



More than a Performance: The students of MANS's sign language group, Total Praise, learn about the joy of Adventist community and catch glimpses of university life and role models as they join Unspoken Testimony (Burman University) to raise funds for the Adventist church in their reserve community.

MANS's Total Praise and Burman U Raise Funds for Maskwacis Church

"Learning sign language helps me learn more about God."

—Larell, Grade 6 MANS student

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 will 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 (at MANS) and Unspoken Testimony (at Burman University)—both signing choirs that minister with sign language interpretations of gospel music selections.

The two choirs joined forces to form Unspoken Praise, a highlight of a concert in the Burman University church held November 6 to raise funds for the Maskwacis Seventh-day Adventist Church on the Samson Reserve. Over \$2,000 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 First Nations communities in Western Canada.

The new, combined group represented the partnership between Burman University (BU) and the Maskwacis community. Bringing MANS junior high students into a partnership ministry with university students allows MANS students to observe university life 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," says Notice. "It is also a great way for the university students to truly understand the power of ministry to heal others and unify people."

Notice further comments, "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.

"My students not only hear about God's love but also are able to show others how He is slowly changing their lives for the better through sign language," continues Notice. "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."

The impact is evident in Larell, a Grade 6 student. "The concert with the Burman University girls was fun because we were able to sign all together," she says. "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 Notice and *all* others who work to empower children and youth to develop their God-given potential: Thank you! Together we can grow! ■

Linda Steinke writes from Millet, Alberta.

*Donations can be made to the Maskwacis mission church on an ongoing basis through www.maskwacisadventist.ca or mailed to: PO Box 778, Maskwacis, AB T0C 1N0. Go to www.mans1.ca (video section) to see other performances of Total Praise and soloist Brayden Omeasoo-Steinhauer.