



Three Angels Deaf Ministries Report

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David Trexler Visits Kenya

Never have I thought that I would travel to Africa. I have been to Mexico, Japan, India, Bermuda, Canada, and Barbados for Deaf ministry. I enjoyed working with the Deaf in those countries. But, one day last year I received an e-mail from Dr. Larry Evans who is currently Associate Stewardship Director and Liaison for the International Deaf Ministries in the General Conference, inviting me to go to Kenya to train church workers in February 2012. I was surprised and was not sure if I was the right person to go. Dr. Evans went to Kenya last year and he believed that the church leaders and Deaf workers needed a Deaf role model so he thought of me. I was humbled by his invitation. But, I was concerned about travel expenses since I do not have a budget for international trips. Thanks to God the expenses were resolved immediately.

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Photo by David Trexler

Group photo of those who were baptized during Trexler's visit in Kenya. This may well be historic with thirty-six baptized, all Deaf and most are youth.

The Lord planned ahead for me.

John Blake, a representative of Gospel Outreach (GO), was going as well because GO is sponsoring the Deaf work in Kenya. Currently, there are seven GO workers. Four of them are Deaf. Dr. Evans invited Thompson U. Kay, president of TEAMS, to be my sign language and voice interpreter. So, four of us flew to Nairobi, Kenya. Thompson Kay arrived later on February 10th. We arrived on the 7th.

On the 8th Dr. Evans, John Blake, and I met Elder Paul Muasya, president of East Africa Union Conference, and he took us to DOOR International (Deaf Opportunity OutReach) outside of Nairobi. While riding to DOOR International, I enjoyed visiting with Henry Maina. Henry is a Deaf GO worker and the coordinator for the Deaf work under the union conference. We had previously communicated

occasionally through e-mail.

DOOR International, a non-denominational ministry, has a huge property with several buildings through generous donations. DOOR International is working with Wycliffe International to translate the Bible to sign languages of different countries. 95% of their large staff are Deaf. Currently, seven groups of Deaf people representing their countries are translating the Bible into their own sign languages. These teams are from Kenya, Burundi, India (Kerala), Ghana, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Uganda. Two from Ghana were Adventists. We were very impressed with their dedication in spreading the Gospel to the Deaf through their own sign language. Kenyan Deaf people use Kenyan Sign Language mixed with some ASL.

The next day, the president took

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From the Speaker: The Hazards of a Wrong Concept

Have you ever realized that you had a wrong concept about something? Wrong concepts can lead you to misjudge something, reject the truth, and miss an opportunity. Sometimes I had wrong concepts because of stereotype or media. For example, I always thought Florida was flat, humid, and crowded with people. This is because each time I went to Florida, I always went to the cities. But, last fall, I learned that I was completely wrong. I went to the Florida panhandle for the first time. There, I was completely impressed with the state's natural resources and climate (it was cold at that time). After being there for videotaping the new Sign of God's Love DVD, I decided I need to come back with my wife Francisca so she can experience the area's natural beauty and wildlife, too. Again, after working at a booth in Orlando recently, we drove north of the city to visit a lonely Deaf Adventist couple. I was surprised to drive over the hilly country. So, Florida is not flat every where as I used to think. This makes me think of my experience living in North Dakota. Many people think it is all flat with nothing interesting. But, it has hills and beautiful forests with a plenty of wildlife.

Anyway, you might think I am making too big a deal about the hazards of wrong concepts. I am dead serious about it, especially regarding spiritual things. Bias or wrong judgment can come from having wrong concepts or information. It is dangerous to our spiritual life. I was very biased against the Bible and the church when I was young. I could have missed eternal life if I were not led by God to the wonderful truth of the Bible and Jesus. Thankfully, I did not reject new information when I met a Deaf student at Gallaudet University who shared concepts of vegetarianism with me. Then with an open mind I learned more about God through the Adventist Church.

What happened to the nation of Israel when Jesus lived, healed, and taught about the kingdom of God? What happened to Jesus when He said that He came to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah 61? Why did the Jewish leaders want Jesus crucified as if He was a very bad man? The answer is simple: wrong concepts and pride. The Old Testament clearly points to Jesus as the Promised Messiah, but they were blinded by wrong concepts and pride. How could they miss the points in the Old Testament?

