



## Annual Report

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*Dear Supporter,*

We are grateful to serve the Lord with you through the ministry of ICCD. I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul to the Philippian church: "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making requests for you with all joy for your **fellowship in the Gospel** from the first day until now." (Philippians 1:3-5) Note the words "fellowship in the Gospel," a fellowship is defined as a partnership with a mutual benefit for those involved. In other words, everyone is blessed when Christian fellowship and partnership happens.

Through our partnership, we are sharing the love of Jesus with the Deaf in Mexico, Cuba, The Bahamas, Uganda, Bolivia, Brazil and India! Together we are praying for God to do great things among the Deaf that we serve. Together we are advancing His Kingdom among the Deaf community. In the spirit of partnership and mutual blessings, we share our annual ministry report with you to show how your partnership makes a difference in the lives of Deaf people around the world.



We visited one of our partnering schools, Arise Africa, in Uganda in July 2023.

*Our dedicated team of 50 national partners remain faithful to the mission of Reaching the Deaf for Christ.*

Tom Turner prays with an Indian woman.



Our mission remains to see the lives of Deaf children, teens, and adults transformed by providing food, safe haven, sign language, Christian education, and the life-saving message of Jesus Christ. This year we have ministered to thousands of Deaf and hearing people, and we praise God that **563 Deaf** people have accepted Christ and their lives have been transformed by the grace of God. In addition, **121 people** have followed the Lord in believer's baptism!





## Mexico

We are very grateful for our co-laborers in Mexico who keep pressing on for the Deaf to know more about Jesus. In addition to the school for Deaf children, they offer Bible studies for the Deaf in person and online. It is exciting to see the Deaf learning the Word of God and sharing it with others. This summer's programs were challenging due to the increased activities of the drug cartels in Rio Bravo and Reynosa. While our staff are unafraid to serve Jesus, many parents feared to send or bring their children to the meetings, and many in the Deaf community expressed concerns as well. In spite of this, there were two events held: a day camp for the students of the school, and a Medical Clinic for the Deaf for the entire community. Our deaf leader Isaac Lobato shared the Gospel and 10 students and 2 mothers of Deaf students trusted Christ as their Savior that day. The Medical Clinic was an opportunity for the Deaf community to come and learn about health - physical, mental, and spiritual. There

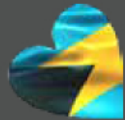
were several booths set up with information for the Deaf in sign

language about medical and community services for the Deaf. But the most important booth was the one in which the Gospel was taught. All glory be to God that **17 people** trusted Christ as their Lord and Savior during that event.

The staff are now preparing for a Congress of Deaf Leaders and Pastors which will be in southern Mexico in December. They will be training Deaf leaders on how to plant churches for the Deaf.



Isaac teaches the Deaf a Bible lesson.



## The Bahamas

Our partners at Abundant Life Bible Church (ALBC) are working to transition from a deaf ministry to establishing a church for the Deaf. This process will take some time; however, we are excited to be assisting them through our prayers and support.

In July, we hosted a week-long camp for the Deaf and hearing children and two events for the Deaf adults encouraging them to understand our identity in Christ. We had 25 wonderful volunteers from around the US, Canada & The Bahamas come together to love and serve the Deaf community in Nassau. The best part of the camp was that **4 campers** made the decision to follow Jesus. It was wonderful to see God working in the hearts of those who attended. We are planning to host a conference for the Deaf with ALBC in November. Please pray that God will use the conference to draw more Deaf to church and encourage them as they transition into a Church for the Deaf.

### ICCD/ALBC Deaf Camp 2023







Life in Cuba has been extremely difficult this year because of economic decline, limited resources, and electrical outages. Due to these circumstances, we were not able to travel to Cuba this year for our national congress. However, we stay in close contact with our ministry partners and they have shared their activity reports with us. They continue to minister to the Deaf through church services, small group Bible studies, and camps. This year we have seen the Deaf saved, baptized, and disciplined. We are praying that in November we will be able to start up the theological training seminary again and offer woodworking and other trades as a way reach the Deaf community in a practical way. Your prayers and support have made it possible to bless our brothers and sisters in Christ even during this difficult time.



Our ministry partners in Bolivia continue to work on translating the Bible into Bolivian Sign Language. They have completed Mark 1-11 in Bolivian sign language. They are currently working on Mark 12. Only 4 more chapters remain until they finish the book of Mark. Our Bahamas Deaf campers raised \$370.00 to send toward the translating process to help encourage our brothers and sisters to carry on with this vital project. We are thankful to be partnering together to share the Word of God with the Deaf in sign language.



Brazil Baptisms 2023



Cuba Baptism 2023



This year we were able to visit our missionaries in southern Brazil. It was a blessing to visit Israel and Loida and to see how God has been using them to reach the Deaf in Brazil and to share the need for reaching the Deaf for Christ around the country. One challenge they face as they serve is being treated as foreigners in Brazil. Although they are working through a local church, they face much discrimination. However, that does not stop them from traveling to new cities to share the need to evangelize the Deaf. They are planning a camp in November in Northern Brazil with a deaf ministry in Manaus. We pray that this will encourage the Deaf to go out and teach more Deaf people in their own communities.







