



September 2023

Volume 26 Issue 5

Letter from the Director

Greetings friends in ministry,

As the seasons shift and the air grows crisper, let's take a moment to cherish the blessings of this past summer. We shared memorable camp meetings and celebrated joyful baptisms that united us in worship and fellowship. These events have been key in our growth, connections, and learning experiences.

During the summer, there have been several camp meetings, including the Southern Deaf Fellowship Camp Meeting, Western Camp meeting (Milo), Interpreter Conference, DYAC Summit, and Deaf Camp for Youth. These gatherings provided opportunities to spend time with loved ones and to connect with people from diverse [different] backgrounds. Most importantly, they were moments that deepened our relationship with God, reminding us of Jesus' prayers for those in need and encouraging us to arrange our plans with His divine purpose. We shared uplifting testimonies that continue to inspire faith and joy.

Looking ahead, we have two exciting fellowship events planned for this fall: the DEAF and DEAR camp meetings, scheduled for this month and October.

We are thrilled to introduce six dedicated Adventists currently undergoing intensive training in personal evangelism at AFCOE (Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism). As part of their journey, they are reaching out to Deaf people in the community and offering Bible studies. We're truly fortunate to have three ASL interpreters who ensure accurate communication for the students. For more details about their experiences at AFCOE, please refer to page 7 of this newsletter.

As we welcome the fall season, let's get inspiration from the way nature changes and trust in God's perfect plan for our lives. Just as trees stand strong even when the leaves and weather change, let's stand firm in our faith. Guided by **Hebrews 12:2**, let's continue to "keep looking to Jesus."

We deeply appreciate your ongoing support and prayers.

Amanda Colgan



Southern Deaf Fellowship Camp Meeting

The [Southern Deaf Fellowship](#) Camp Meeting took place at the [Cohutta Springs Conference Center](#) in Crandall, Georgia, from August 9-13 this year. People from various states came together for this inspiring spiritual event, and the camp's theme was "To the Ends of the Earth."

Pastor Doug Venn, the new leader for [Adventist Possibility Ministries](#) (APM), served as the main speaker at the camp meeting. He presented a series of three seminars aimed at encouraging everyone to discover unique ways of serving others and showing their love for the Lord. Amanda Colgan, [3ADM](#) director, delivered two thought-provoking talks titled "Love in Action" and "Faith in Action," which made us reflect on our own faith journeys. In her 3ADM Report, she also shared exciting updates about the ministry's work, changes in the year, and current and future projects.

Esther Doss, the [North American Division](#) (NAD) Deaf Ministries coordinator, provided NAD reports on budgeting, explaining the SDA structure, and breaking down tithes to support our Deaf Adventist community all over the country. Jeff Jordan, Deaf Pastor of Southern Deaf Fellowship from Tennessee, delivered a sermon titled "Servanthood Living as a Disciple of Jesus" and shared his experiences with Deaf Adventists in South Korea. On Friday evening, we had a very meaningful Lord's Supper together.

A truly special moment occurred on Sabbath afternoon when Sherry Wagner from Arkansas decided to give her life to Jesus and was baptized. It filled everyone's hearts with joy!

While the adults had their meetings, separate classes and gatherings were organized for the kids and teenagers. The 7th Day Interpreters and Deaf Young Adults for Christ also had their own meetings and fun activities.





Throughout the camp, there were plenty of exciting outdoor activities for campers to enjoy, including canoeing, zip-lining, riding the torpedo, and jumping on the blob in the lake. For those seeking relaxation, the refreshing pool was available. And as a special treat, free massages were offered that everyone left not only spiritually refreshed but also physically relaxed and happy. It was a fantastic camp meeting filled with joy, spiritual growth, and thrilling adventures!

Interpreter Conference 2023 Nohe Jarnes

From August 9 to 13, 2023, Interpreter Conference held alongside the Southern Deaf Camp Meeting at Cohutta Springs Conference Center in Crandall, GA.

Even though not as many people came as usual, everyone had a great time talking and sharing. The attendees got to join in workshops about important stuff like Deaf Ministry, Interpreter Ministry, Interpreting Music, and Ethics.



