



Three Angels Deaf Ministries Report

Volume 17 Issue 3

July 2014

Can You Hear Us? Booklet Updated

Can You Hear Us? is a concise 24-page booklet on deafness, Deaf culture, and Deaf ministry. It is written for the average hearing church member who may not know much about Deaf people. The booklet is not only for those hearing people who are learning ASL and want to become involved in Deaf ministry. Instead, this is for every hearing member. For, as the booklet emphasizes, everyone has a part to play in Deaf ministry as we are all one large family of God.

Its author is Esther Doss, a child of Deaf Adults (CODA). She writes from her unique perspective of living between both the Deaf and hearing worlds and her eye-witness accounts

of the Deaf experience. The booklet includes myths and facts about Deaf people, what video phones are and how to call a Deaf person, how to use an interpreter, suggestions for how to become Deaf-friendly, and more.

Changes were made because some information was outdated. For example, instead of instructions on using 711 and TTYs, there is more information about video phones. Plus the overall look is more modern and newer pictures are included.

These booklets will be shared at church events and conventions to help widely educate our hearing brothers and sisters.

The earlier version had an impact on our church. Several reports have come in about churches becoming more warm and accessible to Deaf people. The former North American Division President Don Schneider read the booklet and was so moved that he asked David Trexler and Esther Doss to appear on his Hope TV program *Really Living*, which only widened Deaf awareness in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We have been told that some church leaders have become listeners. And hearing individuals continually tell us, "I learned so much from that little book."

A quick guide to deaf ministry

Can you
hear us?

Esther M. Doss



"The hearing world that we live in today is vastly different than the one I grew up in," Esther states. "They are far more interested in learning about the unique Deaf culture and find that American Sign Language is indeed a beautiful language. They are starting to overcome their fear of those who are different just because their ears do not hear. This is the time to educate hearing people so that God's work among the Deaf can move forward in a mighty way."

If you are interested in getting copies for your church, you may purchase them from us. You can get 10 copies for \$10; see the order form on page 7.

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Guest Article: Heavenly Thoughts

I never know what my five-year-old son Ethan will say. Every day, he will say something odd. For example, two weeks ago he said, "I am so hungry that I could eat a donkey without clothes on. It's cleaner because it took a bath."

I especially like what he says about God because sometimes his ideas actually help me know God in better way. Recently, he and my husband found a baby turtle. They brought it in the house and set it on the table to get a better look at it. We talked about what makes turtles unique, the shell. After setting it outside, Ethan got to thinking. A few minutes later, Ethan told me, "God protects us just like the shell protects the turtle." How true. God's protection goes with us wherever we go. We do not need to fear Satan and his attacks on us. When there is danger, all we have to do is hide completely in God.

But our favorite thing to talk about is heaven. Ethan and I frequently share our imaginations about what heaven might be like. One time Ethan said, "We won't have cars in heaven, but you know how we can get around? We will have chariots of fire like Elijah did. I can't wait to eat at God's table. He's the best chef. The grape juice up there will be so sweet, sweeter than here. I sure hope that Snickers (our dog) will be there. Maybe she will get a crown. But if so, she will need a ribbon to keep it on. Won't that be neat and funny? We don't know just what heaven is like, but we sure can imagine!"

One Sabbath morning when I was about six-years-old, our Sabbath school teacher told us about heaven. She asked, "If you could have whatever house you wanted in heaven, what would it look like?" She had each one of us give an answer. I scowled at the other children because they were not creative. In fact, they did not even seem to think about the answer at all, because all of the children gave the same answer, "Gold." That was it, a one word answer. I thought about how boring heaven would be if we all had houses made out of gold. Heaven would not be boring. So my answer? "I want a house with walls of diamonds and a red rose vine growing over the top for a roof." My teacher raised her eyebrows and said, "Wow! That really would be beautiful!"

I noticed something. There are times when I am in a bad or a blue mood. But after Ethan and I imagine what heaven will be like, I always feel so happy and at peace. We do not just talk about the beauty of heaven or what animals we will play with. We also talk about being with our Best Friend Jesus. We will really see Him in person! We imagine what it would be like to sit at Jesus' feet and hear Him tell stories. We imagine how happy we would feel as we walk through a meadow and pick flowers with Him. We imagine how awesome joining ten

thousands of others and sing a praise song to God would be. We imagine a place where we would never feel guilty, sad, or angry; but only peace, love, and happiness.

