

# THE INTERPRETER CONNECTION

Issue 4

January 2016

## A Tribute to Roger Gates

In this edition of *The Interpreter Connection*, I would like to highlight the life of one of our interpreters who passed away not too long ago. Roger Gates attended the 7th Day Interpreter Conference several times and was always a person who was enthusiastic about not only being at Cohutta Springs, but also about being with the Deaf and his fellow interpreters. I always had appreciated his enthusiasm, humor, loving spirit and positive attitude in life. When asked for thoughts on Roger, here is what Gayle Sutton had to say about him, "He loved four things in this world. The Lord, his mother, cooking and Deaf culture. I met Roger for the first time in 2011. We all first stayed in the cabins and he happened to be in the cabin with my son who was then 15 years hold. Roger kind of took my son under his wing during the camp. We had classes together of course. I remember he and myself



and several others were just GREEN. We sat in the back of the Interpreter class in utter fear together because we simply didn't understand much

of the language at that time. Finally someone asked if we needed voice interpreting. We were okay in the

*continued on page 6*

# Obituary



**R**oger Lee Gates was born on May 15, 1987 in Long Branch, New Jersey, to parents Louvenia (Minnie) Gates and Larry J. Gates, Sr. When he was an infant, his parents relocated to Atlanta, Georgia where he grew up. Roger was the third of five children: two sisters and two brothers. His mother was very intentional about nurturing her children's relationship with God. Daily devotions were the norm in their household. As Roger started his academic journey, he attended Conley Hills Elementary and Paul D. West Middle Schools, where he completed his early education. He completed his high school education in 2005 at Tri-Cities High School in East Point, Georgia. It was there, during a culinary arts class that his love for cooking developed.

Roger had such a passion to serve others, and that became more and more apparent as he got older. After the horrific events on 9/11, the family made a decision to find a church home – The West End Seventh-day Adventist Church. Roger became a baptized member in 2002. It didn't take long before he became active in the church. He served as a Sabbath School coordinator, Sabbath School teacher, and member of the AYS committee. He sat on the hospitality board, and served alongside the youth and the community service ministries.

During a three-week youth revival conducted by Eric Thomas and the AYS board, the sign language ministry, Total Prayze was created. Under the direction of Tawana Allen, the group traveled around the country sharing the love of Christ. From those experiences, Roger became more active in the deaf community. He began taking classes, going to conferences, visiting churches, and interpreting for church services and South Atlantic Conference events. It had become a passion of his, along with so many other things. He spent several years working as the cook for Mount Olive Daycare Center, and soon became the cook for the West End Family Life & Community Center. After the death of his mother in December 2014, Roger followed in her footsteps by becoming the president of several committees in the community.

If anyone knew Roger, they knew that he was one-of-a-kind. His love for cooking just brought folks together. He knew how to make vegan food pleasing to anyone, since he specialized in vegan and vegetarian cuisine. After cooking and baking for so long, Roger began a business known as Fantasy Catering. He would have dinner parties, networking events, cooking classes, and social gatherings just to share his gifts with others. It was the little things that individuals remember about Roger—his warm smile, endless jokes, or even the fact that he made everyone feel as though he was their best friend. The love he displayed was truly sent from God.

Roger became a prime example to us all of what it means to be a servant leader. He will truly be missed by an entire community, church family, friends, and loved ones. God has called his son to rest in Him, as we actively wait for Him. Roger leaves behind his father Larry Gates, Sr., siblings: Alicia Minnie, Larry Gates Jr., (Joi Allen-Gates), Paulette Gates, and Patrick Gates, and niece Kimora. He also leaves behind, many cousins, aunts, and uncles. May he rest in peace, and may his spirit of giving be a testimony to God forever!

# First International Interpreters Workshop Held in Spain

The Inter-European Division (EUD) held the first International Adventist Interpreters Workshop September 18-20 in Seville, Spain, an old, historic city where bull-fighting is still practiced.

Thirty-five attendees came from seven countries: Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, Switzerland, Mexico, and the USA. American representatives were Esther Doss, Pastor Jeff and Missy Jordan and Elder Larry Evans.

Esther shared, “We learned quickly that people in Spain do not go to bed early! On the first night, the meeting began at 7:30 p.m. and ended at



11:30 p.m. But these long days allowed us to cover many topics.”

The topics included: Sabbath School, ethics, the interpreter’s health, and International Sign. They also discussed plans for next year’s World Congress for the Deaf. Many attendees are new in Deaf ministry, so basic training was given. Of course, friendships were created.

