

IT'S ALL ABOUT HIM

BY DUANE KING OF DEAF MISSIONS

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“It’s not about me; it’s about them.” This is a popular humbling statement. Really, though, it’s not even about “them.” It’s all about “Him.” Let me explain.

Many are the people who think that I started Deaf Missions in 1966 (when I started working with deaf people) or 1970 (when Deaf Missions was incorporated). They think I guided Deaf Missions until November of 2007 when I turned 70 and Chad Entinger assumed responsibility. But it’s not about me. It’s about Him.

Yes, and many are the people who think that I had a special care and burden for the souls of deaf people, a love for their culture, a skill with their language and a heart for their eternal well-being. Well, as nice as that sounds, it’s not about them. It’s about Him.

You see, it’s totally about God. He gave it all—the initial spark of recognition of the severe need to evangelize among deaf people, the love of sign language, the financial supporters, the many varied opportunities, the health to continue, the supporting family, the ideas, the many people who pray. Will you please understand? It is all about God. I’d have never done it without Him—I couldn’t have. I’d have never started it without Him—it was a matter of obedience to Him, and it’s been that way through the years.

Quite honestly, my heart has not been in Deaf Missions for every minute of the mission’s existence. There were days my heart was elsewhere. There were times I coveted a higher salary that I could have received elsewhere. Several are the times when the burden was overwhelming me—I wanted to give up and get out. Deaf culture became unappealing to me. Other people passed up my sign language skills. The fact that I could hear seemed to stand in the way of ministry among the deaf. But it wasn’t about me, anyway. It wasn’t about them, either. It was about Him. I stayed the course for Him in obedience to Him, to His glory and most definitely with His help.

Even so, I did work! I earned my pay. I was considered Founder and Executive Director. I invested over 40 years of my life with deaf people and with Deaf Missions. Surely that is worth something. Yes, I guess it is. The Bible says so. Isaiah 64:6 states, “All of us have become like the one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags....” There you have it. “Filthy rags” is what any righteous things I’ve done are worth. That’s not much to show to my credit on God’s ledger.

I praise God...oh, how I praise Him...that, on the other side of the ledger, the debt of sins has totally disappeared, so that through the blood of Jesus

nothing is held against me. Therefore, though I have no credit to my name, neither do I have any debt. I emerge as a zero, except for Him and what He makes me by way of His love.

Understanding that, now I can write about some other zeros...other people who, like me, have been only obedient tools in God's hand, trying to do what He requires. Even the few times that we did meet His requirements, it brought us no credit because that's the minimum of what we should have been doing, anyway. These are people who often appeared "behind the scenes," who came into my life at a God-appointed time, who have not received the earthly recognition they deserve, but who from my viewpoint were critically necessary to accomplishing the will of God through Deaf Missions. I received earthly glory and praise that was undeserved, even if the whole thing *had* been about me. These other folks should have been the ones receiving it.

EDWIN AND IRENE ROBERTS

I think first of all about Edwin and Irene Roberts. They were deaf, and such sweet people. Oh, how Peggy and I loved them. He became an elder in Christ's Church of the Deaf. Loving. Caring. Wise. They were models for other deaf people. Their positive influence made a huge difference for Christ's Church of the Deaf. Ed was elected to the board of Deaf Missions. He blessed Deaf Missions as he did the church. Their two darling daughters continue to bless us even yet today. I could tell you story after story about Ed and Irene. If I don't get to do it on earth, check with me in heaven where we'll have time. Ed and Irene would agree—it's all about Him.

GRISWOLD, IOWA, CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Griswold, Iowa, Church of Christ was amazing! I started preaching there in 1968. In 1970, I announced to the elders that I felt called to full-time mission work among deaf people. They responded, "How will you support your family?" (That's the response I received from many caring people!) I requested one Sunday night a month off, so that I could approach other church congregations for support. It's another story that I might have to wait till heaven to tell you in full, but the upshot is that when I returned to the board meeting (they had earlier dismissed me), Elton Lembke, board chairman, stated that they would give me every day off for five full months in order for me to seek financial support and lay more groundwork for Deaf Missions—***and they paid my full salary for all five months!*** What a wonderful example for other congregations to follow! The loving Griswold church members would agree—it's all about Him.

