

# CAN YOU HEAR US?



ESTHER M. DOSS

A QUICK GUIDE TO DEAF MINISTRY

# *Silent Hands*

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*Can you hear me?  
Listen, not with your ears  
But with your eyes.  
To you they speak,  
My silent hands.  
Hear me tell my tale.  
Hear me sing my song.  
Learn my language,  
My beautiful native language.  
Hear my hands,  
Hear my music and story.  
Learn my language.  
Speak to me with your hands.  
Share my beautiful language.  
Hear my silent hands.  
We have a tale to tell,  
A song to sing.  
Open your eyes  
And hear me speak.*

## Meet My Deaf Family

I guess you could say that I grew up in an unique home. My parents are both Deaf and communicated through American Sign Language (ASL). They were the most loving parents I could ask for and cooed to me as an infant in their hand language. I picked up ASL quickly and this became my first language. My mother and father proudly share how I “said” my first word at 8 months as I waved good-bye and signed “work” to my dad as he was heading out the door. They also make mention of how I had memorized and finger-spelled the alphabet by the time I was a year old.

I didn’t realize that my family was different until I was five years old. Mom and I were at our local school’s kindergarten building, to register me for school the following fall. I was in absolute amazement and, honestly, terrified as I noticed the other parents were speaking and hearing people. I had truly thought that all parents were Deaf, that one would lose all hearing when becoming a parent. I refused to budge from my perch on her lap, when Mom suggested I go play with the other children. Again, I was terrified. These other families were WEIRD! I suppose the reason I had this false theory was because all of my parents’ friends were Deaf.

While we were within walking distance of most of Mom’s family, I quickly sensed the communication barriers and how my parents were mostly left out. Deaf friends were my parents true family. They communicated fluidly, having much in common. By default, these Deaf friends became my family too. Since both of my grandpas had died, I decided to adopt one of my parents’ friends as my Adopted Grandpa. I don’t even know his name...he was always “Grandpa” to me. He loved me like I was his own, too.

### **Deaf people in North America**

...are members of a completely different people group with their own rich language (Sign Language) and culture.

...are approximately 6 million strong with 98% who do not attend church anywhere.

...are almost completely un-reached with the good news about Jesus Christ and His last day message.

I'm proud of my Deaf family. I love them so much. They are a beautiful people, rich in history and culture. They know how to have a good time and how to work. They are very creative too! Deaf individuals live in a world that is largely made for those people who can hear and speak. Their many responses to sticky situations may be a result of on-the-spot ingenuity.

Deaf people live and interact as a distinct people group. They have their own customs, norms, habits, thought patterns, language, and common experiences that identify them as a unique culture group. Deaf people tend to believe that deafness is not a disability or a handicap, but rather the quality that unites Deaf individuals into a cohesive, vibrant community. Thus, Deaf people prefer to be called "Deaf" rather than "Hearing Impaired".

It may surprise you that many Deaf people are proud to be Deaf and would want it no other way. My parents certainly feel that way. My dad even told me once that he would rather remain Deaf when Jesus comes again. He is that content.



The tragedy is not deafness. The tragedy is Deaf people have been excluded from hearing the Good News, because of deafness. There are millions of Deaf people in North America, and only 2% of them are Christians.

In this guide, you'll learn a few things about deafness and Deaf people. Also, you'll learn a little about some challenges Deaf people face in the church and how you and your church can be Deaf-friendly.

"Blindness separates people from things; deafness separates people from people." Helen Keller

# Sign Language Notes

- Most Deaf people's preferred language is American Sign Language (ASL).
- ASL is not a form of English – it has its own distinct grammatical structure.
- Most Deaf people regard ASL as their natural language, which reflects their cultural values and keeps their traditions and heritage alive.
- Not being able to hear the spoken language makes learning to speak and write English fluently difficult. It remains, at best, a second language for them, while Sign Language is their heart language.
- ASL is more like French Sign Language than like British Sign Language.

## How do Deaf people...

**Wake up in the morning?** There are special alarm clocks attached to either a flashing light or a bed vibrator that will activate when the alarm goes off.

**Understand T.V.?** Many television shows/movies are captioned. There is a decoder inside the television, which can be turned on via remote control. Once turned on, words appear on the screen like subtitles.

