



Adventist Deaf Ministries Report

Volume 10 Issue 1

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Chairperson's Dialogue: The Change Is at Hand

Life around us is changing daily whether for good or bad. We can't escape the realities of life we face such as death, illness, birth, suffering, and growth.

King Solomon points out the fact of life "under the sun" as we study the Sabbath School quarterly. He gives us his view of life in the negative way if we don't have God in our lives. It is true as the Christians we share the same fate as the people without God, but we have hope as long as we have the living connection with Jesus Christ all the time.

Why am I talking about changes in life when we all know about it? The truth is that Adventist Deaf Ministries is experiencing some changes.

First, let me give you good news as a result of the recent board meeting that was held in the Washington, D.C area on January 27th and 28th.

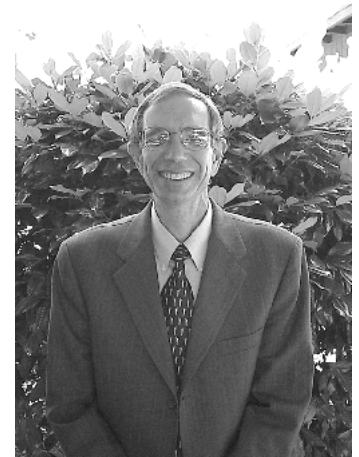
Marvin Budd from Michigan and Jenny Witteborg from Virginia

have accepted our invitation to become new board members of ADM. They replace Belinda Simmons and Esther Doss.

Belinda Simmons decided not to run for reelection because she has a darling daughter, Nicole, who was born to the Simmons' home a few months ago. So she does not have as much time available to focus on the needs of ADM.

Esther Doss resigned from the board previously in order to become an employee of ADM for Development and Public Relations. We have missed their valuable leadership in the board, but the Lord has blessed us with the new leaders to replace them on the board.

Marvin Budd is well known in the deaf Adventist community in the D.C area. He is an enthusiastic hearing person who loves deaf people. Currently, he is active in the deaf ministries in the Berrien Springs area (Michigan).



Jenny Witteborg is a mother of five children, and she is active in the ministry to the deaf in Vienna SDA Church (Virginia).

Please join me in welcoming Marvin and Jenny as new members of the ADM Board!

Now, the second part of the change is the administration. Jim Hovey, who has been Executive Director of ADM since April of 2001 has decided to step down from his successful service to the organization. His full-time employment will end on February 28. After February 28th, however, Jim will continue to work for ADM on a part-time basis until a new Executive Director takes over.

(Continued on Page 2)

*ADM
needs
you,
you
need
ADM.*

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We have truly been blessed by Jim's exceptional leadership skills that has brought ADM into a vibrant ministry to the deaf that is mostly financially supported by our faithful donors, especially the deaf.

We will miss not only Jim, but also Bunny who has dedicated her time to see that deaf people receive the blessing from God through our *Deaf Bible School* outreach ministry.

Jim and Bunny will be

moving north where the climate is more comfortable for them. Also, they can be closer to their family members who are in need.

The board of ADM has set-up a search committee to begin collecting applications for the Executive Director position during the transitional period. During that period some of the ADM's board members will take up some of the office duties in order to continue the ministry to the deaf until a new per-

son takes over hopefully by this summer.

We have decided to keep the office in Mesa, Arizona. We have a lease with the Apache Junction SDA church until 2010. Thoughts came up with the idea of moving the office to the D.C. area but the cost of living overrode the idea. So, the new person will need to move to Arizona in order to fulfill his duties.

With this in mind we need to pray to God for someone who is quali-

fied and willing to carry the burden of this vital ministry that has been blessing to the deaf where the church is not able to meet the needs of the deaf globally. ADM is the voice of the deaf in Seventh-day Adventist church.

Please pray for the board to find a right individual who can continue to carry the torch of gospel to the deaf globally.

