



Three Angels Deaf Ministries Report

www.3angelsdeafministries.org

Volume 17 Issue 1

March 2014

Deaf Leaders Visit Brazil

The North American Division (NAD)'s Deaf Ministries Committee meets yearly. The committee heard reports of Deaf ministry's strong growth in Brazil and decided to send a group there to learn about their work. Three Deaf ministry leaders were carefully chosen: Francisca Trexler, Pastor Jeff Jordan, and Amanda Colgan. Esther Doss and Klaudia Staples were asked to interpret due to their involvement on the committee. NAD VP Debra Brill and the General Conference Liaison for the Deaf Larry Evans were also a part of the group.

On February 20, this group arrived in São Paulo, Brazil for a long weekend stay. They believed that they were attending a Deaf ministry committee meeting and were expecting to meet with about



Left to Right: Francisca Trexler, Klaudia Staples, Esther Doss, Debra Brill, Amanda Colgan, and Jackeline Mennon (hearing lady from Brazil) pose with a flag showing the South American Deaf ministry logo, showing hands reaching up for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Photo supplied by Esther Doss

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Three Angels Deaf Ministries

PO Box 1946
Greenbelt, MD 20768
www.3angelsdeafministries.org
3adm@3angelsdeafministries.org
Voice/VP: 301-850-0542
Fax: 866-986-2122

20 people. While still at the airport, they learned instead that there would be 170 people from four countries at this meeting!

"We were stunned! The trip had suddenly turned into something much bigger!" Esther shared. "We did not realize that we were attending South American Division's Deaf Ministry meeting which is held every two years. Both Deaf and hearing people came from all over Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and Peru. Church leaders from the Division, Unions, and Conferences were in attendance."

Many interpreters were among the 170 attendees. There are more than 500 Adventist interpreters in Brazil. Plus, 130 churches across the country have Deaf members

and interpreters.

The sign language in Brazil (LIBRAS) is very different than ASL. Also, Chile, Argentina, and Peru do not use LIBRAS but their own sign languages. Remember that the people in Brazil speak in Portuguese while surrounding countries speak Spanish. The Americans could only speak English. There were many interpreters working at the same time. But instead of confusion, everything flowed very well.

"The Deaf and the LIBRAS interpreters were very loving. They eagerly taught us LIBRAS signs while they wanted to learn ASL and English. We had an amazing time getting to know each other." Esther
(Story continued on page 4)

From the Speaker: A New Year's Resolution and the Power of God

The tumultuous year of 2013 is over. Now, have begun the year 2014. What kind of year will we see? Will it be a better year? A great year? No, I don't believe that we will have a great and better year because of what I have read in the Bible. Plus, we have plenty of evidence that the world has been getting worse and worse. More and more people getting out of control and becoming meaner and dangerous.

The questions we often ask ourselves are: How can I be ready for Jesus? How can I ever be strong and victorious over the power of sin? As we look back over the past year we do not have a good report about ourselves. So as we think about this year, we can feel discouraged.

But, good news! We can overcome our sinful weaknesses humbly through the infinite power of God. Many times we forget to pray and ask God to come into our lives. We do not only need fellowship with Him but also the full victory over the power of sin in our lives.

The battle over sin is a lifetime experience. Victory over sin takes time but is sure. Remember that our habits of how we think and act have taken many years to develop. So learning to overcome those habits often takes time. But, the victory is promised to us so long as we keep our focus on Jesus Christ every moment of our lives. Also, we need the right relationship with God. We must love the truth and God's righteousness and hate sin.

Below is the devotional from *In Heavenly Places* by Ellen G. White. I believe this will give you much encouragement as we face 2014 and beyond. May God bless you as you read the promising words of hope that will give you energy and enthusiasm so that you can move forward for the Lord in this very real battle. The war will be over soon! Stay faithful to the end!

"The Son of God came to this world to redeem [save] the fallen race. He has given us evidence of His great power. He will help those who accept Him to build up characters free from all the tendencies that Satan shows. We can resist the enemy and all his forces. We will win the battle and gain the victory if we choose Christ as our leader as we determine [firmly decide] to do right because it is right.

