

MORE THAN MONETARY

- By David W. Moxley, RPR, CRR, CMRS

I presently provide captioning for the Sunday morning church services at Disciples Christian Church in Hamilton, Ohio. I use Gigitron's StenoCAT software, and my real-time translation is fed through the church's projection system, which is mounted on the ceiling, to a large screen in the front of the sanctuary. I am physically in the back of the sanctuary, but I use headphones, which are plugged into the PA system, so as long as everyone uses a microphone, I can hear them without a problem.

I alternate between taking the speakers live with real-time technology and displaying prepared text via PowerPoint. I use the PowerPoint for things such as the scripture readings or items that are simply read to the congregation. I purchased Bible software, which I can simply copy and paste into PowerPoint. I also have the weekly bulletin e-mailed to me, which I also can copy and paste those portions. That gives me somewhat of a break, but most of the service is real-timed.

My preparation each week includes editing the previous week's service so I can global into my dictionary anything that didn't translate properly. I also prepare the PowerPoint presentation with the scriptures and readings. Lastly, I research those scriptures and readings, looking for anything that I suspect may not translate properly, and get those items into my dictionary. It's also not unusual on Sunday morning to have last-minute changes to the service. You have to pretty much expect the unexpected and be willing to be flexible.

There have been some difficult Sundays, such as the week when our church participated in a pulpit exchange, and we wound up with a very fast-talking "fire and brimstone" pastor, who gave me quite a challenge. In fact, he was so impressed with the captioning aspect of our service, he asked me to provide him a transcript of his sermon. Another time, when the sound went dead in my headset, the gentleman running the sound system tried to fix it, but instead inadvertently began playing the previous week's sermon in my headset, which I didn't realize for a few seconds. You can imagine the confusion that caused. In spite of the occasional challenge, I still very much enjoy the whole process.

I considered doing this for a few years, but I didn't really take it seriously until the church invested in the projection system for a new evening service they were beginning. They didn't really have any plans for the new system during the traditional morning service, so I decided to approach them with my idea. We didn't have any deaf individuals in our congregation, but I thought if we provided the service and advertised it, we could provide this ministry to those who wouldn't be able to benefit from a standard service, and perhaps attract some hearing-impaired individuals to our congregation. We have not attracted anyone yet, but we hope to in the future.

In the meantime, the church members have really become attached to the new visual dimension of the service and have begun to enjoy the opportunity to "read" the service at

the same time they're hearing it. Sometimes an individual will not hear part of something that was said, and they will check out the screen to fill in the missing gaps. It's especially helping elderly people who are hard of hearing, and they get a lot out of it. There is one lady who is nearly deaf, who moved out of our area a few years ago. She still visits occasionally and loves the captioning so much that she makes a point of attending the service anytime she's back in town.

When I first made the decision to do this, I took my writer and computer and wrote real-time for only myself for about three months in order to build a dictionary and make the necessary tweaks in order that I would get a decent translation and appearance. The first Sunday or two when I went live, it was pretty overwhelming. Since then, I've learned to relax and just stay focused. I didn't have any past experience at CART or captioning. The closest I got to that was writing real-time on depositions. It's one of those things that you just have to jump in and start somewhere.

It's really turned out to be a great experience. It's strictly a volunteer activity, but I thoroughly enjoy it and look forward to it each week. It has added a whole new dimension to my career and it's become energizing. It has improved my performance as a reporter because it has forced me to change my writing and clean things up more so than I've done at anytime in my career. My writing style is in constant flux, and that alone is wonderful, as I'm constantly improving how I write everything. Reporting depositions is a great service to the legal community, but captioning to a congregation takes service to an entirely new level, where you're able to help enrich others' lives by opening a new opportunity for them to participate in what they otherwise wouldn't be able to.

Professionally, I am the managing reporter for Ace Reporting Services in Cincinnati, and have been with them since 1977, except for a couple-year stint in the '80s when I reported in the state of Florida. Ace is just delving into the CART arena, having done some CART work, including IRS training sessions and cochlear implant meetings. Several of our reporters have shown an interest in this new field and, like me, find it a very rewarding experience. One of our reporters is also interested in possibly starting a captioning service at her church. It's a tremendous expansion of our profession into an entirely new area, which provides benefits far more than just monetary.

Briefs submitted by David W. Moxley, RPR, CRR, CMRS:

amen AEM/	disciple SAOEUPL/
angel A*EUL/	Egypt AOEJ/
baptism BAFM/	Elijah LAOEUJ/
Barabbas BRABS/	Elisha LAOEURB/
Bethlehem BEM/	Ephesians FAOERB/
Bible study BAOEUBS/	Galilean GAEN/
commandment KMAMT/	Galilee GAEL/
crucify KRAOUF/	Gentile JAOEUL/
devotion VOEGS/	Hebrew BRU/
devotional VOEL/	Israel EURLS/

Jacob JAEUB/
Jeremiah JAEURM/
Jerusalem J-RZ/
Lazarus LAZ/
liturgical L-RK/
liturgy L-RG/
Messiah MEZ/
miracle MEURK/
Moses MOEZ/
Nazareth NAZ/
omnipotence OMS/
omnipotent OMT/
passover POEFR/
Pentecost PEKT/
perish PERB/
rabbi RAEB/
racism RAEUFM/
radiant RAEUNT/

remembrance BRANS/
resurrect R-RT/
resurrection R-RGS/
sabbath SABT/
salvation VAEUGS/
saviour S-FR/
scripture SKRUR/
Simon Peter SAEP/
spiritual SPEURL/
Sunday school S-S/
Thanksgiving THAFG/
trinity TREUNT/
wondrous DRUS/
worship WORP/