**Talk on the phone?** A TTY is a machine with a keyboard that transmits electrical signals which travel over telephone lines. This enables a Deaf person to use the phone. A TTY must be at both ends for a conversation. But if the other end does not have a TTY, a Relay Service may be used to interpret the conversation. Also, Video Phones have allowed Deaf individuals to see their caller face-to-face. If a person on one end does not have a Video Phone or doesn't know sign language, they may utilize the Relay Service. Information on how to use Relay Service can be found later in this publication.

# Some Myths About Deafness

All my life, I have encountered countless people who have misunderstood deafness. I thought I would share these myths and facts with you.

**Myth:** All Deaf people can not hear a single sound.

**Fact:** Most Deaf people have some hearing, degrees varying from person to person.

**Myth:** If a person is Deaf, then they can not speak at all.

**Fact:** Deaf people still have voices. There are varying degrees of speaking abilities, but many can speak quite well.

**Myth:** Lip-reading is as easy as listening.

**Fact:** At best around 30% of English speech is visible on the lips. Some words look exactly the same—for instance, the words “paddle” and “battle” or “baby” and “maybe”. (Note: Not all Deaf people can lip-read.)

**Myth:** American Sign Language (ASL) is universal.

**Fact:** Sign language varies among countries and within countries, just as with spoken languages. ASL is used in the U.S. and Canada.

**Myth:** Deaf people have below average intelligence.

**Fact:** Deaf people have the same intelligence range as those who are hearing. The lack of hearing does not affect one’s IQ. In fact, many Deaf people hold college degrees.

**Myth:** Deaf parents usually have Deaf children.

**Fact:** Actually, 90% of Deaf children have hearing parents.

**Myth:** The early use of ASL interferes with a Deaf child’s acquisition of good English language skills.

**Fact:** If that were true, then why do Deaf children of Deaf parents tend to have better English language skills?

**Myth:** Deaf people are not suitable for most jobs.

**Fact:** Deaf people are very capable and suitable for a wide range

of jobs. Deaf people can hold competitive positions in a variety of professional and technical fields.

**Myth:** Deaf employees are safety risks.

**Fact:** Numerous studies, such as the one done by DuPont, have shown Deaf employees to have equal to better safety records

**Myth:** Deaf people can't drive cars.

**Fact:** Deaf people can drive cars and are among the safest drivers.

**Myth:** Deaf people use Braille.

**Fact:** Deaf people do not use Braille, unless they are also visually impaired. Blind people use Braille.

**Myth:** Deaf people lead totally different lives from other people.

**Fact:** Deaf people are set apart by only one thing. As I. King Jordan, retiring President of Gallaudet University, has said, "Deaf people can do anything except hear."

"Then I saw another angel flying high in the air. He had the eternal Good News to preach to those who live on earth—to every nation, tribe, language, and people." Revelation 14:6 NCV

## Being Deaf, Religion, and the Church

**A**s I shared with you, I **LOVE** my Deaf family. And I know that my Jesus does too. My heart's desire is to see Deaf people have the opportunity to know who my loving Savior is and how they, too, can have a relationship with Him. I want them with my Lord and I in the kingdom and walk with us on the streets of gold.

**Of the millions that are Deaf, we only have 300+ members in North America.** The number is painfully small. In fact, this is not painful just because of the few numbers, but because 20 years ago, the number was much higher at about 700 or so. There are many factors for Deaf people leaving the church and also for not

joining the church family. I do not have the space to go into depth, but I will quickly share with you some points.

**Adventist to Non-Adventist Ratio**  
(Based on 2004 statistics)

Worldwide Membership	1:465
NAD Membership	1:308
NAD DEAF Membership	1:18,181

Deaf culture has undergone a lot of changes over the last 20 years due to education choices, technology, and rights (as established in the Americans with Disabilities Act). And thus, this has effected perspectives of Jesus and church.

30 years ago, hearing people primarily led the Deaf ministry in various denominations without much input by Deaf people. Also, many grew up without anyone caring enough to fully communicate the love of Jesus to them. They were forced to sit still for a couple of hours during church services in a silent world, feeling imprisoned. Since then, Deaf people have felt that God is a “hearing” God who isn’t interested in Deaf individuals. Many of these left the church.

Now, the Deaf-World is in a real spiritual crisis. Without Deaf Christian role models, Deaf children and teenagers do not know much about God.

