

CANADIAN DEAF MINISTRY REPORT INFORMATION

This report is being prepared by Pastor & Mrs. Blake *in conjunction with* the Deaf Ministry Department of the Alberta Conference of SDA

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**Canadian- Terese Rognmo and
American- Stephen Hucke**

They were married Aug. 19 in the Portland area by Elder David Trexler. Terese became an SDA in Vancouver, BC in 1998 during Jeff Jordan's Meetings - Stephen in 2017. They are now living in the greater Portland area.

CANADIAN DEAF MINISTRY REPORT INTERNATIONAL

November 2017



Pastor Jeff Jordan lecturing in Sign Language in November 2017 at the Southern Asia Division Special Needs Advisory meetings - with Thompson Kay voice interpreting

FIRST ADVISORY FOR SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRIES IN THE SOUTHERN ASIA PACIFIC DIVISION.

By Dr. Larry Evans, GC Special Needs

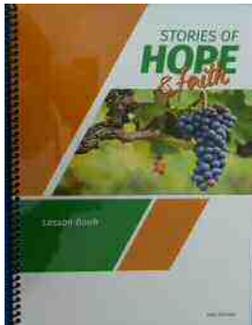
Accompanying me on this historic trip was Elder Jeff Jordan, a pastor who is deaf serving in the GA-Cumberland Conference and serving as the (Honorary) General Conference Associate Director for Adventist Deaf Ministries International, His interpreter, Elder Thompson Kay, a professor at South Community College in Lincoln, Nebraska, and [an]author.

Attending the training advisory were representatives of 7 unions (including 2 union presidents) and 2 attached missions. In total, 10 countries were represented. Also pictured is one of the two Sabbath services conducted in the Pasay church -- approximately 1000

attended. Special Needs Ministries conventions will follow next year in the Philippines and in Indonesia. Once again we were reminded of how important it is for division and union leadership to lend their support to this ministry. We could not ask for more support than what the division leadership in this division showed. The global "movement" continues!!



Pasay Filipino Church during service.



New Story Method of Study at Gospel Outreach

By Donna Casebolt,
Editor at GO
[with editing]

A new method of study is just being introduced and implemented at Gospel Outreach [GO].

What it was about, of course, is taking the Gospel message to people living in the 10/40 Window, an area of the world with the greatest poverty and lowest quality of life, combined with lack of access to Christian resources. These thirty-plus countries are home to an estimated "unreached" non-Christian population of two billion, the majority of whom are illiterate. This is one reason a new curriculum, based on sharing the stories of the Bible, has been in development over the past year by former GO president, Jon Dybdahl, and new-comer to the team, Pat Gustin, along with GO Directors Beverly Thompson-Nelson, Northern India, and Kip Ault, Southern Asia.

Because GO's mission is to support indigenous people taking the message to their countrymen in their own language the new curriculum trains them to do this by sharing the Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—in story form, focusing on making disciples of people who have never heard the name of Jesus. Jon and Pat gave an overview of the curriculum "designed to be easy to learn, easy to use, and easily reproduced by anyone."

NewWork in Ghana

Mavis Antwi (deaf), wife of pioneer GO Deaf worker, Harrison Antwi, graduated from a education degree program and worked in her internship with the Jamasi deaf school where Harrison originally went to school.

Gospel Outreach has now worked with the Central Ghana Conference for a 10 month contract for Mavis to work as a half time Chaplain in three public schools for the deaf in Ghana.

Mavis reports that at her first school at Jamasi that she is working with 24 nono-SDA interests, has given 7 Bible studies in Oct. Mavis says that she is working with 4 non-baptized deaf young people from SDA homes.



Mavis non-SDA Deaf School Project

Nov. 11-18 Deaf Evangelistic Meetings



An evangelistic series was held Nov. 12-18 at the Asuoyeboah Deaf Center in Ghana with Harrison and Paul Barfi as the main speakers. Picture above!



A Special Sabbath in Seattle and in Surrey, BC

Allen Meis was a highlight presenter for a High Sabbath in Seattle on November 4. Allen is a former SDA pastor and currently a teacher at an SDA Academy in Mich. Both Allen's parents are Deaf so he is well versed in deaf culture and signing.

