



Adventist Deaf Ministries Report

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Deaf Reach - Lay Training Workshop

The first regional Deaf Reach program was recently held in Tennessee. This workshop is a lay training workshop to teach Deaf people how to introduce others to Jesus and how to study the Bible with them. Here is a report from Donna Jo Salhany:

During the weekend of May 8-10, Southern Deaf Fellowship had the exciting opportunity for Pastor Trexler to lead us through the new training program to teach members to share our faith with Deaf people.

Throughout the weekend 45 individuals participated in some parts of the workshop plus those who watched the church service on the Internet. Twenty-one individuals completed the entire workshop by attending five intense sessions.

We learned that sharing our faith is NOT scary. We just tell about our own experience with Jesus. It is exciting to tell others how much God has done for us. The lesson book (*Sharing Your Faith with the Deaf*) makes it

easy to remember how simple it can be to share Jesus with others.

We learned that we need to earn the right to share God by becoming a true friend -- first learning about the person, before introducing religious topics (unless first brought up by the Deaf person). We need to socialize with Deaf people. Our witness can be more effective when talking to just one person or one family at a time.

We had time to eat and fellowship with each other. No one should have gone away hungry – physically, spiritually, or emotionally. The food prepared was delicious, filling, and much more than we could hope to

eat during the limited time. The spiritual food encouraged us to study the Bible more for ourselves while sharing with others. The emotional food of spending time with each other, helped us realize that even though we may live a long way from each other, we are not alone.

The guidelines we learned during the weekend are easy and life changing. If you have an opportunity to go to one of these workshops, it will be a benefit to you as well as giving you the tools to share Jesus with the Deaf community.

NOTE: If you would like to have this workshop in your area, contact us!

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



Deaf attendees listen closely during Deaf Reach Workshop.

Speaker's Dialogue: Charity Fatigue

Jesus told this parable: "A man [owner] had a fig tree," he said. "It had been planted in his vineyard. When he went to look for fruit on it, he didn't find any. So he went to the man [farmer] who took care of the vineyard. He said, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree. But I haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should I use up the soil?' 'Sir,' the man [farmer] replied, 'leave it alone for one more year. I'll dig around it and feed it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down'" (Luke 13:6-9, NIV).

This parable came to mind while I was in Walla Walla, Washington, where I was a guest at Gospel Outreach (a ministry to people to in the 10/40 window). John Blake and I were interviewed by Dan Matthews on a TV program to give a report about Gospel Outreach's effort to reach out to many people in the world. My interview was about my trip to India when Pastor Alfred Griffith and I conducted a Worker's Training for the Indian volunteer workers. About 75% of the workers are Deaf. Last year in central and southern India more than 800 Deaf people were baptized through the efforts of

volunteer workers who receive stipends from Gospel Outreach. That report has inspired and touched hearts to give donations and support for this expanding missionary field. In comparison, USA and Canada can not beat the work in India! We can not compete with the Deaf work in India.

Indeed, we are praising God for the successful gospel work in India and other countries. We are all in agreement that we must reach out to as many Deaf people as possible all over the world. Some places, the work is very slow while others, like India, are growing rapidly.

Now the question is: **Are we seeing charity fatigue in the USA?** "What is charity fatigue?" you may ask. Charity fatigue is like this: People were impressed with the appeal for the mission so they give money with hopes and expectations of good results. At first, they were enthusiastic with the program so they gave money to support it. But after a few years, the donors began to get tired of giving and giving when the results were little or the same as before. Indeed, the work in the United States and Canada is embarrassingly very slow. It's slow in Mexico, too.

Why? We don't have a specific answer to give. But, you can get an idea by comparing growth of the work among hearing people in our country and the hearing in third world countries. The Adventist church in the United States is growing, but not as fast as in Africa, South America, and Asia. Many in wealthy countries are satisfied with what they have and money. People in third world countries look for happiness in spiritual things which brings them "wealth" in the kingdom of God. They can not afford to have what we have in our country. So, they look for something that will satisfy their needs. That's why Jesus said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" (Mark 10:23, NIV).

