

THE INTERPRETER CONNECTION

Issue 2

June 2015

Teaming: The Art of Working Together PART TWO

A trusted colleague and dear friend of mine recently posted a statement on Facebook: “if you are an interpreter who thinks that you are a performing artist, please re-evaluate your life choices.” Let me explain.

The purpose of interpreting is to bridge the communication gap between two cultures.

Often time interpreters get into the profession for the simple reason of

trying to be the star who steals the show with their captive deaf and hearing audience. Sadly, these types of interpreters also think they steal the show when it comes to team interpreting as well.

I have worked with interpreters who have shown up to the assignment with the attitude of being the better team member and they are difficult to work with. It is important to remember that as

working in the teaming situation, you and your partner share the common goal of bridging the communication gap. You can imagine what a theatrical production would look like if a play that is written for a cast of characters were put on by one person. While a few plays require only one actor, a

The purpose of interpreting is to bridge the communication gap between two cultures.

typical theatrical production needs many actors to be successful. This is what team interpreting is like: two individuals working together to make a whole message to the consumer.

To collaborate in a teaming situation means both people work together to produce an interpretation. This common goal means meeting before and after the job to compare notes. In the

church setting, this means meeting before church begins or after church is over to compare notes for the interpretation process.

Depending on your team is an important factor in the teaming situation. This means learning to trust your team to help you during the interpreting process.

In Seattle, I have a team interpreter who helps me interpret for church. She and I also work out in the interpreting field as well. If

I am interpreting, she is watching me to make sure I am hearing the words correctly. My team interpreter is also there to help in case I miss something spoken. I trust her judgement. If I miss something, I trust that she will help me. She knows if she misses something, I am right there to sign it to her. Being dependent on my team does not mean that I trust her to do

continued on page 3

Gilbert Seventh-Day Adventist Church Blessed by Deaf Ministry

The Gilbert Seventh-Day Adventist Church is very blessed to have a deaf ministry. Our deaf members come from various backgrounds and ethnicities, but here, as in God's kingdom, everyone is equal.

Deaf people have joined us from near and far with some of our members taking the light-rail train and then the bus for as long as two hours to get to church. Still others carpool together to help each other attend.

Attendance range from four to 12 people and visitors are a welcome surprise. The group continues to grow as word spreads throughout the community about the opportunity to worship with other deaf, using their native language: American Sign Language.

The deaf have a dynamic here that is very different from their hearing

brothers and sisters. We meet in a room completely separate from the hearing group and sign language is the method of communication used throughout the entire day.

The deaf members say they look forward to the time together and really "get into" digging deeper into God's word. We are never in a hurry to move on to the next point and we do not "make sure to stay on schedule." We discuss each topic until all questions are answered. Then we move on. Sometimes there are discussions about the meaning of a



word, or different signs that are used for the same meaning. It is always fun and stimulating.

Each Sabbath, Elder Stan Pease leads out with Sabbath School, starting at 9:30 a.m., then the church service continues at about 11:00 a.m. with a video presentation or lecture/sermon. Questions and comments are freely exchanged and encouraged throughout the service. After the service, a potluck fellowship luncheon is shared on the first and third Sabbath of every month. This gives more opportunities for both hearing and deaf to get to know their brothers and sisters better.

We are currently renting a chapel on the east side of the Trinity Baptist Church, located at the 2130 E. University Dr. in Mesa, Arizona.

For more information, send text or relay call to Elder Stan Pease at (602) 616-2722 or e-mail at stanpease@cox.net.

From the Editor



In our next issue of *The Interpreter Connection*, we will be hearing from Tim Whitehouse, an interpreter based in Texas. He will share about the Deaf Ministry at his church in Texas.

We will also have a tribute to Roger Gates, an interpreter from the Atlanta, Georgia area who tragically passed away several months ago. We will read more about his life and contributions to Deaf Ministry and interpreting.

Do you want to contribute? Send all articles or points of interest for *The Interpreter Connection* to

7thdayterps@gmail.com. Thank you for all of your services for God!

—Nohe

UPCOMING INTERPRETER/DEAF EVENTS

SDA Events: Summer Camp Meetings

Do you want to join a Deaf Campmeeting this summer and/or Fall? There are several to choose from!

