

PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE

- by Pat Gardiner

"I have survived a dream come true! Everything went really well. When I have time, I will write you all about it!" Such was the e-mail I received from Bernice Radavich, RDR, CRR, CPE, in July of last year. When I received an e-mail from her this year which read much the same, I decided Bernice's story just had to be told!

Bernice captions for Family Harvest Church in Tinley Park, a southwest suburb of Chicago, Illinois, every Sunday at 10:30 a.m., and occasionally captions guest speakers visiting her church, or an evening service.

Now, for the past two years, Bernice also captions what her church calls "Faith Week". She explains, "Our church invites guest speakers and special musical guests, and the meetings take place over the course of eight days, Sunday to Sunday." She captions well-known speakers like Kenneth Copeland, Jesse Duplantis, Joyce Meyer, and Oral Roberts.

For Bernice, all of this is a dream come true, but it wasn't always that way. She tells us how it all started: "In the summer of 1992, I attended the annual convention of the NCRA which was being held in Chicago, and I began to hear a lot about realtime reporting. I also heard some of my colleagues speaking about using realtime translation in church. I thought: Wow! That is fantastic. Helping people to "hear" the Word of

God who couldn't otherwise hear it, what an awesome opportunity. That's what I want to do.

"In 1992, my husband and I had also started attending a nondenominational church that we still currently attend. There are about 4,000 people in the congregation. After the NCRA convention I spoke to a couple of people from the church about possibly getting captioning started at the time. The result of the conversation ended up being something like: 'Captioning might be something we would consider in the future, but we're just not ready to do it at this time.'"

But Bernice was patient, very patient, as she knew the timing had to be just right. While she waited, she continued to improve her reporting skills by passing NCRA exams, and taking courses in American Sign Language at a local community college. She was determined and she persevered.

Then in 2000 Bernice got her first opportunity, and she realtimed a service when a guest speaker with a deaf ministry came to speak at her church. From there, things really got going, and Bernice's patience and determination paid off! In 2001 she began consistently realtiming the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service. Bernice says, "I started by just using my CAT software and a smaller 35 inch TV. The church got the encoder in the spring of 2002.

"At that time I began captioning using the CAPtivator software, but I was still using the TV. We never were able to find a good location for the TV, so I captioned my first

service to a 7½ by 10 foot projection screen on June 9, 2002. That's my daughter's birthday, so I will always remember the date!"

Bernice continued captioning the Sunday morning service to the large screen, and about a month later captioned her first "Faith Week", with great results. She tells us, "I got tremendous positive feedback from captioning Joyce Meyer's services – especially from all the hearing folks. They seemed to love it because sometimes laughter would break out and they would miss one of her one-liners. They said it was great to be able to look up at the screen and see it."

This year, once again, Bernice captioned "Faith Week" and says, "The whole week was truly a wonderful experience. I can't tell you how many people came up to me and thanked me for what I was doing. Probably a hundred people made some sort of comment to me. Many, many hearing people thanked me and said that there were many times when they either could not hear or understand something, and they used the captions. I also was told that there were delegations there from Mexico and India and that the Mexican and Indian delegations were very appreciative of the captioning because it helped them to understand. I also got an e-mail from a deaf woman who thanked me for captioning Joyce Meyer's sermon and said she and her two deaf friends had a great time."

Bernice continues, "On the last Sunday morning, as "Faith Week" was coming to a close, our pastor was thanking people. He thanked the people who attended the conference.

Then he thanked his staff. Then he said that there was one more person he wanted to thank. It turned out it was me. As he began to thank me, our TV Director ran out into the sanctuary and grabbed a camera from one of the cameramen and brought it back into the control room and began to film me as I was writing. They put my picture up on the screens. I was quite embarrassed and began laughing and tried to hide. Pastor made the comment, ‘You can run, but you can't hide, Bernice.’ I was truly honored to be remembered. All glory to God, and I am so thankful for the talents and abilities I have been given.”

Bernice, we don't want you to hide, either. Thank you for sharing your story, and you truly are a star. We are delighted your dream really has come true!

If you live in the area, perhaps you would like to visit Bernice at her church. The church's web site is www.winninginlife.org, and their services are webcast “live” to the Internet. Whether you are a student, a reporter, CART provider or captioner, Bernice will make you feel very welcome. Please e-mail her at radavich@megsinet.net.

JCR Contributing Editor Pat Gardiner is from Milton, Ontario, Canada. For more information on providing CART/captioning for a church, go to www.captioningtheword.com.

OUTLINES: Submitted by Caroline Sebastian, on the captioning team at New Life Church in Milton, Ontario, Canada.

lo	HRO/TP*S (TP*S = forced space)
Mary	KPHAEUR
womb	WAOUPL
Joseph	SKWROE/SEF
donkey	TKOPB/KAOE or TKO*PBG/AOE
Bethlehem	PWE*T/HEPL
census	KREPB/SUS
inn	*EUPB
swaddling clothes	SWAD/LG/KHROE*T/-S
manger	PHAEUPB/SKWRER
baby Jesus	PWAEUB/SKWRAOEZ
shepherds	SHEP/ERDZ
angel	AEUPB/SKWREL
herald	HERLD
excelsis Deo	KPEL/SHEUS/DAEU/KWRO and
KPEL/SEUS/DAEU/KWRO	TPRA*PBG/SEPBS
frankincense	PHAEU/SKWRAOEU
Magi	PH*EUR
myrrh	TPHO/*EL
noel	HAEURD
Herod	E/SKWREUPT
Egypt	WUPBD/ROUS
wondrous	KWROPBD/ER
yonder	KWRAOUL/TAOEUD
Yuletide	PER/REU/KREUS/PHAS and/or
Merry Christmas	PHEUS/-L/TOE
PHAEUR/KREUS/PHAS	KAPBD/-L
mistletoe	TEUPB/SEL or TEUPBS/-L
candle	HOL/LEU
tinsel	SLAEUG
holly	
sleigh	

** And don't forget names like Frosty and Santa, names of all the reindeer, and the word "X-mas", just in case the Pastor decides to use them in a sermon. It happened to me! ☺