MY DEAR WIFE, PEGGY

My dear wife, Peggy, deserves an early mention. She LOVED the "located ministry" at Griswold, as she had loved the same type of ministry at Norfolk, Nebraska. I loved it, too. She didn't want to leave. When we did leave, we both felt some loneliness and sometimes we felt friendless. True, we developed hundreds upon hundreds of wonderful "instantaneous friends" as we traveled for Deaf Missions. But the deep friendships that meant so much to Peggy (and me, too!) were slipping away because they could not be cultivated. Yet, Peggy made her will to become the same as God's will. She became a very active and

skillful participant in the mission, even to the point of some people seriously saying that Peggy had more to do with Deaf Missions' financial support than I. She taught the Bible to deaf young people at Christ's Church of the Deaf and at Iowa School for the Deaf. She led the deaf choir and did a fabulous job. She has been a pillar of faithfulness, a powerful prayer partner, a wonderful singing/signing partner, an utterly amazing mother and a truly loving wife. Wow! I'm glad I married her! Peggy knows—it's all about Him.

OUR CHILDREN, CHRIS AND JD

What about our children? Chris and JD (called Jon at that time) were too young (5 and 4 respectively) to help make the decision to go full-time into deaf ministry. Chris had finished one semester of her kindergarten year when we moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa, January 15 of 1971. The move was only 33 miles. It was done mostly with a long train of farmers' pickup trucks, driven by the church-member-farmers. Chris and JD adjusted well and quickly to their new surroundings. All these many years later they financially support Deaf Missions, still employ their sign language skills and spread good words about Deaf Missions. In my opinion, they are the best children in the world, marrying the best mates and producing the best grandchildren for us. Chris and JD have no doubt—it's all about Him.

DR. RICHARD D. HOGAN

Richard D. (Dick) Hogan was the preaching minister of First Christian Church in Council Bluffs. He might have done as much for Deaf Missions as anyone who never learned sign language. He led that congregation to support us even before we moved to Council Bluffs. He'd call on me to lead a public prayer, or preach, or help lead a new building campaign, or sing—keeping Deaf Missions in the minds of those people of First Christian Church. As a result, they are regularly the number one annual financial supporter of Deaf Missions, continuing in that top position through most of over 40 years, even after Brother Hogan moved on and David Erickson became our local preacher. Amazing! Dick Hogan knows very well that it's all about Him. So does Dave.

OUR MOMS AND DADS

My Mom and Dad, Elza and Myrtle King; and Peggy's Mom and Dad, Joe and Viola Carr, certainly should be mentioned. For the most part, they hardly understood the call or the mission, but after some initial questions (one was "How are you going to buy shoes for the kids?") they became generous financial supporters, super prayer partners, great encouragers and wonderful babysitters. My mother probably influenced me, more than any other person, to accept Jesus as my Savior. Thank you, Mom. Peggy's mother was a special saint. Myrtle and Elza, Viola and Joe...they've all met the Lord, now, so they know for sure that it's all about Him.

THE WATCHMEN QUARTET

The members of The Watchmen Quartet were VERY important to me. We sang together for over 35 years. Bob Chitwood, Harold McCracken and Lowell Burkum became like brothers to me. Dixie Burkum, our accompanist, is like the sister that I never had. In 1970, when Deaf Missions was incorporated, I had

known them for about 15 years—long enough that their insights meant a lot to me. They encouraged Peggy and me to take that “step of faith.” Their encouragement was much more than words. They financially supported Deaf Missions and led their church congregations to do so, too. In fact, to a very large measure, Deaf Missions was built upon the many contacts that had first been made when The Watchmen Quartet sang and preached revival meetings. Lowell, Bob, Harold and Dixie know it as well as I do—it’s all about Him.

