



Three Angels Deaf Ministries Report

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Janice's Story

Janice Musco was born Deaf. She has Usher Syndrome which causes deafness and blindness. Janice attended the DeafNation Expo in 2007 held in the Northeast. There, she stopped at the 3ADM booth. Jessica McGowan, a local hearing member, was working in the booth. Jessica had a sign up sheet on the table for those who were interested to receive information about the D.E.A.F. Christian fellowship, the local SDA Deaf group. Interested, Janice wrote in her contact information and then received mailings about upcoming events. She came to all the D.E.A.F. meetings, sharing her beautiful smile. Janice realized it is important to follow God. Since she first joined our group, Janice has been studying the Bible.

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Photo supplied by Jessica McGowan

Janice Musco was baptized by Pastor Jeff Jordan this past April.

At a monthly Deaf Bible Study, the topic was "Be Ready." The study used the example of getting ready when there are blizzard warnings before it is too late. Jesus is coming, and Janice decided she wanted to be ready. She says, "I woke up and knew it is time for me to follow God before it is too late. God gave me many chances, always cares for me and blesses me. God helped me catch the biggest fish in a competition. God protected me from almost getting hit near the commuter train."

Janice also says, "I want to thank you all. I really enjoy Deaf Bible School. I feel so proud that I have done all the lessons, and I learned something. Amanda Colgan helped me. The newsletters and DVDs

sent to me by 3ADM encourages me. Long ago I felt like quitting. I was a Catholic in Rhode Island at that time. Then I realized there are plenty of SDA Deaf through 3ADM. Also camp meetings help me to have more SDA friends. Thank you Jessica McGowan and your mom for your big smiles. Thanks to Pastor Malcolm from the Boston Temple SDA Church. Your big smiles came a long way!

Janice also wants everyone to know: "We are a Deaf family!"

On the weekend of April 26-28, the D.E.A.F. ministries held its annual DEAF Weekend in Worcester, Massachusetts. Pastor Jeff Jordan who was the guest speaker had the privilege of baptizing Janice.

From the Speaker: The Cracks on the Wall

In April, more than 1,000 dead bodies and hundreds of injured people were pulled from a collapsed eight storied factory building in Bangladesh. Why did this happen? Simply, the factory managers ignored the police's order. The police saw new, deep cracks on the building's walls. They ordered that the building be evacuated. Because managers told the 2,000 workers that the building was safe, they stayed.

Question: why did the factory managers ignore the police's order to evacuate from the weakened building? Answer: greed and selfishness. Managers feared that an evacuation would cause the business to lose money. They thought maybe the warning was false and there was nothing to worry about. They had confidence in the building. Yes, even after seeing the deep cracks.

But sadly, the police were right. The police cared for the workers' lives and safety. The business owners and managers were interested in making money and did not care for the safety of the many workers.

This reminds me of our very patient God who warns us about the deep cracks in our lives. Do we just ignore Him? Are we blind to our cracks, thinking we are okay and nothing will happen to us? The warnings and signs are obvious and cannot be overlooked. But often, we put our faith in ourselves and faulty human ideas.

Jesus warned: "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." (Matthew 7:26, 27). Are we like the house built on the sand?

God's prophets are like the police who give warnings to members and non-members of the church. The members of the church are no different from non-members because both groups of people are sinners who are totally weak from sin. Both need God's grace for salvation and God's law for safety in the dark world filled with cracks.

We should not ignore the cracks. They are a sign of trouble that will come if we do not pay attention. Cracks are not normal. What are the cracks? Sin, which is not normal. But we accept sin as if they are normal. We enjoy sinful lives as if we will not be hurt at all! If we continue to ignore the tell-tale signs (cracks) we surely will suffer destruction. 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3 – "For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman.

And they shall not escape."

When the factory started to collapse, it was too late for the workers to escape. In the same way, if we continue to ignore the Bible's warning, instruction, and encouragement we will be lost eternally. To be lost eternally is definitely worse than to die in a collapsed building!

