



# The Rhoads Rock

13<sup>th</sup> year on staff

C<sup>3</sup> at Gallaudet University

2<sup>nd</sup> Issue

## March 2007



### *Greetings in Jesus' Name!*

I want to thank some of you who helped me bring a group of student leaders to a special conference called "Deaf Youth Symposium" that focus on Deaf teens in the USA on the weekend of February 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. It is sponsored by Deaf Youth Ministries/Deaf Teen Quest in Louisville, Kentucky. Thank you for your prayers and support as I invested my life and time into those student leaders' lives for God's kingdom. I am restructuring this campus ministry for this coming fall of 2007.

Attending the symposium was a very rewarding experience. The approach in worship, drama, activities and Bible Study is different because it focuses on the Deaf needs. It has a lot of visual aids and that is a BIG must in the Deaf communities. The student leaders - Kari, Jake & Matt - and I thoroughly enjoyed our time there. We met a lot of Deaf leaders as well as hearing leaders who have a heart for Deaf teens. We had a Deaf guest speaker named Rev. Ricky McClain from Deaf Christian Virtual University in Alabama to guide us into the

Grace and Truth of Jesus Christ from the Scriptures. God used him to take us into a deeper look into the life of Jesus concerning grace and truth.

The student leaders and I discussed a lot of things - from the symposium - that we could do and use for our weekly *Thursday Night Live* meetings. We even discussed how we can reach out to the Deaf teens in the DC Metro area. There is a deaf high school on Gallaudet campus called *Model Secondary School for the Deaf* (MSSD). I graduated from there in 1984. The religious opportunities are now "closed" at this school. But Kari recently became an assistant coach in Track & Field at MSSD. We are now praying for opportunities through Kari. Here are their comments about the symposium:  
*This symposium gave me many ideas that will make the ministry effective for Gallaudet as it did for Deaf teens today. I enjoyed it very much.* - Kari, SOPH

*I saw old friends who are now youth leaders. I enjoyed the workshops and the games that will impact Deaf teens as it will for our weekly Thursday Night Live meetings at Gallaudet. I did learn a great deal from that symposium alone.* - Matt, SOPH

*I sensed God inspiring me to make connection with Deaf youth leaders to reach out the Deaf teens as I do for my fellow college students in the ministry.* - Jake, SR

I want you to be aware that reaching Deaf Teens is very difficult and challenging. A lot of those kids have a hard time fitting into the youth ministry that arises from every church in the USA. There are a lot of barriers for being deaf. I know this because I used to be one of those Deaf teens who once struggled growing up in the faith. I want to help them make the transition possible all the way to college like Gallaudet University, one day. The founder, Bob Ayres and I are currently discussing partnership together. Those two organizations: *Youth for Christ & Campus Life* have been partners with *Deaf Teen Quest* to oversee their activities for a number of years.

Please pray for our partnership and join the team. I plan to discuss with my regional team about my position and what my role and responsibilities will be like as I continue my 13<sup>th</sup> year on staff with *Campus Crusade for Christ*. My wife and I are still the only Deaf staff and there must be something we can do to make the impact. *Campus Crusade* have a lot to offer and I want that to be available for Deaf Christians during their early years of youth.

Thank you for your support & prayers as our ministry begins to take shape as God wills it to be.

*All our Love,*

*Bob & Karen*