



TOGETHER WITH

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF

AN OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SOUTHERN
BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF



SBCD

GIVE THANKS TO HIM AND
PRAISE HIS NAME – PSALMS 100:4

VOLUME 39 ISSUE 4 SUMMER 2020



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

OF SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF

Hello SBCD Brothers and Sisters,

I hope this letter finds you all doing well. My family and I are doing good, trying to get on with our lives during the pandemic. The year 2020 has been rough for everyone, it is easy to feel lost, like nothing better would come but trusting in our Father and putting our faith in Him to take care of us and to get through this and continue to be strong!

This verse from Psalm really hits my heart and I wanted to share it with you all. Psalm 121:1-2 "I lift you my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth" so this reminds me that no matter what happens in our lives, for example, like the pandemic, we have to remember that our God is bigger and He made heaven and earth, so it will be ok.

The board of directors and the executive committee will be meeting in November to plan for our conference next year, so keep an eye out for the plans on Facebook. We are praying for everyone to stay safe and healthy during the pandemic and beyond.

In His Unfailing Love,

Anna Austin

President of Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf



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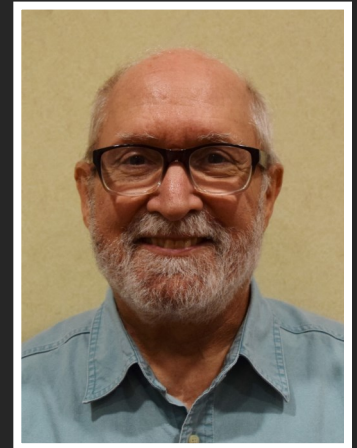
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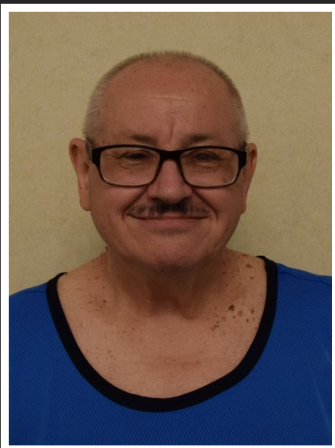
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SOUTHERN BAPTIST

CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF

OUR HISTORY

SBCD was first met at First Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee in December of 1948. It was called "Baptist Workers Conference for the Deaf". Messengers traveled by train from Texas, Georgia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Tennessee. In 1951, it was printed for the program, "Southwide Conference of Baptist Deaf". In the same year, it was "Southwide Baptist Conference for the Deaf". In early 1952, some people said "Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf". It was clearly that the name was officially changed to "Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf" on June 12, 1954 and it has carried the name of our organization ever since.

WHO WE ARE

Every year, there is a great opportunity to fellowship with many deaf and hearing Christians of all ages from across the world. SBCD provides many wonderful workshops, amazing spiritual worships, and great fellowship with others. SBCD always will be held once a year in the summer time. We would love to have you join with us!

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN BAPTIST INTERPRETERS OF THE DEAF



INA FAYE PRICE

Chairperson

Association of Southern Baptist Interpreters of the Deaf (ASBID) welcomes interpreters each year to our annual training workshops. These workshops are available to interpreters, both deaf and hearing, as well as visitors who do not necessarily fit into SBCD or other workshops. Interpreters look forward to the ASBID meeting as an opportunity to learn new skills, ideas, and hear alternative ways to perform their ministries. An added blessing comes from the opportunity to fellowship with old friends and meet new friends. We invite and encourage interpreters and other interested people to join with us at SBCD. For more information about ASBID, contact: p_inafay@bellsouth.net



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MISSIONS



RUSTY LOWER
Chairperson

Are you planning to share the Gospel in United States or in other countries? If your church is planning a mission trip, your mission team is eligible to apply for a grant of offering funds to help with your mission trip expense. North America Missions Committee (NAMC) can help your mission trip in statewide includes Alaska, Hawaii, Canada and Puerto Rico as well. International Missions Committee (IMC) provides money for a mission team to every nation around the world. To send mission teams to help SBCD churches identify, develop, and strengthen deaf ministries and churches. We can help you to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in every town, every city, every state, and every nation. For more information about the missions committee, contact: rustylower@gmail.com

