

# PRAYERPOINTS

A PRAYING PEOPLE IMPACTING A LOST WORLD

## *Reaching Deaf Peoples around the World*

WORKERS ENCOUNTER OBSTACLES TO REACH THE DEAF WITH THE GOSPEL. ONE DEAF BELIEVER ENDURED CHRONIC PAIN AS HE LEARNED TO SIGN HUNDREDS OF BIBLE STORIES. ANOTHER USED PHOTOGRAPHY TO CREATIVELY ENGAGE HIS PEERS WHO WERE TOO BUSY FOR A TRADITIONAL BIBLE STUDY. BY FERVENTLY PRAYING, YOU JOIN IN THESE EFFORTS TO REACH OFTEN-FORGOTTEN PEOPLE WITH THE LOVE AND TRUTH OF GOD – NO MATTER THE OBSTACLES.

### **Deaf theological student with chronic pain trusts God no matter what**

In partnership with Brentwood Baptist Church, each year the IMB invites two to four Deaf people to study at the Deaf Theological Center (DTC) in Tennessee. Manny\* was one of the students selected for 2020.

For most of his life in Southeast Asia, Manny lived with eye pain from a childhood injury. When he arrived at DTC, a staff member recognized his pain and sought medical help for him. But it seemed impossible for Manny to get help due to COVID-19 restrictions and closures. Each day in class, Manny experienced a constant, pulsating pain in his left eye, yet he pushed through it, straining with his other eye to learn hundreds of Bible stories.

When businesses began to reopen that summer, a local Christian surgeon went into action to remove Manny's injured eye and give him an artificial one. When Manny woke up from the surgery, he felt no pain for the first time in years. He can now look up at a bright blue sky without pain.

Manny was willing to deal with the pain for the rest of his life, but God made a way for him to be healed. He trusted God before God provided for his needs. Manny continues to trust God and proclaim the gospel to his friends, family, and the Deaf in Southeast Asia. "God has given me life," he shared. "The least I can do is trust Him no matter what obstacles come my way."

Praise God for Manny's healing and for all that he learned at DTC. Pray that he will be faithful to God and follow His direction. Pray for the fruit of the Spirit to be evident in his life. Ask that Manny and his ministry partners will diligently share the good news with the Deaf.



**Manny and his doctor.**

**1 DEAF OF THAILAND.** Local Deaf believers want to partner with Deaf seekers in the southern part of Thailand to host a gospel storytelling camp. Pray that the Deaf seekers can attend and will trust in Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

**2 MALTESE OF MALTA.** European countries face challenges in receiving an influx of refugees. Ask God for wisdom for authorities as they seek safe, fair, and efficient ways to facilitate this influx. Ask for God to intervene in miraculous ways for refugees in dangerous situations.

**3 DEAF OF CENTRAL ASIA.** Recently, Great Commission partners visited workers in Central Asia, asking how they can be more involved with ministry efforts there among Deaf peoples. Please pray that this relationship will continue to grow and will result in more workers on the field.

**4 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.** Children's education is highly valued among the desert peoples of Northern Africa, but access to it is difficult. Pray for students there to succeed against the odds. Pray for compassionate teachers. Ask for guidance and wisdom for parents to encourage their children.

**5 PEOPLES OF NORTHEAST BRAZIL.** Pray for the mental health of those in northeast Brazil. People feel hopeless, afraid, and alone, and the rate of suicides is increasing. Pray for mental health care professionals who are working tirelessly. Pray for Eric's\* family as they grieve his loss by suicide.

**6 DEAF OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.** In a Southeast Asian country, Deaf believers have started a sports association league in order to present the gospel and impact young Deaf adults there. Pray that through the association, many players will see the gospel signed and Christ will be glorified.



**7 HYDERABAD, INDIA.** Many multinational companies have offices in Hyderabad. Pray that believers working there will see their offices as harvest fields and develop a deep burden for their colleagues. Pray that believers will be salt and light in these offices, directing many to Jesus.

**8 TAJIKS OF AFGHANISTAN.** Amanda\* is single and lives at her father's house. She works to help provide for her family and struggles with feeling unworthy of love. Pray that she'll know how God sees her and find her worth in Him. Ask that she will read the Word and accept the truth about Jesus.

**9 DEAF OF SOUTH ASIA.** Many Deaf South Asian seekers have been sharing Bible stories that they recently learned with their friends and neighbors. Pray that these stories will lead many to know Jesus. Ask that a Deaf church will be planted. Also, pray for the Deaf there who've lost their jobs.

