



The SCOTT CRABTREE Family

Missionaries to the Deaf

"There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard." Psalm 19:3

It broke my wife's heart when we sat in the back of the class and heard the little Deaf girl's question. It was our first day to observe a Deaf classroom in a local public school. They started the class out with journaling time. A video in sign language was shown that very clearly asked the students, "If you were principal for a day at the school, what would you do?" The teacher gave the name of the school principal and asked another way - "If you had Mrs. ____ job, what would you do?" Several minutes of silence were given as the children wrote their thoughts. One of the girls raised her hand and asked meekly, "What is a principal?" All of that time she had been sitting there with a blank sheet of paper in front of her having no understanding of the question. It wasn't necessarily the teacher's fault. Such is the challenge of language acquisition, especially in young Deaf children. The classrooms were filled with completely Deaf students - some who signed and some who only read lips. Others had hearing aids or cochlear implants, and some had other challenges in addition to being Deaf. Most of them have no language model at home which makes it even more difficult. Each of them shyly began to open up to us and they were fascinated that I was Deaf, too. One boy cracked us up. We asked him to spell his sister's name. He smiled and slowly spelled out - R - A - T. We certainly have our work cut out for us! Several hearing students in the school are learning to sign and we were able to attend a music concert there in which almost 200 students sang in sign language. It was a beautiful sight to see. Please pray for us as we attempt to be mentors to these young people.

Any time it snows around here, everyone knows it's Chester's fault! Chester is an 86 year old Deaf man in our church who looks like Moses with a long cane and everything. He absolutely **LOVES** snow and prays for it. He always signs, "More, more, more," when it snows. The rest of us are like, "Chester **PLEASE STOP** praying!" He gets a good laugh, but the rest of us are done with winter - it's been a long and difficult one. Our attendance over the last few months has been bi-polar to prove it. Even so, the Lord has been good and we had activities in the meantime for fellowship opportunities. We had several of our couples get together for couples date night in February and then a few of our couples were able to attend the First Baptist Church marriage retreat with us in Indiana. It's a blessing to have skilled interpreters for this event. One of our new couples told us, "We really needed this."

Congratulations go out to Justin and Rebecca Watters who assist in our church. If you recall, they lost their precious baby, Ruth, last year, but they were recently blessed with a baby boy, Jonathan. The tired grins on them both say it all and they are grateful. We now need a bigger nursery!

On May 3rd, we will be celebrating our church anniversary and, by faith, will be planning to have a mortgage burning service. We are so close to accomplishing this goal that we can taste it! This has been a huge burden over the last 5 years and we want to thank everyone who has either had a part in praying or contributing. Wouldn't it be wonderful to show the Deaf that God **DOES HEAR** and answers prayer?

Proud grandparent moment: *Our daughter, Jessalyn (the blonde one) and her husband, Brandon, are expecting grand baby number 3 (a boy) in June. Please pray for her health and that of the baby.*



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