



Adventist Deaf Ministries Report

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New SDA Chaplain at Gallaudet University

Gallaudet University has a new chaplain who represents the Seventh-day Adventist Church and Adventist Deaf Ministries, giving counsel on spiritual and personal matters to Deaf students. The new Chaplain is Mrs. Francisca Trexler who began her work in February 2009.

Since Francisca began her work at Gallaudet, her presence has had an impact on some students. Right now, six SDA young adults are meeting Friday nights to study *Steps to Christ*. Francisca is planning social events to draw non-Adventist students.

Francisca states, "My experience as a chaplain at Gallaudet University under the Office of Campus Ministries is challenging and exciting. One lady expressed to me that it would be wonderful to have a female chaplain because it would be so comfortable to discuss personal matters among young women. A few ladies see me in the office for Bible study and spiritual counseling. I enjoy working for the Lord on campus. Pray for the young people to be drawn to Christ."

Francisca has a Master's degree in

Marriage and Family Therapy and has counseled many people, even some hearing, all over the nation, through e-mail, online chat, video phone and in person. This experience allows Francisca to offer her counseling skills to Gallaudet students. Not only can Francisca offer counseling on personal relationships, but she also has many years experience in giving Bible studies and spiritual counseling.

Her love for young people has been made evident through the years. She has been the director for the children and youth programs at camp meetings and pathfinders and other activities. She strongly desires that youth be prepared for the second coming of Jesus and take seriously the Great Commission and share the Good News with others.

Many years ago, Francisca was herself a student at Gallaudet. In fact, it was on this campus that Francisca learned Biblical truth and was led to the Adventist church. Many years have past, and Francisca is back on campus working to bring the light of truth to Gallaudet.

140-year-old Gallaudet



University has served as a "Mecca" for the Deaf community. There are 1,600 students enrolled; seven percent of them are international students. What an opportunity to reach Deaf young adults!

This Chaplain position was made possible by a grant given to ADM by the North American Division of the SDA church. The grant is a one-time privilege to provide a temporary part-time Chaplain worker to help Deaf students at Gallaudet know Jesus Christ and prepare them for His second coming.

Francisca faces a great challenge as the students at Gallaudet are especially secular-minded. Please support Francisca through your prayers as she plans activities and studies with these precious souls.

Bruce Buzzell
ADM Chairperson

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

Speaker's Dialogue: He's Not Here!

Dear Friends, I couldn't write something better than the story below concerning the Cross and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. This true story touched my heart and brought tears to my eyes. It reminds me of the way we sometimes treat Jesus as if we don't want Him in our life. We praise and thank God for the great sacrifice of the Son of God who was resurrected for our sake. May God bless you as you read this marvelous story of an unwanted person who loved Jesus Christ.

Jeremy was born with a twisted body, a slow mind and a deadly illness that was slowly killing him all his young life. At the age of 12, Jeremy was only in second grade, and seemed unable to learn. His teacher, Doris, often became frustrated with him. He would squirm in his seat, drool and make grunting noises. At other times, he spoke clearly, as if a light broke through the darkness in his mind. But, mostly Jeremy bothered his teacher.

One day, she called his parents and asked them to come to the school for a meeting. Doris said to them, "Jeremy really belongs in a special school. It isn't fair to him to be with younger children who don't have learning problems. There is a five-year gap between his age and that of the other students!"

The mother cried softly while her husband spoke, "There is no school of that kind nearby. It would be a terrible shock for Jeremy if we took him out of this school. He really likes it here."

Doris sat for a long time after they left. She wanted to sympathize with the parents. After all, their only child had a deadly illness. But it was not fair to keep him in her class. She had 18 other children to teach and Jeremy was a distraction. He would never learn to read or write. Why waste time trying?

While she thought about this, she felt guilty. "Oh God," she said aloud, "Here I am complaining when my problems are nothing compared with that poor family! Please help me to be more patient with Jeremy." From that day on, she tried hard to ignore Jeremy's noises and his blank stares. Then one day he limped to her desk, dragging his bad leg. "I love you, Miss Miller," he exclaimed, loud enough for the whole class to hear. The other children snickered, and Doris' face turned red. She was awkward, "Wh-Why, that's very nice, Jeremy. Now please take your seat."

