



Three Angels Deaf Ministries

Report

Sharing the Three Angels' Messages with the Deaf

Volume 24 Issue 4

August - December 2021

Deaf Reach Seminar in Massachusetts



Jessica McGowan-Smith, Deaf Ministry Director for the Southern New England Conference (SNEC), asked Francisca and David to give the Deaf Reach seminar which is the lay-training program to Deaf members in her area. The seminar was held at the conference's property in South Lancaster, Massachusetts.

There is a need for it since Paul Kelly has moved to Maryland from Rochester, New York to take up the work as the Speaker/Director of 3ADM. Jessica invited the Deaf members in New York and New England to come and learn how to effectively witness to Deaf people. Wonderfully, seven of them came from New York and Massachusetts.

Jessica McGowan-Smith was awarded with a plaque for her years of hard work for the Deaf in Southern New England Conference and other regions. Three Angels Deaf Ministries really appreciated her faithfulness and love to the Deaf

people continually by managing the camp meetings, promoting the Deaf ministries in churches, interpreting the church worship services in different locations where Deaf members live, and educating the church leaders about the spiritual needs of the Deaf. Also, she is a strong supporter for Three Angels Deaf Ministries.

Thanks to the Southern New England Conference for allowing the Deaf Reach seminar to use its facility for making the program to work productively. Also, thanks to Linda, Jessica's mom for preparing food for the attendees and David, Jessica's husband for assistance.

The Deaf Reach seminar has been inactive since the successful trainings were given to several Deaf groups and church all over the country, including Canada. The last Deaf Reach seminar was conducted about ten years ago.

The Speaker's Message: Farewell

This is my last report as the Speaker/Director. My position ended when the new Speaker/Director, Paul Kelly, started his job on October 1, 2021. It is hard to believe that I have worked for 3ADM for more than 14 years as the Speaker/Director the job I had never dreamed of. However, in addition to 3ADM I had worked for the Potomac Conference as the full-time pastor for the Deaf for 7 years, CRS as Associate Director for 6 years and Adventist Deaf Ministries (after the closure of Deaf Department in CRS) as Associate Director for 2 years. That means I have worked for the Lord in these capacities for over 29 years. What God hath wrought!

Of course, the pastor never retires. But almost like the ballad that General Arthur MacArthur who was 71 years old gave his closing farewell to the Congress in 1951. " 'Old soldiers never die—they just fade away.' And like the old soldier of that ballad, I now close my military career and just fade away—an old soldier who tried to do his duty as God gave him the light to see that duty. Good-bye." Christians are soldiers in the spiritual warfare. Old pastors in sense never die, but just fade away in the background.

My retirement come with happiness and sadness. Happiness is because I have done my duties for Jesus Christ thus ending my administrative work so it relieves me from the burden of the difficult tasks for the younger generation to take over. Sadness is because I will miss the ministry that have reached out to many Deaf people, SDAs and non-SDAs all over the world. Francisca and I will never die in the spirit of love for the Deaf and in the passion for sharing with the Deaf. We will continue what the

Lord has planned for us. We will not be inactive for sure! Some of you might think that we will go bird watching all the time. That is not the truth. Of course, we will spend more time in birding but not neglecting the lay gospel work for the Deaf. We will have more freedom in spending more time out of the office environment in reaching out to the Deaf—just like my former pastoral work that I loved the most. Deaf souls are precious to us, and we want them to have the thrilling experience of knowing the truths in the Bible and learning more about Jesus Christ as we had experienced when we were students at Gallaudet University which was the turning point of our lives—the best ever we had experienced. Let me emphasize it—it is the ultimate life-changing experience we ever had in our whole life. So, that is why we want them to experience it as Jesus promises, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10).

I appreciate the consideration of the Board for allowing me to continue my employment until April 30 to smoothly assist the transition of my responsibilities to Paul Kelly and to prepare Francisca and me to relocate in spring of 2022. We have not decided on the new location for our retirement. We need your prayers.