When they weren't in workshops, they made friends with Deaf Campers and joined the big meetings of the Southern Deaf Camp Meeting.

Guess what? Next year's Conference will be on the computer using Zoom. Anyone who wants to learn about interpreting, whether they're good at signing, want to learn, or just curious, can come.



For questions or more information, reach out via email at sdaterps@gmail.com.

Let's remember to say a prayer, asking for help so that interpreters can get better at signing and team up with the Deaf community for their important work here on earth!

“FOLLOW IN HIS STEPS” DYAC SUMMIT 2023



DYAC Summit 2023 was held at Cohutta Spring Conference Center in Candell, Georgia, from August 9 to 13, 2023. Our theme was “Follow in His Steps” with a memory verse: **1 Peter 2:21**. There were 17 attendees from different states.

On Wednesday, attendees came together for introductions and a prayer session. On the next day, Farrah Gooding-Santiago held a workshop on “Robert’s Rules of Order,” while Hector Reynoso shared outdoor survival tips with spiritual lessons. The day wrapped with Nicolette Reynoso’s discussion on the importance of following in the footsteps of Jesus. She broke down the STEPS acronym, explaining the significance of each letter: Serve, Tell, Exemplify, Pray, and Sacrifice.

Friday explored the principle of worship with Uloma Picerrillo and the importance of updating DYAC’s bylaws with Farrah. A touching moment came in the evening as DYAC and the Southern Deaf Fellowship jointly observed the Lord’s Supper. Sabbath opened with Sabbath School lesson on unity in Christ, followed by a sermon by Pastor Doug Venn. After lunch, we and the angels rejoiced over Sherry Wagner’s baptism and three people raised their hands, wanting to be baptized soon, including our DYAC Treasurer, Catherine Langan.

Moving forward, DYAC plans to hold Bylaw meetings throughout the year, seeking active participation from former, current, and future DYAC members. Board positions for 2024-2026 are open. Keep an eye on our website at deafdyac.org! See you next year!

Nicolette Reynoso, President
Uloma Picerrillo, Vice-President
Farrah Gooding-Santiago, Secretary
Catherine Langan, Treasurer





SHERRY WAGNER'S INSPIRING TESTIMONY

I grew up a Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) and my father, Silas Wagner, had a love for God and the Bible. He shared the gospel wherever he went and I often interpreted for him in church until my hearing became increasingly challenging to understand the pastor. This was before I had hearing aids. As I grew up, I wanted to be baptized, but was repeatedly told no and that the timing wasn't right. I wanted to attend an SDA academy, but it was too costly.

It seemed like everything I tried to do was met with setbacks. I started to lose faith in the possibility of being baptized and becoming a member of the SDA Church. During this time, I stayed home and watched 3ADM sermons since it was a challenge hearing the sermons in church. I prayed every day for an opportunity to be baptized and fully embrace the SDA faith.

Eventually, I received new hearing aids, and a turning point came when Esther Doss reached out to me. She invited me to attend the SDF Deaf Camp Meeting and I was so excited to go. I'm now a member of Ozark Ark SDA church. The church provided a special hearing device to help me in listening to the sermons. Sabbath classes remained a bit challenging to follow without the hearing device.

Esther Doss played a big role in my journey. She seemed to open doors for me, and I waited 40 years to be baptized. I consider her a blessing sent by God. I had known Esther since childhood, and she felt like a sister I never had for twenty years. We had lost touch due to us having own families, but we always found our way back to each other. I admired her dedication to Deaf ministry despite her busy life as a wife and mother.

Meanwhile, I faced my own challenges as a single mother raising four kids, two of whom had ADHD. This journey was incredibly demanding and exhausting. Around three or four years ago, I reconnected with Esther at her church in Mountain View, Arkansas. Esther and my father taught me valuable lessons.

Finally, the moment I had waited for arrived. At the GA Deaf Camp, Kathy McCain encouraged me to speak with Pastor Jeff Jordan about baptism. Nervous but determined, I approached him and took a step toward fulfilling my lifelong desire. I am deeply grateful for this remarkable gift, as God has been my true Savior, mentor, and father. My connection with Him has grown stronger than ever before and I continue to learn new things about God and the Bible.



