



Welcome to the Spring newsletter of the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf. Thanks to all of you who wrote articles. We are blessed by so many hard-working individuals building ministries for Deaf, deafened, hard of hearing and deaf-blind people nationwide and internationally. Our focus this issue is the National Committee and our national convention.

It's not too late to attend the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf National Conference July 17-20, 2003. The theme of the conference is M&M: Missions and Ministries. You will see those little candies that melt in your mouth and not in your hand in an entirely different way after the convention.

The conference opens with a concert Thursday evening, July 17th, by Mark Mitchum. Mr. Mitchum and Melanie Bell will lead an interpreter's workshop earlier that day, so all interpreters should arrive Wednesday evening for a workshop you won't want to miss.

Mark Mitchum is a Deaf Christian Concert artist who uses what he calls "Sign Art" to convey a unique interpretation of the songs he performs. In his own words to the hearing world: "while you hear the music with your ears, I add visuals to it, so you can hear it your heart." Visit him at his web site www.markmitchum.com.

Father Cyril Axelrod will be our keynote speaker on Friday. Father Axelrod is the world's only Deaf-Blind priest. He is originally from South Africa, but has lived in Macau, China and received a humanitarian award for his ministry there. He was a featured speaker at Deaf Way II last summer at Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C.

Anthony Natale of *Mr. Holland's*

Opus and *Jerry McGuire* fame will visit the conference Friday following his appearance in New York on Good Morning America. We are excited that Anthony will be able to attend.

Visit the many booths at this year's conference to learn more about Christian products and services available. Workshops will range from Bible studies to money management to beginning ministries for Deaf, deafened, deaf-blind and hard of hearing people.

The Friday evening keynote speaker will be Barbara Kirsch. She will share about our Christian heritage through the teachings of the Jewish Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath. Ms. Kirsch is a deafened woman who grew up in the Jewish culture.

Saturday opens with a dramatic workshop directed by Illuminations, a dramatic troop from Houston who perform shadowing in most every on and off Broadway show which is brought to Houston. Shadow interpreting and performing is an exciting way of making theater accessible for Deaf people.

Another first for the conference this year is a special Youth Conference which includes a visit to Six Flags Over Texas, a teen leadership bible study, arts and crafts and much more.

Do make plans to attend the conference. For details visit our newly revised web page www.umcd.org, the South Central Jurisdiction web page at <http://pages.sbcglobal.net/rick.springer/deafministry.html> and this newsletter. Thanks much to the SCJ crew putting on the conference. See you in Dallas!
Candis Shannon, UMCD President

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We need your help. Every four years, United Methodists from around the country and around the world meet for worship, study, and business related to the ministry of the United Methodist Church. Each Annual Conference area from the USA and each Central Conference from around the world has representatives come for this conference which we call the General Conference. This is the top decision-making group for the United Methodist Church. The General Conference sets policies, statements, and authorized funding for various ministries of our church as a global body of Christ.

The next General Conference will be in 2004 in Pittsburgh, PA and the National Committee on Ministry with Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind People has been hard at work putting together legislation for General Conference that will allow the Committee to continue to receive funding to do its important work.

The National Committee came about through the efforts of UMCD Members. UMCD is a grassroots organization of, by and for Deaf, late-deafened, hard of hearing, deaf-blind and fellow hearing people whose mission is to encourage the growth of ministries for and by Deaf, late-deafened, hard of hearing and deaf-blind people. This includes encouraging the training of sign language interpreters and ministers that understand our needs and gifts, teaching about American Sign Language and assistive listening devices, helping each other to grow spiritually, socially and vocationally, and so much more. UMCD members realized a Committee funded by the United Methodist Church was needed. Holly Elliott's stirring paraphrase of Matthew 25:31-46 at the United Methodist General Conference of 1992 was instrumental in helping move ahead the legislation to form what became the National Committee.

The National Committee today receives funding to educate United Methodists and encourage the growth of ministries. Workshops to increase awareness and understanding of our diverse population are held throughout the country and grants help with the growth of ministries here and in other countries. Help us continue these good works with your support of the petition for continuation of the Committee to be presented for approval at the 2004 General Conference.

