

Hands for the Harvest

CID Lutheran Deaf Mission
104 Finley, Jacksonville, IL 62650

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CID_Deaf@hotmail.com

Pastor Tom Phillips
(217) 245-0180 (VP/TTY/Voice)

The Bible Study that Didn't Happen. Or Did It?

Last fall I performed a wedding for a young Christian couple in Quincy, Illinois. During premarital counseling the couple expressed an interest in starting a Bible study in their home. Well, of course I agreed. The Bible study was scheduled to begin March 6. We spread the word and planned our activities. We were all set to go.

In the afternoon I taught "Christian Care-Giving" in one location. Then I went out for fast-food before the new evening class. As I was eating I received a text message from the host and hostess... they had been in a motorcycle accident and were on their way to the emergency room. Needless to say, our planned Bible study was cancelled.

I replied, "Which hospital?" "Blessings Hospital in Quincy. Please come!" I was less than a mile from the hospital! When I arrived at the ER, there were four deaf individuals, a cop, and the usual ER staff. The young lady was in the exam room. The ER nurse was handling the initial check-up, but there was no interpreter present. They asked me to interpret. I made clear that I was not certified, but certainly willing to help. Since the injuries were minor, we moved to a waiting room. The officer approached and asked me to communicate with the deaf couple, so he could prepare an accident report. A few more people arrived... word travels fast via text message!

As we waited, we recalled Bible verses from premarital counseling. The young man asked me to pray. I asked the Father to guide the skills of the medical team and bring healing and comfort to the young couple. I prayed that He would especially bring healing to the hearts of all gathered and create and strengthen faith in their hearts. I closed with a blessing and a gentle hug.

I guess sometimes our plans just don't quite line up with His plan. Just another example of God's providence!

Spread the News!

One of the most difficult aspects of our ministry is finding the deaf, especially children attending local schools. Please tell your friends about our outreach efforts. Share with them the latest information on meeting times and places, newsletters and special events. All this is posted at: www.IllinoisDeafLutherans.com. Help us find and reach the deaf in your communities. Come and learn about our deaf outreach. Visitors welcome!

Welcome Kits: Now Is the Time to Plan

We reach out to the students of the Illinois School for the Deaf. Our goal is to bring them into contact with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We also seek to support them in their home away from home (the dormitories). One way we do this is through giving the students "Welcome bags." The contents are listed on the back of this newsletter. Every year we hand out more than 200 bags to the students and their younger siblings.

So far, we have zero commitments!

Also during the year we collect personal care items to give to the students. These items are distributed by the ISD Health Center. We need items such as shampoo, body wash, deodorant, toothpaste, tooth brushes, etc.

If you or your group wishes to help out, contact Pastor Phillips at the address at the top of this newsletter.

Demolition Begun... Meet the Challenge!

Last week we began the demolition of the old parsonage! We are waiting for construction plans. Everything is gaining momentum. We seek sources of funding. Various gifts and grants have brought us to about 80% of our goal. Now CID Church Extension Fund has offered a challenge grant of \$10,000. They are challenging us to raise \$10,000, then CEF will match it. We have about \$9,000 to go! Can you help us meet our goal? Just send your gift to Central Illinois District, 1850 N. Grand Avenue West, Springfield, IL 62702. Write "Deaf Min Challenge Grant" in the memo line.

Planning a Servant Trip?

But want to keep the cost down? How about a trip to Central Illinois? We have long list of projects (indoors and out) for individuals or groups. Come on out and join us and work alongside our members! In June, we have a group coming from NID LWML are already making plans with two groups for spring cleaning and landscaping. Individuals or groups up to 15-20 can easily be accommodated. When will your group come? Now is the time to start planning! Just give us a call! Ask for the latest "Wish List" to see upcoming projects and servant opportunities.

Please Photocopy and Distribute!
For Mission Presenter Info or To view online:
www.IllinoisDeafLutherans.com

“ISD Welcome Packets”

Every year we hand out welcome packets to the Illinois School for the Deaf students. The idea is to make the transition from home to dorm life a little more comfortable. You can be a part of this project!

By August 1, we need age appropriate materials for 30 elementary, 40 junior high, **140 high school**. All materials should have a fairly easy reading level.

We will add snacks to the bags when we pack them in August. Local groups assemble the bags August 1-10.

Thanks!

Pastor Tom Phillips, CID Deaf Ministry

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In a one-gallon Ziploc bag:

Toothbrush (120 child & 100 adult)

Toothpaste (travel size)

Christian tract or booklet

Small Notebook

Small game/activity (child/teen)

Prepaid postcards (2-3)

Pens, pencils (Christian message?)

Christian bookmark, etc