

### Summary:

#### Vision & Mission

To reach every Deaf and Hard of Hearing teenager with the Gospel and disciple our students in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

#### Goal

To impact all residential students at MSD and also commuters and mainstreamed Deaf and Hard of Hearing teenagers throughout Frederick and Washington Counties.

#### Impact 2017 Report

Eight students attended Impact 2017 in Ocean City, MD. **Three students** accepted Christ on Saturday night!

#### Prayer Corner

Look at page 2 for prayer requests!

### SAME VISION, NEW STRATEGY

I vividly remember what it was like as a teenager full of questions about life, God, and faith. If it was not for Judd Rexroth's (a DTQ leader) willingness to be Christ in my life during high school, you might not be reading this newsletter from me right now.



My name is Bruce Persons and I am the interim Deaf Teen Quest (DTQ) Area Coordinator with Central MD Youth for Christ chapter. I am excited to have this opportunity to lead DTQ ministry so that our Deaf and Hard of Hearing teens can know and relate with Jesus!

Some of my best memories with DTQ happened while I was a high school student at Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD). Upon graduation in 2005, I was a volunteer leader with Bob Rhoads for a few years. Today, we remain committed to our original vision: **to reach every Deaf and Hard of Hearing teenager with the Gospel and disciple our students in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ.**

On the behalf of the entire DTQ ministry team, I am grateful for Bob Rhoads' leadership and will surely miss him. Since Bob left in December 2016, this season of transition has presented challenges and unique opportunities for DTQ. For one, we realized there is a substantial population of commuter and mainstreamed Deaf and Hard of Hearing students in Frederick



*DTQ leaders and students at MSD – Frederick*

and Washington counties whom *we have not reached yet*.

In order to address our challenges and take the opportunity to reach our commuter and mainstreamed students, DTQ has formed a **strategic ministry partnership** with Metro Maryland Youth for Christ chapter in Baltimore, MD; The Table Church in Frederick, MD; and the Mid-Atlantic District Deaf Ministry of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in January 2017. As I write this letter, we currently have **two weekly small groups for our Deaf and Hard of Hearing teenagers!**

Under Rachel Mraz's leadership (from Metro MD YFC chapter), our DTQ-MSD small group are now meeting **every week** at MSD on Tuesday nights (see picture on page 1). We are also involved with The Table Church's weekly ASL Family Life group's middle and high school small group for our commuter and mainstreamed teenagers in Frederick, MD. We are reaching about **15-20 teenagers every week right now!**

### IMPACT 2017 – “GIVE LIFE TO YOUR STORY”

**Impact 2017** just happened on March 24 – 26, 2017! 8 Deaf and Hard of Hearing teenagers and several leaders joined other students and people from Central MD Youth for Christ. The theme of this year's conference was “**Give Life To Your Story,**” and our teenagers heard from several speakers not only about the Gospel message but also about how they can share their faith with their friends. The weather was gorgeous in Ocean City, and our youth leaders did an amazing job



interacting with our teenagers!



### Prayer Corner

- We are currently searching for a new DTQ Area Coordinator. Pray that God will call and send the right person for this role.
- Three kids accepted Christ during Impact 2017! Pray that these teenagers will grow in their faith in the coming months.
- We need volunteers to serve as our youth leaders for DTQ small groups. Pray that God will raise up faithful, available, teachable, and humble leaders to love our teens at MSD.

I am excited to report that **3 teenagers accepted Jesus Christ for the first time!** We will be following up with them so they can grow in their relationship with Jesus. **Your faithful financial support and prayers made an eternal impact on these 3 teenagers – thank you!**



In Christ

*Bruce Persons*