"Our divine Lord is equal to any emergency. With Him nothing is impossible. He has shown His great love for us by living a life of self-denial and sacrifice and by dying a

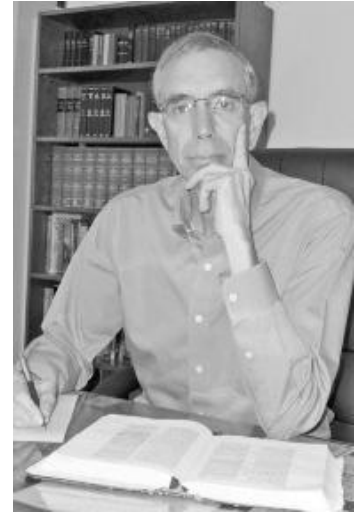
death of agony. Come to Christ just as you are. Give yourself wholly on His mercy.

"Some people have stormy [bad] tempers; but He who calmed the stormy Sea of Galilee will say to the worried heart, "Peace, be still." Christ can control our rebellious nature. Christ can calm our stormy temper when our heart is surrendered to His control.

"He who gives his soul to Jesus does not need to be discouraged. We have an all-powerful Saviour. Looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith. You can say, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea" (Psalm 46:1, 2).

"Let us have more confidence in our Redeemer. Do not turn from the waters of Lebanon to seek refreshment at broken cisterns that can hold no water. Have faith in God. Trustful dependence on Jesus makes victory not only possible but certain [sure]. Many people are pressing on in the wrong way. The future looks discouraging, but we may have full assurance in our Leader; for "I am God." He declares, "and there is none else" (Isaiah 45:22). He is infinite in power, and able to save all who come to Him. There is no other in whom we can safely trust." (*In Heavenly Places*, page 17, adapted).

David Trexler
Speaker/Director



Speaker/Director's Schedule

March 15, 2014—Jacksonville, FL—DeafNation Expo
 March 22, 2014—Greensboro, NC—DeafNation Expo
 April 12, 2014—Dallas, TX—DeafNation Expo
 May 3, 2014—Pomona, CA—DeafNation Expo
 May 9-10—Little Rock, AR—Mini-evangelistic Meetings
 July 1-5, 2014—Atlanta, GA—National Association for the Deaf Convention

*On Sabbaths when home, David Trexler preaches at the Silver Spring, Maryland SDA Church's annex building.

DVDs Touch Man's Heart

A member in Arkansas, a faithful witness to her friends, shared the following story with us:

I knew Peter* for many years. In fact, he is a life-long friend. We first met as children at the Arkansas School for the Deaf. He has been battling cancer for many years, so I decided to send him a package of *Signs of God's Love* DVDs, hoping that he might be blessed by them. I was not sure if he had a good relationship with God based on what he told me years ago. I wanted him saved for God's kingdom.

A few days ago, his wife called me. She let me know that he had just passed away; he was 78 years old. She was so thankful to me and wanted to be sure to tell me something. Before he died, he was under hospice care in the nursing home. Peter asked her to bring him all six *Signs of God's Love* DVDs so that he could watch them. He watched them all, along with his wife and four children who were there with him. He received a lot of comfort from the DVDs and told his family, "I hope to be with Jesus soon." As Peter's widow told the experience, she wept. Her own heart was greatly touched by the DVDs and Peter's faith in God. She also said that her children's hearts were touched.

We praise God that He used our DVDs to reach this man. We are always humbled and yet blessed to hear stories like this one. If you have a story you would like to share, please let us know!

**Not his real name*

Use of Technology for Bible Studies

Today's technology has allowed unique opportunities in Deaf ministry. Video phones and webcams have opened many doors for fellowship and Bible study. The Z5 Team View Meeting (TVM) is the equivalent to the hearing world's telephone conferencing. Z5 TVM allows up to 12 participants for each meeting.

This technology has been tapped into for Deaf ministry. There are currently two TVM meetings each Friday night. Francisca Trexler hosts one group while Margie English (in Virginia) hosts another group. Participants in these meetings come from all over the United States, seventeen states so far! These meetings focus on Bible topics that enrich the spiritual life of those who are isolated from each other due to distance. While not the same whatsoever as meeting in person, this does allow Deaf people to not only get "in touch" with each other, but allows them to study deeply in God's Word with others of the same language. Those who have participated have been richly blessed.