After this summer, your Annual Conference will have a list of delegates voted to represent YOU at General Conference. Ask your minister who these people are and how to contact them. Then write them a letter, send them a card, give them a call, meet with them, find a way to show these delegates that this legislation is important. It is easy for delegates who get stacks and stacks of proposals and petitions to see one more petition as "just an issue," but when you contact them, it makes an "issue" become a "person" and they will see the difference made in your life that can happen for others.

Make copies of the petition, which follows on page three and distribute them to your delegates and pastors. Spread the word and we will continue to spread awareness and understanding. The "opening" of the church's ears and minds depends on the full inclusion of Deaf, late-deafened, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind people as children of God.

For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

(I Corinthians 12:13 [NRSV])

Petition to General Conference 2004 for Continuance of the National Committee on Ministries with Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing & Deaf-Blind People

Whereas, the National Committee on Ministries with Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-blind people has reached 28 Annual Conferences, 8 seminaries and 6 General boards and agencies with awareness events in the 2000-2004 quadrennium;

Whereas, our work as a committee has provided seed money for projects in all Jurisdictions of the United Methodist Church and mission work in six nations overseas;

Whereas, our first quadrennium successes are only a beginning for further work in furthering awareness and resourcing of ministries with Deaf, late-deafened, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind people;

Therefore, be it resolved that the 2004 General Conference of the United Methodist Church authorize an allocation of \$350,000 in the 2004-2008 quadrennium for the National Committee on Ministries with Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind People, thereby continuing its vital work with God's people both nationally and globally through awareness events, grants, publications, and other-God-guided ways."

Rationale:

The 2000 General Conference authorized formation of a funded National Committee to spread awareness, provide resources, and educate our denomination on how to strengthen our connection with culturally Deaf, late-deafened, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind communities.

During the 2000-2004 quadrennium, the National Committee has touched every jurisdiction of our national connection and answered every request for an awareness event by Annual Conferences, seminaries, and general boards and agencies. These awareness events provided opportunity for people to learn about the unique experiences and gifts that Deaf, late-deafened, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind people bring to the United Methodist Church.

Through the subcommittee on grants, local churches were empowered to purchase technology for improving their assistive listening systems and real-time captioning to make their worship service and church life more inclusive of late-deafened and hard of hearing people. Churches were able to obtain seed money and begin outreach with culturally Deaf communities in ministry. Deaf children were given the opportunity to have Christian camping experiences. Deaf-blind adults from around the nation were able to gather for a Christian camp. Deaf, late-deafened, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind people were empowered to reach out in international mission to connect with other deaf, late-deafened, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind people in Kenya, Zimbabwe, Turkey, Ecuador. Deaf children in the Philippines found assistance for school books and supplies. Hearing seminarians were able to attend immersion programs in deaf ministry to further their own understanding and interest in ministry with Deaf, late-deafened, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind people. Both committee funds and the Advance program provided monies that enabled the Committee to go and make disciples of all nations.

The Committee revised the valuable resource *Signs of Solidarity* to provide updated information about culturally Deaf, late-deafened, hard of hearing and deaf-blind people. This second edition, which offers practical and creative ways to reach out in ministry to these communities, was published by GBGM. A booklet titled *Breaking the Sound Barrier* was developed by the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf to help local congregations understand the frustrations that lead late-deafened and hard of hearing people away from the church. Helpful information is provided on technology and creative ways to maintain connection with those who are losing hearing. Publication of the booklet was funded through a grant from the National Committee.

The work of the Committee is far from complete. Therefore, the National Committee on Ministries with Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind People, supported by UMCD and GBGM, is petitioning the 2004 General Conference to continue its existence and mandate to reach out to the church connection both nationally and globally through awareness events, grants, publications, and other God-guided activities.

Alabama-West Florida National Committee Awareness Event

By Peggy Johnson

Nine people traveled to Mobile, Alabama the weekend of September 20-22, 2002 to lead an all-day workshop at the Christ United Methodist Church for the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference. The host committee was well prepared and there were 75 people from all over the area in attendance.

