

NF ALIVE!!

Christian News and Information from the
National Deaf Culture Fellowship (NF) of the Assemblies of God
December 2008 www.nfdeafaog.org

“IVORY TABLECLOTH” *(from an old Reader's Digest--adapted)*

Pastor Smith and his wife were new in their ministry to reopen a church near Brooklyn, NY. They arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very old and needed much work to repair it. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve. They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc. On December 18th, they were ahead of their planned schedule and almost finished.

On December 19 a terrible rain storm hit the area and continued for two days. On the 21st, Pastor Smith went over to the church. He was disappointed when he saw that the roof had leaked! The rain made a large area of drywall plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the main worship room, just behind the pulpit. The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, but the hole in the wall looked terrible. He thought the only thing he must do is postpone the Christmas Eve service. On the way home, he noticed that a local flea market type sale, so he went into the store. Inside the store was a beautiful, hand made, ivory colored, crocheted tablecloth with fancy work, fine colors, and a gold cross right in the center. It was just the right size to cover up the hole in the front wall. He decided to buy it and went back to the church.

Soon it started to snow. An older woman named Eva was running from the opposite way and tried to catch the bus. Too late - she missed it. Pastor Smith invited her to wait in the church for the next bus to come 45 minutes later. She sat in a pew and did not pay attention to the pastor. He got a ladder, hangers, and supplies to put up the tablecloth on the front wall. The pastor was amazed how beautiful it looked and it covered up the whole problem area. Then he noticed Eva walking toward him and her face was white! She said, “Pastor, where did you get that tablecloth?”

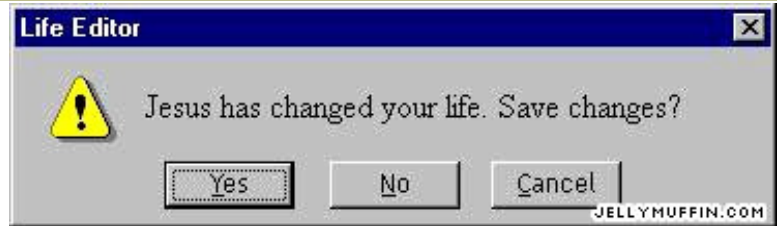
Pastor Smith explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials, EBG, were there. Yes!! These were Eva's initials -- she had made this tablecloth 35 years before in Austria! The pastor told how he had just bought the tablecloth. The amazed woman explained that before the war, she and her husband were wealthy people in Austria. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave in 1938. Her husband was planning to follow her the next week. He was captured, sent to prison, and she never saw her husband or her home again.

Pastor Smith wanted to give her the tablecloth, but she told the pastor keep it for the church. So he wanted to drive her home. She lived far away on Staten Island, and she had come to Brooklyn for one day for a housecleaning job. So the pastor took her home.

Then on December 24th the church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the wonderful service, Pastor Smith and his wife talked with everyone at the door and many people said that they would return. One older man continued to sit in one of the pews and just stare. The pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving. The man asked him, “Where did you get the tablecloth on the front wall? Because it is exactly like the one that my wife made many years ago when we lived in Austria before the war! How could there be two tablecloths so much alike?!” He told the pastor how the Nazis came and how he forced his wife to flee for her own safety. He was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again in the last 35 years.

The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three floors of stairs to the woman's apartment and knocked on the door. Then Pastor Smith saw the greatest Christmas reunion in history!

Special Events Coming Soon!



Dec. 14 -- CALIFORNIA Calvary Community Deaf Church in Norwalk hosting a CHRISTMAS BANQUET (Dinner and a Movie). See <http://web.me.com/ccrews/CCDC/Banquet.html>

Dec. 20 -- NEW JERSEY Evangel Church Deaf Ministry in Scotch Plains is having a CHRISTMAS BANQUET with guest speaker Lincoln Geake. For more information, email Nancy Tonnessen - pastornancy@evangelchurch.com

Dec. 21 -- WASHINGTON Bethany Deaf Assembly in Everett will have a DEAF CHRISTMAS DRAMA. See www.everettdeafchurch.com

Dec. 21 -- Shores Deaf Church in St. Clair Shores, Michigan and Pleasant View Deaf Assembly in Minneapolis, MN will each have a special DEAF CHURCH CHRISTMAS DINNER.

Dec. 24 -- PENNSYLVANIA Philly Deaf in Brookhaven will have a very special CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE. More info can be found at www.phillydeaf.com



Jan. 4-10 -- National Assembly of God "WEEK OF PRAYER". Let's start the new year of 2009 the right way by seeking our Lord! Pray at home, and encourage your church to have special times of prayer!!