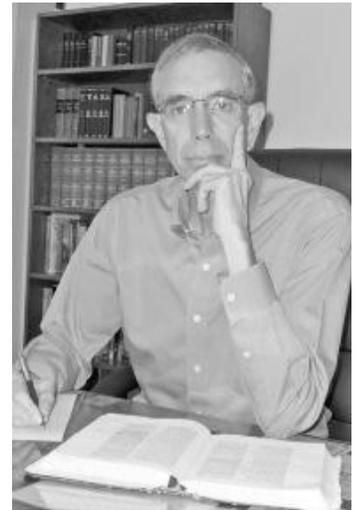
So, how do we know what exactly the cracks are?

You can easily find them in the Bible. You can find the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20. As you read them, think about whether or not you follow each one. Breaking the Ten Commandments is a sure sign that you have cracks in your life. But the cracks (sin) starts in your mind. Remember, Jesus made it clear that what you think in your mind is who you are. Sinful thoughts cause sinful actions. The cracks (sin) are symptoms that our relationship with the Lord is not good.

I have met many Christians who say, "God understands if I continue my bad habits. God is forgiving and will not throw me out of heaven." Is that true? Why did Jesus tell the woman caught in adultery to go and sin no more (John 8:2-11)?

Did Paul teach that grace is a license to sin more? No. "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? . . . What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! (Romans 6:1, 2, 15 NKJV).

Jesus is our example. Jesus never sinned while living in this dirty, old world. He kept Himself pure through obedience to the Father through FAITH. There were NO cracks in His life. We are safe as long as we are in Christ. Being "in Christ" means we surrender ourselves to Him by FAITH. FAITH means more than just belief in Him. FAITH is putting ourselves in God's care and control. FAITH is walking with God daily. Let us be like the wise man who built his house on the rock (Jesus). The house will not collapse because it is on the foundation of God's word and truth.



*David Trexler
Speaker/Director*

Southern New England Conference Deaf Camp Meeting

About 35 Deaf and hearing people went to Grotonwood Camp near Groton, Massachusetts September 4-7, 2013. The weather was perfect in time for the campers to enjoy the camp meeting. The featured speakers were David and Francisca Trexler who shared the message—Jesus Is Able. There were some activities in the afternoon the campers enjoyed such as archery, boat riding, hiking, and making crafts. Not only that, but the campers were in for a treat with cooking demonstrations by Jessica McGowan and her mother Linda. David and Francisca were not the only speakers of the camp meeting. Kevin and Amanda Colgan from Cape Cod, Massachusetts gave their interesting presentations. It was a blessing to have young people share their spiritual messages for the campers. The big surprise for the Trexlers was meeting their Gallaudet Adventist friend, Angelo Palmieri, whom they have not seen for many years.

The camp meeting is always a great place to meet old friends and new friends. It is also a wonderful time to fellowship with Jesus Christ who has promised us His presence, blessing us with His word and His fellow brothers and sisters who needs spiritual support and enrichment. Our hats are off to Jessica and Linda McGowan as well to the Colgans for making the camp meeting a success.

After the camp meeting the Trexlers and the Colgans visited a lonely Deaf Adventist at New England Homes for the Deaf in Danvers, Massachusetts. She is Patricia Deming who formerly lived in the Washington D.C. area many years ago where she knew Elder Arthur Griffith. The visit brightened her day.

New Board Member



At the annual 3ADM Board of Directors meeting August 12-15 in Silver Spring, MD, a new board member was elected to replace Elania Mathisen who resigned in order to focus on deaf ministry around the world. The new board member is Amanda Colgan of Hyannis, Massachusetts. Amanda is involved in Deaf Adults for Christ (DYAC), which puts on a yearly camp meeting and encourages young adults through the year. She will finish up Elania's term which will expire at the end of next year.

At the annual 3ADM Board of Directors meeting August 12-15 in Silver Spring, MD, a new board member was elected to replace Elania Mathisen who resigned in order to focus on deaf ministry around the world. The new board member is Amanda Colgan of Hyannis, Massachusetts. Amanda is involved in Deaf Adults for Christ (DYAC), which puts on a yearly camp meeting and encourages young adults through the year. She will finish up Elania's term which will expire at the end of next year.



Jessica McGowan and her mother Linda give healthy cooking demonstrations at the SNEC camp meeting.