Workshops included "How to Set Up a Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind Ministry" presented by Peggy Johnson and Jill Grimshaw, "Deaf Choir" presented by Catherine Vaccarino and some of the choir of Christ UMC of the Deaf in Baltimore), "Religious Interpreter Helps" by Carol Stevens, "Ministry with People who are Late-Deafened and Hard of Hearing" by Nancy Pickens, "Religious Education for Deaf Children" by Peggy Johnson and Jill Grimshaw, "Deaf Church" by LaSander Saunders. There was also a young man from Deaf Teen Quest, an arm of Young Life, that was brought in and paid for by this host church to lead a workshop on Deaf Teen Ministry.

The personal highlight for me was meeting a United Methodist Interpreter from that area who has two deaf-blind members in her church. Both have Usher's Syndrome and their eye sight continues to get worse.

Noemi Fuentes, National Committee's staff person from GBGM came on this trip. This was the first time she saw one of the awareness events in person and she kept busy talking to people and informally sharing about our

work. She also prepared written materials for each person that attended.

On Saturday night we traveled to the Gulf of Mexico to a seafood restaurant. Two Deaf members of the Christ UMC in Mobile drove us in the church van. This trip included a ferryboat ride and we saw offshore oil drilling up close. There was a full moon over the water that night.

On Sunday, the Deaf choir from Christ UMC of the Deaf in Baltimore signed songs for the regular worship service at the church. We were unable to make much of a statement at these services other than the loud silent voice of Deaf worship music. I did get to say a brief word about the National Committee just before the choir sang at each service.

The workshop was a success and National Committee continues to present awareness workshops throughout the country. Let us know if you are interested in us visiting your area.

AA and NA Programs Opened to Deaf People by a Grant from National Committee

A new interpreted AA and NA meeting is being offered at the Deaf Shalom Zone in Baltimore, Maryland thanks to a grant by the National Committee. AA and NA meetings are considered by many people to be essential for recovery from addiction. Through AA and NA and other Twelve Step programs, people get to know their "Higher Power."

Sharing Awareness with the General Board of Church and Society

By Peggy Johnson

A meeting for Deaf, late-deafened, hard of hearing and deaf-blind people from the Baltimore and Virginia conferences was held recently at the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) building in Washington, D.C. This was not a National Committee event nor was it a UMCD event, but it might as well have been! A bus full of people from Christ United Methodist Church and Magothy United Methodist Church and two hearing churches visited the GBCS for a day of education and orientation about the work of this general agency in March. Deaf, late-deafened, hard of hearing and deaf-blind people shared their concerns. We used sign language interpreting, close vision interpreting for a low vision deaf man, assistive listening devices and tactile signing. The board members from GBGS were amazed at the process. They asked many questions and were eager to partner with us more in the future.

The National Committee on Ministry with Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind People was invited to lead the worship service at the GBCS spring board meeting later in the month. Presenters shared briefly but holistically about the various categories of people with hearing loss and how the church needs to begin to minister to all people. The Committee emphasized that everyone has gifts and graces for ministry that the hearing world misses out on unless they include "all parts of the body."

Seven members from Christ UMC in Baltimore went down to Herndon, VA, to lead this opening worship service. About 70 people were present, including four bishops. I gave a brief talk about the work of the National Committee, passed out information and encouraged further participation.

The worship service was lead by culturally Deaf people from Christ Church, with Carol Stevens interpreting. They did a Bible drama that emphasized the Body of Christ. The message was a call for inclusiveness. We shared communion together, and the board members signed the closing hymn with the choir. They were really quite excellent....quick learners.

GBCS plans to send a representative to this summer's national UMCD meeting in Dallas. Let's give them a hearty welcome!

In Memory of Holly Elliott



Former President of UMCD, Holly Elliott, 82, died October 19th, 2002 in Portland, Oregon. An active United Methodist, she was elected by the Western Jurisdiction to the General Council on Ministries and from that position was instrumental in influencing the General Conference decision in 1992 to establish a National United Methodist Committee on Developing Deaf Ministries. This committee was continued for another quadrennium by the 1996 General Conference and in 2000 the committee's importance was recognized by the General Conference when it supplied funding and staff assistance. The committee's name is now the National Committee on Ministries with Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind people.