I volunteered to assist in a cabin during Deaf camp at Camp Mi-Voden in Idaho a few years ago. I was given the responsibility of having nightly worship in our cabin. It was very difficult since the girls showed no interest in what I was sharing. I would always ask for a volunteer to pray, but no one was willing.

Then, one of the girls, Amy, was feeling sad and I took this opportunity to share Christ. I told her how I turn to Jesus, my Best Friend, in prayer when I’m sad. Amy looked at me with tears in her eyes and signed, “I can’t pray because God doesn’t know sign language.” My heart ached. How lonely it must be to think that the God of the universe understood the prayers of all hearing people, but not those of Deaf people. I signed, “Oh, God knows all



languages. He knows Japanese, English, Spanish, German, and even ASL.” She was shocked. I led her into prayer and she was delighted. That evening, during worship I again asked if anyone would volunteer to pray. Before I could even finish the question, Amy’s hand went straight up in the air and she prayed the sweetest prayer I have ever seen.

In reading and talking with others, I have found that Amy was not the only teenager who thought God couldn’t understand ASL. Many Deaf youth believe this. How sad is it when youth in America think that God couldn’t understand them if they prayed!

We now have the challenge of reaching out to this vast group of precious souls. **Only 2% of Deaf people in North America attend church.** We can not afford to maintain the status quo. It’s been estimated that fewer than 6% of American churches



have any outreach to Deaf at all. Most of those who do try something generally restrict their “ministry” to a volunteer signer who’s had perhaps a few months of sign language classes, attempting to interpret worship services. These ministries are started and carried on by people who love the Lord. Yet for all their efforts, few Deaf people attend, and often seem disconnected from the fellowship. In most cases, the few Deaf people who do come ultimately just drift away.

Communication is a barrier in the church. Deaf individuals often feel all alone in a room full of people. They feel like they’re sitting in a glass box able to see others visit, sing, laugh, and study together, but not able to know what’s going on. Some churches are thoughtful enough to provide an interpreter, but even still, Deaf members or visitors are simply spectators, not participants. Very few are blessed with a Deaf group in which they can study, pray, and sing together, where each person is understood and play a

vital part in worship service. A relationship with Jesus is an experience. How can a Deaf person have a spiritual experience if they, while at church, feel like they are in a fish bowl peering at what's going on around them? An experience is something that belongs to you. You can't claim someone else's experience.



If we are ever going to get serious about Deaf ministry, we're going to start thinking like Deaf people. We're going to have to listen to what they have to say and learn how they perceive the world and themselves. We're going to have to put aside our own prejudices and our own likes and dislikes. We have to move into a world that, for most of us, is unfamiliar and fuzzy to our eyes. If we don't do this, the Deaf community will continue to be the largest unreached people group in North America.

Perhaps you want to make your church accessible to Deaf people so they can love it as you do. But realistically, no matter what you do, most Deaf people will never love your hearing church. Nearly everything in your church is very hearing oriented, from the music, an important part of almost every hearing worship service, to the 30 to 50 minutes of monologue preaching, to the casual conversation in the lobby, and so forth.

In addition to this, some things are lost in interpreted services. Signed music rarely comes anywhere close to the quality of what you hear. Just imagine how excited you would be if you had to sit through songs that were sung in a monotonous, raspy voice, in broken English, missing words, and lacking any sense of rhythm. That is how many songs come across in sign language! Moreover, many things are often lost in translation. Because ASL has its own grammar and vocabulary, interpreters have to edit and translate the meaning of the sermons on the fly.

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Honestly, Deaf people are not driving past your church every day thinking, “I sure wish they would interpret their services. Then I would attend.” No, in fact, most Deaf people are not even looking for a church. Many have had bad experiences with church in the past and they think of them as “prisons” where everyone has to be quiet and Deaf individuals don’t know what’s going on half the time. So if you put a sign out on the church lawn announcing you are now sign interpreting your services, don’t expect a flood of Deaf folks to show up. Deaf people will never be able to experience a hearing church the same way you do.

## Deaf Church

Many have only known church where they were on the outside looking in through the window of an interpreter. A Deaf church can feel like a breath of fresh air to a Deaf person where they are no longer spectators; they are now part of the action. The set



up of the room is designed to enhance the worship and fellowship experience. Worshipers all sign their praise to God in congregational songs. The message and all information shared are in sign language, their native tongue. Also, Deaf people best learn interactively. In a Deaf church, they are free to ask questions, seek clarification, and discuss meaning together. In the hearing church setting, often deaf people can only be objects of someone else’s ministry. In a Deaf church, each person is free to use their spiritual gifts, talents and passion to serve in the work of the ministry. What a better way to learn and share.