Spring came, and the children were excited about the coming of Easter. Doris told them the story of Jesus, and then to emphasize the idea of new life springing

forth. She gave each of the children a large plastic egg. She said to them, "I want you take this home and bring it back tomorrow with something inside that shows new life. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Miss Miller!" the children responded excitedly - all but Jeremy. He just listened intently, his eyes never left her face. He did not even make his usual noises. Did he understand what she had said about Jesus' death and resurrection? Did he understand the assignment? Maybe she should call his parents and explain the project to them.

The next morning, 19 children came to school, laughing and talking as they put the eggs in a large basket on Miss Miller's desk. After they finished their Math lesson, it was time to open the eggs.

In the first egg, Doris found a flower. "Oh yes, a flower is certainly a sign of new life," she said. "When plants peek through the ground we know that spring is here." A small girl in the first row waved her arms. "That's my egg, Miss Miller!"

The next egg had a plastic butterfly that looked very real. Doris held it up. "We all know that a caterpillar changes turns into a beautiful butterfly. Yes, that is new life, too." Little Judy smiled proudly

and said, "Miss Miller, that one is mine." Next Doris found a rock with moss on it. She explained that the moss showed new life, too. Billy called from the back of the classroom. "My daddy helped me!" he smiled.

Then Doris opened the fourth egg. She gasped. The egg was empty! She thought it must be Jeremy's and that he did not understand her instructions. She did not want to embarrass him, so she quietly set the egg aside and reached for another. Suddenly Jeremy spoke up. "Miss Miller, aren't you going to talk about my egg?" Embarrassed, Doris replied, "But Jeremy your egg is empty!" He looked into her eyes and said softly, "Yes, but Jesus' tomb was empty too!"

Time stopped. When she could speak again, Doris asked him, "Do you know why the tomb was empty?" "Oh yes!" Jeremy exclaimed. "Jesus was killed and put in there. Then his Father raised him up!"

The recess bell rang. While the children excitedly ran out to the school yard, Doris cried. The cold inside her melted completely away. Three months later Jeremy died. Those who paid their respects at the mortuary were surprised to see 19 eggs on top of his casket, all of them empty! *Story by Ida Mae Kempel with adaptation.*

Lay Training Workshops Available!

A special workshop is now available! The workshop is called **Deaf Reach**. This workshop will show you how to share Jesus and Bible truths with others and how to give Bible studies. This workshop will take a full weekend. **Deaf Reach** is for Deaf people who want to witness. This is not for hearing people on Deaf ministry. This workshop is available for your area.

We have finished adapting the book *You Are My Witness* and a

new Bible study lesson set that will be easy to use in studying with others. Both of these will be used during the workshop.

We can not depend on ADM or a pastor to grow the number of Deaf people in our churches. The work is too great! Each person has a part to do to share Bible truths and grow the number of members.

Does your Deaf group want to have Deaf Reach workshop in your area? Contact us! Email us at: adm7@deafadventist.org

or write to us at:
Adventist Deaf Ministries
PO Box 6114
Mesa, AZ 85216

“We need the workers to help the church members to develop their skills for Jesus. Helping the church members to use their skills will help the church to grow. There should be good plans for the workers to go into all our churches to teach the members how to help the church to grow.”- *Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 117 (adapted).

Interpreter Workshop Correction!

The Interpreter's Workshop will be **July 5-12, 2009** during the Western Deaf Camp Meeting, NOT July 2-12.

For more info:
esther@deafadventist.org

MidWest Deaf Women's Retreat

The MidWest Deaf Women's Retreat was held for the first time at Mt. Eagle Christian Center in Clinton, Arkansas on March 5-8, 2009. The speakers were so good and gave us information about Jesus Christ. We had 13 women who came and joined with us. It was a wonderful together away from home and work. They came from different states includes Michigan, New York, Virginia, Maryland, and Arkansas.

