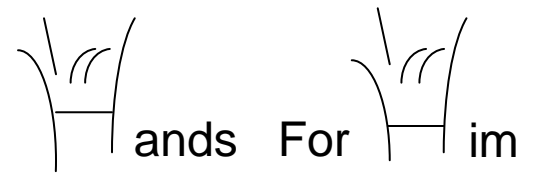


# Phyllis Harbaugh Prayer Support Newsletter

## Missionary to the Deaf

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APRIL 2023

## *Coming back after Covid!!!*



Celebrating at the Sterling Heights Culture Exchange



2022 Sterling Heights Diversity Dinner



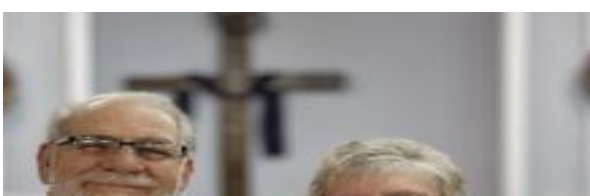
Celebrating Christmas 2022 with Chaldean Deaf Friends



Easter Celebration Lunch 2023



Our precious Deaf friend Norma went to be with Jesus on February 7, 2023



*Retirement Celebration*  
Rev. Herb & Phyllis Harbaugh

## ***On a Personal Note:***

***Friends, Family and Brothers & Sisters in Christ..***

***Thank You...Thank You for your prayers and financial support through the years!***

***In 1987 the first Deaf man attended Memorial Baptist Church with his friends who were frantically trying to write everything down that was happening in the worship service. Several were touched by this and the need for the Deaf to “hear” the gospel. So began a nine month sign language class with Nan Bragg who came every Sunday night for 1 year to teach a Sign Language Class and sign the evening service.***

***The Deaf man never came back to the church but we interpreted for three years with no Deaf coming. We learned of a Library Deaf Support Group and attended. There we met some Deaf friends who started coming to our Sunday services. Within a year we began monthly Deaf fellowship/dinners and provided dinner and a worship service for the Deaf.***

***For 36 years God has richly blessed our ministry to the Deaf. We have seen many accept Christ & be baptized, many have been a part of the Signing Choir and served with us, many have grown in their faith, and many have moved to their heavenly home. But the fields are ripe for harvest. Many other Deaf need to be reached for Christ.***

***It is now time for my husband and I to retire. We have been blessed to serve at Memorial Baptist Church for 40 years. Our interpreters have committed to interpret our Sunday Services and lead the Deaf Bible Study. Pray for them as they continue the ministry.***

***We ask for your prayers as we move into this phase of life. We plan to sell our house and move north of Port Huron (an hour away). Pray as we seek God’s will and find new opportunities to serve Him.***

***Thanks for your continued prayers and partnership in ministry.***





## On a personal note...

Like many of you, the pandemic has affected our lives in ways we never would expect. While my husband and I did not get Covid, two of our children's families did. We are thankful for God's healing and protection through these trying days.

Our ministry to the Deaf took on new directions as we tried to meet physical & emotional needs as well as spiritual needs.

- We began to livestream our 11am services with interpreting for the Deaf. See us on Facebook: Memorial Baptist Church, Sterling Heights, MI
- We canceled our monthly dinner/fellowship. As things opened up we provided monthly worship services but attendance was low.
- We made a lot of deliveries of food and safety supplies (and toilet paper!).
- As things began to open up, we provided meals at local restaurants.
- We provided a lot of encouragement since so many had fears and anxiety. As always, God's Word provided much needed comfort.

As of this writing, Michigan has removed restrictions and many have been vaccinated. However, there is still an underlying fear that this isn't over.

**Pray** for us as we continue to provide live streaming worship services. **Pray** for a peace in the hearts of the Deaf and that they will trust God. **Pray** that God will continue to give us wisdom as we begin to re-open. I appreciate all of your prayer support.

Phyllis

### **How You Can Support our Ministry to the Deaf**

Evangelism Catalysts (Missionaries) are sponsored by the local church. Memorial Baptist Church is my sponsor. All financial support for our ministry is disbursed through the church. As God leads you, you can support me or the ministry in the following way:

- 1) For my personal support, make checks payable to "Memorial Deaf Ministries" and indicate "*Missionary Support*" on the memo line. I will receive a check for your gift right away.
- 2) For support for the ministry needs or projects, make checks payable to "Memorial Deaf Ministries" and indicate "*Ministry Support*" on the memo line. You can also put a specific project on the memo line and we will be sure your gift is used as you request.
- 3) Mail your gifts to Memorial Deaf Ministries, 12651 Clinton River Road, Sterling Heights, MI 48313