




22 FLAVORS
 22 FLAVORS. TRY THEM ALL.
 [SHOP NOW](#)


ULTIMATE INDOOR GARAGE SALE
 TULSA WORLD MEDIA COMPANY
Saturday, April 2, 2016

[Make us your home page](#)
[Newsletters](#)
[My Subscription](#)
[E-edition](#)
[Subscribe](#)

[Contact Us](#)
[Welcome!](#)
[Login](#)
[Signup](#)




59°

[Home](#)
[NEWS](#)
[SPORTS](#)
[SCENE](#)
[BUSINESS](#)
[COMMUNITIES](#)
[BLOGS](#)
[OPINION](#)
[WEEKEND](#)
[WEATHER](#)
[PHOTO](#)
[VIDEO](#)
[DATABASES](#)
[OBITS](#)
[CALENDAR](#)
[STORE](#)

Free Access:
 [Jobs](#)
[Autos](#)
[Pets](#)
[Homes](#)
[Classifieds](#)
[Contests](#)

[Deals](#)
[Display Ads](#)
[Special Sections](#)
[Best In The World](#)
[Legals](#)
[Advertise](#)

“Babies start learning and communicating with you from birth.”
 “Babies start learning and communicating with you from birth.”
 “Babies start learning and communicating with you from birth.”


 TALK. READ. SING. PLAY.
 TALK. READ. SING. PLAY.
 TALK. READ. SING. PLAY.

[Archives](#)

Seeing Signs // Tulsa Church Geared Exclusively to Deaf

[Story](#)
[Comments](#)
Print Font Size:

Tweet
 G+1
 0
 Share

Posted: Wednesday, October 4, 1995 12:00 am

Stephen W. Gay | 0 comments

Not a word is spoken when Jimmy Schwyhart starts preaching the Gospel.



That's because the majority of Schwyhart's congregation is either deaf or hard-of-hearing, and the special pastor uses sign language to help teach God's Word in East Tulsa.

The Praise Assembly Deaf Church is located next to Garnett

Assembly of God, 2930 South Garnett Road, but the two churches are

totally separate entities.

“We have separate church services and a Sunday school with our own

deaf teachers,” Schwyhart said.

“Sunday mornings we have refreshments at 9:15 a.m., Sunday School

at 9:30 a.m. and the worship service starts at


4BR 3.5BA South Tulsa Home
 Tulsa, OK
Auctions
Thur Mar 24

 WILLIAMS & WILLIAMS.
 worldwide real estate auction

HOP ON OVER
[SHOP NOW](#)
HOBBY LOBBY


HOP ON OVER
[SHOP NOW](#)
HOBBY LOBBY


HOP ON OVER
[SHOP NOW](#)
HOBBY LOBBY

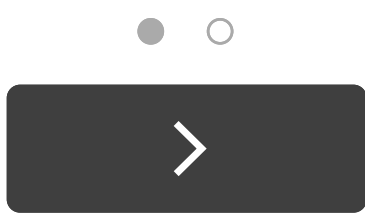

REST IN PEACE
 WITH A \$350,000 LIFE
 INSURANCE POLICY FOR
 \$21/MONTH
 TAP YOUR AGE:

18-25	26-35	36-45
46-55	56-65	OVER 65

Calculate Payment

SelectQuote - Life Ins.

USA's #1 Term Life Sales Agency. We Shop. You Save. Start Today!



10:45 a.m. Evening

worship starts at 6:30 p.m. and we have a Wednesday evening Bible

Study at 7 p.m.>`

Pastor Jeff Connett of the Garnett Assembly was given thanks by

Schwylhart for providing he and his congregation a place to worship

the Lord each Sunday.

Schwylhart said the rules for using sign language are not etched in

stone.

`There are various kinds of sign language that differ from place

to place. It just depends on how and where you were raised,`

Schwylhart said.

He said American Sign Language, which originated in France, is one popular style deaf people use to communicate with one another.

