



Three Angels Deaf Ministries Report

Volume 19 Issue 1

March, 2016

Special Needs Advisory Meets at GC

A historic meeting recently took place at the General Conference Headquarters for the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Division leaders from all around the world met February 25-27 for the Special Needs Advisory Meeting, the first such meeting ever held. Special Needs Ministries is a new focus of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, covering five areas: the Deaf, the Blind, the Orphans, those with Physical and Mental Disabilities.

After Elder Larry Evans was asked to serve as an Assistant to the President for Special Needs, each division around the world selected a Special Needs Director for their region. The Special Needs Advisory Meeting, carefully planned by Elder Evans, was held for these directors.

The meetings were very intense with little time for breaks. Much



Photo by Larry Evans

Special Needs Directors from every part of the globe attended the historic Special Needs Advisory Meeting held at the General Conference of SDA's in February.

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information was covered by a number of speakers. This was indeed a crash course in a variety of needs and ministries. Each division also shared their reports, which interestingly was almost all focused on Deaf ministry.

Several of our Deaf ministry workers were a part of this historic meeting. Esther Doss gave a presentation on Deaf Ministry. David Trexler was invited to give a devotional on Sabbath morning. Jeff Jordan shared some information about Deaf Ministry and his work with the Southern Deaf Fellowship. His wife, Missy, accompanied him and served as an interpreter for much of the meetings. John Blake spoke on how Gospel Outreach works with Divisions in hiring workers for the

Deaf. Charlotte Thoms spoke on Disabilities Ministries in general. Those who were asked to make presentations were also invited to stay for all of the meetings. Most did, allowing for continual conversation about the Deaf work.

The group toured the National Federation of the Blind in Baltimore, MD. Their technology room was filled with many pieces of equipment that were simply amazing. The group also learned how to write in Braille using the Braille Slate and a stylus. The tour guide was himself blind, having lost his eyesight at the age of 25.

Then the group went to Washington, D.C. to visit Gallaudet University. They were guided by Margie English, a Deaf member.

(Story continued on page 3)

Speaker's Dialogue: The Power of A Mind That Speaks

You may have heard the statement, "He speaks his mind." This means the person says what he is thinking. He is telling the truth coming from his thoughts. Jesus speaks of this in Luke 6:45, "A good man says good things. These come from the good that is stored up in his heart. An evil man says evil things. These come from the evil that is stored up in his heart. A person's mouth says everything that is in their heart" (NIRV).

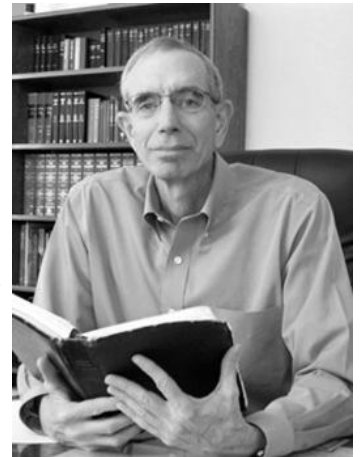
The question is: Do we always say right and good things to all people? Would you say kind words to someone who you are angry with? I doubt it. Have you known a person who tried to help someone by correcting that person's thinking or behavior? But the helping person said hurtful things by mistake. The helping person did not purposefully mean to hurt the person. But what he said was not helpful to the other person. Why? "More than anything else, a person's mind is evil and cannot be healed. Who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9, NCV).

Now, look at the presidential candidates who are attacking each other. Yes, I mean they are attacking each other's characters and way of thinking. We have heard and seen too much negativity in their debates and comments. We should say, "Enough!" But, we, the people, continue to want to hear all of the negative talk as if we are watching TV shows. Have you noticed that candidates with unpopular, low poll numbers attack the popular, high poll candidate's character and past? Why are they doing it? We should know why.

