



# Adventist Deaf Ministries Report

Volume 13 Issue 2

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## Signs of God's Love #3 DVD Finished!

We are praising God that the newest DVD project is now finished! *Signs of God's Love 3* DVD is now ready for sharing!

Esther M. Doss and Chuck McGehee are the speakers on this DVD. They discuss God's law is love and how obeying His law is a joy. Esther and Chuck make their presentation by walking in the Ozark hills in the colorful fall season, exploring a cave, enjoying beautiful scenic views, and going inside a chapel in the middle of no where.

We pray that this DVD will answer the many questions that people have about God's law and that they will make a decision to follow God. And we especially hope that the DVD will help them see that Jesus is their Redeemer.

The *Signs of God's Love* series have been very well received by the Deaf. Just last week, Esther went to a local Deaf club meeting and was met at the door by several persons. They all told her how they loved the DVDs and hope to



see more. One man shared his DVD with a friend who wants to take the Deaf Bible School course. These DVDs do work.

The DVDs are available for order if you would like to have your own copy or if you would like to share

them with your Deaf friends. Each DVD is \$5 which includes postage. Quantity discounts are available. See the box below for pricing.

We thank the North American Division of SDAs for helping make this project a reality.

*Sharing  
the Three  
Angels'  
Messages  
with the  
Deaf.*

### Signs of God's Love #3 DVD Prices

- \$5.00 for each DVD
- Orders of 20 or more \$4.00 each
- Orders of 100 or more \$3.00 each

Postage is included.

See order form to place order.

# Speaker's Dialogue: The Unforgotten Legacy of the Spiritual Giant - Arthur W. Griffith

"Then I heard a voice from heaven. 'Write this,' it said. 'Blessed are the dead who die as believers in the Lord from now on.' 'Yes,' says the Holy Spirit. 'They will rest from their labor. What they have done will not be forgotten'" (Revelation 14:13, NIV).

This verse is true especially for Arthur W. Griffith who was a true Deaf Adventist pioneer in Deaf ministry. Many people's lives have been touched by this great man of God. Actually, it was the work of the Holy Spirit who guided him to have a good impact on our lives. Francisca and I were impressed and influenced by his love and dedication for the Deaf, especially for young people.

Francisca knew him before I finally met him. Francisca was a student at Gallaudet University, where Arthur held an evangelistic series in the spring of 1968. I was not there as I enrolled that autumn. When I studied Adventist's teachings, Francisca, who was my girlfriend, spoke highly of Arthur who was Deaf just like us.

In 1971, we traveled across the country. Due to Francisca's admiration of Arthur, we decided to see him. We stopped at Arthur and Alyce's humble home in Portland for a

week or so. Although this was the first time I met them, Arthur welcomed us with open arms as if we were close friends for many years. It was a memorable experience for us. We became fast close friends.

Arthur left behind a legacy for us to follow. His example greatly influenced us to be loyal to the Lord and His church, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, no matter the difficulties we experienced in our lives.

1. Arthur was our counselor who loved to correspond with seekers of the truth—especially young Deaf students. Francisca often sought spiritual counseling from him. Naturally, he was our spiritual mentor who, with the help of the Holy Spirit, guided us throughout our growing years.

2. Arthur loved to write news, articles, etc. for our spiritual education. He edited DAWN, the first Deaf Adventist newsletter, in the early days. DAWN stands for Deaf Adventist Witnessing News which later changed to NEW DAWN when he passed his responsibility to CRS's Deaf Division. He loved sharing good news with us about how God led many people to Christ.

3. Arthur stood tall in his stand for Christ

when he faced pressure from the world. He was a genius, inventing many things that marveled us. He could have been a millionaire inventor but God guided his life to the ministry to the Deaf. Yes, the world was attractive, but he thought of Christ first before anything. He stood strong for the Sabbath when he was offered work. God blessed him in many ways for his loyalty to Him. "Those who honour me I will honour" (1 Samuel 2:30, NIV). That was Arthur's principle for making the right decision.

4. Arthur was our spiritual father in Adventism. I love my father but he was not a believer in the Gospel. Francisca grew up without her real father. So, we looked up to Arthur who gave us invaluable insights in our spiritual journey. Arthur had a remarkable memorization of the Bible, which impressed us to be like him, memorizing the Bible through personal study.

