



Deaf Everywhere Are Family

2018 Year in Review

January

On **January 13th** our DEAF group met at the Springfield SDA church (Springfield, MA), which is home church to two DEAF members Clement Ball (our oldest DEAF member at 88) and Jacques Giround. It was a real blessing that Jacques was able to make it to the meeting and to stay for the Bible Study. Our topic was the story of Lazarus and how we may need to wait, but God does not forget us.



On **January 20th** we met at the Smith's house as part of the Worldwide 10 Days of Prayer. We made easier English versions of the Bible study prayer guides for our discussion. 14 of our local DEAF members got together at our house to watch Pastor David Trexler's livestream of the final study. We followed along with our handouts as we reviewed the parts of the High Priest's garments. Sharon Eisenhart (who is Deaf-Blind) watched the live stream up-close on a Surface Pro so she could be included. Amy and Thomas Colgan did worksheets and coloring pages on the High Priest's clothes related to the prayer theme. After the worship we enjoyed a nice meal of soup and sandwiches and fellowship for the rest of the day. This was a good time to comfort Sharon over the recent loss of her husband. All agreed that they enjoyed this home church environment.

February

On **February 3rd** we held our monthly meeting at the Fitchburg SDA Church (Fitchburg, MA). Our Bible study was on the 10 Bridesmaids and how important it is to be prepared. We must always be ready for when Jesus comes.



March

On **March 10th** we held our monthly meeting at the Hudson SDA Church (Hudson, MA). We were happy that Arthur Challis came to this meeting. His friends who are members of this church were happy to see him. This was a good time of DEAF Christian fellowship.



April

In April (**April 20th – April 22nd**) we celebrated our Annual DEAF Weekend at the Worcester Airport SDA Church (Worcester, MA). Our theme was "Called to Serve" and the weekend featured Bruce Buzzell as presenter. The theme was related to the General Conference's *Total Member Involvement (TMI)* program that encourages everyone to be involved in their local church and in reaching people for Jesus. Everyone should be involved in serving others for Jesus (this includes Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard-of-Hearing people). DEAF members led all parts of the weekend, and on Sabbath morning hearing church members joined DEAF for worship, with meetings voice interpreted by a team of four interpreters (Jessica McGowan Smith, Dona Lombardi, Harold Molina and Niki Espinal). Bruce flew in from St. Louis, MO to present four meetings on the topics, "Prayer on the Island," "Saved to Serve God," "How to Serve the Lord," and "Excitement or Service." Each meeting inspired the audience on why and how to serve Jesus. Bruce had not been to New England since 2007, and had not preached for many years. It was wonderful to see Bruce lead the programs with his talents. The Airport church members were great hosts with many opening up their homes to host people from out of town. It was wonderful to see people traveling from all over the Northeast including New York to join us for this event. There was a full weekend of activities including Saturday night games led by Charmaine Logan from NY. A highlight was Harold Molina and who came and helped with interpreting and Niki Espinal a new interpreter (just moved to Boston, MA). We have never had an event with so many interpreters. Another highlight was the Bible study given by June Freeman (DEAF member from Connecticut). This was her first time leading a Bible study, and we hope she does it again soon. Because our theme was "Called to Serve" we had our DEAF group help assemble Bible study kits that we were to give out at the Boston Deaf Expo the following week.



A new Boston Deaf Expo was held for the first time on Saturday, **April 28th** in Newton, MA. Pastor Paul and Tina Kelly flew into Boston from Rochester, NY and stayed at the Smith's house so that they (with Jessica) could work the booth together. There were about 800 attendees and the Expo lasted all day from 12:00 to 7:00pm. At 10:00am, there was already a long line of people waiting to get into the Expo. Inside there was barely enough room to move because of the number of people. All day the building was packed with many more people standing outside in the sunny parking lot for hours to talk. There was a crowd around the 3ADM booth the entire day. Jessica represented the local DEAF

group's monthly Bible studies, annual DEAF Weekend and DEAF Camp. Twenty-two new people signed up to be on the mailing list to learn more. Paul and Tina also represented the 2018 DEAF Camp, and all the printed DEAF Camp brochures were given away quickly. The interest shown at the 3ADM booth proves that people are hungry for opportunities to talk about and to learn more about Jesus.

On **April 29th** we held a memorial service for Bob Eisenhart at the Grace Chapel in Lexington, MA. To support Sharon, Jessica created the bulletin, obituary, a slideshow, memorial cake, photo board and food for this memorial. The loss of Bob is still very difficult for many of the DEAF group (especially for the Sylvesters and Sharon who lost 4 childhood friends in the past 2 years). Our DEAF group has suffered so much death the past few years. We are all eagerly waiting for Jesus to come again.



