



# Adventist Deaf Ministries Report

Volume 11 Issue 3

June 2008

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## ADM Helps Lead Two Women to Baptism

A small Deaf camp meeting is held each year in the Ozark mountains of Arkansas. Although small, each person who attends is rich with many blessings from heaven.

This year, this camp meeting had its first baptism! Two ladies decided to follow Jesus' steps and walked into the waters of a local lake and were baptized.

One of the ladies is Rhonda from Chicago area. She has friends in California, a couple who are students of the Bible. They shared their faith with Rhonda and told her about our online Deaf Bible School.

Rhonda studied both courses diligently. When the lessons were finished, she was a little sad, wanting more lessons. She was in touch with us by email. We let her know that Bruce Buzzell and Marvin Budd (both are ADM board members) were going to be in Chicago for the DeafNation expo with a booth and she was more than welcome to meet them. She went to the expo and met the two men. Afterwards,

Rhonda studied with Bruce each Sabbath afternoon by video phone.

Rhonda wanted to go to a camp meeting and Bruce encouraged her to attend the one in Arkansas. The Holy Spirit impressed upon her heart to be baptized.

Patricia joined Rhonda in the water for baptism. Patricia is from Florida. When she was a young teenager, she was reading the Bible and read about the Sabbath. She had many questions about it, but it took years before she knew more. She loved Jesus and followed Him the best that she knew how. Patricia also has a good friend who shared with her

Bible teachings.

Patricia met Esther Doss and Wanda Watson at the DeafNation Expo booth in Columbus, Ohio in April. Patricia asked Esther if she knew of any camp meetings. When Esther arrived home, she sent Patricia information for all of the camp meetings. Patricia decided to come to Arkansas and was baptized. The Holy Spirit has led her for many years to this time.

We know that heaven sang when these ladies were baptized! Let us pray that their faith will remain strong.

See [www.deafadventist.org](http://www.deafadventist.org) for camp meeting pictures!

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



Rhonda Treviranus, Pastor David Trexler, and Patricia Strawhorn just before the baptism.

## Speaker's Dialogue: Under the Clouds

While flying high above the clouds that darkened the world below, I was thinking of our common human's feeling about life. For many people a sunny day is better than a cloudy day. During the cloudy day they sometimes feel sad, sleepy, depressed, and sick. Research shows that the states with more cloudy and rainy days than others have higher suicide rates than the rest of the country. The lack of sun for a long time affects their mood and mind very much. There are therapies to help them be happy and cheerful through medication, moving to a sunny place, and using a special light at home or office.

During winter, states like Maryland have more cloudy days than in the desert states like Arizona. No wonder many people are moving to Arizona and other sun-belt states in the south. When flying above the clouds, everything changes in the minds of the people. It is wonderful to see a clear sky above the clouds. The mood changes quickly once the plane flies over the clouds or returns to land.

Are you feeling like you are living "under the clouds" all the time? In other words, do you often feel like you are having a lousy day? Do you feel that you are having bad luck? Do you wish that

you live in a place that has a sunny sky every day? I am sure that all of us have experienced it. Good news! God understands our feelings and thoughts. He sympathizes with you when you are sad, crying, hurting, and angry.

Sins make us sad and feel guilty. Sin is like the dark clouds that block the sun from shining on the earth. Every time we sin we become dark in our heart. Our thoughts and feelings no longer have peace and joy. It is like having a dark day that does not bring any hope for our future. But, God does not leave us alone to fight against darkness in our minds and hearts.

God provides us a Book, the Bible, to comfort, guide and strengthen us. "Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us. The Scriptures give us strength to go on. They cheer us up and give us hope" (Romans 15:4, NIV). The Bible is like the sun that gives hope and courage to us.

Have you seen a sunflower that always faces the sun all day? It follows the sun when it moves across the sky. When the sun sets, the sunflower lowers its "head." It is like a sad flower. We are like the sunflower that needs the sun for nourishment and healthy growth. Our God is the Light that gives

us spiritual nourishment for our spiritual health and quality of life.

King David wrote many Psalms that gives us an idea of his life - full of ups and downs. We can identify with his feelings and mood. But notice in Psalms, he looked up to God for help. He prayed when the wicked people tried to destroy him. He prayed when he asked for forgiveness of his sins. David worshiped God with praise and song because He knew that God was full of love and mercy. When he prayed, he looked up above "the clouds" of doubts and sadness.

Doubt and depression are common to us. David had these in his life. We need to follow David's way of looking "above the clouds" where the sun is shining all the time. One of the persons of the Godhead, Son of God, came to our dark world to give us hope and encouragement. He became a human being to experience as we experience. But, Jesus never became discouraged as we sometimes do. Why? Despite of all of the troubles He faced, He kept the faith in His Father all the time. He lived as if He was living "above the clouds."

