



# Adventist Deaf Ministries Report

Volume 10 Issue 2

April 2007

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## Newly Created DVD an Excellent Witnessing Tool!

We are excited about our new witnessing tool! We simply must tell you about our new DVD! This DVD will help us to reach out to more Deaf people.

Unfortunately, 96 to 98% of Deaf people are not Christians. And many of them are not interested in learning about Jesus.

At our booth at different Deaf expos, we see this plainly. Often people avoid our booth, knowing that we are "religious."

Having DVDs in ASL is not enough to get their attention. Our DVDs so far have been sermons or Bible presentations. Some Deaf do not want to watch sermons.

We wondered, "How we can appeal to the secular mind of Deaf people?"

To help solve the problem, we decided to try the idea of making a DVD unlike anything we have ever done before. Esther M. Doss and a video crew went to Colorado in December to shoot video to create this DVD.

The new DVD project is all finished! It is called, "Signs of God's Love." It is 48 minutes long.

Esther puts on her snowshoes and you feel like you join her as she walks through the forests and open spaces in

the Colorado Rocky Mountains. The snowy scenery is beautiful and helps to draw the mind to Jesus, our Creator.

Instead of preaching, like our other DVDs, Esther tells many stories and looks at nature for signs of God's love. The program focuses on God's love and how He wants to wash us clean, to make us white as snow.

At the end of the DVD, Esther is inside the cabin, sitting by the fireplace. She tells about a free offer to receive *The Deaf Messenger* and about the Deaf Bible School.

The DVD is subtitled in four languages. The languages are English, Spanish, French,

and Portuguese. Also, there is voice interpretation.

The DVD has already been given away at a number of expos. We have seen a difference in how people respond. They are more likely to pick up materials.

Individuals have walked up to the booth and said they aren't interested in taking anything. But they stand there and watch the DVD "Signs of God's Love". They watch for a while and then ask, "Is the DVD in the giveaway bag? I want it."

We will be using this DVD at our booth as a sharing tool. It is our prayer that this DVD will touch hearts in a special way and lead them to Jesus.

*Making a difference in the lives of Deaf people...for eternity!*



## A Note of Appreciation from the Board of Directors



Jim Hovey  
Former Executive  
Director

The Board of Directors is extremely indebted to Jim and Bunny Hovey for their incredible dedication, energy, and enthusiasm to make Adventist Deaf Ministries (ADM) a very viable organization for the past six years in Arizona. We immensely thank them for the exceptional manner in which they have handled a multitude of tasks to be certain the Deaf received a beautiful gospel about Jesus Christ, especially His love for mankind. We

wish the Hoveys well during their retirement.

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Elder George Belser is the interim Executive Director of ADM for the time being until a permanent Executive Director is chosen. The Board is very appreciative of Elder Belser's remarkable job in the office.

Beth Dobson  
Secretary of ADM Board  
of Directors



George Belser  
Interim Director

## Really Living Program Features Deaf Ministry

Elder Don Schneider, President of the North American Division of SDA has a program called Really Living. It is shown on Hope TV, a satellite network run by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Elder Schneider invited Pastor David Trexler and Esther Doss to be on one of the programs to share about Deaf ministry.

Pastor Trexler and Doss flew to the busy Los Angeles Airport. Then they drove to beautiful Simi Valley where the Adventist Media Productions Center is located.

First, Elder Schneider interviewed Doss to learn about what growing up in a Deaf home is like. He used the booklet, "Can You Hear Us?" as a spring board for questions.

Then Trexler joined the

the two on the set. Doss then began serving as an interpreter.

Elder Schneider asked that Trexler share his experiences as a Deaf individual. Then he asked questions about Deaf ministry.

Elder Schneider was cheery and thoughtful; the interview was relaxed and moved along easily.

After the video shoot was completed, the crew asked us many questions about deafness, closed captioning, etc.

