

REACH
THE WORLD



FAITHFULNESS IN

*Christian
Lifestyle*



They Were There All the Time!

Bold Initiatives in Africa

The Parable of the Great Banquet

- “Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.” – Luke 14:21



“Who dares despise the day of small things”

- The first initiative to reach out to the Deaf in the East Central Division came in 2011.
- Only forty or fifty came and mostly from Sunday churches. Many who came from these churches were Adventists! They had gone where there was interpretation for the Deaf and they found that in Sunday churches!
- Pastor Paul Muasya, union president at the time, saw this as an opportunity for a needed ministry. An intensive effort began to reach the Deaf.
- Gospel Outreach strongly supported this effort by sponsoring taskforce workers for the Deaf.

The Following Year, 133 Were Baptized on a
single Sabbath (Not all pictured)



A Movement Had Begun

A key sustaining factor in the growth of the Deaf and Special Needs Ministries in the East Central Africa Division is Special Needs Ministries Camp Meetings.

These camp meetings are successful they promote a timeless principle: where there is the feeling of acceptance others hear about it and come to see what is happening. The predominant theme is: “All are gifted, needed and treasured!” A change takes place in the lives of these people. They feel they have something to contribute and are given an opportunity to do so.

What We've Seen in Kenya and Rwanda Is Sobering

In just a few years
the 50 in
attendance at the
first meeting has
grown to the point
where more than
one camp meeting
is becoming
necessary!



While there were many Deaf in attendance, there were also many blind and those with a variety of physical challenges. The word had gotten out!



A duet sung by two blind individuals.

What an encouragement to hear them sing of their faith in Jesus.



Sustained Numerical Growth, However, Demands Sustained Spiritual Growth

The three African divisions, Gospel Outreach, and the GC Special Needs Ministries brought all taskforce workers for the Deaf from all three divisions for fellowship, spiritual nurture, and training.

Pat Gustin was invited to do the training. She, a retired missionary and former professor of missions at Andrews University, provided the teaching. Her theme was how to read and teach from a relational approach and study of the Bible.



But the Deaf Need
Deaf Teachers Too

Pastor Jeff Jordan who is
deaf and his interpreter,
Thompson Kay, stand with
Pastor Muasya and his wife.





80 with a variety of disabilities were baptized.

The Sobering Reality Is This:
They Have Been Here All the Time
... Where Have We Been?



Special Needs Camp Meeting in Rwanda

400 Registered but Over 1,000 Attended on
Sabbath

Compassion
is contagious

Others joined
the camp
meeting!



On This Sabbath
86 Individuals
Who Felt
Unwanted Found
a Family That
Welcomed Them!





A Diverse but Accepting Family



Never Judge a Person by Their Stature . . . God Doesn't



These Are My People, These Are Your People This Is Our Family



As I Stood on the Banks of That Lake
and Saw Those on Crutches Walk Their
Way Into the Water to Be Baptized
While Others Were Carried into the
Water, I Asked Myself

Why Didn't I See Them
Before. They Have Been
Here All the Time

**A camp meeting
for those with
disabilities is announced**

**It begins with the Gospel
Commission;**

**Leadership turns it into a
vision.**

**And the church
responds with
compassion.**



They Were Invited and They Accepted



We Must Be Inclusive When Making the Gospel Invitation

- “Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.” – Luke 14:21

They **Are** There **All the Time!**