Signs of God's Love DVD Prices

\$5.00 each

Quantity Orders for Sharing!

20 or more \$4.00 each

100 or more \$3.00 each

(Postage included)

Prices good for all *Signs of God's Love* DVDs.

Six DVDs to choose from:

#1 - Salvation and God's Love

#2 - What is Death?

#3 - God's Law

#4 - The Sabbath

#5 - Jesus' Second Coming

#6 - Heaven and our Choices

(#7 is coming soon. The topic will be on health.)



Francisca Trexler studies with six others from different areas of the United States. All of those involved in the discussion are seen on one screen, each with his/her own box. Francisca needs a large screen to see them easily.

Deaf Work Reviving in Seattle

Mike and Judy Johnson visited the Volunteer Park SDA Church in Seattle on October 26, 2013. Judy sent us this picture of the large group that met at church that day; about 14 Deaf people were in attendance. Nancy Brown, a Deaf member, taught the Sabbath school class and Pastor Alfred Griffith was the guest speaker who gave a great sermon. The group also enjoyed a tasty meal and wonderful fellowship after the services.

Years ago, Paul Kelly served in Deaf ministry in Seattle. A sizeable group met at the Volunteer Park church until Paul left back in 1991. In fact, the large group this past October is the largest group to meet there since Paul left Seattle.

Over the years, the Deaf group in Seattle shrivelled up to a couple of members or so and did not even have an Adventist ASL interpreter. Tim remembers a sweet Korean lady in her 60's who knew little English. Though she only



Photo supplied by Judy Johnson

knew Korean Sign Language and few ASL signs, she tried her best before falling ill and leaving. Tim Connolly has been working to grow the Seattle group again. He was delighted when Adventist interpreter Nohe Jarnes moved to the area recently. She is now interpreting church services every two weeks. What's happening in Seattle is indeed exciting! May God bless this work that is being done in this large city!

Brazil Trip, Continued

(Story continued from page 1) remembers. "We learned from them the challenges they face in Deaf ministry. Their stories were familiar for we face the same problems here in the United States. Yet, the Deaf work in Brazil is growing."



Photo supplied by Esther Doss

Pastor Jeff Jordan, Francisca Trexler, Amanda Colgan, Esther Doss, and Debra Brill take a photo with newlywed Brazilian couple Claudemir and Erika Belotto. Erika is Deaf and Claudemir interprets in church.

Esther added, "We were excited to meet Douglas Silva and his wife, both Deaf. In December, Douglas will graduate from an Adventist university with a theology degree and will work as a Deaf pastor. They are a delightful couple."

The weekend was packed with spiritual meetings, baptisms, reports, business sessions, and training. "We also squeezed in interviews to learn more about their Deaf culture and the Deaf ministry," Esther said.

The Americans participated in the meetings. Pastor Jeff gave a devotional. Francisca and Esther signed songs while Elder Evans gave the Sabbath's sermon.

The group has returned home inspired. The NAD's Deaf Ministries Committee will meet this November to discuss new ideas to grow the Deaf work here in North America. 3ADM will be present at this meeting and we look forward to ways that we can work together.

Our Deaf brothers and sisters in South America send their love and warmest greetings to their Adventist Deaf family here in North America.

2014 Camp Meeting Dates

Western Deaf Camp Meeting

July 20-24, 2014

Milo Adventist Academy in Days Creek, Oregon

Contact: Chuck McGehee at chucktrades@gmail.com

Southern Deaf Fellowship Camp Meeting

August 6-10, 2014

Cohutta Springs in Crandall, Georgia

Contact: Pastor Jeff Jordan at jwjordan@gccsda.com

7th Day Interpreter Conference

August 6-10, 2014

Cohutta Springs in Crandall, Georgia

Alongside the Southern Deaf Fellowship Camp Meeting

Contact: Nohe Jarnes at 7thdayterps@gmail.com

Deaf Young Adults for Christ (DYAC) Camp Meeting

August 6-10, 2014

Cohutta Springs in Crandall, Georgia

Alongside the Southern Deaf Fellowship Camp Meeting

Contact: dyacdeaf@gmail.com

Southern New England Conference DEAF Camp

August 28-September 1, 2014

Held in Groton, Massachusetts

Contact: Amanda Colgan at snecdeafcamp@gmail.com

D.E.A.R. Camp Meeting

October 2-5, 2014

Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, VA

Contact: irela1219@gmail.com

Donations

In Memory of...