They even took us on a tour throughout the building, including the area where the closed captioning is created for programs such as It Is Written and Breath of Life.

The program is currently scheduled to be on Hope TV on June 29th.



The Really Living program is not typically closed captioned, but this particular episode will be. Unfortunately, due to some equipment issues, some people will not be able to see the closed captioning. If you have "Scientific Atlanta" equipment, then you should be able to see it.

Adventist Media Productions will have DVDs available for sale after the

program is aired. The DVDs will have closed captioning.

You can also watch Hope TV via the internet at: [www.hopetv.org](http://www.hopetv.org).

We truly appreciate our friend, Elder Don Schneider who has given us the opportunity to share the word about Deaf ministry.

## Making a Difference in Michael's Life

During a warm summer afternoon, Esther Doss began shuttle runs to the airport. Deaf Reach 2005 was just beginning and people were arriving. As she drove to the airport, she wondered, "Who is Michael Carrier?" Michael was one of the people she was meeting there.

"I found out that Michael was not an Adventist," Esther recalls. "While driving, I prayed about some concerns I had. Deaf Reach was to teach Deaf members how to share the truths of the Bible that Seventh-day Adventists hold dear, like the Sabbath, Death, Second Coming, etc. I was afraid Michael wouldn't be comfortable while we studied them. GULP!"

Esther greeted him at the airport and Michael was very friendly. Love for Jesus showed on his face. That helped her nerves to calm down.

During Deaf Reach, everyone came to know Michael. He was eager to

learn how to share the love of Jesus. He asked many questions and actively participated in the program. He never seemed offended.

Esther stated, "At the end of the week, I sighed with relief! Michael had a fantastic time!"

He stayed in touch with all the Deaf Reach 2005 attendees and continued his study. It has been a blessing to watch him grow into a much deeper relationship with Jesus.

**We have BIG news!** He will be baptized as a faithful Seventh-day Adventist this summer!

Here's Michael's testimony: "I had a relationship with the Lord. But I wanted to develop a closer relationship with the Lord. The Seventh-day Adventist Church was the foundation to help me understand the fundamentals of knowing Christ better.

"One Sabbath afternoon, I went to a camp meeting at Atlantic Union Adventist College. There I

met some warm caring friends who were Seventh Day Adventists. After attending the camp meeting, I wanted to be more involved with SDA in the community, by witnessing and sharing the gospel.

"In June 2005 I went to [Deaf Reach] in Arkansas. I wanted to meet new Deaf people and learn more about Seventh Day Adventist principles, to understand the Bible better. There I met some wonderful people. David Trexler, Alfred Griffith, Esther Doss, and many others as well. That one week the Lord changed my heart and I developed a closer relationship.

"At Deaf Reach, I learned how to give a testimony and through role play learned how to witness to Deaf people who need the Lord. And I learned I needed to develop more spiritual fruit in everyday life.

"I was also attending my local church Seventh Day Adventist.

"Last year, 2006, I attended Western Deaf Camp Meeting in Milo, Oregon. I had a wonderful time learning about the gospel, sharing testimonies and meeting new friends. I also learned about the Biblical approach to many issues in today's society. The Lords Supper on Sabbath evening was spectacular, heart stirring and poignant. When I came

home I desired to become a church member.

"I went through Bible lessons. Now finally I want to be baptized and I chose [Milo Camp Meeting] as I want people to see how my life is dedicated to our Saviour."

When asked if Adventist Deaf Ministries has impacted his spiritual life, Michael exclaimed, "Absolutely! ADM is my foundation support to help me know more about about Deaf culture, service, church in other states. ADM influenced my spiritual life greatly. Plus, I have been deeply enjoying DVDs and printed material that ADM has available."

Michael, we're so excited about your decision to follow Jesus all the way and to be baptized. **Welcome to the family!**

It's for people like Michael that we exist. Thank you for your support in helping us make a difference in Michael's life and many others.



