



Campus Crusade for Christ at Gallaudet University

Dear Prospective Ministry Partner,

My name is Bob Rhoads. In 1994, God called me to start the first deaf campus ministry to reach deaf students for Christ at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. My wife, Karen joined me from my profession working with mentally ill adults in Baltimore, Maryland to join the staff of Campus Crusade for Christ.

We are now in our twelfth year of ministry, teaching and training deaf students to become laborers for Christ on campus and one day as leaders in both deaf and hearing communities across the old U.S.A. We have an average of 30 deaf students involved in this first deaf campus ministry.

By the year 2001, I accepted the position from Campus Crusade to be a campus director to direct the campus ministry. My responsibilities will involve preparing a staff team to train deaf student leaders who will train leaders on campus and to provide resources as well as spiritual tools to help them grow in their faith on campus. I also minister and challenge students to know God in a personal way through Freshman Survival Kits and Study Guide books that focus such issues from the Passion of the Christ and the controversy of the DaVinci Code.

What makes this ministry at Gallaudet *unique* is that Gallaudet is the world's only university for Deaf students who come from all over the world to study. This is the first time in the history of the school that a ministry that is dedicated to sharing the Gospel with students and to help them grow in their faith has been started.

Karen and I are uniquely suited to begin this ministry, for we, too are deaf. Our deafness has actually given us the ability to go on the campus and to be accepted by these deaf students. Many in the deaf community are hesitant to work closely with those who hear. These students are searching for meaning and purpose in life. Some have a great misunderstanding of Christianity. For example when I was younger, some people told me that I was deaf because of sin. What these students need is to learn that God loves and accept them and sent Jesus to die for their sin.

Deaf students are torn between two worlds, the deaf world and the hearing world. The deaf community uses a different language than English to communicate with each other. But to communicate with the hearing world, they also need to know English.

Our vision is not just winning Deaf students to Christ, but helping them grow in their relationship with Him. Because of our training Karen and I can help build a bridge for them so that they will be able to take advantage of many things that the hearing Christian world can offer to enable them to grow in their walk with the Lord. Right now a wall exists between these students and the many opportunities for Christian growth that have been traditionally available for only hearing students. Karen and I know how to take down that wall.

Presently, I am looking for churches, Christian businesses or organizations who would love to help support Deaf students with opportunities for their future. In order to run this unique campus ministry, we need to have materials, office equipment, monthly expenses such as traveling and scholarships for student retreats and conferences and much more to make each college year effectively. I can be reached by my email at Robert.Rhoads@uscm.org.

Like many other mission organizations, Campus Crusade ministries depend on the financial support to carry on their ministry such as Gallaudet University. Campus Crusade has no central funds for their campus ministries. We must find a team of ministry partnerships.

Our commitment to our ministry partners are: 1) To work diligently on our campus to touch the lives of Deaf students for Christ; 2) To regularly let you know how God is blessing our ministry; and 3) To share our prayer concerns with one another. Would you prayerfully consider in making a contribution of \$100, \$250, \$500 or \$1000 each year? Or whatever the amount God put on your heart.

We would appreciate your making the check out to **Campus Crusade for Christ** for your tax deductible. Thank you for taking your time and support in our campus ministry! We are excited to see what God will do at Gallaudet University because of your commitment.

Sincerely Yours,

Robert E. Rhoads, Sr.

Campus Director of C³

The Chapter of Campus Crusade for Christ at Gallaudet University