We will never forget when we invited him to stay with us for a month while we lived in Tucson. He was "on loan" from the Oregon Conference. He worked with us as we visited Deaf people in our area. His example gave us courage to witness to



the Deaf. His visiting style also taught us principles on how to communicate with others. Also, our second son was born a month later and he was named after him.

One more thing I must not fail to mention is Arthur's persistent custom of having family worship before breakfast and bed. He was a man of prayer and devotion who shaped our spiritual walk with God daily.

5. Finally, Arthur had a great burden and vision for the Deaf. Why did he work so hard to win Deaf people to Christ? Because he loved them. With that undying love he did many things that made a great impact on our lives. He started the first Bible study film for the Deaf. He communicated with church leaders, encouraging them to support the Deaf work. He was very comfortable around young people. He had a vision for them to be great leaders of the work. He gave away hundreds and thousands of dollars (Continued on page 2.)

## Memorial Services for Arthur W. Griffith

Arthur W. Griffith passed into rest on January 16, 2010. A memorial service was held at the Lodi, California Seventh-day Adventist Church on January 21. Arthur and Alyce were members of this church as they lived at his first son's, Pastor Alfred, home in Manteca.

A second memorial service was held at the Vancouver SDA Church in Vancouver, Washington on Sunday, January 31st. For this memorial service some Deaf members and leaders, including us, came to Portland area from other states.

### Unforgotten Legacy, Cont.

for the Deaf work. He lived simply because he had great compassion for the Deaf who lived in darkness. He did not live in a fancy house. He saved much money by buying second-handed or repairing discarded things so that the Deaf work could be expanded through his generosity. He tended to wear the same old clothes so he could spend more for the Deaf work.

He did not retire from Deaf ministry at all. What stopped him? He needed a good nap in the hands of God. He suffered much for the Lord and the Deaf for many years. At God's command, Moses

The many leaders of the Deaf work were all friends of Arthur and traveled to attend the memorial services were: Elder Larry Evans, Undersecretary of the General Conference; Elder Thompson U. Kay, president of TEAMS in Lincoln, Nebraska; Elder George and Arlene Belser from Mesa, AZ and converts and former co-worker with Arthur; Elder Paul and Tina Kelly from New York, part-time pastor and teacher for the Deaf, and converts of Arthur; Elder Jeff Jordan, pastor of Southern Deaf Fellowship in Tennessee; and Elder John and Alberta Blake

transferred his leadership to Joshua before he died. Arthur was satisfied when he saw some of us were proven to be able leaders of the Deaf work. With a smile in his heart he rested in sleep.

Francisca and I praise and thank God for Arthur W. Griffith who had a great impact, not only on us, but also on others who are walking with the Lord. Yes, we miss him very much, but thankfully we will see him at that wonderful resurrection day! Let us move forward with Arthur's vision and legacy during this last leg of our Christian walk with Christ before the great day of the Lord.

*David Trexler*

from Canada, former co-workers with Arthur. Other church and lay leaders were not able come, but they shared condolences with family members. Some Deaf members from other states came to the service because they were friends and converts of Arthur.

Since the memorial service was on Sunday many living in far places traveled to the Portland area on Friday to attend the Deaf worship service on the Sabbath at the Beaverton SDA Church. More than 60 persons were blessed by the Sabbath School with Raynell Vick, a Beaverton Deaf member, and the worship sermon by Elder Thompson U. Kay.

On the next day, over 100 people attended the memorial service at the Vancouver church. As with the Sabbath worship we met some friends we have not seen for many years! It was a good time and place to see our friends and relatives again and make new friends, too.

The memorial service with testimonies, songs, the story of Arthur's life, and sermon were given to the glory of God, who created and used Arthur for a lifetime of ministry to the Deaf. In my sermon, I told the congregation that Arthur was taking a nap. Arthur deserved our respect and honor in

the same way the United States Air Force honored my military dad who died five months before. And Arthur gave us something to remember: His legacy. We don't see him anymore but we can still remember him—Arthur's great deeds of love to the Deaf and his godly, leadership example for us to follow. Arthur always emphasized the importance of looking forward to Jesus' second coming. After the memorable service we had a very nice meal and fellowship in the fellowship hall.

