

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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Pictures:

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Adventist Deaf Addresses

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Bible Lessons:

www.deafbibleschool.com

*Southern Deaf Fellowship -

-A Deaf SDA Church Service 'Live'
online every Sabbath.

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11:30 am ET - Sabbaths -

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**Jon
Dybdahl
Resigns**

Dr. Dybdahl has been a dedicated & supportive President for Gospel Outreach, but as of April/17 has had to resign because of health issues. However, he will still be helping with Gospel Outreach!

[See article

in this newsletter on Brent Scully, the new
President of Gospel Outreach]

CANADIAN DEAF MINISTRY REPORT INTERNATIONAL

May 2017



A Baptism of 25 Deaf with a New GO Worker in Burundi, West Africa

A total of 25 deaf people were baptized at the Kamenge Seventh-day Adventist Church in Burundi's capital, Bujumbura, on March 25, 2017.

In response to the news, Adventist Church president Ted N.C. Wilson said: "What a great way to start out the new week by receiving a report like this!" "What a blessing to look at the joy on Janvier's face as he sees God's blessing on his work. What a privilege to see the picture of those precious souls raising their hands for the baptismal vow. Praise God!"

Eric Steven Nsengiyumva, evangelism director for the Burundi Union Mission, wept as he watched the proceedings at the Kamenge church. He said: "I dimly looked around me as I shed tears of joy, and I saw other people shedding tears like me. It is obvious that God is definitely purposed to doing a great and

marvelous job in special needs ministries in Burundi."

The March 15 baptisms are largely the result of the work of a newly appointed deaf Gospel Outreach worker named Janvier Nkurikiye.

Janvier was himself just baptized two years ago at a camp meeting for the Deaf in Kenya. When he returned home he worked with his local Deaf, and then only recently became a GO worker

"Janvier has done a very good work in Burundi within a very short time, and we need to pray for him," said Paul Muasya, who attended the baptismal ceremony and serves as special needs ministries coordinator for the East-Central Africa Division, whose territory includes Burundi.

We are thankful that Elder Muasya has been such a great help in Deaf Ministry within the East Central Africa Division.



Hinduism is the main religion and they believe in many gods and idols that are seen in many places.

For the Sabbath service, it was a privilege to worship at the Seventh-day Adventist Deaf

Church, which is located about 10 kilometers from the Blind School. A Deaf GO worker is currently in charge of the Deaf congregation. I was told that India has about 6 or 7 Adventist churches just for the Deaf. To God be praised!



The little Deaf Church where the group met on Sabbath

After a three-day training session, we flew back to Bangalore and drove over to Kollegal where the Seventh-day Adventist School for the Deaf is located. When we arrived, we were given a warm greeting by 77 Deaf students. Communicating with the students and staff was easy because they use ASL.



Pastor Jordan at Lowry College with Marvin Budd Voice Interpreting

I was very impressed with the vision of a pastor's son and his wife who are currently very involved with the school. They are building a new shop in the heart of the city and they are going to hire 12 Deaf workers to work at the bakery! In addition to this, they have bought farmland (about 20 km from the school) and they are converting it into a campground. They want this camp to be a place where the Deaf from all over come together for camp meetings, spiritual retreats, and other events!

When we returned to Bangalore for the final weekend, Elder Evans, Elder Ambrose, Marvin, and I stopped by the Sunshine Home. It is an orphanage for about 40 kids. I learned a lot about it and I'm thankful that we have a ministry for the orphans.

Friday evening, we visited Lowry College, a Seventh-day Adventist institute. I gave a vesper talk to hundreds

of the students on deafness. Our intent was to educate them and spread awareness. Sabbath morning for church, Elder Evans gave a sermon at the college. In the afternoon, Marvin and I got together with 6 Deaf college students and their friends, along with several high school students who came in from Kollegal, as we

discussed the importance of Sabbath keeping, and how to maintain Christian romantic/marriage relationships.

Overall, it was an excellent and important trip. They do have challenges, but they have vision to move forward. Please remember the Deaf ministry in India in your prayers."

Deaf students at the Asian Aid school for



the Deaf at Kollegal in South India. This is one of only three SDA schools for the Deaf anywhere in the world!