## My Mother’s Experience

My own mother, who is Deaf, has struggled in the church. She loves Jesus so much and, despite of the many obstacles that the evil one has put in the way, she accepted Jesus as her Savior and

embraced the Sabbath and many of the other teachings of the Bible.

The spiritual journey has not been easy, however. Like many Deaf, she had to slowly learn Biblical instruction. English being her second language, she endeavored to study the Bible. Very few hearing people were willing to take the time to study with her. For years, I watched my mother be very lonely in church services. While the church members were proud that they had learned to sign “Happy Sabbath,” my mother mourned that no one took the time to be her friend. Imagine going to church where people only waved to you, while they are studying, singing, talking, laughing together. They had a sense of really belonging. My mother was completely ostracized. They assumed that all her needs were cared for as long as I was with her. What they forgot is she needed to feel like she belonged to the family of God.

She now attends another Adventist church where she is much happier. There is another Adventist Deaf woman that she can study and talk with. I attend as well, and we have our own Sabbath School lesson. If we run out of Sabbath school time, we extend class time into church service. Otherwise, I interpret the church services. Church members make every effort to be their friends. They write to them, learn sign language, and take a real interest in their lives. Not only have the members truly befriended them, but they have put these ladies to work. They have been given real jobs to do, including being a deaconess, women’s ministry leader, and creating the weekly bulletin.

Believe me, my mother’s experiences are not unique to her. As



I visit with Deaf Adventist friends, I hear the same story over and over. The names are different, but the experience of loneliness and frustration are the same. **Many Deaf people all across North America are still struggling, all alone, in their spiritual journey.** This shouldn't be.

## How You and Your Church Can Reach Out to Deaf People

Typically, through the eyes of a Deaf person, there are three groups of people within the Adventist church. The first group is comprised of disinterested people to whom Deaf people are completely invisible. This group will never bring a Deaf soul to Christ, but then, they don't seem to care. The second group are those who try to become overly-protective. While these people have good intentions, they take over the lives of Deaf people and forget that these individuals are human beings with true thoughts, feelings, preferences, and capabilities. Then there are the friends who take a deep interest in the lives of Deaf people and treat them as true friends. Keep your motives in check and be sure that you're a true friend.

### Personal Friends/Family

For the most part, an interpreted program or sermon will not bring a Deaf soul to Jesus. **The best way to bring a Deaf person to Christ is friendship evangelism.** Just be a true friend to your Deaf neighbor or relative. Over time, share with them the immense love of Christ and how He loves them. Share your personal experiences in this walk with God. Your winsome character and personality and your true interest in them as people is the most effective way to bring them to Jesus.

You can also introduce them to Jesus by having *The Deaf Messenger*, an outreach magazine for Deaf people, sent to them. You can also suggest that they sign up for a Bible correspondence course for Deaf people at [www.DeafBibleSchool.com](http://www.DeafBibleSchool.com).

### Networking and Friendships are Vital!

Keep in mind, since only 2% of Deaf people are Christians, it is difficult to have Deaf friends who are likewise Christians. Also, there are such few Deaf people in our local churches. **Thus, meeting and making new Deaf Adventist friends from other**

**places becomes extremely crucial.** They need friends that communicate like they do, like-believers who share similar day-to-day experiences. They are just like you, in need of a support system and friends to share their lives with.



Consider that most Deaf people prefer to marry another Deaf person. This is because they desire optimal communication within the home. However, how does a single Deaf member meet another single Deaf Adventist?

There are Deaf camp meetings and retreats, where close friendships and a sense of belonging emerge.

With today's technology, Deaf people can chat with one another face to face via video phones. Also, many Deaf people have two-way pagers which they can email or instant message each other. Communicating with one another has become easy. Therefore, your member at home can be a part of the large group of Adventists from coast to coast.

If you have Deaf members or visitors in your church, **do not hesitate** to find a way to help them network with other Deaf Adventists! Don't hold back this wonderful world from them! You would only be cheating your members of a wonderful circle of friends which just might make the difference in whether or not you'll see this member in the kingdom. The easiest way to introduce your member(s) to the circle of Deaf Adventists is to connect them to Adventist Deaf Ministries.

