

IMPARTATION 2011

Isaiah 37:31

~ More Than A Conference But an Encounter with God ~

October 5 – 9, 2011



Presenter BIOS and Photos



Jon Barr

Jon Barr was saved in November 1975. One year later, as a senior in high school, he learned Sign Language and began working in the deaf ministry there. In the fall of 1977, Jon enrolled in Bob Jones University, majoring in Sacred Music. During his first semester, God called him to work with deaf people. Changing his major to Church Administration, which later became Church Ministries, he began to prepare for the deaf ministry. In the spring of 1978, Jon organized an extracurricular class and began teaching Sign Language to fellow students. Several of those students are now working with the Deaf. During the spring of his senior year, Jon surrendered to God's call into missionary work with deaf people. Upon Jon's graduation in 1981, he married his friend, Diane. He accepted a position as pastor to the deaf at his home church, Palm Springs Drive Baptist n Altamonte Springs, Florida,

In 1984, Jon and Diane began raising missionary support and establishing deaf ministries across America. Since 1984 they have begun many deaf ministries throughout America in both large and small churches and have seen many Deaf people saved through their ministry. In 1989 the Lord burdened Jon's heart for deaf ministries in the West. For the next 10 years he worked in the west for six months each year, starting several deaf ministries and assisting established deaf ministries in Southern California. In 2000, Jon and his wife merged their ministry with Silent Word Ministries, where Jon serves as President. Along with starting new deaf ministries, the Barr's ministry now includes conducting area-wide deaf ministry Fantastic Saturdays to encourage and train deaf people and deaf ministry workers, literature and videos for Deaf people and Deaf ministries; The Silent Word Newspaper, a free, 12-page, bimonthly paper with a circulation of 12,500; the Deaf Bible Institute, a correspondence school with over 800 Deaf people enrolled; and local, regional, and international meetings. Jon has preached and taught in several countries including the Philippines, Belize, Bolivia, Ukraine, and Peru. All meetings, literature and videos are Bible-based.

Workshop Facilitator and Plenary Speaker



Bonnie Faye Gibson-Brydon

Bonnie has been working in our profession for more than 30 years. She has worked in South Africa, Germany, as well as several states throughout the U.S. After earning her theological Masters, she has stepped into teaching mainstream audiences techniques in “Believing in your Own Power;” these techniques are weaved throughout her presentations. Since February, 1996, she has been the Executive Director of Pula Legal Interpreting Network, and for the last three years, has been acting as Chief Executive Officer of Mojave Deaf Services (San Bernardino County). Her passion is in the Grass Root Deaf Community. Bonnie currently mentors interpreters, focusing on the strengths and confidence as professionals while practicing a higher level of standards. Her goal as a presenter is to laugh and enjoy the process of growth.

Interpreter Trainer and Workshop Facilitator

My Roots Are Growing



Noah Butler, III

Noah Butler, III, is a New Orleans native. He began his deaf ministry work in 1992. Until Hurricane Katrina, he served as an interpreter for Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, Hands of Praise Deaf Ministry, New Orleans, LA, under the leadership of Pastor Fred Luter, Jr. In the spring of 2001, Noah began a sign language gospel group called “Noah3 & Company.” In October of 2002, they produced a Live Video recording of the group entitled “On One Accord.” Later in 2005, his group recorded their second Live DVD, “Signs of Faith” in Lavaca, AR. On July 14, 2007, his third project was recorded Live in Dallas, Texas entitled “Making Music Come ALIVE – Testimonies thru Worship. Due to technical difficulties, that project was not completed.

On the professional side, Noah has taught ASL at Delgado Community College in New Orleans, LA, ASL1 and Religious Signing at Southern University at New Orleans, served as educational interpreter for several colleges and high schools. In addition, he does professional workshops and skills building seminars for religious interpreters and performs across the country with the Company. He has served as Interpreter Coordinator for the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival as well as the Austin City Limits, Lollapalooza and Bonnaroo Music Festivals. Noah began working with International Institute of Deaf Services, Inc., under the leadership of Paul William Ellis in 2007. He currently serves as Executive Assistant for Paul, Program Chair and acting Sponsorship Chair. He is also a Flight Attendant with Delta Airlines and resides between Queens, New York and New Orleans, LA.

Workshop Facilitator and Forum Leader



Paul William Ellis

Paul William Ellis is a native of Lexington, Mississippi where he grew up in the home of a Christian mother. He received the Lord, Jesus Christ as Savior at the age of six. Paul received training from The Navigators and accepted his call to preach the Gospel at the age of twenty-three. He received his B.S. degree from Columbia Bible College, Columbia, SC and a Masters in Biblical Studies and a Masters in Religion Education from Birmingham Theological Seminary, Birmingham, Alabama. For twenty years, he coordinated and helped plan activities for the growth of the church; developed a ministry to the Deaf; supervised staff; taught weekly bible study; organized retreats; assisted in pastoral duties which included preaching and visitation; taught sign language classes; developed and taught workshops on American Sign Language; organized praise and worship conferences, praise and worship concerts and 2 concerts of prayer. He served as sign language instructor in the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education. Paul served as worship leader for the Birmingham Community Deaf Church. He was on staff with Christian Deaf Fellowship (CDF). He served as the music leader and music workshop leader for the Alabama Baptist Conference of the Deaf, and served as guest interpreter for the Freedom Rally in Robertsdale, AL. In 1993, Paul founded International Institute of Deaf Services. Paul is presently an interpreter with the Federal Government and travels preaching and teaching the Word of God. The Anointing of the Lord is upon him as he leads God's people into worship. Paul's greatest desire and focus is to see God's people grow into their full potential and mature in Christian character. He has ministered throughout the United States, Japan, Korea and the Philippines. He released "Worship In Sign Language with Paul William Ellis," a video of praise and worship music. Paul holds an Interpreter's Permit from the State of Alabama.