So, the Deaf work in the USA and other rich countries is the same as the fig tree in Jesus' parable. The organized Deaf Adventist work in our country has been going on for over 50 years. In those years, we have seen both explosive growth and zero growth. We have been planting seeds and watering them at Deaf Expos, at church events, online ministries, Bible correspondence school, etc. And our results appear to be

much smaller than the hearing results. So should we just give up and look somewhere else to give support because the Deaf work seems to be a waste of money? Good news! The answer is no! We should be like the farmer in the parable who told the owner not to cut the fig tree down now. We need to be patient. Our worry is not the results. It is God's. Paul says that "I planted the seed. Apollos watered it. But God made it grow" (1 Corinthians 3:6).

Let us be patient with the work for the Deaf. Let us continue with our support and prayers until God decides the Gospel work is ended. We are to do the work God has assigned us and let Him take care of the results. Who knows? We might see many saved Deaf people in heaven that we did not even know here on Earth. God can read the minds and hearts of people who appear to not be interested in the gospel. He can impress them to accept the gospel that we present to them. So, let us trust God who has called us to work. We continue to do the work for the Deaf because we love God and His children.

"Occupy [work] till I [Jesus] come" (Luke 19:13).

Seed Planting at Deaf Expos

The last two months, we were at several expos in cities: Kansas City, Minneapolis, Phoenix, Atlanta, Indianapolis, and Pomona (Los Angeles area).

Minneapolis Report from Amanda Colgan:

Bruce Buzzell flew to Minneapolis for DeafNation Expo on March 28. Kevin and Amanda Colgan and their interpreter Cesar and his finance came to help.

Our booth had a successful outcome and we gave away 241 gospel bags. We met many wonderful people and many of them were eager to approach our booth.

Kevin and I put our contact information and church address in each bag. We told people they can contact us at any time if they have questions or want Bible studies.

One hearing woman asked us if “this is 3ABN?” We were shocked by her question and said, “Yes, 3ABN and Adventist Deaf Ministries are both Seventh-day Adventists.” She told us she loves 3ABN and named some of her favorite pastors. She said she believes the Seventh-day Sabbath is the right day to worship God and rest from all work. We told her about our church and she was open to the idea of visiting.

Three Muslim ladies with scarves approached our booth. Two of them were hesitant to take anything saying, “We are Muslims. This is a no-no.” The third lady just took the Gospel bags and handed them to the women. Wow, bold! I told them that one of the DVDs tells how the world was created and that it might be interesting to them. I pray for them that they will watch the DVDs and let the Holy Spirit work in them.

NOTE: The same day, someone from the Expo signed up for the Deaf Bible School Correspondence!

Amanda told us that a man has tried to contact them a few times. They are having trouble reaching him. They remember him well. They say that he is a humble man who told them that he loves the Ten Commandments.

Phoenix Report from Esther Doss:

Pastor David and Francisca Trexler were already there when George Belser and I arrived. I saw them give a packet to a devoted Christian woman. She talked with them for a while, then a man stopped to chat with her. After a few minutes, she said to him, “I think you need to start studying the Bible! Get a packet!” He obeyed and took one.

A woman knew our booth was Adventist. She told

me that she did not like the Adventist church because the church tells people that they can't eat any meat, dictating what people can or can not eat. I told her what the Bible says about clean and unclean meat and that some Adventists eat clean meat. She was stunned. I explained about eating healthfully. She admitted that eating meat was unhealthy and that she ate very little herself. She eagerly took a packet.

We offered a packet to a woman, but she waved it away. Then she looked at me and immediately recognized me from some DVDs she had seen. She was so excited to meet me in person and told me how she loved the DVDs. I told her that the packet had the newest Signs of God's Love DVD. Thrilled, she snatched it. I was amused by her change of mind.

Michael is a young Deaf man. He was born in the Philippines and led the Deaf church there. He moved to the USA and recently felt impressed to work among the Deaf. We talked about Bible teachings. He asked me if Jesus died on the cross or on a stake. I told him WHAT Jesus died on is not important. WHEN Jesus died is important. He had never studied the sanctuary or the feasts such as Passover and asked that I email him some info. He came again to say farewell and reminded me to email him about the sanctuary and anything else that I wanted to share with him.

Another man received DVDs from us at last year's expo. He told us that he keeps the DVDs in a safe place because he cherishes them. He was so happy to take the newest DVD and signed up for a *The Deaf Messenger* magazine subscription.

Phoenix was a tough crowd, but still we gave away all 200 packets.



Deaf Nation Expo in Phoenix, AZ

Great Lakes Deaf Fellowship

A group of Deaf gathered April 30 - May 2 at the Berrien Springs Village SDA Church. This was the first Michigan meeting of this kind in several years.