About 28 were in attendance at the Nov. 4/17 special deaf day in Seattle. Nohelani James, a professional SDA interpreter, has been doing much to help develop the deaf group in Seattle, and encourage a small deaf group in the Ferndale, WA area, and now even with the couple of SDA Deaf that we have in the Fraser Valley of BC. Several times Nohelani has come up to meet with both areas across the US/Canadian border from each other. This has been a real encouragement in both of these areas!

Southern New England Special Deaf Ministry Sabbath

The Southern New England Deaf Ministry group with Jessica McGowan as Director, has a continuous well developed program for ministry with Deaf.

A recent program was an "Accessibility Awareness Sabbath" held at the College SDA church in Lancaster. They were asked to make presentations about how

to best serve deaf.

Jason and Sheelah Kimbrough traveled many miles to be with them. Sheelah made an excellent presentation. A local government official attended and was glad to learn more about deaf culture, etc.

In the afternoon Jason gave the Deaf group a Bible study. They also had a deaf-blind lady with them who had to have special interpreting where she felt the signs as made by the interpreter.

After an group afternoon walk, they went to a home and had supper together.

The occasion was used to also promote *Three Angel's Deaf Ministries* [3ADM] and *Adventist Deaf Ministries International*. An offering was taken up to help 3ADM.

The morning service was all recorded on video and was to be played on the local TV station as a podcast which was to include the sign language.

The New England group is very active with many programs and studies and they meet in different locations where



their deaf group members live. They also have a good number of non-SDA deaf who meet with them.

Watch Douglas Silva, Deaf pastor from Brazil - an amazing story:
<https://m360.adventistmission.tv/s17210>



Jordan's Trip to Australia

Melissa and I were invited to speak at the Deaf Camp Down Under. Melissa and I met Elder **Lee Dunstan** at the train station in Morissett, where he took us to Avondale College. Elder Lee Dunstan is the Special Needs Ministries director and Editor of *The Signs of the Times* of the South Pacific Division (SPD). **Avondale College** is operated by the SDA Church, much like Southern Adventist University is right here in Collegedale, TN.

At Avondale, we met with Theology students and professors and had lunch together. I was given the opportunity to talk about Deaf ministry. This topic is new for many of them and their minds were broadened about the Deaf as an overlooked people group that must be reached for Jesus. We met a couple of the students who had some kind of connections with the Deaf.

Next, we stopped by "**Sunnyside**" the home where Ellen G. White lived from 1896-1900. Yes, she used to live "Down Under" for 9 years. There, we saw the land where she received the vision to build the college. Here she wrote most of the book *Desire of Ages*. This historic site was awesome.

Deaf Camp was at a retreat center near

the bay in Rathmines.

About 30 people came to camp. I gave a series of three sermons on the theme, "*Does God Hear the Deaf?*" The series has been posted on the [SDA Deaf Church Down Under](#) website for anyone to view them.

When camp was over, Elder Dunstan took us to the **SPD headquarters** and I gave a 15-minute devotional to the division leaders. What do you think I talked about? My testimony and Deaf ministry, of course! It was an eyeopener for many of them because this is something many of them have never thought of before. Elder **Glenn Towend**, president of SPD, approached me and expressed his gratitude for sharing. Another worker came up to me and said that he has a sister-in-law who is deaf but she has not been attending church. Now, the connection has been established with Lee, and we pray that the Deaf lady will get in touch with the Deaf ministry Down Under. This is an example of individuals telling us stories and that there's a great need. ...

The trip to Australia was very worthwhile. Lee, Melissa, and I have seen God's movement among those we have made contact with.



Ghana Camp Meeting for Deaf

From August 30 to Sept. 3/17, over Sixty (60) Deaf including both Church and non - Church Members gathered at McNeilus SDA Junior High School in the outskirts of the Kumasi Metro for the third Annual Deaf Camp Meeting, with the theme, "FAITHFULNESS TO HIS WORD".

During this program, Ministers from various Conferences were present to lead the Deaf through Bible teachings, Bible Discussions, Prayer Sessions and so on.

The Deaf were able to go on Outreaches and Visitations during this Camp Meeting, visiting a number of Houses of both the Deaf and the Hearing in the Old Tafo Mile Three Community and its environs for the purpose of evangelism, bible



discussions and prayers.