Could the same thing happen to you and me even now? Yes, Satan is working very hard to bomb us with all kinds of false teachings, wrong information, and wrong influence from media and people we are around. I have

seen some of our beloved Adventist friends turn away from God and some Bible truths. Some of them say that they are still Christians, but their behavior show that they are not.

Jesus' parable of the ten virgins comes to mind as I think about this. There were five wise and five foolish but the foolish virgins were not hypocrites! (Matthew 25:1-13) They were very much interested in seeing the Bridegroom (Jesus Christ), but they missed Him. Why did they miss the Bridegroom? The answer is that they were not filled with the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit, they focused on wrong things and did not develop a relationship with the Lord.

Talking about last day events is important but focusing on the signs all the time without focusing on Christ as the center of our life and hope is dangerous. When you drive your car do you focus on your cell phone all the time? Of course not! But, sadly we are guilty of spending too much time looking at text messages or YouTube while driving. Many people have been in accidents while being distracted by this little thing. In the same way, if we spend too much time focusing on little things in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy without Christ, then we can push Jesus Christ away from our life. Without knowing Jesus Christ, we do not have the right concept of God and salvation.

Jesus clearly said why God's people are persecuted: "They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. And these things they will do to you *because they have not known the Father nor Me*" (John 16:2, 3, NKJV) (emphasis is mine). Without a true relationship with Jesus we are likely to accept wrong concepts.

"Jesus said . . . , 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me'" (John 14:6, NKJV). Although Jesus is not here with us physically, we still have the promise of knowing Him through the Holy Spirit. "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come" (John 16:13, NKJV).

It is my prayer that you will live in a balanced life according to the Word of God. Stay with the Bible and do not mix it with worldly influences that we see and hear everyday. Mixing truth with false teachings is very dangerous, so stay on the pure path to God's kingdom through Jesus Christ.

David M. Trexler

Jordan in the Philippines

I arrived in Manila, Philippines a little after midnight after a 17 hour flight. I was picked up by Lychel Gabuco and her Deaf sister Cheard and we went directly to the Pasay Adventist Church. There, we found a small group of Deaf and hearing volunteers staying up late getting things ready for the evangelistic meeting the next night.

On the opening evening, about 50 Deaf Filipinos came to the "Hope for the Deaf" evangelistic meeting at church! Almost all were young people. During the meetings, Deaf members participated in the programs such as signing songs and praying. Also, a health expert from the Adventist hospital across the street talked about health topics as Lychel interpreted. A cameraman from the local Hope Channel came and filmed the whole series.

There are two sign systems used in the Philippines: American Sign Language and Filipino Sign Language. Most of the Deaf I met used ASL or a combination of ASL and FSL. Communication was not a problem except for some FSL signs which I had to figure out.

On Sabbath, February 25, the Deaf community was invited to the worship service at the Pasay Adventist Church and about fifty Deaf came. It was an honor to preach to the Deaf and hearing congregation. After the service, I had the privilege to baptize four Deaf souls who made their decision to join God's family.

From Manila, Dr. Fred Webb, a representative for Gospel Outreach, and I traveled to different places. Upon arrival at the South Philippines Union Conference in Cagayan de Oro, the Lord had a surprise plan. The Hope Channel at the union headquarters allowed us to use their studio to film our "Hope for the Deaf" evangelistic meetings live. So we decided to stay longer and held meetings. That afternoon, Sonny, a local Deaf Adventist, and Tata, went out and gathered a large group of Deaf people to our meetings. Each afternoon, the studio was packed full of about 40-50 Deaf people sitting in the audience. Nothing is impossible for God.

On Friday morning, 17 Deaf joined us as we traveled to Mountain View College for the weekend. While there, I was able to see where an Adventist Deaf School is being built. This is the second Adventist Deaf School in the world. In an unfinished building, Daryl and Sarah Famisaran, Gospel workers for the Deaf, Dr. Webb, and I dedicated the school to the Lord. The school plans to open in June.

After preaching at Mountain View College on Sabbath, March 3, I had the privilege to baptize nine Deaf souls at the college pool area that afternoon. The work is indeed great!

Pastor Jeff Jordan

Griffith in India

February was a busy month of international travel for those who work as pastors for the Deaf here in the USA. Not only did David Trexler travel to Kenya and Jeff Jordan go to the Philippines, but Alfred Griffith also went overseas. His trip was to India this past February 19-March 9. He went to India to provide training workshops for Gospel Outreach workers for the Deaf. He also went to visit the GO workers in several cities that were not able to come to the training session and also spent time with their local Deaf groups, often giving messages about Christ and His sacrifice for us.