Pastor David Trexler and his wife Francisca, a family counselor, were the featured speakers for the weekend. The theme was "Spiritual Survival in the 21st Century." Deaf attendees traveled as far as Indianapolis, Indiana. Many were not baptized SDA and were interested in fellowship. These meetings provided new opportunities for twenty Deaf and ten hearing persons watch the inspiring presentations of the gospel by both speakers and for fellowship with old and new friends.

The group celebrated the Lord's Supper Friday evening in ASL. This was a high point because most

Communion Services are in spoken English. After Sabbath School and Worship Service, the group went to the Andrews University Horn Archaeology Museum. Then the meetings finished with a Sabbath evening service.

Marvin Budd, an interpreter for the Deaf in the Berrien Springs area, and Marcia Irwin, a Deaf woman baptized at Milo Deaf Camp Meeting last summer, organized the weekend with the help and support of everyone attending. The group greatly appreciated the Village SDA Church for generously providing their youth room and facilities for the event. This is the same church where Pastor Jeff Jordan ministered while he attended Andrews Theological Seminary.



Great Lakes Deaf Fellowship Group Photo



Pastor Trexler (signing) and Marvin Budd lead out in the Lord's Supper.



Group photo from Deaf Reach meeting in Tennessee.

Donations

In Memory of...

Lutgardia Betances by Eriadna Blumenfeld
Vivian Henty by Carol Sowers
Sylvia House by Dorothy Gradt

In Honor of...

Marvin Budd by Luis Leonor

Harold's Story

I want to share with you my experience with my husband, Harold Krogstadt.

We were married 20 years. Harold graduated from the Deaf school in Vancouver, WA in 1954. Then he went to Gallaudet College for one year (1955). He retired from Boise Cascade Mill in Yakima, WA in 1997. He worked as a lift truck for 34 years. He loved his job. Harold and I moved to Wenatchee in 1997.

I wrote Bible verses on index cards. I always shared with Harold for several years. He finally accepted Jesus as his Savior and was baptized in 2004. He was a member of Abundant Life SDA Church.

Once, when Harold was walking, he was going to cross the street. Someone tapped Harold's shoulder three times. Harold felt it and turned back to look, but no one was there. When he looked back, he saw a car drive by in front of him. He believed that God sent an angel to prevent him from crossing the street. He knew there is a true God because He protected him. I believe God had a purpose for Harold in His time.

I have good memories with Harold. We loved traveling to Hawaii several times. We enjoyed going to Milo Deaf Camp Meeting. We also enjoyed family and church friends. Harold's favorite activity was walking. He always said to me, "My mind keep peace."

Harold died from Alzheimer's and pneumonia. He was in a nursing home for a short time. Then he transferred to a state hospital in Spokane. They evaluated him and put him with a group of dementia patients at State Eastern. Then he was in the hospital in Spokane for two weeks because of pneumonia.

My daughter Shirley drove me to Spokane back and forth to visit Harold. We had a hard time because of bad weather. Then Harold returned to State Eastern from the hospital. I was by his side for four days. He didn't eat for 11 days. Then I rode with him in an ambulance to Waterville, WA and we stayed at the Hospice. I was by his side for few days until he died Sat. night January 26, 2008.

Before he died, I saw his body get up and his face looking up with an expression and then lay down on the bed. Two staff women were with me but they were scared and left. Maybe an angel pulled him up. Or maybe he just had some spurt of energy. I don't know. Anyway, my family and I watched Harold breathe very slowly. He asked me, "Kiss me," so I did. I said to him, "We all love you and miss you. Don't worry. I will be fine. Remember I always love you." I was by his side

and held his hand until he died. I will never forget what I saw. I think God tried to show me that we all will die and rise up like Jesus did.

"First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words." 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (The New Living Translation).

A very nice memorial service was in Wenatchee. Harold was buried in East Wenatchee on January 31, 2008.

On August 18, 2008, when I was in Georgia, my deaf friend Peggy and I had a car accident. We got hurt. It was bad but thank God that we are alive.

God is so good to us. I will always praise the Lord no matter what happens. Walk with God forever. Jesus is still waiting for us to come home with Him in the new heaven and new earth. Let us prepare our hearts and always be ready. Are you ready? I hope you are.