We are praying to God for His guidance on where to relocate as we still have the heart to continue the service of God for the Deaf. I am asking you to pray for Paul Kelly as he is learning the ropes of the administration of the ministry, and for us as we are slowly closing our work for this viable Deaf ministry. Thank you!

David M Trexler

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In Loving Memory of . . .

- Shaun Johnston
- Edith Hotchkiss
- Clem Ball
- Dawn Patino



Amazing God During House Hunting

After accepting an offer to be the next Director/Speaker of Three Angels Deaf Ministries (3ADM) last February (a new job started on October 1), we were suggested to move to the DC metropolitan area or remain in Rochester, NY if it could be worked out successfully. During that time, the price of wood and the price of houses for sale rose dramatically across the country. Our realtor informed us that 65% of people were not selling their homes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so there were not many houses for sale. Although the interest rate was low, the buyers including the realtor's clients were having a hard time finding a house to buy. Many houses were sold so quickly at a much higher price. There were people with cash chasing after any house they could find to buy. We were concerned about the house cost continuing to rise if we waited until summer or fall to look for a house to buy. We spent time searching on the Internet and receiving information from our realtor for an affordable house to buy, especially the one to have a room for the 3ADM office to run from home. Many houses were expensive forcing us to narrow down our search to the Hagerstown area and nearby cities in Maryland. We found six houses to explore. We also looked into the possibility of buying a new home. We left the matter to God to decide where we should live, either in Maryland or in Rochester, NY to carry out 3ADM mission.

On our school spring break during the last week of March of 2021, we drove down to Hagerstown in Maryland which is 5 ½ hours' drive south of Rochester, NY. We stayed at our Adventist friends' home during our house hunting. Upon arrival, we stopped by to see the new homes. We found out that many people were also quickly buying new homes. We were told that we would have to wait many months for a new home to be ready. One builder said that the waiting list would be up to two years. With that news, we decided to go for older homes. We drove by six houses the next day on Tuesday before we met our realtor on Wednesday. By then, the realtor learned that three houses were not ready to be seen inside even though they were advertised as "coming soon." That left us with only three houses instead of six. One of them was a bit out of the way so only two houses were to be seen afterwards. The first one was nice, but the price was rather high. It was built in the 1960s and

there wasn't much renovation being done. We then went to the last house. While visiting that house, we noticed a flower-decorated cross on the wall near the door in the porch area. It was set up because Easter was coming up that week. Also, a picture of Jesus holding a lamb was on the wall above the basement stairway, so we assumed that it was a Christian home. While we went through the house, the realtor called me over to the master bedroom to show me the plaques and certificates hanging on the wall. We noticed that the owner was a chaplain. Then I went to the basement. There were bookcases filled with books. My eyes caught the red-and-green Bible Commentary, a ten volume set, which was old Seventh-day Adventist books. Then I saw Ellen G. White books too. Instantly, I knew that the owner was obviously a Seventh-day Adventist. Then I saw a picture of him and his wife in his office. I called my wife Tina over and asked if she knew him. She remembered his name back in the 1970s. That was about 44 years ago. He had a Deaf brother and a Deaf sister. His Deaf brother used to be a member of the Silver Spring Deaf Church back then and is now living in Pennsylvania. At that time during the summer of 1977, his Deaf brother invited Tina when she was a single to visit his brother and his family in Wisconsin. This was when his brother was a manager of a bread company before he became a pastor later.

Later in the evening, I called his Deaf brother and had a chat before asking him for his brother's contact number. He didn't know the reason for the call. Then the following morning on Thursday, I called his brother and told him that I would be the 3ADM Director in the fall and while we chatted, he began to remember Tina and other people he associated with because of his Deaf brother. We told him that we happened to come across his house during our house hunt and were interested in his house. Later in the afternoon, he called us inviting us and our Adventist friends out to the Olive Garden Restaurant. We all had a good chat. He informed us that since his house was put up for sale on Tuesday, there were more than 24 people who saw his house and three more were scheduled to see it on Friday morning. Also, more than 7 people were trying to bid for his house. He mentioned that one person refused to be outbid and had cash ready to buy his house. By the end

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of dinner, he stated that he would like to sell us his house if everything went well with the paperwork which was due by Friday noon. We contacted our realtor who was very surprised. We both then worked hard preparing the paperwork that night and Friday morning through texting and emails. We made it in time by submitting our paperwork.