Share your **life-changing Christian testimonies** or **inspiring articles** with us for our future newsletter. Please email them to editor@3adm.org and let your stories and articles serve as a source of inspiration for our readers.



DEAF CAMP FOR YOUTH 2023

Fun, Faith, and Exciting Adventures

In July 2023, Deaf Camp returned to [Sunset Lake Camp](#) in Wilkeson, Washington, which is operated by the Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. This year's camp was made possible through generous contributions from various organizations, including Washington Conference members, Washington Conference, Washington Conference Evangelism, North Pacific Union Conference, and North American Division. Here's what happened at Deaf Camp:

Campers and Staff: There were 4 Deaf campers and 11 staff members at Deaf Camp, including a Director, Assistance Directors, Interpreters, Counselors, Photographer/Videographer, and Camp Pastor.

Fun Activities: Campers enjoyed activities like archery, swimming, crafts, biking, and hiking. They even got to spend a night at the fire lookout tower, which was an exciting adventure for them.

Energetic Start: The week began with high spirits and excitement. As the week went on, everyone got a bit tired, but their faith kept them going.

Spiritual Moments: On Friday evening, campers and counselors gathered to talk and pray together, with a special focus on making a decision for Jesus. When campers chose to follow Jesus, they rang a big bell, and everyone cheered. Deaf camp campers had their own special moment with Pastor Jeff Jordan for prayers and discussions.

Following Jesus: Some campers decided to follow Jesus and rang the bell to announce their decision. It was a heartwarming moment that made all the week's challenges worthwhile.

What's Next: Great news! Deaf Camp will return in 2024, though the official date is yet to be announced. If you want to learn more about Deaf Camp or how to donate, please email camp4deafyouth@gmail.com. Let's keep this camp in our prayers, and hopefully, we'll see even more campers in 2024!

Nohe Jarnes

Assistant Director and Treasurer



AFCOE Update:

Inspiring and Developing Growth

3ADM is sponsoring six Deaf Adventists to attend the Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism (AFCOE) in Granite Bay, CA for three months, starting from August 17th to November 19th. These Deaf students are Boyd Garner, Steven Nobles, Samuel Heine, Kevin Colgan, Francisca Trexler, and Allen Gilbert. They are receiving in-depth training in personal evangelism, which means they're learning how to effectively share their faith. The Deaf students will apply what they've learned by reaching out to Deaf people in the community and offering Bible studies. To ensure smooth communication, we are fortunate to have three highly proficient ASL interpreters, namely Michelle Boykin, Darrell Strait, and Michelle Spurlock, have excelled, particularly in interpreting complex information.



At AFCOE, the students are studying personal evangelism, learning how to strengthen their own relationship with Christ, and how to share the gospel with others. Additionally, they had the opportunity to engage in enjoyable Q&A sessions with Pastor Doug Batchelor, the leader of Amazing Facts International and the Senior Pastor of the Granite Bay Hilltop SDA church (pictured at the top). Our prayer is that these students successfully complete their 3-month training, empowering them to become effective soul winners and mentors, ready to serve in God's work when they return home.



Deaf AFCOE student Samuel Heine teaches Doug Batchelor to sign 'Jesus Loves You'.

In Memoriam: Remembering Debra Brill, a Dedicated Leader in NAD Deaf Ministry



It is with a heavy heart that we share the news of the passing of Debra Brill, the former Vice President for Ministries of the North American Division. On August 27, 2023, she peacefully found her rest at her residence in Jamaica, Virginia, from a long period of illness. She leaves behind a legacy at the age of 71.

When the Christian Record Services voted to close its department of Deaf Ministry in 1998, the North American Division voted to set up an NAD Deaf Ministry Committee. It was first chaired by Elder Vasquez, and later by Debra Brill.

Debra was a very gracious Chairperson, and really had the needs of the Deaf at heart. One notable achievement was her proposal to the NAD administration, advocating for the empowerment of the NAD Deaf Ministries Committee to appoint [vote] its members and oversee annual funding allocations for Deaf Ministries. This approach gave more control and responsibilities to Deaf leadership for this ministry in North America.