SEE is an English form of sign language and Pidgin is a mix of both American and English sign language, Schwylhart said.

One of the hardest sign languages for deaf people to comprehend at

first is Homemade, but Schwylhart said as the person settles into a community, he adapts to the language used in that particular area.

`Homemade is whatever the deaf person's parents taught him as he was growing up,` Schwylhart said.

Finally, Cultural sign language is relative to where a person

lived in the world and what he was taught by his parents.

`These various kinds of sign language are intercultural, we understand most of them,` Schwylhart said.

Schwylhart spent the first decade of his life not being able to

hear properly and didn't learn the art of sign language until he

dailydealtulsa.com
\$80 worth of BBQ. Only \$20
 f t e buy now

Enter our contests

Don't Bug Me
 Poster Design Contest
 CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS

BASS MASTER
 2016

Popular

Commented

1. Native Tulsan is an entrepreneur who found the answer to comfortable women's swimwear
2. Bassmaster Classic: Talala's Edwin Evers dominates final day, wins his first Bassmaster Classic
3. What the Ale: Prairie Brewpub set to open in downtown Tulsa
4. If coaching change is made at OSU, Eddie Sutton would support Doug Gottlieb hire
5. Downtown apartments fill up fast in Tulsa

More

4BR 3.5BA South Tulsa Home
 Tulsa, OK
Auctions
 Thur Mar 24
 WILLIAMS & WILLIAMS
 worldwide real estate auction

was in his mid-20s.

‘I knew very few words of homemade sign language so I’d just point my finger. I lived out in the country in Missouri. Grandma said I never did talk that much, but I got a hearing aid when I was 10 years old and heard myself talk and began hearing other people talk as well,’ Schwyhart said.

Though Schwyhart can communicate fluently using either linguistics or sign language, never the twain shall meet while he is preaching.

‘Now my entire service is done in sign language with no voice. If

I do speak during a service I limit myself in sign language,

because I’m miscommunicating with people if I use both my voice and sign language.’

After arriving in Oklahoma from Spokane, Wash., in June of 1994,

Schwyhart, his wife Janie, daughter Janee', 11, sons Jordan,9, and

Jared, 6, became part of the Praise Assembly Deaf Church.

Schwyhart started out as assistant pastor and took over the

ministry after Al Proo, who led the special congregation for nine

years, resigned in October of 1994.

‘He’s now the founder and director of Happy Hands Early Childhood

Development Center for the deaf and hard of hearing,’ Schwyhart

said.

Janie Schwyhart has been working 10 years as an interpreter for

the deaf and recently received her national certification.

Praise Assembly is slowly developing into the church of choice for

the deaf and hard-of-hearing, but Schwyhart admitted the size of

his congregation fluctuates each week.

‘In December of '94 we had four people each Sunday. Now we average

about 20 people each week. It takes time, but the church is slowly



4BR 3.5BA South Tulsa Home

Tulsa, OK
Auctions
Thur Mar 24



4BR 3.5BA South Tulsa Home

Tulsa, OK
Auctions
Thur Mar 24



Today's E-Edition

growing," Schwyhart said.

"Once a month we have Communion. People are saved in the church, we have water baptisms, everything is the same as a regular church, we just use different languages."

Schwyhart said he has a vision to someday assemble a deaf choir at Praise Assembly, and he eventually wants to establish an outreach mission for deaf people.

Schwyhart also hopes to start deaf ministries in other cities too.

There are many ministries for the deaf in Tulsa, but 100 of the largest cities in the United States are still without services for

the deaf under the Assembly of God Churches, Schwyhart said.

Upon entering the modest little church, one immediately notices nice white walls and the neat appearance of the polished wooden pews in correlation to the unobtrusive altar.

The air is kept at a comfortable temperature in the church thanks to a new air conditioning and heating unit.