Students are individually sponsored and the sponsors can get to know the child that they are supporting at the school!

The Gospel Outreach India Deaf Training Group, March 2017

By Elder Jeff Jordan

"It was a privilege to return to India for the 4th time. The last time I was there was in 2011 with my oldest son, Noah, and Elder Alfred Griffith (Vancouver, WA). As always, it was great to see familiar faces and make new friends. This time, **Marvin Budd** (Berrien Springs, MI) and I joined **Elder Larry Evans** (GC Special Needs Director) on this two-week trip.

Our first stop was at the Southern Asia Division headquarters, which is about an hour south of Bangalore. We gave a three-day advisory meeting to the Union directors of the Special Needs ministries. Elder S. Ambrose is a newly elected director of Special Needs for the division and he has a big heart and passion in seeing this ministry growing.

The next main event we attended was at the Bobbili School for the Blind where 20 Deaf Gospel Outreach workers gathered for training in reaching the Deaf. Marvin Budd spent time focusing on the role of the Holy Spirit and how to have a personal prayer life. My main area of focus was on the theme of idolatry.



3ADM Booth at a Deaf Convention

3ADM News: New Bible Studies Being Developed

By Esther Doss, 3ADM

In the 1960's some Adventist students at Gallaudet University took a Bible study course called "The Light of the World" from the Voice of Prophecy. "The Light of the World" Bible studies focussed on Jesus Christ. The lessons made a large impression on their lives. In fact, many years later some of them spoke about it with much admiration. Francisca Trexler herself was one of those students who studied them years ago. Fortunately, she saved the lessons all this time.

Now it is being adapted to Easy Reading English for 3ADM's Deaf Bible School. There is a total of 25 lessons. This will be added to 3ADM's Deaf Bible School website. They will also be printed for those who would rather study on paper and not online. This will be 3ADM's fourth Bible study course.

Actually, the adaptation work had been started some time ago by the previous Executive Director Jim Hovey. He made good progress, but stopped at lesson 15 when he left the ministry for health reasons. Jim Hovey recently sent the files to us. Of course we were delighted! The work has restarted,

beginning with lesson 16.

Please pray for this precious project to be completed soon so the Deaf may be able to study Jesus Christ deeper and have a closer relationship with Him

**Live Streamed Services on Roku/Web
By Esther Doss, 3ADM**

3ADM is now offering live streamed worship services in American Sign Language. Live streaming services began in June of 2016. All live streamed videos will be archived on 3ADM's website and produced on DVDs.

The live church services are held at the Silver Spring, Maryland SDA Church Annex Building where a Deaf group has been meeting. 3ADM Speaker/Director is the main speaker.

Although we now have live streaming, the *Sermons on DVD* subscription program will continue. Some Deaf members and non-members across the country still do not have Internet at home.

To watch church services live, go to www.3adm.org. Click on the banner indicating live streaming. This will take you to www.LiveStream.com's website under 3ADM's account. Live streaming starts at 11:30am EST on Sabbath mornings. You can also watch these streamed church services on Roku! Also, recent services are archived on Roku. This may be easier and more comfortable for viewers. For Roku, you need to use the Livestream channel. Search for the Three Angels DEAF Ministries Account.

**For Easy English Books & Signed DVD's for Deaf-
Go to the Three Angel's Deaf Ministries web site:
www.3adm.org**



**Opening of New Dorm at the
SULADS Philippine Deaf School**

There was a 'ground breaking' ceremony for this new building back in 2015. It has taken a lot of work, but this March 2017 many church leaders and others gathered for the official opening of the new dormitory. It is so much better than what was observed for the boys back in 2015 when the 'dorm' floor was made of dirt and chickens were sharing the same building!



Students sign singing in the classroom

We praise the Lord that "A Better World" of Lacombe, AB was able to transfer over \$50,000 from Canada to help - much of it for this specific building! Though now cut off from being able to transfer funds and give



Canadian receipts, ABW has been a huge help in transferring funds from several major and some minor donors!

There have been a number of complications in getting all the required certificates/titles needed for the school, but things are moving ahead though they need your prayers for full approvals.