Nohelani Jarnes shared her remarks about Debra Brill's passing: "Truly sad news indeed! Debra was such an important part of the process of where Deaf Ministry is today. Her listening ears and gentle advice is what healed and guided. Now she sleeps waiting for Christ!" Klaudia Staples wrote: "So sad to hear this. Debra was an empowering and thoughtful leader. So enjoyed getting to know her when we went to Brazil together."

Amanda Colgan added: "I had the pleasure of serving on the NAD Deaf Ministries committee under Debra Brill's chairmanship. She consistently exhibited [showed] professionalism, always paired with a warm smile. Our trip to Brazil offered me a chance to get to know her more before her retirement."



Deaf Ministries Committee in 2013

Welcoming Alan Meis: The Latest Addition to the 3ADM Board

Three Angels Deaf Ministries is pleased to announce Alan Meis who is the new Board member. He's stepping in for Alfred Griffith, who is now taking on a new role as the Public Relations Associate.

Alan Meis is happily married to Ruth Meis for 30 years, and they share the joy of raising their daughter, Autumn, who graduated college in 2020 and is now a 7th grade math teacher. She is married to Ben DePas since August 8, 2021. Alan Meis teaches Bible, math, science, grammar, computer apps at Holland Adventist Academy in Holland, Michigan. As a CODA, his parents, Gordan and Jane Meis, have greatly shaped his journey.



Please join us in giving a warm welcome to Alan!

Tina Kelly: A Shining Star in Organizational Excellence

We are delighted to honor Christine "Tina" Kelly for her remarkable efforts that have completely transformed the 3ADM store located in the Kelly family home's basement and improved the organization of 3ADM's storage. Tina's careful organizational abilities have given the store a fresh new look, complete with dedicated shelves for Deaf Expo materials, Bible study resources, books, and DVDs.

Tina's enthusiasm for this project and her steadfast dedication to excellence have truly raised the bar for all of us.

We want to express our heartfelt appreciation to Tina for her outstanding work!



Save the Dates:

October 25 - 29 for the DEAR Camp Meeting

You're invited to an inspiring journey at the Deaf Eastern Autumn Revival (DEAR) Camp Meeting 2023 hosted by [Deaf Adventist Evangelistic Fellowship](http://www.deafadventist.org) (DEAF). This year's theme "The Third Angel's Message" and the guest speakers will be Darrell Strait and Amanda Colgan. It will be at the beautiful Mt Aetna Retreat Center. Don't miss this chance to renew your spiritual life. Register at www.deafadventist.org/dear by **Sunday, October 22, 2023**, to secure your spot.

If you have questions, please contact - deafsdachurch@gmail.com.

DEAF EASTERN AUTUMN REVIVAL (DEAR)
Host by Deaf Evangelistic Adventist Fellowship (DEAF)

DEAR CAMP MEETING 2023

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE

DARRELL STRAIT
Presenter

The Divine Journey of Redemption
"Love In Action" & "Faith In Action"

Presented by
AMANDA COLGAN

OCTOBER 25-29
Mt Aetna Retreat Center
10375 Retreat Way
Hagerstown, MD 21742

Online Registration
www.deafadventist.org
Deadline: October 22, 2023

CONTACT
deafsdachurch@gmail.com

MOUNT-AETNA
CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

3ADM Travel Schedule

Director Amanda Colgan

Oct 9 - 12 - AFCOE Retreat, Lake Tahoe, CA

Oct 25 - 29 - DEAR Camp Meeting

Evangelist Paul Kelly

Sept 8-10 - DEAF Camp, Groton, MA

Oct 7 - DeafNation Expo, Mesa, AZ

Oct 25 - 29 - DEAR Camp Meeting

Nov 4 - DeafNation Expo, Chicago, IL



Tributes & Memorials



If you want to give a gift in memory or honor of someone, you can go to <https://3adm.org/donation> and write a message or send your gift and a note in the mail. Your gift will help share the good news with the Deaf.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Edith Hotchkiss and Shaun Johnston
Debra Brill
Jane Meis



Connect with Us

<https://www.3adm.org>

Three Angels Deaf Ministries

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THE FRUIT OF THE
RIGHTEOUS IS
A TREE OF LIFE,
AND HE WHO WINS SOULS
IS WISE.

PROVERBS 11:30

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