FELLOWSHIP OF

MISSIONARIES AND PASTORS TO THE DEAF



DIRK HILL
Chairperson

Fellowship of Missionaries and Pastors to the Deaf (FMPD) welcomes all Southern Baptists deaf and hearing missionaries, pastors, assistant pastors, associate pastors, deacons, evangelists, lay pastors, bi-vocational pastors, worship pastors, and youth pastors to the annual conference. We want to keep in touch with every SBC employed and retired pastors and missionaries. Every year, we look forward to the FMPD meeting as an opportunity to fellowship with everyone at the annual meeting. We want to invite and encourage each missionaries and pastors to join with us at SBCD. For more information about FMPD, contact: hill@fbcrichmond.org



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@SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF

HOW SBCD BEGAN

Written by **DONNIE WILTSHIRE**

In 1948, Southern Baptist had been doing organized Deaf ministry for more than forty-two years. Myrtle Morris had been employed by the Home Mission Board in 1904 to work as a teacher of the Deaf in Cuba. Miss Morris was deaf herself. Her mission was short lived but John W. Michaels, also deaf, was hired by the Arkansas Baptist Convention in 1905 and by the Home Mission Board in 1906. These were pioneer efforts that would be followed by the hiring of four career missionaries and three summer missionaries in the four decades prior to December 1948. The career missionaries were Axel Oscar Wilson, Clarence Findlay Landon, Joseph Watts Gardner, and Leslie H. Gunn. The three summer missionaries were Grady Watson, John W. McCandless, and Laura J. Formwalt.

In addition to these denominational efforts, Deaf ministries of various kinds originated during the first half of the twentieth century. Michaels was responsible for about 100 of these Deaf ministries. Every thing that we are today as Deaf Southern Baptists originated in Michaels and his unsurpassed vision. But in this effort of planting Deaf ministries he was greatly assisted by the persons listed above and by numerous lay people, both hearing and deaf.

Some of these lay people Michaels had enlisted as volunteer workers like Harvey Drake in Washington D.C. and Maryland, Amon P. Bass in Virginia, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Fugate in Kentucky, William Hackney in North Carolina, Mrs. Laura Formwalt in Tennessee, Herbert Smoak in South Carolina, and Joseph W. Gardner in Texas. These people served as "volunteer" missionaries in their prospective states. By 1948 there were solid Deaf ministries planted all over the South and strong lay leaders in every southern state.

By 1948, a number of churches with strong Deaf leaders and capable hearing interpreters had risen to positions of influence. These interpreters, all of them children of Deaf parents, included Lillian Beard, Miriam Johnson, Bertie Mae McDonald (Hiner), Laura Formwalt, and Fay Osborne Lanham. These women kept in touch with each other by mail and encouraged each other. The Home Board missionaries, especially J. W. Gardner (and Laura Formwalt in the summer time) traveled throughout the South encouraging the many and various Deaf ministries and their ministry leaders. When the Southwide Conference of the Baptist Deaf started, these many ministries and these lay leaders provided the primary impetus for its founding.

It should be noted that a second impetus for the founding of the Southwide Conference came from the natural inclination that Deaf people have for creating institutions for cultural support. Deaf society in America began in 1817 with the founding of the first permanent school for the Deaf in Hartford, Connecticut. Within a few years, Deaf organizations and institutions of all kinds began. These included church societies, education societies, and social clubs of all kinds. The National Association of the Deaf

began in 1880. It still exists today and is a major influence on all parts of Deaf life in America. Several organizations began in the South having major religious emphasis. These organizations influenced the beginning of a Southern Baptist national body. The Dixie Association began in 1928. It was a bit of a reaction by Southern Deaf people against the NAD leadership. This body began with strong religious flavor but within a few years the religious flavor was gone and infighting tore the association apart.