Photo supplied by David Trexler



David (above) and Francisca (below) Trexler shared presentations on the theme "Jesus is Able."



SDF Camp Meeting

The annual Southern Deaf Camp Meeting took place at beautiful Cohutta Springs Convention Center in north Georgia July 31 to August 4, 2013. The theme was "Growing in Christ During the Last Days" with Chuck McGehee of Vancouver, Washington, as the main speaker. A total of 124 individuals (a new record) came from various places to hear Chuck preach and were spiritually blessed. Also the 7th Day Interpreters had their own conference during camp meeting. Live streaming was provided again over the Internet for those who could not come to camp meeting.

After the main presentation, Francisca Trexler gave an excellent workshop on marriage and family. During the afternoon break out activities, the individuals had four options: a prophecy seminar taught by David Trexler, counseling with Francisca Trexler, tour of the Collegedale area (visiting the SDF Church, the ABC, and Southern Adventist University), and outdoor activities such as the water slide, blob, torpedo rides, swimming, and riding on the zip line.

Communion service and inspirational testimonies were shared on Friday evening. Sabbath morning had the usual schedule with Sabbath School and worship service. After lunch, the large group gathered at the front of the lake and witnessed five individuals be baptized. Pontoon boat rides, prayer walk, hiking, canoeing, biking, visiting and just relaxing were among the many Sabbath activities.

The five individuals who were baptized are:

Jason Persaud - from East Gwillimbury, Ontario, Canada. He is a 12-year-old son of Nigel and Ruby Persaud. He had been studying with Fred Griffith and decided to be

baptized. His maternal grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins came all the way from Texas to celebrate Jason's decision to follow Jesus.

Christelle Woods - from Philadelphia, PA. She had been studying the Bible with a pastor in her area. She is now a member of SDF.

John and Robert Klein - from Pulaski, VA. These two are brothers. Their parents are Brian and Amy Kelly.

Paul Sweeney - from Silver Spring, MD. Paul came back to God and the SDA Church after being away a few years.

Camp meeting season for this year is now over. As always, we encourage our Deaf readers to make plans to attend one of the several camp meetings already being planned for next year. We all need the spiritual blessings!



Photo by Patrice Smith

The highlight of all camp meetings are the baptisms! Those who were baptized are (left to right) Christelle Woods, Paul Sweeney, Jason Persaud, and John and Robert Klein. David Trexler and Jeff Jordan had the privilege of baptizing these precious souls.



Photo by Patrice Smith

7th Day Interpreters' Conference

The fourth annual 7th Day Interpreters' Conference was held July 31-August 4th at Cohutta Springs Camp along with Southern Deaf Fellowship. We were excited to see eighteen participants from all over the US as well as a few from Bermuda.

This summer our guest presenters were Darrell and Lorna Strait, who are from Loma Linda, California. Darrell presented on a variety of topics relating to interpreting such as ergonomics (stretching before interpreting and sitting correctly to help reduce injury), classifiers, hand shapes, and ethics. Lorna presented on ASL signs, religious signs and Deaf culture. Nohe Jarnes also presented on ethics and how it is related to interpreting. We had a wonderful opportunity to practice sign-to-voice for the presentations Friday evening through Sabbath.

Not only did the interpreters attend the workshops, but they also joined the Deaf group for various fun activities during the day; they also participated in Friday evening and Sabbath services together.

After having our conference cancel last year, it was nice to see people come this year and have fun. I was excited to meet new contacts and meet potential speakers for next year.

Our plan is to hold next year's conference in 2014 with the SDF camp meeting. If you know of any Adventist signers or interpreters, encourage them to contact Nohe Jarnes at: 7thdayterps@gmail.com. I am excited about what next year will bring and I have lots of ideas of how to make this ministry grow with God's help. Please continue to pray for us as I seek ways to help signers and interpreters improve their signing skills and work together with the Deaf in ministry to complete the work here on earth!

Nohe Jarnes, Director



Photo by Nohe Jarnes

One of the key features of the 7th Day Interpreters' Conference is the fellowship with Deaf believers which strengthens skills and, more importantly, grows relationships between Deaf believers and interpreters. Here, Deaf member Monique Christensen on the left is pictured with two interpreters on the left.