Friday afternoon, Ruthie Doss gave a workshop “The Tasty Alternative Cooking Class.” Ruthie showed us how to cook healthy foods and much more information about how poor non-nutritious foods will have a bad affect on your body.

Later that afternoon before sunset, some women went out to hike around Mt. Eagle. The hike was awesome and had many nice views! Some women enjoyed bird watching. We went down to the Boat Chapel. It was a cute small chapel and made out of an old boat. We continued walking on Bear Cave trail. The trail was very challenging because we had to walk down a steep hill and grab the tied ropes around the trees. The ropes helped us to walk up and down the steep hills. Two women found the small Bear Cave. It was dark inside and not a very huge cave.

On Friday evening, Francisca Trexler gave a presentation about “How to Have a Relationship with Jesus Christ”. We learned lots about how to have a beautiful relationship with Jesus Christ in our lives.

Sabbath morning, Esther Doss gave a presentation

“A Ministry for Every Woman.” We can serve God and spread good news like the Samaritan woman, Mary of Magdalene, and Namaan's servant. Sabbath afternoon, both speakers Francisca and Esther presented part 2. We had open Bible discussions with many questions. After sundown, the women sang many different songs and praised the Lord.

Sunday morning, the women said their good byes and said that they want to come back again next year. The date for next year's Mid-West Deaf Women's Retreat will be announced in the near future.

Kathy McCain



Kathy McCain led the morning devotional in the amphitheater area outside.

Outreach Continues at Deaf Expos!

Those who have been reading this newsletter for a long time may wonder why we are still going to Deaf Expos. Some of you may wonder, "Why not do something new? Why do the same old thing?"

True, we have been to almost every Deaf expo since 2002. So, why keep doing it?

This is the easiest and the best way to plant seeds among many Deaf people in a short time. Thousands come to a Deaf expo. Most have about 2,400 people attend. Some are much bigger with up to 8,000 in attendance. We give away hundreds of bags at each one. Sometimes 1 out of every 10 people get a bag. And the people WANT them.

When the doors open, a flood of people come rushing in and explore the booths. There are a great variety of booths: Deaf-owned businesses, Interpreting services, schools, Deaf celebrities, camps, and associations, and more. Many times, we are the only Christian booth.

Most booths do not have anything to give away. A few might have catalogues or flyers. So, when people come to our booth and find a bag full of DVDs, a magazine, and tracts, they get excited. Almost every one is stunned to learn that these bags are free. Each one is always grateful and say a hearty thank you.

At times, we constantly put more bags on the table. They just disappear. While most people pick up a bag and go on, a good number stop to talk with us. Often, we have very spiritual conversations, full of questions and prayer requests. We see isolated Deaf who thirst for a Deaf church that they can go to. And some Christians who live in a big city often feel like an island in the secular world of deafness. They are refreshed to talk about Jesus at our booth.

We have met some of our Bible School students or those receiving *The Deaf Messenger*. Many sign up for the Bible school or request *The Deaf Messenger* on the spot. Some tell us that they have seen our DVDs at work, church, or at a friend's house and they ask if they can have their own DVD. How thrilling to know that people watch the DVDs and share them with others, too!

We see great enthusiasm! People have left the booth to bring their friends. There was a man who spent most of the day finding people and telling them to go to our booth, often dragging them to us himself. A Christian lady prayed all the previous night, grieving for the thousands of Deaf people who did not know

Jesus. She begged God to send someone to the expo to share the Gospel with them. She was excited to see us the next day! She shed tears and promised to pray for us. At the end of the day, she came back and was thrilled to know we gave away all we had. People in other booths watch us. They told us "Thank you!" And, "You are doing a great work." At one expo, a man in a booth next to us told people to stop by our booth. Then he found out we were Adventists and he stopped telling others about us. He watched us all day and at the end, his prejudice was gone.

The hours of the expo are incredibly intense and hectic. It is hard to find time to eat a small snack. At the end of the day, we are exhausted and can barely move. At the same time, our hearts are joyful.