So many of the deaf young people that come to the school, have learned little or no formal sign language or have had any special education for the Deaf. So, the school is filling a huge need especially for those deaf students coming from the mountain areas of Mindanao!

There are still many needs at the school: a hydro electric plant on a nearby creek for electricity; the purchase of an additional parcel of land to help with official needs.

Most of the students are unable to pay much if any tuition, so the school runs on a super tight budget - very dependent on donations. We can still send funds, but cannot give tax deductible receipts.

The two main founders of the SULADS Deaf School, Daryl and Sarah Famisaran were able to come to the official opening of the new dormitory. Currently they are working toward the establishment of a combined school for Deaf and Blind on another Philippine island. But again, it is taking time to get the needed prerequisites.



The new “TastiHealth” vegetarian restaurant providing employment for Deaf near one of our Philippine Universities.



Staff from the restaurant that specializes in Healthy foods



Lychel and Cheard Gabuco, GO workers, along with their parents, etc., have tackled an ambitious project thinking not only of “Health”, but providing work and learning on the job training for SDA Deaf youth in the Philippines!

They need your prayers to make it also a spiritual growth center!

A NEW ONLINE SDA DEAF HISTORY PROJECT

About ten years ago Elder Arthur Griffith gave materials to Alberta Blake to help in writing a history of SDA Deaf Ministry in North America.

While facing a number of health complications, Alberta did not have what it takes to really move ahead on the project. But Alberta and her husband, John, discussed it and decided that John would become the ‘writer’ and Alberta would do research and work at editing.

The first drafts of the project have now been written, and Blake’s are waiting for more information and pictures to come from leaders around the USA who have valuable insights and memories to share.

Now they have collected over 200 pictures, and some leaders have already provided valuable help.

It has been decided that there will be two major divisions to the history: *American and Canadian*. Each of these areas will have four sections: (1) A basic “Chronological Historical Section”; (2) A “Time-Line” with important dates; (3) A “People Section” with information about the contribution of hopefully all the major US & Canadian leaders in Deaf Ministry over the last 136+ years; (4) An “Organization” section with the basic information about the involvement of the *Christian Record*, the *Christian Deaf Center*, *3ADM*, as well as church entities that have had or today have a major influence in work with Deaf. Finally, (5) a large Picture section is planned to add to the pictures that will be included specifically with the topics or people being described in the first four sections.

It is expected that the project will not be printed on paper, but be online where anyone can read for free and also be able to download sections of interest.



Teacher, Mavis Antwi, at Jamasi school for the Deaf in Ghana

Mavis Antwi (above), a Gospel Outreach Ghana Worker’s wife, is teaching at the Jamasi School for the Deaf where her husband, Harrison, used to attend school! Shown above is a simple visual aid, an old fashioned ‘Picture Roll’ which Mavis is using to illustrate her stories.

Years ago the ASI organization had two different picture rolls printed for use overseas with about 116 pictures. Alberta Blake had a sample set not being used, and though the mailing cost was high, the set is now serving a very useful purpose at Jamasi deaf school.

We would love to see this set reprinted as it is still very helpful!



Elder Ambrose [L] & Marvin Budd [R]-Working Together in the Southern Asia Division Special Needs/Deaf Ministry Workshops

Elder Ambrose is the new Special Needs Director for the Southern Asia Division with headquarters at Hosur - about an hour south from Bangalore. Elder Ambrose is also the Deaf Ministry Director for the Division. He had things well organized for the Special Needs meetings held in March/17. We look forward to working with Ambrose and the 18 Gospel Outreach workers for the Deaf in India.

It was the first time that Marvin Budd had ever been to India, but he agreed to donate his time and effort as both an interpreter for sign language and giving a number of talks at the training workshops.

Marvin is not new to Deaf Ministry having worked with Deaf Ministry around Andrews University for many years. He is also a member of the *Three Angels Deaf Ministry* board and has interpreted at General Conference sessions. He just retired from a full time position in the Computer Department of Andrews University.

Two New Workers for Uganda

Due to sickness or other work, both workers, Doric & Josephine, in Uganda have been replaced. However, we do want to thank them for their contribution to Deaf Ministry in Uganda as two of the first GO workers for the Deaf there. We hope they will both remain active in Deaf Ministry as much as they are able!