Told she was "deaf" during her sophomore year in College, Holly decided that "no one could tell her what she couldn't do" and graduated from UCLA with a degree in music. She married James Elliott, a physician, and they settled in Placerville, California, where their three sons were raised. Holly was president of the El Dorado County Board (continued on page 5)

In Memory of Holly Elliott (continued from Page 4):

of Education, receiving an honorary life membership in Delta Kappa Gamma for her work.

After her husband died, Holly obtained an MS in rehabilitation counseling and began her first professional job at age 50 when she accepted a position as counselor-therapist at the University of California San Francisco's Center on Deafness (UCCD). We are told that she was probably the first professionally trained deaf counselor-therapist in the U.S.

After ten years at UCCD, Holly became the director of an experimental five year graduate program at San Francisco State University training rehabilitation counselors to work with "minimal language skills deaf adults," that is, with persons who had no formal sign language and no formal schooling. It is notable that 50 of her 52 students were still working in deaf rehabilitation ten years later. Holly returned to UCCD to edit two books on *Mental Health Assessment of Deaf Clients*. She retired in 1989, but was recalled by the University to collaborate on a federally funded research project on adult onset hearing loss. Until her last illness, she was editing manuscripts of a book for GBGM on "The Theology of Enablement."

Holly wrote extensively for professional publications and was generous in making presentations to both lay and professional groups. Among the many awards she received was the third annual I. King Jordan Award from the Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA). She was particularly proud of the Thomas N. Burbridge Award for Public Service given her by the Chancellor of UCSF for "her unique contributions to equal opportunities for the deaf by educating and sensitizing the community to recognize and overcome this 'invisible barrier.'"

Memorial contributions be directed to the UMCD Endowment Fund, c/o Rev. Dr. Thomas Hudspeth, 9200 Inwood Road, Dallas, Texas 75220.

HIV/AIDS Affects Us All

In the United States as many as 40,000 Deaf and hard of hearing individuals are believed to be living with HIV disease. Health experts suspect that HIV prevalence in the Deaf community may be higher than in the hearing community, but comprehensive data is lacking. An indicator is that 1 in 7 Deaf persons has a history of substance abuse, compared with 1 in 10 hearing persons.

Research also shows that Deaf high school students have much less knowledge about HIV transmission. Because members of the culturally Deaf community use American Sign Language (ASL) as their primary means of communication, ASL is the most effective means of communication of HIV/AIDS information for this group, but the message must be clear.

At a United Methodist HIV/AIDS event in 2002, a speaker noted that Deaf people have died and others have delayed medical treatment because they believed themselves healthy when they saw the sign for "HIV" and "positive" conveyed to them in sign. They thought HIV positive meant a good result and did not realize that they were being told they were ill.

In addition, people who are hard of hearing or late-deafened, including elderly people, may not know sign language. Assistive listening systems and devices and the written word should be used to aid communication. Deaf-blind people need access to information as well.



In Memory of Rev. Dr. Harold Wilke

The Rev. Dr. Harold Wilke, an armless United Church of Christ minister, died recently at the age of 88. Wilke touched the lives of people all over the world, including many of us in the Orlando, Florida and Nashville, Tennessee areas. Wilke's early advocacy for people with disabilities helped set the stage for a movement that ultimately won basic protections for them in areas ranging from employment to transportation.

Wilke was an author, a social activist arrested in civil rights marches in the 1960s, and one of the first Americans

with a severe disability to serve as a parish minister. Wilke's role was recognized with his participation in the White House ceremony for the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which prohibited discrimination against the disabled in employment, public accommodations, transportation and telecommunications. His work in disabled rights focused in recent years on making churches, temples and mosques accessible to the handicapped. Wilke stressed that "all congregations, all seminaries, have an obligation to welcome people with disabilities and see them as bringing gifts."

Deaf-Blind Camp

By Frank Spiker.

Last August 2002, I attended the Tennessee Organization of the Deaf-Blind Inc.'s summer camp at Camp Lindahl in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, near Nashville. The camp was organized by John Forbes and Cathy Steger. The camp was very handicap-accessible and was absolutely breathtakingly beautiful. It was along a large lake which afforded the opportunity for boating experiences. There was an in-ground accessible pool. Opportunities were provided for shopping trips to the Opryland Mall, a trip to Dollywood amusement park, as well as horseback riding, crafts, a hayride, cookouts, games and lots of swimming and boating. The time together ended with a

talent contest.