Take a big look at the world around you; we live in a big mess. I am tired of hearing news about war. So many suffer pain and sickness while others feel miserable inside.

Recently, I was in a hospital waiting room to comfort a lady whose husband was dying in a few days. Another lady came in the room; her father had just died a few minutes before. I knelt between them with my arm around each one, holding them as they cried. Death is an enemy.

We who live on earth are in agony. God did not do this to us. Satan did. He convinced Eve that knowing good and evil would make her happy. Of course he lied so Adam and Eve would rebel against God and Satan could take over Earth. Why would I allow Satan to claim me when God is so amazingly loving?

The Bible tells us: "Then wolves will live in peace with lambs, and leopards will lie down to rest with goats. Calves, lions, and young bulls will eat together, and a little child will lead them. Cows and bears will eat together in peace. Their young will lie down to rest together. Lions will eat hay as oxen do. A baby will be able to play near a cobra's hole, and a child will be able to put his hand into the nest of a poisonous snake. They will not hurt or destroy each other on all my holy mountain, because the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the sea is full of water" (Isaiah 11:6-9, NCV).

For a few moments each day, step away from Earth's distractions. Turn off that TV. Ignore the VP (or phone if you are hearing). Put down the cell phone and the iPad. Walk away from the computer. Go out in God's creation or just sit on the couch and think about God. Read your Bible and talk with God through prayer. Think about God's love and the home that Jesus said he was preparing for you (John 14:1-3). Think about how much God wants you to be with Him; so much so that He sent His Son Jesus here to die for us. Remember that Jesus is coming soon and then we will forever be with our Lord. Join me in the decision to fully give our hearts to our marvelously loving God.



Esther Doss

Public Relations/Development

Booth Ministry at the National Association of the Deaf

More than 1,500 Deaf delegates and attendees came to the 52nd Biennial National Association of the Deaf Conference held in Atlanta, GA from July 1 to 5, 2014. The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) was established in 1880 by Deaf leaders who were deeply concerned about the spread of oralism and the opposition to sign language held by hearing people at that time. Today, the NAD is the leading organization for civil rights of Deaf people. Seizing the opportunity for outreach, Francisca and I set up 3ADM's booth in the exhibition hall which was open to the public for the duration of the convention.

The first two days were slow because most delegates and registered attendees were in committee meetings, board meetings, and workshops during the day. During breaks they came to the exhibit hall. We met some old friends we have not seen for a long time. The atmosphere was very friendly and open we enjoyed it very much.

One lady appeared serious as she looked at our materials on the table and the DVD player showing *Signs of God's Love #7* DVD, so I approached her. She asked if this booth belonged to Seventh-day Adventists. I smiled and said yes. She was happy to meet Adventists at the conference. How did she guess correctly? Our materials were obviously Adventist in nature and message. However, a few asked if we were Jehovah's Witnesses. When we told them we were not, they relaxed and accepted our materials without hesitancy. Only one person declined taking our materials after finding out we are Adventists.

We were thrilled to see KaAnn Varner and her husband, Tommy. KaAnn is a fairly new Adventist and the superintendent of the Oklahoma School for the Deaf. Our previous newsletter reported on our visit to their school last April. It was good to meet them again in Georgia.

A hearing lady signed so well we thought she was Deaf; she is involved with a Deaf ministry. She needed a signed gospel presentation to share with the Deaf in her area. We offered her several bags to take for her ministry. Another person came and collected at least 10 bags.

On Sabbath, more people from the local areas came to the exhibit hall; we spent a lot of time talking with them about spiritual matters. Margie English, a delegate and board member for Region #1, helped us in the booth.

We had a good visit with our booth neighbors across the aisle. One of them attended Gallaudet the same time as we did, so we had something in common as we became friends. The other was a friendly young man who accepted our bags. We were impressed that he backpacked the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine.

An important couple in the Deaf community, Henry and Bunny Klopping, came to our booth. At first, Henry



This Deaf guy is an Adventist from Cave Spring, GA where the Deaf school in Georgia is located. He worked for NAD as a volunteer. It was a nice surprise to see him there.



Margie English, a Deaf member from the Silver Spring, MD church, helped the Trexler's in the booth for a day.

came alone. Francisca knew him when she was a student at Arizona School for the Deaf in Tucson where Henry was a bus driver. Now, he is a retired superintendent of California School for the Deaf at Fremont. Bunny came to our booth later and she wanted to have a few bags for her ASL class. Both Henry and Bunny are CODAs.