Does this remind you of the first sin that ever happened in the universe? God created Lucifer a perfect being (angel) and chose him to be an archangel, a great and high honor. But Lucifer turned around and attacked God. How? He attacked God's loving character and His government. In fact, Lucifer was jealous of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Something was bad in Lucifer's heart, causing him to speak very negatively about God. Now, Satan, formerly Lucifer, is here doing evil work against God by tempting and hurting us. We are sinners who have sinful natures that control us. Speaking badly about other people is easy for us. Saying wrong words when we are trying to help is easy, too. What about joking and teasing? Why in the world we are doing it? We need to remember that we all have grown up and lived differently from each other. But, we all were born into this negative world and it seems to have won! But, thanks to God, we are able to do what is right through His power of grace.

Thank God for the Bible that clearly tells us how to

live righteously like Jesus Christ. It opens our eyes of our great need for change in our hearts. Also, I must not fail to mention that we thank God for His faithful saints who have shown a Christ-like life that influences us to be a better person. If you are still struggling with swearing, criticizing with sharp words, thinking badly of someone, saying wrong



words when helping, etc. God is here to help us! Seek Him immediately after making mistakes. "Then you will call out to me. You will come and pray to me. And I will listen to you. When you look for me with all your heart, you will find me" (Jeremiah 29:12, 13, NIRV).

For breaking bad habits, God promised us a new heart—"This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts. I will write my laws on their minds." And, "Let the words you speak always be full of grace. Learn how to make your words what people want to hear. Then you will know how to answer everyone" (Colossians 4:6, NIRV). After receiving and following these promises, we must remember to avoid negative media showing words of attack on each other in our society as much as possible.

Let me close with a brief story about the power of the mind that speaks. One day a pastor and his wife with their young son were traveling in a car. They stopped at an intersection. The pastor was driving and impatiently waited for the car in front of them to make a left turn. Suddenly, the pastor and his wife heard coming from the car seat behind them, "Get going!, Get going!" The son was shouting at the car in front of them. Both father and mother looked at each other. The father's face was red with embarrassment. The mother was sad, for she expected this to happen. Why? Their son saw his father say this in the past and now copied his father's way of saying impatient words about another driver. Yes, we are poor communicators due to the negative environment we lived in. We need to look at the cross and pray for forgiveness and empowerment to do right daily.

David M. Trexler

Special Needs Advisory, Continued

While taking the church leaders around campus, she point out the open floor plans, greatly reducing visual barriers. Margie explained that because of a few people's desire for the Deaf to know God, sign language was brought to the USA and Deaf schools sprang up all over the country. She told of the struggles ever since Alexander Graham Bell successfully pushed for oralism in schools, and how these struggles have been reflected in the Deaf community's spiritual life.

Esther Doss noted that the Church leaders were very passionate and motivated for Deaf ministry. One example is Elder Villanueva (Philippines) who was asked to serve as the Deaf Coordinator in the Southern-Asia Pacific Division. He was hesitant for he knew absolutely nothing about the Deaf work. He accepted, thinking he would just be a contact person. But when Pastor Jeff Jordan and Elder John Blake went to the Philippines a few years ago, Pastor Villanueva was to be their guide. He was nervous! He cannot explain it now, but when he was with the Deaf for the first time, he felt overwhelmed by God's call to Deaf ministry. Never before did he experienced such a call by God. Ever since, he has been passionate about the Deaf work.

Pavel Liberansky and his wife are the Special Needs Directors of the Euro-Asia Division. They are from Russia and have an amazing story. When Russia was a Communist country, they typed E. G. White books and the Bible on old-fashioned manual typewriters. By using carbon between several sheets of thin paper, they could make several copies at one time. If they were caught, they would have be arrested. They put blankets up in the windows and covered themselves and the typewriter with blankets so the neighbors would not hear. This couple once risked their lives for God and are

now enthusiastic about the Deaf work."

Esther Doss reflects, "I cannot help but think of Elder Arthur Griffith and others who prayed that church leaders around the world would catch the vision and grow the Deaf work. I wish that they were still alive to see that this day has indeed come."



Esther Doss gives a presentation on Deaf Ministry.



John Blake comments during a meeting. Debra Brill is seen here.



