



UNBREAKABLE

DEAF WOMEN CONFERENCE

APRIL 22-23, 2022

HOSTING GUIDE

#DWC2022

HELLO

DEAF WOMEN OF CHRIST

No matter what circumstances you are facing today, we want you to know that just like a diamond, you are made strong and beautiful through God's faith, joy, and everlasting love! Did you know that a diamond is one of the strongest, natural substances known to man? Just about every girl agrees that it's also one of the most beautiful things in creation. But did you know that the conditions with which it's formed is what makes it so unique? To become an extraordinary diamond, it must first undergo extreme heat and pressure in the dark. Those difficult circumstances cause beautiful stones to emerge.

Much like a diamond in the rough, we can experience pressure, darkness, and intense moments. Yet, we can turn to our Helper, Advocate, and Comforter in Christ during these times. Through God's Word, we see His unbreakable truths; no matter how hard-pressed we are or how dark a season may feel, "the Lord your God is the One Who goes with you. He will be faithful to you. He will never leave you alone." Deuteronomy 31:6. It is our prayer that through DWC22, every woman will be reminded of the beauty of God's unbreakable ways, especially in the valleys of hardship. God uses those circumstances to create something beautiful and unbreakable to emerge in you!

Together is such a beautiful thing!

DWC22 is our chance to let every Deaf woman know that she is not alone! We want all DWC women to feel encouraged. Would you consider opening your home to the Deaf women in your community for this two-day conference? By hosting this event, you will be helping others come together to reflect and declare the power of God's Unbreakable Truths. And that is such a beautiful thing!

We can't wait to see you there!

In faith,

The Deaf Women's Conference Team at Deaf Millennial Project

WHAT IS DEAF WOMEN'S CONFERENCE (DWC)?

It's a gathering of Deaf women that come together to learn about God through His Word. Through live streaming, different speakers present biblical topics to encourage, build-up, and edify Deaf believers in Christ.

In 2021, more than 700 women from three countries attended DWC. Nearly 1,000 women tuned into the weekend and with over 120+ women giving their lives to Christ. Women from all over left feeling inspired and on fire for the Lord. This year, you can expect amazing instruction, deep conversation, powerful worship, and women who are **ALL IN** to experience a stronger connection to Christ!

WHY GATHER?

Gathering is special. It's set apart from our daily routine. It unites us with a spark that lights a fire for the whole year. Gathering helps us engage with each other and remind us that we are not alone.

HOW DO I HOST A GATHERING?

You can host a gathering virtually or locally (check out our Covid Safety Guideline on page 10.) It's simple to host a gathering, it can be at someone's home, rented space, or at your church! To host a virtual event, you can set up a virtual meeting (Zoom, Skype, Google Chat) and watch it together. We recommend that you do NOT screen share the live stream. Encourage everyone to watch the conference on their monitor. You can also set up a group text or chat for women to watch together without joining physically in the same space.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Women (ages 12+) across denominations, generations, and cultures are welcome to DWC to learn more about God and make His name known. This isn't about making the name of Deaf Women's Conference great. Instead, we want to see the name of Jesus Christ lifted high in our lifetime and a movement. We want to see a movement among Deaf women for the sake of the Kingdom.

WHAT ARE THE ACCESS FEATURES AT DWC?

This year, we have the opportunity to improve our viewing experience to accommodate our beautiful, diverse, Deaf communities. Listed below are the expectations we are meeting to ensure everyone has a wonderful experience at DWC!

- The entire conference will be accessible in American Sign Language.
- Pre-recorded videos will have burned on subtitles and voiceover.
- Worship videos will have music and lyrics on the screen.
- Live stream and panel discussion will have a live voiceover with automatic subtitles on the bottom of the screen.
- The entire conference will have the following video quality for a better viewing experience for the Deaf people, Hard-of-Hearing, and Deaf-Blind communities:
 - Full- colored clothes
 - Dark color background
 - Good lighting
 - Signing spaces
- Transcripts for all presenters will be available on our website to download.
- Recorded video available on our website after the conference for those who register.

WHAT SCRIPTURE WILL WE STUDY?

DWC22 will focus on the theme of God’s unbreakable faith, joy, love, promise, and Word. Presenters will use other Scripture verses in their presentations, but the five main ones listed below are Deaf Women’s Conference 2022 foundation.