Griffith also met with a sewing/tailoring class with Deaf students at Vizianagaram. He also visited at Kollegal School for the Deaf in south India, which is sponsored by Asian Aid. There are now ninety-eight students.

Info supplied by Alfred Griffith



Photo by Alfred Griffith

Alfred Griffith spent some time ministering to the Deaf Children at the Adventist Deaf school in India.



Photo by Jeff Jordan

These Deaf people were baptized during Jeff Jordan's visit to the Philippines.

Trexler in Kenya, Continued

us on a safari trip in a national park near Nairobi. We were thrilled to see many animals roaming in the country. Then we visited the zoo in the park.

On the 10th, Friday we flew to Mombassa from Nairobi to attend a wedding for a Deaf couple in the afternoon and the Deaf Ministry day at the church on Sabbath.

Weddings are very important for Kenyans. It took over two hours and the president officiated the wedding. His sermon was long but very spiritual. We were impressed with the program that was filled with signed music given by Deaf people. Kenyan Deaf people really love music!

On Sabbath Dr. Evans spoke to the packed church of over 1,000 members and 56 Deaf were in attendance. In the afternoon, John Blake gave a presentation about the Deaf work around the world. Then I gave mine about the Deaf work in North America and 3ADM. On Sunday we flew back to Nairobi and met Thompson Kay.

The next day, we went to Kisii, a city in the northwest part of Kenya. It was a scenic five hour drive. There we visited a government run Deaf school for primary and secondary children (about 200 of them are Adventist). The children swarmed us to shake our hands when we arrived. They were curious about me and I told them that I was Deaf like them. They were so happy to see a Deaf leader. In that school 50% of the staff is Adventist and religion is taught in the school. I was surprised because we do not do that in the USA. I learned that in Kisii area the population is 60% Adventist. There are many Adventist churches on the roads. Many of the students are from Adventist homes. I was very impressed with them because they were proactive in keeping the Sabbath at the government school. They are very intelligent and love the Lord. They were really thrilled to see me, an American Deaf Adventist.

We also visited a small, poor Adventist Deaf school where primary students learn and live. There are many orphans in that school. Some of their parents died from HIV, one of the major health problems in Kenya. Some of the students suffer from HIV themselves.

The highlight of our visit was the large baptism of thirty-six Deaf young people. Most of the students are from the government school for the Deaf. We were impressed with the enthusiasm of the students for Jesus Christ.

We came back to Nairobi for the workers' workshop at the union office guest house. President Muasya invited all of the conference presidents, pastors of churches that have deaf ministry, volunteers and GO workers. I have never seen such a large group of Adventist workers at a meeting for Deaf ministry elsewhere. We were impressed

with the president's dedication to the Deaf!

Usually thirty or so were in each session. The meetings began at eight in the morning and went until after nine in the evening. Kay and I were the main presenters of the workshop. Kay gave very animated Deaf Awareness lectures addressing many of the complications faced by Deaf and hearing in Deaf ministry and the interpreting processes. I gave presentations on how to work with the Deaf in Christ's way. One of the Deaf volunteers commented on my presentation positively. He learned much through our direct communication rather than through an interpreter. I was humbled by his comment. This was the purpose that Dr. Evans wanted me in Kenya. Blake also gave presentations on Deaf work around the world.

The Deaf workers and volunteers from groups in different cities and towns also gave their reports. On Sabbath, we had a wonderful Sabbath School and worship service. The Deaf conducted Sabbath School. Dr. Evans gave a powerful sermon. We met on the top floor of the guest house and it was packed with 130 people. Most were Deaf, a third of which were non-SDAs. Fifteen came from DOOR. In the afternoon some Deaf people, including those from DOOR, gave inspiring testimonies and I closed the program with a sermon. Dr. Evans also led a discussion on how Kenyan Deaf Ministry can move forward. The fruitful and productive training came to a close on Saturday evening.

Millions of Kenyans do not have a car. Most of them walk everywhere they need to go. GO workers experience big challenges in traveling for they do not have a car or motorcycle for the Gospel work. They rely on public transportation. There are many old buses and vans. Henry Maina coordinates the work and he has to travel far in a bus that takes many hours to reach his destinations. He needs a reliable mode of transportation. We rode on a bus to visit a volunteer worker's relatives. The bus driver had a hard time shifting the motor into gear.

