



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!

When I typed “Summer Bible” in Google, this is what it generated:

Genesis 8:22

“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease”

It’s an interesting topic. We’ve had problems with our weather across the globe lately. People think that the weather will change for the worse, especially with our climate change.

When I read this verse, I struggle with it. Here is my question for you:

Will we have a normal cycle of better weather in the future, no matter what happens with the climate changes or do we need to correct the climate changes to make the weather better?

You can reply to my questions at mkoterwski@gmail.com.

I will be happy to post your answers without your names in the next newsletter.

NOTE: There are no right or wrong answers with your comments!

WHAT’S UP WITH ELDA BOARD?

1) We will have ELDA Board meetings at Christ the King Church in West Chester, PA on Friday, July 19th. If you have any concerns or comments, please send to mkoterwski@gmail.com. I will share with the ELDA Board to see what we can do.

2) Some ELDA members will attend Red Bird Mission with a deaf group from the United Methodist Conference for the Deaf during the week of Aug 11, 2019.

3) The ELDA Board will continue working with the United Methodist Conference for the Deaf on the ELM conference that will be held in Orlando, Florida sometime in July 2020. Please, watch for the flyer and registration form on the ELM conference.

Have a great summer! God bless you all!

Mark Koterwski

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GROWING UP DEAF: THE HARD WAY

BY NATHAN ZASTOUPIL (CHICAGO LUTHERAN DEAF MINISTRY)

While growing up as a deaf child in a hearing family in Rockford, Illinois, I hated going to church in general. I had no available deaf resources to utilize while attending Sunday school, Confirmation, and worship services with no ability to learn about God. It was no fun as I just sat in these classes and services with boredom and the inability to follow what hearing people were saying. After becoming a young adult, I stopped attending church because my frustrations grew with the lack of available deaf resources, and I got to the point of giving up on learning about God.

In 2007, I first met my hearing wife, Carrie, and we got married in her Lutheran church, Lutheran Church of the Cross (LCC), in Arlington Heights, Illinois in 2009. My wedding had two interpreters, and I was truly blessed to have them there. The first five years of our marriage featured some tough times understanding each other when it came to discussions on the need to attend church more often. Carrie wanted to attend church more often while I didn't want to. I came to the point telling her it bothers me so much just to sit in church and not being able to follow sermon messages or even laugh along with the congregation when a pastor throws out a joke. There were times I get so crabby and depressed all day on Sundays after church because my internal frustration of no ability to understand kept boiling.

In 2014 my daughter, Nora's baptism took place at LCC, and a very special friend of my family arranged to have a sign language interpreter there. It was a wonderful blessing to have an interpreted worship service during Nora's baptism. I asked the interpreter, Patti Oberbeck, if she would be willing to come back to interpret again at LCC, and she said yes. My family friend made arrangements through now retired Pastor Dayton Williams to bring Patti to interpret at LCC on a once a month basis.

This was a beginning of a brand new self-funded Deaf Ministry at LCC. I arranged to have fundraiser events such as baseball & hockey outings and restaurant benefit nights to raise money to cover the expenses of the interpreting services. Many generous donations were given, and it provided the ability to bring the interpret-

er to LCC two Sundays a month.

In 2017, my family and I decided to leave LCC and transfer to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (POP) in Schaumburg, Illinois. After a few visits to POP, I had a strong vision of starting up a Deaf Ministry there. I met with Pastor Peter Hellstedt, and he supported my request of starting up a Deaf Ministry at POP. He told me he had experience worshipping with the Deaf in previous churches he worked at along with Pastor Dayton Williams.

A month later at the monthly meeting, the POP Council approved the request of having a new Deaf Ministry. Pastor Hellstedt and I formed a Deaf Ministry Committee. Patti began coming to POP to interpret two Sundays a month. Two new deaf people showed up. The POP congregation grew a huge interest and support in the new Deaf Ministry.

Many generous donations came through offerings. Fundraiser events took place to raise funds to cover interpreting expenses. The Deaf Ministry Committee and I taught sign language classes to the congregation. Pastor Hellstedt and I even taught the congregation "Peace Be With You" in sign language during Flu-season without needing to involve handshakes. We also did a joint sermon together last September involving the gospel of Jesus and the Deaf Man (Mark 7:31-37).

