

Three Angels Deaf Ministries Report

Volume 13 Issue 4

August 2010

Inside this issue:

The Bullies	2
GC Session	3
World Expo	4
Photos	5
Camp Meetings	6
Order Form	7

Sharing
the Three
Angels'
Messages
with the
Deaf.

Reaching Deaf Souls at World Expo

July 19-22, we were in Las Vegas where more than 23,000 Deaf people from all over the world came for the first ever DeafNation World Expo at the Sands Convention Center. There were over 250 different booths in the large expo hall. There were also workshops, celebrity appearances, the Miss Deaf Universe competition, and many other activities.

Las Vegas is not our favorite place. The weather was incredibly hot with temperatures between 114 to 120. The Sands Convention Center is attached to the Venetian Hotel where parking is free. But the hotel and convention center is designed so that you had to walk through a maze of stores, restaurants, and, of course, large gambling The building rooms. designer knew that most people would find the temptations to gamble hard to resist. These gambling rooms were not a pleasant thing to see. After two days, David began dropping off booth volunteers at the front doors and parked the car on the curbside two long blocks from the center. We felt better that we could avoid the "evil" environment.

George Belser, Neil Davidson, Esther Doss. David and Francisca Trexler worked hard long hours every day. During the four days at the expo hall, we met many Deaf people—former SDA members, former schoolmates, old friends. and some SDA members. A Deaf German Adventist lady met us at the booth. She had hoped to see our booth and was thrilled to find us sharing God's word to Deaf from all over the world.

One of the very first visitors to our booth was a Baptist Deaf pastor from the Philippines. He said that he came to the expo hoping to find spiritual materials to take back to the Deaf in his country. He was excited to see our DVDs and asked how he could get more copies so

he could share them. He told David that if he ever happened to be in the Philippines to be sure to visit his church and preach to them.

A very sweet young lady visited the booth. She is an Egyptian Muslim staying in the USA for 9 months to attend school and learn ASL. She talked with Neil and Esther for a very long time. This was a fun challenge as she began learning ASL only a month before. This lady shared her beliefs and faith and then asked questions about Christianity. She was proud of the fact that Jesus lived in Egypt for a time. She asked where Jesus died and was shocked to learn that Jesus died in current-day Israel. Esther then told

Continued on page 4.



The lady in the middle is an Adventist from Germany.

Speaker's Dialogue: The Bullies

This article is continued from the June 3ADM report.

Have you ever been threatened or attacked by a bully? I have. Once I faced several bullies at one time. They threatened me and tried to attack me when I was alone.

We moved from Maryland to Riverside, California in the spring of 1963. California School for the Deaf could not admit me in the middle of the school period and it had a long waiting list. So, I attended a large Junior High School. I had to join the hearing kids at the street corner to wait for the school bus. I wore hearing aids and was an oral student who did not know sign language at all. I had much difficulty in understanding most of the hearing kids' conversations. They were not used to a deaf student.

Anyway, I was trying to be friendly but somehow for unknown reasons two boys became hostile toward me. I did not know why they were against me and they said abusive words to me. I was silent. I had no friends to help me at all. I was a stranger and alone.

After a class one day, the two boys became aggressive towards me. One of them was a big guy and he confronted me at the door. He would not let me out of the classroom. His friend was behind me. I did not know that he planned to hit me on my back. The big guy angrily said something to me, but I did not understand. All of a sudden his friend behind me hit my elbow instead of my back by mistake. Hitting my elbow very hard caused my right fist to punch his big friend's stomach hard. I was not hurt.

I escaped from that classroom in the main building and went to a smaller building for art class. I thought I was safe. But the guy who hit my elbow came in and pushed me hard. I forgot that he was in the art class with me, too. I was scared and alone.

Then suddenly, a Mexican boy came to me and asked me who attacked me. I told him. I had never met him but I had seen him around with many girls. I was encouraged but I did not know that the worst would come after this class.

After this class we had to return to the main building. At the entrance of the steps, there was a group of bullies with the big guy as the leader waiting for me. I was stuck and had no choice. I had to go to another class in that building. I knew the group of

bullies wanted to attack me physically. As I came closer to the bullies I was very scared and did not know what to do to protect myself for they were many.

As I walked towards them, the bullies came closer to me with the purpose of gang attacking me. Then the



same Mexican boy with the support of other Mexican boys rushed to the leader (big guy) of the bullies in front of me. He grabbed the leader's shirt while talking rapidly. That big guy was shocked. But I was shocked, too! I did not realize that I was not alone. I had a protector whom I have never met or known. That Mexican guy was my "angel" who saved me from the serious attack. The bullies backed down and left the scene. After the encounter that Mexican boy assured me that if that happens again he will help me. I did not realize that he was the leader of the Mexican gang who fought against the white kids who threatened and attacked the innocent Mexican immigrant kids at the school.

I am sure that this guy was watching me as I was alone in the hearing world. He might have heard the gossip against me. He might have learned about my struggle through sympathetic students. This reminds me of our heavenly Father, Son of God and the Holy Spirit who are watching us as we struggle in this world. We are adopted as children of God. God keeps His promise in watching, protecting, empowering, and guiding us.

