



# DEAF MINISTRIES

Director: Rev. Kevin Maki

Home Address: 3326 W. Saratoga Ave., Englewood, CO 80110

Cell: 773.575.6391

Email: [deafministries@ipmworld.org](mailto:deafministries@ipmworld.org)



Dear Friend,

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***Is. 61:8 "...I will direct their work in truth..."***

There is a certain thrill that accompanies arriving on the ground in CA. The rush of traffic exiting the airport, the tail lights backing up at the toll booth on the bridge, the glow of the Mormon Temple in the hills near Oakland, and of course a flood of memories as exit by exit I remember this deaf person or even friends in the ministry. Then I stop and think: this is absolutely crazy! Here I am on a five-lane (and that is just one direction) freeway absolutely loving inner city ministry when I grew up on a two-lane country road taking care of cows! What am I doing here?

**DBC report** – God directed my path to visit CA twice this spring as the deaf church experienced several setbacks. A potential candidate for Pastor who visited in Aug. 2021, decided to accept the call to another church in another state. An interpreter who had assisted DBC to attend in-person services also left the Bay Area. Then our lead deacon had a stroke. So, my first visit was to evaluate the situation by meeting with all four of the remaining members and our second visit was to assist them in preparing to move out of the facility which was rented since 2015. Please pray for wisdom as the group has been taking advantage of preaching remotely by video but only recently was able to celebrate the Lord's table in person as Santa Clara county has been one of the strictest in the nation for reopening requirements.

**MHBC report** – We have completed our third year in the Greater Denver metro area, and we saw our first potential candidate visit in Dec. 2021. The highlight of this spring involves a blended family where the parents are both deaf and they have four hearing children. The mother has decided to pursue membership, and the father has not only approved this, but he is even open to starting an investigative Bible study (he is non-practicing Catholic). This family started coming during the height of COVID shutdown when we were preaching in the church parking lot. Their children have especially enjoyed the ride to church where, at one point, we plunged below the downtown of Denver into a lighted tunnel before emerging into the bright sunlight on the other side of the high-rise buildings. One of these children recently placed her faith in Christ and came to check which of the trumpets (from Revelation) applied to our current situation. I directed her back to Thessalonians and pray that this young believer will start looking with us for the soon coming of Jesus in the clouds!

**IPM report** – Good news that God is directing the paths of our national workers:

1. Ivory Coast – Bro. Leonce reports that they took their first evangelistic survey trip this past month in order to reach a village that includes a deaf colony. It includes details of deaf adults who do not yet have any sign language training as well as meeting a young deaf teenage girl who has been repeatedly exploited physically. Her hearing parents, culturally, are pleased that men find her attractive even though she is looked down upon as a deaf/disabled person. Please pray for the sister church in this region that is looking to launch a deaf ministry to reach them.
2. Colombia – Bro. Bairo reports that two men from his deaf group have obeyed the Lord by being baptized. These two men were among the 20 who indicated their desire to follow the Lord when we visited in the fall of 2019. Please pray for these men as they have shadowed their pastor helping him set up/break down chairs and video equipment at their various meeting places.
3. Chad – Bro. Tokinon reported that there were over 45 deaf souls in attendance at their summer 2021 deaf camp that had to be delayed a second time until fall, due to COVID restrictions. Please pray for open doors of ministry and the safety of these workers in a very difficult and tense political situation.
4. India – Bro. Biak has sent reports as ground breaking and heavy foundation work on the deaf training center have gotten under way. The goal is to complete this stage of construction before Monsoon season. Please pray for the remaining funds to come in and for Bro. Biak as he assists Bro. Kipgen to identify a new Deaf leader.
5. Uruguay – A hearing national worker is trying to reestablish contact with the deaf group, that has not met in person since pre-COVID, and was using their facility. Their leadership has changed since our visit in fall of 2017. Please pray for God's will to be done in their lives.

**Family report** – God is still directing in our household, and several supporters have asked for “more” details about the family, so please pray with us to cultivate fruit that remains:

- A. On the college front, both Hezekiah and Philip have had an active witness with classmates and teachers. Some of these people have graced our home with visits, and we are exploring helping them launch a campus Bible study through a local sister church.
- B. On the work front, Samuel has been promoted to field-service department as an electrician and spends more time in WA and TX these days than at home. Philip has a part-time job in a “maker space” assisting in architectural model development/tools.
- C. On the school front, Othniel has joined a swim team and thoroughly enjoys volunteering at a local church food bank and music academy! Not so much enjoyment with some of the other core subjects, but prayerfully he will learn to enjoy these and gain insight into possible career opportunities, too. Simeon is online homeschooling with his best friend from CA, and Zadok is excited to have taken Samuel’s place as Simeon’s roommate. The triplets (and even Lemuel) gather together daily for classroom-style group learning before one-on-one time with assignments.
- D. On our toddler front, Shekinah is three, and no baby is pending. A highlight for her is clutching her offering on Sunday morning and joining the others lined up to place them in the box at the front of the deaf church. She may be able to contain herself for a walk on the way up to the front, but the return trip is usually a run past smiling people to the safe arms of Mom.
- E. On the marriage front, Kenyata and I were able to enjoy two abbreviated retreats together. A lot is at stake as we attempt to enter this third phase of ministry united. God directed both of us to work with the deaf. God then directed us to church planting as a couple with small children. Now, we are working our way through balancing interim pastoral work with remote Deaf Department administration while raising teenagers and still some small children.

Recently, my 17 year old has asked some pretty difficult questions, and at one point he asked what was the greatest thrill in my life. I told him, without a pause, “Bringing each one of you children into the world, and then seeing you each come to faith in Christ in equally diverse ways!” God has directed us to have a BIG family (after all, He does open and close the womb) and to work in some exciting, BIG cities. Please continue to pray, as we need direction each moment of each day to proclaim and live the truth!

*Kevin Maki*

Memorial Service for  
Deaf Worker in Nepal



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