Photo by Monique Christensen

Eighteen attend the 4th annual 7th Day Interpreters' Conference.

Donations

In Memory of...

- Mazine Davidson by Rudine McCluan
- Shirley Dennis by William Dennis
- Sylvia House by Dorothy Gradt
- Florence Nevin by Lorraine Schell
- David H. Trexler by John C. Trexler
- Mildred A. Trexler by John C. Trexler

In Honor of...

- Marvin Budd by Luis Leonor

Outreach in Northwest

The Labor Day weekend was a busy time for the Deaf members in the Portland, Oregon area. On Sabbath, Esther Doss was their guest speaker who spoke on how Jesus is seeking to be our Best Friend. In the afternoon, the group had a discussion on various topics.

Then the next day, Sunday, the NW Deaf Group held a picnic at Lake Vancouver and invited friends from the community. About 70 attended; the numbers included many non-SDAs and also former members. The ladies of the church worked hard to prepare a yummy, healthy lunch. Everyone seemed to have a great time visiting with each other, walking, and playing volleyball and other games.

In Memory: Alyce Griffith

On July 11, 2013, Alyce Griffith, passed away peacefully of natural causes. Alyce was 92 years old. Alyce Griffith was born at Grandma McNeal's home in Vancouver, Washington on June 20, 1921. She was the 2nd child of Ross Jacob and Margaret Grove.

One of Alyce's characteristics was loyalty. Challenges such as deafness and a life of hardship and hard work did not prevent her from giving her life in service to God, to her parents, her husband and her children. Someone asked her why she continued to go to church when there was no interpreter. She said, "I go there to met Jesus."

Alyce attended Oregon School for the Deaf in Salem. She also attended the Cedar Creek Adventist Church School. There her teacher and students learned sign language.

In July 1942, she met her husband-to-be on the Seventh-day Adventist Gladstone campgrounds. But it was not love at first sight. In fact, at first she showed no interest in him. One day Arthur had asked her out for a date playing tennis, which she agreed to. When Arthur went to the tennis court he was surprised to see her playing tennis with another handsome man.

Later, Alyce and Arthur were engaged on February, 1944. The next morning her fiancé (Arthur) came to the Portland Sanitarium hospital where she was working in the cafeteria. She was very surprised to see him covered with band-aids. On his way home after they were engaged, he had slid on ice into the ditch.

Their wedding on April 16, 1944 was financed with a \$200.00 loan. This meant that there would be no honeymoon. She did not complain.

The war economy made Alyce a very frugal person the rest of her life. She made clothes last longer with her sewing skills. She loved hard work so much that her children wished she would slow down. Summers were filled with getting firewood, gardening, and canning fruits and vegetables.

Early in the morning, Alyce and the children would all be out in the fields picking to earn money for clothes and books for the coming school year. Since Alyce could pick



Photo by Esther Doss

faster than any of the children, she would put Doris in a crib box which one of the kids would take turns dragging down the rows.

Alyce loved to make homemade bread. When the family went camping at Crater Lake two of the older boys had to sleep outside beside the car because there was not enough room in the tent. Alyce had left the trunk of the car open. During the night a bear got into the trunk but only ate two of the 4 loaves. You guessed it – those two loaves were homemade bread.

God gave Alyce an attitude that allowed her to smile a lot. One day their VW could not quite make it up the snowy hill near their home in Cedar Creek. Alyce got out to push when suddenly the car took off and Arthur kept going for fear he could not get going again. Because there were not many VWs on the road in those days Alyce was very surprised when a VW went by her in the opposite direction with what looked like her husband and another woman. After Arthur showed up with their 4-wheel drive jeep they both had a good laugh.

We look forward to the day, when with healthy minds and bodies, we may praise God forever for many things, including Mothers. Thank you God for the hope of being with loved ones and all His children.

Alyce is survived by her siblings: Ellen Beck and Roland Grove: her children, Alfred Griffith, Don Griffith, Ben Griffith and Doris Regen.

Submitted by Alfred Griffith

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