Michael on left with Deaf Reach friends.

### Donations Received

#### "In Memory Of"

Cindy

#### "In Honor Of"

Marvin Budd

## Deaf Expos: Phoenix, Richmond, and Indianapolis

### Phoenix:

On March 3, Jim and Bunny Hovey, George and Arlene Belser grabbed some supplies and ventured to the Phoenix Civic Plaza for DeafNation Expo.

To try something new, they filled bags full of DVDs, New Testament Bibles, pamphlets, *The Deaf Messenger* samples, etc. Then they just gave the bags away.

Before noon, supplies were running low, so Jim quickly left to get more supplies. Jim ended up stuck in horrible traffic and took a long time for him to return. Meanwhile, George, Arlene, and Bunny were eyeing their few bags that were left and hoped that Jim would soon return! Just imagine their sighs of relief when Jim finally showed up!

Kristine from California had first seen our booth two years ago. She had said that she was looking for a church and she signed up for Deaf Bible School. Later she moved and lost the Bible School information and could not contact us to let us know of her new address.

She drove from California to Phoenix for this DeafNation Expo, hoping to see the ADM booth. She was so excited to see the booth! She signed up for Deaf Bible School

again and is starting from the beginning.

A man came by and was so happy to see the booth. He was at another DeafNation Expo in California last year. At that time, the Bibles had run out. He was so disappointed! So, he drove to Phoenix because he was hoping that he could get a Bible! Yes, he received a Bible and other goodies.

One of the DeafNation Expo leaders came by and asked that a packet be saved for his wife. He knew that his wife would be interested in the new DVD "Signs of God's Love". They did save a packet and it was a good thing because they had run out!

The wife later came by and showed off her young baby. She asked Bunny questions about baby baptism as she wanted to do the right thing. Bunny shared with her about baby dedications. She was so excited about the idea and wanted to raise her child in the right way.

One man travels to follow where DeafNation expos are. He often stopped by the booth at different times, but he was always so negative about religion. When Bunny would offer something to him, he would always decline. This time, he watched the "Signs of God's Love" DVD and he

meekly asked if he could have a packet.

The work was a success! 3200+ people came to the Expo. Jim Hovey estimated that they gave away triple the amount they usually do in Phoenix. There are Deaf who are thirsting after knowing God.

### Richmond, VA:

Over 2,500 people came to the Deaf Nation Expo in Richmond, VA on March 31. David and Francisca Trexler took the responsibility of handling the booth.

"Many Deaf people came to our booth," Pastor Trexler reported, "and signed up for the free subscription to *The Deaf Messenger*. And more than 50 NIV New Testament Bibles were given away. Many were thrilled to have a Bible that is easy to read.

"We talked with a few Deaf people who were grateful for having a religious booth that functioned as a lighthouse to the dark world.

"One Deaf couple were thrilled to see our booth when they recognized us as Adventists. They knew Pastor Arthur Griffith back in the late 1970's when he worked at Gallaudet University as a chaplain."

### Indianapolis, IN:

The first ASL Expo for this year was held at Indianapolis on April 7. That day was a cold one to remember. Most of the northeastern part of America was hit with heavy snowfall and Indianapolis was spared from the snow. It was 31 degrees outside when Bruce Buzzell and Dana Edmondson traveled to Indianapolis from St. Louis armed with New Testament Bibles, Deaf Messenger sample magazines, Deaf Bible School enrollment forms, five different pamphlets, and copies of a DVD called "Signs of God's Love." We stuffed each one of those items into 120 plastic bags as packets ready to be given away to people at the Expo to reach out to the Deaf community for our Lord Jesus Christ.

