** My **personal leadership team** has been busy discussing future changes to improve out reach. I have resumed meeting bi-weekly with **Dr. Rick McClain** for spiritual mentoring. The progress may appear slow on the outside, but I assure you we are making progress. It's been transforming.

Lastly, but most importantly, I could not have done this without the leadership of **Bryan Eubanks**. He has been extremely patient and understanding with me from the beginning. I don't think I could ever pay him back for all he has done for me. Thank you, Bryan! I remember your wife, **Pam**, expressed to me one time, **“thank you for letting God use you.”** **Not many hearing people think like you do about the deaf and hard of hearing community.** You believe in the Deaf, that **they can do it with the Lord's help.** Like the apostle Paul, you sacrifice the convenience of associating with hearing people 24/7 to make a dwelling among Deaf. Thank you!

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of J. **Richard Nixon**

Frederick & Nancy Burns
Bryan & Pam Eubanks
Donald & Catherine Hershberger
Robert & Sue LaBare
Chris McDaniel
Robert & Elenora Sanders
Joseph & Sharon Smothers
Todd & Barbara Witt

In Memory of “**Gene**” **Samborsky**

Bryan & Pam Eubanks

In Memory of **Sam Stone**

Bryan & Pam Eubanks



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 **Will**, his family and our **Board** as he transitions into the Director’s position.

Pray for our **Families First** Summer Activities.

Pray for **Ash Huston** as he works with Deaf Teens.

Pray for **VBS for Deaf Kids June 14-18**

Pray for **Deaf & Family & Friends Camp July 15-18 at LJCA**

Pray for **Lake James School of Missions July 25-30.**

Praise for **DCLC** and **Deaf Missions** as they celebrate their **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 for **ICOM in Richmond, VA, Nov 18-21. Visit us at Booth 443.**

Pray **Corey and Sara Stapp** as they continue their training for Deaf Ministry at **Sunset International Bible Institute**.

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 Families First Activities**.

Pray for God to provide people to fill the **Administrative Assistant** and **Family Ministry Representative** positions to allow the mission to continue moving forward in an efficient way.

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

Welcome To Veronica Mathews

Veronica and her husband Jeff of 38 years recently moved back home to Cincinnati after 28 years in Ministry. They worship at the Western Hills Church of Christ where Jeff serves as a Deacon and Veronica serves on the worship team. They have two grown children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Veronica has many years of experience as an Administrative Assistant and looks forward to the opportunity to learn ASL and discover more about the Deaf community.



We are truly thankful for Veronica joining our staff to care for some of the mission essentials. She is a blessing.

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