David M. Trexler
Chairperson
ADM Board of Directors

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Executive Director

The Board of Directors of Adventist Deaf Ministries (ADM), a non-profit corporation serving and ministering to Deaf people who are associated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, is inviting applications for a full-time Executive Director. Deaf candidates are strongly encouraged to apply for the position.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The Executive Director, as the chief administrative officer in charge of the day-to-day affairs of ADM, shall work closely with and be responsible to ADM Board of Directors and its Executive Committee. The Executive Director will have full responsibility for implementing policies, programs, plans, fund raising and all other duties established by the ADM Bylaws or authorized by the Board of Directors.

QUALIFICATIONS: The Executive Director must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church. Supervisory skills, interpersonal skills, and computer skills are required. Possession of a college degree is desirable. Knowledge of and experience in leading in Deaf Ministries, business, finances, fund raising, and public relations are essential. American Sign Language proficiency is required.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: The search will remain open until the position is filled but application review begins immediately. E-mail letter of application and resume to Mrs. Beth A. Dobson at: peachydobson@comcast.net or send them to her at the following address: 15739 Viewpoint Circle, Dumfries, VA, 22025-1223.

Thoughts From a DeafNation Expo Booth Volunteer

At the hotel, before leaving the car, I text message Jim that I am there and a couple minutes later his instructions return that they are at Harper College Building M. Instead of checking in I just follow his instructions to the basketball court where a late setup has begun. Setup has been delayed because the exhibit company got lost on the way to the exhibit hall.

Jim and Bunny chat with friends from previous shows deepening relationships that we hope will eventually lead others to Christ. Several of the organizers are Hovey's personal friends from college and past events. They deepen friendships skillfully in a relaxed cheerful attitude while I watch and help the staff setup tables.

I learn about the lady in the next booth with a cochlear implant who was born deaf. She can now use a telephone. The ladies across the aisle have stained glass and art for sale. I visit exhibitors setting up booths and chat with a seller from Tennessee with fruit drink to "heal my blood". I'm happy that everyone except

some Spanish language workers speaks ASL. No interpreters - pah!

Finally, the booth and table is ready for us, and we hang our rolled-up sign and lay out the materials for the show on Sabbath. Jim and Bunny have everything neatly packed with tacks, hooks and cords perfectly planned for this display. The display is efficient and visual, and lets Hovey's focus on people instead of endless preparation. When everything is in place we cover the table with a cloth and leave to have pizza at a nearby restaurant before the Sabbath starts. We pray for the Lord to bless our contacts.

Sabbath morning we eat breakfast at the hotel, give ourselves to God in prayer and leave for the exhibit hall.

Initially there aren't many people, but we chat with the booth owners nearby. Then people start coming by to pick up handouts and ask questions. We are able to answer some questions, and Hovey's meet friends from other Expos. A young couple comes to explain how their life changed since giving up bad health

habits and to talk about why we are here. When the conversation moves to what church we represent Bunny reaches down under the table to give them some extra information about the Sabbath. They share information on their church with us. It is an explanation on how the Holy Spirit works with people. If we cooperate with the Spirit we don't need to be stressed about sharing our faith.

We show DVDs on portable DVD players that we offer for a \$5 donation. But if the person have a DVD player and is genuinely interested, we give them a free sample copy. This protects us from someone taking too many copies just because it is free. We gave out two different DVDs, sample copies of The Deaf Messenger magazine, Bible School enrollment forms and tracts on some central Bible teachings.

Our lunch break came at a busy time with the expo floor almost full of people, so we took turns eating. Other people bring us information about their religious materials which we discuss with them. One man came to tell us of

his challenges leading a deaf youth ministry in Chicago and Wisconsin. He asks for any information we might have to help with his ministry. We share anything that might help. In all maybe two dozen serious people talk with us, and many more pick up materials. It is a relaxed sharing environment. We don't push Christ on anyone, Christ sends us the people who are ready.