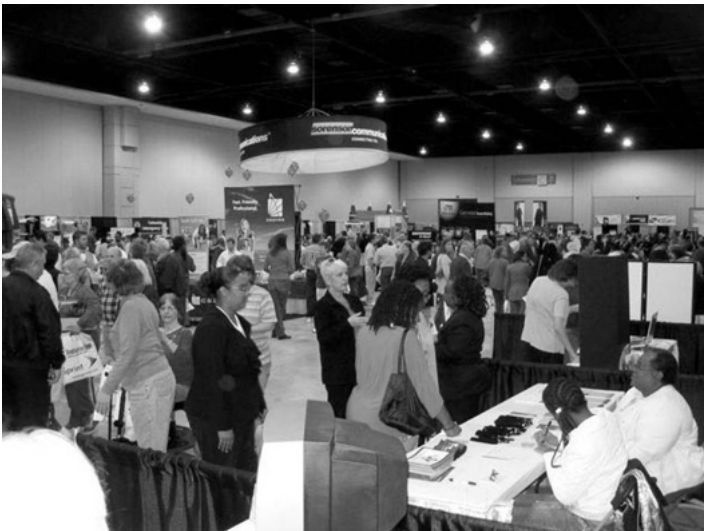
Bill and Rhonda Gropp, a Deaf couple who lives in the Indianapolis area, came to help us in our booth during the day. It was a blessing to have them working with us. People who stopped at our booth were drawn to the DVD playing on our machine and some people asked how much the DVD costs. We told them it is free and gave them packets with the DVD along with the other materials in them. Many people wore smiles on their faces when they learned that our materials



Francisca Trexler talks with a visitor at the Richmond DeafNation Expo.



Bill and Rhonda Gropp and Bruce Buzzell share Jesus in Indianapolis. Photo by Dana Edmondson.



Richmond, Virginia DeafNation Expo



Indianapolis, Indiana ASL Expo

were free. They walked away happy with their packets.

By late afternoon all 120 packets were handed out to people. Some people who got them went out to fetch their spouses, relatives, and friends to come to our booth to pick up copies. The Spirit of God is working on people's lives and they are thirsting to get to know God.

One Deaf lady came to our booth was ex-

cited about receiving a New Testament Bible for free. She told us that she has an eight year old Deaf son who has a reading problem. She wants to use this Bible to train him to learn how to read God's Word and for him to be able to learn to read books on his own.

Late in the afternoon one Deaf woman with her husband came to our booth and saw the DVD playing and asked for a packet and we gladly gave

her one. She was happy and she told us an interesting story about her life in Cuba. She was not happy there because Deaf people were discriminated against and ignored and not educated and did not get as much freedom as the hearing people there. So in 1980 she decided to defect to the USA by getting on a row boat and she rowed from Cuba all the way to the southern coast of Florida! She traveled with no food and water under a

scorched hot sun for five days before arriving in Florida. She said it was a dangerous journey. Later she accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior and enjoys studying God's Word.

The turnout at the Expo was a success. The attendance was about 3600 people. We praise the Lord for His goodness and guidance in allowing ADM to be part of this first ASL Expo event to spread God's Word to hungry souls.

## Lives Being Touched

Here are some of the letters and email that we have received recently. These are individuals who are searching for God and desiring to learn truth.

"I'm deaf. So Last November 4 th, 2006 I went to Deaf Expo in Rochester, NY and I saw a booth of Deaf Bible School and they gave me two DVDs and I watched it. So I already order the video tapes of Revelation of Jesus Christ by David Trexler. Oh Wow!!! I'm really enjoying to watch all video tapes of Revelation of Jesus Christ and it so wonderful!!! Now I'm finishing the whole things those video tapes of Revelation of Jesus Christ. I'm glad I bought it. So I would love to join to Adventist Deaf church, but we don't have here." - New York.

"I am deaf. I enjoyed read The Deaf Messenger, God's way and Amazing Facts. Make me thirsty very interesting read God's word in my heart. I love it very much. It is really clear understand. I looked up internet if they have Adentist Deaf church. It is only one in Chicago area. I lived too far... oh well. " - Illinois.

