



PRAYERPOINTS

A PRAYING PEOPLE IMPACTING A LOST WORLD

Getting the Gospel to Deaf around the World

THE LORD SEES THE DEAF AMONG THE NATIONS AND DRAWS THEM TO SALVATION. BIBLE STORIES ARE CRAFTED INTO LOCAL SIGN LANGUAGE, AND DEAF BELIEVERS ARE FAITHFULLY STUDYING AND SHARING THESE STORIES.

Naya's prayer is answered

Naya Wilder* has worked with the Deaf in a Southeast Asian country for over five years. The first Deaf national partner she had was Nick.* For the past five years Nick has been alone in much of the work there. He has faithfully walked with God and proclaimed the gospel to everyone he has met. Naya has prayed fervently for God to bring someone to serve alongside Nick. Praise the Lord that prayer has been answered. Daniel,* a new believer, is 53 years old and just as on fire as Nick.

Daniel is the answer to Naya's prayer for Nick. He has quickly learned Bible stories and encourages Nick to continue onward. Daniel and Nick go out every week selling different items of food and proclaiming the gospel. Their hearts break for the Deaf people that are lost all around them. Pray for Daniel and Nick as they go out into their community boldly sharing the gospel of Jesus. Pray that they will stay burdened for lost Deaf to know Jesus. Ask the Father to draw many Deaf in Southeast Asia to himself.



Nick teaches Deaf friends in Southeast Asia



Daniel is eager to learn from Nick

1 DEAF OF CENTRAL ASIA. Pray for the Deaf in three major cities in a country in Central Asia to be able to form StoryOne Groups. Pray that His Stories would be boldly and faithfully shared and that many will come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord.

2 RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL. Pray for the influence of the Brazilian Baptist missions agency, Junta de Missoes Mundiais para as Americas, as they seek to help Baptist conventions across Latin American countries develop their own missions programs and ministry.

3 CITY OF SAND, NORTHERN AFRICA. Mercurios,* a leader of several groups of believers, encourages new trainees to share the gospel. Many don't know how to read and write. Please pray that they will effectively use Bible stories recorded in the local dialect so they may both grow and teach others.

4 DEAF OF SOUTH ASIA. There are only two Deaf churches in a country in South Asia. With no Scripture in local sign language, most Deaf people have no access to the Gospel. Pray for the Deaf of this country to be drawn to the Lord and for churches to be planted.

5 MALONG OF THE PHILIPPINES. One young believer writes: "We visited one place that "had experienced a year of drought, so their food came from banana trees, coconut trees, and a few legumes. Some of the people did not believe and would close their doors to us, but we persevered and kept knocking." Please pray for follow-up.

6 MBUNDA OF WESTERN ZAMBIA. Mbunda boys in Zambia participate in a coming-of-age ceremony involving Makishi dancers. The dancers dress in traditional costumes and masks, dance to drums, and demand money. Please pray that the Mbunda people will turn to Jesus to give these boys the wisdom they truly need to become men of God.

7 DEAF OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. There is a new Deaf church that has started in a city in Southeast Asia. They are facing many challenges. Pray they will study scripture and stand firm while facing internal struggles as well as external persecution.

8 NORWEGIANS OF NORWAY. The Nordic West Team is working with a Christian author to coordinate a possible speaking tour in Oslo, Norway. Please pray that Norwegians will be willing to read this book and that team members will have the opportunity to share Christ with them.

9 MUSLIMS OF TAMIL NADU, INDIA. Pray for Aladdin,* a Muslim seafarer. He has worked on boats all around the world. Aladdin found himself working at a port in Florida. He began attending a Bible study and fellowshiping with true followers of Jesus. Aladdin is close to following the Lord. Pray that the Word will take root and lead to repentance.

10 DEAF OF EAST ASIA. There are many new believers among the Deaf in East Asia. Pray that they will grow in the Lord and learn to boldly share His Stories. Pray for the formation of new Deaf churches.

11 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES. Pray for Central Asian refugees who are waiting to hear whether they have been accepted for resettlement in Europe or the United States. Ask the Lord to provide for their physical needs. Pray for this season of waiting to be one in which they cry out to God for help.

12 PEOPLE OF CENTRAL TAIWAN. Please lift up university students and children who chose to follow Christ through the ministry of short-term teams. Pray for their discipleship. Also pray for wisdom and courage, as many will face resistance from family members who hold to traditional animistic, Buddhist, or Daoist beliefs.



13 DEAF OF CENTRAL ASIA. In some countries in Central Asia there is no Bible translation in local sign language. The risk of death and persecution prevent people from showing their faces on a video. Pray for the Lord to raise up Deaf to translate the Bible.

14 PEOPLES OF SUMATRA, INDONESIA. Pray for the 14,000 Bonai Malay. Within the past generation, the Bonai moved from being a primitive, hunter-gatherer tribe with animistic beliefs to one that had entered the modern world and embraced Islam. Pray for believers living near the Bonai to reach out to them.

15 LAST FRONTIER. Believers ministering to an unreached people group find themselves communicating in three languages because of their jobs, the location, and the people they're seeking to reach. They need your prayers for an acceleration in their language skills.

16 DEAF OF MEXICO. A small group of Deaf in Mexico meet weekly for a time of worship, prayer, song, testimony, signed Bible stories and fellowship. Pray that believers will learn and boldly share His Story with other Deaf and their lives will reflect Christ.