After our lunch we followed the hearse carrying Arthur's casket to the Amboy cemetery. The cemetery is on top of a hill overlooking the valley below, a lovely place for our beloved friend and pastor to be laid to rest until Jesus' call to wake up. Elder Paul Kelly led the gravesite service. He gave a beautiful message of hope of the resurrection, Arthur's favorite message in the Bible. After the service we said farewell to our beloved friends.

Truly, death had brought us together after being separated for a long time. Because of Jesus' victory over sins and death we will be brought up together when He comes again the second time. Keep our trust in Him and He will take us home.

*David Trexler*

## ADM Workers Tell How Griffith Touched Their Lives

### Francisca Trexler:

In 1968, I was a student at Gallaudet College (now a University). A friend asked me to go to a meeting with Elder Arthur Griffith. There the students could ask him anything about the Bible. I watched the students asking him questions and he immediately answered them from the Bible without hesitation or hums. I was really impressed with Arthur's knowledge and ability to answer the students' tough questions. He used the Bible to answer the questions instead of his own words. Arthur was friendly and fatherly which drew the students close to him.

I still remember that Arthur often said, "It is written," explaining how Jesus faced temptations from Satan. He emphatically encouraged us students to hang on to Jesus Christ when facing awful temptations. He understood what it was like to be young, facing the decision to accept Jesus Christ as a personal Savior.

Also, I still have not forgotten his "favorite" Bible verse, 1 Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

He used sign language with facial expressions in

a high-spirited way that his words impacted me to make a strong decision and to study the Bible deeper. Meanwhile, I explored many churches searching for the true church that follows the Bible completely. Arthur wrote me a nice fatherly letter, warning me to avoid the confusion of going to many churches. I took his warnings and studied the Bible further instead.

Arthur, with his energetic strength, encouraged young Deaf people like me to share God's Word to all Deaf people till Jesus comes back.

### George Belser:

Back in the late 1960's, Elder Arthur W. Griffith, then a pastor of the Deaf in the Greater Portland area, made visits to our home. We loaned him our movie-making equipment which he needed to complete his project as part of the requirement for his ordination. During one of his visits, my wife Arlene asked Arthur a question about God being jealous and he promptly came up with an intelligent, scholarly answer, which "wowed" us. As we continued with the Bible study, we were deeply impressed with Arthur's exceptional knowledge of Scripture. For example, he would open the Bible at almost

the right place, flip a page or two, and then show a verse that would answer our question perfectly. He always made a point to let God's Word speak for itself. Out of curiosity, we explored and studied other denominations as we wished to belong to the true church; but we discovered that no church could equal the truths taught by the Seventh-day Adventist church according to Scripture. So we finally committed ourselves to the Sabbath-keeping remnant through baptism in 1971 as a result of Arthur's patience, erudition (knowledge), and example.

### Esther Doss:

I had the privilege of knowing Elder Griffith most of my life. He and Alyce lived in Arkansas at the Christian Deaf Center (CDC), a self-supporting ministry in the 80's. Although our family lived 3 hours away, we traveled to attend church there sometimes as often as twice a month. We'd stay a night in various homes, including with the Griffith's. I remember we all sat together early each morning for worship. Arthur read to us from a devotional book, we sang, then knelt down for prayer. This was of great interest to me since we did not have family worship in our home.

When I was 10 years old, I decided to be baptized. Because Arthur had much back pain, a hearing pastor had to baptize me. But, Arthur was in the water with me.

As I grew into adulthood, Arthur was my mentor, giving me encouragement, Biblical counsel, and pointing me to a higher standard. I was humbled to sit on the ADM board along with Arthur. How strange it seemed to me! Not only was he my mentor but now he was my colleague! He had many words of wisdom to share with us. I remember the deep sadness our board felt when Arthur's term came to an end in 2003. We tried to keep him on the board, but he felt time had come for him to pass the torch on. We were not ready for our mentor to go.

I remember Arthur loved songs, signing and singing with his voice. Ten years ago, while he was visiting us and our local church, a hearing member asked Arthur to give his testimony during fellowship meal. He finished his moving story by signing a song and singing with his voice. His voice was weak, but I was astounded! He sang each note perfectly, no matter the many years of deafness! Next time I see Arthur, he will be singing with the angels!

