



Three Angels Deaf Ministries Report

Volume 23 Issue 5

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Adventist Possibility Ministries

Adventist Possibility Ministries (APM) was formerly known as Adventist Special Needs Ministries. The name was changed in 2019 to fit the goals of the ministry. Many of those served by this ministry prefer to be known for their possibilities rather than either their “disability” or their “neediness.” In 2010 a revived ministry for the Deaf was begun and named Adventist Deaf Ministries International (ADMI). The Lord dramatically blessed this global ministry. In 2015 other groups named by Ellen White (see Testimonies to the Church, p. 511) were added and are now included under the name APM. Included are the following: the Deaf, the blind, the physical-mobility and mentally-emotionally and learning challenged, orphans-vulnerable children, the bereaved for spousal loss (the widowed), and caregivers.

An important principle of APM is to work with all departments and ministries that includes supporting ministries such as Three Angels Deaf Ministries (3ADM). APM is part of the General Conference. It is not a department because the compassionate concerns that are central to its ministries need to be included in all departments and ministries. A good example of this is the work being done for orphans. There are several dedicated ministries working for orphaned children. The GC Children’s Ministries is doing the same. In this case APM is largely a coordinator by bringing the two together and raising awareness around the world of the spiritual responsibility the Church and community has.

The plan of APM is simple. It is called the “3-A Strategy.” The focus is on “awareness, acceptance, and action.” Awareness is being aware of the needs and opportunities to serve. Acceptance means understanding the people and their culture. Once awareness and acceptance are understood, action plans begin. The strategy is effective because it is simple.

The concept of the present organization was first started in the Oregon Conference under the name of Multicultural Ministries. That model was revived and applied to the seven ministries of APM. Each of these ministries has a taskforce made up of those who have learned to understand the group of people it represents. They help lay the plans along with division and other leaders who will help steer

action plans so that something actually gets done. Each of the thirteen world divisions has an APM leader who is responsible for overseeing the seven ministries in his division. Some divisions respond better than others but, in every case, it is growing. APM is more a “movement” than a “program.” The support and talent of 3ADM is an important part of this movement which is why representatives are part of the outreach to the Deaf. APM seeks to support the work of 3ADM and is planning to do so.

As a result of the Lord’s leading and the development of a “grassroots movement” much has been successful. The identity of the Deaf, for example, has grown a lot and a new understanding and openness has developed by the hearing which is leading to even more growth. We can see the progress through two websites, two Facebook pages, and even a Hope Channel Deaf that features four languages. But, much more needs to be done! A very positive happening when the GC Executive Committee voted to ask a deaf person, Pastor Jeff Jordan, to serve as a full delegate at the coming General Conference Session in Indianapolis. That would be the first time in church’s history to have a Deaf delegate in the GC Session. But we must never forget that over 95% of the Deaf do not know Jesus. That why we believe in “possibility” ministries not only for the Deaf but by the Deaf!

Dr. Larry Evans

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Speaker's Talk: Don't Lose Our Sight of Heaven (It is getting closer)!

We are living in a very unusual and strange world! The fact is that it is getting worse than ever before despite the great advancement of technology and knowledge. In every upward step of improvement in technology we see two or more downward steps of human morality. It like this: one step forward and two steps backward. We are in the days of Sodom as Jesus warned in Luke 17:28-30: "It will be the same as during the time of Lot. People were eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from the sky and killed them all. This is how it will be when the Son of Man comes again."

There is nothing wrong with eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, and building. The problem is that the society of today is doing everything against God's law of love, protection and common sense. In Genesis 6:5: "The Lord saw that the human beings on the earth were very wicked and that everything they thought about was evil." This text speaks of the time before Noah's flood. Another text about the evils of Sodom: "Also remember the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and the other towns around them. In the same way they were full of sexual sin and people who desired sexual relations that God does not allow. They suffer the punishment of eternal fire, as an example for all to see" (Jude 7).

As we see in news everyday there are more and more anarchy, rioting, fighting, killing, stealing, looting, lawlessness, abuses, rebelling against the authorities, sexual freedom, sexual slavery for profit, divorces, some persecution against Christians who are not in agreement with the world's immoral lifestyle. We are living in a very dangerous society. We have more fear of the future and live much more than during the Cold War between United States and Soviet Union that aim their nuclear-tipped missiles toward each other.

