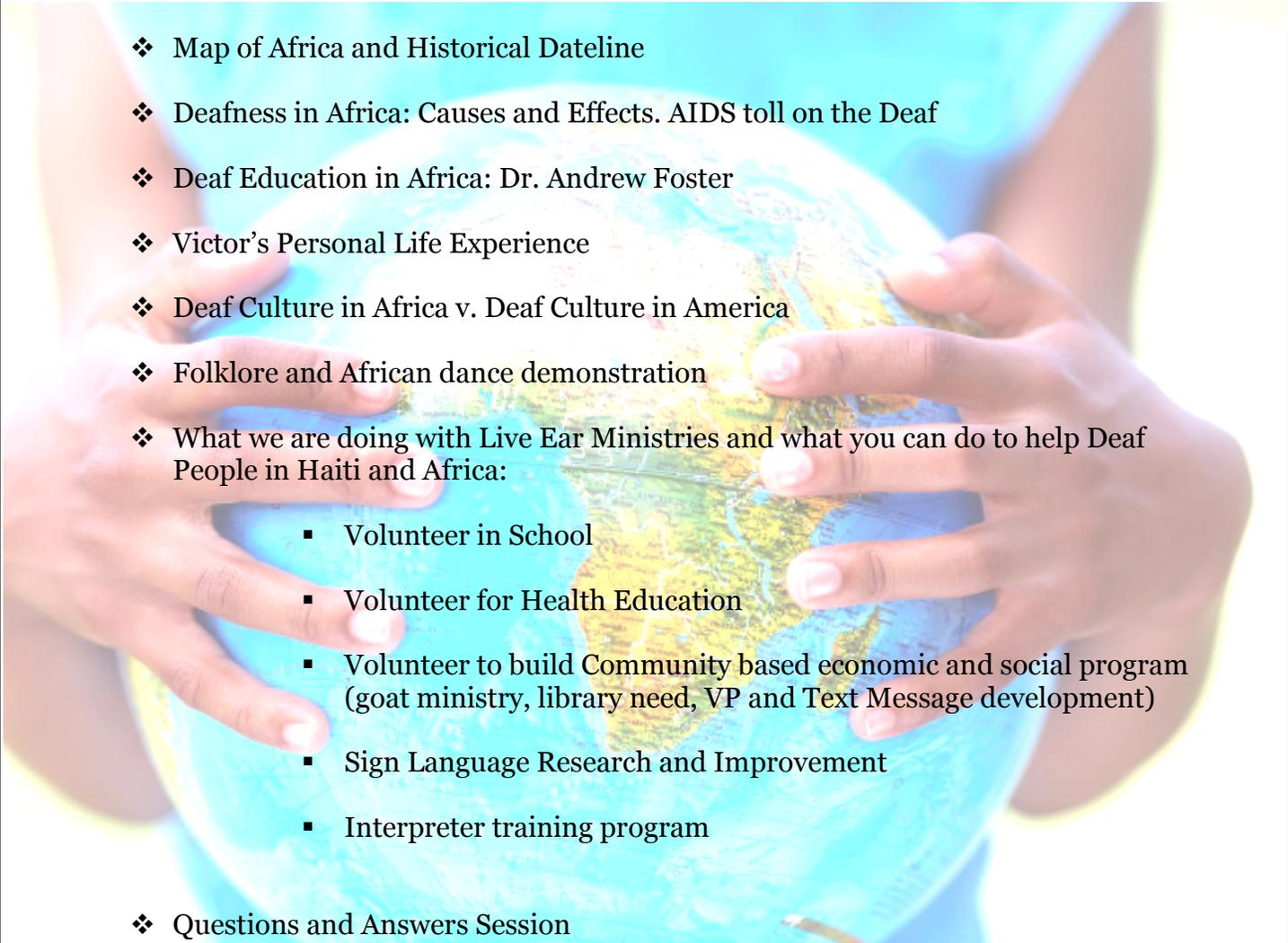


Deafness in Africa & Haiti

Workshop Presentation Program at Lone Star College-CyFair

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- ❖ Introduction
 - ❖ Map of Africa and Historical Dateline
 - ❖ Deafness in Africa: Causes and Effects. AIDS toll on the Deaf
 - ❖ Deaf Education in Africa: Dr. Andrew Foster
 - ❖ Victor's Personal Life Experience
 - ❖ Deaf Culture in Africa v. Deaf Culture in America
 - ❖ Folklore and African dance demonstration
 - ❖ What we are doing with Live Ear Ministries and what you can do to help Deaf People in Haiti and Africa:
 - Volunteer in School
 - Volunteer for Health Education
 - Volunteer to build Community based economic and social program (goat ministry, library need, VP and Text Message development)
 - Sign Language Research and Improvement
 - Interpreter training program
 - ❖ Questions and Answers Session
 - ❖ Book signing session

Victor A. Vodounou Short Biographic Note



Victor Alihonou Vodounou was born in the village of Dovi-Dove in the district of Zagnanado in the Central region of Zou, province of the Republic of Benin in West Africa. After completing his elementary education at the village's public elementary school, he was admitted to secondary school in the nearby city of Cote, but he could not complete his education due to a bilateral degrading hearing loss.

In 1975 he was introduced to the late Dr. Andrew Foster and his wife Mrs. Berta Foster, who invited him to attend a rehabilitation program for the Deaf at their Christian Center for the Deaf in Ibadan, Nigeria. There he learned American Sign Language used by the Fosters and their African Nigerian students and members of the Deaf communities. He also studied the Scriptures, became a born again Christian, and was baptized by Dr. Foster. After two years in Nigeria, Dr. Foster sent him to Senegal to help establish the first school for the Deaf there before he returned to Benin to help start the school for the Deaf in Cotonou in 1977. He has also trained the first francophone teachers of the Deaf in collaboration with Dr. Foster in the 1970s and 1980s.

Victor completed his secondary education by correspondence in the distance education programs at Toulouse and Vanves, France. In 1985 he won the Rotary International Scholarship to study special education at the University of Moncton, New Brunswick, where he completed a Bachelor of Science in education in 1989. Dr. Vodounou came to the United States of America to complete an internship in higher education and a Master of Science in Deaf Education at the Joint Educational Specialist Program between the University of Rochester and the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York, in 1993. After doing his student teaching at the California School for the Deaf in Riverside, he moved to El Paso, Texas, to work with Deaf children and adults. He completed his Doctor of Philosophy in curriculum bilingual education and school administration from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, in 2001.

In 2006, Victor and his wife Benoite founded Live Ear Ministries, a 501(c) non-profit organization to serve Deaf children in developing countries. Since then they have been going to Benin and Niger to train teachers of the Deaf and started a rural elementary school in 2008 in Benin.

Victor has written five sign language booklets and an autobiography titled "The Incredible Journeys of Victor Vodounou: Africa, Deafness and Christianity."

Victor has traveled to almost all west and central African countries, South Africa, Mexico, and Haiti training teachers of Deaf and members and leaders of the Deaf communities. A naturalized American in 2001, Victor and his wife Benoite live in Texas with their four children, Irene, Andre, Flavie, and Bonou-David.