

# PRAYER POINTS

## DEAF PEOPLES

*The 70 million Deaf people around the world use over 200 sign languages. They are some of the least evangelized people on earth. Prayer is essential to the task of reaching them.*

### A DEAF WOMAN'S YEARS OF SPIRITUAL CONFUSION CULMINATED IN FAITH IN CHRIST AND BAPTISM

When Deaf worker, Paul, gathered the Deaf African StoryOne participants to announce that a young man would be baptized, Mandy, waved her hand fervently until she had Paul's attention. "I want to be baptized, too!" she signed. Paul was surprised and asked to meet with her to discuss it further.

At their meeting, he learned that Mandy grew up in a Muslim family. Mandy shared that she had attended a Jehovah's Witness church while in school but understood nothing about her Muslim background nor learned anything about faith from the Jehovah's Witnesses. No one had been available to interpret the teachings for her, so she eventually gave up on both faiths feeling unfulfilled.

Later, Mandy married a wonderful man who knew the Bible well and was a Christ follower. As he explained the Bible's teachings to her, Mandy came to follow Jesus and eagerly obeyed His commandments. Despite her sincere faith, she had never been baptized.

Paul encouraged Mandy to share her story with the local church. He also



*Mandy signing in West Africa. IMB Photo.*

emphasized that while baptism does not save a person, confessing Jesus as Lord and believing in His resurrection does. Mandy agreed and affirmed that she wanted to be baptized.

When Mandy was baptized, she stepped in and out of the water with a beaming smile, thrilled at being able to display the depth of her love for Jesus to everyone.

Please pray that Mandy's relationship with Jesus will endure, grow, and overflow to others. Pray that God will protect her, both physically and spiritually, and that He will surround her with people who love Jesus and will encourage her. Pray for opportunities for more Deaf women to follow Jesus.

## ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYER

We have been asking you to pray with us for the Deaf in West Africa. One Deaf West African man, Bob, wanted to break away from Islam and follow Jesus, but he had a hard time understanding the gospel. After a worker met with Bob to discuss his questions, Bob placed his trust in Christ. Praise the Lord for this new believer! Thank you for praying.

## **1 GLOBAL DEAF PEOPLES.**

Missionary Kids (MKs) are a blessing and a big part of their parents' ministry. Pray for MKs and the many challenges and transitions they face. Pray specifically that Deaf MKs will desire to walk intimately with the Lord.

**2 GLOBAL DEAF PEOPLES.** Please pray that the Lord of the harvest will send out more workers to reach the Deaf. Hearing and Deaf workers are needed in many places where the harvest is plentiful. Pray also that the Deaf believers would be bold witnesses in their circles of influence.

**3 DEAF OF CENTRAL ASIA.** Pray for a worker's friends, Joy, Ruthie, and Sally, to remember the truth and believe. Pray that gospel seeds being sown by all faithful workers among the Deaf will take root, produce fruit, and multiply to the glory of God.

**4 DEAF OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.** A new Deaf church was planted in a major Southeast Asian city in 2023. Pray for this group as they grow in the Lord. Ask the Father to guide workers and national partners as they share the gospel and serve the church throughout this new year.

**5 DEAF OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.** This month, a Deaf soccer tournament is taking place near a major Southeast Asian city. Pray for workers and national partners who are sharing the gospel at the tournament. Pray that attendees will be open to God's Stories and that they will come to know Him.

**6 DEAF OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.** Volunteers are scheduled to arrive in a Southeast Asian country in March. Pray that God will provide

opportunities for them to meet and share the gospel with Deaf, who are hesitant to welcome outsiders. May the gospel seeds that volunteers plant bear much fruit.

**7 GLOBAL DEAF PEOPLES.** Pray now for International Deaf Day at the end of September. The Deaf usually gather on the last Sunday of the month, which is an amazing opportunity for workers and nationals to meet and share with many Deaf. Pray for open doors among the Deaf around the world.

**8 DEAF OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.** Pray for a new Deaf believer in Southeast Asia who is facing opposition from her family. Ask the Father to give her boldness and wisdom to continue sharing with her family and friends. Pray that they would be drawn to Him through her faithful witness.