Mugoya Brian (Hearing): We are told that Brian is a very active interpreter and a good mobilizer!

Muhindo Mordecai is deaf himself and active among the Deaf in the Rwenzori Western region next to the Congo.

It took several years of research and promotion before getting any formal paid ministry for the Deaf in Uganda. We thank the Lord for these two new workers who will give new impetus to the work there.



[Left to Right]

Cheryl, Curtis, Nancy, Greg, Nohelani, Mateusz, Samuel and Shawn

The first “Deaf Day” at the Surrey, BC church in many years! Deaf came together from the Fraser Valley in BC and the Ferndale/Bellingham area in Washington State.

It's Like a Resurrection of Deaf Ministry!

How did it all start?

A young deaf man, Samuel, came from Germany to Canada and began to attend the Surrey, BC Adventist church. Another somewhat recent immigrant, Mateusz Sobczak from Poland, saw that Samuel was missing so much. He tried making summary notes on a laptop, but Samuel's English vocabulary was still limited.

So, gradually Mateusz has been learning sign language, but still is in a learning stage. Samuel was beginning to get a bit discouraged because of an invitation to another non-SDA church with good signing.

So, Pastor Blake helped with names and emails and phone numbers, and Mateusz got things organized and April 8 four deaf from the USA joined two deaf from BC, with Noheelani James from the Seattle area and they had a wonderful time together! Years ago both Nancy and Greg would occasionally meet at the Surrey church, so this was a great reunion back at the Surrey, BC church!

Action in Uganda

For some time we have been hearing from a student in Uganda. He is sending



Deaf Ministry Group in Uganda

information about his ministry with Deaf in a University setting - also pictures and even video clips! Shown above is a picture of their group that met on a recent Sabbath.

What is so wonderful is that Mulezi Tonny has not been sitting around and simply waiting for the church or Gospel Outreach to provide a paid worker.

They have organized, and are providing for their own needs and spiritual growth as they are able with Deaf of their own age. This is wonderful, and we praise God for this wonderful start in their area of Uganda!

Elder Paul Muasya, the Special Needs Director for the East Central Africa Division writes about Special Needs/Deaf in two countries:

KENYA:

“At the close of our two week TMI evangelism in March 4-18, 2017, in Kenya we also baptized 45 deaf in 4 Main TMI centers for the Deaf on the Sabbath of March 18, 2017”



RWANDA:

“Last Sabbath, April 1, 2016 we launched the first ministry to the Deaf/ SNM in Cyicukiro SDA church in Kigali Rwanda which was attended by 26 deaf” and those with other needs.



One of Four Kenya Location Baptisms

On Sunday April 2, 2016 we conducted the first SNM Advisory in Rwanda which was attended by the Executive secretary of the Union, the Union Special Needs Director, all the Field/ Conference Officers, SNM Directors, six Deaf who presented songs in sign language and gave very appealing testimonies, one blind person, one person on a wheel chair, and three people on crutches.”

We praise God for His Help in Kenya and Rwanda and so many countries!

British Deaf Ministry Emphasis with Elder and Mrs. Jeff Jordan & boys

Jeff writes: “The Stoke Newington Adventist Church in London, UK, held a Disability Awareness Day the weekend of December 3, 2016. My wife and I were invited to be a major part of the special event. Sanjo Jeffrey, Disability Ministry Coordinator, did an outstanding job in pulling everything together! She has a big heart for this unique ministry that she took a class in BSL (British Sign Language) and she intends to minister to the Deaf in United Kingdom. Did you know that there are about 87 million Deaf people living in the UK? But not many Deaf know Jesus Christ. A huge mission field, as we all know, everywhere around the world.”

Jeff's wife, Melissa voiced Jeff's sermon in English while two BSL interpreters put his sermon in British Sign Language. A total of 15 SDA & non-SDA Deaf joined for this service.

While in England, Jordan was able to visit Newbold College and talk with many students sharing his life story and answering many questions. Students were happy to see that Special Needs is now getting some church attention!



Editorial

There are many things happening in the SDA Deaf World and the Gospel Outreach Deaf Department.