**10 TORCH PEOPLE OF EAST ASIA.** Believers recently translated Exodus for the Torch people. Now the people are building their faith on God's Word, not relying on others' personal testimonies. They are eager for more. Ask God to protect this continued translation work during intense persecution.

**11 DEAF OF CENTRAL ASIA.** Recently, a visiting group of students joined workers in Central Asia for ministry. Praise God for the impact they had on others during their visit. Ask the Father to incline their hearts to future service among the Deaf around the world.

**12 DAKAR, SENEGAL.** God has reconciled believers to Himself. Believers are also given "the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18, ESV). Pray that believers in Dakar will radically love God and love their neighbor. Pray for them to be loving ambassadors for Christ.

**13 SWEDES OF SWEDEN.** Every Tuesday and Wednesday, Christians and IMB representatives in Stockholm host "Open Church." They offer coffee, have conversations, and pray with people on the street. Pray that the Holy Spirit will draw people who are seeking God. Pray that many will come to faith.

**14 DEAF OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.** Four Deaf students recently received seminary training and storytelling resources. Pray for them as they share this training with other leaders among the Deaf. Pray for them to stay energized and obedient to God as they work to plant churches and share the gospel.

**15 TURKS OF ISTANBUL, TURKEY.** After learning about unreached people groups, Doug\* led a new church to pray for a different people group each week. He is growing in his faith and pushing the church to learn and grow. The church has welcomed many visitors. Pray for growth, spiritually and in numbers.

**16 DEAF OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.** Several Deaf groups are meeting in a Southeast Asian city. Pray that as God's stories are shared in these groups, many will believe, begin meeting regularly as a church, and faithfully share His stories with other Deaf.

**17 SOUTH KOREA.** It's notable that South Korea is the only country in East Asia with a high percentage of Christians and religious freedom. Pray that Korean believers will exercise their religious freedom to proclaim God's awesome power, deeds, and salvation among all peoples.

**18 HADRAMAUT YEMENI ARABS OF YEMEN.** Yemeni Arabs often share a dish of dates at meals. Dates are a delight to those who have a harsh life. The gospel can bring them greater joy, but they know nothing about it. Pray that Yemeni Arabs will hear of God's love for them, believe it, and share it with others.

**19 DEAF THEOLOGICAL CENTER (DTC) STUDENTS.** Pray that DTC students will remain faithful to the task of translating the Bible as they continue sharing the good news with the Deaf. Pray that as they continue discipling new believers, indigenous Deaf churches will multiply around the world.



**20 CEEVEE PEOPLE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.** The CeeVee are very loyal to their families and culture, making it difficult for them to receive the gospel, even when they admit that it's true. Most are Buddhist and animist. Pray for the CeeVee who don't yet know freedom in Christ. They are gripped by fear of spirits.

**21 GLOBAL NETWORK OF THE AMERICAS.** Pray for a Brazilian worker in an unreached country in South Asia who leads a team with six workers from China. Pray for this cross-cultural team as they develop their strategy of discipleship and church planting in a very spiritually dark country.

**22 BAPTIST CONVENTIONS OF THE CENTRAL SAHEL (WEST AFRICA).** Pray for the Nigeria Baptist Convention's 18,000 churches to hold fast to the true gospel. Pray that they will continue to send more workers into the harvest field. Ask that they will be a light among the 95 million Muslims and 91 unreached people groups in Nigeria.

**23 DEAF OF INDONESIA.** A Deaf church in Indonesia is helping develop and disciple a new church plant in a nearby city. Pray that the relationship between these churches becomes an unbreakable bond of support and community. Pray for this new church to live in faithful obedience to God's Word.

**24 LAST FRONTIER.** Life for refugees and Christian aid workers can be perilous. Ask for God's protection and provision for refugees. Pray for His wisdom and encouragement for those sharing the gospel with them. Ask that God's peace will replace fear and that many will turn to Him in faith.

**25 SOUTH ASIAN UNENGAGED PEOPLES.** About 20 million Saraiki-speaking Muslims live in Pakistan with no known church among them. Pray that God will send dreams and visions to members of this people group. Ask Him to raise up laborers to reach them. Pray that many will come to know Jesus as their Savior.

**26 DAGESTANIS OF RUSSIA.** Several Russian believers are being sent out to serve in difficult places. It's still their home country, but the cultures are very different. Pray for them to persevere and be humble, hospitable, and bold in their witness. Pray that many Dagestanis will worship Christ.