LEONARD WYMORE AND NACC

Leonard Wymore and the North American Christian Convention had a lot to do with the successful beginning of Deaf Missions. The NACC was a huge convention with perhaps 10,000 people attending. Brother Wymore was the leader of it. Convention presidents would come and go, but Leonard was the mainstay. He believed in what Deaf Missions was trying to do. He became a board member of our highly respected sister organization, Deaf Institute, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Leonard did many special things to assure that deaf people were included in the NACC. The visibility and publicity received at that convention propelled us forward far faster than would have been possible otherwise. Leonard is fully aware that it’s all about Him.

CECIL BENNETT AND DEAF INSTITUTE

Speaking of Deaf Institute, Cecil Bennett was the mission’s founder and leader for many years. Brother Bennett and I worked together during the NACC and at other times, too. He was fun. He was also a “mover and a shaker,” getting things done for deaf people, of whom his own daughter was one. The work of Deaf Institute seemed to bless Deaf Missions, and the work of Deaf Missions seemed to bless Deaf Institute. That is still true today. Cecil is at home with Jesus, now, and I am no longer directing Deaf Missions. But Chad Entinger (Deaf Missions) and Bryan Eubanks (Deaf Institute) are keeping the good relationship going. Cecil and Bryan know, as do Chad and me, that it’s all about Him.

FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

Our financial supporters are basic to there even being Deaf Missions, and basic to it’s continuing ministry. Through the years there have been too many supporters to list—numbering into the thousands (probably at least 10,000 if the number could be calculated). These people and churches are essential to our work; absolutely essential. We’d be nothing without them. Some have given well over \$100,000. Some gave less than \$1. Some gave just once. I think that Chet and Joyce Lammert have given every month since their first gift in 1970! (Talk about loyalty and faithfulness!) Chet and Joyce don’t seek the glory. Why? They know it’s all about Him.

PRAYER PARTNERS

It is important that I mention our prayer partners. We don’t send them receipts like we send to our financial supporters. Prayers cannot be deducted on your income tax form. We have no record of who prays, when or for how long. We don’t check to be sure that people who promise to pray really do. Even so, I believe that those who pray for us might be the most important people or group

of all that I am listing. James 5:16b says, “The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.” There are times when I think that the prayer of a righteous woman accomplishes even more! How much? How much more? Sakes alive! I don’t know exactly. How can it be measured? But the “much” is enough that we humbly request your prayers, and we sincerely thank those who include us in your prayers. You evidently know—it’s all about Him.

STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS

The staff members and board members of Deaf Missions are special. Staff members don’t get paid a lot. Board members don’t get paid anything at all—not even expenses. But better people could not be enlisted even if we paid them handsomely. Board members shoulder more burdens and responsibilities than most people know. Our board includes or has included deaf and hearing, male and female, old and young, professional and non-professional, black and white, new Christian and mature Christian, long-term (two serving since 1973!) and short-term, experienced workers among the deaf and inexperienced—and our board members are all solid Christians. Staff members are of the same varieties, and all live the Christian faith that they profess. If I had room here, I’d list every staff member and every board member who has served. I think I could do it. They are deserving. At least I will here list the first three staff members. They were Jim Price, Bonnie Weeks and myself—all three of us still living. The first five board members were Earl Sattro, Glenn Braden, Bill Pike, Lowell Burkum and Layson Robbins—Bill and Lowell still living. I assure you, they all know that it’s all about Him.

NORFOLK FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

That lovely congregation of believers at First Christian Church in Norfolk, Nebraska, called me to be their minister even before I graduated from college and before I was married. Their trust in me was amazing. That trust continued when I wanted to start ministering with the deaf. In 1966, deaf ministry was a rare event in uncharted waters, but they encouraged me without a detracting question. Sincere thanks to those dear souls because they know—it’s all about Him.