"What matters deafness of the ears, when the mind hears? The one true deafness, the incurable deafness, is that of the mind." Victor Hugo

## Your Role in Deaf Ministry

**T**here are many ways to serve in Deaf ministry. Perhaps God is calling you to the “frontlines” of this work, to train, study and immerse yourself into the Deaf culture as a church planter, facilitator, or co-worker with a Deaf leader. Maybe God is calling you to be a partner in the support team by helping to finance needed efforts, giving your talents and energies as a volunteer to create ministry materials and resources, or simply to encourage. Whatever your place in this effort, whether you are the hands or feet, you could have a role to play in this ministry.

Please do remember this: Within the Deaf community, there has been a desire to build meaningful relationships with those who are willing to be true friends. **The key trait for friendship is authenticity, a willingness to treat people as equals.**



I want to stress again that **there are approximately 250 million Deaf people worldwide with only 2% who are Christians.** This is a real crisis. The evil one has been crafty in keeping Christians blind to the many souls who perish each year without accepting Christ as their Savior. We must, by God’s help, raise the percentage of Deaf people who have a relationship with Jesus. How long before we, as Christians, rise to the challenge? Sadly, for too many Deaf people, when Jesus comes again, it will have been too long. Let’s team together, you and I, and make a difference in the lives of Deaf people for eternity. With God’s help, we can do it!

### Things to Remember

- **Take an interest in their lives.** Find out who they really are and what struggles and triumphs they are experiencing. Get to know them as great friends.
- **Don’t be shy, communicate!** Deaf people don’t bite!

They aren't lepers either, though sometimes they feel that way. Trying to communicate with a Deaf individual can be terrifying, just keep in mind that this is how Deaf people feel on a day-to-day basis. Relax and just take it slow. If you don't know ASL, try writing. Also, occasional gestures are appropriate.

- **Make sure that the church has materials to meet a Deaf person's needs.** There are some materials to help build faith and help them become strong believers, such as the Easy Reading Edition of the Sabbath School lesson and sermons or studies on DVD in ASL.
- **Get them involved!** Don't let your Deaf member(s) be mere spectators! Find out what their spiritual gifts are and put them to work! By developing true friendships and actively involving Deaf people in ministry, they'll feel less like spectators.
- **Socialize!** Invite them to your home for a meal. Make sure they're invited to church socials and make certain they are participating rather than sitting on the sidelines like a wall flower finding comfort in the refreshments.
- **Don't isolate Deaf people.** If a Deaf person asks what was just said, don't fall for the temptation to say, "It's not important." Or "I'll tell you later."
- **Assume nothing!** Never assume that the interpreter is taking care of all the needs of Deaf members or visitors. Also, find out how to meet their needs on Sabbath and how they would like to be involved in the church. Each person is different, just as you and your friends are different.
- **Do not make decisions for Deaf members.** Do not try to protect or control them.
- **Be a student!** Ask Deaf people about their culture and listen to them. There's no better way than just being with Deaf people. Drink in their world and learn from them.





- **Never forget that you, as hearing person, are a stranger or a foreigner in the Deaf culture.** It is an all too common complaint that hearing workers engaged in Deaf ministry don't have a real heart for Deaf. They think "hearing" and act superior. Always guard against this.

## Notes on Interpreting

- If you are using an interpreter, speak to the Deaf person directly and pretend the interpreter is not there.
- Speak in a normal regular tone, you do not have to talk slow or take long pauses, keep a normal flow.
- The interpreter(s) is there to translate information from English to ASL or ASL to English. He/she is only there to interpret, not to become a Deaf person's guardian.
- You may notice that Deaf individuals may not pay attention and stare at the interpreter at all times. That does not mean that they are not interested in what you have to say. They are just giving their eyes a break. (Keep in mind that having to pay attention to one spot for a period of time is very tiring for the eyes.)
- If your church has an interpreter, be sure to have a back up interpreter in case of illness or vacation, otherwise, no services would be provided for Deaf people that week.

**Note: having interpreted services, although important, does not mean that your church has a Deaf ministry. A Deaf ministry seeks out Deaf individuals to develop relationships, being willing to invest time in them.**

## How To Talk to Deaf People on the Phone

**Relay services** allow Deaf individuals to communicate with friends, family, or business associates who don't have a text telephone (TDD/TTY) or Video Phone (VP). Be rest assured that each call is handled in strict confidence.