To those of you who think that outreach at expos is "same-same" and "boring", this is the best opportunity to meet Deaf people. How else can we reach out to so many people with the seeds of truth? What other way can we see so many face-to-face? We just can not stay away. **This is something we must do.** So, in 2009, we are seed planting at these expos. Here is a report of the first three for 2009 from Pastor Trexler:

February 21, 2009 - Greensboro, NC

More than expected, all of the 200 Gospel bags disappeared at 1:00 pm. Last year, Francisca Trexler and Julia Sutton worked at the same place and they brought 200 bags but 87 were left at the end of the day. This year we saw a great increase of thirst for the truth. Most of the Deaf visitors were Baptist but they were very open-minded and friendly toward us. We had a good chat with several Deaf Baptists. Strangely, last year they were not friendly to us. The Lord has moved their hearts to be open-minded toward the message we carried. Inside the Gospel bags were: the new sample of *The Deaf Messenger*, the updated tracts, a Deaf Bible School enrollment form, and three DVDs. Some of them gave positive comments about Esther's Sign of God's Love and Francisca's Amazing Bible Truths DVD's. I met some old school friends in this unexpected place. The world is getting too small! At the end of the day we were exhausted but with the joy of knowing that this mission was a success. Because of the high interest in spiritual things I decided to increase the gospel bags for most expos from 200 to 300.

March 7, 2009 - Austin, TX

Austin is a hot spot for sharing the gospel with the Deaf at the expo. Esther Doss and Kathy McCain were there last year. They found that Austin Deaf people were very open-minded to our message. It was the same this year. Lalo Bonifacio and I were greeted by many friendly Deaf visitors. Many Hispanic Deaf people were thrilled to see Lalo. They chatted in Mexican Sign Language. I have not developed the necessary skill yet, but the Lord had blessed this ministry through Lalo. Lalo enjoyed it very much because he met some Deaf people whom he had not seen for a long time. One Deaf-Blind lady was thrilled to meet Lalo, who is well-known in Texas for his community work. She is a Christian who was open to Lalo's explanation of the gospel. Then Terese Rognmo, who is working at Texas School for the Deaf, showed up to help us. There were some young people who met her. This was a good opportunity for her to share her faith with them. All 300 bags were gone by 5 pm.

I had to fly alone to Austin with three pieces of baggage. Two of them are hard-covered, carrying the 300 gospel bags. Each of them weighed 51 pounds, exceeding (more than) the airline's limit of 50 pounds with a penalty of \$25. But, I was surprised that Southwest Airlines did not charge me for the extras. But, the price I had to pay was the slightly damaged wheels and heavy pulling in the airport. I was sweated out by the time I reached a rental car in the warm Texan sun. After the booth both of them were delightfully light to transport.

March 14, 2009 - Orlando, FL

Francisca and I were thrilled to have many helpers in Orlando. Some of them drove more than 2 hours just to help us. It was fun to work with them. Similar to previous expos the Deaf visitors were receptive to our Gospel bags. Again, I met some of my old school friends I have not seen for 40 years. The expo is usually a good place to meet new and old friends. Friendships develop after getting to know each other better after we have matured in years. Since then, I have received several VP calls from them to continue our friendship. It was a good opportunity for sharing our faith with them. Interestingly, despite the high interest in our booth, we did not actually run out of 300 Gospel bags by the end of the day, so we shared some extras with the Deaf members who volunteered to share with their friends in their areas.



Lalo is talking with a deaf-blind lady who knows him very well. She was thrilled to know that Lalo was working for a Christian booth.



Verlma Wright volunteered her time assisting us in Orlando, FL. She enjoyed it very much.



Deaf members helping in Orlando, FL

Office Location and Trexler's Move

When Pastor David Trexler was asked to be the Speaker/Director for Adventist Deaf Ministries, the Trexler's prepared for a move to Arizona. The Trexler's renovated their home so they could easily sell it. They placed their home on the market for two months and began packing, trusting God and acting in faith. They bought moving boxes from U-Haul, packed them, and placed them in the basement to keep their house looking nice for potential buyers. Pastor Trexler spent a number of weeks in Arizona, staying with friends and driving 36 miles one way to the office. The Trexler's spent their free-time house-hunting, looking for a

home that would suit their needs. But the house did not sell due to the poor economy. The Trexler's planned to renew the real estate agreement with a drastically reduced price in order to sell quickly.