We had speakers each morning on different topics and I was given the opportunity to speak on leadership. We are all needed and an important part of the picture of life.

The camp was attended by approximately 30 campers and support people. The campers had various degrees of vision and hearing losses as well as some physical disabilities. Ages ranged from 14 years to 70 something.

Speaking with John and Cathy I learned that the camp was very costly to put on, with an enormous amount of time and work that went into the planning of this event. As a deaf-blind person myself, I know it helps greatly to be able to talk with others who truly understand what life is like. You get great insight as you share your lives with one another.

International Work with Deaf People Update

By Kirk Van Gilder

KENYA: In the summer of 2002, a team of 17 people traveled to Meru and Maua, Kenya once again. We were pleased to be with some of our good friends as well as bring along new friends with us. Tom Hudspeth, John and David French came with us from Texas this year and Denise Donnell, currently an intern at Christ UMC(D) and a student at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas joined us. John and David's work was primarily in assistance to the Disabled Children's Centre in Maua which seeks to provide services and support for disabled children and their families.

Our visit was again blessed with many wonderful meetings and much hard work. Some highlights would include celebrating the 5th anniversary of the Kaaga Deaf Church in Meru and worship with a newly formed Bible fellowship with deaf adults and children in Maua where previously no worship opportunities existed and only as recently as 1998 was Kenyan Sign Language in use at the Njia Special School there.

A special treat for thirty-two street children now living in an orphanage in the Kaaga area of Meru was a visit to Samburu National Park with us to see the wildlife of their own country. Since then, we've been happy to learn that a plan financed in part by donations given to us and in part by the Methodist Church of Kenya has made it possible for Margaret Mukami, a deaf woman leading the Kaaga Deaf Church, to begin ministerial work full time and take an important step toward her calling to become the first Kenyan Deaf ordained minister.

ZIMBABWE: These are difficult times in Zimbabwe for everyone. Still at team lead by Christ Church in Baltimore plans to travel to Mutare, Zimbabwe to work with deaf children and adults. An explosion of wonderful things led by the Holy Spirit has occurred since our visit in 2000. Deaf children from deaf classes in a variety of hearing schools have gathered to play sports and travel to various deaf sporting events to compete. While the strong sense of community known in the Deaf culture can be found at these events, it receives very little support.

The deaf preschool run by Libby Foster has become the meeting area and future site of an office to be built for a new deaf club for adults. This provides a sense of community for deaf adults and a place to build toward work projects and other mission efforts. With all ages of deaf people meeting at this place, a wonderful environment for role models and collaboration is taking place and hearing church people are starting to take notice!

Amos Muyambo, a young hearing man who was helping organize the deaf youth sporting events, has answered God's calling into ministry and become a student at nearby African University. He intends to focus his ministry on helping deaf people in Zimbabwe.

TURKEY: UMCOR continues to sponsor a deaf woman Mary Essex as a development specialist at the Gazanfer Bilge School for the Deaf in Karamursel, Turkey. Her year long project there has continued to connect the deaf school with the resources of the deaf community in surrounding towns.

Through their contact with UMCOR and other aid groups, the GB School for the Deaf has become a leader in modern methods of deaf education in Turkey and is making proposals to change government policies that forbid the use of Turkish Sign Language in deaf schools. UMCOR and the work of deaf people connected through the National Committee have brought back to life a school which was closed and neglected for a year after the devastating earthquakes of late 1999.

Report on Liberian Deaf Ministry

Katie Kramer and Edward Cheah reporting on an August 2002 trip

The National Committee assisted in part in sending Edward Cheah, Deaf and Liberian, and Katie Kramer, Deaf education graduate student at Gallaudet University, to gather information about the needs of deaf people in Liberia. Following is their story. Also planned is a trip to Liberia to do HIV/AIDS awareness for the Deaf community.

We arrived safely in Liberia on August 5, 2002. Upon our arrival, David Worlobah, teacher of the Deaf class at the Methodist school (our original contact) and many other Deaf people from the community greeted us at the airport.