I connected with the Deaf Ministry at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Downers Grove, Illinois last summer, and we all agreed to alternate Deaf Bible Study together—every other month at POP and the other every other month at Gloria Dei. I am very grateful for the new friendships formed with Gloria Dei Deaf Ministry members of Bob and Ann Radkte, Harry and Donna Tarkin, and Bonnie Osborne. With both ministries together, we are known as the Chicago Lutheran Deaf Ministry of ELCA.

Bob Radkte and I had the chance to meet with ELCA Deaf Ministries Director, Pastor Beth Lockard and Pastor Russ Rockwell when they visited Chicago for meetings at the ELCA churchwide offices last February. Beth and Russ gave me a lot of wonderful feedback, ideas, and advice on how to expand and grow the POP Deaf Ministry. I am truly blessed for the new friendship and the ongoing e-mail communication I have together with Beth.

Ever since I started the Deaf Ministry at POP two years ago, I began opening myself by doing several presentations of sharing my personal deaf story of “Growing Up Deaf: The Hard Way” to the POP congregation. Other people heard about my presentations and offered to me to speak at other churches, sign language classes, and daycare meetings. Doing these presentations truly educated the hearing people on deafness, deaf culture, and how to communicate with deaf people.

Recently, the POP Deaf Ministry had a table booth established at the Deaf Nation Expo Chicago event on April 7. There were many local and out-of-state deaf people curious and interested in learning about the POP Deaf Ministry. I was also a motivational speaker presenting “Growing Up Deaf: The Hard Way” at the Expo, and I had a lot of response and questions from deaf people. My message impacted and motivated the Deaf people to fight for their deaf rights and believing in themselves without giving up.

More presentation opportunities of “Growing Up Deaf: The Hard Way” are starting to appear. I am also continuing to search for more presentation opportunities as I have a strong desire to share my message with hearing and deaf people.

With new beginnings of a new Deaf Ministry at POP, I have truly changed my perspective on going to church. I no longer hate going to church, and I truly love going to church with an interpreter there! I love learning about God!

For future presentation speaking opportunities, Nathan can be contacted by e-mail at zastman@hotmail.com

REMEMBERING KATHY KAMASKY

Kathy was born Oct 3, 1947 to the late William & Ruth (Haney) Vollmar Jr. She attended Howe and Washington Middle School before graduating from East High School in Green Bay. Kathy was employed by Kraft Foods until her retirement.

Many people have expressed their sadness in losing a special friend who was always compassionate, loving & willing to help wherever & whenever there was a need. She always made everyone’s day with a bright smile, a funny joke or tease. Kathy always held strong to her faith in God’s love.

She passed away on April 1, 2019.

Some of you may remember Sara and Kathy from WI when Hands of Christ



Ministry, HOC hosted the ELDA Conference in Appleton WI some years ago. Kathy also used to be Editor of the HOC

newsletter. They were members of Pastor Geisel’s church before the two of them moved to Tucson AZ three years ago.

Please, include Sara Rhoades and their family and friends in your prayers. Blessed be the memory of Kathy Kamasky. There will be an October 5th, 2019 memorial service for Kathy. It will be held at the North Wilemont Clubhouse at 445 North Wilemont Rd., Tucson, AZ.

ELCA DEAF MINISTRIES DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Dear ELDA Friends:
Summer is beginning and thoughts of activities and vacation pull us outside. If you are traveling, stop by one of our Lutheran or Methodist Deaf ministries and visit their worship service. The Lutheran ministries are listed in the ELDA Directory (Contact me if you want one) and the UMC ministries are

posted at <https://www.umdeaf.org/link.html>

Deacon Dorothy Sparks and I are trying to decide whether we will be able to go to **Jamaica** in September. If any of you are interested in a week of service leading a **Vacation Bible School** in Montego Bay at Jamaica Christian School for the Deaf, please contact us (lockardbeth@gmail.com) by July 15. The cost is about \$1200 and includes airfare, meals and hotel. Dates are possibly September 14--23.

We want to open our ELDA/ELM conference near Orlando, FL in July 2020 to deaf & CODA youth but we need a director or team to lead the youth for several days. If any of you have those skills, or know someone who does, please contact ELDA President, Mark Koterwski.

“BUY A BUS” FUNDRAISER!

