

Days after their return from their GC performance, MANS' Total Praise signing group joined with Burman University's Unspoken Testimony to raise funds for the Maskwacis reserve church.



## Signing and Shining — Showing God's Love and Sharing Hope

Combining a university sign-language choir with a junior high sign-language choir is a “representation of what heaven will be where people from different backgrounds and experiences join together to worship Jesus in complete harmony,” says Cheri Notice, Grade 6 teacher at Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS). Notice is also director of Total Praise (MANS) and Unspoken Testimony (Burman University-BU)—both signing choirs who minister with sign language interpretations of musical selections.

Unspoken Praise (combined choir name) was part of a concert in the Burman University church the evening of November 6. The concert was a fundraiser for the Maskwacis Seventh-day Adventist Church which currently operates on the Samson Reserve. Over \$2000 was raised to assist in providing materials for the children's Sabbath School classes as well as expanding their summer outreach program to include additional Native communities in western Canada. (Donations can be made on an ongoing basis through the church's website, [www.maskwacisadventist.ca](http://www.maskwacisadventist.ca) or mailed to: PO Box 778, Maskwacis, AB T0C 1N0.)

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**□ *The greatest testimonies are seen and not heard. My students not only hear about God's love, but they are able to show others how He is slowly changing their lives for the better through sign language.* □**

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Mrs. Notice combined the two choirs because it represents the partnership of Burman University with the Maskwacis community. Bringing MANS Junior High students into a partnership ministry with university students affords opportunities to observe what university life is, and gives them hope that they can accomplish great things in their lives. “Ministering with the Burman students allows MANS students to know that they are cared about by a larger community of students and Christians. It is also a great way for the university students to truly understand the power of ministry to heal others and unify people.”

Mrs. Notice further comments, “This ministry encourages me because I

am able to see how God has used the little that I have and blessed it beyond my imagination. My MANS students and my BU girls inspire me daily with their tenacity, commitment, resilience, and their faith. We are all working together to create an environment of hope and to spread Jesus' love.

“The greatest testimonies are seen and not heard. My students not only hear about God's love, but they are able to show others how He is slowly changing their lives for the better through sign language. We need to pray that God can use us to continue to have a life changing impact on the lives of these young people and their awesome community.”

Grade 6 student Larell says, “The concert with the Burman University girls was fun because we were able to sign all together. My favourite song to sign was ‘Holy, Holy, Holy.’ Learning sign language helps me learn more about God. Last year I didn't talk much. This year I am more excited about school and I'm more confident.”

To Mrs. Notice and ALL others who work to empower children/youth to develop their God given potential, thank you! Together we can grow!—Submitted by Linda Steinke.