CHARLES AHLMAN

Charles Ahlman was a realtor in Norfolk. Bless his heart, he made it so that Peggy and I could buy our first house...for \$50 down!! (And Charlie had to hold that check!!!) What a friend he was. He’s gone to his reward, now, but back in December of 1966 he pressed \$20 (maybe it was \$10...I’m not sure!) into my hand and asked me to deliver it to deaf people whom he knew were broke. They rented a house from him. He wanted them to have at least a little at Christmas-time, and he wanted it to be anonymous. I delivered it, and from that meeting with Emery and Louise Booth, both deaf, Deaf Missions started. What if Charlie had not cared so much? But he did care because I believe that Charlie knew that it’s all about Him.

EMERY AND LOUISE BOOTH

Emery and Louise Booth were typical deaf people, I guess, if there is a “typical” person of any kind. But to me, they were much more than typical—

they graciously tolerated and encouraged me, a hearing person. They had two young daughters, Tina and Rosa. The daughters were hearing. Louise often wanted them to play with our two children in order to help Tina and Rosa learn to speak. Louise became my unofficial church secretary for the deaf congregation. She didn't think she could prepare a midweek newsletter, but she did. Emery and Louise influenced several deaf people to attend worship on Sundays. They were the first to teach me sign language. They introduced me to deaf culture. They took me to the graduation ceremony at Nebraska School for the Deaf where I made a fool of myself. (I'll wait till heaven to tell you that story...because I know that there you will be nice and not derisively laugh at me!) I don't think that Emery and Louise knew it when I first met them, but I taught them that it's all about Him.

GEORGE AND SHARON COLLINS

Then, what of George Collins who worked at Iowa School for the Deaf, then became Superintendent of Nebraska School for the Deaf? He encouraged me tremendously in 1968 as I began teaching Bible classes and leading worship at ISD. In 1981, he was elected to Deaf Missions' board. He almost never misses a meeting. George and Sharon, his wife, are two of our greatest encouragers. We praise God for them. They know that it's all about Him.

C. J. AND MARIANNE GIANGRECO

C. J. Giangreco was Superintendent of Iowa School for the Deaf. I'll never forget his question of me in 1968, "Why do you want to tell these deaf children about Jesus?" Today he and his wife, Marianne, financially support Deaf Missions, continuing even years after he retired from being superintendent. He calls me "the Billy Graham for the deaf." I'm sure he's just teasing because I'm equally sure he knows—it's all about Him.

BILL LONG

I should mention Bill Long. He was the best auto mechanic I ever met, as far as I'm concerned. "Honest as the day is long" is the saying that applied to Bill. I'd sit in his shop and we'd talk for hours about the Bible, hypocrites, transmissions, family, etc., etc. I learned more from him than he learned from me. He'd fix my car, and when I paid him I'd schedule another appointment 30 days later—not knowing for sure why, but knowing my old car would need it! Bill was one of the first two investors in my dream of reaching deaf people for Jesus through their eyes. Three years before Deaf Missions was even incorporated, he helped me buy a Super 8mm movie camera. Bill is with Jesus, now, as are so many of my friends. Bill knew it on earth. Now it must be even more evident to him—it's all about Him.

WALTER BIRNEY AND NMC

Walter Birney wanted to be a missionary. He did better than that! He became the full-time director of the wonderful National Missionary Convention, thereby blessing hundreds upon hundreds of missionaries. Bless his heart, he did all he fairly could to make sure that deaf people were included, and to plan workshops around the subject of deaf evangelism, and to get the interpreting up

front, and to get sign language on the stage. You are a true friend, Walter, of me and of many. Of all people I am sure that you know it's all about Him.