May



May 19th was our Monthly DEAF meeting in Stoneham, MA. This is Ernest Mitchell's new church, but it has been a challenge to get him there. We are still struggling to find a ride to bring Ernest to this church when the DEAF group is not meeting there. A blessing at this church is that Fred Christiansen is there to help interpret. Our Bible study topic was "God's Vessels" on Daniel 5:1-31. We are God's chosen vessels to serve God; people should be able to look at us and know we have God in our hearts.

June

On **June 2nd** we were asked to have a special DEAF Day by the Grace and Chapel SDA Church in Providence, RI. This church asked us to come and present the entire day about our DEAF Ministry. This church is asking each ministry to come present to them so that church members can be informed on how to get involved. Highlights included, Amanda Colgan's presentation about Deaf culture, Deaf ministry in North America and 3ADM, Jessica McGowan Smith's sermon on "When God Sings" (Zephaniah 3:14-20) and Dona Lombardi's help with interpreting. In the afternoon there was a Q&A panel with DEAF members answering questions about Deaf Culture and Ministry. Amy Colgan even led an informal class in the afternoon to teach the church's children some basic ASL signs.



Our Southern New England Conference celebrated its 150th Anniversary camp meeting on **June 22-30th** in South Lancaster, MA. Dona Lombardi stayed both weekends to help with interpreting, and Jessica was there all 10 days. The first weekend featured President Dan Jackson of North America Division. Both he and his wife were very happy to see and supportive of our DEAF ministry. We took this opportunity to discuss our DEAF Health Expo with them. Also during this camp meeting our DEAF group had a DEAF Ministry booth in the exhibition tent. (We used to do this every year and are happy to start it again). At the booth, we promoted DEAF ministry awareness, our DEAF group and calendar of events and our upcoming DEAF Health Expo. It was great to see our DEAF members discussing Deaf culture and our ministry (Kasseth Andrews was a very good witness). Because of this booth, we met Pastor Anthony Crawford of Danbury-Bethel SDA Church who has a Deaf member who recently moved as a refugee from Rwanda. We were able to make this connection, and he joined our DEAF camp. We plan to visit his church in Danbury, CT in 2019.

July

July 5-7th Margie English and Jessica McGowan Smith hosted a booth by 3 Angels Deaf Ministries at the National Association for the Deaf meeting in Hartford, CT. Margie suggested that we offer prayers to booth visitors. We wore "How Can I Pray For You?" buttons, and the response was great. The people who visited the booth seemed very touched when we prayed with them (Especially touching was the woman who asked for prayer who was moving to PA and a person who is fighting Kidney Cancer). Offering prayers changed the conversation and the feel of our interactions. Offering prayers was a wonderful suggestion by Margie, and we hope that 3ADM can do the same at all the expos.



On **July 28th** we had a special meeting at the Soundview Spanish Church in the Bronx, NY with local Deaf members who want to set up a DEAF ministry in their area. These ladies have been asking for our DEAF group to visit them for almost two years. SNEC DEAF members rented an extend van and drove to New York for this special DEAF event. Here worship was held in Spanish with simultaneous interpreting into English and then into ASL by Grace Ann Ashley and Jessica McGowan Smith. After lunch there was a planning meeting with the Deaf group in the Bronx, to help them set up their own Deaf ministry for their area and the Greater New York Conference. Pastor Manual Rosario, Personal Ministries Director for the Greater New York Conference was there to represent the

conference and many local church members stayed. Plans are very tentative for this conference, please keep praying that God will continue to lead this ministry.

August

On **August 12-24th** Francisca Trexler traveled to the Bronx to give special Bible studies with the group there. We are praying that this is the seed of what will grow into a local DEAF ministry to spread the good news about Jesus into the Greater New York Conference. Francisca stayed with Delcia Reed a member of Charmaine Logan's church and traveled to give Bible studies twice a day at the Soundview Spanish Church where Pura Valdez is a member. The Bible studies were a success, and Francisca continued to meet with this group at the DEAF camp the following week.

August 24-28th our Annual DEAF Camp was held at Camp Cherokee in Saranac Lake, NY. This camp was coordinated by Pastor Paul Kelly and the New York group. Pastor Paul Kelly and Esther Doss were featured speakers and Francisca Trexler also presented wonderful meetings for beginners. Pastor David Trexler also gave a report on 3ADM and the special offering went to 3ADM this year. A special thank you to Paul Kelly and Scott Kahler for all their hard work in managing the camp. We are already looking forward to DEAF camp 2019! Please save the dates and plan to come August 21-25, 2019 in Huntington, MA.



September



On **September 8th** we met at the Lowell All Nations SDA Church in Lowell, MA. Our Bible study was "Have Problems? Have Joy!" (1 Peter 1:6-9), which reminded us to be content when we suffer and experience problems, trials and temptations. Suffering shows us how strong our faith really is. It is easy to say "I have faith. I trust God." It is only when we experience problems that we know if we really trust God.