# Thompson Kay Given Appreciation Award

On January 30, many Deaf worshipped at the Beaverton, OR SDA church together. Many visitors were there, since Arthur's memorial service was the next day in the same area. Elder Thompson Kay was the special speaker for the worship service.

Just before Elder Kay began to preach, Pastor David Trexler interrupted him impolitely. Elder Kay was confused by this rude behavior during the hour of worship. Pastor Trexler asked Elder Kay to share his experience with the Deaf work.

After Elder Kay shared his experiences, Elder Kay was given a surprise gift. Elder George Belser came up with a plaque from Adventist Deaf Ministries to honor him for his dedication toward the Deaf for many years. He deserved this honor from us for doing so much for us

in the past. Elder Kay was the first and only director of the Deaf Division of Christian Record Services from 1980 to 1997 through the high recommendation by Elder Arthur Griffith. Elder Kay was also the first Executive Director of Adventist Deaf Ministries when it was organized in 1998. He left this ministry to allow ADM to have a Deaf director in 2001. Now, he is president of TEAMS Education Center, which helps Deaf children with dyslexia to improve their reading and writing skills. In addition, he continues to give workshops on Deaf ministry all over the world and he is a member of the Disability Committee under North American Division. After the interruption for the presentation of the award, Elder Kay preached powerfully through the power of the Holy Spirit.

# Memorial Photos

To see additional pictures from this very special weekend, go to our website at [www.deafadventist.org](http://www.deafadventist.org).



Pastor Alfred Griffith shares some words during his father's memorial service.

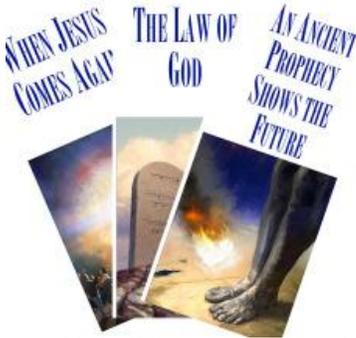


Elder Arthur Griffith's wife Alyce at the memorial service.



Pastor Paul Kelly reminds those at the graveside about the hope of the resurrection.

## New Tracts for Expos!



Hot off the presses and ready for this year's Deaf Expos are new tracts!

We have been giving away tracts at expos since we began exhibiting. The tracts available through other ministries or the church are hard for many Deaf to understand since English is their second language. We began using some old Bible lessons we had in stock,

but they are running out and we wanted to have something updated.

Pacific Press allowed us to adapt their Pocket Signs into Easy Reading English and print them. Through the help of the North American Division and L. Brown and Sons Printing (an Adventist company in Vermont) we were able to print 10,000 of each of the 10 titles! Imagine 100,000 pieces of literature being delivered to ADM! We are excited and we will use them for sharing at Deaf Expos all over the USA. Pray that the Deaf will read and study these precious truths.

## The Seventh Day DVDs

We are so excited to now have *The Seventh Day* DVDs for sale! This is a set of 5 DVDs and are closed captioned.

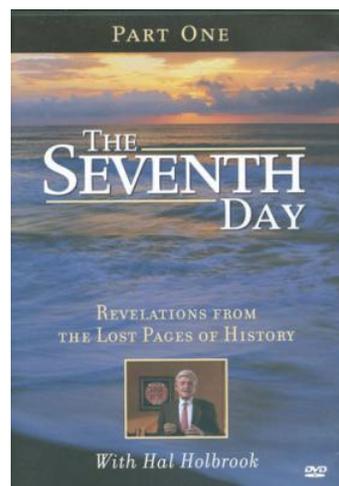
Which day is the Christian Sabbath? Sunday? Or is it Saturday? Did Jesus change the Sabbath from the seventh day of the week to the first day? Did His disciples do it?

In *The Seventh Day*, host Hal Holbrook takes viewers back across the centuries to uncover the history of the Sabbath, showing the evidence of ancient records.

*The Seventh Day* shows the heroic struggle for religious liberty, fought

through long centuries of inquisition and repression. It offers a surprising look at history.