Pastor Jeff Jordan writes in Braille using a Braille Slate and stylus.



Margie English gives an excellent tour of Gallaudet University.

Jesus in Any Language

A boy enters his first grade class. It is a memorable event in any child's development. For this boy it is especially memorable. A beautiful fair-skinned woman invites him to take a seat. She asks him questions that he cannot answer. The problem is that she speaks a language not native to him. His mother never taught him English. He does not understand! He cannot understand! But he really wants to understand! He is so frustrated that his eyes well up into tears. A few decades later he is an English teacher and he is facing an entire classroom of children who do not understand English.

Accepting the call to serve as a missionary teacher in the Republic of Korea held special significance for me. In teaching each frustrated child, I could see the same desire to learn that I had all those years ago. It was not enough to teach them English. My hope was that through our songs, prayers, and lessons they could come to know the love of God. A piece of my heart will always be in each and every one of those little boys and girls.

My time in South Korea was not without its challenges. In fact, most missionaries end up dealing with a common challenge. While we have made a commitment to "feed his sheep" and share the gospel message with the world there still remains our own need to be fed. It is not uncommon for us as foreigners to be excluded from the church services. Language is a hurdle that many missionaries have not yet overcome. Of course, we understand that being in a foreign country we would have to take on the challenge of communicating in a foreign language. I willingly took on that challenge. Yet after struggling daily with a foreign language I longed to enter the Sabbath rest while connecting to the Lord through worship and an inspirational message.

Walking into a church that did not provide translation makes us feel unwelcome and out of place. It is because we want to understand and no matter how hard we try we just do not understand. Church is the one place where it is extremely important to understand the message. If lucky I might be able to pick out a word or two I recognize and use context clues to guess what that message might be. Imagine going into a church desperately seeking an inspired message and not getting it. It is no wonder that many find their rest by going to an English community of believers like those found at Sahmyook (SDA) University or FILSDAK (a Filipino missionary church).

After having struggled with English at a young age and being challenged by Korean in my adulthood I have become sensitive to the language struggles of others. You may not be aware of this but there is a community of Americans who struggle with English. They walk into

our churches and may be unable to grasp the message presented. Some of them have even told me if an interpreter is not provided they would walk out and go home. This frequently overlooked group is called the Deaf community. Many of these people never overcame English like I did in school. Most of them were excluded from their family and even church. 90% of Deaf people are born to hearing parents. That means that unless their parents overcome the language barrier, by learning sign language, they may not be able to fully communicate with their kids. Deaf people grow up trying to pick out words and using context clues to guess what others are saying. No matter how well a Deaf person learns the written language, understanding spoken language becomes a guessing game. When seeking a spiritually uplifting message they need access just like I did in South Korea.

The Lord has called individuals from our church around the world to reach out to this particular group. I have personally become acquainted with the efforts of Jeff Jordan, David Trexler, Paul Kelly, John Blake, John Alejandro Rodriguez (Colombia), and Jung Chul-Min (South Korea). These and many more have answered the call ". . . And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" (Romans 10:14). The General Conference is now making a united effort to coordinate with these ministries through Adventist Deaf Ministries International.

What can your local church do to bring the gospel to the Deaf community? First, you have to identify the needs of your local community. Are your neighbors Deaf? Do you see Deaf people when you go out shopping? If Deaf people live in your community then your church definitely needs to adapt in order to serve them. Most likely there is no SDA Deaf congregation meeting in your area, so if you want to reach these people your church must budget for interpreted services. Providing interpreted services lets Deaf visitors/members and hearing visitors/members know that Deaf people are a part of your community. By welcoming them into the body of Christ you will have taken an important step toward bringing a Deaf soul to Christ.

Harold Molina

Harold is a hearing man with a special passion for the Deaf. After graduating from the Adventist University in Puerto Rico, Harold worked as an ESL teacher in South Korea. He and his family recently moved to New York City where Harold is currently a first-year student in LaGuardia Community College's Interpreter's Training Program.