On **September 14th** DEAF launched its Facebook page as another communication tool to grow the ministry and the group. Please search for DEAFamily and like and follow us to stay up to date on our DEAF news.

On **September 20-23rd** Jessica McGowan Smith and Paul Kelly flew to Dallas, TX to represent the Northeast at a Deaf Ministry Leadership Meeting (Amanda Colgan was also there to represent Missouri). This meeting was held to meet and pray with other Deaf Ministry leaders from across North America and to hear reports.

October

On **October 4th** we received the sad news that Dawn Patino passed away with her husband Paulino and her parents Michael and Melody Fuller Oryl by her side. She was 53 years old from West Henrietta, NY. Dawn was a sweet woman with a cheery disposition. Her name fit her well, because Dawn had a smile that could light up a room like sunshine. Dawn and her husband came to DEAF events and our DEAF camp as early as 2011 and were part of Pastor Paul Kelly's Deaf church at Genesee Park Boulevard Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Rochester, NY. Dawn's life changed in 2015 when she accidentally fell down some stairs and had a spinal cord injury causing her to become partially paralyzed. Even after this experience, Dawn continued to be sweet and keep her sunny smile. Dawn touched more lives than can be said. We will all miss Dawn Patino. Dawn was a good Christian who loved Jesus. I know we will see Dawn again when Jesus comes again when she will walk and run again. A Memorial Service was held for Dawn Patino on **October 14th** at Genesee Park Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Rochester, NY.



On **October 20th** we met at the Connecticut Valley SDA Church in South Windsor, CT. As a wonderful surprise Clem Ball and his family joined us here for the day. It was also good to see members of Mario and Ybon Romero's family who are members at this church. Our Bible study was "Being God's Witnesses, Even in Hard Times" (Hebrews 12:1-3). We are to be like reflectors shining Jesus' light and love to a world of people lost in darkness.



November

We were happy on **November 3rd** to see Marye and Wayne McKenney at the Village SDA Church in South Lancaster, MA for our Monthly DEAF Bible study meeting. We had missed them for many months as Marye was in New Hampshire helping with her family business. This is a new church for our DEAF group, and we had a wonderful potluck lunch and Bible study together. We

were especially happy to see a mother bring her young Deaf son to our meeting. This was a real blessing because Deaf children are our future, and God wants to save them too! ☺ Our Bible study was part 2 of our study in October, and we read 1 Peter 4:12-19. We were sad to say goodbye to Kasseth Andrews who is moving to Florida and this was his last monthly meeting with us. We pray that God continues to bless him in Florida and that we see him again soon.

A Memorial Service for Dawn Patino was held on Sunday, **November 11th** at Westbrook, Connecticut. It was good to see Paulino who drove down from Rochester, NY to be with his and Dawn's family who live in Connecticut. Many of Dawn's friends and family came from all over the United States to be part of this memorial service. Jessica McGowan Smith interpreted for both the Deaf and hearing people who shared their memories of Dawn. This memorial was also a celebration of the wonderful life Dawn had, and her love for Jesus and others that showed in her cheerfulness.

December

December 1st was our last meeting of 2018 at the Johnston RI SDA Church. This is Janice Musco's church. We were happy that Dona Lombardi came to help interpret and that Gilbert joined us. We celebrated December birthday' and all of God's blessings for the year. Everyone received Christmas cards and gifts. After a delicious potluck lunch, Amanda Colgan led the Bible study about doing more than expected, studying the story about Rebekah in Genesis 24. We had a special announcement that the 2019 Annual DEAF weekend will be hosted by the Johnston Seventh-day Adventist Church on April 26-28th. We also handed out the schedule for 2019 DEAF meetings. On Friday, **December 14th** we had a special dinner with some of our DEAF members that could not come to our December monthly meeting in Johnston RI. Kasseth returned from Florida for a few days and was able to join us for this time together.



2018 has been a busy year filled with God's blessings, wonderful experiences and some real hard experiences as well. Jessica's stepfather William Brown has been struggling with a terminal illness and has been in the hospital 10 times in the past 8 months. He has been near death many times, but God is faithful and has given miraculous healings and answered prayers. However, Bill is very weak and the family is tired; we still need prayers. Jesus is coming soon and we need to be ready and help to tell others this good news.

Thank you to each and every one of you for being a part of our DEAF group. Without you we would not be the group that we are. Without you, we would miss part of our DEAF family. I pray for all of you. Please keep praying for our group that we continue to grow and for our worldwide DEAF ministries. All Deaf people should have the opportunity to know Jesus.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from DEAF (**Deaf Everywhere Are Family**)! May God continue to be with us and bless us in 2019. We look forward to seeing you at our 2019 events.