By the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, six (6) Deaf souls were baptized for the Lord.

India Trip

A major trip to India is in the planning stages. Marvin Budd, from Berrien Springs, Michigan, has become the new "Interim Gospel Outreach [GO] Assoc. Deaf Ministry Director" for India.

Marvin is working with Elder Ambrose, the Special Needs Director for the Southern Asia Division in the planning of this trip.

The priority will be the further training of the approximate 16 GO Lay Bible Workers for the Deaf in India. We are working toward some time to be spent at the "*Child Impact International*" school for the Deaf - formerly known as an Asian Aid School for the Deaf.



Marvin and the SAD Leader - Ambrose

For some years, Marvin has been a key leader in the computer department of Andrew's University, but has now officially 'retired' from the University. Marvin has had many years of experience in the Deaf Community interpreting for SDA Deaf in Michigan, and at General Conference sessions.

Marvin attended the Gospel Outreach Regional Directors meeting in Walla Walla October 4-6. This helped acquaint Marvin with just how GO works and he got to visit with Regional Directors.



**Richard Mutai in South Africa
Deaf Ministry Trip**

New Challenge in South Africa

An experienced and well educated deaf layman from Kenya, Richard Mutahi, was asked to be a presenter at the Special Needs Trans Orange Conf. Camp meeting Oct. 1-9, 2017. The attendance averaged about 50 each day. He was also allowed to make a 15, and a 30 minute presentation to church leaders.

Then, on the way back to the airport, his group were urged to visit the Southern India Ocean Division [SID] office. They delayed returning one day and Richard got to make a one hour presentation on Deaf Awareness to all 23 of the Special Needs Directors in the Division. Now, the Division is going to plan a major SID Division a Special Needs camp meeting for 2018!

The SID Special Needs Director told Richard: "My appreciation and joy ... It was a big eye-opener - opener for people like me, especially the neglect and exclusion of those with special needs. I will henceforth work with my colleagues to ensure that there is a campaign and camps for special needs."

SDA USA/Canada Deaf History

Pastor and Mrs. Blake continue work on a history of SDA Deaf work in the USA and Canada. Much of the history

has already been written, and they are currently checking facts with various church leaders included in the SDA Deaf History Project. Of course, some key leaders have now passed away!

The history is being divided into a USA section and a Canadian section. Sub-sections included in each section are: A Basic History, A Time-Line, an Organizational history, a Deaf leaders history and a Picture History.

If you have any pictures or thoughts that you would like to see included in the history, please email the Blake's with your information. [see the contact info on the back page!] The Blake's have many old documents/newsletters and these have been a real help in piecing together the details of SDA Deaf History- going back into the 1800's.

Philippine Deaf School Report

Dr. Fred Webb has forwarded a large PowerPoint presentation on the progress of the SDA Deaf school in Mindanao.

They have had a real push to work with the community. They have given massage treatments and various other services to people not that far from the school. They have upgraded their farming activities to better feed themselves and hopefully have some produce to sell for cash for the school.

The Conference Special Needs Director recently visited the school. They have been teaching sign language and sharing their faith in surrounding churches. Fortunately the serious military challenges in Mindanao have not seriously affected the school and for this we thank the Lord!



**India Deaf School Pathfinders
By Jacob Bhaggi, Deaf School
Director, Kollegal, India**

The Speech and Hearing Pathfinder club that was started this year from June 2017 had a grand inauguration function on the first of September 2017. Mr. Mohanraj Daniel, the Youth and Pathfinder Director of the South-Central India Union who was our chief guest, gave a stirring message on the importance of leading young people into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. He spoke on the ideals and meaning of the pathfinder flag and emblem: means purity, blue means loyalty, red reminds us of the shed blood of Christ (sacrifice), and gold means excellence. ... The cross symbolizes the crucifixion of Christ. Mr. Mohanraj Daniel along with the pathfinder administrators *released doves as a symbol of the club inauguration.*

The pathfinders repeated the aim, pledge, Law and motto of the club in sign language and exhibited some of the activities that they have been doing, such as march-past, drills, gymnastics, tent making, preparation for seeding trees etc... The club director and deputy director along with the counselors have planned out

programs for the whole year that will be fulfilled on a weekly basis.

