

The Dundons

Missionaries to the Deaf in Philadelphia

WORLD WIDE
NEW TESTAMENT BAPTIST MISSIONS



Matt, Colleen & Aiden

Current support level:
100%

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A Whole New Year

With 2022 behind us, we faced new challenges as we entered 2023. After we started the church in May, we had about twenty average attendees. As the new year began, we were down to five, including our family. Different people left for different reasons. We had a family that our son grew to become quite attached to. Every Sunday, he would ask us “Where’s my friends?” And we would respond by praying together for them. After a long while, he would eventually stop asking, becoming the only kid in church.

Sunday School

On January first, we started our first Sunday school. Last year, we only had one service a week for one hour at 2-3pm. I wanted to start slow and test the waters. Over the last couple of months I announced that we were starting Sunday school as the new year starts, asking around if there’s any particular topics that they wanted to have a better biblical understanding of. In the end, I decided to go ahead and teach creation in Genesis, there’s no more important foundation in understanding Scriptures than that. The response of everyone present has been very positive and many of them were quite engaged in discussions. They’re very thrilled that they’re able to ask questions during Sunday school, which they haven’t been able to do during the worship service.

Unlike when I preach, I include many pictures in my Sunday school lessons to help them visualize Scripture. That’s especially helpful in a topic like creation, and for us deaf people who are mainly visual learners. I’m also quite glad to be able to finally separate my preaching style from my teaching style. I have been doing a mishmash preaching style between the two since starting the church.

One strange thing with our Sunday school we had to adjust to is that it starts after the worship service, 3-4pm. We’re quite

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accustomed to having it before the main service when visiting others churches but we were asking our church family their preferences and almost all of them would like to have it after the main service. After doing this for a while now, I've learned to really like it. I don't have to try to "save up all of my preaching energy" for the regular service. I can just let it out and then wind down during Sunday school afterwards.

We had plans to have my wife teach a separate Sunday school lesson with the children at church. However, since we only had Aiden, sometimes Colleen would teach him in the back of the room or he would join the regular adult Sunday school class. He certainly loves all of the pictures! For the first two months, we already covered the entire week of creation.

New Unexpected Ministry

In the middle of January, we arrived to church to find three deaf teenage boys waiting inside the sanctuary. We found out from the hearing pastor's wife that they arrived about an hour early, thinking that church would start at 1pm. They decided to stay until the deaf service started. We chatted with them and



become acquainted while setting up church. Most of them enjoyed the service and were quite engaged during Sunday school. One of them was showing resistance to my answers and never came back but the other two have been coming to church faithfully. One is named Arnando, the other Isaiah, both of whom are brothers. It turns out that these two are already saved, please pray for the third teenager, that God would work on the seed planted in his heart.



After church was over, Isaiah informed me that he has been praying specifically for a deaf church in Philly since December, not knowing that ours existed already! Upon hearing that, I could only think about the Macedonian call in Acts 16:9b “...Come over into Macedonia, and help us.” On the inside, I was overwhelmed by God’s perfect timing. He explained that he has been going to a Pentecostal church with his family his whole life without an interpreter and has been praying for a deaf church where he can fully understand everything. He and his brother have a clear testimony of being led to the Lord by their mother.

As of now, they have been coming to our church in the afternoon faithfully after being with their parents at the Pentecostal church in the morning. Pray for us as we navigate through this. They’re very open and absorbing everything.



Super Bowl Fellowship

Well, we all already know the results of the Super Bowl this year. We took advantage of this time to invite everyone to my house after church was over and watch it together. Some of them were planning to watch it alone that night and decided to join us instead. We had almost ten people in our home and everyone brought treats. I made some delicious homemade chicken wings with my own sauces, they were a hit! During halftime show, I gave out a devotion instead of having us watch the inappropriate music and dancing.