July 19-26, 2015 – Western Deaf Camp Meeting held on the campus of Milo Adventist Academy, Days Creek, OR. Speakers are Paul Kelly and Esther Doss. For more information, please contact Chuck at chucktrades@me.com

July 29-August 2, 2015 – Southern Deaf Fellowship Camp Meeting held at Cohutta Springs Convention Center in Crandall, GA. For more information, please contact Pastor Jeff Jordan at jwjordan@gccsda.org

September 3-7, 2015 – SNEC Deaf Campmeeting. For more information please contact sneedeaf@gmail.com

October 29-November 1, 2015 – DEAR Camp Meeting held at Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, VA. Speaker is Pastor Fred Griffith. For more information, please contact DEAR@deafellowship.org or www.deafellowship.org/dear

More information about Pastor David Trexler's schedule, Deaf Expo and DYAC (Deaf Young Adults for Christ) is available at 3ADM's website www.deafadventist.org

Non-SDA Events

August 8-12, 2015 – RID National Convention in New Orleans, LA. For more information go to rid.org

August 3-7, 2015 – MHIT Interpreter Institute (Mental Health Training for Interpreters) in Montgomery, Alabama. For more information please go to www.mhit.org

Street Leverage Street Tour – Street Leverage offers a variety of conferences and workshops on various topics. Please visit their website at www.streetleverage.com for more information.

Considering taking your NIC exam and becoming certified? Not sure where to begin to study for the test? Love2ASL has an online NIC study workshop that you can take from the comfort of your own home. For more information about prices and dates, please go to love2asl.com. If you scroll down about halfway on the page, on the right side, you will notice the titles for workshops pertaining to the NIC test.

continued from page 1

my job for me. We work together to produce the message to our Deaf members.

It is important to think about what type of team interpreter you would like to work with. Working with someone who is friendly, who accepts your "feed" well, is helpful and trusting, and whose judgement you trust makes for a smoother interpreting process.

Take time to evaluate your own attitude and how you work with people. If you are expecting your team to be on top of their game and easy to work with, then you need to be the same type of person. Lead by example!

In part 3 of Team Interpreting: The Art of Working Together, I will write about the nuts of bolts of teaming.

To watch the live interpretation of the GC Session 2015, go to **www.hopetv.org/deaf**

The segments highlighted in green on the broadcasting schedule will be broadcast live.

Deaf Culture Tips 101: All About Reading Lips

Not too long ago, I interpreted a convention for Early Childhood Education. While most of the information was not applicable to Deaf Education, I did find one part of it fascinating.

A research study was conducted to determine how much an individual can understand only by lipreading. The presenter announced that even the most proficient lip-reader can understand only 30% of the English language by lip reading! I was shocked. I had assumed that number would be much higher.

I chose this topic for the first article in Deaf Culture Tips 101 because I have to explain daily that an interpreter is needed for a Deaf individual in any given setting because they do not read lips. This usually comes as shock to the individual I am explaining

this to, especially if they had been trying to exaggerate their words in attempt to bypass the interpreter to communicate directly with the client.

Let's take a closer look at the lip reading and the English language. The John Hopkins Student Disability webpage reports that only 30-40% of the English language is actually readable on the lips under the best conditions. That means about 60-70% percent of words are not detectable. We can see example of this in words such as "pah" and "bah." Both look the same on the lips.

While most Deaf people do not depend on lipreading as their primary method of communicating, some will hire Oral Interpreters to mouth only what is being spoken for those who prefer to lip-read. While this is not as common in the Deaf Community, it does occur.

The majority of the Deaf I work with use sign language as their primary method of communication, but many of them read some words on the lips. If you ever run into a deaf individual who prefers speech reading as opposed to signing, remember to face them and speak as clearly as you can. They like the words pronounced clearly on the lips.

My challenge to you is to meet a Deaf individual who has attended an Oral School in the past and listen to their story of what it was like to attend an oral school years and years ago. If you are unable to speak with a person about their experience, you can find many stories on YouTube or other webpages.

The more we can know and understand about the Deaf and their culture, language and history, the better partners we will be in Deaf Ministry.

2015 General Conference Session Updates

Do you have Deaf friends or family who are unable to attend this year's GC Session in Texas?

This year we are blessed to have the Hope Channel offering livestreaming of the interpreters at GC Session. Spread the word! This is the first time that live streaming of the interpreters has been an option. Deaf from all over the world can tune in and enjoy.

Additional information is available at <http://www.adventistdeaf.org/gc-session>.

Are you attending the GC Session this year? Please feel free to come by the Adventist Deaf Ministries International Booth at C1105.

3 Angels Deaf Ministries will also have a booth in the same area.

Make sure to bring comfortable walking shoes and a water bottle!

Wondering how GC Session

was started and the history of this convention? Visit <http://www.adventist.org/en/information/meetings> for more information.

To watch the live interpretation of the GC Session 2015, go to www.hopetv.org/deaf

The segments highlighted in green on the broadcasting schedule will be broadcast live.