Jesus is our true Counselor who can help us because He has experienced how we live in this world.

"He himself suffered when he was tempted. Now he is able to help others who are being tempted" (Hebrews 2:18, NIV).

Which counselor do you want to see? The one who has never experienced troubles and sadness? Or, the one who has gone through fiery trials. Of course, you would choose the person who has suffered much. This counselor can sympathize with us (understand us) making us feel comfortable to be with him.

My friends, when you are in doubt, hurt, sad, or moody, think of yourself as if you are flying "above the clouds" where the sun is shining. Jesus is our merciful and faithful High Priest who is always ready to help you. "So he had to be made like his brothers in every way. Then he could serve God as a kind and faithful high priest" (Hebrews 2:17).

Imagine yourself flying high above the clouds when you face troubles, crisis, pain, sadness, death, and hopelessness. Let us remember God's promise: "But those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak" (Isaiah 4:31, NIV).

## Special Awards Presented on Special Sabbath

George Belser and I agreed that we needed to honor some of the former pastors for the Deaf because of their dedication to this work of the gospel in the past. It would be the first time for Adventist Deaf Ministries to present such an award. Before ADM was established, the Deaf Department of Christian Record Services gave a few awards to fellow workers for the Deaf.

Originally, we planned to award someone at the camp meeting at Milo this summer, but we learned that our beloved sister in Christ whose husband we planned to surprise has terminal cancer. She may not live to receive her share of her husband's honor, so we decided to act quickly by taking a trip to Southern California on May 9.

On a short notice, Darrell and Lorna Strait did a great job in inviting Deaf and hearing members and non-members to come to the Arlington Adventist Church in Riverside for a special big day for the Deaf. On Sabbath, May 10, about 50 people showed up to honor Neil Davidson and Elder John Issler. The guests came from all over Southern California.

After a sermon titled "The Lost Testimony Discovered", Neil and John were surprised and honored by the announce-

ment of the award to them. They received the plaques recognizing their dedication to the Deaf work.

After receiving the award, Elder Issler gave his testimony about Neil's ministry to the Deaf from 1960 to 1968. Pastor Neil traveled many miles around southern California, visiting many Deaf people. He gave them Bible studies, and many of them became interested in joining the church. But unfortunately, Neil's ministry was terminated by the conference in 1968. Elder Issler explained that he did minister to the Deaf before Neil was hired as the pastor. He left for another job because he believed that Neil who is Deaf could do a better ministry to the Deaf than a hearing person. However, when Elder Issler returned to the ministry he was shocked to learn that Neil was laid off. We learned that one of the main reasons for the conference to terminate Pastor Davidson's ministry was the communication barrier between Neil and the conference leader. The hearing leader felt that it was too inconvenient for him to use paper and pen to communicate with the Deaf worker.

Elder Issler retired from the ministry in the 1980's. After the presentation of the award, the wives of John and Neil received pots of miniature roses. (Continued on page 4)



George Belser and Pastor Trexler presents awards to John Issler (left) and Neil Davidson (second from left).



Elder John and Evelyn Issler



Neil and Lillian Davidson

## Awards Presented (continued from p. 3)

After the special worship Lillian Davidson who has cancer received a special anointing service for healing.

It was a very memorable service for the Deaf ministry in Southern California. The Lord blessed the members and non-members who witnessed the service of love and care.

I want to share the background to this special Sabbath service of pre-

senting the awards of recognition and appreciation to Neil Davidson and Elder John Issler. Soon after I arrived in Arizona as the new Speaker/Director of Adventist Deaf Ministries, I was trying to get used to the office environment before I could work effectively. I looked through the files and I discovered a letter that was left there for many years, probably since Christian Record Services' era. That letter

was a short testimony written by Elder John Issler about his experience as a worker for the Deaf. He mentioned the dedicated work of Neil Davidson who worked tirelessly in seeking many Deaf people for Christ. He had won many Deaf people who were interested in becoming members of the remnant church. But his ministry was cut short leaving him and his family in a very difficult time. The termination was based on prejudice and misunderstandings, and it was a terrible blow to the Davidsons. Like other Deaf people they would give up their faith in God, but they hung on through much prayers and support by the church members and relatives.

While I was reading Elder Issler's letter, I was touched by the pain Neil and his family had gone through for many years.