CHRIST'S CHURCH OF THE DEAF

The dear souls who attended Christ's Church of the Deaf in Council Bluffs did more than they'll ever know (on earth, anyway) to encourage and help me. The church started on July 4, 1971, with one person—Fern Baer. She had multiple handicaps. Next Sunday there were eleven in attendance. Within about two years an average of over 60 people were attending, plus over 100 to whom I preached at ISD. Some of the very best friends I'll ever have were among those 60 people. Oh, how Peggy and I loved them. They became our “located ministry” that Peggy and I had missed so much. But then we missed that ministry again when in 1976 we called Harold Noe to come be their minister while I concentrated more on the Deaf Missions organization and mission work. That church of deaf people was my training ground, and they taught me well and lovingly. We'd laugh and cry together, make mistakes and successes together, learn the Bible and culture together. May God provide special blessings to those lovely people who learned that it's all about Him.

HAROLD NOE

Harold Noe was a special person. What a guy! He was a true pioneer in the area of deaf ministry. In 1961 he started the first television program in sign language for deaf people—a Christian program in Charleston, West Virginia. In 1976 he moved to Council Bluffs to become the minister of Christ's Church of the Deaf and the leader of the Bible classes at Iowa School for the Deaf and Nebraska School for the Deaf. In 1982 he assumed the leadership of the Omega Project, translating the Bible into American Sign Language. In 2004 I joined him and others in celebrating the completion of the New Testament translation. Through the years, Harold led 37 tours to Israel, some of them for deaf people. He went to be with the Lord in December of 2008, but his legacy will endure here on earth among deaf people who can now read the Bible in their own language. Harold was smart...so smart (“intelligent,” if you prefer). He earned his Doctorate but kept his common sense. He knew Greek, Hebrew, English and American Sign Language. He was a true Bible scholar and a great teacher and preacher. He and I worked side by side for 28 years. I loved that man. Let me tell you something else about him...he knew that it's all about Him, and he acted as if he knew it.

SKIDMORE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

I grew up on a farm near Skidmore, Missouri. In that little town was a Christian Church that influenced me early and powerfully. Long before *I* knew it, *they* knew that it's all about Him. They taught me that truth and they demonstrated it in many ways, including prayer and financial support for missionaries. I was baptized there in 1952. Dad was an elder. Mom taught Bible classes, including prophecy lessons. We had a great youth group. That group became quite influential for Jesus in our small public school. The Skidmore church has supported Deaf Missions from the very beginning and continues to do so today. They are a very small congregation, but they have sent many into the ministry, including me.

ANTHON CHURCH OF CHRIST

Another church that started supporting us early and continues doing it today is the Anthon, Iowa, Church of Christ where I served as a student minister in the late 1950's and 1960. Oh, they were patient with me. They were the perfect church for a student minister. Some of the greatest Christian people I'll ever know attended that little church. Two of them were Wilbert and Maggie Walters. He was an elder and a church pillar. In her old age, Maggie's bones and muscles had contracted and bent till she required a wheelchair. They loaned me their fancy Oldsmobile for my first date with Peggy. We drove to see the Ice Capades in Sioux City. Though small, that church has done a huge amount of good. Part of it was blessing me with my dear wife. Thank you. You obviously know that it's all about Him.

EARL AND DARLINE SATTRO

Earl Sattro was chairman of Deaf Missions' first board. Such a neat guy! He would travel with me to churches where I was to speak. He'd set up and organize the display table, set up and take down any slide projector or movie projector (videos weren't available to us yet). He was always in the background. I'd talk and laugh; he'd work and organize. His wife, Darline, was a jewel...and a fabulous cook! Oh, her homemade ice cream!! Their daughter, Marj, married Bill Pike—another original board member. Earl and Darline lived and acted like they knew that it's all about Him.