Workshop Facilitator and Forum Leader



Richard McCowin

Richard McCowin has been employed at United States Postal Service in Omaha, Nebraska since 1984 where he has had been a union steward for Omaha Local Area of American Postal Worker Union for some years. Richard has been a part-time American Sign Language instructor at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha since 1993. Currently, Richard is serving as a board member for National Association of the Deaf (NAD). Before he became a NAD Board member, he had been involved in various deaf organizations since 1980 including a former vice-president of National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA), former vice-president of Midwest Athletic Association of the Deaf, and outgoing president of Nebraska Association of the Deaf. Richard graduated from Nebraska School for the Deaf and received his BA in Psychology from Gallaudet University in 1981. He had a grown-up daughter named Megan.

Workshop Facilitator and Key Note Speaker





Justin Vollmar

Justin Vollmar has been a pastor for eight years and is currently pastor of Open Bible Deaf Church, College Park Maryland. He was a registrar and teacher at Capital Baptist Deaf College for seven years and taught on-campus bible study at Gallaudet University for eight years. He started Virtual Deaf Church in fall 2010.

Justin is a third generation deaf family. His father and grandparents is Deaf. He has three deaf children who are fourth generation deaf family. He grew up at Wisconsin where his parents are teachers of Wisconsin School for the Deaf. He enrolled Gallaudet University in the fall of 1998 then graduated from Capital Baptist Deaf College in 2003.

Workshop Facilitator





Darlene G. Ratliff

Darlene G. Ratliff, CI, holds a B.A. degree from the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio and a M.Ed. in Deaf Education from Boston University. Darlene graduated from the Rural Interpreter Training Program (RTIP) at Northeastern University. She went on to receive a Certificate of Interpretation from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. She was a teacher at the Horace Mann School for the Deaf in Boston for over 14 years. Currently she works in the Boston Public School System as a math specialist.

Darlene has been a member of New Covenant Christian Church (now Jubilee Christian Church) in Boston, Massachusetts for the past 15 years under the leadership of Bishop Gideon and Pastor Yvonne Thompson. During this period, she was instrumental in developing a Deaf ministry and served as its leader for twelve years. She has since transitioned into a new area of ministry as the Lord has led. Currently, she serves as director of the **Institute for Deaf Ministry Development (IDMD)**. The mission of IDMD is to provide American Sign Language interpreters, signers and Deaf ministry workers with the skills necessary to communicate effectively the Gospel. To assist Deaf ministry workers with the skills necessary to effectively communicate the Gospel, and to assist Deaf ministries and churches in reaching maximum effectiveness in ministry with individuals who are Deaf, Deaf/blind or hard of hearing regardless of mode of communication. IDMD strives for, **“Cultural and Linguistic Competency... Excellence in Ministry”**.

Workshop Facilitator





William F. Ross, III

William F. Ross III, a child of Deaf parents, has been interpreting for more than 24 years and holds dual certification (CI/CT) from the Registry of Interpreters of the Deaf. He has a Master of Science Degree in Special Education from Southwest Missouri State University. Mr. Ross is currently employed at North Carolina School for the Deaf as Director of the Communication Access Support Services (CASS) Department; where he established the NCSL Mentorship Project to provide ongoing support to educational interpreters. Previously, he was employed at the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing where he served as an interpreter, evaluator/trainer for the state screening and as a mentor. In addition, he has been an instructor at multiple college and universities. He has presented nationwide and has several publications to his credit.

Workshop Facilitator

My Roots, My Future



Carol Tipton

Carol Tipton, CSC, CI and CT, has been involved with the education of interpreters for over 40 years. In the mid-nineteen-seventies she coordinated the National Interpreter Training Consortium out of NYU, where she earned M.A. and Ed.D. degrees. She has taught continuing education classes for interpreters at Gallaudet University since 1978, and credit classes in the Interpreter Training Program at the Community College of Baltimore County-Catonsville since 1988, where she is currently an Associate Professor. She chaired the RID committee which composed the RID Code of Ethics, served on the Blueprint Committee, which constructed the first generalist written certification examination, was a member of the RID Professional Standards Committee, developing standard practice papers, served as a member of the NAD/RID Certification Council and is currently a member of the RID Professional Development Committee. She is a Local Test Administrator for RID and coordinates the RID Supersite at Catonsville for administering written and performance certification examinations. She is also the Certification Maintenance Program Coordinator for the Potomac Chapter of RID.

Workshop Facilitator