Shirley Dennis by William Dennis

Dixie Ellison by Rosanne Baker

Arthur and Alyce Griffith by Susan Giansanti

Walter and Wendy Kruger by Dorothy Stelling-Emmerson

John Tunison by Winifred Rhinehart, Richard and Ellen Newberry, Denise Hines, Diane Wissman, Jane Backstrom, Gladys Kendall, Susan Morgan, Andrea Smith, Maureen Chaput, Cheryl Rhodes, Gilbert and Jeannie Valdez, Raymond and Willena McDevitt

In Honor of...

Marvin Budd by Luis Leonor

Sermons Now on Website

120 Sermons on DVDs have been mailed each month to Deaf people across North America. Now, these sermons are being added to our website.

We know that there are some who prefer to view videos online. We also recognize that this new feature will be great as a sharing tool. A viewer can share the video links with their friends via email or social networks such as FaceBook. Also those who live in foreign countries can not receive our DVDs, but now will be able to view these sermons online.

Speaker/Director David Trexler is the main speaker for these sermons. When home, he preaches to the Deaf group in Silver Spring, Maryland. Other speakers are sometimes used.

You can view these videos by going to our website: www.3angelsdeafministries.org and click on videos.

New Address?

Do not forget to let us know when you change your address. You may email or mail us your new information.

Special Dinner at SDF

The Southern Deaf Fellowship had their yearly free vegetarian Thanksgiving dinner for the Deaf community on November 17, 2013. A total of 55 individuals came for the delicious meal and fellowship. The numbers were down slightly compared to previous years, but the fellowship was wonderful. This is the fifth year that Southern Deaf Fellowship has done this evangelism outreach to connect the church with the community.



In Memory: Leona Thomas and John Tunison

On January 12, Leona Thomas passed away at the age of 97. Leona Brett-Thomas was born in 1918 in a log cabin on her father's farm in Alberta, Canada. Leona was born two months premature and weighed only 3.5 pounds.

In the 1920's there was no boarding school for the Deaf in Alberta. So in 1926, she travelled by train to the Jericho Hill School for the Deaf in Vancouver, BC. She was there for seven years. Then Leona went to the Deaf school in Winnipeg. After 3 years, she quit school and found work.

In 1943, Leona married Harry Thomas; Harry died many years ago.

Leona loved to travel. She enjoyed attending the mini-Deaf camp meeting held at Hope, BC. She also enjoyed riding with John and Alberta Blake and Deaf friends several times to Milo, Oregon for the Deaf camp meeting there.

Leona had a special friend, Dr. Unu Underwood. Besides visits with Dr. Unu in the USA, Leona also visited her in China. Another time Leona went with Dr. Unu to a wedding in Chile.

Judy Booth enabled Leona to live about an extra year independently at a manor. Beulah Oslund, also gave Leona a lot of help and encouragement. Finally, the time came when Leona needed full time help in a care center. The care center gave her excellent care. Some of the staff took a special interest in her. But, it was still very difficult and rather lonely for Leona because the staff could not sign and Leona's speech was very limited. Leona lived there from 2007 until her death.

Alberta Blake became Leona's guardian. For six years Alberta traveled monthly to visit her and to see how things were going. In 2007, Alberta also took her on a special vacation visiting the area where Leona used to live and to see some of her family.

Leona loved the Lord. If you look in her Bible, you find hundreds of texts underlined that were special to her. Leona looked forward to the New Earth where there will be no more death, and the Deaf will hear and the Blind will see!

3ADM Board of Directors

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Speaker/Director
Esther M. Doss
Public Relations & Development
Francisca Trexler
Bible School Director/Chaplain

Once again, a precious soul has gone to sleep in Jesus. John Tunison passed away on Wednesday, January 22, 2014 in Cambridge, Massachusetts at the age of 73.

