

# THE INTERPRETER CONNECTION

Issue 1

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## Teaming: The Art of Working Together

**M**aybe you have had the experience of working with a mediocre team interpreter.

Your teammate may not feed you information when you need or may make a list of mistakes that you made during the interpretation process.

When I was a newer interpreter working with unfamiliar content in a classroom, I had a problem with a team interpreter. The team interpreter was already interpreting when I arrived. When I took over, I was unable to hear the teacher's words and stopped interpreting. After spending about five minutes either not interpreting or struggling with the content, I signaled to my team that I was losing ground fast and needed to switch. While passing each other in mid-switch,

*continued on page 3*



*Attendees of the 2014 7th Day Interpreters' Conference. The next 7th Day Interpreters' Conference will be held 2016 at Western Deaf Campmeeting on the campus of Milo Adventist Academy in Days Creek, Oregon. This will be a time of great fellowship, wonderful information, excellent presenters, and lots of memories. If you have any questions, please email [7thdayterps@gmail.com](mailto:7thdayterps@gmail.com)*

# Deaf Ministries to sign for 2015 GC Session

**T**he 2015 General Conference Session is happening July 2-11, 2015 in San Antonio, Texas. The GC Session is always an exciting time for our Adventist Church! Larry Evans serves as the coordinator for Adventist Deaf Ministries International. The Sign Language team for this year's Session is Nohelani Jarnes (Nohe) as lead interpreter along with Darrell Strait and Grace Ann Ashley.

This year at GC Session, all meetings presented will have the option of being interpreted into American Sign Language. For program details and schedule, please go to [2015.gcsession.org](http://2015.gcsession.org). To find the schedule, go to the first page of the website and scroll down towards the bottom. Under the box on the right side titled "Tentative Schedule." Below, there is a link to view the program times. Also at this website you can find information about hotels in the area, information about the Alamodome (where the GC Session main meeting will be) as well as the convention center where all other meetings will be held. Also at the convention center you will find many booths of different things to see including a joint booth for Adventist Deaf Ministries International and Gospel Outreach. This ADMI booth will have various division representatives running it. Another booth that will also be at the convention center is 3 Angels Deaf Ministries.

If you are interested in attending GC Session meetings, you must hurry and get your hotel rooms reserved soon! With lots of people coming to San Antonio for the meetings, hotel rooms are running out. The local shuttle service is called "VIA Shuttle" and if you want a ride from the hotel to Alamodome, you can ask the hotel if they are near the VIA Shuttle line.

It's a good idea to bring good walking shoes and water bottles! The Alamodome is about a 15-20 minute walk from the convention center where booths, exhibits, and classes will be held. Be prepared for lots of walking!

We are looking forward to seeing you all at 2015 GC Session!

## DID YOU KNOW?

The General Conference has an official Deaf Ministries website. To learn more about this important new ministry at the GC level, please go to [www.adventistdeaf.org](http://www.adventistdeaf.org)

The General Conference Session will take place July 2-11, 2015 in San Antonio, Texas. There will be interpreting available for the Deaf at the session. For more information on the GC Session, please read the brochure (<http://2015.gcsession.org/images/uploads/2015-GCSession-Brochure.pdf>) or visit the website ([www.2015.gcsession.org](http://www.2015.gcsession.org)).

## From the Editor

I hope that you have enjoyed the first edition of the *Interpreter Connection!*

The purpose behind *The Interpreter Connection*



is to keep everyone informed of the news and events in the interpreting world and the Adventist Church. I cannot accomplish this task by myself. I need your help!

If you have been working with Deaf Ministry and you want to write about your experiences, please send me an article that you have written.

If you are interpreting and have something to say about your experiences, please write an article and send it. The more information that comes from all of you, the more connected we will be.

I want to know what is going on in your home church. How is the ministry thriving in your home church? Write an article and tell us about it!

Send all articles or points of interest to include in *The Interpreter Connection* to [7thdayterps@gmail.com](mailto:7thdayterps@gmail.com). Thank you for all of your services for God!

—Nohe

*continued from page 1*

my team hissed, “It’s okay because I knew you were not capable of interpreting this type of work anyways.” I put on a brave face for the remainder of our time together working, but inside I was grieving. I had put my trust in someone I thought had my back, and I was disappointed that I was wrong.

Maybe you’ve experienced a similar problem, or maybe you have never worked with a team and do not know what that process looks like. Not all of my experiences were as bad as this one. I have worked with many wonderful team interpreters over the years who were phenomenal both as individuals and colleagues. It is important to understand what team teaching is and how the team interpreting process works.

To begin with, it is important to understand the history behind teaming. Team interpreting was, for the most part, non-existent prior to the 1970s. Most interpreters worked as individual interpreters and continued to interpret the work until the completion time. Whether this was an hour or several hours of interpreting, the interpreter worked alone.

In the mid-1970s, the first documented team interpreted job took place at California State University Northridge (Hoza, 2013). However, the idea was still that two individual interpreters were at the same job and doing the work, but not collaborating or assisting in the actual interpreting process

The switch of interpreters can take place between the 15 to 20-minute mark, depending on the team interpreting and rate of speech of the presenter.

(Hoza, 2013). It was not until the 1980s, with documented interpreter injury cases, that the idea of team interpreting became important (Hoza, 2013).

The interpretation process is flawed after thirty minutes of interpreting as mental fatigue

sets in. As the importance of team interpreting was recognized, it became important for the interpretation process to have two interpreters switching to avoid mental fatigue. It is the job of the “off” interpreter to watch the “on” interpreter for any flaws in the language flow from the “source language” (spoken English) to the target language (American Sign Language). The switch of interpreters can take place between the 15 to 20-minute mark, depending on the team interpreting and rate of speech of the presenter. Two interpreters working together helps to reduce the potential for injury and provides an opportunity to ensure the message is accurate.

In the next newsletter, I will discuss how the attitude of team interpreters affects not only the working relationship but also the message.

## UPCOMING INTERPRETER/ DEAF EVENTS

### *Non-SDA Events*

**April 17-19, 2015** – StreetLeverage – Live 2015 in Boston, MA

### *SDA Events*

**July 2-11**–General Conference Session in San Antonio, TX