17 EMIRATI ARABS OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

Many Emirati Arabs are extremely wealthy, and the cost of following Jesus by faith is great. Please ask God to open their eyes to see the truth of Jesus and pray for them to follow him by faith so they can have eternal life.

18 EAST ASIAN PEOPLES. Many changes have happened in East Asia and continue. Large group meetings have been curtailed and local workers have come under increased scrutiny. Pray that the local church will learn how to navigate these changes well and continue to flourish.



19 DEAF OF CENTRAL ASIA. Pray for Central Asian brothers and sisters who meet twice a year (March and October) for seminary education and mission training. Ask the Father to encourage and teach them. Pray for boldness and faithfulness as they share the Gospel.

20 SRI LANKA. Kandy, Sri Lanka, is home to the Temple of the Tooth, considered by Buddhists to be one of the most sacred places of worship in the world. Pray that the Lord will use believers in Kandy to speak truth to those who live in or pass through the city, and pray that many will turn their worship to the One who is worthy.

21 ARHUACO OF COLOMBIA. Please lift up a group of Arhuaco believers as they begin meeting in their

local town. Pray specifically for Phil* and Becca,* as they lead the group. Pray for the believers to be bold, as organized meetings typically result in persecution.

22 DEAF OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. Pray for a Deaf church in Southeast Asia to grow and plant many other churches. Ask God to grow them beyond what they expect. Pray for God to use this church to reach the Deaf of this country.

23 KAMPALA, UGANDA. Recently, a new president was installed in the Baptist Union of Uganda. Please

pray for the new union leadership, asking for great unity and for God's blessing in advancing the gospel around the whole world. Pray for the Kampala Urban Team as they walk alongside.

24 CIRCASSIANS OF THE DIASPORA. Christians proselytizing Muslims is illegal in several countries where Circassians live, and many Christians in those countries are hesitant to share their faith openly. Ask for local Christians to have the boldness and courage needed.

25 DEAF OF EAST ASIA. Workers in East Asia are setting up a StoryOne company. Pray for wisdom as they work through many laws involved in this anti-Christian culture. Pray also for the development of products so the company will be effective.

26 NORTHERN YEMENI ARABS OF YEMEN. "Where will our food come from today?" This is the question on the minds of those in northern Yemen who don't have jobs, who don't have loved ones in other countries who will wire in money, or who don't live in the fertile highlands. Please pray for God's mercy on these families.

27 PARIS, FRANCE. The Paris City Team, working with visiting and local believers, recently shared the Good News broadly. Please pray for the 95 people who heard the gospel. Pray that they will follow up well and that God will open people's eyes to the truth.

28 DEAF THEOLOGICAL CENTER. Pray for Nick* and Jonah* from Southeast Asia as they study at the Deaf Theological Center. Pray they take back what they learn to their home country to share with the Deaf. Pray that many would come to know Jesus through these two believers.

29 YANGON, MYANMAR. A group of believers held youth outreaches at churches all over the city. At one outreach at Light Church,* all the young people who attended were Buddhists from the community. Praise God for those who heard the Good News, many for the first time ever!

30 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Varanasi is a dark and spiritually oppressed city in India, with many worshippers daily filling thousands of Hindu temples and honoring false gods. Pray that the darkness will be dispelled as the light of Christ shines through believers living in Varanasi.

31 DEAF OF CENTRAL ASIA. Pray for the 300,000 Deaf souls who have never heard the Gospel in a country in Central Asia. Pray for those few who have heard the Gospel, believed, but have no community with whom to worship.



Faithfully sowing and patiently watching seeds grow

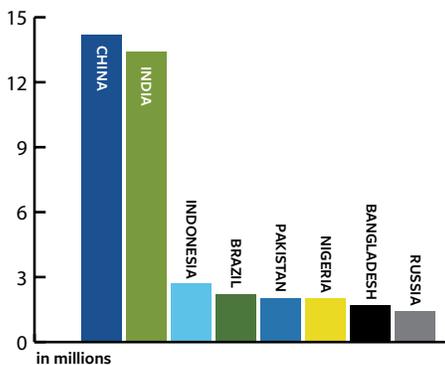
Sean* is a Hindu Deaf man from a small village in a South Asian country. Three years ago he met workers who shared the Good News with him in his heart language for the first time. They crafted Bible Stories into local Sign Language and shared about a strange new god, Jesus, who loves Deaf people just as much as he loves hearing people. Sean had to know more.

Over the next three years, workers visited his village adding to his understanding of the Gospel and encouraging him to tell his friends. Sean has not yet become a believer, but is actively sharing Stories with his friends in nearby villages. Every four to six weeks workers visit his village and add to his set of Stories. Pray for Sean to believe and follow Christ. Pray for him as he shares truth in a country that is politically and socially against Christians. Pray that the seeds he plants will grow into a strong community of Deaf believers.

DEAF AFFINITY

MOST OF THE 70 MILLION DEAF PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD HAVE NEVER SEEN JESUS'S NAME SIGNED IN THEIR LANGUAGE. OFTEN IGNORED AND OPPRESSED, THE DEAF ARE SOME OF THE LEAST EVANGELIZED PEOPLE ON EARTH.

WORLD'S LARGEST DEAF POPULATIONS



1,534

DEAF die every day without Christ

IMB is engaging 19 of the

189
DEAF PEOPLE GROUPS

BIBLE STORIES IN SIGN



Although there are 200 different sign languages, many are connected by similarities called sign roots—common facial expressions, body movements, and hand signs. IMB missionaries are using sign roots to translate 300 Bible stories into each of the sign languages.

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