We have shown up ready to represent the Deaf Bible School and Christ in a mostly non-religious Expo. Hovey's tell me some of the popular leaders of the Expo have taken the Bible Course and know what we believe! What a wonderful way to meet deaf people for Christ!

Marvin Budd



16th Winter Deaflympics - Salt Lake 2007

Wow!! That is how we feel about our most recent booth at the 16th Winter Deaflympics.

The cost of booth space was not cheap -- it was almost 5 times higher in cost. But for a unique international audience such as the Deaflympics, we felt it worth the cost -- and indeed it was!

To make this booth special, ADM recently produced a new winter theme DVD to share with the booth visitors.

Interestingly, our booth was located next to the Deaf Missions booth (Iowa). One of the booth workers mentioned his mother is an Adventist.

We had a wonderful chat with a deaf man from Germany. Jim had visited there years ago and we found he lived near to one of Jim's Gallaudet classmates. Then as we chatted further, he was excited to find that we were Adventist, as one of the German group traveling with him was a deaf Adventist. So he searched for her and brought her back to our booth to meet us. She said her deaf group has about 40 members. Some day we hope to go visit them and meet their

deaf members.

A deaf couple from Switzerland visited our booth and we found they lived near the Matthehorn (mountain) where Jim had traveled and hiked.

Deaf twins who live near us in Arizona were thrilled to pick up our literature which they will share with their own church.

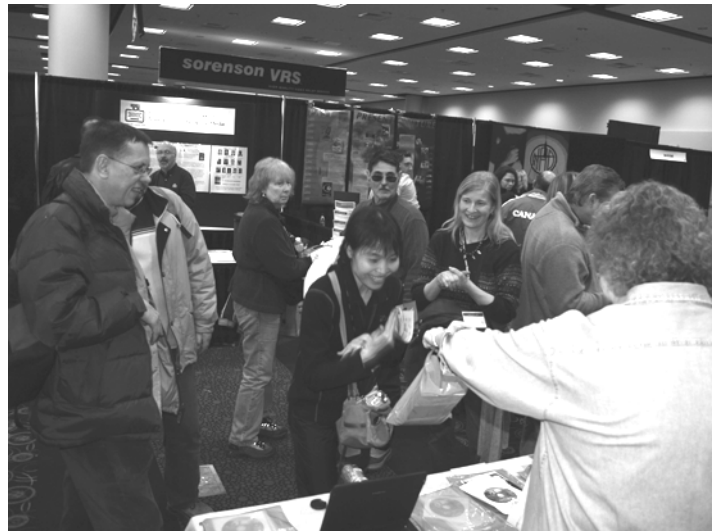
A Korean deaf visitor pointed out our literature to a pastor for the deaf from Korea. He picked up two packages to bring back to Korea.

A young deaf lady came to our booth and was excited to get our material. A while later she came back with a friend and encouraged her to take our material. Then, just before closing, this same lady came back to get another package of material for one of her friends.

Other deaf people stopping by our booth were from Russia, Venezuela, Nigeria, Switzerland, Austria, Israel ... and more!

Thank you to our many faithful donors for your loyal support that has made ADM's deaf community outreach work possible!

Jim & Bunny Hovey



Deaf lady from Tapei 2009 Summer Olympics booth.



Deaf fans from Germany and Estonia.



Deaf Adventist member from Germany.

16th Winter Deaflympics - Salt Lake 2007



Deaf twins from Arizona stopped to chat with us a while.



Canadian curling team players.



Slovakia curling team with interpreter and hearing coach.



Robert Davila, President - Gallaudet University (left)

Family News Now on our Website

Staying in touch with all of our friends is impossible. Do you feel like you have missed out on news about what is happening? Have you wondered what happened to a friend who lives several states away?

We believe it is important to keep our Deaf brothers and sisters connected. We are one big family. So, another page to our website has been added. It is called **Family News!** This website has news, photos, and testimonies from our Deaf Adventist family far and near.