## Uganda

We are thankful for our 3 partnering Christian schools in Uganda. Together we are supporting **226 Deaf** children who are receiving food, clothing, sign language, Christian education, and vocational training. With your partnership this year God has blessed Bridges of Glory school with 3 new buildings and a tractor! While we were there in July we had a special dedication of the 2 dormitories and the multi-purpose buildings. Everyone was so excited! Also, the students will learn more about farming as they grow food for the school. The highlight of our trip was to witness and celebrate **68 Baptisms!** Your partnership is truly changing lives in Uganda.

## A Poem from the Deaf in Mbale, Uganda

ICCD! Without you we would be total illiterates.

We thank you so much  
We pray that you may keep helping our souls.

You are our first parents  
We treasure you so much!  
Long live ICCD, long live ICCD,  
long Live ICCD.  
For God and my country.



New Tractor for the Farming Project in Uganda.



Pastor Kepha celebrates new salvations in India.



Pastor Jim Walterhouse preaches in India.



## India

Our newest ministry continues to develop. Pastor Kepha and his family are enrolled in Sign Language classes and are making good progress. While they are learning, they also continue to reach out to the Deaf community in India. The Deaf community has accepted Pastor Kepha and his wife into their community by giving them their own "sign names," that is their "nickname" in Indian Sign Language. Pastor Kepha recently had the joy of leading a young deaf man to Jesus. Please pray for this new believer as he grows in Jesus.



## Home Office

Our international home office staff continues to support our ministry partners through prayer, providing ministry tools and materials, creating partnerships with local and international churches, and providing financial support for the field. We thank the Lord that God lead Pastor Jim and Debbie Walterhouse to join our team last July and this July, Jessica Meyer has joined our staff. We are so thankful to have more hands to serve the Lord and the Deaf. As God expands the ministry to new places, our plan calls for more staff to support our international team. We are looking forward to seeing how the Lord will supply more missionaries to serve with us!

We are also working on a few building improvements to help sustain our office for the future. We have paved the driveway and hope to replace the siding and install more efficient windows before the end of the year. We trust these improvements will aid in making our office a place that's secure for years to come.





## Our New Initiatives

We have several initiatives that we are working on this year. One is to continue to look for ways to expand our reach among the Deaf in the places that we currently serve. We are also looking for more partners to join our team. Some of our projects are:

- India Car Project – providing a reliable car for our ministry director to visit the Deaf.
- Bahamas Deaf Church- our partners at ALBC desire to begin a Deaf church in Nassau and we are partnering to help them through the process.
- Partnership with Bristol VA/TN Rotary Club – together we are applying for a Global Grant to provide a self-sustaining farming project and tractor at Arise Africa, another partnering school in Jinja, Uganda.
- Growth- as we look to increase our development plan, it is our vision to serve more Deaf children and adults and to expand our reach into more cities and countries around the world.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

We are praying toward our year-end financial goal of \$750,000 to accomplish the goals of our plan, as we strive to reach more Deaf for Christ. Year-to-date God has supplied \$414,930 through many generous donors like you. Our next milestone that we are praying for is \$335,070 by December 31. We recognize that this is a God-sized goal, and we trust that God will supply. He can do exceedingly and abundantly above all that we ask or imagine. Will you pray with us? Together we can accomplish much for the Lord! Please remember that your prayers and generous gifts are changing the lives of the Deaf community around the World.

## Prayer Requests

### Mexico

- Pray for the safety of our team members as they travel and serve the Deaf.
- Pray for our team member Guillermo as he is experiencing severe health challenges.
- Pray for upcoming conferences for the Deaf in Saltillo and Chiapas.

### Cuba

- Pray that God will provide for our Cuban brothers and sisters despite the challenges they face.
- Pray that our ministry workers will faithfully live and labor each day for the glory of God.

### The Bahamas

- Pray God will give them wisdom and guidance as they establish a church for the Deaf.
- Pray the Deaf will grow in their love for the Lord and serving others.

### Uganda

- Pray for the Teachers, Staff and Students to remain healthy and strong as they continue their studies and grow in their walk with the Lord.
- Pray the Rotary Global Grant will be approved to provide a tractor and farming program at Arise Africa in Jinja.

### Bolivia

- Pray for the Bible translation team to have wisdom & strength to complete translating the book of Mark this year.

### Brazil

- Pray God will give wisdom and guidance to Israel and Loida as they serve in Southern Brazil.
- Pray God will open doors for them to partner with more local churches to reach the Deaf for Christ.

### India

- Pray for protection, health and safety for Pastor Kepha and his family.
- Pray for God's blessing as they learn Indian Sign Language.
- Pray for our trip to India for the upcoming evangelism meetings in January 2024.

### Home Office

- Pray God will give us wisdom, strength, health and endurance to continue serving the Lord, the Deaf community and our partners well.
- Pray we will be able to effectively support our ministry partners physically, financially, and spiritually.



# Thank You!

Thank you again for partnering with us to reach the Deaf for Christ. We hope you enjoyed our annual report and hope you can see how God is working all over the world among the Deaf community through our "fellowship in the Gospel."

We love and appreciate you all so much.  
Your Partners in the Gospel,

Tom & Debbie Turner, Susie Kingery,  
Kayla & Wyatt Massie, Jim & Debbie  
Walterhouse, and Jessica Meyer

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