"Everything is paid for with money from the deaf church and the Korean church we share the building with. We paid for most of the remodeling and the Korean church, Full Gospel Mission, paid for all of the new heating and air conditioning and helped pay for some of the remodeling," Schwyhart said.

"Now our goal is to get new carpeting. We want good carpeting that will last. We also want to raise the stage so people can see me better-so they can see the signs."

"I want the people to do the work so they can feel good about their church and it will build their self-esteem. They can then say, 'We have a deaf church. We can do anything like everybody else,'" Schwyhart said.




Sign up for email newsletters

Email:

- Breaking News
- Daily Headlines
- DailyDealTulsa.com Offers
- Advertising Offers
- Latest News - (4PM)
- OU Sports
- OSU Sports
- TU Sports
- High School Sports
- Food & Restaurants
- Weekend: Things to Do
- Home & Garden
- Downtown Tulsa
- Real Estate
- Contest Alerts
- Outdoors



Display ads

 Birth Announcement

TULSA CANCER INSTITUTE

Sometimes it is taken for granted people are just born deaf, but

as in Schwyhart's case, other factors may have come into play

concerning a person's hearing deficiency.

`I was born prematurely and was a breach birth. The electricity

went out during the delivery so they had to immediately put me on

oxygen and the pressure damaged the nerves in my ears,` he said.

`Without my hearing aid, I can only hear sounds at normal volume

an inch away from my ear.`

Thankfully Schwyhart was blessed with three `wonderful, perfectly

normal kids,` while he said 90 percent of deaf parents have

children who experience no hearing loss, and only 10 percent of

children born to deaf parents are hard of hearing.



PLATT COLLEGE,
LEAD ADVANTAGE

More Display Ads

Tweet G+ 0 + Share

Discuss Print

Similar Stories

- ### Most Read
- Oklahoma Senate approves bill to do away with end-of-instruction high school tests
 - Native Tulsan is an entrepreneur who found the answer to comfortable women's swimwear
 - Area schools slashing school days, expenses to balance budget amid second state cut
 - Woman angry at Rogers County deputy who shot pet dog, left a note
 - Bassmaster Classic: Talala's Edwin Evers dominates final day, wins his first Bassmaster Classic

Join the conversation.

Anyone can post a comment on Tulsa World stories. You can either sign in to your Tulsa World account or use Facebook.

[Sign in to your online account](#) . If you don't have an account, [create one](#) for free . To comment through Facebook, please [sign in to your account](#) before you comment.

Read our [commenting policy](#).

Welcome to the discussion.


Screen Name or Email

Password

[Forgot?](#)

Remember me on this computer

[Need an account? Create one now.](#)

Print comments 



Customer Service/Questions on online accounts or subscription access: 918-582-0921, 800-444-6552, circulation@tulsaworld.com

Newsroom: 918-581-8400, news@tulsaworld.com

Website: web@tulsaworld.com

Place a print ad: 918-581-8510, advertising@tulsaworld.com

Place a digital ad: 918-581-8559, advertising@tulsaworld.com

Place a recruitment ad: 918-732-8140, careerads@tulsaworld.com

Place a classified ad: 918-583-2121, advertising@tulsaworld.com

Address: 315 S. Boulder Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74103

Sections

- Home
- News
- Sports
- Business
- Scene
- Communities
- Blogs
- Opinion
- Weekend
- Weather
- Photo
- Video
- Obits
- Contests
- Classifieds
- Special Reports

Info

- About Us
- Contact Us
- Corrections
- Subscription Services
- Site Index
- Add Search Toolbar
- Privacy Policy
- Advertise
- Store
- Contractor
- Apply to be a carrier

Search

Search in:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All | <input type="checkbox"/> Opinion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> News | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports | <input type="checkbox"/> Photovideo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Investigations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scene | <input type="checkbox"/> Obituaries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communities | <input type="checkbox"/> Photos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blogs | <input type="checkbox"/> Video |