BILL AND MARJ PIKE

Bill Pike is an amazing person. Quiet...but his good work shouts glory to God. Humble...so humble he makes humility proud. Conservative...but liberal in giving his time and talent. Aging...but ageless in his quest to learn new things. He's a printer, a troubleshooter, a wit, an inventor, an AV technician, a mechanic, a carpenter, a farmer and he's my dear, dear friend. I first met him at a New Year's Eve party at the Griswold church...December 31, probably in 1968. The movie projector wouldn't work. Earl Sattro said, "My son-in-law is here. He might be able to fix it." I had heard such statements before about incompetent tinkerers. But Bill did it! He fixed it! He's fixed a "jillion" things for Deaf Missions since then. He has a reputation for being able to do anything. He went from board member to employee. And when we employed Bill, we got Marj, too—for free! What a deal! They know—it's all about Him.

GLENN AND ELEANOR BRADEN

Glenn and Eleanor Braden owned and operated an appliance business in Walnut, Iowa. They went to church in nearby Griswold. They were a demonstration of progressive personalities versus conservative beliefs all wrapped up in one couple. **Progressive:** they had the idea for a weekly radio program for the church, and they paid for it. **Conservative:** there was no church member more interested than Glenn in preserving and adhering to basic Bible doctrine. **Progressive:** they were for Deaf Missions' speedy growth and outreach. **Conservative:** after we bought an opaque projector, Glenn said, "Now, Duane, is this the last piece of equipment we'll have to buy?" They died together in an automobile wreck. Together in heaven they would like to remind us, I'm sure, that it's all about Him.

LAYSON AND JUANITA ROBBINS

Layson Robbins was a barber in Griswold. I don't think I've ever met a wealthy barber—certainly not Layson. But he was wealthy in ways that didn't include dollars. One wealth he had was integrity. He served as treasurer of Deaf Missions, hand writing a personal receipt and note for every donation received. He had symptoms of Parkinson's Disease—not good for a barber! So his business was slacking. He'd use his down time to write receipts. Finally, I think in 1972, he wrote a letter of resignation from being treasurer. He wrote that he did not want to be tempted with the dollars that were passing through his hands!! Layson and his wife, Juanita, were familiar with the truth that it's all about Him.

RAYMOND AND MARIAN COUSINS

Raymond and Marian Cousins were leaders in the Griswold Church of Christ. Highly respected. Fun. Successful farmers. Noted for being the preachers' friends, no matter who was the preacher. Their display of friendship to us included finishing the basement of the house we bought in Council Bluffs. The basement, with an outside entrance in the back, would become the office, art room, dark room and storage area for Deaf Missions. Peggy prepared their noon meals. Otherwise, their skilled labor was free. Marian is with Jesus. Raymond is re-married and still supporting Deaf Missions. And he is still fun. And he still knows that it's all about Him.

JIM AND SHERRY PRICE

In 1969, Jim Price came to be my Associate Minister in Griswold. He had three degrees from Nebraska Christian College, and he had a beautiful wife named Sherry. Sherry was one of Peggy's best friends. The four of us became a mixed quartet. We would sing for the church's radio programs. The Griswold church employed Jim because, since they gave me a day a week to work with the deaf, I needed help. Then, bless their hearts, they also gave Jim a day a week to work with the deaf. He was an able associate and a highly talented artist/illustrator. His skills with illustration greatly blessed Deaf Missions and deaf people. The Griswold church started a new congregation in nearby Atlantic and sent Jim to be their preacher. That new church permitted Jim to continue serving the deaf students at ISD. The Griswold church employed Jerry Dietz to fill Jim's shoes, and they gave Jerry a day a week to serve the deaf! Jim and I had great times together. Very sadly, Sherry died with cancer in 1970. Some of her last words to me were, "Jim will follow you into Deaf Missions." He did. Their young child, Adam, came with Jim to Deaf Missions full-time June 1 of 1971. Jim started a deaf ministry at Capital City Christian Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, only 60 miles away, even while he continued doing artwork for Deaf Missions. Jim believed it and preached it—it's all about Him.