Geraldine Krogstadt

Pastor Trexler's Schedule

June 13 San Juan, PR DeafNation Expo	August 29 Bronx, NY Deaf Ministries Day
June 17-21 MidWest Deaf Camp Meeting	September 11-13 Portland, OR Deaf Reach
July 5-12 Western Deaf Camp Meeting	September 26 Secaucus, NJ DeafNation Expo
August 3-6 ADM Board Meeting Arkansas	November 7 Chicago, IL DeafNation Expo

Financial Statement

Would you like to know what the financial picture of this ministry is? Do you want to know how much in donations we received and what our expenses were in 2008?

Contact us at:

adm7@deafadventist.org

Adventist Deaf Ministries

PO Box 6114

Mesa, AZ 85216

Edinburg, TX Disabilities Day

Pastor David Trexler was invited by the Edinburg, Texas Adventist Church to be a feature speaker of the Disabilities Day worship service. This was the first time for this church to "hear" a Deaf pastor preaching from the pulpit. His sermon was translated by a professional interpreter and the congregation of Deaf and hearing were blessed by the program. The focus of this Disabilities Day, planned by Jennifer Powell, was on Deafness. Powell is the

Deaf Ministry Director at this church. She exhibited leadership skills while leading the programs. She led the ASL choir consisting of both the hearing and Deaf. The choir used white gloves with a black light. Gloria Plohocky used a signing doll named Genny to explain what it is like to be a Deaf person. Genny was created by Jennifer Powell.

The group spent the all Sabbath and part of the next day together.



Deaf-led Worship Service at Edinburg, TX

Letters

Thank you for sending me DVD several times. I really appreciated it.

I am enclosing a check for ADM newsletter and the Deaf Messenger. Keep up your work for God. Thank you very much.

Washington

Thanks to you, my brother ___ is now attending church each Sabbath and God has planted in the church a person who can sign for him. Thanks for reaching out to him. Since the death of his wife, he has left the Catholic church because of your correspondence. May God continue to bless you, and there will be many souls whose tongues be loosed because of you.

Alabama

Wonder if you can tell me how can I get some DVD about God. I already watched about Signs of God's Love, Amazing Bible Truths, and Revelation of Jesus Christ. Wow, very, very awesome and wonderful. I love God more than anything. God's nrb (number) one!!

State Withheld

[We] were really excited to receive the ASL sermons on DVD via mail. We find the DVD program to be a great blessing! We pray for the program to continue for as long as it can for people to enjoy and share.

The two DVD's we have received so far are so spiritually enriching!

Minnesota



Genny and Gloria Plohocky tell about deafness.

Camp Meeting Sale!

Our items will be on sale during the MidWestern Deaf Camp Meeting and at the Western Deaf Camp Meeting. We will take orders and mail them after camp meeting.

Also, ADM will give a full report at both camp meetings. After the report, we want to hear from you! Be ready with suggestions, ideas, questions, and concerns. We value each one because ADM is your ministry.

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 **
_____	THE STORY OF REDEMPTION, EASY READING EDITION Tells how sin began and how Jesus will save His people from sin & eternal death.	Price	\$ 7.00 **
_____	SIGN LANGUAGE COLORING BOOKS A set of 3 coloring books: Creation, Moses, and Jesus	Price	\$ 8.00 **
_____	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 **
_____	AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE DVD DICTIONARY (DVD) Over 700 signs with photo illustration of sign (e.g. picture of "shoes").	Price	\$ 23.00**
_____	AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE DVD COMBO (DVD) ASL DVD Learning System and ASL DVD Dictionary. Save \$3.	Price	\$ 55.00 **
_____	CD-ROM: HYPERSIGN INTERACTIVE DICTIONARY OF ASL (CD-ROM) Full-motion video; age specific vocabulary. Requires Windows 98 or better.	Price	\$ 25.00 **
_____	AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE FINGERSPELLING LESSONS (VHS) Want to improve your fingerspelling? Then this video is for you!	Price	\$ 27.00 **
_____	EASY-READING BAPTISMAL STUDIES 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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Mesa, AZ 85216-6114

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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

P.O. Box 6114
Mesa, AZ 85216-6114

TTY: (480) 986-7474
Fax: (480) 358-9393
Voice/VP: (866) 954-1284

Email:

adm7@deafadventist.org

Websites:

www.deafadventist.org
www.DeafBibleSchool.com