While in Liberia, we were fortunate to visit three different facilities for Deaf children. One was a tiny classroom with about ten students who had had little exposure to sign language. This was not a school, but a class where the students were learning sign language. They had almost no equipment, supplies or books for the class. This is the United Methodist school that David Worlobah is working with. We brought them three suitcases full of supplies.

The second school we visited was a hearing school that provided two tiny classrooms for Deaf children. Most of these Deaf students were orphans, abandoned on the streets because they were deaf. At this school there were a few beds for them to sleep in and one meal provided per day. Their teachers receive no pay for their work. This school was not United Methodist-related.

The third facility was a Deaf school before the war that had been taken over by hearing refugees. No education was

provided, only a place to stay. We met about thirty Deaf children, again orphans who often go without food or guidance. This was not a United Methodist school either.

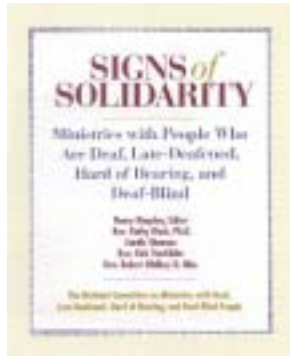
We were able to host an all-day workshop providing information to teachers on how to work with Deaf students in the classroom and meet their visual needs. We emphasized how important Deaf children were, that they were children of God. It was absolutely heart wrenching for us to witness how Deaf people are extremely oppressed in their society.

While there, we met with three recognized organizations for the Deaf: The Liberia National Association of the Deaf, the Women's Liberation Organization and the Organization for the Social Integration for the Liberian Deaf. Due to the war, these people no longer have buildings for meetings. Their main goals are to see their Deaf community rise above their society's oppressive views of Deaf people.

There are simply no jobs for Deaf people in Liberia. They are in desperate need of financial, educational and vocational support in order to better their lives in the future. We shared our findings with the American Ambassador of Liberia, Bishop Innis of the United Methodist Church in Liberia and the Board of the United Methodist University of Liberia. We were interviewed on television, which I hope helped spread our message.

For Edward, this was a dream fulfilled to go back to his homeland. God blessed Edward with the opportunity to come to America and get a good education at Gallaudet University. He escaped the hardships of the war in Liberia. He feels it is his duty to share his story and give back to his country. This was an incredible journey for us and we thank you for your support and we have hope for the future that more teams can go to help.

Signs of Solidarity Available Again



The long-awaited Second edition of Signs of Solidarity: Ministries with People Who are Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind has been published. The book is a revision of the 1994 first edition written by the Rev. Kathy Black, PhD., professor at Claremont (California) School of Theology.

A subcommittee of the National Committee carried out the revision. The members were Candis Shannon, Chair, Vae Rose Fultz, Rev. Kirk Van Gilder and Rev. Dr. Robert (Bob) Walker. Nancy Kingsley became the editor as the work progressed. Jill Grimshaw, Holly Elliott, Ginnie Clark-Wright, Bob Walker and others shared parts of their personal stories of deafness in the book.

The book is divided into three parts. Part 1 covers work with members of Deaf culture, Part 2 focuses on late-deafened and hard of hearing people, and an entirely new Part 3 written by Rev. Walker acquaints the church with the deaf-blind population. Also new is a theological statement and a tear-out survey form guides churches and agencies in becoming accessible.

The book will sell for \$7.00 plus shipping and handling. Please send your orders to GBGM Service Center, 7820 Reading Road, Caller No. 1800, Cincinnati, Ohio 45222-1800. To order by telephone, call the toll-free number (800) 305-9857. Fax orders can be sent to (513) 761-3722. Whether you order by mail, phone or fax, please indicate the title of the book, the stock no. 02088, and the number of copies you need.

Breaking the Sound Barrier Still Available

By Bob Walker

Copies of *Breaking the Sound Barrier in the Church* are still available. The booklet provides much useful information on how to minister to late-deafened and hard of hearing people. The booklet was created by UMCD's Committee on Church Promotion: Late-Deafened and Hard of Hearing People. The National Committee supplied a grant to cover the production cost. Printing was done by the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference's Council on Ministries office.

While they last, free copies can be ordered by mail from Health and Welfare Ministries Unit, GBGM, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 330, New York, NY 10115; by telephone: (212) 870-3870; or by fax (212) 870-3624.