"Hi, when [I went] to expo in Gaithersburgh, MD back 2005 in Sept 24th .. I had a copy sample [*The Deaf Messenger*] from u... I put them away [until] I happen

I want to learn. Yes, I want to learn more about God things." - Maryland.

"I would like to thank you send me a mail, DVD God's Love, and the New Testament, Picture Bible everything else! Yes I've enjoy read this about God's Way magazine! I know God want me to read the Bible take my time so I try undersand what did the Bilbe say! So, I can ask to God, please help me to try understand to read the Bible book. ... I try study to be more understand! Just I'm trainer and study the Bible! I think it's so fun! Yes, it is good for me to learn do smethings!" - North Carolina.

## Dear Donors, Thank You!

I am so amazed. Let me tell you why.

I was recently given the responsibility of keeping track of donatons on the database. I put into our database all of the donations from last year and so far this year. My heart has been touched!

My heart has been touched by the many donors who have a special burden that the Deaf hear the Good News about salvation and the soon coming of Christ.

Each time I typed in a name and the amount given, I felt a tear coming to my eyes. Some of them do not have much money, but they have given anyways. The majority of our donors are Deaf, who have a definite under-

standing of how important this ministry is. Plus, this ministry has blessed them as well. Then there are others who have compassion on this large group of people who have not had the privilege to learn about Jesus like others have.

If you have donated to this ministry. Thank you so much, from the depths of my heart! You are an inspiration to me!

This past weekend, I visited my dad (Deaf) and went to church with him. He goes to a non-Adventist church. My heart was saddened to see the pastor share false teachings and even portrayed Jesus as being very cruel. I was a first-time visitor and wanted to gain their friendship first. So, I practically had to sit on my hands!

This is very personal to me, since this is my own father. He is being heavily influenced. How I wish it were easy for him to know Christ, like for us who can hear.

I have received several letters from Deaf individuals who are "hearing" about Jesus and the truth. They're so excited and they make me excited!

I have been inspired by our donors to give more to this ministry. If you haven't donated or haven't done so in a while, would you consider sending us a gift, so that we can do even more? Thank you.

*Submitted by Esther Doss*

### Calendar of Events

July 8-15	30th Western Deaf Camp Meeting Milo, Oregon Chucktrades@comcast.net
Aug. 17-19	Southern Deaf Camp Meeting Crandall, Georgia jwjordan@gccsda.org
Aug. 22-26	1st Young Adults Deaf Camp Meeting Corbett, Oregon esther@deafadventist.org
Oct. 25-28	Deaf Eastern Autumn Revival Camp Meeting Montebello, Virginia deafpam@comcast.net