**.Southern USA Deaf
Camp Meeting
Based on info by Elder
Jeff Jordan**

The 12th annual **Southern Deaf Camp Meeting** took place at

beautiful Cohutta Springs Conference Center in north Georgia August 9-13, 2017. We were blessed to have Elder **Alan Meis** (Battle Creek, MI) and **Esther Doss** (Mountain View, AR) as our guest speakers. In addition to the morning and evening adult meetings, children and teens programs were led by **Anissa Michalek** (Cleveland, TN) and **Jaycee Robinson** (Lawrenceville, GA).

A total of 88 people came to camp meeting this year. In spite of the smaller number of attendees this year, they were spiritually uplifted and had a wonderful time fellowshiping and observing God in nature. The kids really enjoyed the water activities (boating, blobbing, and swimming).



Communion service and testimonials were one of the favorite events the attendees participated in. A baptismal service was

performed after the divine hour for **Leonardo Orellana** - shown in the picture to the left.



First Inter-America Congress for the Deaf

[Condensed from article by Libna Stevens in Inter-American Division News]

More than 200 interpreters, Deaf and Special Needs persons met together this Fall of 2017 at Montemorelos Adventist University in Mexico. This was the first congress of its type in the Inter-American Division.

The meetings lasted for 5 days. One of the key statements made was: *“Those abilities you have, the church needs today!”* Another significant statement was made that every Adventist University should involve its students in Special Needs.

Monica Vera is an interpreter and has been employed by Montemorelos University to teach students to sign and to assist deaf students on their campus. She was a coordinator for the Congress. Vera said that they want to train Deaf to be evangelists with other Deaf. She is also anxious to train interpreters. The University offered three full scholarships for three deaf persons for the next school year.

The Congress held specific workshops for pastors and leaders in how to develop a culture of working with those with special needs in the church and the community.

Dr. Larry Evans, GC Special Needs Director, was one of the key presenters along with Pastor Jeff Jordan, Associate Director of Deaf Ministries for

the world church. Taído Rovero, Director of Deaf ministries in Spain was also a presenter.

Church leaders attended from: Costa Rica, Tobago, Trinidad, Venezuela, Jamaica, Honduras, Colombia and the USA.

Francisco Diaz, the National lay Coordinator for Deaf Ministry in Mexico led in signing hymns and taught how to sign songs. He is an interpreter for the Deaf in Mexico. He also trains members in sign language back at his home.

Various resolutions were passed urging the church to do more for the Deaf. This included asking the church to have a full-time worker for the Deaf in every Union Conference, as well as having more appropriate ministry materials specifically for the Deaf.

Special Report from Zimbabwe

By Dr. Larry Evans, GC Special Needs

I cut my time in Brazil a little to attend the Special Needs Camp Meeting in Zimbabwe. What a life-changing experience for me in so many ways. Just two years ago there was very little organized in the way of Special Needs Ministries. With an emphasis coming from the General Conference, things began to change rapidly. Division, union and local conference leadership

accepted the challenge. When I arrived, and spoke that Thursday evening, the meeting hall was packed with 350-400 individuals—deaf, blind and many in wheelchairs. What a beautiful sight!

The division leader, Passmore Mulambo, union leader, Logan Masaiti, and the conference president, Godfrey Musara showed incredible leadership for this ministry. The conference president, for example, has a conference membership of 190,000, yet he makes it his practice to worship with a special needs group somewhere in his conference once a month.

This camp meeting was held on the school grounds of a government facility designed for special needs individuals. On Sabbath we had to move out of the hall that had been provided for us and into a tent that had been pitched on the school grounds. The attendance on Sabbath was around 500! I spoke about six times during the camp meeting. I was asked to make an appeal for baptism after my Sabbath sermon. Forty had completed the Voice of Prophecy Bible Study Lessons. I made the call and 34 came forward for baptism! I was overwhelmed with the response. I had never experienced so many in “wheelchairs” come forward to an altar call. That afternoon 15 Deaf, 10 in wheelchairs and 9 “able-bodied” were baptized. Some of those in wheelchairs had no control of their legs or arms. I was so moved by their experience. Afterwards with beaming smiles, some shouted, “I’m baptized, I’m baptized, thank you Jesus.”