Of more important was the North Carolina Sunday School Association. This group formed in 1936 and lasted for several decades. Each year Deaf people from around North Carolina would meet for Bible study like a large state wide Sunday School.

The organization that seems to have had the most influence on the founding of the Southwide Conference was the Monette Association. The Monette Association began in 1927. It was a one day conference in Monette, Missouri that met annually. It lasted well into the second half of the century. From its earliest days, Michaels, Wilson, and Landon were regular attendees and speakers. There is no direct connection between the Monette Association and the Southwide Conference but many Deaf Southern Baptist were familiar with the Monette meeting, and when the Southwide Conference began encouraging states to begin their own conferences they were all encouraged to base their individual constitutions on the Monette Conference constitution. The Monette conference provided a type of model for the Southwide Conference.

The immediate cause for the beginning of the Southwide Conference is not completely clear. Several factors all seemed to have come together at once to "make it happen." Gardner was traveling all over the South meeting isolated workers and hearing about their problems. Laura Formwalt was doing this also during the summer months. Everyone would tell Gardner that they wanted to meet the others working with the Deaf around the South. Gardner talked with many of them about having some kind of southwide meeting.

The Southern Baptist convention met in Memphis in May 1948. Gardner, who usually went to the Convention meetings, attended this one. While in Memphis he visited with the Memphis Deaf group at First Baptist Church. The pastor of First Baptist was Dr. R. Paul Caudill. Caudill had dreamed of having a Deaf ministry as part of his church. He had met Deaf people at Ridgecrest and learned some Signs (from Laura Formwalt). Caudill's wife had also become acquainted with Deaf people when she lived across the street from Gallaudet University. Caudill had worked with a Memphis Deaf leader by the name of William L. Asbridge to move the existing Deaf ministry in Memphis to First Baptist Church in October of 1945. Caudill and Asbridge had been the motivating factors in the Memphis church.

Caudill brought Fay Osborne to Memphis to interpret for the deaf group. She was a student at Southwestern Seminary and at first had flown back and forth to Memphis from Fort Worth every week end. By 1948, Fay Osborne had become Fay Lanham, and she had become the permanent interpreter and Deaf ministry worker at First Baptist, Memphis. Asbridge, Gardner, Lanham, and Caudill were the

major instigators for the forming of the Southwide Conference which in time would become the Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf.

A few years after the 1948 meeting, Leonard Asbridge recorded his memory of the forming of the Conference. Here are his words:

In was May 1948, during the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Memphis, Rev. J. W. Gardner dropped in for a visit with the First Baptist church Silent Department. It was at that time I was asking him questions about the Southern Baptist Convention, finally a God-sent idea popped up, I asked Bro. J. W. Gardner what would be his opinion of organizing a Southern Baptist convention of the deaf in the Southern field, holding annual meetings. I gave the point that it would promote Christian fellowship, Bible study, workshops and get the experience of forming Christianity with new deaf people. It could lead many deaf to know Jesus Christ for the first time in their lives. Rev. Gardner became excited and enthusiastic over the idea. He wanted to talk more about it, so he came to our deaf department again the following month and I had the opportunity to invite him to have dinner with my wife, Doris, and myself so we would have more time in planning and after dinner we talked and discussed many matters about what to be done first, it lasted late in the evening. He gave me names and addresses of churches that have ministry to the deaf and their leaders. First I wrote a letter and let him read it and make it to his best appealing, then typed copies of the letter and mailed to 40 or more churches in the Southern area. In reply, I received more than 40 letters which many churches said they were willing to send a representative if any further meetings to organize a Southwide Baptist Conference of the Deaf. All the churches with a ministry to the Deaf were full of enthusiastic and for it.

