



Adventist Deaf Ministries Report

Volume 11 Issue 1

February 2008

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Our Goals and Projects in 2008

Hard to believe that 2008 is already here. Do you remember the Y2K scare? That is over eight years ago! Jesus is coming soon and we know that as long as we follow God's leading, He will work miracles through ADM this year.

Here are some goals that we have set to accomplish this year in 2008.

Many of you, especially Deaf readers, have been anxiously looking forward to getting **sermons on DVDs**. Good news! We have a few details to work out and then we should be able to begin that program soon. Look for information in future newsletters.

We have not forgotten lay-training. We know that each one of you can do something to spread the Gospel, such as giving Bible studies. We know that this is very important.

A committee has been working diligently to create a plan. We have been **adapting a book** on how to give Bible studies so that it is Deaf-friendly. We also are almost finished with a **set of Bible studies**. These lessons are very simple and will help make giving Bible studies easy. When the book and les-

sons are finished, we will have **regional lay-training meetings** for Deaf people. We will keep you informed.

Last year, we attended more Deaf community events than ever before. This year, **we hope to attend even more events!** This is a great way to meet thousands of Deaf people and give them DVDs to watch, tracts to read or encourage them to sign up for the Deaf Bible School. February begins the busy season with three events. In March, there are three more events.

Also, we are working on getting **new materials in the giveaway packets**. We will make a sample DVD of the *Revelation of Jesus Christ* series with David Trexler. Also, we will make another sample DVD of *Amazing Truths* series with Francisca Trexler. Each sample will contain a full program and will include information of how to get the entire series.

We are also going to create a new DVD: **Signs of God's Love #2**. This DVD will explain about death and the resurrection. This DVD will be included in the giveaway packet for Deaf events and expos.

If we get our funding,

we also plan to make improvements and add features to the **Deaf Bible School website**. Each lesson will have a video. This video will explain some points in the lesson to help make it clear.

We hope to create a **DVD series in Mexican Sign Language**, similar to *Amazing Truths*. Each year, we found more and more Deaf Mexicans live in the United States. We need to share truth with them as well.

The Deaf Messenger continues to be a priority and will be printed throughout the year. We continue to hear positive comments from readers who anxiously await each issue.

We have many goals, but we have very few workers. We have relied on volunteers. Also, our board members have been serving on committees in order to get the work done.

We need your prayers that God will help us complete the projects and move on to new ones. We also need funds so that we can hire additional workers.

Thank you for remembering us in your financial giving and prayers.

May we all meet at the feet of Jesus.

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

Lessons Learned in Theft and Tornado Damage

Esther Doss shares her recent experiences:

Two difficult events happened these last 2 months.

My husband Chip and I sold our home in the Rushing community in Arkansas' Ozark hills about 1 1/2 years ago. We bought creek property 25 miles away and have been building our new home a little at a time. Meanwhile, we had our things in a storage unit in town.

In December, I went to get a few things out of the storage unit. When I walked up to the door, I noticed that the lock did not look right. It looked broken or cut. I thought, oh no! I struggled to get the lock open and finally pulled up the door. I was stunned. Most of our things were gone! I rushed to the manager and he called the police. The police tried to find fingerprints, but without success. The thieves took \$9,000 worth of things.

When I saw that our things were taken, my first thought was a Bible text: "Do not put away riches for yourselves in earth. Moths and rust can destroy them. Thieves can break in and steal them." (Matthew 6:19) Then I thought, "I can not take these things to heaven. They are not very important." I had to keep thinking this continually!

Then on February 5th, we were stunned again. Several tornadoes ripped through Arkansas that

night. One of them was rated EF-4, a devastating tornado. The wind was around 200 mph and it was on the ground for 123 miles! This tornado was very powerful and rare.

I knew that a storm with a possible tornado was coming so I hid in our closet. I was home alone since Chip was in Texas. The power went out and the phone line was not working. I knew something bad happened. I listened to a radio and found out that the towns of Clinton and Mountain View were damaged badly. Mountain View is only 8 miles away.

I immediately left for Mountain View. I checked on Chip's office and everything was fine. Many drove to the damaged area so I decided to go the other way to check on Mom (Wanda Watson). She still lives in Rushing, between Clinton and Mountain View. I wanted to be sure she was okay and that a fire was in the woodstove. I knew the electricity would be out for a long time.