Now, in the spiritual world we are safe from the bullies—Satan and his evil angels. They are powerful and can harm us easily. They tempt us to sin against God. They have the advantage over us because we have sinful natures. But, praise the Lord for we have the promise of protection by the Holy Spirit who strengthens us to resist the powerful temptations and to guide us in the path of righteousness. You are never alone.

David M. Trexler Speaker/Director Volume 13 Issue 4 Page 3

2010 GC Session

Esther Doss, Francisca and I went to Atlanta, GA for the General Conference Session June 23-July 3 to represent 3ADM at our booth. At first we were not comfortable about going there due to the fact that we would be "drowned" in the hearing world. Also, very few people seemed interested in Deaf ministry at the 2005 GC Session. To top it off, we were concerned about facing so many people for long hours (9 am to 7 pm) in ten days. However, we were totally wrong about this wonderful Session. We were literally swarmed by many visitors asking about our ministry to the Deaf. We gave away our materials—a new DVD on Deaf ministry recently completed by Esther Doss, the "Can You Hear Us?" booklet, a postcard sized alphabet card with Deaf information on the back, and a new 3ADM brochure. Some visitors wanted to give donations to support this ministry.

Esther was an invaluable bridge between the hearing and the Deaf. She was very busy in talking with many interested hearing members who wanted to know how to help the Deaf in their areas. When Esther was not there we tried to communicate with the hearing through note-writing and gestures. We were surprised that some of the church workers from other countries use ASL. That was helpful to us. Also, Francisca's Spanish skills were very helpful. Some hearing friends and time-off interpreters gave us breaks during the long days. It is hard to estimate how many people came to our booth during those ten days. On the last Sabbath about 70,000 people were in the Georgia Dome for the Sabbath School and worship service. We gave away 2,400 DVDs. The alphabet card and booklet were gone within four days. We were stunned by the response! We pray that our work during these ten days educated the hearing members and helped them to be sensitive to Deaf people and ministry.

Many people from other countries stopped by our booth and told us about Deaf members or groups in their country. We can not remember them all. Several interpreters from various countries, Brazil, France, South Africa, and a few others, showed us some of their signs.

We were excited to finally meet in person Valerie LeFebvre from the South France conference. She contacted us through email to get permission to create a French Sign Language version of Signs of God's Love #1. The project has just been completed and Valerie showed us a copy. They did a great job!

We met two Deaf Adventists that we were not aware

of before. They are of SDA families in Atlanta area. Deaf came from Germany, England, and Bermuda. Plus, Deaf members from Jeff Jordan's church visited us who brightened our time of work.

We were thrilled that Elder Ted Wilson was elected president of the Adventist church. He gave a very powerful sermon on the last Sabbath of the Session which motivated those who listened. Several months ago, Elder Larry Evans invited me to be the speaker for the GC morning devotional. Afterwards, Elder Ted Wilson invited Francisca and I to the GC Evangelism Committee which was chaired by Elder Mark Finley. Wilson invited me to share a short message about the work for the Deaf with the group of the GC world's leaders. I hope that they were touched by the great needs for the Deaf all over the world.

However, we were saddened that Elder Larry Evans was not re-elected to Undersecretary position. We have a new president for the NAD and we know that with the new leadership, there may be some changes in the NAD this fall. We need to continue to pray for the newly elected church leaders to be sensitive to the needs of the Deaf and that they will lead the church in the right direction.

A special thank you to those who worked hard to interpret the meetings: Marvin Budd, Patrick Bryant, Lynn Davis and Rosalinda Davis.

David M. Trexler

For more pictures go to our website at: www.3angelsdeafministries.org Or check out our Facebook page!



From L to R: Esther, Ronda (hearing - South Korea, Brian (deaf - England), Dace (deaf - England), the Trexler's, Andreas (deaf - Germany), Marsha (hearing - Bermuda), and Rosalinda (hearing - USA)

Reaching Deaf Souls at World Expo, Continued

(Continued from page 1.)

about Jesus' Resurrection. At first, she was stunned but then remembered that Jesus was coming again soon, so obviously Jesus must be alive. They talked about unclean meats, baptism, Jesus' life, modesty, purity, and many other things. The Egyptian was eager to stay in touch with Esther.

While walking through the hotel toward the parking garage, Esther felt a tap on her shoulder. She turned and a man asked, "Do you remember me?" Esther answered, "Yes! Your name is Mateo, right?" He was surprised that Esther remembered his name. She met Mateo at a DeafNation Expo in Columbus, Ohio three years ago. He had many, many Bible questions for her while the other booth worker prayed for Esther to give the right answers. He came back later that day and said, "Thank you. I like your answers best!" She had been praying for Mateo ever since, so yes, she remembered him. Mateo was anxious that they stay in touch and they exchanged contact information. Esther is still praying for him.