CARL HUXFORD

Carl Huxford helped teach the Bible to ISD students, too. He was the preacher at Lewis, Iowa, only eight miles from Griswold. So, four preachers from three different congregations were giving time to teach at ISD—two from Griswold, one from Atlantic and one from Lewis. One of Carl's hands was

malformed. He laughed and said, “I’ve got a speech impediment.” But he made himself understood. And he was extremely helpful with the equipment and with discipline. Why? Because Carl knows—it’s all about Him.

VOLUNTEERS

Carl was not the only volunteer...far from it. There have been literally hundreds of volunteers...some for short times just once, some continuing every week or whenever they are called. These many volunteers have helped teach, do parties, clear snow, stuff envelopes, prepare food, represent Deaf Missions, supervise booths at conventions, cut out flannelgraph figures and much more. Most of them do it, I believe, because they know that it’s all about Him.

GAYLE McCOY

Gayle McCoy was one of the very special volunteers. He had retired from the military, then also retired from civil service. There was no stopping that man from somehow serving in ministry. He commuted 300 miles one-way by air for many months; then with wife, Sara, he moved to Council Bluffs from Bettendorf, Iowa, to become a full-time volunteer. He served as such for several years, during which time he was instrumental in the beginning of the Omega Project. His heart was in the Bible translation. He worked closely with Dr. Harold Noe. Gayle was not only a worker; he was an encourager. Bless his heart, he was fully aware that it’s all about Him.

DR. ROGER CURRY

Dr. Roger Curry might “forget” to give me painkiller the next time he works on my teeth, because he would not want me to publish this about him. But he has blessed me and my family, and Deaf Missions’ staff, and many preachers and missionaries, and many other Christians, and many needy people far more than maybe even his dear wife, Charlotte, knows. I won’t get specific (because I hate pain!), but I thank him in the name of the Lord, because that’s why he does it. You see, he knows it’s all about Him.

TRAINEES

We have taught and trained literally hundreds of Bible college students, interns, missionaries, special adult students and short-term sign language students. Oh, that they were all as proficient and productive as Randy and Jo Burkum who served faithfully in northwest Iowa and in Rochester, New York. Randy is deceased, but Jo continues her service...now at Deaf Missions’ office as editor of *Daily Devotions for the Deaf*. In fact, many of the students are serving faithfully, praise the Lord. We view the time required to train these students as an investment in the future and as a way to expand our outreach. Special thanks to them and their families for trusting us with their education and for entering a field where the financial rewards may not be as great as in some other fields. I’m sure they are willing to do that because they know that it’s all about Him.

BONNIE WEEKS

Bonnie Weeks became Deaf Missions’ first secretary in 1971. She was good—really good! She had been supervisor over many employees; now she

was the lowly secretary in a tiny new organization. It must have been humbling to her, but what a blessing for us to have her knowledge and skills as we started. Her father and mother, Damon and June Weeks, blessed us, too. Damon became our personal financial advisor. Another plus is that we gained custody of Bonnie's dog, Precious, that Bonnie's parents had been tending.

CHET AND JOYCE LAMMERT

Chet and Joyce Lammert are two of the most wonderful people in the world. They were some of the very earliest monthly supporters of Deaf Missions. If they have missed even one month since their first gift in 1970, I don't remember it. Utterly amazing!! They used to babysit with Chris and Jon while Peggy and I were leading at Bible Camp for the Deaf or manning a booth at a convention. They were busy farmers, plus Chet also worked in Omaha and Joyce began working for the educational system. But they gave their time as well as their money. Chet was elected to Deaf Missions' Board of Directors in 1973, and has been a very outstanding member for over 35 years at this writing. Soon after his election, he assumed the duties of treasurer. Since then he has signed nearly every check written by Deaf Missions. He's always on time, and he will make a special trip when necessary. He reviews each check before he signs it, spotting any of the very few errors that are made. Joyce volunteers at Deaf Missions every week. Chet and Joyce continue as dear, dear friends. How wonderful that they know it's all about Him.