Our new banner caused several visitors to ask about the meaning of the banner. One man became interested in it and accepted our offer of materials. We had a very positive experience at the convention and pray that those who took our materials will sign up for Bible lessons and ask for more information.

Now, it is a period of rest before we begin exhibiting at Deaf expos in the fall. Join us in prayer over the booth ministry and the people that we came in contact with.

David Trexler

Deaf Bible School Students Baptized at Camp Meeting

The 2014 Western Deaf Camp Meeting is now a meaningful memory for those who attended. A total of 67 people came from more than eight states, some coming from as far as Texas, Indiana, Maryland, and Connecticut.

Alan Meis and Darrel Strait were the main speakers. Their theme centered on the Third Angel's Message and their fantastic series fed the souls of those who were there. Other speakers and teachers include Francisca Trexler, Bob Plubell, Pablo Alejo, George Belser, Chuck McGehee, Alfred Griffith, and David Trexler who led out in a Bible study class with an exciting discussion on More Than a Prophet. As in years past, a highlight of the week was the Lord's Supper.

Besides rich spiritual food, fun memories were made while rafting, swimming at a waterfall, a trip to a museum, playing games, making crafts with Julia Sutton, and more.

On Sabbath afternoon, Ken and Linda Corson of Colorado were baptized in the beautiful Umpqua River with their new Deaf brothers and sisters joyfully looking on. Ken and Linda first became interested in the Adventist message while watching the captioned Amazing Facts programs. As time went by, they met Don and Julia Sutton (Adventists) while they still lived in Colorado. While visiting with the Sutton's, David and Francisca Trexler were introduced to them. Afterwards, Francisca studied with Linda through 3ADM's Deaf Bible School program using the videophone for three years. We are thrilled that Ken and Linda were baptized!



We Plant the Seeds When and Where We Can

Indianapolis, IN - April 26

Kathy McCain joined my wife Susan and I at the Indianapolis DeafNation Expo. There were about 2,400 people visiting the exhibition area. The crowd was small and slow in the morning. But then, around noon time and into the afternoon, it became a busy place with people buzzing around. A lot of people came to our booth and accepted our packets. A few people brought their friends and relatives to pick up extra packets. Most of the people came to our booth to talk to Kathy McCain who graduated from Indiana School for the Deaf, across the street from where the expo was held. She had the chance to meet and share Christ with a lot of old friends from school. Kathy and I had a conversation with a Deaf woman who had personal problems in her life and we tried to guide her into the basic Biblical guidelines. The woman was glad someone was listening and praying for her. About 180 packets were given away to souls who are hungry for the Word of God and get closer in their walk with God.

Bruce Buzzell

Pomona, CA - May 3

Three Angels Deaf Ministries came to DeafNation Expo Pomona, California for the sixth and final DeafNation Expo of the 2014 spring season. Over 4,800 people gathered from the surrounding areas to tour 85 booths. Aivars Ponkratjeva joined us at the booth. He brought his two hearing children along to experience this Deaf event. Aivars' son created a Power Point presentation of 3ADM while we were busy with visitors. He did a brilliant job to attract visitors to the booth. We greatly appreciated his work.

Despite a large number of people attending the expo, visitors to our booth and the other booths were less than in times past. But, we had several visitors who were really interested in what we believe. Aivars had many discussions with them, especially with the young people. One Deaf man asked us many questions about the Bible. He is a member of a Deaf church in Los Angeles area. He was greatly surprised about the state of the dead when Aivars showed him the Bible verses. The atmosphere was genial with no arguments at all.

We are anxious to go to other cities this fall. Pray that more interested visitors may come to our booth so that we may share the three angels' messages with them. According to the world's troubling signs Jesus is coming soon. So we must work harder to spread the gospel with the dying world.

David Trexler



Photo supplied by Bruce Buzzell

Susan Buzzell, Bruce Buzzell, and Kathy McCain (left to right) were our excellent booth workers in Indianapolis. The Buzzell's live a few hours away in the St. Louis area. Now living in Arkansas, Kathy grew up in Indianapolis. Many people were surprised to see their old school friend at our booth.



Photo by David Trexler

Aivars Ponkratjeva is a Deaf member who moved to the USA from Latvia years ago. Latvia was once a part of the Soviet Union. Aivars still maintains contact with Deaf members back home. Aivars is a student of the Bible and has a special gift of explaining Biblical truths to others. In this picture, Aivars is explaining the Bible to a young Deaf man at our booth in Pomona, CA. The young man admitted that he learned something new to him that "blew" his mind. The dialogue was very good.