When I came close to her house, I saw flashing lights and emergency vehicles. I think my heart stopped. I could see plainly that the tornado went through Mom's place. I could not drive to Mom's house since the road was blocked. I met a fireman and asked him about Mom.

The fireman asked, "Is she the one that can't talk?"

She's okay. She has a cut on her foot. Her house is damaged, but she is okay." I was relieved! They told me that other homes were completely gone!

I waited until the paramedics brought Mom to me. They worked for an hour to cut trees out of the road. Finally she came. We were so glad to see each other! She was worried about me and I was worried about her.

She asked if I heard from my brother Tim. Mom was worried about him because the tornado went through my brother's neighborhood in Shirley, 10 miles away. I asked one of the firemen about it and learned that Shirley was also hit by the tornado. At the time, no one knew the tornado was on the ground for 123 miles.

I took Mom to a hospital due to the cut on her foot. At the busy hospital, we met her neighbors. Their houses were completely

destroyed. We listened to their stories and were in awe that they survived. Several were thrown over 100 feet and had many broken bones and cuts. I shuddered; I realized that Mom could have been hurt badly or killed.

While we were in the waiting room, two worried women rushed in looking for someone. The ladies saw their family and hugged them tearfully. They checked on the house and there was nothing left! The ladies thought they were dead. They drove to the hospital hoping to find them. As I watched this happy reunion, my eyes filled with tears.

Our phones were not working at all; even cell phones did not work well. After several tries, I finally called Tim. We were glad to hear each other's voices. They were not home. The emergency officials would not allow



This is Wanda Watson's house. Wanda is Esther's mom.

them to check on their house. The next morning, they found their home had minor damage. But their neighbors' homes were blown away.

We were watching TV in the hospital and heard about a missing man in a factory in Clinton. Tim told me that the missing man was Thomas, his granddaughter's father. They finally found him dead. He was killed instantly. Thomas was on the crew that built Mom's house.

We left the hospital many hours later and drove through the badly hit Mountain View. We were amazed at the destruction.

We went to my house which was safe during the storm. In fact, we did not have much wind here, but a lot of debris fell out of the sky from far away places.

We slept for two hours and then went back to Mom's house. We were surprised to find Mom's van had burned up. Lightning struck the van and it

caught on fire. Mom's house had a lot of damage, but it is still standing. She lost so many trees, but none fell on her house. If the tornado had moved over just a few feet, the house would have been flattened.

We checked on our old home in Rushing (1/2 mile from Mom's). There is nothing left of our old home! Pieces of it are now spread 1/4 to 1/2 mile. A big metal building (which Thomas also helped to build) was completely blown away as well. Countless trees were lost.

We still feel like this place is our home as we walked through the debris. I felt strange walking on the ceiling. We found the chandelier that was over the dining table. It was still in good shape and even the bulbs looked new.

The new owners were not at home. If they were, they would not have survived. What if we did not sell the place? What if we were home when the tor-

nado hit? A very humbling thought!

Lavida Whitson, the Ark-La Conference Adventist Community Services coordinator, and her Deaf husband Bill immediately came up to Mountain View to assist with people's needs. They have been a great comfort to Mom.

The tornado has been heartbreaking to us because so much has been wiped out. Usually, a tornado is on the ground between 1 to 4 miles. This time, it was 123 miles! I talked with many people who were in the path of the tornado. Each one has an incredible story. I wish I could tell them to you!

These two events have reminded me of some very important things.

I was reminded of Jesus' counsel in Matthew 6:19-21: "Do not put away riches for yourselves on earth. Moths and rust can destroy them. Thieves can break in and steal them. Instead, put away riches for yourselves in heaven. There, moths and rust do not destroy them. There, thieves do not break in and steal them. Your heart will be where your riches are."

Yes, we lost many precious things in our storage unit. Also, families all around us lost everything because of the tornado. They have nothing left. Everything they collected over their lifetimes disappeared or was damaged in a few seconds. What we have on earth does not mean

anything. They are only tools for us to use while we are living here on earth.

After the tornado, everyone was busy checking to make sure others were okay. Like the family in the waiting room, there were many happy reunions and sighs of relief. We were all reminded that lives are worth much more than houses and things. People are treasures.

We can not take our things with us to heaven.