I felt it was necessary for ADM to heal their wounds that had been left open for many years without any special recognition and appreciation for their sacrifice and dedication for the Adventist church. I recalled that not one church leader or organization had ever given an award of appreciation for Neil's work since 1968. I felt ashamed of the church for ignoring Neil while others received the praise of the community. It was time for Neil and Lillian's humiliation to end by giving them what they deserved through the grace of God. I thanked God for the discovery of the letter that prompted us to act in uplifting the Davidsons to the rightful and honorable position in the Adventist Church. May God continue to bless them for the rest of their lives.

*By Pastor David Trexler*



MidWest Camp Meeting visitors at Blanchard Springs after visiting caverns.



Chuck McGehee encourages those at the MidWest Camp Meeting to be "cheerleaders" for Jesus

### Camp Meeting Announcement

A new camp meeting has been added this year in the New England area:

D.E.A.F. Camp Meeting 2008

August 20-24

Camp Cherokee

Saranac Lake, New York

Speaker: Pastor Paul Kelly

For information contact: Jessica McGowan at:

[jessmcgowan@yahoo.com](mailto:jessmcgowan@yahoo.com)

***For a full list of camp meetings, visit [www.deafadventist.org](http://www.deafadventist.org) and click on calendar.***

## Deaf Outreach Continues at Deaf Events

A central part of our work at ADM is sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have found that Deaf expos are great places to meet many Deaf people at one time and share the Good News with them. We praise God for the opportunity to be at these expos! Here are reports from two of the events since the last newsletter:

### Omaha, NE:

Francisca and I had wonderful expected and unexpected experiences at Omaha DeafNation Expo on April 19. Omaha is a very familiar city since we used to visit there for Sabbath worship with the local Deaf members for several years before we moved to Maryland in 2000. We miss our friends in Nebraska. It was a great opportunity for us to return to Omaha as representatives of Adventist Deaf Ministries.

Our Deaf Bible School booth was right across from Viable's huge exhibition where hundreds of people lined up for a new portable videophone called VPAD all day until the unit was sold out. Our booth was in a good place where Deaf people were exposed to our ministry. Because of this location many Deaf friends and visitors came to see us. Some of them thought we were moving back to Nebraska! In the afternoon we gave away all of 200 Gospel bags.

Local Adventist Deaf members were happy to see us again in person. We have chatted with them through the videophone, but meeting them in person was more of a blessing to us.

As in Phoenix in March, I was thrilled to meet an alumnus from California School for the Deaf in Riverside (CSDR) I have not seen since graduation in 1968. Another alumnus was there, too. We had a great time talking about our "good ole days" and news about some of our friends from the school.

*By Pastor David Trexler*

### Columbus, OH:

Wanda Watson and Gloria Verweibe joined me for a long drive from Arkansas to Columbus, OH. They were a big help in putting together the packets and meeting people in the booth.

Like in Omaha, our booth was across the aisle from Viable's exhibit. When the doors opened, a large group of people ran to the Viable booth and stood in a long line. Viable was selling their mobile videophones for a savings of \$600. This drew many people from far away places. This booth brought Deaf people to the expo and to our booth.

The first person that walked up to us was from the Viable booth. He was very interested in what we were doing and even

asked where he could donate money. He eagerly took a packet.

A local Baptist pastor stopped by and was very interested in our packets. He took one and later in the day, he stopped by to say good-bye. He had to rush to a wedding. As he walked away, we noticed that he only carried one thing with him, one of our packets.

A young man came up and recognized our DVD. He said that someone picked up a DVD last year and showed it to the small Deaf group at his church. He was excited to meet me and introduced many friends to us. He returned several times that day to introduce another friend or two. They all took packets and several made sure they had the Deaf Bible School website address.

We met Patricia there. Read the story on the front page of this newsletter.

We met a young man

who has been to India for a few days. He helped share the Gospel with Deaf people there and realized the hunger they have for the Good News. We encouraged each other in continuing to serve God. He eagerly took the Bible School information, since he wanted to learn more about the Bible.

I saw a few familiar faces from last year's expo in Columbus. They were happy to see me. One lady who worked in the booth next to us last year was so happy to see me. She said that she would like to study the Bible with me some time. A couple that we spoke with for a long time last year now decided to sign up for The Deaf Messenger and the Bible School correspondence.

It was a very, very long day. But we were thrilled to be able to serve God. We pray for these souls.

*By Esther M. Doss*



At Omaha, NE DeafNation Expo Pastor Trexler poses with schoolmates from CSDR. Pastor Trexler has not seen the man on the left since 1968!

## Our Books Used Overseas

Our books have been a blessing to Deaf people. They have also been read by others around the world. We recently received this letter:



I teach ESL (English as Second Language) and my fellow teacher has been ordering the Story of Redemption for a number of years for me to use. I can say that my students really like this book.