In addition, we worry about the dangerous weather and natural disasters that are getting worse than ever before. Wildfires happen in the West, Australia, Siberia in Russia, South America and Europe. We are experiencing more hurricanes that have caused billions of dollars of damages. Some communities have been wiped out from the map for good. There is no rest for the world's population. "There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. On earth, nations will be afraid and confused because of the roar and fury of the

sea. People will be so afraid they will faint, wondering what is happening to the world, because the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then people will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

When these things begin to happen, look up and hold your heads high, because the time when God will free you is near!" (Luke 21:25-28).

It is easy for us to be distracted from God and be discouraged by what is happening all over the world. Unfortunately, some Christians have fallen away from God. They are confused and upset. They have been attracted to the worldly things that appear to be more attractive than the life of true Christianity. Many so-called Christians are not showing the love of Christ, and they are acting more worldly than the unchristian people. Also, some of the church leaders are leading many away from the true gospel and the Bible as the standard of faith. In other words, especially through the social media we are living in a very confused world with different kinds of "truths" that are attracting many people. We have a lot of criticism against the church and leadership. No wonder many people are confused and then go with the wrong crowd. As we are coming closer to the end of the world we need to remember Jesus' warning: "There will be more and more evil in the world, so most people will stop showing their love for each other" (Matthew 24:12). Satan is working harder in his attack on God's people. "But those people who keep their faith until the end will be saved. The Good News about God's kingdom will be preached in all the world, to every nation. Then the end will come" (Matthew 24:13, 14). "Then the dragon was angry with the woman [God's church], and he went to wage war with the remnant of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 12:17, MEV).

Finally, please pay attention to Jesus' warning to those who claim to be a Christian in the last days. "Be careful not to spend your time feasting, drinking, or worrying about worldly things. If you do, that day might come on you suddenly, like a trap on all people on earth. So be ready all the time. Pray that you will be strong enough to escape all these things that will happen and that you will be able to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:34-36).

David M. Trexler

Baptism of Kevin Schobilgen



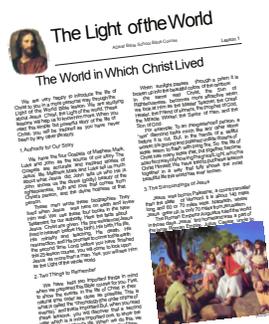
But three years ago, Kelly Palmer got cancer and passed away. Kevin went to Kelly's funeral to pay his last respect for her. He said that he was struggling about attending the funeral. But Kevin felt that the Holy Spirit encouraged him to attend the funeral to meet his friends. During the service I gave a testimony about Kelly. The testimony of Kelly impressed Kevin about the 7th day Sabbath. After the funeral, Kevin and I started our communication with each other about the Sabbath truth. A few weeks later, one early morning, Kevin usually turned on his TV before going to work, he was shocked when he saw a large word spelled, "SABBATH." He sat down and watched it for a few minutes. Later that night, Kevin called me and told me about what happened. Kevin admitted that he loved to watch "The Ten Commandments" movie every year during Easter weekend. He never missed it. What surprised him the most was that the Sabbath was already given many years before Moses. He thought The Ten Commandments were given to Moses from God only for the Jews. From that day on, we studied together more. We studied Daniel and Revelation. We used the pictorial book from Amazing Facts about the history. Kevin learned that the Catholic Church did try to change the Ten Commandments and persecute thousands of true Christians during the Middle Age. Two years later, Kevin was convinced in the Bible truths, and he wanted to be baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church that holds the truths. September 12, 2020 was the day he was baptized. It was the happiest day!

Kevin Schrobilgen was baptized by Iowa City Seventh-day Adventist Church's Pastor Dale Morrison in Iowa on September 12, 2020. Kevin was a devout Catholic who loved to talk about the Bible, especially the book of Revelation.

Kelly Palmer, a Deaf Adventist, was Kevin's good friend. Both knew each other very well because they attended the Iowa School for the Deaf in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and they were in same classroom and graduated in the year of 1983. Kevin lives in Monticello, Iowa, while Kelly lived in Iowa City. They kept in touch with each other from time to time at different events.