John and his wife Winnie were married for 47 years. His unconditional love for Winnie was well-known and admired by all. John was born in New Jersey. He graduated and received his master's degree in economics at Gallaudet University in Washington D.C. He worked as a painter and was also very skilled at home improvements.

He was a proud member of the Deaf community. Plus, he advocated and supported the Deaf-Blind community for many years.

John loved Jesus and God's Word and was a member of the SDA Church. John and his wife had a passion to share their faith with others. For years, they attended the Johnston, Rhode Island church. No Adventist interpreters were available, so a non-Adventist but yet a Sabbath-keeping lady generously interpreted the church services. Winnie could not see the interpreter because she is a Deaf-Blind woman. So, John would watch the interpreter and then repeat the signs while Winnie's hands were placed on top of John's (tactile signing). John and Winnie lived in Rhode Island for many years before moving south to Florida and then back north to Massachusetts. John is survived by his wife, two daughters, and four grandchildren. Winnie is currently staying with a daughter in Massachusetts.

Many will miss John. We look forward to the day when John will wake up from his long "nap" when Jesus comes again and take His saints to heaven.



John Tunison is pictured here standing with his wife Winnie (far left) and their friend Catherine Ingram (middle).

3ADM Catalog -- All prices include USA shipping

AMAZING BIBLE TRUTHS SERIES (7 DVDs) \$ 65.00
14 Bible topics in ASL by Francisca Trexler. (No voice)

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST VIDEO SERIES
VHS Price \$ 40.00
DVD Price \$ 90.00

A set of 13 VHS or DVD videos in ASL by Pastor David Trexler. Includes study notes. (With voice)

SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE #1 DVD \$ 5.00
Salvation and God's love (with voice)

SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE #2 DVD \$ 5.00
What happens when you die? (with voice)

SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE #3 DVD \$ 5.00
God's law of love (with voice)

SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE #4 DVD \$ 5.00
The Sabbath (with voice)

SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE #5 DVD \$ 5.00
Jesus' second coming (with voice)

SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE #6 DVD \$ 5.00
Heaven and choices (with voice)

BIBLE ADVENTURES DVD \$12.00
8 Bible stories for children in sign language (no voice)

OUR WORLD A THEATER IN GOD'S UNIVERSE (DVD) \$ 5.00
The full story of the battle between God and Satan.

KEEPERS OF THE FLAME SERIES (2 DVDs) \$ 45.00
This 8-part series covers the history of the Christian church, and the Adventist church. (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

THE FINAL EVENTS OF BIBLE PROPHECY (DVD)
In Hard Case \$ 12.00
In Paper Sleeve \$ 5.00

What the Bible says about the last days of earth history by Doug Batchelor. (43 minutes - ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

THE SEVENTH DAY (5 DVDs) \$ 75.00
The history of the Sabbath. (CLOSED CAPTIONED)

CAN YOU HEAR US? (Booklet - 10 copies) \$ 10.00
A quick reference guide to Deaf Ministry.

MARGIE ASKS WHY, EASY READING EDITION \$ 7.00
A fascinating book about the battle between God and Satan.

STEPS TO CHRIST, EASY READING EDITION \$ 7.00
A book that leads us to a better relationship with Jesus.

THE STORY OF REDEMPTION, EASY READING \$ 7.00
Tells how sin began and how Jesus will save His people from sin & eternal death.

EASY-READING BAPTISMAL STUDIES \$ 20.00
28 fundamental beliefs studies for baptismal candidates.

SIGN LANGUAGE COLORING BOOKS \$ 8.00
A set of 3 coloring books: Creation, Moses, and Jesus.

ASL DVD LEARNING SYSTEM (DVD) \$ 35.00
Includes 2 DVDs: "Getting Started in Signing" and "Say It With Signing."

CD-ROM: HYPERSIGN INTERACTIVE DICTIONARY OF ASL (CD-ROM) \$ 25.00
Full-motion video; age specific vocabulary.

ASL FINGERSPELLING LESSONS (VHS) \$ 8.00

Product Name	Quantity	Price	Subtotal
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