Rev. Gardner continued his monthly visits to our department of the deaf and we planned a little bit by bit until around June and July the plans were almost shaped and ready for a "GO-AHEAD." Rev. Gardner talked the matters over with Miss Faye Osborn, now, Mrs. Lanham. She and Rev. Gardner had a talk about it and decided that it was a good thing. So they decided to go to the office of Dr. R. P. Caudill and seek his advice on the idea. He, Dr. Caudill, thought the idea would be workable with the deaf in the Southern area, in fact among all the deaf. Dr. Caudill offered First Baptist Church as host to the first meeting and organizing of the new-born, Southwide Conference of the Baptist Deaf. Dates were set for the first meeting as of December 28, 29, 30, 1948.

These memories may have some slight errors and surely there are some omissions, but for the most part the memory of Leonard Asbridge is accurate.

It is simply amazing to see God's hand through history. John Michaels, had led deaf people to Christ all over the South. Lillian Beard's adoptive parents were two of those converts. He had also founded deaf ministries including the one in Nashville, where Fay Lanham's parents went to church. Lanham's aunt, Laura Formwalt (who led the deaf ministry in Knoxville also founded by Michaels) had led Leonard Asbridge to Christ when he was a boy attending the Tennessee School for the Deaf in Knoxville.

Beard, Lanham, and Formwalt were major influences on J. W. Gardner's life and ministry. The Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf did not spring up out of thin air. God had been working in the lives of men and women and in churches for decades. All these came together in December of 1948.

Plans were made, invitations were sent, messengers took train. That was the way people traveled over long distances in 1948. They came from Texas, Georgia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and of course, Tennessee. All of them were excited and expectant. They did not know quite what they were doing. They likely had some sense of the historic. Probably no one in the group dreamed of the SBCD that would come to be.

Most everyone left their homes on Tuesday, December 28. Trains traveled over night. Carey Shaw tells of leaving Houston, Texas on Tuesday evening and arriving in Memphis at 6:30 Wednesday morning. Shaw was the first of the travelers to arrive at First Baptist Church. By 9:30 most everyone was there.

Gardner, as southwide missionary, knew everyone. He was the one in the group who traveled. He had spent time with all the messengers in their home churches. He introduced everyone and the first session began. Gardner opened the meeting with prayer. R. Paul Caudill, pastor of the host church, welcomed everyone.

The new body had to have some organization. Leaders were needed. Gardner was elected president and Lanham was elected secretary. The group discussed procedures for making reports. They also discussed and decided to have regular annual meetings. They voted to meet the following December at Central Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. (That meeting did not occur.)

It is interesting to note, though, they did not decide on a name for the organization. The minutes begin with the caption "BAPTIST WORKERS CONFERENCE FOR THE DEAF." Carey Shaw in his report to his church on the meeting called it the "Southern Baptist Conference of Workers of the Deaf." The Memphis newspaper, The Commercial Appeal, reported on the meeting. They called the new organization the "Southern Baptist Conference of Deaf Workers." The name seems to have been flexible for several years. The program for 1951, the first printed program, called the organization "Southwide Conference of Baptist Deaf." The minutes for that same year were titled, "SOUTHWIDE BAPTIST CONFERENCE FOR THE DEAF." As early as May, 1952 a few people called it "Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf." (Southern Baptist Bulletin for the Deaf, Vol 1, No 6, Page 1) However, the minutes clearly reflect that the name officially became the "Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf" at the Memphis meeting June 12, 1954. Dr. R. Paul Caudill, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Memphis, suggested that the name be changed. Mrs. Laura Formwalt acted on Caudill's suggest and offered a motion for the name change. The motion passed. The organization has carried that name ever since.

During the first session on that fateful Wednesday, each of the representatives spoke. They told about their individual church ministries. They described their needs. The needs described are as contemporary

as today. Mrs. Garrett of Columbus, Georgia said "the deaf are so worldly and need Christ, but no one to teach them..." Mrs. Embry of Louisville, Kentucky described a problem with keeping up with deaf people when they moved to new cities. Mrs. Brittain of Atlanta, Georgia pleaded that "We must preach and teach as never before." Mr. Truett George of Louisville, Kentucky bemoaned the fact that he had difficulty "getting the deaf to understand church loyalty."