We praise the Lord for our first worker in the Congo, in Nigeria and in Burundi. And, as reported elsewhere, there were 25 deaf baptized in Burundi in March.

Dr. Evans continues to promote Deaf Ministry around the world on his many trips as a major part of the broader emphasis on *“Special Needs”*. Already this year he has been to Mexico, Russia, Ukraine, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and India. By the time you read this he may already have been in Jamaica and Nigeria.

The HOPE-TV for the Deaf *‘on demand’* 24/7 web site is up and running with a wide choice of programs:

[\[http://www.hopechanneldeaf.org\]](http://www.hopechanneldeaf.org)

Plus a world SDA web site for the Deaf.

There is an organization for SDA Deaf Youth in North America headed by Amanda Colgan. Noheli James is heading up the Adventist Interpreters support/training group. There are three SDA schools for the Deaf: South India, Western Kenya and southern Philippines.

There are two Sabbath services *‘live’* on the internet from the USA.

BUT: most SDA churches still have nothing for Deaf. Isolated SDA Deaf still often go largely un-helped. Most Deaf in the world know nothing of the Three Angel’s Messages.

We need to pray and intercede that God will open doors everywhere for the Gospel to go to Deaf, AND - that God will supply the people to share with them all. We need miracles, dreams and supernatural guidance in knowing where to go and what to do to reach them all!

We praise God for what He is already doing and thank His goodness!

9 in the Signs of God’s Love series is now selling from 3ADM for only \$7. It is on Creationism and the *Young Age of the Earth* [see the end page for the 3ADM address.]

Brent Scully (above) New Gospel Outreach Director

On March 14/17, Brent Scully was voted as the new President of Gospel Outreach.

Brent is a business man and developer in the Walla Walla, area - near GO. He has also served as Executive Director for *Good Samaritan Ministries* for the past two years. GSM is a local, non-profit agency designed to provide counseling and lay counselor training for under-privileged families in the Walla Walla area. Brent is an elder at the Village SDA church where he has been very active with the youth for many years.

Brent and his family also participated in at least two GO programs to India with Manzoor Massey. He is very excited about the opportunity to serve the Lord in this capacity. He was introduced to the Regional Directors during their meeting on March 27 and to those at the GO promotion meeting on April 1.

Brent is a man with vision and dedication and has run his own business with success. He actually built the house of the Gospel Outreach Board Chair, Larry Dodds. Brent and his family live very near to the Dodds family.

NAD DEAF MINISTRY MEMORIES FROM PAST YEARS



Toronto, Canada - Deaf Ministry



Canadian Deaf about 35-40 years ago



Signing a Special at Milo Meeting



The Mathison Family- Wash.State



3ADM General Conference Booth

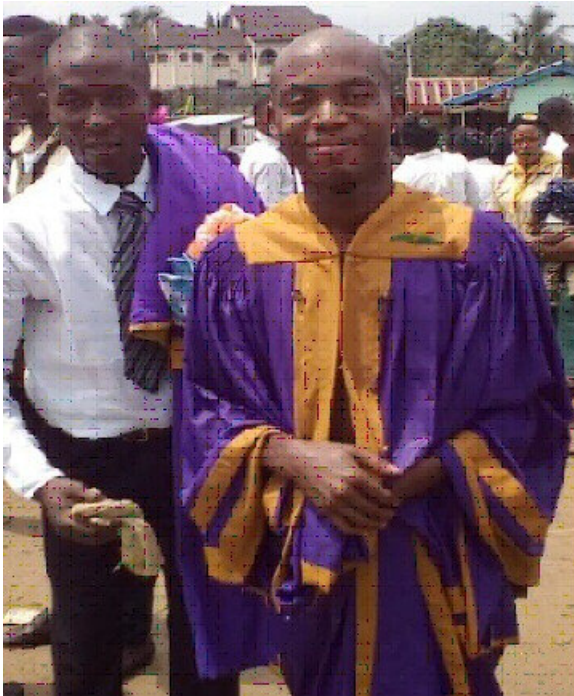


CDC School at Ark. Alpena about 1985



Elder & Mrs. Arthur Griffith, son Pastor Alfred Griffith and Alberta Blake
Many more pictures will be in the SDA Deaf History - when completed.
Do you have pictures we could include? If so - Please contact us very soon!