[In another General Conference special report Dr. Evans added this amazing story!]

I must tell you about a special service—the last service of the camp meeting. What an impression it made on all of us. **Three cakes** were placed before three individuals: a blind person, a deaf person and a physically handicapped person. Each was asked to cut out a piece of the cake in front of them. A sighted person helped the blind, an interpreter explained to the deaf what to do, and the physically handicapped person (no use of either arms or legs) used the best resource he has—his mouth in which an able-bodied person assisted by placing the knife in his mouth. In each case a piece of the cake was cut. BUT IT DIDN'T STOP THERE! The sighted person fed the blind person the cake, the blind person fed the deaf person and the deaf and the physically handicapped person fed each other. No one was better than the other and each needed the other. The message was clear: *we need each and each has been called to serve all.* Surely, a powerful message for a world that disparages those often whom they call “disabled.”



Tanzania Special Needs Group

Deaf GO Worker Starting in Tanzania Rwanda, and Ethiopia

Elder Paul Muasya, Special Needs Director for the East Central Africa Division is helping Gospel Outreach start a first worker in both Tanzania and Ethiopia.

The first worker for Tanzania is to be **Abel Meerumba**. In October Elder Muasya and Henry Kamau (Deaf Director in Kenya) met with about 60 people in Tanzania who were Deaf, Blind or physically challenged, etc. The new worker is married with 4 children, has worked with Deaf for 13 years and has already been working with about 25 to 35 Deaf with the Mwisenga SDA church. 11 have already made a decision for baptism.

There are an estimated one million Deaf in Ethiopia and GO has now approved a worker, **Tadelu Tolosa** who will be with the Central Ethiopian Field. There are many Deaf, but very little SDA work - yet! Tadelu is single and deaf herself and

has been an SDA since 2005. She will be starting work in a town where there is a Government deaf school.

The new worker for Rwanda is **Bizimana Damascene**. He is deaf, single, was recently baptized and will be starting ministry in Kigali. He has already been on fire for Deaf Ministry in his area!

He says: "I am praising the Lord for teaching me his way in his church. I am baptized and am willing to share the good news I believe to all deaf people and motivate people to learn sign language in order to help us to get scripture in the church and communicate with church members." There are an estimated 50 thousand Deaf in Rwanda.

In August 2017 a Special Needs Convention was held in Kigali and there were 115 Deaf, 13 Blind and 26 with other challenges. 90 were baptized with 53 of them being Deaf. *Thus Deaf work has already started even before a worker for the Deaf was approved this Fall.*



Jason Interpreting for a Deaf-Blind person, Sharon, Who Must Feel the Signs



USA-Canada Union Deaf Leaders

Texas NAD Union Leaders Meeting

On the weekend of Sept. 21-24, the various NAD Union Conference Deaf Ministry leaders met in Dallas, Tx. This was the second time as they also met one year ago in exactly the same place!

The Director of Deaf Ministry for the North American Division, Esther Doss, was in charge of the meeting.

Representatives attended from virtually every Union Conference in the USA. It was a time of sharing, learning and fellowship!

Pastor Blake again attended and was able to give a presentation on Deaf Ministry work and the Lay Bible Workers with Gospel Outreach. Some knew very little about the Gospel Outreach work, so it was a real blessing to be able to share!

A New Method in Atlanta By Elder Jeff Jordan

A cell group of Southern Deaf Fellowship in the greater Atlanta area wanted to start meeting on a regular basis. It was launched on Sunday, October 22, 2017, at the clubhouse of Elder Jaycee Robinson's (Lawrenceville, GA) subdivision. Food, Bible study, and fellowship attracted 15 individuals from the area. This was a success and the plan for the next gathering is in works for December. If you know of someone in the

Atlanta area, please let me know. We would love to invite them.

EDITORIAL

By Pastor John Blake

God has been opening door after door for the growth of Deaf Ministry in the SDA

church!

There are three large factors that are making a difference: (1) The Lord is behind the new emphasis in the SDA world church to encourage all to work for those with special needs. (2) Dr. Larry Evans has been working with Division after Division to educate and train leaders in these often forgotten areas of concern - through the "Special Needs Advisories"! (3) Gospel Outreach [GO] has been approving almost every request presented for starting new GO workers for the Deaf in Central Africa.