Many times, we receive photos and letters with special news. But we do not have room in this little newsletter to print them all. So, now we have a webpage that you can go to and see what has been happening. We think that you will enjoy seeing new and old friends on this webpage.

If you would like to send us something to put on the website, please email them to: esther@deafadventist.org. We will do our best to post each of them.

Please check it out! Look for "Family News" on the home page at: www.deafadventist.org.

“Can You Hear Us?” Responses

Praise God! “Can You Hear Us?” has been going into many hands and the response has been amazing. Some of you have written us, telling us what you think. Here are some comments:

“I have to tell you that this booklet has been such a blessing to me. It helped me learn from [Esther’s] experiences just how deep is the gap between the hearing and Deaf

worlds...I want to say that although you made it clear how far we have to go and how far we’ve actually fallen back, your tenor is one of faith, hope and love.”

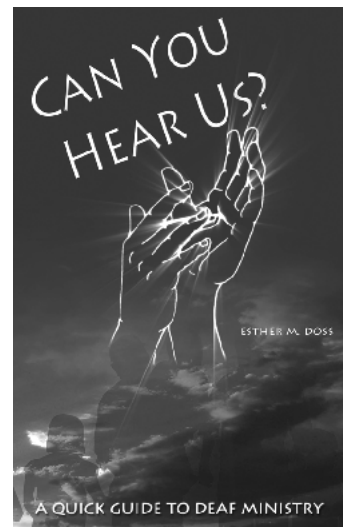
“I was especially interested in the illustrating needs of the Deaf people by [her] mother’s experience.”

“This is wonderful. I am impressed with this book. I have been waiting for something

like this to come along. A great book I will share with my church.”

“It really opened up my eyes to things I had not understood before, and it is very ‘readable’ – not too wordy or technical. God bless your work! You certainly have a place in my heart and prayers.”

“I’m Deaf and I have same problems like other Deaf peoples go



thru about church.”

Please feel free to write us with your comments!

Esther Doss

Web Search Leads Deaf Man to ADM

In 1977, Bill went to Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. At that time, Pastor Arthur Griffith was at Gallaudet University and area to share the gospel message among Deaf people.

Since some of Bill’s family was Adventist, he was curious about what they believed and why. The two of them studied the Bible together.

Twenty years later, Bill now lives in Texas and is a Christian. He hasn’t forgotten those Bible studies back in 1977 with Arthur Griffith.

Now, Bill enjoys studying the Bible again! Twice a week, a group of Deaf people meet at Bill’s house to study the Bible together.

One day recently, Bill felt a need for the Lord and prayer. He went online to do an internet search, hoping to find the peace he needed. He was very excited to find Adventist Deaf Ministries’ website. He immediately sent an email and Bunny Hovey followed up by contacting him.

Bunny shared with Bill about the materials we have available. He

was delighted! He subscribed to *The Deaf Messenger* magazine and signed up for Deaf Bible School lessons.

Bill said, “I didn’t know how to find any Deaf Adventists.” Thank the Lord that the web search led him to ADM.

Bill shared with Bunny that he wondered whatever happened to Arthur Griffith and would like to get in touch with him.

Bunny immediately emailed retired pastor Arthur Griffith. Within moments, Pastor Griffith contacted Bill directly. They were both

so grateful and surprised to be in touch again after so many years!

Since Bill found ADM on the internet recently, he has been in touch frequently and has been faithfully studying.

God is using ADM to reach out to Deaf people both far and near.

Thank you for your continued support so that people like Bill can “hear” the gospel message and study the Bible in a way best suited for Deaf people.