The American visitors were surprised that sign language was just recently recognized in Europe. The Deaf in Europe have not had the opportunities at success as the Deaf in America. Someone said, “America is like heaven to the Deaf in my country.”

On Saturday night, attendees were given a special treat, a carriage tour of the historic area in Seville. After the ride, the group walked the streets and learned some of its history. “It was an amazing!” Esther recalls. “In Seville, we saw the world’s third largest cathedral. It was impressive! The highest point reaches 184 feet. Visitors to the inside of the cathedral can see the tomb belonging to Christopher Columbus. A short distance away, is the place where tens of thousands of Protestants were burned to death because of the Spanish Inquisition. It was a touching experience to walk the same streets as those who gave up their lives for God.”

Esther continues, “This workshop was such an encouragement to me. The networking and sharing ideas was exciting and we supported each other individually in the ministry. We were all fast friends!”  
*Esther Doss*

# Interpreting boundaries

A few years ago, an American Video Relay company ran a series of commercials that presented their interpreters as being so good that the parties on both ends of the phone forget that they're talking through the interpreters; they feel as if they're talking directly with the other party.

This commercial strongly resonated with the Deaf community because they often need to go through a third party to be able to connect with the people they're seeking to develop relationships with.

Does this mean that the best interpreters always "fade away into the background" when they work as interpreters? The right answer is found when we, as interpreters, balance our objectives with the objectives of our consumers, and in considering the will of God.

As interpreters, developing relationships with consumers of our services is our best strategy to build up demand for our services in our preferred setting(s). How do we balance the development of the relationships we need to cultivate to keep work coming in with the relationships that our consumers want to develop with each other? How do we balance this when our personal and professional interests blend with each other? What happens when we interact with our consumers in our personal lives?

Conflicts arise when we navigate the gray alongside the

stark boundary of negotiating the self while we facilitate the interaction between the people communicating with each other. When we try to work with the objectives belonging to others without considering our own objectives, then we run the risk of a major conflict. We must remember that although our presence as interpreters is necessary, our welcome must not be taken for granted, because consumers naturally want to connect directly with each other (Humphrey & Alcorn, 2007).

Often we are uncomfortable navigating in the gray, and instead we stick to the known (such as separating work from personal, or interpreting without sharing cultural context). We stick to the known even though we understand the approach is unlikely to benefit anyone in the interaction.

Conversely, sometimes we become so used to working with the same person that we forget about the other sides of the interaction. Boundary challenges becomes an issue for some of the consumers when our self interferes with the participants' ability to connect with each other. The negotiation of the self is a great challenge when we interact closely with a small community like the Deaf

community, and share some of the same social circles.

This is especially true of our interpreting ministry in the church. We purposely seek out opportunities to interact with deaf people so that we can brush up on our language skills. By doing so, we attend services, community events, seminars that involve deaf people, in the setting that reflect our values. When we go often enough, we develop relationships with both the

Love is our guide when deciding the proper interpreting boundaries.

deaf people, and the people they interact with. Sometimes this even means we agree to take on roles in addition to being an interpreter. When we do this, we add our personal objectives to the mix, which often happens when our professional and personal lives come together.

To help us better navigate the gray, we need a keener understanding of how to negotiate the self when interacting with our consumers. In the Role-Space paradigm, Llewyn-Jones and Lee suggests that we align ourselves with the participants so that their knowledge and expertise are brought to the forefront. Along with the managing the interaction and participant alignment, we must add to the balance the negotiation of the self. We do this by using the knowledge available to us. As an example the researchers cite the act of explaining to a party that when

they begin speaking when the other party is still speaking that there is content being lost in translation.

We are becoming a party to the interpreted environment when we step out of our role of interpreting to advise them of an observed behavior impacting the objectives of their interaction.

The momentary act of stepping out of our role must be focused on advancing the relationship between the consumers during the interpreted interaction. Anything other than the momentary will increase the weight of the self in the interaction, which may or may not be desirable in the interaction. Ideally, to better navigate the gray, this boundary needs to be defined before interpreting an interaction.

It may help us feel more comfortable about navigating the gray when we recall the actions of Jesus regarding the appropriate Sabbath activities. For example, in Matthew 12 Jesus declared himself as the “Lord of the Sabbath” (Matthew 12:8) when challenged about what people could do on a Sabbath. Being the Lord of Sabbath means that He alone is the judge of proper conduct on Sabbaths. God alone is our judge. This also means there’s no definitive set of behavior applicable to each person in every situation. Jesus presented love as the deciding factor in proper execution of the Ten Commandments (Matthew 12:38, Deuteronomy 6:5).