Our Adventist friends and we then went out to Mozzeria, a completely Deaf-owned pizzeria in DC near where Gallaudet University is. Later that day, we finally got confirmation that the house was sold to us! Praise God! We could see that God is at work to make things happen according to His will. What's more, the owner bought that house from the first owner who happened to be an Adventist classmate of his wife back then. They didn't know that until two months later! The first owner, the second owner, and us being the third were all Adventists!

On Sabbath after the church service, a group of Adventists, including our son and his wife, had a potluck at the Great Falls Park in Virginia. They were so anxious to hear the outcome of our

house hunting, especially that we had a short week in the midst of a crazed house snatching going on. After potluck, they all sat down to listen to our house hunting story. They felt goosebumps on their arms and praised God for how amazing He is.

The experience taught us all the importance of submitting to God's will first and trusting Him that His will be done when we ask him for anything. John the Apostle stated in 1 John 5:14, "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." We want to thank God and our people who prayed for us.

Tina and I finally retired from the Rochester School for the Deaf where we worked for many years. Now we have a new chapter of life serving our Lord. Let us all pray and work together to spread the gospel and to announce the wonderful news of Christ's return to take us all to our permanent home! Amen!

Paul Kelly

A New Family Member



Joshua and Uloma Piccerillo are proud parents of Sapphira Hope Piccerillo who was born on August 6, 2021. Congratulations!

In Memory of Lyda Jane Center



Lyda Jane Center (right), 73, passed away August 13, 2021. A lifelong resident of Ringgold & Tunnel Hill, GA. Lyda was a member of Southern Deaf Fellowship SDA Church, McDonald TN.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Olen & Martha Jane Hitchcox; brother, Robert Hitchcox; sister, Doris Lamb; and her loving husband, Joel Center.

She is survived by her daughters, Lorna (Judd) Whitfield, Ringgold; Connie Center, Tunnel Hill; and Shirley (Jimmy) Sinclair, Chattanooga; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; sister, Vanessa Stoker, Rossville, GA; brother, Joel Hitchcox, Flintstone, GA; several nieces and nephews.

Southern Deaf Fellowship Camp Meeting 2021



Last year in 2020, Southern Deaf Camp Meeting had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. However, this year's camp meeting was able to resume. A total of 88 people came to Cohutta Springs Conference Center in North Georgia, August 11-15, to be spiritually fed as well as to have fun.

Alan Meis, a CODA of Gordon & Jane Meis, was the main speaker. He presented the theme of "Lest We Forget..." which was on the Adventist heritage. It is important for the church members to remember the past on how God has used individuals such as Ellen and James White, William Miller, Joseph Bates, and Rachel Oakes, to bring a greater light from the Bible to where we are today as God's last day church. "We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history" written by Ellen G. White.

Do you know who was the first Deaf Adventist pioneer? Brother Eliphilet M. Kimball (1816-1887)! He was the first Deaf missionary who traveled to many places, mostly the northeast and the midwest, and shared the gospel to Deaf brothers and sisters. Kimball was mentioned in several Adventist publications. Ellen G. White met and wrote briefly about his work. "We were interested to meet Brother Kimball who is a mute and has been a missionary among the mutes. Through his persevering labors, quite a little army have accepted the truth. We meet this faithful brother at our yearly camp-meetings surrounded by several of his mute converts. Someone who is interested, who has ears to hear, writes out some

portion of the discourse, and he sits surrounded by his mute friends actively preaching to them with his hands. He has freely used his means to advance the missionary work, thus honoring God with his substance. By and by, if faithful, he will receive a precious reward. Twenty-two received baptism." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, page 300.