FAITH	“The Lord is trustworthy in all his promises and faithful in all he does.” Psalm 145:13
JOY	“Do not grieve for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” Nehemiah 8:10
LOVE	“But God demonstrates his own love for us, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8
PROMISE	“His mercies are new every morning, great is your faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:23
WORD	“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God will stand forever.” Isaiah 40:8

WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE FOR THE CONFERENCE?

FRIDAY (CST)	SATURDAY (CST)
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm	10:00am - 4:00 pm
Unbreakable Word	Unbreakable Promise
Unbreakable Faith	Unbreakable Joy
Panel Discussion	Panel Discussion
	Unbreakable Love

WHO WILL BE PRESENTING AT THE DEAF WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 2022?



RENCA DUNN

Born and raised a West coast girl who moved to the East coast for college, Renca never thought she would now find herself living in the Midwest. Renca moved from Washington D.C. to Iowa to work with Deaf Missions as a Bible translator for 3 1/2 years. After her term was finished with Deaf Missions, she embarked on a new journey as a doctoral student which she is currently a 2nd-year student studying in the Interpersonal, Health, and Family Communication field. Renca enjoys traveling, meeting new people, and creating content on her social media accounts. She believes that love is one of the greatest things that we can experience in our lives- to love and be loved in return.



TANYA POLSTRA

serves as the Executive Director of Silent Blessings Deaf Ministries. Her passion is teaching communities about the Deaf worldview, sign languages, and the intersections of theology and the Deaf. She brings a distinctly Deaf perspective to show how sign language Scripture speaks to all of life. Tanya encourages ASL communities who embrace sign languages to become aware that they are a part of a movement that God is orchestrating to fulfill His command in Matthew 28, "to make disciples. Tanya lives in Indianapolis, IN with her husband and three children.



BELINDA MCCLEESE

is currently a Deaf Service Coordinator and a licensed Marriage & Family Therapist with Orange County Health Care Agency. She has been serving in the ministry as an ordained A/G minister for 32 years. Additionally, she is the founder and director of Vineyard Deaf Ministries, actively carrying out the mission statement: empowering potential Deaf leadership to embrace Christ's vital life flowing through them into the world. She enjoys the awe of nature and always has a soft spot in her heart for furry, four-pawed pals.



SHEILA HALL PRICE

is a wife and a mother of three children, ages 11, 14, and 20. She is originally from Washington state but moved to Virginia in 2021. Sheila has lived and served a faithful life to Christ for 38 years. Her passion is "to love the Lord with all her heart." She testifies that He has displayed His promises and grace throughout her life. Sheila has loved her position within the church as a Sunday School teacher since 2003.



MANDI DYE

is married to Rev Steve Dye. This year will be their 28th wedding anniversary. Mandi has three amazing children and lives in Alabama. The Dye family has been involved in ministry for 26 years. Mandi has a true passion to serve women by sharing God's love to all walks of life. Her favorite verse is John 15:13, "There's no greater love than to die for your friends."

WHO WILL BE OUR HOSTS AT THE DEAF WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 2022?



MICHELLE REYES

was born and raised in Texas. She is married to a wonderful husband and has three cat fur babies. Michelle accepted Christ into her heart when she was 22 years old. A fun fact about Michelle, she loves to watch K-dramas (Korean dramas).



CHRISTIE HOESEKEMA

was born and raised in a small town called Fenwick, Ontario, Canada. Christie came from a Christian family and had known Christ since she was young. Her specialization is Web Developer, and she has a growing passion for developing visual websites. When she is not working, she loves to hike, hang out with friends, and is a self-professed Coddiwompler* (yes, it's a real word) and collector of all things Lego.

WHO WILL BE LEADING WORSHIP AT THE DEAF WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 2022?



EMILY FRANKLIN

It takes a mess to make beautiful art." Emily Franklin lives a worship-filled life, sharing how Jesus has freed her from shame. She has a passion for pottery and all things art. She works as a Deaf Interpreter and as a Co-Navigator (also known as Support Service Provider) for DeafBlind. She has been accepted and will join Youth With A Mission (YWAM) Deaf World in September of 2022. Emily currently serves as a small groups leader at her home church, Life Center in Spokane, WA. Her favorite scripture is Jeremiah 29:12-14a, "In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for Me wholeheartedly, you will find Me. I will be found by you," says the Lord. (NLT)



MICAH WILLIS

lives in Dallas, Texas. He graduated from Deaf Theological Center in Brentwood, Tennessee. He has a huge passion for reaching the next Deaf generation and training them to become disciples for Jesus and leaders in their specialized fields. Through his writing, Micah loves to help other people grow in their spiritual journey. Micah's favorite hobbies are playing video games, reading books, writing, and listening to music. His favorite Bible verse is Psalm 46:10a, "Be still and know I am God"

WAYS TO HOSTS

You can host a gathering virtually or locally. To host a local gathering, you can host it at someone's home, rented space, or at your church!