Beginning on Wednesday afternoon, the conference had several formal and "informal" presentations. Mrs. Wright spoke on "Christianizing Deaf People for Work Among the Deaf and Christian Education." Even at this early point Mrs. Wright was communicating with Southern Baptist seminaries asking for help from them to educate deaf ministry workers. She had been raising money for that very purpose.

Mrs. Formwalt gave a convincing appeal for Deaf people to attend Ridgecrest. For several years, Formwalt had been attending Ridgecrest during Sunday School week and taking Deaf people with her. She had been interpreting and teaching at Ridgecrest and it was her conviction (which others shared) that Ridgecrest would do great things for Deaf people and for the new Deaf Conference. Carey Shaw had the final presentation. It is not clear if he spoke Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning. The official minutes indicate Thursday morning. Shaw's own recollection was that he spoke on Wednesday. Shaw spoke on the topic of "Christianizing the Social Life of Our Deaf People." He called for Christian recreation to help keep Deaf people in the church.

The conference attended prayer meeting that Wednesday night at First Baptist Church and took over the program. Several of the conference attendees helped lead the prayer meeting. Gunn, Jones, George, and Mrs. Brittain all spoke at prayer meeting. Rev. Gardner lead the program. The first day ended. Everyone went home with members of First Baptist to spend the night and to prepare for Thursday.

Whatever else may have happened on Thursday, this part is certain; the whole group took time to discussed their problems and concerns. Lanham led a discussion on the need for special literature and teaching aids. Robert Marsden and Leslie Gunn led a discussion on the need for deaf camps. Every part of the ministry was put on the table.

And then the records of the first meeting end abruptly. There is no indication of things "winding down." The records simply say the whole conference went sight seeing around Memphis and ate dinner at Fay Lanham's house. A second night was spent in Memphis homes and early Thursday morning most everyone took trains back to their homes. Two days. That's all. But in those two days a movement was begun. A movement that has changed Southern Baptist Deaf ministry.

The persons attending that first meeting had several purposes in mind for the conference. In 1958, Dr. Jack Roddy, Superintendent of the Home Mission Board's Deaf work, asked Fay Lanham to write an article for The Deaf Southern Baptist to explain the purposes of SBCD. (The Deaf Southern Baptist was a

a newsletter that Roddy edited.) She wrote, "Dr. Gardner felt a great need of getting workers in the local churches, both deaf and hearing -- teachers, interpreters, and missionaries -- together for exchange of ideas, for the discussion of our mutual problems, that we might better coordinate our work over the field and also have a period of spiritual fellowship together." (The Deaf Southern Baptist, Vol 1, No 2, April-June, 1958, p.1)

The By-laws now list seven purposes. These are: (1) To provide a vehicle for obeying the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) with respect to deaf people by personal witnessing, evangelism, home missions, foreign missions, and discipleship; (2) To provide opportunities for training in local church settings, in state conferences, and on the national level to help equip people in all aspects of the deaf ministry; (3) To assist deaf persons with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and deaf persons, interpreting the needs and functions of the one to the other; (4) To provide a channel of communication within the Southern Baptist deaf community; (5) To provide an understanding of deafness and of the needs of deaf people to the community at large; (6) To provide opportunities for inspirational worship experiences; (7) To provide opportunities for Christian fellowship.

In these many years, the purpose has expanded but basically it has remained the same. It is still an organization for Deaf people and Deaf ministry workers to get together for missions, fellowship, worship, and mutual benefit all for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. Time alone will tell if SBCD will stay true to its purposes and to the vision of its founders. Many years from now perhaps a later generation will look back upon us and call us "faithful."