If you have read our past newsletters, you will notice our partnership with the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN) Deaf ministry. When our team visited Nigeria in March/April 2018, we noticed that the Deaf church and school did not have any transportation. Pr. Ruth had to depend on vans belonging to the hearing churches and schools. The Deaf people walked, rode tiny taxis or mopeds, and carpooled in the few cars that they owned to come to church. Pr. Ruth could not visit the Deaf people in villages out in the bush, pick up people for church or students for school, or travel easily. One of her dreams was to have a “bus” (meaning “van”).

We spoke to different people and understand that a used van would be about \$7,000 USD. Our ELDA Conference voted to raise this money plus \$3000 for gas and repairs. This fundraiser of \$10,000 started in January 2019 and finishes June 30, 2020. Already, we have raised \$2000.

Can you help us buy a bus? Each of our ELDA ministries is asked to raise \$1250. Individuals can also give to this project.

We thank you for your generosity and ability to bless Pastor Ruth and her congregation. Your gifts may be sent to Jeff Panek, ELDA Treasurer, at 625 Mary Drive, Tea, SD 57064.

Summer blessings to each of you!
Pr. Beth Lockard ELCA Deaf Ministries Director



VAN MINISTRY

CLEAN WATER TO HAITI

BY JULIE FRIESEN

Hi, my name is Julie Friesen and I am Deaf and I am from Minnesota. Linda asked me to write an article to share my experiences in Haiti. I have been to Haiti five times with the Healing Haiti organization. Each time the experience is different. Recently, my team from Georgia who are interpreters and I went to Haiti through Healing Haiti on April 1-8, 2019. You can look up www.healinghaiti.org to see what the organization does and learn more information on how their mission trips/ work do.

During our mission work week, we served and helped deliver clean water to families living in Cite Soleil, the poorest slum in Haiti. The water we serve to those people

is free. In Cite Soleil, they do not have any working water/ wells.

We also visited Hope Church which is in Cite Soleil. They served the community. We

also visited and spent time with the orphans at LaLoo Orphanage. We also went and helped care for and nurtured children at the Home for the Sick and Dying.

We visited Monfort School (Catholic), in which lots of Deaf students attended. And we also visited the Haiti Deaf Academy students. We played and shared God's words with them. Seeing the children fills my heart! I know we do make a difference in their lives.

From my experiences with the Haiti trips, my favorite part is delivering water to Cite Soleil families and being with the children there to give them a lot of love. And I

enjoyed visiting the students at Monfort and Haiti Deaf Academy.

We want to thank you so much for praying for us during our stay in Haiti and you know there was chaos in Haiti before our trip due to a gas shortage and government protests. God bless you all.



The Healing Haiti team with team leader, Julie Friesen in the middle with a team of interpreters from Georgia.



WHAT IS LOVE?

by Don Rosenkjar

Many of us love dogs. Dogs can teach us, at least most of us, about love. I stepped on my dog's paw, and she was hurt. She did not bite me, but licked my hand, always forgiving me. That is love. When I get home from work, the dog wagged her tail with joy, and jumped all over me. That is love. The dog prefers to sleep with me on my bed rather than on her own bed. That is love. Love is a wonderful feeling.

Matthew 22:36-40: "Teacher, what is the most important commandment in the Law?"

Jesus answered: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind". This is the first and most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like this one. And it is, "Love others as much as you love yourself."

The shape of God's love in us is forever changing throughout all of our lives. The shape of God's love in us never stays the same.

If you are three or four or five years old, and we have these little people at our house, the shape of love is that of a three year old. A little three year old comes up and without ever asking or thinking about it, throws his or her arms around you, kisses, hugs, licks, pulls, tugs and slobbers all over you. Then, the shape of love begins to change because God's love in us is forever changing. You become a little older and let's say you are in fifth grade. Boys will hang out with other boys, playing ball. No girls in that group! Time passed. In seventh grade confirmation, the boys sit at one table and the girls at another table. The sexes are very much aware of each other, but only one courageous boy sits with the girls.

The shape of God's love in you and me changed again. I become a ninth grader or so. The ninth grade boys totally interact with girls, flirt with them, sit with them, and wander down the halls with them. Time passed and it was falling in love with another person. I would do almost anything. This wasn't the kind of love I felt when I was as five years old or a fifth grader with the boys. No, this love was the real thing. We got married. We had children. There was another shape to love. I had never fully anticipated what it felt like to have one's own children. The joy and the thrill. This was another, newer shape and shade of God's love in me.