Most of the expo attendees seemed to be from the USA. But many were from different countries. Once, at the same time, Deaf from Israel, Germany, Korea, Austria and Kazakhstan stopped at our booth. The young man from Kazakhstan is a Muslim. He was disappointed when he found out that ASL was the only sign language on the DVDs. He said that Deaf in his country use Russian Sign Language (He knew ASL, though). He explained that he had studied about Jesus. But, he signed *Jesus* and drew a very big X, *no good*. But he was very interested in the DVDs anyways and asked that we make some in Russian some day.

One lady was excited to learn we were Adventists. She had been thinking about joining the church, but there was not a Deaf group close to her. The longer we talked, the more she became eager to follow God anyways. While we were encouraging her, another woman walked up and told us that she has interest in the Adventist church. She was especially interested in healthful cooking.

The Deaf visitors here were far less interested in spiritual things than in other places. We worked hard to give away the Gospel bags. Most Deaf attendees quickly walked by, shaking their heads no. Some even walked in a big circle around us to avoid the booth. But, we managed to give about 600 bags to truly interested persons, and we praise the Lord for that!

We also gave away four sets of Revelation of Jesus Christ—VHS. A Deaf pastor of a non-denominational church from Chicago reminded David to give him the set. David was thrilled to give it to him. The same man later told someone that he was enjoying watching the video. In addition, we sold a few books and DVDs.

DeafNation is talking about hosting the world expo in two or four years. Obviously, God is using the expos to share God's last day messages with Deaf people.

The 600 bags given away are a lot of seeds that were planted! There were many good contacts, many Bible discussions, people sharing their testimonies with us, and friendships made or renewed. We are praising God for the wonderful opportunity to share Jesus in Las Vegas with Deaf from all over the world. Please pray for those Deaf people who had accepted our bags!

By David M. Trexler and Esther M. Doss



On the right is the Baptist Deaf Pastor from the Philippines



Neil Davidson talks with a young Egyptian lady about the Tower of Babel.

Volume 13 Issue 4 Page 5

Camp Meeting Group Photos



Western Deaf Camp Meeting



Southern Deaf Fellowship Camp Meeting

Camp Meeting Reports

Mid-West Deaf Camp Meeting

July 7 to 10 brought Deaf members and visitors to Mt. Eagle Christian Lodge in Arkansas. The lodge overlooks a beautiful river valley. Elder Paul Kelly and Elder David Trexler were guest speakers of the camp meeting where about 19 Deaf campers attended. Several were non-Adventists who were interested in our beliefs. One person has expressed her desire to be baptized.

Elder Kelly presented a five part series called "Keep the Advent Hope Alive!" and Elder Trexler shared the message about Daniel who is the symbol of God's last day people. Both series emphasized how God wants us to be ready for the soon coming of the Lord.

The camp meeting was small but the spirit was strong. The Lord blessed everyone who came to be refreshed with the Lord through His Spirit.

Western Deaf Camp Meeting

The Western Deaf Camp Meeting at Milo, Oregon was July 18 to 25th. The numbers were small since the DeafNation World Expo was at the same time. However, everyone seemed to feel as though there was more time to get to know each other as family.

The main speakers Paul Kelly and Alan Meis were both excellent speakers. During free time, there were many activities such as rafting and a trip to South Umpqua Falls.

We saw God's protective hand when Jerry Roundy, Billy Butler, and Ted Nealy were in a serious car accident. Everyone immediately showed their concern through hospital visits, cards, and interpreting services. This greatly touched Ted, a hearing person visiting Milo for the first time. He said he has never experienced love and acceptance like this and will come back.

The Adventist Interpreter's Workshop was also held at the same time. A non-Adventist speaker was very uncomfortable coming to a Christian event. But he felt so welcome and claimed that this was the best workshop he has provided to date. He also said that this experience has allowed his heart to begin healing.

God was truly with us as we received a greater portion of the Holy Spirit.

Southern Deaf Fellowship Camp Meeting

Southern Deaf Camp Meeting took place at Cohutta Springs in Georgia, August 5-8. Elder George Belser was the speaker with the theme "Walking through History with Jesus" focusing on our early church

pioneers and making clear the 2,300 day prophecy.

Ninety-two individuals came to the camp meeting. A total of twelve states were represented, with Oregon as the farthest state.

We also enjoyed some fun during the free time on Friday afternoon. Many enjoyed the activities available at Cohutta Springs: water slide, blob, torpedo ride, swimming, and zip line. In addition, many ladies (as well as several men) were pampered by getting a free massage provided by SDF Women's Ministries.

Communion service took place Friday evening after supper. Afterwards, many took the opportunity to give their personal testimonies of praises to God.

On Sabbath, many gathered at the shore of the lake to witness a baptismal ceremony of three individuals who have chosen to accept Jesus as their personal Savior and to follow Him. Pastor Jeff Jordan baptized Bethany Adner of Indiana, Jason Dotson of Tennessee, and his ten-year-old son Niklas Jordan of Tennessee.



Mid-West Deaf Camp Meeting

Check out our new website at: www.3angelsdeafministries.org!

Donations

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Drs. David and Lottie Blake by Alice Brantley Erma Budd by Paul and Mary Miller Josephine Engel by Paul Engel Sylvia House by Dorothy Gradt

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