(Taken mostly from his book "A Celebration of Fifty Years: The Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf, 1948-1998," Published by DJL Ministries, 1998, printed 2007.)

STATE CONFERENCES OF THE DEAF

Many conferences are currently facing difficult decisions in light of COVID-19. All conferences will be postponed to next year. Some possibly will be on live stream.

To update information, contact Ethan Elder: gunsmoke_253@yahoo.com

ALABAMA BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF (ABCD)	MARCH 2020
ARKANSAS BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF (ABCD)	MAY 2020 CANCELLED
FLORIDA BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF (FBCD)	JUNE 2020 CANCELLED
GEORGIA BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF (GBCD)	MARCH 2021
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF (KBCD)	TBA
LOUISIANA BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF (LBCD)	TBA
MARYLAND/DELAWARE BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF (MDBCDD)	TBA
MICHIGAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF (MBCD)	TBA
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF (MBCD)	TBA
MISSOURI BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF (MOBCD)	TBA
NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF (NCBCD)	TBA
OHIO BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF (OBCD)	TBA
OKLAHOMA BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF (OBCD)	OCTOBER 2020
SOUTH CAROLINA BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF (SCBCD)	TBA
TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF (TBCD)	MAY 2020 CANCELLED
TEXAS BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF (TBCD)	TBA
VIRGINIA BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF (VBCD)	TBA
DEAF MEN'S CONFERENCE (DMC)	OCTOBER 2020
DEAF MEN'S GATHERING (DMG)	OCTOBER 2020
DEAF MILLENNIAL PROJECT (DMP)	OCTOBER 2020
DEAF WOMEN'S GATHERING (DWG)	MARCH 2021

LETTER FROM LIFEWAY

Explore the Bible Deaf

Thank you for reaching out to me about the production of Explore the Bible Deaf. For several years, LifeWay has supported Deaf ministry by providing Explore the Bible Deaf. The changing church practice and the economic realities brought on by COVID-19 led us to evaluate every event and resource we produce. After looking at everything Explore the Bible offers, we decided to make some minor alterations to the Explore The Bible Daily Discipleship Guide and discontinue Explore the Bible Deaf, with the Winter 2021 issue being the last. One of the deciding factors was comparing the reading level of the two resources and discovered that they are both on a seventh grade reading level.

We will continue to provide a resource that can be used by Deaf groups, just not a resource designed exclusively for Deaf groups. We will be encouraging Deaf groups to transition to the adult Explore the Bible Daily Discipleship Guide beginning with the Spring 2021. The experience will be similar since both the Daily Discipleship Guide and Explore the Bible Deaf are organized in the same way. This Daily Discipleship Guide follows the same educational philosophy, is less expensive for the group member than ETBDeaf, and provides a digital option. Churches currently using Explore the Bible Deaf will receive notification later this Fall along with a sample copy of the Explore the Bible Daily Discipleship Guide for review.

LifeWay covets your prayers during this time, that God will direct our steps and provide the wisdom needed to navigate these challenging times.

In His service,

Dwayne McCrary

Team Leader (Ongoing Adult Bible Study Curriculum)

Lifeway Christian Resources

Designing trustworthy experiences that fuel ministry.

SBCD REMEMBERS

ROBERT PARRISH

1936-2019



Robert Parrish, well known Southern Baptist Minister and served as Minister to the Deaf for 50 years. Parrish served as board of trustee (now board of directors) for SBCD in 1994-1997. He also served in time and place committee and mission committee. Parrish went to the 22nd Annual Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf in 1970 and that was his first trip to SBCD.

Parrish was born in Asheboro, North Carolina on September 10, 1936. Parrish was a minister, firefighter, and sign language interpreter. Parrish married Nancy Bennett of Greensboro, North Carolina on July 7, 1957 in Chesterfield, South Carolina. They had three children, 10 grandchildren, and 1 great grandchild. Parrish's marriage lasted over 60 years until his death. Parrish served as a firefighter for Greensboro Fire Department and his father was also a firefighter. Parrish served in North Carolina National Guard (NCNG) from 1959 to 1963 as private first class.