Love is our guide when deciding the proper interpreting

boundaries. God gave us free will, with love being the reason behind His decision to give us self-determination. So, love, too, should be our guide when we balance our objectives with the objectives of our consumers involved in each interpreting situation.

As we interact with our consumers, we need to recognize the objectives of the interaction, and allow the parties to directly connect with each other as much as possible. We must be conscious of the self while negotiating objectives belonging to us, our consumers, and our God, in our ever-changing environment. Then we will better understand when we should “fade into the background” or become active participants as we ply our trade.

*Margie English, a Deaf Interpreter and a long-time resident of DC Metropolitan area, churches at Deaf Evangelistic Adventist Fellowship in Silver Spring, MD. Come and join us when you're in the area!*

Sources:

Alcorn, Bob J. and Humphrey, Janice H. (2007). *So You Want to be an Interpreter? An Introduction to Sign Language Interpreting*. 4th Edition. H & H Publishing Co., Inc.

Lee, Robert and Llewyn-Jones, Peter. (2014). Re-defining the Role of the Community Interpreter: The Concept of Role-Space. <http://digiterp.com/new/faqs/role-space/>

## UPCOMING INTERPRETER/ DEAF EVENTS

**May 13 - 16, 2016** – International Congress for Deaf and Deaf-Blind

**July 10 - 17, 2016** – 7th Day Interpreters Conference at Milo Adventist Academy in conjunction with Western Deaf Camp Meeting

**Are you interested in becoming a professional interpreter?** Do you want more information on what an interpreter does on a daily basis? The National Consortium of Interpreter Education Centers (NCIEC) has a link that you can view to learn more about being an interpreter: [DiscoverInterpreting.com](http://DiscoverInterpreting.com).

**Interested in becoming a certified interpreter?** Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) has announced a credentialing moratorium for one year. More information about this can be found at <http://www.rid.org/rid-credentialing-moratorium-faq/>

**Considering taking your NIC exam to become certified?** Not sure where to begin to study for the test? Love2ASL has an online NIC study workshop you can take from the comfort of your own home. For more information, prices and dates, go to [love2asl.com](http://love2asl.com). On the right, about halfway on the page, are titles for workshops about the NIC test.

# Tidbits: Happenings & Events



*Above: Southern New England Conference DEAF Camp Meeting was held Sept. 4-7 at Huntington, MA. Left: DEAR Camp Meeting in VA was held Oct. 29 to Nov. 1 at Camp Blue Ridge at Montebello, VA.*

*continued from page 1*

classes. Found ourselves not interacting much during the meals also. Just looking in amazement. But we vowed to come back and not give up! So every year just before the camp, we would get in touch and make sure one or the other was attending. He made friends easily and the skills grew and he always smiled not matter what. We kept in touch here in the Atlanta area. I would visit churches he was attending mostly. He would always arrive first and make sure we had good seats in church. As it happened my son Lee Jamal's father passed away a few months before his 18th birthday. Weeks before his birthday, I had bronchitis which eventually led to pneumonia. I was so sick that I could do nothing to help my son celebrate. I called Roger because I knew he love my son like a brother and he would do what he could to help. Well he made LJ's favorites. Lasagna and red velvet cake. Not just any lasagna, but vegetarian and vegan. Made enough to feed 100 people and brought all the food to my house. We live approximately an hour's drive from each other. And he didn't leave without a prayer, a smile and hug with the message until next time. Roger simply has a welcoming spirit and truly believed in service."

Roger passed away early 2015 shortly after his mother passed away. He will truly be missed. We look forward to Heaven when we will all be together again!

## From the Editor



Happy New Year! I read in one source that New Year's Resolutions date back to 2700 BC during the time of the Babylonians. One of the most common resolutions is to be fit and healthy. I hope each of us makes a resolution to draw close to Christ in 2016!

The next edition of the *The Interpreter Connection* will include an article about Special Needs Ministries at the General Conference. I hope you enjoy this edition!

Do you want to contribute? Send all articles, pictures or points of interest for *The Interpreter Connection* to [7thdayterps@gmail.com](mailto:7thdayterps@gmail.com). Thank you for all of your services for God!

—Nohe

# Conference 2016



## 7<sup>th</sup> Day Interpreters

Conference 2016

Milo Adventist Academy

In conjunction with Western Deaf Camp Meeting

Days Creek, Oregon

# July 10-17, 2016

Mark your calendars now to attend!

Nohelani Jarnes

*Conference Director*