During free time, many took the advantage of going swimming, participating in water activities, zip-lining, and hiking in the beautiful nature that God has created.

The communion service made the Friday evening program special. It was an honor to have Elder David Trexler, Director of 3ADM, lead the service. After the service, the congregation gave praises to God by sharing many testimonies.

Sabbath afternoon was a traditional highlight: baptismal service. Three precious individuals made their decision to follow Christ by being baptized at the lake. Zoe Michalek, Alisa Barnes and her daughter, Skylar. Congratulations!

Much appreciation goes to Pastor Jeff Jordan who coordinated camp meeting, Noah Jordan who made sure the live streaming was functioning, Anissa Michalek with the children's program, Jaycee Robinson with the teens program, Francisca Trexler with teaching the Sabbath School lesson, Brian & Amy Kelly taking care of registration, Theresa Johnson & Vanessa Cortez & Tajana Richards as massage therapists, and Michelle Arthur & Alisa Barnes & Karly Pratt & Gayle Sutton as ASL interpreters.

Pastor Jeff Jordan

DEAR Camp Meeting 2021



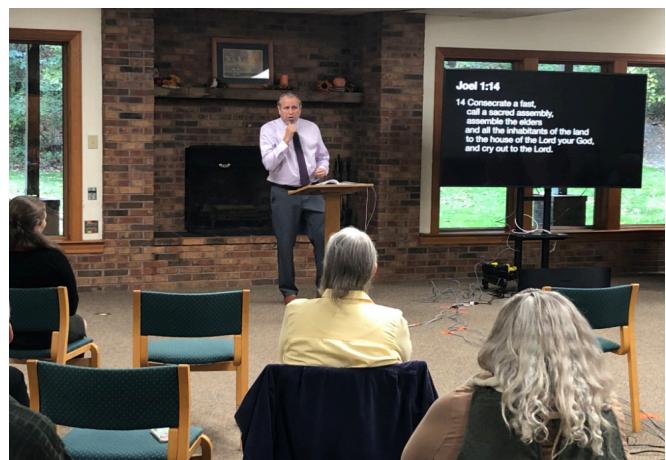
DEAR Camp Meeting 2021 was held at Mt. Aetna Retreat Center in Hagerstown, MD on the weekend of October 20th-23rd, 2021. What a wonderful gathering of brothers and sisters in Christ after the 18-month COVID-19 pandemic. It was a great blessing to see each other physically and spiritually connected after such a long time without fellowship. There were 22 attendees including three kids and the DYAC (Deaf Young Adults for Christ) group consisting of about 20 attendees including nine kids. DYAC met concurrently with DEAR; however, DYAC had their own program and activities for the most part. They, however, joined DEAR's three part series entitled, "Outpouring of the Holy Spirit," presented by Jason Kimbrough, an elder of DEAF church. Jason presented three lectures: The Purpose and Meaning of the Holy Spirit, the Latter Rain, and God's Success. These presentations were based on the book: "The Holy Spirit" by Bill Lehman.

A guest speaker, Dr. Hana Kahlova, presented "How to Optimize Your Diet to Boost Metabolism?" on Friday afternoon. Billy Kendrick, an excellent interpreter, interpreted for us. We learned that it is more beneficial for metabolism to eat breakfast like a king and lunch like a prince at the same time every day. And, it is better to eat two meals rather than three meals even though they have the same amount of

calories.

We had a Lord's Supper led by Paul Kelly, the new 3ADM Speaker/Director. Some of the individuals shared some touching testimonies. On Saturday night, the last meeting with Amanda Colgan from the DYAC group presented on the Trinity from several books as resources, and she enthusiastically shared with us what she had been researching. It was very rich and informative! God has blessed each of the DEAR attendees with rich spiritual food!

Sheelah Kimbrough



Jason Kimbrough shares the message about the Holy Spirit.