This DVD series was created by LLT Productions, a ministry in California.



## In Our Mailbox

### Newsletter Reader:

As I looked over your newsletter this week, I was really impressed with the work of ADM! I was particularly struck with the excellent work being done at the different booths. I just felt like we must make a donation to ADM. We so much appreciated having a Deaf Reach conducted here in Canada this past summer. It went over very well, even if we didn't have a large attendance. But, to have one there who had never seen a fellow deaf SDA was really precious to me. May God bless each of you.

John

### Deaf Bible School student:

I love Deaf Messenger story and read Bible book. Real wonderful Sign God's love on DVD and feel spirit my body. Wow

beautiful snow mountain in Colorado. God wonderful made everything, thank God. I love Jesus, sister and brother. God Bless!!

Jim

### Deaf Expo contact:

Wow. I am thrilled to hear that you know and keep Sabbath just as my husband and I do along with our roommate. I love your "God's Day of Rest" brochure. I would love to have many of that so I can pass it out to everybody. Praise the Lord that there are more people out there who keep Sabbath. I will want to meet them and you! I hear that you have retreat every summer. Ummm, we should go there. I will need to check out your website soon. God bless you and your mission.

Chuck and Amy

## Donations

### *In Memory of...*

Elysee D. Brantley by Alyce Brantley  
Desmond Doss by Marcella West  
Elder Arthur Griffith by Gloria Eaker  
Sylvia House by Carl and Ellen Ferguson and Dorothy Gradt  
Florence Nevin by Lorraine Schell  
Mildred Wuchenic by Eva Thompson

### *In Honor of...*

Douglas and Pat Hawley by Janet Hainey  
Hebert Smith by Charlotte Porter

# Order Form -- All prices include USA shipping

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>AMAZING BIBLE TRUTHS VIDEO SERIES</b> (7 DVDs) A set of DVDs covering 14 Bible topics in ASL by Francisca Trexler. (No voice)	Price	\$ 65.00 **
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST VIDEO SERIES</b> A set of 13 VHS or DVD videos in ASL by Pastor David Trexler. Includes comprehensive set of study notes. (With voice)	VHS Price	\$ 40.00 **
		DVD Price	\$ 90.00 **
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE #1 DVD</b> - On Salvation and God's Love	Price	\$ 5.00 **
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE #2 DVD</b> - On What Happens when you Die	Price	\$ 5.00 **
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE #3 DVD</b> - On God's Law of Love	Price	\$ 5.00 **
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>THE FINAL EVENTS OF BIBLE PROPHECY</b> (DVD) A 43-minute documentary about what the Bible says about the last days of earth history. <b>(ENGLISH SUBTITLES)</b>	Price	\$12.00 **
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>THE SEVENTH DAY</b> (5 DVDs) A documentary about the history of the Sabbath. <b>(CLOSED CAPTIONED)</b>	Price	\$75.00**
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>CAN YOU HEAR US?</b> (booklet - 10 copies) A quick reference guide to Deaf Ministry. Order extra copies to share with others!	Price	\$10.00 **
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>DEAF DIASPORA: THE THIRD WAVE OF DEAF MINISTRY</b> (book) Planning to or already involved in Deaf ministry? Gain valuable insights into the ministry to Deaf people in the new millennium.	Price	\$ 20.00 **
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>MARGIE ASKS WHY, EASY READING EDITION</b> A fascinating book about the battle between God and Satan.	Price	\$ 7.00 **
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>SIGN LANGUAGE COLORING BOOKS</b> A set of 3 coloring books: Creation, Moses, and Jesus	Price	\$ 8.00 **
<input type="checkbox"/>	<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 **
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<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 **
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE FINGERSPELLING LESSONS</b> (VHS) Want to improve your fingerspelling? Then this video is for you!	Price	\$ 27.00 **
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>EASY-READING BAPTISMAL STUDIES</b> 28 fundamental beliefs studies for baptismal candidates.	Price	\$ 10.00 **
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>DONATION:</b> 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.

**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](mailto:adm7@deafadventist.org)

**Websites:**

[www.deafadventist.org](http://www.deafadventist.org)  
[www.DeafBibleSchool.com](http://www.DeafBibleSchool.com)