HOST AS A CHURCH	HOST WITH YOUR FRIENDS	HOST IT ONLINE
Great for big groups. Share your church details on our website to invite women to join.	Great for small groups that are comfortable gathering in person. Invite your friends and family to watch it with you in the comfort of your home.	Great for small groups that prefer to gather virtually. Host it online by using any video meeting platform (Zoom, Google Hangout, Skype, etc.)

HOSTING TIPS AS A CHURCH

- Talk with your local church to see if they are interested in hosting and allow you to use their space to host.
- Form a team to divide up the roles and responsibilities of hosting a large scale event. (Check out our Form a Team page.)
- Make sure you have access to the church's wifi and that the internet is suitable for streaming.
- Share your church event on our DWC Website to invite local women to join.
- Use signage to help direct people where to go and to the bathroom.
- Provide a space for prayers and nursing moms.

HOSTING TIPS AS A SMALL GROUP

- Pick a good number of people that can fit comfortably in your home. Don't overcrowd.
- Make sure that the internet is suitable for streaming.
- Form a team to divide the roles and responsibilities of hosting
(Check out our Form a Team page.)
- Provide food, delivery, or a potluck!
- Provide a space for prayers and nursing moms.
- Be sure to communicate any expectation regarding Covid safety.

BONUS: Make it a weekend getaway by renting an airbnb or cabin and watch the conference together!

HOSTING TIPS FOR ONLINE GROUP

- We recommend that you NOT screen share the live stream.
- Encourage everyone to register and watch the conference on their monitor.
- Encourage everyone to use their computer or laptop to join the meeting and not on their tablet or phone.
- Any video meeting platform is great: Zoom, Google Hangout, Skype.
- You can also set up a group text or chat for women to watch together without being together physically or on Zoom.

FORM A TEAM

Divide the roles and responsibilities of hosting a large scale event. You can combine some of these roles depending on the size of your team.

ROLES	RESPONSIBILITIES
Registration	Help people register for the event Onsite check in
Hospitality	Food and beverage (remember to include volunteers in addition to your attendees)
Production	Someone to run the live stream or videos Slides for worship and announcements
Communication	Spreading the word about your event Communicating pre-event and post-event to your attendees
Accounting	Someone who is tracking the money coming in and the money going out
Spaces	Directional signage Decor
Activities	Ice breakers, communion, alter call, take away in the end
Volunteer	Recruit volunteers to help (great for big events)

COVID SAFETY

At the time of your event, we recommend that you adhere to the health and safety guidelines mandated by your local officials and your church. There is no way to predict the COVID situation now for April 22-23, 2022. However we encourage you to gather in person in a way that protects the women best.

Here are a few safety suggestions:

- Hosts and volunteers should wear masks when setting up the space.
- Arrange seating in your event space with 6ft. distance between rows on each side, behind, and in front of one another.
- Use ushers and greeters to help guide to seating.
- Consider taping markers on the ground and/or gentle and loving signs to help remind people to stay distanced.
- Supply masks and hand sanitizer for women in case they forgets.
- Ask that women wear masks in the building, but allow them to remove their masks when seated.
- Anything you want attendees to have at their seats should be placed at the seats (with gloves) ahead of time.
- If supplying food, have masked volunteers serve all of the food. Snacks should be pre-packaged in individual serving sizes.
- If hosting in a large space with many women, before dismissing women for breaks, the emcee should ask women to stay seated until the ushers come by to release row by row.
- Ushers should start from the back to the front in order to prevent crowding at the doors.

TECHNOLOGY HELP

HOW DO I ACCESS THE EVENT?

You'll log-in using your Attendee Profile at live.deafmillennial.com on April 22nd and 23rd to view the live event!

WHAT BROWSERS CAN I USE TO VIEW DWC 2022?

We recommend Google Chrome, Safari, and Firefox - we think Chrome works best with our platform. Internet Explorer is not recommended. You can also stream on iOS or Android platforms.

CAN I USE A ROKU, APPLE TV, OR AMAZON FIRE TO WATCH THE EVENT?