Trexler Now a Bible Worker

For several years, Francisca Trexler has served 3ADM as both the Deaf Bible School Director and Chaplain at Gallaudet University. The North American Division funded the chaplain program at Gallaudet until this year. The 3ADM board has decided that 3ADM would continue the chaplain work at Gallaudet. Instead of having separate positions for Francisca to fill, the board approved a new title for her, Bible Worker. Francisca will continue the work she has been doing for a number of years. She will study with Deaf Bible School students either by mail, internet, or by video phone. She will also continue to go to the Gallaudet campus two days a week. 3ADM relies on your donations to fund the Bible work that we do. Thank you for your help.



Kissimmee Deaf Day

On February 20th, Paul Kelly, David and Francisca Trexler went to Kissimmee, Florida for the Deaf Ministry Day at a Spanish SDA Church. Paul Kelly preached in the church gym for the English speaking people. At the same time, David Trexler preached in the sanctuary for the Spanish members. The Deaf speakers were invited by Javier Matos who has passion for the Deaf work in the Kissimmee area. Some local Deaf members came for the special event, including Mario Romero who is recovering well from his serious illness.



Photo supplied by David Trexler

Kissimmee, FL Deaf group photo with Javier Matos signing ILY.

Camp Meeting Schedule

World Congress for Deaf and Deaf-Blind

May 13 - 16, 2016

Speakers: Deaf Pastors Douglas Domingos Da Silva (from Brazil) & Jeffrey Jordan
Seville, Spain
Info and registration: <http://adventistdeaf.eu/seville-2016/>

Western Deaf Camp Meeting

July 10-17, 2016

Speakers: Alan Meis and Margie English
Milo Adventist Academy
324 Milo Drive
Days Creek, OR 97429
Contact: Chuck McGehee at chucktrades@me.com

7th Day Interpreters Workshop

July 10-17, 2016

Speakers: Nohelani Jarnes, Esther Doss, Margie English, Darrell and Lorna Strait
Milo Adventist Academy
Days Creek, OR 97429
Contact: Nohelani Jarnes at 7thdayterps@gmail.com or 253-625-1854

Southern Deaf Fellowship Camp Meeting

August 10 - 14, 2016

Speaker: Paul Kelly
Cohutta Springs Convention Center
Crandall, Georgia
Contact: Jeff Jordan at jwjordan@gccsda.org

SNEC DEAF Camp Meeting

August 26 - 30, 2016

Speaker: Paul Kelly
Camp Cherokee
433 Gilpin Bay Road
Saranac Lake, NY 12983
Contact: Jessica Smith at snecd deaf@gmail.com

Deaf Young Adults for Christ (DYAC) Camp Meeting

August 26 - 30, 2016

Camp Cherokee
Saranac Lake, NY 12983
Contact: DYACDeaf@gmail.com
www.dyacweb.org

DEAR Camp Meeting

October 20-23, 2016

Speaker: Alfred Griffith
Camp Blue Ridge
Montebello, VA
Contact: Cathy Ingram at DEAR@deafellowship.org

Our Mailbag

"Last night I watched your speaking about God's covenant... You talked about 12 gates in the Heaven and the list of the 12 names. [Interpreter] is not like yours because you explained details very clearly and made me understand the about 12 gates."

"It is nice to know that so many Deaf people are taking an interest in God. As time goes on I am sure there will be many more who will take an interest in God. There may be many Deaf people who have an interest in God but who have no one to guide them to a church who has services for Deaf people to help them with the challenges they face financially, emotionally, and spiritually. I am sending a donation to help with God's work."

"I read the Amazing Facts [lesson about] a woman named is Ellen Harmon. I believe it, very wonderful! I learn and understand from the Amazing Facts [lessons], matches with the Holy Bible. I like this Amazing Facts, very good BEST! WOW! I don't forget to always keep these [lessons] in the future. "

"Praising God for the goodness that is within you as you faithfully continue to share your love for our Jesus through this ministry. This ministry through the leading of our lord Jesus has richly blessed many who would otherwise not have known the amazing love of Jesus. God be with you as you continue to enlighten Deaf people with the greatest hope of all."