We can only hope to take others with us. What joy we will have when we see friends and family there! The reunions in heaven will be with greater happiness than what we have seen here recently.

We can spend our money on things, which will only get old or stolen, break or be damaged. How can we use our money wisely so that many souls, true treasures, can be saved and be in heaven?

The present times are serious times. We need to get serious about sharing the Gospel. Here at Adventist Deaf Ministries, we are doing everything we can to spread the Good News. Will you join us in making a commitment to sharing with others the Good News of salvation and Jesus' soon return?

To see more photos, go to www.deafadventist.org and click on Family News in the What's New box.



This is Wanda's closest neighbor. The home is blown away with nothing left. Two people were home during the tornado. They survived, but were in critical condition.



Bill (Deaf) and Laida Whitson from Arkansas. Laida is the Adventist Community Services coordinator for Arkansas-Louisiana conference. They spent two years in the New Orleans area, to help people rebuild after hurricane Katrina. They came to the Mountain View, Arkansas area to help after the tornado. Bill also works with ACS.

Address Correction Notice

Please help us to save money on postage!

If you are moving, please let us know right away! If we send a newsletter or *The Deaf Messenger* magazine to the wrong address, then we have to pay for each address correction notice. Sometimes we pay over \$20 due to people moving and not letting us know.

You can email your address changes at: adm@deafadventist.org. Or you can send us a letter to:

Adventist Deaf Ministries
PO Box 6114
Mesa, AZ 85216

Trexler Going to Massachusetts

Pastor David Trexler and Esther Doss have been invited to Northboro, Massachusetts for a special Deaf Evangelism and Fellowship Weekend.

If you live in Massachusetts area, please join us! The dates are March 27-30 (Thursday through Sunday).

On Thursday and Friday evenings, Pastor Trexler will give a presentation. On Sabbath, we will have a full day. We will have Sabbath services with both Deaf and hearing as Pastor Trexler preaches and other Deaf participate in the pro-

gram. After church, we will have meals together and another afternoon meeting. Then we will finish the day with fun and games.

The theme will be Jesus is our Hope!

This special weekend will be at the Northboro Seventh-Day Adventist Church on 30 Brigham Street in Northboro, Massachusetts.

For more information, contact Jessica McGowan by email: jessmcgowan@yahoo.com. Or contact her by phone: 508-892-9609 (voice). VP#: 508-756-2623.

Clearance Sale!!!

Revelation of Jesus Christ Series with Pastor David Trexler VHS
\$40.00

Sign Language Coloring Books
Set of 3 (Creation, Moses, Jesus) **\$8.00**



While Supplies Last!

Prices include shipping!
(You may use the order form in this newsletter)

In Memory...

Adventist Deaf Ministries is saddened to learn that Sylvia House passed away on February 6. We truly feel as if we lost someone in our family.

Sylvia and her husband have been supporters of Deaf ministry in general and Adventist Deaf Ministries, as well.

Many of us know Sylvia as Jim House's mother. She is survived by her husband Marshall and 2 sons and 2 daughters.

She was born April 1, 1936 and was 71 years old.

The family asks that, in lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Adventist Deaf Ministries in her memory.

We look forward to the New Earth where death and sickness will be no more and tears will no longer flow. We long to be able to see Jesus face to face and experience the joy of being with Him.

2008 Calendar

Camp meetings have so much to offer those who attend. Most claim that camp meeting is the best time of year! These camp meetings provide exceptional spiritual food and nourishment. Also, the fellowship with old and new friends is always sweet.

In fact, I was just looking at old ADM newsletters and looking at camp meeting photos. Each one immediately brought back fond memories.

Why not plan on attending one of these camp meetings this year?

Mid-West Deaf Camp Meeting June 4-8, 2008

Mount Eagle
Shirley, Arkansas
Speakers: Pastor David Trexler and Chuck McGehee
Contact Kathy McCain:
deafblossom@hotmail.com

Western Deaf Camp Meeting July 6 - 13, 2008

Milo Adventist Academy
Milo, Oregon
Speakers: Pastor Jeff Jordan & Pastor Alfred Griffith
See inserted flyer for more information.

