

Not So Obvious

– by Pat Gardiner

There are obvious reasons for providing CART/captioning for your church. But what about the not so obvious reasons -- reasons that don't always come immediately to mind, but valid reasons nonetheless? Consider this: There may be people in your congregation who are learning English as a second language, or people who have learning disabilities.

Beth Frazier, RPR, CRR, CCR, provides CART for Smyrna Church of Christ in Smyrna, Tennessee. She not only provides CART for people that are hard of hearing/deaf, but also for two other very special people, one lady who is learning English as a second language and one teenager who has a learning disability.

About a year ago, Beth began providing CART at her church for a 13-year-old girl whom is hard of hearing. To “spread the word” Beth tells us, “I’ve placed brochures in doctors’ offices specializing in hearing loss.” Currently she provides CART for at least four – that she knows of!

The lady learning English as a second language, originally from Taiwan, told Beth that before the captions she got very little from the service, only understanding about 20 percent of what was the said. The English was just too fast for this lady to be able to understand. Now, using the captions, she is able to understand about 90 percent. What a difference the captions make!

Beth explains further that a mother of a high school age boy approached her. “She thanked me for providing the CART and explained that although her son was not deaf/hard of hearing, he suffers from a learning disability that causes him to be unable to focus on the sermon. He is able to follow the sermon and understand more fully by using the captions.”

Using her realtime software and a projector assigned to their church youth department, the captions are displayed on a wall in the front of the auditorium. Beth says, “For now it is working fairly well, but I hope to be able to improve on it at some point.” The captions are not visible to the entire seating area, but can be seen by anyone sitting on one side of the auditorium. Beth says, “It blesses me to serve others. I’m glad to do it.”

Getting started with providing CART/captioning is sometimes just a matter of finding out what equipment your church has, and seeing if it can be used in combination with your own equipment and software. Improvements can always be made as you go along, and as the number of people you are captioning for increases.

Beth shares more with us!

Sunday morning can be a very busy time trying to fit everything in. How does Beth do it? “I’ve been attending our 8:00 a.m. service so I can worship with my family and then I stay to realtime the 10:30 a.m. service. That way, too, I get the benefit of hearing the sermon before writing it and can enter words in my dictionary beforehand.”

Have you thought about having a CART/captioning brochure at your church? The brochure for Beth's church reads, "Is your inability to hear what is being said causing you to miss church services? It doesn't have to anymore!" "Let CART help you get back to worship!"

Maybe your church has an amplification system of some type, and you are wondering if CART/captioning would be helpful. Beth met a hard of hearing gentleman in her church who told her that, although he uses the amplification devices provided by the church, the CART really helps when there is a lot of background noise or sometimes the amplification device is not functioning.

Having completed the court reporting program at Edmondson Junior College in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Beth began reporting in the North Georgia and Chattanooga area in 1991. She moved to Nashville and began reporting independently in 1992. She is currently a partner in Faulkner & Frazier Court Reporting based in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Beth is married, and has two daughters.

Beth, we think you are amazing, and you truly are an inspiration to us all! Thank you for sharing with us some wonderful ideas, and pointing out that there are some not so obvious reasons to provide CART/captioning for a church.

JCR Contributing Editor Pat Gardiner is from Milton, Ontario, Canada. For more information you can contact Beth at BethFraz@aol.com. You can also e-mail

*plgardiner@hotmail.com to receive a free package of information on providing
CART/captioning for churches.*

Steno Outlines:

Submitted by Denise Agard, CSR (A), from Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

alabaster	AL/PW*AS/ER
Delilah	TKE/HRAOEU/HRAU
Galilee	TKPWAL/HRAOE
Jehovah-jireh	SKWRE/HOE/SRA/SKWRAOEU/RA
Jehovah/Yahweh	SKWRE/HOE/SRA/KWRAU/WAEU
Pharisee	TPAEUR/SEU
Samson	SAPL/SOPB
Simeon	SEUPL/KWROPB
Simon	SAOEUPL
Thai	TAO*EU
tie	TAOEU
thigh	THAOEU
thy	THAO*EU
Via Dolorosa	SRAOE/A/TKOL/ROES/A