The years went quickly by in our marriage, and I discovered that there was a quality of love that had always been there, but was something different than years before. It was this quality of friendship where your spouse becomes your best

friend. She became better than my best friend. These feelings of friendship weren't like falling in love as a teenager or like the passionate love of a young man for a young woman. The friendship was deepening.

And before you knew it, there were grandchildren. What does one say except that all or almost all grandparents know the feelings towards their grandchildren? What joy and happiness! What a feeling to have a grandchild snuggle into your bed with you, without all the work and without all the responsibility. You can send the grandchildren back home to their house with their parents, and what a life.

Life quickly changed again. I watch old people a lot in my job. Many of them take care of each other, as they grow older. There are the diseases, the incapacities, the strokes, the cancer, the bedpans, the baths, and the being forced to put them into a home that can care for them in a way that you cannot. It breaks a heart to put one's wife into an Alzheimer's unit. The shape of love has moved far past the passions of yesteryear. The shape of love has moved even past the friendship that had deepened through the decades. You now have the possibility of loving someone who does not recognize you. Their face and heart do not know you except for fleeting moments. That also, is part of the changing shape of love.

Death comes. The house is empty. The apartment is empty. Time is empty. The shape of love is a great, big gaping hole in one's heart...and the memories.

That's what life is all about. From the moment we are born until the moment we die; every second, every minute, every hour, every day, every month, every year, every decade, and every moment in between, God is trying to teach us one thing; to love as God loves.

God commands us to love one another in these ways. It is like God commanding fish to swim. It is like commanding birds to fly. It is like God commanding daffodils to be beautiful. When God commands us to love as God loves, God is simply commanding us to be the kind of people that we were created to be in the first place. We were created in the image of God; we are like God; and God is love.

And that is what it is all about.

It's about love, love, love,

It's about love, love, love.

Because God loves us, we love each other.

Father, mother, sister and brother.

PASTORY RUTH: EASTER CAMP REPORT 2019

This also comes from the Lord of Hosts, who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in working” (Isaiah 28:29)



Zonal Easter Camp was held from Thursday-Monday, April 18-22, 2019.

The theme for this year’s annual Easter camp is “The Power of Resurrection” (Matt 28:18, and Phil 3:10)

In the pictures, there were 124 deaf people who attended our Easter Camp in Yola. 22 of them declared to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Praise the Lord!

After the camp was over, some of them earnestly wished that the Camp would have lasted for one week instead of four days.

All of them spiritually and socially enjoyed the effective Camp activities such as Sermons, Bible Studies, Morning Devotions, and Health Talk. This year they missed Marriage Counseling and instead had Health Talk because our health is so important.

Two representatives from Ibadan and Kaduna respectively sent Pastors Muniru Adebayo to the Boys Bridge which played an important role during the Camp.

Song numbers are higher than last year: Guyuk, Mubi, Michaka, Jimeta, Remi Education Fundamental, Ganye, and Savannah Sugar and none from Numan because they got support to attend another camp in Jos.

We all praised God for the success of the Easter Camp 2019.

We really appreciate your support, contributions and encouragement, especially from the Deaf Church in Copenhagen, Denmark. It’s God who will reward you sufficiently.

Affectionately Yours in Jesus Christ.

Ruth Ulea



MINISTRY NEWS- WORD OF LIFE DEAF

WOLD had a wonderful and glorious celebration of worship during Easter! Attendance at Good Friday worship was the highest it's been in 5 years, and Easter Sunday worship was at a 3-yr. high. Members enjoyed seeing the special decorations for Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

Things are quieting down as we head into the summer. Bible study continues through May, but breaks for the summer. The current study is "Bible Stories to Know." So far, we've studied 4 stories each on Creation, Abraham, Jacob & Joseph, the Exodus, the Law & the Wilderness, the Judges, David, From Solomon to the Divided Kingdom, Elijah & Elisha — 32 stories so far! We may cover at least as many more until the "Bible Stories to Know" study is finished. Anyone can review the stories we've studied by going to WOLD's website at www.wordoflifedeaf.org/bible-study.