## Telephone Relay Services

The service provided is using a skilled Communications Assistant (CA) who reads the message typed by a Deaf individual to the hearing person at the other end of the call. The CA then relays the hearing person's exact spoken words by typing them back to the TTY user.

Keep in mind that when relaying your call, the CAs will type everything you say and anything that is heard. CAs are trained and instructed in conveying the full content, context, and intent of the relay conversation they translate. All secondary activities that would normally be known to a hearing person engaged in a telephone conversation (i.e. background noises, side conversations, other people coming on the line, etc.) are relayed to the extent possible. For example, the CA may type background noises that are heard such as "baby crying", "loud radio", "coughing", etc.

Remember that it is the Deaf person you are speaking with, not the CA. Do not say: "Tell her that it is very nice of her to call me." Instead, talk directly to the Deaf person, such as saying: "Jane, how nice of you to call me."

### How voice callers can use the Relay Services:

**Step 1:** Dial the Relay Service Number: 711

**Step 2:** You will hear: "\_\_\_\_ Relay Service. CA#. May I have the number you are calling, please?" Give the CA the number you want to call.

**Step 3:** While your call is being relayed, talk as though you are speaking directly to the person you called. Each time you finish speaking, say, "Go ahead" to let the CA know you are ready for the TTY user's response.

**Step 4:** When you're ready to end the call you can say some thing like "I'm done."

### Video Relay Services

Video Relay Services allows Deaf or hard-of-hearing people who

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use American Sign Language (ASL) to communicate with hearing people through the telephone system using video equipment, rather than through typed text. This service has become increasingly popular.

A Deaf or hard-of-hearing caller, using a videophone contacts a VRS. A VRS communications assistant, who is a qualified sign language interpreter, then places a telephone call to the party the VRS user wishes to call. No typing or text is involved. VRS calls are free to the caller.

**Note: Don't hang up!** Many people hang up on relay calls because they think the CA is a telemarketer. If you answer the phone and hear, "Hello, this is Relay Service. Have you received a relay call before?" ... please don't hang up. Congratulations! You are about to talk to a deaf person!

## Adventist Deaf Ministries

### Our Mission

Make a difference in the lives of Deaf people for eternity by bringing Deaf people into a deep relationship with Jesus and discipling them to become strong believers who in turn share the Gospel with others.

**Adventist Deaf Ministries is a ministry that is truly for and by Deaf people.** We communicate with Deaf members by holding open forum meetings at Deaf camp meetings. We value their ideas and suggestions. The majority of its Board of Directors are Deaf and the Executive Director is Deaf as well.

**Adventist Deaf Ministries came into existence as the result of the closure of Deaf Services at Christian Record Services in 1997.** Soon afterwards, the North American Division (NAD) invited Deaf and hearing members to an exploratory meeting to discuss ways to continue Deaf ministry. In 1998, in response to a proposal to continue the ministry under the formal church organization, NAD and Union Presidents decided that they no longer wished

to operate a ministry for Deaf people within the denominational organization because there were not enough funds to do so. After this, bold action was taken by Deaf people themselves in creating a non-profit ministry for Deaf people, Adventist Deaf Ministries.

### **Our ministry services include:**

**Bible School**—Deaf people may study the Bible via internet or mail. We currently have 150 lessons coming in each month, up from 3 per month five years ago. While these numbers may sound small to some, this is the equivalent to about half of our Deaf membership.

**Deaf Reach**—This is a week-long intensive program to teach Deaf Adventists how to share Jesus and His love with their friends. This program has been important since lay-training programs outside of this ministry has not been accessible to Deaf people nor are they applicable for reaching out to this people group. Deaf members have responded very well to this program.

**The Deaf Messenger**—This is an outreach magazine published by Adventist Deaf Ministries, with articles written especially for Deaf people. This magazine is currently published quarterly and is free to any Deaf person in the USA. These magazines are online where the articles are available for Deaf worldwide.



**DVD Materials**—Deaf people are especially blessed by watching DVD programs in their own language. We have a number of DVDs for Bible studies and evangelism.