Esther Doss

Order Form -- All prices include USA shipping

<p>_____ AMAZING BIBLE TRUTHS VIDEO SERIES (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>_____ THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST VIDEO SERIES (VHS) THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST VIDEO SERIES (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>_____ KEEPERS OF THE FLAME VIDEO SERIES (4 VHS tapes) KEEPERS OF THE FLAME VIDEO SERIES (2 DVDs) This 8-part series covers the history of the Christian church, as well as the history of the Adventist church. OPEN CAPTIONED (subtitled)</p>	VHS Price DVD Price	\$ 40.00 ** \$ 45.00 **
<p>_____ OUR WORLD A THEATRE IN GOD'S UNIVERSE (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>_____ THE FINAL EVENTS OF BIBLE PROPHECY (DVD) An awesome 43-minute documentary that looks at what the Bible really says about the last days of earth history. (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)</p>	Price	\$ 12.00 **
<p>_____ DEAF DIASPORA: THE THIRD WAVE OF DEAF MINISTRY (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>_____ MARGIE ASKS WHY, EASY READING EDITION A fascinating book about the battle between God and Satan.</p>	Price	\$ 6.00 **
<p>_____ STEPS TO CHRIST, EASY READING EDITION A book that leads us to a better relationship with Jesus.</p>	Price	\$ 6.00 **
<p>_____ THE STORY OF REDEMPTION, EASY READING Tells how sin began and how Jesus will save His people from sin & eternal death.</p>	Price	\$ 6.00 **
<p>_____ AMAZING FACTS, EASY READING EDITION A set of 12 attractively illustrated booklets.</p>	Price	\$ 5.00 **
<p>_____ SIGN LANGUAGE COLORING BOOKS A set of 3 coloring books: Creation, Moses, and Jesus</p>	Price	\$ 14.00 **
<p>_____ AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE DVD LEARNING SYSTEM (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>_____ AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE DVD DICTIONARY (DVD) Over 700 signs with photo illustration of sign (e.g. picture of "shoes").</p>	Price	\$ 23.00**
<p>_____ AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE DVD COMBO (DVD) ASL DVD Learning System and ASL DVD Dictionary. Save \$3.</p>	Price	\$ 55.00 **
<p>_____ CD-ROM: HYPERSIGN INTERACTIVE DICTIONARY OF ASL (CD-ROM) Full-motion video; age specific vocabulary. Requires Windows 98 or better.</p>	Price	\$ 25.00 **
<p>_____ AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE FINGERSPELLING LESSONS (VHS) Want to improve your fingerspelling? Then this video is for you!</p>	Price	\$ 27.00 **
<p>_____ EASY-READING BAPTISMAL STUDIES 27 fundamental beliefs studies for baptismal candidates.</p>	Price	\$ 10.00 **
<p>_____ THE DEAF MESSENGER MAGAZINE Love gift for a 1-year subscription. Please specify if for yourself or other person.</p>	Per Year	\$ 10.00 **
<p>_____ DONATION: I support ADM's ministry. Here is my \$ _____ love gift.</p>		

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

U.S. Funds Only \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make your check or money order payable to:

Adventist Deaf Ministries
P.O. Box 6114
Mesa, AZ 85216-6114

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

Prayer of a Deaf Child

Dear Heavenly Father up above
I pray for peace, joy, and love
I pray for friends to soon understand
I can't understand them without their hands
In my world the hands are the voice
Unfortunately I have no choice
I hear by fingers spelling out names
Hand shapes and gestures give rules to my games
My world is centered in total silence
When I need help I pray for Your guidance
To You I can speak without voice and hands
Because through Your power I know You understand
Those who take time to learn my language
Don't understand they give me the advantage
So please Dear Father up above
Also give them peace, joy and love.

Donations Received

"In Memory Of"

Shirley J. Dennis
Robert G. Jacobsn

"In Honor Of"

Marvin Budd

"You should each give what you have decided in your heart to give. You shouldn't give if you don't want to. You shouldn't give because you are forced to. God loves a cheerful giver."
2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV

Board of Directors

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Paul Kelly
Elaina Mathisen
Jenny Witteborg

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Jim Hovey
Executive 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.

Adventist Deaf Ministries

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