However, a surprise disaster struck. During a heavy rainstorm, the basement flooded causing water damage. Also, the packed boxes were neatly stacked on the floor and the bottom boxes were sitting in water, severely damaging more than two hundred books and all of the family albums. Because of this damage, the for-sale sign was taken down. The cleaning of the basement took a long time, causing the Trexler's to delay

putting up their House-For-Sale sign. They, again, went to U-Haul and bought more expensive boxes to repack their things, so they would be ready to move quickly.

During this time, the Board of Directors began discussing about the possibility of moving the ADM office to another state, hoping to be near a huge Deaf population. So, the Board of Directors felt that it would be wise to exercise caution. They asked the Trexler's to remain in Maryland until the Board decides the location for the ADM office. Had they moved to Arizona and then again to another state, ADM would incur large moving costs.

The Board of Directors are currently discussing the ADM office location. Meanwhile, the Trexler's still have packed boxes ready for a move.

Although Speaker/Director David Trexler is still living in Maryland, he works full-time for ADM. Thanks to today's amazing technology, he can work at home just as if he were in the office. Email, pagers, video phone and fax allow Pastor Trexler to work just as if he were in the ADM office.

The Board of Directors is extremely pleased with Elder George Belser, a part-time contract worker, who has done an outstanding job in the ADM office. Everything is going well. Meanwhile, the Board of Directors continue their study for the best possible location for the ADM office and should be making their decision very soon.

*Bruce Buzzell
ADM Chairperson*

Pastor Trexler's Schedule

April 30-May 3
Berrien Springs, MI
Great Lakes Deaf
Fellowship

May 8-10
Collegedale, TN
Deaf Reach Training

May 22-24
Orlando, Florida
Deaf Reach Training

June 13
San Juan, PR
DeafNation Expo

June 17-21
MidWestern Deaf Camp
Meeting

July 5-12
Western Deaf Camp
Meeting

August 3-6
ADM Board Meeting
Arkansas

August 29
Bronx, NY
Deaf Ministries Day

September 11-13
Vancouver, WA
Deaf Reach Training

September 26
Secaucus, NJ
DeafNation Expo

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Wresch

James Manuel by Carol
Anderson-Pearson

Marvin Budd by Luis
Leonor

Order Form -- All prices include USA shipping

_____	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 **
_____	THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST VIDEO SERIES 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 **
_____	SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE #1 DVD	Price	\$ 5.00 **
_____	SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE #2 DVD	Price	\$ 5.00 **
_____	KEEPERS OF THE FLAME SERIES (2 DVDs) This 8-part series covers the history of the Christian church, as well as the history of the Adventist church. (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)	DVD Price	\$ 45.00**
_____	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 **
_____	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 **
_____	DEAF DIASPORA: THE THIRD WAVE OF DEAF MINISTRY (book) Planning to or already involved in Deaf ministry? Gain valuable insights into the ministry to Deaf people in the new millennium. Includes useful discussion guides.	Price	\$ 20.00 **
_____	MARGIE ASKS WHY, EASY READING EDITION A fascinating book about the battle between God and Satan.	Price	\$ 7.00 **
_____	STEPS TO CHRIST, EASY READING EDITION A book that leads us to a better relationship with Jesus.	Price	\$ 7.00 **
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_____	SIGN LANGUAGE COLORING BOOKS A set of 3 coloring books: Creation, Moses, and Jesus	Price	\$ 8.00 **
_____	AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE <u>DVD</u> 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 **
_____	AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE <u>DVD</u> DICTIONARY (DVD) Over 700 signs with photo illustration of sign (e.g. picture of "shoes").	Price	\$ 23.00**
_____	AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE <u>DVD</u> COMBO (DVD) ASL DVD Learning System <u>and</u> ASL DVD Dictionary. Save \$3.	Price	\$ 55.00 **
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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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