



# DEAF MINISTRIES

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Dear Friend,

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***"But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak."***

Hebrews 6:9

Little-by-little, inch-by-inch. One step forward, two steps back! Whether we are talking about construction, quilting, or 3D printing, lots of repetitive small actions are made and corrected before the final product of a building, a family heirloom, or a model is in sight.

Progress is slow. Real progress is sometimes even slower! This is especially true as ground that has been occupied by the devil for many, many years is redeemed and recovered in the lives of growing believers. Sanctification is typically a tediously messy process, punctuated at times by great gain due to God's Word and the working of the Holy Spirit.

**LIBERIA:** Although progress has been made, one homemade brick at a time, on a building that will house the deaf school, the deaf ministry here recently suffered a setback when the motorcycle that is used by our national partner to transport students to and from class each day was stolen. Since the parents of these deaf students do not send them to school with lunch, our Deaf Ministry Fund has been providing between \$50 to \$100 a month for rice; but, after hearing of this need, it became evident we'd have to focus our funds on replacing the motorcycle. IPM's national church planter overseeing the deaf work wrote me that it broke his heart to see Bro. Japheth pushing his bicycle uphill in the mud and that "something needs to be done." Praise God, He indeed DID do something and already provided funds to replace the motorcycle, enabling students to continue receiving an education.

**IVORY COAST:** Earlier this year, due to COVID-19, we cancelled our trip to attend the funeral of our national church planter overseeing roughly 20 churches in the Ivory Coast. We saw God's provision in this ministry as one of the deaf women who was hospitalized during the pandemic was released and as funds were provided for the daily needs of several deaf orphans housed in the church and in the home of our deaf worker. However, this past month, we learned from the deaf leader here that his church has had to shoulder the burden of providing not only for a new pastor, but for the widow and family of the former pastor as well. We also learned that the deaf ministry has had to operate primarily out of his personal funds earned as an employee of the deaf school. Our Deaf Ministry Fund has already been providing \$3,000 per year for their annual deaf camp (which had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 this year) and \$50 per month for the deaf orphans' basic necessities; however, we really need to raise \$1,000 more per month to support the 20 sister churches here in their evangelistic efforts to reach the deaf among them. Two of these churches already have active ministries among the Deaf, while others still need equipping. What a blessing to have a willing worker who is making personal sacrifices for the Lord's work here!

**INDIA:** Several churches and individuals have contributed to the land/building project for the deaf training center in Kolkata. Bro. Biak has secured land and, although they are currently unable to meet due to COVID-19 restrictions, is looking to lead the Deaf forward in the next phase of a building project! Please pray as they await legal paperwork to confirm their ownership of the entire plot of land. This is necessary before the next phase of the project, which will ultimately provide them with a dedicated church building and educational facility for the Deaf, can move forward. One of the deaf men that I met on my trip (back in October of 2016) arrived to English classes after working his shift at KFC (yes, he already knows Indian Sign Language). In his own words, he expressed his motivation behind wanting to learn English: "To be a better worker for my hearing boss and a better husband and father to my hearing wife and son." Recently, he placed his faith in Christ and is just one testimony of how God is building, gem-by-gem, His precious, living church!

**COLOMBIA:** At the time, we didn't understand the urgency of visiting the deaf ministry in this country last fall (pre-COVID); but, God did and reorganized our original travel plans to align with His earlier plans. We observed an incremental step being made for the cause of Christ here while being transported inside of taxis, making our way from our hotel to the deaf church and to the hearing church. Our national worker in Colombia witnesses to every person he meets along his path, including taxi drivers. On the first day of our trip, we met a driver who was led to Christ earlier in Bairo's ministry and who now carries literature in his car to be a ready gospel witness to others. Near the end of our trip, we observed as a driver prayed (at a stop light) to receive Christ as his personal Savior. Bro. Bairo, whom we were supposed to have hosted this past Fall of 2020 during his first deputation to the States visiting churches, had to cancel his plans until post-COVID times...whenever that may be. Please pray for our national missionaries who are being faithful in the little things (such as learning the local sign language dialect), despite having very little financial support.

**MARYLAND:** Our IPM Deaf Evangelist and his wife have taught ASL classes for many years in local churches interested in establishing deaf ministries, while raising support to leave his secular vocation at USDA and dedicate his time fully to developing international works with IPM. Recently, he conducted his first Zoom class that allowed students from several states to be taught simultaneously. He has been using technology effectively to mentor and disciple Deaf in other countries after in-person trips for some time. Please pray that he can raise his needed support quickly. Please also pray for his son, who recently graduated from high school, as he assists with being the voice-interpreter for his parents.

**NEPAL:** It was not a chance encounter. IPM's former Vice President and Director of Deaf Ministries, Curt Young, had provided national missionary in Nepal, Gideon Kipgen, with a movie in sign language. Shortly after, Bro. Kipgen saw two men signing to each other in the street near his home and got their attention. Forming his hands to make the peak of a house, he attempted to invite the two deaf men to his home. But, instead, the two men pointed in the opposite direction from his home. So, he shook his head and tried again, making the peak of a house with his hands while leading them toward his home. This time, they followed him. His wife made tea, and they sat together to watch the 45-minute video. Afterwards, the two men bowed in gratitude and left. Surprisingly, they returned with 15 more deaf young people. Pastor Gideon soon found out that just across the street and behind the gates from where he had stood was a school for the Deaf.

As a result of this impromptu meeting, a ministry was formed to reach the Deaf in Pastor Gideon's church. One man came to the Lord who would become a key player in the advancement of the gospel in Nepal - his name was Mr. Yadunath. While parents from Buddhist backgrounds pressured the government not to allow their children/students to leave the gated school compound to learn about Jesus, Pastor Gideon was denied entrance into the school as well. But, as a deaf man involved in the local deaf association, Mr. Yadunath was allowed to enter the deaf school. And so, the seeds of the gospel began to quickly spread in sign language.

After coming to faith in Christ, Mr. Yadunath lost his wife but continued to faithfully lead outreach efforts to the deaf community. During this time, 18 Deaf placed their faith in Christ, 4 were baptized despite persecution from Hindu nationalists, and more than 100 Deaf experienced the love that the church has for them. Mr. Yadunath's life is a powerful testimony to God's glory. It saddened us greatly to hear of his passing into eternity back in September. No one knew for some time because of the quarantine. Now that we do, on behalf of IPM and Deaf Ministries, we salute His faithful service for the cause of Christ and rejoice in his glorified salvation. While we face his earthly absence, we also must face the need to restart the good work that Mr. Yadunath began! Please pray for Pastor Kipgen, his ministry, and the void that exists among the Deaf in Nepal. May the Lord lead another to stand in his stead.

Just as the writer of Hebrews exhorted his readers to better things in their walk of sanctification, we are praying (and asking you to join us in prayer) that saved and unsaved people surrounding our national workers will see the purpose of bringing light to the eyes of the deaf class. It is not only those that are being reached by the gospel who need sanctification, but the gospel workers themselves need to see fruit in their own lives as they continue to walk with Christ daily.



*As we rejoice in the Light of the World coming to seek and save ALL that were lost,  
our Deaf Ministries family wishes you and yours a Merry Christmas!  
May we shine His light of salvation even BETTER in 2021!*



Working with the Deaf for Christ,

Kevin Maki

If you change your email, would you please take a moment to contact us at [office@ipmworld.org](mailto:office@ipmworld.org) with your name and new email address.  
Thank you so much.