Jan. 25 -- AG "NATIONAL MEN'S MINISTRIES DAY". Email NF HonorBound President Rev. Rod Smith at pvdamensministry@comcast.net to learn more about his vision for God's mighty Deaf men! (*notice -- corrected email address*)

Feb. 13-16 -- CALIFORNIA Western Region DEAF MINISTERS SCHOOL. More info soon.

Feb. 22 - AG "NATIONAL WOMEN'S MINISTRIES DAY". Talk with NF WM President Rev. Cindy Dively at cindively@aol.com to get ideas for this day honoring our precious ladies!

February -- VENEZUELA 5th ANNUAL VENEZUELAN AG DEAF CONVENTION. See more info coming soon at www.sadven.org.ve/events.htm

March 13-15 -- PENNSYLVANIA 5th ANNUAL MID-ATLANTIC DEAF MEN'S RETREAT at Camp Hebron in Halifax, PA. "He is Able" is the theme with Rev. Jimmy Schwyhart from Oklahoma. For more info, see www.nfdeafaog.org

April 2-5 -- TEXAS TEXAS RIVER OF LIFE DEAF RETREAT will be happening at the Riverbend Retreat Center in Glen Rose, TX (south of Dallas). Guest speaker will be Tim Moore. See more information at http://pages.suddenlink.net/one_jaguar/TRLDR.html

April 17-19 -- NEW YORK PASTOR'S RETREAT will be happening in Poughkeepsie, NY with guest speaker Rev. JoAnn Smith from Minnesota. See www.nfdeafaog.org



Dominican Republic
Pastor Carlos and Noemi Reyes
National Director for AG Deaf Ministries



Pastor Carlos Reyes was a young 21-year-old pastor for the hearing in 1988 when a team of Deaf and hearing persons from Spokane, WA came to Santiago, Dominican Republic to have an evangelistic campaign for the Deaf. Carlos has a Deaf brother and was very interested in what was happening, and learned that Deaf people could do the same things spiritually like the hearing could. With much prayer from the team, God answered and called Carlos to full-time ministry with Deaf persons. God later called his wife too, and Noemi has been wonderful!

Pastor Carlos took the initiative and went forth with the vision. He has since been named "Director of A/G Deaf Ministries for the Dominican Republic". He has worked tirelessly for the past 20 years -- preaching, teaching, encouraging, and overseeing all of the Deaf churches and schools in Dominican Republic. Short-term teams from Washington, Oklahoma, and Canada have often visited and supported this ministry financially, but the greatest need is to have a full-time missionary come and assist the ministry.

At this time, there are four Deaf pastors, ten Deaf churches, several interpreted services and seven Deaf schools. Our resources are small but we serve a BIG GOD! There is much need for more training for the teachers, interpreters and Deaf leaders. The visiting teams do what they can but there is never enough time.



Big thanks to Dana Alexander from Spokane, Washington. She provided much of the information for this story. Dana was a part of the first missionary trip in 1988, and she is now back in the Dominican Republic for 9 months. Dana was recently blessed to establish a Deaf school in the town of Hato Mayor, and she now has 14 Deaf students. For more information about what is happening with the ministries in the Dominican Republic, read Dana's blog at:

danaalexandermissions.blogspot.com

NEWS FROM OUR NEW NF VICE PRESIDENT

During the recent National Deaf Convention at Oral Roberts University, the NF officers and regional representatives agreed to raise \$12,000.00 to help our NF Missionaries get back in the field. Many hearts were touched and the pledges reached over \$15,000.00. Let's honor our words and pledges by faith and we will see these goals accomplish great things for God's Kingdom!



\$12,000.00 in Mission Project Goals (2008 – 2010) Thank you for believing and giving to MISSIONS!

- * Japan - \$2,000 for Presidential trip for WDAG Executive Committee in Sept 2008
- * Mongolia - \$1,000 for Hope Deaf Church Phase 2
- * Nicaragua - \$5,000 for Additional Dorm Project
- * Near Baltimore, MD - \$1,000 for First Korean Deaf Church Planting
- * Japan - \$3,000 for WDAG Interpreters for 2009 Conference

Total NF convention missions support received from June thru Nov. 21, 2008 = **\$6,296**

Urgent need – Rev. Eduardo and Gladys Perdomo (*Deaf Missionaries in Venezuela*)

They will go back to Venezuela this month in Dec. 2008. Their names were not on the NF Mission Goals list, and our NF executive officers (*Rev. Emory Dively, Rev. Jimmy Schwyhart and Rev. Nick LeFors Jr.*) agreed to raise \$1000.00 to meet their needs. This is separate from the NF Mission Goals. Would you as an individual and/or your church be willing to help our Missionary Brother Perdomo? \$200 has already been pledged from 2 Deaf Churches. Every small or large contribution adds up. When their goal is reached, you will be informed by email and by the NF website. If you need more info about their ministry in Venezuela, see www.nfdeafaog.org -- read newsletters this year from March, June, July, October, and November.