**27 DEAF OF EAST ASIA.** Due to COVID-19, workers in East Asia are relocating to a new area. Pray that they will make new contacts in their new location as well as maintain support to the Deaf believers where they had been living.

**28 N'DJAMENA, CHAD.** Pray for Amir.\* He is a new Muslim-background believer and has faced horrific persecution. He desires to relocate to another country for his safety and to go to seminary. He deeply desires to study theology, so pray that God will provide a way.

**29 PEOPLES OF RHINE, RÜHR, MAIN RIVER AREAS, GERMANY.** Pray for IMB representatives to find open doors for the gospel as they engage Germans, immigrants, and refugees. Pray for them to lovingly share Jesus who said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6, NIV).

**30 TUAREG OF THE SAHARA DESERT.** Years ago, Abdu\* met a believer and heard about Jesus. He recently asked to meet again when the borders open. Pray that the borders will open in God's timing for Abdu to visit his friend. Pray that the Spirit will work in his heart to receive the gospel this time.

**31 DEAF OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.** Pray for the DeafWay/StoryOne app project in Southeast Asia as they begin filming Bible stories into the local sign language. Pray as this project gets up and off the ground, that many Deaf in Southeast Asia will see the Word of God and believe.

## Young believer uses photography to share the gospel with the Deaf

In a large Southeast Asian city, a young Deaf believer saw that many of his peers did not know the Bible. He tried inviting them to a Bible study, but no one seemed to have available time. They work and study at the university during the week and use the weekend to go out and take photographs or play sports.

The young believer joined their sports club and even started a photography club, hoping that it would one day become a church. He began inviting Deaf to travel with him on the weekends to beautiful places in order to photograph the landscape and each other. After taking photos, the group sits and has a Bible study before heading home.

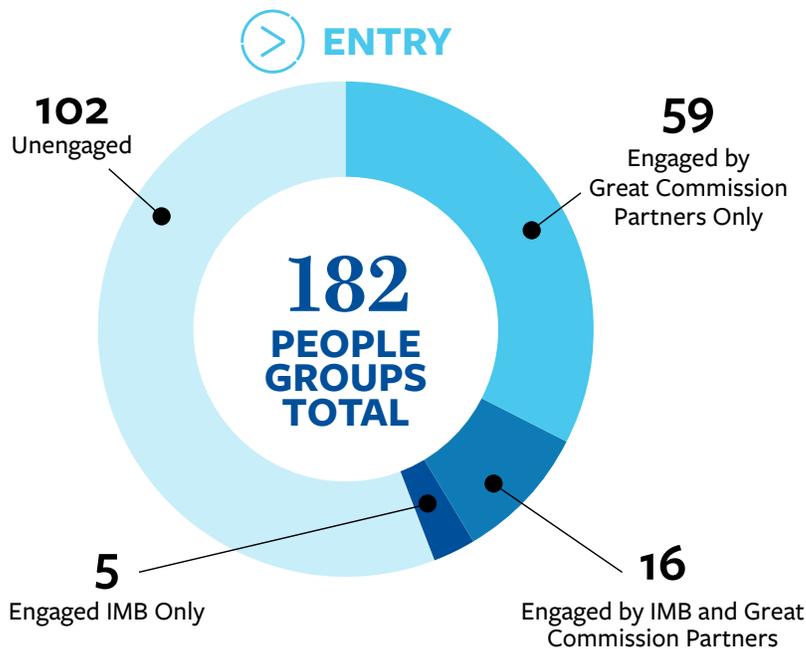


So far, the photography club has had a positive response. Many Deaf have been attending regularly, and several seem interested in learning the Scriptures. Pray that this club continues to do well and that God will use it for His glory.

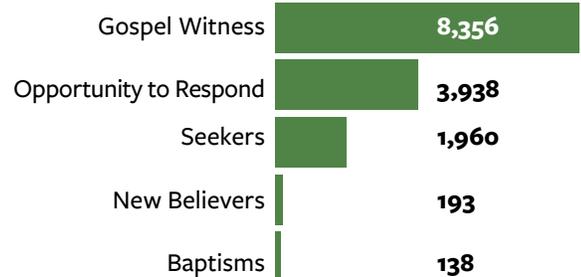
## DEAF PEOPLES

## ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT

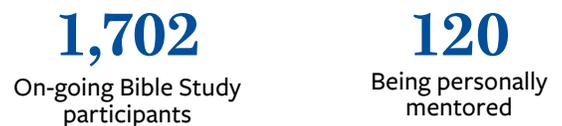
*Data from 2019*



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\*Names changed CG 15.5M 11/20 P7483-1