Kenya seems to have more Deaf people per capita than the USA. Many of the Deaf Adventists were born hearing but became Deaf due to illnesses. This is similar to the USA in the past. Just like here in the USA, Kenyan Deaf people face challenges in churches. However, through the effort of President Muasya, more and more Adventist church leaders are being sensitized toward the Deaf. There are about 300 Deaf Adventists attending churches in Kenya.

Pray for the Deaf people in Kenya. Jesus loves them very much and wants them to be ready for His coming.

Signs of God's Love #5 Ready

The latest Signs of God's Love DVD is now ready, in time for giving them away at Deaf Expos this year. *Signs of God's Love DVD#5* is hosted by Esther Doss with a special appearance by David Trexler. Together they explore the beauty of the Florida panhandle and discuss the good news about Jesus' second coming. Just like other Signs of God's Love DVDs, nature is a big part of the program, leading to a study of Bible truth. This time, they explore the coastal wet lands, a sandy beach, a lighthouse, the world's shortest river, and the cypress forests. They see crabs, manatees, alligators and many birds.

At the beginning of the program, Esther states that her grandmother passed away. There is truth to what she said. Her husband's precious grandmother died and was buried the day before he and Esther drove to Florida to shoot this DVD. Their hearts were heavy during the

video shoot and they clung to the hope of the resurrection when Jesus returns. This hope is the theme throughout the DVD program.

This is an excellent tool to let the Deaf know the great news of Jesus soon return. The DVD is about an hour and a half long. The DVD has voice interpretation.

DVDs are \$5 each. For orders of 20 or more, each DVD are \$4. For orders of 100 or more, then each DVD are \$3. The prices include postage.



A picture of a strong man pushing a cart loaded with produce. This was a common sight in Kenya.



This photo was taken in Nairobi, the modern capital city of Kenya. Left to right: Elder Paul Muasya, president of East Africa Union Conference, Thompson Kay, David Trexler, and Dr. Larry Evans.



David Trexler is here giving one of his many presentations. Mrs. Witness Tsuma interprets for him into Kenyan Sign Language. Both Kenyan Sign Language and ASL are used in Kenya.



Pictured here is the large baptism of 36 people. Most of these are youth from local Deaf schools. Two staff members from a Deaf school were also baptized.

Photos supplied by David Trexler

Northwest Deaf News

Deaf members in the Portland, Oregon area held a special winter dinner on December 10, 2011 at the Tabernacle SDA Church in Portland. Thirty-eight people attended; ten of them were visitors. The meal was complete with tasty homemade food. After the meal, some played games while others visited with old, new, young, and elderly friends. The dinner was a success and they may go another winter dinner this December. David Johnson was the chairperson for this event. He and all his helpers made the event a success.

The members in the Portland/Salem area wanted to do something on Sabbath afternoon besides potluck. Chuck McGehee was working on a schedule of events for the group and decided to try adding a monthly visit to Chestnut Lane, an assisted living center for Deaf people. Their first visit to Chestnut Lane was on February 25. Twenty members decided to go and visit with those living there. There are three residents there who are SDAs and are not able to go to church due to poor health, transportation issues, etc. This visit really brightened their day! They also visited with others who are not SDAs. The members said it was a positive experience and want to continue doing these visits in the future.

Dani Mathisen from Washougal, WA



Photo supplied by Danyette Mathisen

Winter Dinner Party at the Tabernacle SDA Church in Portland, Oregon

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Thoughts on Sacrifices

Larry Evans, a true friend to Deaf ministry, is a hearing man with a big heart. He became interested in Deaf ministry while working with George Belser in the Oregon Conference. He continued to learn through meeting deaf people from all walks of life and is still learning. He wrote the article "Can We Hear Them?" for the March issue of *Adventist World*, expressing the need for Deaf ministry. His long-time interest in deaf ministry is unlike many other hearing people. They have faded, disappeared, or moved to another field of work.

Just recently, his mother, was dying at the hospital. What a heart-wrestling decision for him to leave his mother to visit deaf churches and schools in Kenya, Africa. He was unsure he would ever see her again. Dr. Evans kept in touch best he could while in Africa with David Trexler and other colleagues. His mother was happy about the historic baptism of 36 deaf souls. She passed away while Larry Evans was still on his Kenya trip.

