



"I Love You!" Barbara J. Bush, career missionary in Hong Kong



Missionary David S. Bush shown here visiting with students and teachers during mid-morning break. School is being held for half days. Graduation will be held July 10, 2020 and students have one more week of activities after graduation. Then these halls will be quiet again.

Prayer Requests, Praises, and Thanks

THANK YOU, LORD...

1. For no illness among those associated with Lutheran School for the Deaf in Hong Kong.
2. For Concordia School of Special Education in Macau.
3. For the children who thankfully were able to attend 6 weeks of school.

LORD, hear our prayer...

4. For those who suffered illness and loss because of the pandemic.
5. For all affected by the pandemic.
6. For those who do not yet trust in Jesus Christ.

Amen.



Pictured in the chapel at LSD, David and Barbara celebrate 43 years of wedded life, July 9th. To God be the glory.

How can they hear

Back in the 4th century, people had a different idea about what a deaf person could accomplish. St. Augustine is reported to have said, "*those born deaf are incapable of ever exercising the Christian faith, for they cannot hear the Word.*" Augustine was correct in part of his thinking. The deaf could not "hear" the Word. This greatly influenced many Christian people in their attitudes towards deaf people. But as part of the quote that is often missed, Augustine also said, "*The deaf cannot hear the Word, and they cannot read the Word.*" So, Augustine left open the possibility of deaf people being able to exercise the Christian faith if they could read the Word. So, in a sense, the "hearing" could happen with the eyes.

What the people during the time of Augustine experienced with the deaf is not too different from what many people's experience is today. Perhaps, an analogy would help. My wife goes up the mountain to the food store. It is a struggle that she manages several times a week. She has gotten used to climbing up the long stretch of steps. Occasionally, my wife persuades me to go to the food store with her. It is a greater struggle for me to go up the mountain than it is for my wife. She faces this mountain much more often than I do. I am not used to going up those steps. In the same way, deaf people daily face the mountain of communication trying to figure out what other people are saying. This is routine for them and for my deaf wife.

[continued]

For more information check [Facebook](#):

[Hong Kong & Macau Mission Work: David & Barbara Bush](#)

NOTE: If you want to **be removed** from the mailing list, email me at david.bush@lcms.org



The virus continues to prevent me from traveling to *Concordia School for Special Education* and *St. Peter Lutheran Church*.



The Human Being and Person

by *Barbara J. Bush*

I was born to be with the people.
I lived with my father and mother until I got married.
I raised my four children until they left the home.
I went to work to help the people in need.
I moved to another country to work with my husband.
I learned the country's culture and language.
I looked at the faces of different people.
I pondered and said to LORD God,
"YOU created Adam and Eve from your own image.
The number of men and women multiplied on Earth.
Then the gigantic flood took over Earth and spared one family of eight.
The number of men and women multiplied again.
At the Tower of Babel, YOU confused one native tongue that became many different languages.
The people were scattered to four corners of the Earth.
Through time, the people did not know each other.
The people fought and warred against each other because they were different.
The people forgot where he and she originally had come from."

Jesus Christ did not come down to Earth to take over the world.
HE came to tell the world that He loved everyone.
HE looked at you as a human being and as a person.
HE sacrificed HIS life for everyone, not based on skin color, language, disability, and other characteristics.
Jesus Christ said, "**Love** one another, as I have loved you." +++

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When the average person meets a deaf person, they are not used to figuring out what the deaf person is trying to say. The experience is one which the hearing person is unaccustomed, and the occasion becomes uncomfortable. But for the deaf person, it is a routine matter.

When something is new to us, we are uncomfortable with it. There is a learning curve for anything new. But in time, we can make the adjustment, if we are open and willing.

It has been an adjustment for us learning Hong Kong Sign Language. Just as American Sign Language has borrowed from the written English, so the Hong Kong Sign Language borrows from the written Chinese. This makes the acquisition of the Hong Kong Sign Language more challenging. But it is a worthwhile endeavor. Because, contrary to what Augustine and many others thought, the deaf can learn to read the Bible, and they can learn to "hear" with their eyes doing the listening. Sign language makes the Word visible as well. This gives new meaning to, "the Word became flesh." Pray that Barbara and I can continue to work with our colleagues and friends to help the deaf here "exercise the Christian faith." +++



Sunday morning worship resumed for about 6 weeks until July 12th, when services were canceled again because of a new outbreak of the coronavirus in Hong Kong.



We join Pr. Moody, who streams their worship service each Sunday at [Holy Cross Lutheran Deaf Church](#) in St. Louis, MO.

OUR FINANCES: God has sustained us through the gifts of many partners in the Gospel. We continue to be provided with an apartment and a stipend by the Lutheran Church-Hong Kong Synod.

The virus, I am sure, has affected many people in the United States, some of whom have supported us. Thank you for the sacrifices you all have made.

Even when schools are closed, we continue to keep in contact with staff and students. I continue to look for ways to communicate the love of Jesus to all.

This summer I will be developing devotions for the next academic year 2020-21 for presentations during Fridays' Chapel Gospel Sharing time at LSD. When I share with the deaf students, I use a combination of PowerPoints and videos that I prepare. We must continue to find ways to share the Gospel before Jesus returns "to judge the quick and the dead."

Barbara and I made the commitment to be in the field at least 5 years. We are completing our third year *in the field*. We plan to remain here and continue the work until our Lord says our work is done here. We pray for continued good health and thank the Lord for sustaining us so far.

We **thank you**, too, for your support. +++



In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.



Support can also be sent to:

Gary Thies at:

[Mission Central – LCMS World Mission](#)

40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, IA 51034

Phone: 712-882-1029

Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website at

www.lcms.org/givenow/bush.



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Hong Kong & Macau

To support the LCMS through the work of *David and Barbara* in Asia, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861

St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Make checks payable to [The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod](#) or LCMS. Include "Bush-Hong Kong" in the memo line.

(Or call 888-930-4438 to speak with someone.)



Mark 11:17

"And He began to teach and say to them, 'Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'?"



Mark 16:15

And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.'



Lyman and Ruth Stone came to Hong Kong two years ago. They came as missionaries and while here, their daughter Suzy was born. This photo was taken at their farewell. They left this summer to move to Montreal, Canada. They will be missionaries there as well. Lyman will be pursuing a doctorate. They are a great missionary couple and did a lot of great work. God bless them as they continue to share the Lutheran Christian message. We will miss them.

And He who was seated on the throne said,

"Behold, I am making all things new."