EXTRA NEWS!



REPORT JUST RECEIVED FROM NIGERIA:

“It is on record that Seventh-Day Adventist Nkoro Church in Aba South Conference (ASC) has begun accommodating Deaf brethren from all walks of life to worship with the hearing church members. This has not been easy though. Every Sabbath morning, we gather our Deaf friends and brethren from long distances. We give them ASL translation of our church worship program, a special Sabbath School study unit and a rich interactive Bible study session during Sermon time. After worship, we feed and send them back also. In the face of ongoing economic hardship in the country, this has been quite a challenge to the church. Nevertheless we are positively believing that God, our Creator will help us overcome these predicaments.

We are excited to bring to your attention the first deaf baptism we have recorded from these efforts. One of our Deaf brothers, married with a child, in person of Mr. Obianuju Orji aged 31, who was a non-Adventist, gave his life to Christ through baptism on Saturday 18th of March, 2017

However, like the Bible said Satan will be furious with anyone who decides to follow the steps of Christ. What is more? Mr. Obianuju’s beautiful hearing wife is seriously considering baptism now.

We need to be much in prayers and supports because he is facing strong opposition with his family over his new faith. According to him, their opposition was from the fact that he had previously been baptized with The Apostle Church (their family church) and needed not be baptized again. Mr. Obianuju made his decision for baptism because, according to him, he has been praying and searching for the true church, and now God has shown him through Bible study and also in his dream, that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the true church of God for the last days.

Of a truth, since he started with us at Nkoro church, his spiritual, emotional and physical attitude has shown a continual gradual change for good and the result is his baptism, to God’s glory.”

[Article Received: Elder Solomon Nwaejike, E. Nigeria Union Conf.]

SPECIAL DEAF DAY IN SEATTLE, WA.

April 22, 2017- A lovely “Special Day” with the Seattle SDA Deaf group with members from two countries and special presenter, **Elder Paul Kelly** who used to minister many years ago in the Seattle area. **Six Canadians were there:** Paul Kelly (with his USA wife), Teresa Rogmo, Greg Greenwood, Mateusz Sobczak, Samuel Heine and Blake’s daughter, Judy Johnson (&US husband) [Thanks to Pablo Alejo and Mateusz for use of their pictures]



The Adventist Interpreter’s Support Group under the leadership of Nohelani James of Seattle, WA [terpnjames@gmail.com]



THE *SULADS* PHILIPPINE DEAF SCHOOL IN MINDANAO

[Left] Deaf Students attended a special “*Break the Silence*” Seminar at the school because one or more of the students had been sexually violated by a relative. These students need to understand the challenges of life and especially when you are Deaf so you are not taken advantage of. [All photos here from Khalil at the Deaf School]

[R] Former President of the Philippine Federation of the Deaf, **Maam Rack Corpuz**, came and worked with the deaf school for about a month. Maam Corpuz is the one who conducted most of the “*Break the Silence*” Program. She also visited government officials with them. Maam Corpuz is deaf herself and is a well known advocate for the Deaf.



[L] The deaf students took part in a Pathfinder Camporee and did very well in the competitions. The program was held at Mountain View College about an hour’s drive from the deaf school. They wore similar T-shirts and you see them here with their Pathfinder scarfs.

[Below] An important visit to clarify the importance and needs of the school was to visit Pastor Piogo, President of the South Philippine Union Conference. Shown here are **L to R:** Pastor Piogo, Sammy, the *Gospel Outreach* worker in Cagayan de Oro, Maam Corpuz and Khalil, one of the key leaders at the school for the Deaf.

DONATIONS:

We are constantly looking for extra funding to start Ministry with Deaf **in new countries**, as well as maintain the work in our current 13 countries. If you would like to make a donation, **please mail all checks** to our *Canadian PO Box 308, Clive address* on the back page. If you wish a **Canadian Receipt**, please make the check to “Bentley SDA Church” and if a **USA Donation** receipt make the check to: “Gospel Outreach”.



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