

Hands for the Harvest

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April 2007
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Deaf Pah! What?

This is a sign language way of saying "Eureka!" or "Success!" or "I got it!" It's what Jesus might have signed from the cross, "It is finished!"

"Deaf Pah!" is also the title of the lay-leader training materials developed by the Ephphatha Conference (LCMS pastors of the deaf). This curriculum is in use all across the USA, Canada, Ghana, and India.

In the LCMS, around 45% of our deaf ministries have closed in the last 10 years. The purpose of "Deaf Pah!" is to "fill the gap." Our goal is to train deaf

Lutherans leaders in Christian doctrine & practice, and to prepare them to "give an answer for their hope in Christ." In this way the evangelization of the deaf can continue even if their called workers lose funding. But there is still much training to do.

The "Deaf Pah!" lessons are taught in American Sign Language by LCMS pastors. The fifteen courses cover various topics such as "Getting to Know Jesus", Koehler's "Dogmatics", and Religious Bodies in America. Each student is mentored by a pastor as they work through the material. Every year, through private donations, the Deaf Lutheran Mission Society holds week-long "Deaf Pah!" seminars in various places. These workshops are offered free of charge to all participants. A full set of 41 DVD's costs \$50. Books and study guides are also purchased for each course. These items are on our "wish list".

Hands-on Service!

Do you have a green thumb? Anybody licensed for electrical, plumbing, or general contracting? Do you have an "iron will" when it comes to sorting old Sunday school materials and other items? Do you have a roofing crew looking for an opportunity to serve? Now is the time to be planning a servant trip to Jacksonville. We have projects for all skill levels. This year we are hoping to replace a roof, as well as do plenty of painting and cleaning. Groups of all sizes and individuals are welcome!

Got the Picture?

In Jacksonville, our Sunday morning Bible study includes people of all ages. Our youngest participant is 15 years old. Our senior participant is in his sixties.

The other day we were reading Romans 10:8-13. It seems like a simple verse, but one person just didn't get it. I asked if he understood all the words. He said, "Yes, I can read the words but I can't see the picture." This is the deaf way: see the picture, sign what you see. The transfer from English to sign is not always smooth.

Then it hit me. How many people hear or see or read the Word, but do not really internalize (read, mark, learn and inwardly digest) it? If we cannot envision the love of the Savior, His innocent suffering and death in the place of sinners, then we will never really understand how He saw the multitudes of helpless harassed sheep, the field ripe for the harvest, the lack of workers in the field.

Time to Gather Welcome Bags

In the past, CID LWML, individual societies, and Sunday schools have gathered school supplies for our welcome bags. On registration day, we give the bags to students from the Illinois School for the Deaf. We are hoping to gather 225 bags this year. As of this writing, we have no commitments to gather bags. The specific items needed are on our "wish list." For more information, contact Pastor Phillips.

Looking for Deaf Contacts

Important: Do you know a Deaf or HH individual within 30 miles of Bloomington or Decatur? Please forward their name (& address) to Pastor Phillips! Using the "Deaf Pah!" materials, we began a twice-a-month Bible study in Decatur. Plans are in motion to start a new group in the Bloomington-Normal area meeting at Wittenberg Chapel.

Please pray for...

- "Deaf Pah!" students
- The Decatur area Bible study group.
- International Deaf Mission efforts.

Please Photocopy and Distribute!
View online at www.IllinoisDeafLutherans.com