



Newsletter no. 15 - year 2 Aug 2007

Back from Deaf outreach in Eastern Cape and Natal

Praise the Lord, for He is good. He sent us out to spread His Gospel to the Deaf and He was faithful and protected us, also when there were demonstrations in the streets and some towns near Umtata were closed because it was dangerous. We spoke mainly to adult Deaf and held services for them and had opportunity to spread the Word in full visual mode, or D2D (Deaf to Deaf) Evangelism. Adult Deaf benefited a lot from it, but the greatest



joy was visible in the children, who speak sign language fluently but struggle to understand when the hearing try to communicate with them, even when the hearing try to speak sign language. However when other Deaf speak to them in sign language, their eyes light up, then they understand very well and the message goes in and not past. The deaf sign language for not understanding is visually showing 2 fingers going past the head, it does not go in.

Teachers' strike

It was difficult to understand why the teachers had to strike spesifically during the time when we had the opportunity to visit school children in distant rural areas for the first time. The result was that most of the schools in Natal and the Eastern Cape were closed and we could only speak to the adult Deaf and the few children



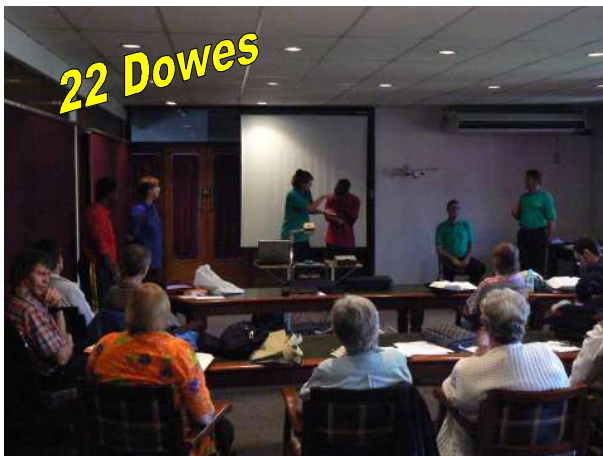
who remained in the hostels. We



grabbed the opportunity and divided the children into groups, taught them to also mime and sing, so that they could teach other children again. For most of the children it was the first time in their lives that they could sing, and they enjoyed it thoroughly, and they sang about the Lord who created them, about Jesus who forgives their sins and saved them, and praised the Lord in real sign language song.

We gave the **English Bibles** to the Deaf and schools and groups of Deaf, a translation which makes the Word more available to them. In most places, to do this, we had to first ask the Deaf to choose a few leaders, and we handed the Bibles to these leaders and asked them to read them and to arrange to let them be read at meetings and gathering.

Only 2 churches for the Deaf in Natal and Eastern Cape



There are 13 schools for the Deaf in Natal and the Eastern Cape, but only 2 churches. These are the Catholic School for the Deaf (to the left) in Mariannhill and a group believers in Durban (at the bottom) where 22 Deaf came to worship. Other than that there is a great spiritual hunger, as there is no one who can preach to them in Sign language. Consequently there are Deaf who do not know what it is to attend church. A lot of spiritual work needs to be done here, the Word to be sown and watered and to ask the Lord to let the harvest grow and ripen so that workers can be harvested.

Please pray for all of those whom we met

Altogether we spoke to and met 285 Deaf. There are several of them who “saw” the Gospel for the first time and a few who said they would like to come and study at the DCMA. Please pray with us that the Lord will lead and bless them so that the seed will grow and that the right persons (with the right motives) will come and study and prepare themselves to go and work in this huge land of the Deaf where the Lord has now begun opening doors. An attractive photo report of the tour will be appearing on the website of the Institute for the Deaf www.deafnet.co.za

Last newsletter from me, rev. Jan Oberholzer will take over

I enjoyed sending out the DCMA newsletter every month, but now there will be a big improvement: Rev. Jan Oberholzer who is the head of DCMA is going to write and send out the newsletter from next month. He is involved with the students every day and can write topical news in a better format. Blessings and strength to you Jan, we pray for the work that you and rev. Mia do every day to teach our students to learn to make God’s Word visible to the 400 000 Deaf who are waiting for it.

Greetings and the Lord’s blessing.

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