Contact Chuck McGehee:
chucktrades@comcast.net

Canadian Mini-Deaf Camp Meeting July 25-27, 2008

Camp Hope
Hope, British Columbia
Speakers: Bruce Buzzell and Greg Greenwood
Contact Albert Blake:
alta64@xplornet.com

Deaf Young Adults for Christ August 12-17, 2008

Tillamook, Oregon
Contact Bunny Hovey:
bunnyhovey@oraz.com

Southern Deaf Camp Meeting September 25-28

Camp Kulaqua
High Springs, Florida
Contact: Pastor Jeff Jordan:
jwjordan@gccsda.com

Deaf Eastern Autumn Revival Camp Meeting (DEAR) October 23-26, 2008

Camp Blue Ridge
Montebello, VA
Contact Cathy Ingram:
irela1219@comcast.net
Also see:
www.deafellowship.org

Deaf Bible School

The Deaf Bible School has been a wonderful tool in helping Deaf people study their Bibles. There are two different courses: God's Way and the Amazing Facts Study Series. Both sets of Bible lessons have been adapted into easy-reading English and is Deaf-friendly.

These Bible studies can be done through the mail or on our website: www.deafbibleschool.com

The Deaf Bible School continues to grow steadily. Most of the Bible students enroll in the Bible studies through our booth work at Deaf events. What is most exciting to us is see that many students have been sharing what they are learning and have encouraged their friends to sign up for the lessons, too!

In 2007, we had a 9% increase in new students than in 2006!

Already, during January of this year, 23 new students have enrolled in one of our Bible study courses.

One Bible student wrote, "**I love Deaf Bible School, and may God bless your work.**"

Still another student wrote, "**I will miss Deaf Bible School when I finish the course.**"

Elder George Belser has been the teacher this past year and he enjoys his work very much.

We are excited that these Deaf people have the opportunity to study the Bible and to learn more of God's truths. May the Lord continue to guide them in knowledge and grace.



We hope you will be in a group photo at one of the camp meetings! See you there!

How Many Times Have You Fallen?

During the last Christmas season in Colorado, Francisca and I along with our Deaf friend cross-country skied in a beautiful mountain valley. Cross-country skiing was challenging and fun. Some skiers just glided on the trail as if they were ice-skating. We were envious of their skills because they skied gracefully and fast while we were slow and clumsy. We were not as skillful as they were because we do not go cross-country skiing often.

We come to this mountain only once a year. It is a challenge not to fall. If we fall, we get up to keep on going. Practicing helps us to fall less and less as long as we do not give up. But every time we fall, we feel embarrassed and, yes, sometimes we get hurt. We naturally do not like to fall. We do not want people to think we are not as good as other skillful skiers. However, every fall we gain experience, learn how to prevent ourselves from falling again and improve our skills.

This cross-country skiing experience reminds me of King Solomon's thought on our walk with the Lord. In Proverbs he said, "Even if godly people fall down seven times, they always get up. But those who are evil are brought down by trouble" (Proverbs 24:16, NlrV). Notice King Solomon used the word

"godly" to describe the person who is following the Lord faithfully.

King Solomon understood what it was like to fall into sin. He was once a godly king before he left the Lord. This verse might tell about his experience before he left the Lord and then returned back to the Lord. King Solomon was not a godly

*Do not give up
on your spiritual
journey to
heaven.*

person for many years until he turned back to Him and became a godly person again. When he was godly he fell sometimes but he rose up in spiritual life through repentance and prayers. But somewhere in his life he fell and did not get up. He stayed that way until, through the Holy Spirit, he realized that he had gone too far in sinning against God.

Clearly, the person who is truly godly hates sin. When he falls because of the struggle with human nature, learned behaviors, and genetic factors, he will get up again because he is godly in the first place. A godly person is not perfect, but his attitude and thoughts are godly.

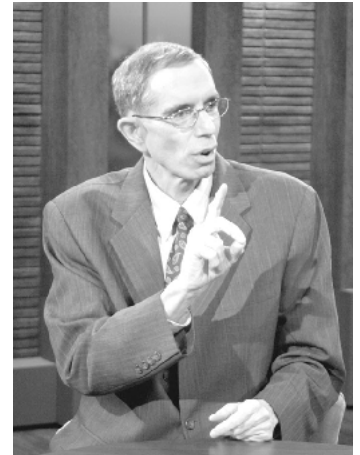
The evil person or wicked person will not get up because he likes sins. Also, staying down means

the sinful nature of the person has won in the spiritual battle.