**Sermon on DVD programs**—Most of Deaf Adventist members do not attend Deaf churches, and very often without interpreters. Adventist Deaf Ministries has a subscription program for DVDs with sermons by either Deaf pastors or pastors for the Deaf. During church services, Deaf members can utilize this DVD privately, thus having a sermon in their language. They can also use them in their homes for small group Bible studies with their friends.

**Expos**—In 2005, Adventist Deaf Ministries had a booth at a number of Deaf Expositions with total attendance of 40,000+ Deaf people. And by the end of 2006, we expect to reach out to 40,000+ more. This is an opportunity to meet Deaf people all over North America and invite them to sign up for Bible studies and accept a free subscription to The Deaf Messenger.



**Written Materials**—Since English is a second language to many Deaf people, Adventist Deaf Ministries has a number of printed materials in Easy Reading Editions, such as Steps to Christ, Story of Redemption. and a number of Bible studies.

**Easy Reading Sabbath School Quarterly Edition**—We also edit the Easy Reading Edition of the Sabbath School Quarterly, working closely with the GC Sabbath School Department. Interestingly, this edition is more popular in Australia than the standard edition and is used to translate the lessons into other languages around the world. (Please note that this can be ordered through your church's Sabbath School secretary.)

**Keeping Connected**—Adventist Deaf members receive our newsletters, whether or not they are donors. We see this as a part of the ministry, keeping Deaf people connected to one another across North America.

**Representation**—We work closely with the North American Division and represent Deaf people to the church.

## **What ADM can do for you!**

Outreach and Witnessing Materials designed for Deaf people  
Free Outreach magazine for your Deaf friends and relatives  
Materials to strengthen your Deaf members  
Your Source for materials to learn ASL  
Deaf Ministry and Awareness Workshops and Tips

[www.deafadventist.org](http://www.deafadventist.org)

## **What Deaf People Say about Adventist Deaf Ministries**

*"I really love Adventist Deaf Ministries who help me. I feel sometimes my spiritual life going down but every time I get newsletters, magazines, and others, makes me feeling close to God over and over again. Long ago I felt like quitting Seventh-day Adventist member several times because of only 3 of us SDA in my state at that time."*

*"ADM has given me comfort and encouragement knowing that I am not alone as a deaf Sabbath-keeping believer."*

*"ADM is my best friend. I always enjoy reading [ADM materials] because I am the only S.D.A. deaf in Northwest Arkansas."*

*"I never been baptized because not sure which religious is right but I like SDA because I understand clearly on easy vocabulary like you send me. It's make me more excited and understand. I learned about Jesus everyday thru SDA."*

*"I really enjoy this spiritual training camp [Deaf Reach]! I been dreamed about this for long time. Finally came true! Praise the Lord for this program!"*

*"THANK you for the demo of George's sermons. It was like a fresh spring rain. Too wonderful to describe. Please, please, please make more!!!"*

## **What Church Leadership Say...**

*"Adventist Deaf Ministries is our frontline provider and premier resource center for the purpose of reaching Deaf people with the gospel. We depend on the services of Adventist Deaf Ministries, and consider them a partner in ministry."*

Debra Brill, Vice President of the North American Division

*"Truly, an un-reached people group in our midst. I am grateful for ADM's commitment to reach Deaf for Christ."*

Ron Christman, ASI Secretary-Treasurer

*“Adventist Deaf Ministries joins in the same mission of reaching unreached people with the Gospel as Adventist Mission-Global Mission and SEEDS Church Planting Conferences, with a specific focus of reaching an important group that is highly unreached—the deaf and hearing impaired. Thank you, ADM Team, for partnering with us to take the Gospel to ALL the world!”*

Marti Schneider, Adventist Mission-Global Mission

## **How You Can Help Us Reach Out to Deaf People**

- Tell us about Deaf Non-Adventists you know. We will send them our outreach magazine *The Deaf Messenger* **FREE!**
- Tell us about Deaf Adventists you know. We will send them both our newsletter and *The Deaf Messenger* for **FREE!**
- Pray for this Deaf ministry. The work before us is enormous and the workers are few.
- Learn more about Deaf people and their culture and ensure that your church is Deaf-friendly.
- We are always in need of financial support to fund our projects and staff. You can partner with us in this important way.



**Share the Gospel with a Deaf Friend:  
[www.DeafBibleSchool.com](http://www.DeafBibleSchool.com)**

[www.deafadventist.org](http://www.deafadventist.org)