In June, WOLD will have another "Meal-and-a-Movie" event, showing "The Intouchables" — a wonderful story about a friendship that blossomed and grew out of a health-care relationship. In July, WOLD will celebrate its 25th Anniversary with a banquet. In August, WOLD will join CTK's "picnic worship."

WOLD remembers its "sister" ministries every week in prayer — may God's peace be with you all!
Pastor Russ Rockwell

IN THE NEWS

One of WOLD's members is "in the news," and I thought you might appreciate knowing about it. Andy Stender is Deaf and Blind ("DeafBlind"), and you may have met him. His world is unique, and his perspective is always instructive. We (I include myself) learn so much from him.



is

Recently, [Andy was featured in a 23-minute interview](#) for the online magazine, [Revelo](#). Watch it if you have time; forward it to people you think might be interested in it. Andy reveals some things about what his world is like. The interview left me with a sense of appreciation and gratitude. If you watch the interview, let me know, and I'll pass your comments onto him! Peace to you!



MINISTRY NEWS- BREAD OF LIFE DEAF

BOLD invited Lariba Aputuligo, a young deaf lady to share her story about her culture and school in Ghana, Africa. She has been staying in USA as an exchange student for a year. She stays with Linda Fairbanks' son, Sonny and Lisa Wasilowski and their family. Lariba participated in sports, drama and did well at MSAD. She got many awards at the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf in Faribault. We hope she will share information with the Deaf people in Ghana. Sonny explained to our group about the Youth Exchange Program and how anyone can apply to be a host parent. We thank them for coming to BOLD and meeting with our group.



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.

HISTORIC AGREEMENT

*AUTHORS: Phil Dignan and Andrew Greenman, '10,
Reprinted from Gallaudet University News, NOVEMBER 15, 2018*



A cooperative agreement involving Wesley University (Ondo City, Nigeria), the Nigerian National Association of the Deaf (NNAD), and Gallaudet University was signed on November 5, 2018, at Gallaudet University Museum. The historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing, part of a week-long visit by representatives from Wesley University (WU) and NNAD to learn about Gallaudet's learning environment and methods, and branches of academic disciplines offering education and employment opportunities to deaf Nigerians, was supported by Dr. Carol J. Erting, provost, and Dr. Khadijat Rashid, '90, School of Education, Business, and Human

Services dean.

Prior to the signing, the Nigerian group met with staff from the Center for Bilingual Teaching and Learning, Clerc Center, and Gallaudet Innovation and Entrepreneurship Institute, Dr. Elavie Ndura, vice president, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; and President Roberta J. Cordano. The group was also given a whirlwind tour of Washington D.C., including a stop at the new Starbucks on H Street staffed with American Sign Language-fluent employees.

Arranged by Gallaudet's Office of the President and the Office of the Research Support and International Affairs, the visit and signing continues the legacy of the late Dr. Isaac Agboola, '81 & G-'83, former dean, to connect Gallaudet to the Nigerian deaf community.

"The seeds of this partnership were planted in connections made by my predecessor and dear friend, Dr. Agboola," said Rashid. "The fact that this signing includes the Nigerian local deaf community as an equal partner with the cooperating universities provides fertile ground for rich interaction and long term sustainability. The collaborative agreement is rooted in Gallaudet's long tradition of sign language-centered education and Wesley's commitment to education for Nigerian deaf youth. Together, we can truly make a positive impact on deaf education in Nigeria and for the African deaf community more broadly."

"Examples of our community's engagement in the world are bountiful," said Erting. "Such global-minded activities in learning, teaching, and collaborating, whether in other nations or on campus, have been part of Gallaudet's identity since our founding in 1864. Now, your enthusiasm and actions will inspire and guide this effort to bolster our commitment to become a truly global university."

During the ceremony, Cordano emphasized how the partnership strengthens Gallaudet, as well as advanced deaf education in Nigeria and other countries in Africa. "This collaboration is a shining example of how we can build and strengthen our deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind communities wherever we are," said Cordano. "Sign-

ing the MOU is just the beginning. This has been, and is designed to be, a learning partnership, and I commend everyone involved in this historic collaboration—the teams of people from Nigerian National Association of the Deaf, from Wesley University, and from Gallaudet—for their spirit of learning and open-mindedness. “That spirit and continued energy will allow us to move forward and achieve the ambitious goals of such an innovative and dynamic partnership.”