This reminded me of my own mother, Alberta Blake. She flew from Alberta, Canada for a deaf ministry meeting at the NAD while her father was dying at a hospital. While she was there her father passed away. She was in shock but had wonderful Deaf friends who supported her during the meeting.

Larry's family came to the Portland, Oregon area for his mother's memorial service. Several of us Deaf members from the Tabernacle church attended to show him support and appreciation, especially since he sacrificed those final moments with his mom to visit Deaf people.

His mother did not worry because she knew that the next second after she closes her eyes, she will wake up to see Larry at Jesus' second coming. Let us remember, we are really blessed to have the wonderful hope in Jesus who overcome death. Remember, keep steady, hold on to Jesus for that day is drawing near soon!!

Judy Johnson from Vancouver, WA

Southern New England News

A special DEAF weekend will be held May 18-20 at the Canaan SDA Church in Canaan, Connecticut. David Trexler will be the featured speaker. Amanda Colgan stated, "We're excited about it and DEAF members will pass out flyers to invite people to the evangelism event."

DEAF has a monthly Bible study group. Each time, they meet at a different church in the Southern New England area. In March, 14 people enjoyed an interpreted service, fellowship, potluck, and a Bible study led by Amanda Colgan in the afternoon.

3ADM Catalog -- All prices include USA shipping

AMAZING BIBLE TRUTHS SERIES (7 DVDs) \$ 65.00
 A set of DVDs covering 14 Bible topics in ASL by Francisca Trexler. (No voice)

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST VIDEO SERIES
 VHS Price \$ 40.00
 DVD Price \$ 90.00

A set of 13 VHS or DVD videos in ASL by Pastor David Trexler. Includes study notes. (With voice)

SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE #1 DVD \$ 5.00
 Salvation and God's Love (with voice)

SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE #2 DVD \$ 5.00
 What Happens when you Die? (with voice)

SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE #3 DVD \$ 5.00
 God's Law of Love (with voice)

SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE #4 DVD \$ 5.00
 The Sabbath (with voice)

SIGNS OF GOD'S LOVE #5 DVD \$ 5.00
 Jesus' Second Coming (with voice)

BIBLE ADVENTURES DVD \$12.00
 8 Bible stories for children in sign language (no voice)

OUR WORLD A THEATER IN GOD'S UNIVERSE (DVD) \$ 5.00
 The full story of the battle between God and Satan.

KEEPERS OF THE FLAME SERIES (2 DVDs) \$ 45.00
 This 8-part series covers the history of the Christian church, as well as the history of the Adventist church. (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

THE FINAL EVENTS OF BIBLE PROPHECY (DVD)
 In Hard Case \$ 12.00
 In Paper Sleeve \$ 5.00
 A 43-minute documentary about what the Bible says about the last days of earth history. (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

THE SEVENTH DAY (5 DVDs) \$ 75.00
 The history of the Sabbath. (CLOSED CAPTIONED)

CAN YOU HEAR US? (Booklet - 10 copies) \$ 10.00
 A quick reference guide to Deaf Ministry. Order extra copies to share with others!

MARGIE ASKS WHY, EASY READING EDITION \$ 7.00
 A fascinating book about the battle between God and Satan.

STEPS TO CHRIST, EASY READING EDITION \$ 7.00
 A book that leads us to a better relationship with Jesus.

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 Tells how sin began and how Jesus will save His people from sin & eternal death.

NirV BIBLE (Hard Cover) \$ 15.00

EASY-READING BAPTISMAL STUDIES \$ 20.00
 28 fundamental beliefs studies for baptismal candidates.

SIGN LANGUAGE COLORING BOOKS \$ 8.00
 A set of 3 coloring books: Creation, Moses, and Jesus.

ASL DVD LEARNING SYSTEM (DVD) \$ 35.00
 Includes 2 DVDs: "Getting Started in Signing" and "Say It With Signing."

ASL DVD DICTIONARY (DVD) \$ 23.00
 Over 700 signs with photo illustration of sign (e.g. picture of "shoes").

ASL DVD COMBO (DVD) Save \$3! \$ 55.00
 ASL DVD Learning System and ASL DVD Dictionary.

CD-ROM: HYPERSIGN INTERACTIVE DICTIONARY OF ASL (CD-ROM) \$ 25.00
 Full-motion video; age specific vocabulary.

ASL FINGERSPELLING LESSONS (VHS) \$ 8.00

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