Everyone has a sinful nature but the only difference between the godly and the wicked lies in the choice. If a person values God more than anything in the world, he will get up after the fall. John said, "But God is faithful and fair. If we admit that we have sinned, he will forgive us our sins. He will forgive every wrong thing we have done. He will make us pure. ...My dear children, I'm writing this to you so that you will not sin. But suppose someone does sin. Then we have one who speaks to the Father for us. He stands up for us. He is Jesus Christ, the Blameless One" (John 1:9; 2:1,2, NlrV). As long as we have the saving relationship with Jesus we will continue to grow and become more like Jesus despite our falls.

Peter loved the Lord and His righteousness. He fell many times, but he got up with repentance. Judas appeared to be a perfect disciple in manner and skills. But Judas ended his life as a wicked man. Which one are you? Peter or Judas?

Ask the Lord in your prayer and the Bible study: "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any



wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!" (Psalm 139:23, 24, RSV)

So, it is better to be truly godly who continues to get up after falling than be wicked and stop trying to get up. Do not give up on your spiritual journey to heaven. Keep your thoughts on Jesus Christ who is a perfect model for us to follow. We might fall by turning our eyes away from Him, but we can look back to Him and get up through His strong hand.

Faith is like reaching out to the helping hand that pulls us up to continue our journey of faith. God is always gracious to us no matter how many times we might have fallen. We can fall less and less through the power of the Holy Spirit. "Dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith. Let the Holy Spirit guide and help you when you pray" (Jude 20, NlrV).

Pastor David Trexler
Speaker/Director
Adventist Deaf Ministries

Order Form -- All prices include USA shipping

<hr/>	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)	Price	\$ 65.00 **
<hr/>	THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST VIDEO SERIES (VHS)	VHS Price	\$ 40.00 **
<hr/>	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.	DVD Price	\$ 90.00 **
<hr/>	KEEPERS OF THE FLAME VIDEO SERIES (4 VHS tapes) This 8-part series covers the history of the Christian church, as well as the history of the Adventist church. OPEN CAPTIONED (subtitled)	VHS Price	\$ 40.00 **
<hr/>	SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE DVD Take a walk with Esther M. Doss in Colorado to learn more of God's love. 48 minutes.	Price	\$ 5.00 **
<hr/>	OUR WORLD A THEATRE IN GOD'S UNIVERSE (DVD) A 2-hour video in American Sign Language by Esther M. Doss that gives the basic story of the Bible and plan of salvation ... from the beginning to the end of sin.	Price	\$ 20.00 **
<hr/>	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)	Price	\$ 12.00 **
<hr/>	CAN YOU HEAR US? (booklet - 10 copies) A 22-page quick reference guide to deaf Ministry. Order extra copies to share with family, friends, and church members.	Price	\$10.00 **
<hr/>	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.	Price	\$ 20.00 **
<hr/>	MARGIE ASKS WHY, EASY READING EDITION A fascinating book about the battle between God and Satan.	Price	\$ 7.00 **
<hr/>	STEPS TO CHRIST, EASY READING EDITION A book that leads us to a better relationship with Jesus.	Price	\$ 7.00 **
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<hr/>	AMAZING FACTS, EASY READING EDITION A set of 12 attractively illustrated booklets.	Price	\$ 5.00 **
<hr/>	SIGN LANGUAGE COLORING BOOKS A set of 3 coloring books: Creation, Moses, and Jesus	Price	\$ 8.00 **
<hr/>	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.	Price	\$ 35.00 **
<hr/>	AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE DVD DICTIONARY (DVD) Over 700 signs with photo illustration of sign (e.g. picture of "shoes").	Price	\$ 23.00**
<hr/>	AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE DVD COMBO (DVD) ASL DVD Learning System and ASL DVD Dictionary. Save \$3.	Price	\$ 55.00 **
<hr/>	CD-ROM: HYPERSIGN INTERACTIVE DICTIONARY OF ASL (CD-ROM) Full-motion video; age specific vocabulary. Requires Windows 98 or better.	Price	\$ 25.00 **
<hr/>	AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE FINGERSPELLING LESSONS (VHS) Want to improve your fingerspelling? Then this video is for you!	Price	\$ 27.00 **
<hr/>	EASY-READING BAPTISMAL STUDIES 27 fundamental beliefs studies for baptismal candidates.	Price	\$ 10.00 **
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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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