NNAD is a representative body of deaf people across Nigeria committed to a society free from discrimination against deaf people through advocacy, empowerment, and education. The organization leads the country’s efforts to involve deaf people in all planning and programming matters affecting the deaf community, recognizing sign language as the linguistic identity of the deaf community and the first language of deaf children, and effectively mobilizing the deaf community towards contributing to national development.

Visiting representatives from NNAD were Dagbo Suleiman, president; Bukola Fakunle, National Social Welfare secretary; Anthonia Isiguzo, past president; and Abdulmumuni Sulayman, assistant to the president.

Wesley University is a private university whose Board of Trustees chair, Sir Demola Aladekomo, is Agboola’s cousin. Funded by the Methodist Church of Nigeria, the university is committed to being a center of excellence in knowledge creation by offering a balanced education for self-reliance and self-actualization through the development of entrepreneurial skills, and producing graduates that are self-reliant and responsible citizens who are perceptive of the needs of society.

Along with Aladekomo, visiting representatives from Wesley were Sunday Ukachukwu, dean, principal officer, and vice chancellor; Chimaobi Madubuiké, pro-chancellor and Governing Council chair; Chioma Obasi, registrar; and Sir Peter Olorunfemi, Board of Trustees consultant.



SHOWN IN ATTENDANCE TO A SIGNING GESTURES CLASS WITH STUDENTS (FROM LEFT) CAREY BALLARD, JERROD GRILL, AND MANJU CANUEL ON NOVEMBER 1, THE NIGERIAN CONTINGENT LEARNED ABOUT COMMON GESTURES.

“Gallaudet is a leader in subduing barriers, limitations, and difficulties, and building hope through empowerment through education,” said Ukachukwu. “With this partnership we now bring the same to Nigeria as we work together to serve humanity.”

Suleiman agreed with Ukachukwu, asking for a moment to reflect on the University’s history and thanking Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, Andrew Foster, and Agboola. He also mentioned Gallaudet alumni and Nigerian pioneers, Gabriel Adepoju, ’69, G-’71, & PhD ’91, Ezekiel Sambo, ’70, and Peter Mba, E-’67, who upon graduation, founded schools for the deaf in Nigeria.

“Their work as individuals lay the foundation for our collective work together to advance the needs of deaf people,” said Suleiman. “This MOU is not just about the signatures, it is about the relationship and the commitment to work

HISTORIC AGREEMENT CONTINUED

together. That tripartite MOU shows that we understand that deaf, blind, disabled people must be included in the planning and implementation process. It does not leave it to hearing people to decide what the deaf community needs. Instead it breaks down those barriers and models ‘nothing about us, without us.’ NNAD is proud to work alongside Gallaudet and Wesley for the greater good of the Deaf Community in Nigeria and worldwide.”

“There are 200 million Nigerians, potentially as many as 15 million of whom are deaf. How do we empower them?” asked Demola. “I leave you with two words: empowerment and education. This is how we change the world.”

Photos by Zhee Chatmon.



FOLLOWING THE SIGNING, THE NIGERIAN CONTINGENT WAS TREATED TO A CAMPUS TOUR AND MET WITH THE CAMPUS DESIGN AND PLANNING, DEAFSPACE DIVISION.



CORDANO SIGNS THE MOU. FROM LEFT, SITTING: SULEIMAN, CORDANO, AND UKACHUKWU. STANDING IS DANILO E. TORRES V., G-'11, INTERNATIONAL LIAISON SPECIALIST, OFFICE OF RESEARCH SUPPORT AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.



THE SIGNING COMMENCES. FROM LEFT: SULEIMAN AND RASHID.



THE CONTINGENT WAS TREATED TO A PAN-AFRICAN DINNER, HELD ON NOVEMBER 2 AT PEIKOFF ALUMNI HOUSE ("OLE JIM").

PRINCE OF PEACE EARNS GRANT MONEY TO INSTALL T-COIL

By Nathan Zastoupil

Executive Director Mark Walther, Pastor Peter Hellstedt, and I spent over a year researching together our congregation's growing needs of an assistive hearing system for Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Schaumburg, IL. There are so many members with hearing aids. Last January, we met with Assistive Hearing Systems / Hearing Induction Loop Specialists when they came and performed a free examination of the Worship Center.