"I pray all is well with you both and also with 3ADM. God bless you in the good work you do to bring God's Truth to the Deaf. . .and hearing. May the Lord multiply this offering for 3ADM. Hugs."

Donations

In Memory of...

Florence Neuin by Lorraine Schell
Robert Raymond by Slyvia Charette

In Honor of...

Marvin Budd by Luis Leonor and Ralph Williams

3ADM Board of Directors

Bruce Buzzell, *Chairperson*
Paul Kelly, *Vice-Chairperson*
Chuck McGehee, *Treasurer*
Alfred Griffith, *Secretary*
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Marvin Budd
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3ADM Staff

David M. Trexler
Speaker/Director
Esther M. Doss
Public Relations & Development
Francisca Trexler
Bible Worker

Online Revelation Class

The DEAF Group in Silver Spring, MD is sponsoring "The Book of Revelation: Our Cross and Our Crown," a study of book of Revelation at Gallaudet University. The seminar is given by Jason & Sheelah Kimbrough, a young Deaf couple. The meetings are live streamed and anyone can watch the seminar on the Internet. The meetings began in January and meet for three hours every two weeks. Some classes are still left for you to watch. Join for any of the sessions or all of them! It is not too late. The seminars are held from 10am to 1pm (EST). Upcoming dates are: March 20, April 3 & 17, May 1, 15, & 29. For information: <http://bitly.com/deaf-revelation>

Sample Report from Advisory

Deaf work is happening in each of the eight countries in the South American Division. Deaf ministry is found in each of Brazil's twenty-two states. A camp meeting is planned for 2017 with over 1,000 Deaf attendees expected.

Gospel Outreach has 47 workers for the Deaf in 10 countries.

East Central Africa Division has 1585 Deaf members. Most are in Kenya. Four men (3 are Deaf) are now training to be pastors and will graduate from college in August. There are 233 interpreters and 3 camp meetings.

In the Middle East, a Christian (not Adventist) woman with a Deaf brother volunteered to put Bible studies in Arabic Sign Language!



Elder Choque from Brazil takes a selfie with the church leaders who toured Gallaudet University.

Three Angels Deaf Ministries Report is a bimonthly publication of Three Angels Deaf Ministries. Contributors to the ministry receive this report for two years from the date of their most recent gift.

Three Angels Deaf Ministries, a nonprofit ministry, shares the saving truths of Jesus Christ with the Deaf through easy reading literature, the Internet, public evangelism, outreach training, and more. For operation, we depend on the gifts and prayers of caring Christians who believe in our mission.

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
A set of 13 DVDs with 26 programs in ASL by Pastor David Trexler. Includes study notes. (with voice) \$ 90.00

SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE #1 DVD \$ 7.00
Salvation and God's love (with voice)

SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE #2 DVD \$ 7.00
What happens when you die? (with voice)

SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE #3 DVD \$ 7.00
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SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE #4 DVD \$ 7.00
The Sabbath (with voice)

SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE #5 DVD \$ 7.00
Jesus' second coming (with voice)

SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE #6 DVD \$ 7.00
Heaven and choices (with voice)

SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE #7 DVD \$ 7.00
The eight laws of health (with voice)

SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE #8 DVD \$ 7.00
The beginning and end of evil (with voice)

SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE DVDs
Orders of 20 or more - each DVD \$ 6.00
Orders of 100 or more - each DVD \$ 4.00

BIBLE ADVENTURES DVD \$15.00
8 Bible stories for children in sign language (no voice)

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

OURWORLD A THEATER IN GOD'S UNIVERSE (DVD)
The full story of the battle between God and Satan.
In Hard Case \$ 15.00
In Paper Sleeve \$ 7.00

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)
What the Bible says about the last days of earth history by Doug Batchelor. (43 minutes - ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
In Hard Case \$ 15.00
In Paper Sleeve \$ 7.00

CAN YOU HEAR US? (Booklet - 10 copies) \$ 15.00
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.

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