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International Partnership Ministries

Your partner with national missionaries
around the world

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Deaf Team Member

Dear Praying Friends,

May 2018

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18-20

Computer Accessibility

Have you ever had problems with your computer? Well, for three months now, I have had problems with my computer shutting down in the middle of Sunday school class. At other times, it freezes. My Outlook lost all of its passwords, and my Window's credentials got erased so that I can't log in. Sometimes the startup takes 10 minutes. I can't figure out what the problem is. The battery's life span was getting short, so I had to keep it plugged in constantly. I use my laptop a lot to create Bible lessons, ASL lessons, sermons, prayer letters, and PowerPoint presentations. I hope to start looking for a replacement soon. I can't allow computer problems to stop me from sharing what God is doing here.

Worship Accessibility

During the Middle Ages, deaf people were barred from attending church due to the widespread belief that the souls of the Deaf could not receive salvation since they were unable to “hear the Word of God.” Fortunately, this is no longer a common belief. It is estimated that only one percent of adult deaf Americans attend church within any given denomination. It is estimated at zero percent for other countries. Last month, I represented IPM with a table display at the Deaf Expo in Boston, MA. As a result, I saw more than 700 deaf people. As I interacted with them, I watched their faces light up after learning that I am a deaf pastor and missionary. However, the frequently-asked question sure to follow was “Where is your church?” When I responded with “Baltimore, Maryland,” their faces dropped just as quickly as they lit up. It broke my heart terribly so, as they had hoped my church was in Boston. After the Deaf Expo concluded, I searched online to find a deaf church or ministry in Boston. I found a long list of Baptist churches around the Greater Boston area, but none of them offered services to the Deaf. I checked other sources as well, including a webpage that lists deaf churches and ministries by state, but still couldn't find one in Boston. The Greater Boston area is home to an estimated 4.7 million people, making it the 10th largest metropolitan area in the United States...and yet, there's not a single deaf church or ministry?

“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh.” Hebrews 10:19-20

Many times throughout scripture, the Lord uses imagery to illustrate truth. One of these wonderful truths that the Lord has revealed to us is conveyed through the image of the veil. Inside the temple, between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place, was a very costly veil that separated the people from accessing the Most Holy Place where God's presence dwelt. God separated Himself from His people, who could only approach Him through Moses and later the high priests. Then, Jesus paid the high price of His own blood, laying down His life for our sins. At the moment of His death, this costly veil was torn in two, from top to bottom. The torn veil symbolizes that direct, open access to God Himself is now available to every person through Jesus Christ. Yet, even though Jesus' death on the cross did away with the veil and provided a way of direct fellowship with God to all who will place faith in His Son, many Deaf still find themselves barred from the kind of fellowship that hearing people take for granted. These Deaf face a modern-day veil of sorts, one that requires them to travel long distances to a deaf ministry or a deaf church. As a result, many unbelieving Deaf don't have access to the truth of the gospel, and many believing Deaf have no real fellowship with other believers. More often than not (even in large cities such as Boston), Bible-believing churches do not have deaf ministries or even someone within the congregation who can interpret or communicate with the Deaf. Most religions believe that the physical worship sanctuary is the church. However, we Bible-believing Christians realize that the church is the body of Christ, meaning people. The Deaf are people, too, who are also in need of Christian fellowship with the body, the church of Christ.



After leaving Boston, I did discover that there actually is a deaf ministry outside of the city! The church's deaf ministry wasn't well publicized on their website, which is why my keyword search didn't yield it as a result. I'd like to contact the church and encourage them to improve their church website so that online search engines will recognize their deaf ministry. I'd also like to recommend that they not only add their ministry information but that of other deaf Christian organizations, too, so deaf Bostonians can gain access to them more easily.

Imagine if the nearest church that spoke your language was in a city an hour away...or even in the next state! Would *you* make the sacrifice to go there? Many Deaf choose to stay home, reading and praying on their own instead. Unfortunately, they are prone to wander toward other religions whose doors are always open to them. The majority of deaf believers eventually give up and return to the world. There is a great need for Christian fellowship among the Deaf, which is why my wife and I do what we do. We see the importance of providing classes to the body of Christ. Just as Christ made a way for our prone-to-wander souls to fellowship with God, we as mature believers ought to be doing our part to make a way for Deaf and other language groups to fellowship with us in our local body, providing them access to Bible-based preaching and edifying fellowship.

Education Accessibility

Every week my wife, Joy, and I teach ASL classes in three different locations. To do so, we invest roughly 10 hours in preparing lessons and PowerPoint presentations, driving 50 miles round-trip, and then teaching the classes. You might be surprised by the fact that we don't use any ASL books in our classes. Oftentimes, ASL books are limited, outdated, and were written by individuals who knew very little about ASL. Unlike the traditional sign language course, we offer the "deaf slant thinking" method to communicate with and include deaf listeners. In addition to teaching signs, we instruct our students on visual-gestural communication techniques, visual discrimination, pronominalization, classifiers, complex ASL grammatical features, and vocabulary. We also educate our students on the Deaf's way of life, culture, history, and experiences. We include short videos and stories in our classes as well.

International Accessibility

IPM's national missionary in the Ivory Coast, Rev. Andre Nao, plans to hold a deaf camp in August and asked me to come and help. I am in need of your prayers and financial support to make this trip possible. If you would be interested in making a contribution, please send your gifts to IPM designated for "Campbell Ivory Coast Trip".

As always, we hope you know how much we appreciate you and your involvement with us in our efforts to reach the Deaf of the world with the gospel. Thank you for praying and for giving! We pray you enjoy a blessed Spring with daily renewed hearts in the Lord!

In Christ,
James & Joy Campbell

Contributions to our ministry should be made payable to IPM and sent to IPM, Inc., 100 Spring Ave., Hanover, PA 17331. Be sure to include a note designating "Campbell Support" or any other special designation that you may have for us. Thank you.

If you change your email, would you please take a moment to contact us at office@ipmworld.org with your new email and name.
Thank you so much.