*For a complete list of upcoming retreats and camp meetings, go to our website:*

**[www.deafadventist.org](http://www.deafadventist.org)** and click on "Calendar".

# Order Form -- All prices include USA shipping

<p>_____ <b>AMAZING BIBLE TRUTHS VIDEO SERIES</b> (DVD) A set of 7 DVD videos covering 14 Bible topics presented in sign language by Francisca Trexler. Includes listing of all Bible verses presented. (No voice track)</p>	Price	\$ 65.00 **
<p>_____ <b>THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST VIDEO SERIES</b> (VHS) <b>THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST VIDEO SERIES</b> (DVD) A set of 13 VHS or DVD videos presented in sign language by Deaf Pastor David Trexler with voice track. Includes comprehensive set of study notes.</p>	VHS Price DVD Price	\$ 50.00 ** \$ 90.00 **
<p>_____ <b>KEEPERS OF THE FLAME VIDEO SERIES</b> (4 VHS tapes) <b>KEEPERS OF THE FLAME VIDEO SERIES</b> (2 DVDs) This 8-part series covers the history of the Christian church, as well as the history of the Adventist church. <b>OPEN CAPTIONED</b> (subtitled)</p>	VHS Price DVD Price	\$ 40.00 ** \$ 45.00 **
<p>_____ <b>OUR WORLD A THEATRE IN GOD'S UNIVERSE</b> (DVD) A 2-hour video in American Sign Language by Esther Doss that gives the basic story of the Bible and plan of salvation ... from the beginning to the end of sin.</p>	Price	\$ 20.00 **
<p>_____ <b>THE FINAL EVENTS OF BIBLE PROPHECY</b> (DVD) An awesome 43-minute documentary that looks at what the Bible really says about the last days of earth history. <b>(ENGLISH SUBTITLES)</b></p>	Price	\$ 12.00 **
<p>_____ <b>DEAF DIASPORA: THE THIRD WAVE OF DEAF MINISTRY</b> (book) Planning to or already involved in the deaf ministry? Gain valuable insights into the ministry to deaf people in the new millennium. Includes useful discussion guides.</p>	Price	\$ 20.00 **
<p>_____ <b>MARGIE ASKS WHY, EASY READING EDITION</b> A fascinating book about the battle between God and Satan.</p>	Price	\$ 6.00 **
<p>_____ <b>STEPS TO CHRIST, EASY READING EDITION</b> A book that leads us to a better relationship with Jesus.</p>	Price	\$ 6.00 **
<p>_____ <b>THE STORY OF REDEMPTION, EASY READING</b> Tells how sin began and how Jesus will save His people from sin &amp; eternal death.</p>	Price	\$ 6.00 **
<p>_____ <b>AMAZING FACTS, EASY READING EDITION</b> A set of 12 attractively illustrated booklets.</p>	Price	\$ 5.00 **
<p>_____ <b>SIGN LANGUAGE COLORING BOOKS</b> A set of 3 coloring books: Creation, Moses, and Jesus</p>	Price	\$ 14.00 **
<p>_____ <b>AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE DVD LEARNING SYSTEM</b> (DVD) Includes 2 DVDs: "Getting Started in Signing" and "Say It With Signing". Makes learning ASL easy and fun for yourself or as a gift to family and friends.</p>	Price	\$ 35.00 **
<p>_____ <b>AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE DVD DICTIONARY</b> (DVD) Over 700 signs with photo illustration of sign (e.g. picture of "shoes").</p>	Price	\$ 23.00**
<p>_____ <b>AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE DVD COMBO</b> (DVD) ASL DVD Learning System and ASL DVD Dictionary. Save \$3.</p>	Price	\$ 55.00 **
<p>_____ <b>CD-ROM: HYPERSIGN INTERACTIVE DICTIONARY OF ASL</b> (CD-ROM) Full-motion video; age specific vocabulary. Requires Windows 98 or better.</p>	Price	\$ 25.00 **
<p>_____ <b>AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE FINGERSPELLING LESSONS</b> (VHS) Want to improve your fingerspelling? Then this video is for you!</p>	Price	\$ 27.00 **
<p>_____ <b>EASY-READING BAPTISMAL STUDIES</b> 27 fundamental beliefs studies for baptismal candidates.</p>	Price	\$ 10.00 **
<p>_____ <b>THE DEAF MESSENGER MAGAZINE</b> Love gift for a 1-year subscription. Please specify if for yourself or other person.</p>	Per Year	\$ 10.00 **
<p>_____ <b>DONATION:</b> I support ADM's ministry. Here is my \$ _____ love gift.</p>		

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\*\* For orders shipped outside the USA, please contact us first.

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Interim Director  
Esther Doss  
Public Relations & Development

Adventist Deaf Ministries (ADM) was originally incorporated in the State of Nebraska and was recognized by the federal government as a nonprofit religious organization on April 6, 1998. After moving to a new headquarters, ADM was subsequently recognized as a tax-exempt nonprofit organization by the State of Arizona on May 9, 2001. ADM has been granted the right to issue tax-deductible receipts for donations made to Adventist Deaf Ministries.

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