

different learning process. Based on visual, spatial and concrete thought patterns.

- c. Deaf and hearing humor differs.
- d. Deaf music is rhythm or beat based.
- e. The Deaf are visually oriented.

5. What attitudes should be part of any Deaf ministry?

Three small words can make a huge difference when planning a Deaf ministry. These words are: “to,” “for,” and “with.” While all are relevant in some situations, the most effective long-term approach focuses largely on “with.” Complimenting the “with” approach would also include:

- a. Love and compassion.
- b. Listening and observing.
- c. Empathetic understanding.
- d. Transparency and trust.
- e. Partnership in local church planning
- f. Development of Deaf leadership.
- g. Implementation of Deaf-sensitive mission strategies.

6. Should Deaf ministry be part of our local church’s ministry?

“I saw that it is in the providence of God that widows and orphans, the blind, the deaf, the lame, and persons afflicted in a variety of ways, have been placed in close Christian relationship to His church; it is to prove His people and develop their true character. Angels of God are watching to see how we treat these persons who need our sympathy, love, and disinterested benevolence. This is God’s test of our character.” – Ellen White in *Christian Service*, p. 192.



www.AdventistDeaf.org

Seventh-day Adventist® Deaf Ministries Websites

Brazilian Deaf SDA
surdosadventistas.com.br

Canadian Deaf Ministries International
deafhope.org

Deaf Young Adults for Christ (USA)
dyacweb.org

German Deaf SDA
sta-gehoerlosengemeinschaft.adventist.eu/

Gospel Outreach Deaf Ministry Department
goaim.org/?s=deaf

Kenya Deaf SDA
adm-k.net

Lewisham Deaf Ministries
(United Kingdom/England)
deafministries.lewishamadventist.org.uk/

Russian-Ukrainian
deafasd.com

Sabbath School Videos in German Sign Language
vimeo.com/channels/ssfdtv

SDA Deaf Church Down Under (Australia)
www.sdadeafdu.org/

Southern Deaf Fellowship (USA)
(Sabbath service streamed online each week)
deafchurchonline.org

Three Angels Deaf Ministries (USA)
3angelsdeafministries.org



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ADVENTIST DEAF MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL



Providing help and hope “to,” “for,” and “with” the Deaf while sharing Jesus.

“Kindness is a language the deaf can hear and the blind can see.”

- Mark Twain



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Why a Deaf Ministries?

1. How many Deaf are there in the world?

Estimates of the number of Deaf in the world are difficult to substantiate but reports range from 93 million to more than 300 million.

2. How many different sign languages are there?

Wycliffe Bible Translators report that there are nearly 400 identifiable deaf languages, for which only 40 have a Bible translation in some visual form. There is no single commonly used global sign language.

3. How many Deaf are Christian?

It is estimated that only 2-4 percent of those within the Deaf culture are Christian. If the number of Deaf were 240 million, for example, this would mean that there are less than 10 million who are Christian. This is a major unreached people group.

4. Should we think of the global Deaf as being disabled or as being a unique people group?

Too often the word “disability” defines what a person cannot do rather than who they are. The word “culture” emphasizes the unique characteristics that describe who a people are. There is much more to deafness than not being able to hear. Culture is a reference to the full range of learned behavior patterns that contribute to a sense of identity. This is true for many Deaf. Some unique characteristics of the Deaf include:

- a. Deaf sign language is an acknowledged language but to the hearing it is a foreign language.
- b. Deafness is not a sign of weaker intelligence but most Deaf have a

Philippines

Sunny's Prayer

by Sarah A. Famisaran

Sulads and Gospel Outreach Deaf Ministry Coordinator

Every Sabbath, Sunny added the names of his children to our prayer list. He asked that they might join us in worship. “Lord, please make it a gift to us...that our children join us in worship on Sabbaths,” he prayed.

Sunny and his wife are deaf but have six grown children who can hear. Three of his children have families of their own. Sunny and his wife have long been faithful Adventists, and he is the deaf group church leader in Cagayan De Oro City in Northern Mindanao. As the deaf believers come to church every Sabbath, the hearing children cannot understand why their parents are so engrossed with attending church regularly.

One Sabbath I was surprised to see a new face join us in worship. I thought she was just another deaf friend invited by our members, as they invite more deaf friends every Sabbath.

“Meet my daughter Melinda,” Sunny introduced. “She came to join us in worship.”

“I’m so happy to meet you!” I exclaimed, as I welcomed her with a tight hug.

I noticed how well she signed as she communicated with her parents and the rest of the group. I was a handicapped interpreter compared to her.

“How I wish you could come every Sabbath and be our interpreter, as I am not at all good in my signing. The deaf are getting bored,” I said.

“I will try to, ma’am, but I am embarrassed to be in front of a whole crowd of worshippers,” she admitted.

“You will get used to that,” I encouraged. She responded by saying, “I do plan to join my parents every Sabbath.”

“What made you come anyway to join us in worship?” I was curious.

“I read some tracts about the Sabbath that my parents brought home. I saw the truth about the Sabbath,” she explained. “I plan to share what I learned with my siblings. I’m so glad your ministry reaching out to my parents.”

She went on to share how her parents used to attend church only part of the day, but they’ve become more active now that the SULADS program is taking care of the deaf. Her father told her about meeting new deaf friends through the church. Out of curiosity she decided to come and see for herself. “Thank you, Lord,” I whispered in prayer.

Melinda’s arrival was the result of deaf members being given for them to share with family and friends. I prayed for more people to join us soon.

My deaf group was excited to hear that Pastor Jeff Jordan would return to visit. “And when he comes,” Melinda said, “I want him to baptize me.” This made the group happy and her parents even more so.

Members of the group said, “We also want our families to hear about Jesus so they too can join us in worship and most especially to be prepared for His soon return.”