Hymnal Project Completed

The project to revise the hymnal supplement *The Faith We Sing* so that the hymns are signable has been completed and sent to the United Methodist Publishing House. Rev. Dr. Keller headed up the project with assistance from Rev. Bruce Weiman, Rev. Joochai Kang, Kathy Fell, Steve Reis, Scott Price, Jane Yemm, Holly Rogers and Peggy Johnson and members of Christ Church in Baltimore. More news when the publication becomes available and thanks to all involved.



In Memory of the Reverend LeRoy Schauer

Reverend LeRoy E. Schauer died peacefully May 2, 2003, at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland after a lengthy illness.

The funeral service was held at Corkran Memorial United Methodist Church, 5200 Temple Hills Rd., Temple Hills, Maryland, Wednesday, May 7th. Internment was in Marion, South Dakota.

Memorial contributions may be made to the LeRoy Schauer Scholarship Fund, Wesley Theological Seminary, Development Office, 4500 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20016. Condolences can be sent to Carol Schauer, 5702 37th Ave., Hyattsville, MD 20782.

Rev. Schauer played an important part in the founding of UMCD itself. Back in the late 1960's and early 1970's, he was on the Deaf Ministry Steering Committee, along with Rev. Louis Foxwell, Sr., Rev. LaVerle Carrington, Rev. Tom Williams, Rev. Andy Hall, Phil Hailey, Francine Kenyon, Rev. Cecil Potter and Rev. Tom Sumney. The steering committee met annually at different places to discuss Deaf ministry within the United Methodist Church.

In July 1977 at Trinity College in Washington, D.C., Rev. Schauer also hosted a gathering of people interested in Deaf Ministries in the United Methodist Church, which eventually became the birthplace of the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf (UMCD). He was pastor of the Washington United Methodist Church of the Deaf for about twenty-three years. We will miss him greatly.

Hawaiian Local Church Provides Access

At the Harris UMC in Honolulu, all hymns, scripture readings, the Lord's Prayer, and prayers are projected to a large screen in the sanctuary using an LCD projector and Power Point presentations from a laptop computer. The program was instituted under the guidance of Francine Kenyon. Since Harris UMC is already ahead of other churches in Hawaii, the church is planning to become a teaching church to show others how they can become fully accessible to deaf, late deafened, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind people and to people with disabilities.

Harris UMC will demonstrate how they use Power Point presentations with the LCD media projector. Francine is also making large print copies of hymns to assist sign language interpreters so they can read hymns, prayers, scriptures, etc. with ease while interpreting to a deaf congregation.

Rioni School for the Deaf, Republic of Georgia

By Catherine Inabnit

My church in Atlanta, Peachtree Road UMC, has done work at the Rioni School for the Deaf in Kutaisi, Republic of Georgia. The mission team will be returning there the end of May. I am hoping that a good relationship can develop between Rioni and an American deaf school.

2003 Annual Conference Survey

By Dan Kenyon

During the month of December 2002, I sent a survey to all United Methodist Annual Conferences. This survey, a joint UMCD-National Committee effort, is basically a follow-up survey that was done four years ago, with some additional questions and modifications. It consists of 29 sets of questions.


We want to determine what annual conferences (Acs) are doing to make churches in the Conference Accessible for Deaf, late-deafened, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind individuals since the last survey done in 1999. The questions also become educational for the responder.

AC's are asked whether they have a committee on ministry with Deaf, late-deafened, ahrd of hearing and/or deaf-blind people. They are asked whether information about training for these ministries is available and whether training is offered regularly by the AC. They are asked which churches in the conference have ministries appropriate to serve and receive service from Deaf, late-deafened, hard of hearing or deaf-blind people. It also notes that UMCD and the National Committee will be more than willing to help set up workshops on these ministries and will provide the needed leadership.


The survey is now completed and the results will be included in our report to the 2004 General Conference. We hope that this survey will sensitize and encourage Annual Conferences to do more in ministries in the future. Watch for the next UMCD newsletter for the results of the survey!

UMCD

MEMBERSHIP
& DONATIONS



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Enclosed is my check for the following:

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