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Click on Sermons at the bottom of the page.

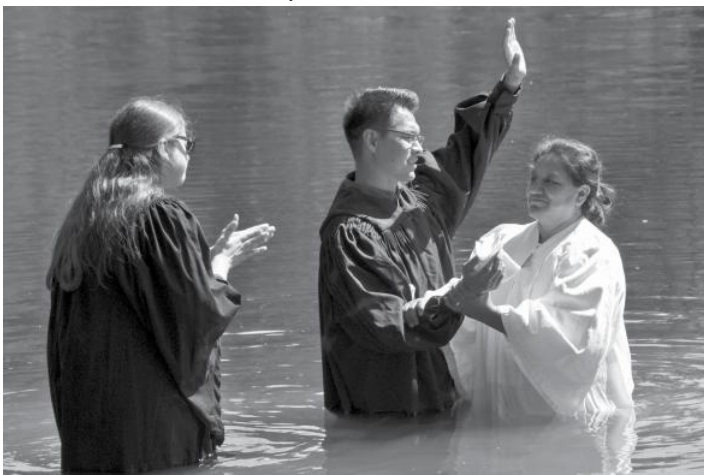
Baptism in the Northwest

It was a beautiful Sabbath day on June 7th, at Sunset Lake Camp in Wilkeson, WA as friends, family, church family and Deaf family gathered together to witness two special baptisms take place in the chilly waters of Sunset Lake.

The first baptism was for ten year old Ariana Jarnes (hearing), daughter of Brian and Nohelani (Nohe) Jarnes. Nohe is a professional interpreter with a heart for Deaf ministry. Ariana has been studying to be baptized for several months reading through books about the 28 Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She desired to follow Jesus with all of her heart by being baptized. Pastor Vince Saunders (hearing) of the Bonney Lake SDA Church baptized Ariana.

The second baptism was for Rosemary Salazar (Deaf), who has been studying for baptism for about four months with Pastor Paul Vivier (hearing) of Volunteer Park Church in Seattle on Sabbath mornings through Nohe (the interpreter) and also on Friday nights as well. After Rosemary's baptism, she became very emotional and is very excited about following God with all of her heart. Several Deaf Adventist brothers and sisters were there to witness these baptisms, knowing that angels were rejoicing with them. These baptisms were truly a blessing to experience!

*Nohe Jarnes
Interpreter at Volunteer Park SDA Church*



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Mail Bag

"I really enjoy God's Way Bible lessons. I have learned so much from them!"

Deaf Bible School Student

"I have learned so much from God's Way Bible lessons. Many things I have never known before! I am so happy to learn from the Bible. I am glad that I am taking the lessons. I gave four of my friends enrollment cards so they can take the God's Way Bible lessons too."

Deaf Bible School Student

"I just want to write a few lines to first of all say that I have been watching your program for several months, and while I am not deaf, I really enjoy Arthur's voice interpretation, and no matter how many times I see the same programs, I get something new from it each time.

"I do have a niece that is deaf. Every time I watch your program I think about her. I don't know if your program is on a channel where she lives but I will ask my sister where she lives because I would really like her to be able to watch you and learn more about Jesus. Thank you again so much for your ministry!"

E-mail

"I just wanted to thank you for the materials which I received a week or so ago. I read the "Can you hear us?" booklet and my Dad read it too. It was really interesting to read! Thanks."

Australia

Donations

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Dennis Emerson by Dorothy Stelling-Emerson
Sylvia House by Dorothy Stelling-Emerson
The Krugers by Dorothy Stelling-Emerson
Iva J. Dalton Mansell by Katrina Mansell

In Honor of...

Marvin Budd by Luis Leonor and Mary Miller

Three Angels Deaf Ministries Report is a bimonthly publication of Three Angels Deaf Ministries. Contributors to the ministry receive this report for two years from the date of their most recent gift.

Three Angels Deaf Ministries, a nonprofit ministry, shares the saving truths of Jesus Christ with the Deaf through easy reading literature, the Internet, public evangelism, outreach training, and more. For operation, we depend on the gifts and prayers of caring Christians who believe in our mission.

3ADM Catalog -- All prices include USA shipping

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A quick reference guide to Deaf Ministry.

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