We learned a lot about what exactly a hearing loop is. It is a special type of sound system for use by the hard of hearing with hearing aids in various places such as a shop, office, church, theater, or auditorium. The hearing loop provides a magnetic, wireless signal that is picked up by the hearing aid when it is set to the T-COIL setting. This sound system has the capabilities of enhancing speech, cutting out unwanted background noise and allowing the sounds to go directly to the hearing aid.

The AHS specialists determined and proposed the costs of having a Hearing Loop at Prince of Peace would result a total of \$11,850. In their proposal, they stated that installation will anchor copper wires to the basement ceiling under the Worship Center, and the feeder line will run to the AV rack. The hearing loop would be connected to the main system making speech available.

We, along with a Deaf Ministry Committee member Janet Ichida, spent countless of hours writing and filling out a Metropolitan Chicago Synod / ELCA Grant Mission Application last March. Pastor Hellstedt was reached by the Chicago Synod office late May confirming that Prince of Peace will be receiving a \$10,000 grant for the Hearing Loop.

We came in a unanimous agreement that Hearing Loop's remaining cost of \$1,850 will come from the Deaf Ministry Funds. The Deaf Ministry Funds have been strong and increasing due to many generous donations and successful fundraiser events. In other words, no church budget funds will be used at all.

We recently announced at the June 2 Annual Congregation meeting about this exciting opportunity of having a Hearing Loop installed at Prince of Peace. The congregation unanimously motioned and approved the purchase of the hearing induction loop system through AHS in the amount of \$11,850 with funding for the project secured by the ELCA Mission Grant (\$10,000) and Deaf Ministry Funds (\$1,850).

The Hearing Loop will be installed at Prince of Peace during the week of June 17-21. Afterwards, there will be a highly valuable one-hour community outreach presentation to the church staff, congregation members, and friends discussing how the new hearing loop system works, how users can access the system, and how to locate other looped facilities in our community.

Thanks to Be God!

GOD WINK:

MY JOURNEY TO BECOME A PASTOR BY RUTH ULEA



My Journey To Become a Pastor by Pastor Ruth Ulea

To become a pastor, a student must attend a seminary program for four years with first two years focusing on academic studies, then the third year doing an internship before returning to seminary for the last year of academic studies.

I enrolled as a student at Bronnum Lutheran Seminary Mbamba. I completed two years of study before doing an internship in my third year of the program. We had to do practical work with our district pastor under supervision and guidance from the seminary with assigned work in different areas to learn all that a pastor does.

Then in 1992, we were to return to Seminary to finish for the last year of the program.

After I graduated from Bronnum Lutheran Seminary in November 1992, I continued teaching religion in Technical college when Jette Nggida heard that I was in Government. She sends a letter stating that I should come back and work with the LCCN. There's a saying in Africa that goes, "If you educate a boy, you educate an individual but if you educate a girl, you educate not the individual but the whole Nation."

Taking the letter written by Jette Nggida to my district pastor in the village was a big challenge. In Africa, a woman has less regard in pastoral work the LCCN than a man. In our culture, the woman was not allowed to

lead in any role. It is taboo due to our customs. That meant women were not allowed to be pastors. In Christ, all men and woman, are equal before our God. All of us are seeking the kingdom of heaven. It was not an easy task due to a lot of misunderstandings of the scriptures and the customs.

In Africa, there's a saying that "a woman's place is in the kitchen." Therefore, women should not be leading in the church. I am also Deaf, which made it more challenging.

In Christ, we are all made free to serve as God may call us while Deaf or hearing, while a man or a woman, but in Africa, the kitchen is the woman's place!

My journey as towards my goal as an ordained pastor is like crying in the wilderness from 1992 to 2013. This is not an encouraging situation for the Deaf people in the LCCN. We continued to pray for God to provide us with the spirit, and value to the physically challenged person among us in the church.

I was supposed to be the first Deaf woman in Africa to be ordained as a Pastor in LCCN 1993, but due to lack of understanding about the Deaf, it was not until 20 years later in 2013 when I finally became ordained as a pastor.

It's with a thankful heart to God that I submit this story. I'm grateful for God using Jay Johnson, Joshua Abu, and Bishop William to help me with this journey to become an ordained pastor.



CHILDREN'S DAY IN NIGERIA

May 27th is Children's Day Celebration in Nigeria.
Photos sent by Pastor Ruth Ulea.



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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!