But now I am ordering this book myself for a different reason. I was a missionary in Malawi for 10 years ('86-'96) and I sponsored a young man who has married and now has a girl who is ready to begin high school. English is the second language spoken in the country. I plan

to have the girl read this book and send me reports. I will pay her for the reports and she will apply this money to her school bill. It is always better to have students do something to earn the money they get. Not only this but I pray the book will be a blessing to her as it has my ESL students here in America. To say the least, I REALLY appreciate these EASY English books!! God Bless You!!

C. O. in Tennessee

## Pastor Trexler's Schedule

July 6-12:  
Milo, Oregon  
Western Deaf Camp Meeting  
Afternoon Group Bible Studies

July 23-30:  
Mexico Deaf Camp Meeting

August 4-7:  
Adventist Deaf Ministries Board Meeting

August 7-10:  
Deaf Ministry Leadership Meeting  
Phoenix, AZ

September 20:  
DeafNation Expo  
Denver, CO

September 27:  
DeafNation Expo  
Worcester, MA



October 4:  
DeafNation Expo  
Chicago, IL

If you would like Pastor Trexler to come to your area, contact Adventist Deaf Ministries at: [adm@deafadventist.org](mailto:adm@deafadventist.org) or write to:  
Adventist Deaf Ministries  
PO Box 6114  
Mesa AZ 85216

## Camp Meeting Sale!

Our items will be on sale during the Western Deaf Camp Meeting at Milo, Oregon.

We will be accepting orders and mailing the items to you after camp meeting.

*See Pastor Trexler at Milo for information.*

## Donations

### *In Memory of...*

John by Eva Thompson

Cindy by Martie Shack-Voth

### *In Honor of...*

Sylvia House by Stanley & Irene Farmer

Robert Watson's birthday by Esther Doss

# Order Form -- All prices include USA shipping

_____	<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)	Price	\$ 65.00 **
_____	<b>THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST VIDEO SERIES</b> 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.	VHS Price DVD Price	\$ 40.00 ** \$ 90.00 **
_____	<b>KEEPERS OF THE FLAME VIDEO SERIES</b> (4 VHS tapes) 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)	VHS Price	\$ 40.00 **
_____	<b>SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE DVD</b>	Price	\$ 5.00 **
_____	<b>KEEPERS OF THE FLAME 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>(ENGLISH SUBTITLES)</b>	DVD Price	\$45.00**
_____	<b>OUR WORLD A THEATRE IN GOD'S UNIVERSE</b> (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 **
_____	<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>	Price	\$ 12.00 **
_____	<b>CAN YOU HEAR US?</b> (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 **
_____	<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.	Price	\$ 20.00 **
_____	<b>MARGIE ASKS WHY, EASY READING EDITION</b> A fascinating book about the battle between God and Satan.	Price	\$ 7.00 **
_____	<b>STEPS TO CHRIST, EASY READING EDITION</b> A book that leads us to a better relationship with Jesus.	Price	\$ 7.00 **
_____	<b>THE STORY OF REDEMPTION, EASY READING EDITION</b> Tells how sin began and how Jesus will save His people from sin & eternal death.	Price	\$ 7.00 **
_____	<b>AMAZING FACTS, EASY READING EDITION</b> A set of 12 attractively illustrated booklets.	Price	\$ 5.00 **
_____	<b>SIGN LANGUAGE COLORING BOOKS</b> A set of 3 coloring books: Creation, Moses, and Jesus	Price	\$ 8.00 **
_____	<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.	Price	\$ 35.00 **
_____	<b>AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE DVD DICTIONARY</b> (DVD) Over 700 signs with photo illustration of sign (e.g. picture of "shoes").	Price	\$ 23.00**
_____	<b>AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE DVD COMBO</b> (DVD) ASL DVD Learning System and ASL DVD Dictionary. Save \$3.	Price	\$ 55.00 **
_____	<b>CD-ROM: HYPERSIGN INTERACTIVE DICTIONARY OF ASL</b> (CD-ROM) Full-motion video; age specific vocabulary. Requires Windows 98 or better.	Price	\$ 25.00 **
_____	<b>AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE FINGERSPELLING LESSONS</b> (VHS) Want to improve your fingerspelling? Then this video is for you!	Price	\$ 27.00 **
_____	<b>EASY-READING BAPTISMAL STUDIES</b> 28 fundamental beliefs studies for baptismal candidates.	Price	\$ 10.00 **

\_\_\_\_\_ **DONATION:** I support ADM's ministry. Here is my \$ \_\_\_\_\_ love gift.

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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.

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