Parrish's daughter, Debra, was born Deaf. Parrish and his wife saw the great need for educational training for preschool children who are Deaf. Together they established the first school for that purpose and it is called PATH School. It is an abbreviation for Progressive Advancement Through Hearing. It was incorporated and a teacher was hired opening its door with 50 children under the age of three and later it became the third state school for the Deaf in North Carolina.

Shorty after Debra was born, Parrish surrendered to the ministry and he was licensed to preach by his home church, Southside Baptist Church of Greensboro in North Carolina. In 1967, Parrish and his wife answered the Lord's direction to enter the ministry full time and the Parrish family moved to New Orleans, Louisiana. Parrish attended the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. While Parrish attending the seminary, he learned so much about the deafness as he served under the guidance of Rev. H. L. (Larry) Barnett as the Associate Pastor of the Deaf Department at First Baptist Church in New Orleans. Parrish graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary on July 24, 1970. After his graduation, Parrish returned to his home church, Southside Baptist Church of Greensboro in North Carolina. Parrish was ordained to the Gospel Ministry by his home church.

SBCD REMEMBERS ROBERT PARRISH

Later, Parrish eagerly accepted his first ministry at First Baptist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas as Minister to the Deaf. Parrish was the first and the only hearing person to become the President of the Arkansas Association of the Deaf. Parrish established and became the first President of the Arkansas Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. Parrish held the first national certification of the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. He and his wife, Nancy, along with several others were certified by Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) holding a Comprehensive Skills Certification certificate. While in Arkansas, Parrish accepted the position as Missionary to the Deaf for Arkansas Baptist Convention. Parrish remained in the position with Arkansas Baptist Convention, establishing new ministries, and supporting those in operation throughout the state until 1980.

In March 1980, Parrish accepted the position as Language Missions Consultant for Texas Baptist Convention. Parrish attempted to travel to Texas from Arkansas, and quickly learned that the state could not be covered in a day trip between Texas and Arkansas. However, he enjoyed the challenge. Parrish was always seeking ways to include everyone of every age in the ministry. He helped Texas Baptist Deaf Youth Camp and it became a popular summer event. A weekend retreat was also established for interpreters and workers in the Deaf Ministry. Parrish made twelve trips to Russia with various organizations to teach and minister in St. Petersburg, Moscow, and throughout Russia and the Ukraine. His wife, Nancy accompanied him on eleven trips.

Parrish was active in the Texas Society of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. and served a term as President of the organization. Parrish was always supportive for interpreters in training and gave them the time and respect that they deserved. Parrish earned his Texas State Certification with the Board of Evaluation of Interpreters. Parrish served as a member of the governing board at the Texas School for the Deaf (TSD) for 17 years. He served several terms as President of the board for TSD.

Parrish retired from the Baptist General Convention of Texas in 2001 but continued to preach for weddings and funerals. During his retirement, he and his wife worked as Video Relay Interpreters with Sorenson Communication for 6 years. They enjoyed traveling around the world. Parrish supported and served with Texas Baptist Conference of the Deaf for many years. Parrish and his wife went to the 70th Anniversary of Texas Baptist Conference of the Deaf (TBCD) in June 2019. Parrish died at the age of 83 on December 3, 2019 in Carrollton, Texas. The funeral service for Robert Parrish was held at Stonebriar Community Church in Frisco, Texas on December 7, 2019.