DeafNation Expo in Irving, TX

For about one year DeafNation had suspended hosting its events due to COVID-19. The World Deaf Expo was postponed twice to next year 2022. It was a long “drought” for the Deaf community who loves to visit each other at the Deaf events such as DeafNation Expo. Sharing God’s messages with the Deaf at this kind event was suspended, but the Lord has a wonderful plan ahead of COVID-19 by 3ADM’s online and mailing methods. Deaf Bible School never stopped its activities. Internet has been a blessing for us to share with the Deaf people all over the world.

Now back to the brief story about the first DeafNation Expo in 2021 that was located at Irving, TX. Francisca and I were concerned about the delta variant of COVID-19 that is more contagious than the previous one. Though we had been vaccinated, but still we heard news that many of the vaccinated people got delta. We prayed to our Lord to protect us as we traveled in a crowded airliner as we flew to Dallas, TX. Of course, masks are required in the airports and in the planes. But there was no “six feet” rule in the cabin. We were in a sardine-packed cabin. But everything went well.

On the Expo Day which was on the Sabbath our booth was prepared for the attendees. At first it was slow with a few visitors until later in the morning the hall was crowded with excited and joyful Deaf attendees. We were so glad to meet Joel and Jed Barish who hosted this event. There were several religious booths. Amazingly, we were busy all day with many Deaf attendees especially the young people. A few local SDA Deaf members visited us for a while. The event was a success in term of the number of attendees and booths. More than 1,600 visited over 60 booths. Many Deaf attendees took our materials and DVDs. Some of them we have established relationship for further Bible study and counseling.

We stayed in for another day after the exposition because we had planned on visiting the local Deaf Adventists on Sunday morning at the church school of Adventist church in Lewisville which is about 20 min drive from Irving. Janice Petchkurow who interprets for the Deaf at this church invited Deaf members to have a brunch and meeting. COVID-19 really hurt the spirit of the Deaf members by not being able to fellowship with one another too long. And, they really need someone like us to give a sermon and encouragement to foster their spiritual growth. After a good brunch I gave a

short sermon that really inspired them to love God more. Then there was a baby and children dedication for the family of Daniel and Johanna Guerrero. It was worth a visit for their sake.

David M. Trexler

It's a Deaf Thing Expo in Lakeland, FL

The weather was nice and sunny when we landed at Tampa, Florida on October 1, 2021, which was the first day of work as the new 3ADM Director. We drove about 43 miles east to Lakeland where “It’s a Deaf Thing”- Deaf Expo which was held the next day. We noticed it had altogether 5 religious organization booths. A person who was responsible for organizing that event wanted them to become involved in reaching out to Deaf attendees. We noticed that there were many Deaf who used to live in other states moving to Florida for their retirements. Some started as snowbirds who eventually settled down in Florida.

We met a Deaf person who had a Deaf cousin attending Southern Deaf Fellowship Church in Tennessee. When he asked Tina to remove her mask for a picture to be taken, another person standing by saw her face and was so thrilled. He told us that he knew us and took a picture of us first before he removed his mask to show who he was. Once he removed his mask, we were equally so thrilled to see him. We hadn’t seen him for 41 years. Unfortunately, his wife was not there as she wasn’t feeling well. We agreed to meet with her at DeafNation which will be held on November 6, 2021 at Kissimmee, Florida. He and his wife are friends of an Adventist couple who reside at The Villages, a retirement center in Florida. It has over 200 Deaf residents. We met a Deaf/Blind Adventist lady who was baptized at the Deaf camp meeting in Massachusetts some years ago. We also met a hearing VR counselor of the Deaf who is an Adventist. She and her husband went to Milo once many years ago and also heard my sermon at Orlando church while we were visiting Tina’s parents. We gave her a bunch of 3ADM gospel pamphlets to share with the Deaf. They have a Deaf daughter who is now working at the Florida School for the Deaf in St. Augustine, Florida. There were over 800 attendees, vendors, and volunteers attending the event. It was wonderful meeting Deaf and hearing people of all ages.

Paul Kelly

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