



CHRISTIAN SCHOOL AND CHAPEL
FOR THE DEAF
WINTER 2015 - 2016

WITH THESE HANDS

Christian School and Chapel for the Deaf, Inc.
HC-01 Buzon 7111, Luquillo, Puerto Rico



Adorn your life with Godly Ornaments

As we taught our children about thankfulness to God during the thanksgiving season, we made a cardboard tree. Everyday in chapel each student and staff would write something he/she was thankful for. As the time approached to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ we started adding ornaments. Each ornament contained an attribute of God.

Our theme in chapel has been ADORN YOUR LIFE WITH GODLY ORNAMENTS. We have a team at CSCD this year that is working together in unity, praying together during times of distress, and truly supporting one another through life's trials. Praise God with us for these gifts to our ministry.

**“AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED
WONDERFUL COUNSELOR,
MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER,
PRINCE OF PEACE.”**

ISAIAH 9:6



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Staff Profiles



BETSY HOKE

As a long-term, full-time missionary-teacher, **Betsy Hoke** has been in CSCD classrooms for over 30 years now. A friend offered her an all-expenses paid holiday to Sydney, Australia and Christchurch, New Zealand if she could travel in their Spring, which is the opposite of our Fall. And so Betsy prayed that God would provide the workers needed to keep the school open and the ministry running so that she could take a brief leave of absence during a school year. He did it!

This semester, God has brought together a mixture of new workers, short-term volunteers and the new long-term worker to meet this challenge. Here's your chance to meet them:



CHRISTIE HOEKSEMA

First off is **Christie Hoeksema**, a Deaf Canadian who is taking some time off from her job to work with the ministry on a short-term basis. Christie says, "Over my time here in this ministry school, I grew a great passion for being a teacher. I have had no teacher experience, but I realized how God's timing is so perfect. I was raised by my hearing parents who are both teachers. They taught me what it is like to be a teacher. When Betsy took a leave of absence in November, I ended up becoming a full-time teacher!

The greatest challenge is to be able to teach all five students of different ages and education levels. I had to figure out how

to communicate with each of them in our own language. God taught me how to be patient with them, take the time to watch them grow, and to show them how we all can serve Him no matter where we go. I am glad that ASL is used as our primary language. It is a great joy to express our language through our hands!



ROSA SOTO

Next we hear from **Rosa Soto** who has been with CSCD for the past three years: "God has really been teaching me that I really can do anything with Him. I knew that I was going to be teaching this semester. This was a huge challenge for me as I do not consider myself a teacher. I went to college to become a Sign Language interpreter and before I came to CSCD, I worked one school year as an educational interpreter. That is where I am most comfortable. But God is always challenging us so we rely more on Him, and that is exactly what I've been doing.

"In November, Betsy took a leave of absence asking me to handle the things she is responsible for as principal/director and some of the classes she teaches. With this added responsibility, I was very nervous about everything. How was I going to do her job while she was away? Well, she knew I was right person for the job even though I had very little faith in myself. The decision was also made and approved by the board of directors."

"With Betsy away, I had to really depend on the Lord for strength, peace, wisdom, and knowledge. I also had to rely on others to do what they were designated to do. As I look over November, the only way I was able to get through it, was because of HIM. I taught those classes that I am not comfortable teaching, and I handled the things I was responsible for. I became more comfortable as the month went on with both of those things, and saw myself stepping up to be the leader that Betsy knew I could be. I owe it all to God, though. And now I truly do know that "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phil 4:13

**"FOR ONCE YOU WERE FULL OF DARKNESS,
BUT NOW YOU HAVE LIGHT FROM THE LORD.
SO LIVE AS PEOPLE OF LIGHT!"**

EPHESIANS 5:8



TESS DOZIER

Third on the list of pinch hitters in Betsy's absence is **Tess Dozier**. Tess joined the CSCD team in January 2015 as our social worker. This past semester, one of her main responsibilities has been to take care of the girls in the dorm. We have two full-time dorm students that are sisters from the family that CSCD workers have been visiting in Orocovis since 2010. "I boarded at CSCD while attending a university on the island. One of the areas that I particularly enjoyed while boarding at the school was the monthly visits made to a Deaf family in the mountainous center of the island. They have received very little to no formal education and have minimal language skills. It has been really neat to be able to think back and see a glimpse of how God was preparing my relationship with this family and how His sovereign plan has brought these girls to school at this time."



LORA SNELSON

Our unexpected new long-term worker is **Lora Snelson** from Minnesota. She came to CSCD for a semester break during college, went back to finish her degree, and now has returned to CSCD to stay awhile. She majored in American Sign Language Interpreting and her passion for Deaf culture and ministry grew during that time.

Lora says, "I left Puerto Rico that semester in May 2014 knowing it was time to go back to finish my degree. I came back to visit in August 2015 without any knowledge of how God was going to get my attention to change my path."

Lora arrived on October 29, two days after Betsy left unexpectedly for her father's funeral. Betsy returned from the funeral on October 31 only to depart the next day for her scheduled leave of absence on November 2. Lora came back to serve our abundantly gracious God. She has been learning to trust God's leading. As Lora says, "I can only see

the ground around the lamp by my feet. God is calling all of us to trust Him to just take the next step and follow Him. We don't always get to see the big picture and that is okay. We have a God whose goodness is beyond our understanding."



PHILIP TOMLINSON

Our other Deaf Canadian, **Philip Tomlinson** recently retired this past October. He is our frequent long-term visitor and former (1982-84 dorm counselor). Philip does a lot of work with the Deaf community. He has seen God's love pour out for all the people calling hearts to turn back towards Him and become alive. Philip says, "My call back to Puerto Rico started long before my retirement. I had to go by faith alone not because of any skills, opinions, or advice from others. I come simply because of the clear calling to love all people". Philip works in the dorm and does handiwork around the school with Valie.



VALIE CARRILLO

Finally **Valie Carrillo** lives close to the school, attends a local church, and is a skilled carpenter. He started volunteering with us in February 2015. Being raised in Puerto Rico and Deaf himself, Valie does well connecting with our students through their common language and culture. From helping in math class, building cabinets, to fixing cars, we are thankful for the work Valie does here at CSCD and his example to our students.

Betsy says, "Our God is AMAZING; He truly provides above all that we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20). I praise Him for His timing in bringing together these workers, the local friends who serve as our Crisis Support Team, and even the death of my father prior to my travels. All of these things meant I could go for a holiday, experience new places, see old friends, and have the kind of fellowship that would begin to heal the sadness of my heart."



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Check out World Mission to the Deaf website!

<http://www.wmdcanada.org/>

CSCD Inc. is a non-profit ministry seeking to evangelize the Deaf for Christ. CSCD Inc. does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion or economic status. Students attending CSCD receive academic, social, vocational and Biblical instruction at a minimal cost to the families. All gifts and donations enter into the ministry general fund unless otherwise designated. CSCD Inc. has been declared as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization under USA Internal Revenue Codes.

Gifts in Canadian dollars should be sent to the Canadian office or made online through the website. Gifts made in US dollars should be sent to the CSCD Inc office or made online through the website. CSCD Inc. is a member of IFCA International. W.M.D. is a member of C.C.C.C.

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Pray with us for -

- students' spiritual growth
- spring work team
- more long-term teaching & working staff
- more financial supporters



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Box Tops for Education

This school year we received a total of \$2,128.20 from the Boxtop redemption program. Please tell your friends, church, co-workers, family – anyone - that the Deaf school in Puerto Rico can benefit from their efforts. Then, collect and send in your boxtops - Thank you!



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