



## **Mrs. DeAnn Gaither Sampley**

### **Class of 1972**



**After graduation from Taft High DeAnn attended Bakersfield College. While taking a general education class, a deaf student and the student's interpreter began to stimulate an interest that led her to the field of American Sign Language and helping deaf students.**

**Following her graduation from Cal State Northridge, DeAnn earned a Master of Arts degree in Curriculum Development and began her professional work. During the next 35 years, she established the first American Sign Language (ASL) course at Taft College. In her tenure at Bakersfield College she secured recognition for ASL as a foreign language and developed an ASL Lab which has served thousands of students.**

**DeAnn is the author of "A Guide to Deaf Ministry" which reveals that serving deaf people involves cross-cultural communication. Those who would minister to the deaf must understand their needs, their language, their world.**

**In 1993 she co-founded the non-profit organization Children to Love, International (CTL). It serves the needs of abandoned and abused children (often ones with severe special needs) in both Romania and India. DeAnn has spearheaded development of both college and professional teams ministries serving in the seven Romanian orphanages. She is currently fighting to implement social apartment living for orphans under the guidance of CTL and the Romanian government.**