No, the Deaf Women Conference live stream will not be accessible from any apps. You can only watch it by logging into the link given through a computer, tablet, or phone. If you want to display it on a television or large screen, you will need HDMI cables, Chromecast, etc.

CAN I TEST MY LIVE STREAM?

Yes! We will have a live stream tests you can join on Friday, April 22nd, at 12pm CST

HOW DO I TURN ON CLOSED CAPTIONS?

Closed captions will automatically be embedded to allow full accessibility to all.

Pro tip: *Is all of this freaking you out? Talk to a woman or man in your community who is tech savvy and put them in charge or have them coach you. This will reduce the amount of stress!*

WHAT DO I NEED TO WATCH DWC 2022?

There are a few things that you have to have in order to watch the live stream comfortably from your home, church, or venue.

You will need: Internet Connection / Streaming Device / A Way for Your Group to Watch

INTERNET CONNECTION

Best option: Network Cable aka Ethernet (fastest and most reliable)

- Please test your Internet speed (use whatever device you will live stream on.)
- Go to speedtest.net and click “Go.”
- Download speed is the important one! You must have a Minimum of 5-10 Mb/sec.

Pro tip: *Do not give out your wifi information to your attendees! Having multiple devices running at the same time will likely impact your viewing experience.*

STREAMING DEVICE

Best option: Laptop or Desktop Computer

- You can also use data from a cell service on your phone or tablet as a backup plan in case your Internet gets finicky.
- To connect your computer to a TV, you may need a dongle. There are cheap options available on Amazon. Google it!

Pro tip: *We recommend starting your gathering 15-30 minutes late, but start the video on time and hit pause! This will allow the video to load and will likely limit the amount of buffering you encounter.*

A WAY FOR YOUR GROUP TO WATCH

Best option: Television or Projector & Screen

- You will need an HDMI cable or VGA cable (for older TVs)
- Chromecast, Apple Mirroring/AirPlay, or a Projector work for viewing, but you will not be able to watch the event through the Internet browser on your SmartTV, Roku Streaming, or apps on your AppleTV.

LIVE STREAM TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS

Here are some tips to help you if you come across any technical issues. Please follow the tips before contacting us for assistance.

IF YOUR INTERNET ISN'T WORKING:

- When in doubt, unplug it and plug it back in.
- Have someone else connect to your internet on their phone to make sure the internet is functioning. If it works for a friend on their device it means your issue is not with the Internet connection.

IF YOUR DEVICE (LAPTOP/TABLET/PHONE) ISN'T WORKING:

- Close the internet browser tab that you are using and reopen a new tab to try again.
- If that doesn't work, quit your browser, count to ten, open it up, and try again.
- If that doesn't work, shut down or restart your computer and try again.
- If that doesn't work, use a backup device (tablet, phone, another laptop, etc).

IF YOUR DEVICE AND INTERNET IS WORKING, BUT THE VIDEO STILL WON'T PLAY:

- Make sure the version of your internet browser (Chrome, Safari, Firefox, etc) is the latest one.
- The live stream might have a universal issue... Pause. You may have to wait it out. In this circumstance, you will likely get correspondence from Deaf Millennial Project with instructions or tips.

YOU MAY HAVE VIDEO BUT NO AUDIO:

- Make sure the video isn't muted (and that volume is up on both your TV and your device).
- You can unplug the HDMI cord and see if the sound will play through your laptop. If it works then you will know that the connection to the TV is the issue.
- You can always huddle around a laptop to watch as a last resort and ditch the TV entirely.

BUFFERING TROUBLES (THE VIDEO IS STOPPING AND STARTING FREQUENTLY):

- Pause it... let it buffer and "catch up" then push play again. Maybe have some time for conversation or get coffee refills while you wait for 10 minutes.
- If that doesn't work, try to close and reopen the tab again so it will reload.

CONTACT OUR TEAM

If you need further assistance, you will be able to chat live with our team on **Friday, April 22nd, from 5 pm - 10pm CST, and Saturday, April 23rd, from 9 am - 4:00 pm CST.**



Pioneer[®]



Bible Translators

Last year we raised nearly **\$26,000** for Bible translation with Pioneer Bible Translator. This year we will be teaming up with them again to see more Bible Translation happen in Deaf heart language.

JOIN THE FACEBOOK EVENT!

Interested in hosting for women who does not have a group? Join our **Deaf Women Conference 2022-Unbreakable Facebook Event Page** to plan one, virtually or locally!



**DEAF WOMEN
CONFERENCE 2022**

APRIL 22-23, 2021