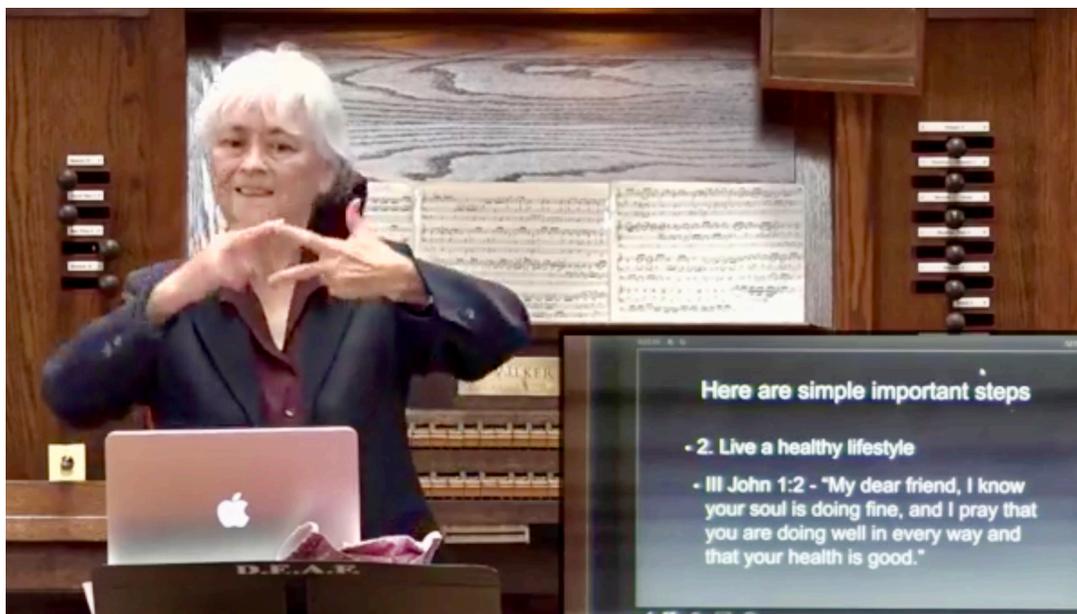
I told Kevin that we need a lot of work to do. We all need to share the Gospel and tell the Deaf how important we need to pay attention to what Lord Jesus says. Let's get to work while we still have time. So many souls who need to hear the truth! May God bless you all.

Duane Meyer



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The Special Sabbath at The College Church



On October 16, 2020, I flew out to Providence, Rhode Island. Jessica McGown-Smith picked me up from the small airport. It was pleasant to meet Jessica again for not having seen her for a long time due to COVID-19. The flight was good. I was relieved that the plane was not full. The middle seats were empty to meet the social distancing guidance.

That Sabbath (October 17) was a special day for the Deaf that met at The College Church of SDA at Atlantic Union College in Lancaster, MA where the Deaf members participated in the worship service. ASL songs were given by Jonathan Solomon and Sidney and Pam Leith. Sidney gave a scripture reading. Jonathan gave an opening prayer. The hearing people in the church had a good experience of having the Deaf people running the program with the help of Jessica McGowan-Smith who voice interpreted. I gave a sermon: "Facing COVID-19: How to Survive as a Christian." There were some members attending the church and it was live-streamed for those who chose to stay at home. In addition there were Deaf friends of Jonathan visiting the church.

My presentation was about how we survive the pandemic of COVID-19 and on how to behave as the true Christian. I explained about a tough time during the pandemic. During the pandemic, some people get upset and frustrated. COVID-19 is unwelcome, uninvited, deadly, a pandemic and extremely contagious. COVID-19 impacts on: 1. Social media, 2. Social distance, 3. Isolation, 4. Emotional imbalance, 5. Young

people's issues, 6. Physical and mental health, 7. School, 8. Family issues, 9. Marriage and 10. Employment. Despite the problems God calls us to do the following: 1. Comfort, 2. Pray, 3. Teach, 4. Support, 5. Share, and 6. Give Bible text. We need to: trust God who strengthens our faith, read the Bible to strengthen our minds, share the truth of Jesus with others, and to pray continually. We need to hold on to God, feel His presence, trust in God, stand firmly in God, remember God is in control and lastly, not to be afraid. "So don't worry, because I [Jesus] am with you. Don't be afraid, because I [Jesus] am your God. I will make you strong and will help you; I will support you with my right hand that saves you" (Isaiah 41:10).

After the worship three persons came up to me and said they were glad to have the Bible verses to boost their trust and faith in God. They enjoyed my presentation. I was glad that my presentation helped them to turn to God and increase their faith in God regardless of the circumstances.

We had a wonderful fellowship dinner at David and Jessica's home. I really enjoyed being with everyone there including Jessica's mother, Linda, and Jonathan's friends. Jessica's daughter, Eden, really enjoyed being with us as she tried to communicate with us through her signing. What an attentive and brilliant girl!

Thanks to Jessica McGowan-Smith for making the Deaf Sabbath a success. Also, thanks to the church leaders for allowing us to worship with them.