In the last two years, GO is working with eight *new countries* to start one or more workers for the Deaf: Congo, Burundi, Nigeria, Botswana, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe. GO was already working for the Deaf in 8 countries plus GO Brazil - within Brazil.

Not only is there a GC committee for Special Needs, but one also just for Ministry with Deaf. Dr. Evans wrote on Oct. 20, 2017

"I am amazed at the response to my recent posting on Facebook. There is an awakening to ministry for the Deaf. The Lord is doing something. I think the awareness is more than what any human can take credit for. Something "divine" is going on behind the scenes and we are all playing a part. Someday, we'll hear "the rest of the story."

EXTRA MISC. DEAF NEWS/PICTURES FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Deaf School Prayer Band



SULADS Deaf School's Garden Growing Well!



Deaf School Reception 7 students



Portland Deaf Group Train Riding

INDIA: After a Spiritual Emphasis week, 5 Deaf students were baptized - where it is a major stand in Hindu area



Philippine Drama with Pastor Jeff Jordan



Zimbabwe SDA Group Visit Kenya to Learn/Observe



Left: Interpreter Anne Mwenesi-Nairobi Interpreted free for deaf group as a non-SDA, but now baptized as an SDA and active helping in the Nairobi Deaf group. *We thank Anne!*

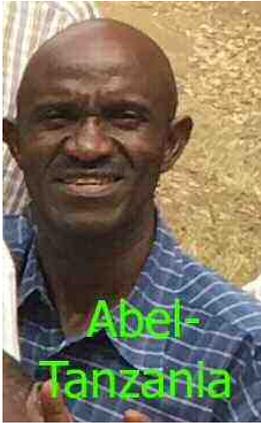
Below: the Pasay Philippine church deaf group Nov. 18 with Elder's Jordan and Kay



Philippine SULADS Deaf Students Celebrating



THE NEED FOR DEAF MINISTRY IS HUGE!



Statistics tell us that there are from 70-200 million Deaf around the world. Most do not go to church and overseas in Third World Countries the need for the gospel going to the Deaf is huge! The challenge also includes the fact that there are an estimated 200 different sign languages according to the DOOR organization doing scriptural videos for the Deaf in many sign languages.

As SDA's we have the responsibility to do our part to take the final warning message of love and concern

[Abel: A new worker for Tanzania] to everyone, and **this includes the Deaf!** As a church we have most of the time forgotten about the Deaf in our push to reach the average person! **We must try and catch up on this oversight!**

Our GO Deaf Department is trying to do what we can do to help the church reach the Deaf. Frankly, it is such a huge task, that we need many miracles of the Lord to even realistically dream of us as a church being able to carry out this mandate! But we must do all we can, pray earnestly and ask for miracles.

On this page you see a picture from Burundi where we have not had a worker for very long - new work is growing there!

Paul Barfi (deaf) from Kenya was recently asked to present at a S. African camp meeting. God blessed and he was able to also make other presentations to two different levels of church leadership - but we need to start a worker now in S. Africa.

At Gospel Outreach we have a special **"Deaf New Work Development Fund"**. One of the reasons why we have recently been able to enter a number of new countries is because of this fund. This fund has been especially blessed with some major donations- but we need all sizes of donations!



A fairly new country to GO, Burundi (above) with many new baptisms is blessed with a very active deaf GO worker for the Deaf.



A special Needs group including Deaf in South Africa on Paul Barfi's trip to present there. **We have no workers in S. Africa - yet!** This is an area where expansion of our deaf work is needed!

GOSPEL OUTREACH IS NOW INVOLVED IN DEAF MINISTRY IN 17 COUNTRIES!

Yes, I would like to help with a donation to the "Deaf New Work Development Fund" to help Gospel Outreach start deaf work in new areas, etc.!

FOR AN AMERICAN RECEIPT: Please make any check to "Gospel Outreach" and we will send it on to the USA office at College Place, WA. to go into this special fund!

FOR A CANADIAN RECEIPT: Please make any check to "Bentley SDA Church" and as the funds build up we then send them on through GO Canada to the USA office from where Deaf work is handled.

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