LOWELL AND DIXIE BURKUM

I've known Lowell and Dixie Burkum for 54 years. I was the first person that they fed in their home after their wedding. I had no idea, at the time, of the financial drain that just one meal could put on newlyweds! I sang with Lowell in The Watchmen Quartet for over 35 years. He's an amazing musician. Dixie is an incomparable piano accompanist. She accompanied our quartet. Lowell and Dixie were in the congregation the first time I ever preached to deaf people in Norfolk, Nebraska, in May of 1967. Lowell was one of Deaf Missions' original board members. They helped at Bible Camp for the Deaf. They support Deaf Missions. Dixie draws pictures for our devotion book. Their children support Deaf Missions. Son, Joel, worked for Deaf Missions for 27 years. Son, David, wrote several great songs especially for Deaf Missions. Are they involved with Deaf Missions? I'd say so, and I'd also say they know that it's all about Him.

JOEL BURKUM

From his high school days, Joel Burkum planned to become a missionary. He worked for Deaf Missions a couple of summers, then after college he said that he'd work for Deaf Missions a couple more years as our artist before he went to the mission field. Even during the two summers with us, he practiced for the mission field...when Peggy asked him why he slept on our floor instead of in the bed, he replied, "I'm getting in practice for sleeping on the mission field!" His two years with Deaf Missions just kept on stretching until it reached 27 years. Then he went full-time with For God's Children International, a mission organization he started to help orphans and unwed mothers in Romania. This guy is one of the most creative people you could ever meet. Even without proper equipment and space, he created outstanding videos...often almost

single-handedly. You've seen the long list of credits at the end of a movie. In most cases, the productions that Joel did would have his name and just a few others who had usually donated their time. It had to be that way; Deaf Missions could not afford more. Joel was in the right place at the right time. Without question, he is one who knows that it's all about Him.

EMERGING DEAF PEOPLE

One of the very most encouraging things is that more and more deaf people, themselves, are becoming Christians, growing in the Lord and assuming leadership in the Kingdom of God. This is so encouraging because this is exactly the purpose of Deaf Missions. Our mission statement, in addition to the original Great Commission given by our Lord Jesus Christ, is to effectively communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ with deaf people. Thank God, we are doing it. Stacey Morgan serves as one example. I knew Stacey as a little child. Now, she has a college degree, has taught at Iowa School for the Deaf, is a wonderful wife and mother, volunteers "big time" at Deaf Missions, financially supports Deaf Missions and is on Deaf Missions' Board of Directors. She is just one of many. Oh, how we rejoice that more and more deaf people are learning and heeding the truth: it's all about Him.

CHAD AND GLORY ENTINGER

Deaf Missions was organized five years before Chad Entinger was born. Now, he is the Executive Director of Deaf Missions! Dave Burkum was the preacher at Howard Lake Christian Church where the Entingers attended. When Dave learned that Chad and another young boy in the congregation were deaf, he put the Entingers in touch with Deaf Missions. From that time on, I thought that Deaf Missions should pursue Chad as an employee. Apparently, the same thought crossed Chad's mind more than once. Upon receiving his Masters Degree from Gallaudet University, Chad started working at Deaf Missions. After four years, he returned to his alma mater at the Minnesota Deaf Academy where he taught third grade, assisted coaching and became an administrator. He and his wife, Glory, could not refuse God's call back to Deaf Missions. He returned in 2006 and became the Executive Director in November of 2007. It seems evident that our thoughts and dreams of so long ago were God-given, because Chad is an excellent director and Glory is a wonderful director's wife. One reason they do so well is that they, like others I have mentioned, know that it's all about Him.

There are many others who should be mentioned. But surely they won't mind being omitted because they know that it's all about Him, anyway. I want you to remember that, too, and praise and thank God for Deaf Missions.