Francisca Trexler

In Memory of Joel D. Center



Joel D. Center died unexpectedly at his home on Wednesday, September 16 at the age of 78 in Ringgold, Georgia. He leaves behind his wife, Lyda of 58 years of marriage, as well as 3 children, 7 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren. He was the second born of five children, two being born deaf, including himself.

My Dad attended the Cave Springs School for the Deaf, located in Cave Springs, Georgia, from the time he was 5 years old until he graduated with his high school diploma. He loved sports. He was captain of the football team, and he loved to play basketball. He always said the best part of school is where he met his wife. He told the story hundreds of times of how he first saw my Mom and how they had secret signs so others at the school wouldn't know they were dating. He would always say to me, every time I saw him, even the Sunday before he died that "we've been married for 58 years, but it's really 63 years if you add it all up. Your Mom is still just as beautiful."

After school and marrying my Mom, he worked as a Linotype operator at the Chattanooga Times Free Press and later returned to the Cave Springs School for the Deaf as the boys' dean. He was an amazing mechanic and loved fixing up old cars, especially if he could help a neighbor out. We didn't have money growing up, but he realized a lot of other people didn't either. While he always tried to make a little extra to help with the bill, he didn't worry whether or not someone could pay him, he

just helped. I remember the day I got married almost 30 years ago: my husband and I stopped at my parents to change clothes and this elderly man came walking up the driveway. I stood there on the porch in my wedding dress as this man asked if I could give these eggs to my Dad. He said, "I don't have any money, but I wanted to thank him for fixing my car so would you give him these." My Dad loved helping people like that, and I loved that about him.

As a child, the baby of 3 girls, I always saw my Dad as strong, tough, smart, but I was always amazed at how he could communicate so easily with hearing people and without a pen or paper. He was so great at making hearing people comfortable with him. He accepted being deaf and did not see it as a disability, rather it was just who he was and was determined to not let anyone see him any differently.

My parents always took us to church growing up, but once we had grown up and moved away, they were sad that their church felt a little empty trying to understand the Word through an interpreter. That all changed when they met a deaf pastor, Jeff Jordan. My Dad said he became alive when he and my Mom studied the Bible and he was so excited when he learned something new. They loved being members of the Southern Deaf Fellowship church located in McDonald, Tennessee. He was a deacon and also assisted in helping livestream the weekly service.

All these things are wonderful, but if he knew I was writing this, he would want you to really know 2 things about him: His love for his wife, whom he loved and adored taking care of, especially after her diagnosis of pulmonary fibrosis. He took better care of her than any hospital could, and tell my Mom every day how much he enjoyed taking care of her. The second thing he would want you to know is his love for Jesus. Anyone that knows my Dad would know he would love to tell you how much Jesus loves you and to get ready for the second coming. He had many dreams of the second coming and would describe angels flying down from heaven, millions, seeing Christ in all His glory coming towards earth. He would describe the wonderful beauty and the sound he would hear as Jesus was approaching. It was wonderful to see him tell about these dreams. He loved Jesus with his whole heart and loved to preach to anyone that would give him a few minutes. His hope would be for all his friends and family to not only get ready for His second coming, but to continue to spread the gospel to the world!

While I miss my Dad so much, I am also excited to know that while he is asleep in Christ, the first sound he will ever hear, will be the voice of Jesus.

What a glorious day that will be!

Shirley Sinclair
Daughter of Joel and Lyda Center

In Memory of Loraine “Lorraine” Irma Schell



Lorraine “Lorraine” Irma Schell, 79, of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, passed away on Sunday, September 13, 2020 at ManorCare in Lebanon.

Lorraine was born in Lebanon on February 13, 1941 to the late Samuel M. and Florence M. (Hlavaty) Neuin. She was self-employed in the cleaning business. She was a member of the Lebanon Seventh-day Adventist Church. She enjoyed reading, gardening, doing puzzles, Scrabble, having company over, and spending much time with her daughter and grandsons. She loved her family very much.

Lorraine is survived by her daughter, Lisa M. Milano of Lebanon; grandsons—Joshua Piccerillo and his wife Uloma and Bryan Piccerillo; brother Samuel J. Neuin of Lebanon; sister Barbara Shroyer of Manheim; and a sister-in-law, Suzanne Neuin. She was preceded in death by her brother Ronald Neuin and a brother-in-law, Randy Shroyer.

Editor’s note: Lorraine, as we called her, loved Deaf people because of her close relationship with her daughter, Lisa, who is Deaf. Lisa has two Deaf sons, Joshua and Bryan. Lorraine had shared the Adventist messages with her family members. We missed her letters very much since she was ill at a nursing home where she passed away. Please remember the family over the loss of this wonderful mother.

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