Send any payments to – “NF MISSIONS” either by check or credit card.

* **By check** - send your check to 1640 Broadway St., Vallejo, CA. 94590

* **By credit card** – go to the NF website. You will find “Make Payment” at the bottom left column.

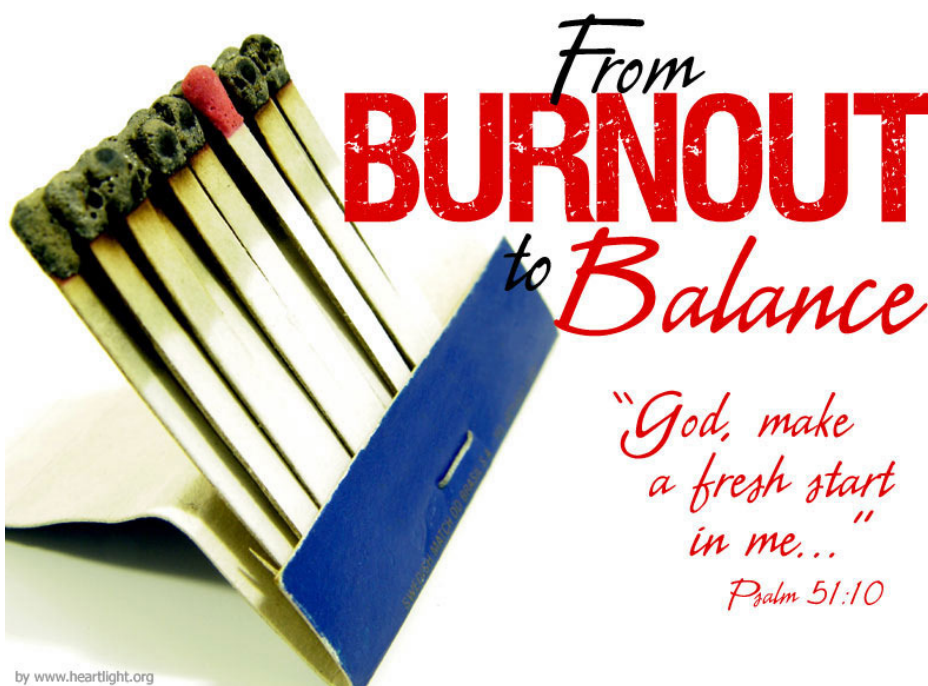
Recent News Around Our Deaf World...

- ◆ On November 6-8, 2008, a wonderful "Impact Prayer" meeting for credentialed ministers was held near Dallas, TX. God's Spirit mightily moved over and over to change many of our hearts and build special relationships!
- ◆ At the same time, the Deaf Men's Conference was held near Dallas. Rev. Rod Renusch was one of the speakers and several other AG deaf pastors attended this great non-denominational conference. Can you identify all the pastors in this picture?
- ◆ Ozark Mountain Deaf Church in Springfield, MO has an awesome new website! Take a look at all the new information at www.omdcag.org/Home.html
- ◆ Also there is a new AG World Missions website, with missions convention materials, downloadable looping animation, and much more. See <http://worldmissions.ag.org>



As we get ready to start the new year of 2009, let's really commit ourselves to more times of prayer and really knowing what God wants us to do:

- ⇒ In the midst of this crazily busy world, we want to really have a godly balance. Make sure that the personal daily relationship with God happens first!
- ⇒ Don't become so busy that we neglect time with our family!
- ⇒ Seek God for so many people that are struggling financially in this global financial crisis. Remember God has said that He will never leave or forsake us!
- ⇒ Many changes are happening soon with the new president-elect, Barack Obama. Continue to pray for God's direction on our country. One example: Read the news about the awful "Freedom of Choice Act". Contact your local legislators and tell them to vote against it. We must stand strong and follow God's Word!



NF ALIVE - December 2008

NF President: Rev. Emory Dively
Newsletter Editor: Rev. Debbie Stiles

This is the monthly newsletter of the National Deaf Culture Fellowship (NF) of the Assemblies of God. You are welcome to add your story about what is happening! Did God touch your life in some special way? Has your ministry changed and improved? Are there some new challenges to face? Call to missions? Email news to dstiles@austin.rr.com

The officers and editor reserve the right to add, change, or delete info depending on space limits. All info must agree with Assemblies of God doctrine and practice. This newsletter is for sharing information that will meet the purpose, needs, and goals of the National Deaf Culture Fellowship of the Assemblies of God.