CODE BLUE: Deaf are Unreached

100 Major Cities in the
USA have **NO church**
for the Deaf



ONLY 58

SBC Deaf Churches
for 3 million Deaf

40%

of 58 US Deaf Churches
are without a pastor

Deaf Die Daily Without Jesus

70 Million Deaf Worldwide are **Unreached**

Need Deaf Churches, Need Deaf Pastor, Need Deaf Missionaries

www.deafchurchplanting.com

www.sbcdeaf.org

Contact: arandolph@brentwoodbaptist.com

LifeWay

Explore the Bible: Personal Study Guide for the Deaf is written by hearing impaired writers using text with simplified language to facilitate signing American Sign Language (ASL). Explore the Bible is a book-by-book Bible study for groups of all ages that takes participants deep into the context of God's Word and challenges them to live it out in their own context. You can purchase Explore the Bible: Personal Study Guide for the Deaf online.

For more information, please visit www.lifeway.com

DONNIE WILTSHIRE LED A WORKSHOP ABOUT LIFEWAY AT RIDGECREST CONFERENCE CENTER IN NORTH CAROLINA



LIFEWAY NEED DEAF WRITERS!

If you're interesting to become a writer for LifeWay, please contact

Donnie Wiltshire: dgwiltshire73@gmail.com

Joni Bice: bice@osuokc.edu



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AmazonSmile is a way for customers to support their favorite charitable organization every time they shop with Amazon. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf (SBCD) will receive donations from Amazon. AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to charity, The Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf, Inc. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you need to type and search for the Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf, Inc. to receive donations from purchases before you begin shopping.

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If you need to add new information or update your information in SBCD Directory.

Please check the website.

www.sbcdeaf.blogspot.com

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM **SOUTHERN BAPTIST** CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF

Kirby Woods Baptist Deaf Church in Memphis, Tennessee plan to celebrate their 75 years this October. Unfortunately, Kirby Woods Baptist Deaf Church has been canceled their 75th Anniversary due of COVID-19. The celebration will be postponed to October 2021. The guest speakers for the 75th Anniversary of Kirby Woods Baptist Deaf Church is Buddy Burgess, (Pastor 1982-1988), Donnie Wiltshire (Pastor 1990-1999), and Chip Penland (Pastor 2003-2013). For more information, please visit kwbdeaf.com



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SBCD 2021

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF
CAMPBELLSVILLE, KENTUCKY
JULY 25-30, 2021

WE HAVE COME TO KNOW AND HAVE BELIEVED THE LOVE WHICH GOD HAS FOR US. GOD IS LOVE, AND THE ONE WHO ABIDES IN LOVE ABIDES IN GOD, AND GOD ABIDES IN HIM.

1 JOHN 4:16



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PROMOTIONS, FLYERS & ADVERTISEMENTS IN TWSBCD

The Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf Board of Directors needs your help. If you or your group wants to advertise a state retreat, marriage retreat, men's gathering/conference, women's gathering/conference, youth conference, etc., in TWSBCD, please request a pre-approval from the Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf Board of Directors. The editor of TWSBCD is supervised by the Directors and often receive requests from Christian organizations. If you want advertise something in TWSBCD, please contact Chris Partain at this email address: cwpartain@yahoo.com and you may also write to Chris Partain at this address: Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church, 7777 Concord Rd, Brentwood, Tennessee 37027. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF LOGO

The SBCD logo is now copyrighted and is registered with the government copyright office. The logo is protected by federal law. You will notice we have added the symbol to the logo. If anyone wants to use the SBCD logo in advertisement, on stationary, in newsletters, on websites, in art work, on Facebook, on Twitter, etc., they must receive permission from the SBCD Board of Directors. To request to use of SBCD logo form, please contact Chris Partain at this email address: cwpartain@yahoo.com

WE NEED NEWS FROM YOU!

Send us your news! News about your mission trips, both in United States and other countries, are needed in order to make this newsletter more interesting to read –as well as to inspire the TWSBCD readers into taking missionary trips! We also need news of your pastoral callings in Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) churches, your enrollments in SBC colleges/seminaries, (including academic honors and graduations), etc., and about your Deaf churches, Deaf ministries and state conference of the Deaf as well. Please submit the news to Ethan Elder at this email address: gunsmoke_253@yahoo.com



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