**9 DEAF OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.** Pray for fruit as workers begin outreach on a new university campus in a Southeast Asian country. Pray for wisdom in knowing how to best reach the many Deaf students on campus and for receptiveness to the gospel. Pray for discipleship among these Deaf college students.

**10 DEAF OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.** Praise God for volunteers who have recently served with Deaf teams. Pray for the many contacts made during their service. More volunteers are preparing to serve in the spring. Ask God to begin equipping them now for the task of reaching Deaf for Christ.

**11 GLOBAL DEAF PEOPLES.** As workers transition to and from the field for many reasons, team dynamics change. Pray for unity for teams who are in a season of transition and perseverance for

the task before them. Ask God to raise up more workers with hearts of Christ to serve among the Deaf.

**12 DEAF OF WEST AFRICA.** After workers in West Africa baptized a Deaf person there, they shared the Lord's Supper together. This is being passed down to the new believers who recently shared the Lord's Supper on the beach following baptism. Praise God for new believers and celebrations.

**13 DEAF OF MIDDLE EAST.** Last year a worker and volunteers did a research trip to areas where no Deaf work was taking place. God answered prayers and opened doors. Pray for future ministry opportunities among these unreached Deaf people. Ask God to raise up workers for these areas.

**14 GLOBAL DEAF PEOPLES.** Praise God for calling out new workers to serve among the Deaf. They are excited to see how God will work in and through them for His glory. Pray for them as they transition, develop new friendships, learn the local sign language, and prepare to share the good news.

**15 DEAF OF MEXICO.** Pray for the work among the Deaf of Mexico. Lift up national partners Alan, Diego, and Isaac who have been sent throughout their country to share God's Stories. Pray for strength and perseverance and that many Deaf Mexicans will be drawn to Christ.

**16 GLOBAL DEAF PEOPLES.** Pray for Deaf Bible translation work around the world. Ask God to guide the hands of those working on this project so that His Stories will be clearly communicated. Pray that He will protect them as they seek to share truth with Deaf who do not know Jesus.

**17 DEAF OF CENTRAL ASIA.** Workers serving in Central Asia desire a team that can remain in country long term. Pray for political stability and favor with officials who issue permits and visas. Ask the Father to go before these workers to provide long-term opportunities for reaching Deaf.

**18 DEAF OF WEST AFRICA.** Praise God for two new workers who are joining the Deaf team in West Africa. Pray for their transition and adjustment. Pray that they will learn language and gain relationships quickly. Ask the Father to give them boldness to share His Stories so that many Deaf may know Him.

**19 GLOBAL DEAF PEOPLES.** When Deaf gather for a StoryOne camp, they study His Stories, learn to plant churches and render Bible story translations in their respective sign languages. Pray for God to move in a mighty way among those attending and as they depart to share what they've learned.

**20 GLOBAL DEAF PEOPLES.** Pray for special grace and ability for workers who are learning the local sign languages so that they can communicate effectively with Deaf friends and contacts for the glory of God. Pray specifically for language teachers who understand natural signs and storytelling.

**21 DEAF OF BALKANS.** Within the last year, God had answered prayers by opening doors for Bible translation in the Balkans. Since then, new Deaf groups are meeting, Deaf Balkans are turning to the Lord, and many are sharing the gospel in their countries. Praise God for how He is working there.

**22 DEAF REFUGEES OF EUROPE.** Oliver and Marianna are refugees from a war-torn European country. They are working on Bible translation, church planting, and leading outreach to many other Deaf refugees in Eastern Europe. Praise God for how He is working in and through them during difficult times.

**23 DEAF OF SOUTH ASIA.** Pray for the continued work among the Deaf of South Asia. Ask the Father for wisdom and guidance for workers and national partners as they engage the lost with the gospel this year. Pray for Deaf believers to keep growing in the Lord and boldly sharing with others.

**24 GLOBAL DEAF PEOPLES.** Workers can often meet Deaf people through local Deaf schools. Pray for open doors and opportunities to share the love of Christ with Deaf students. Ask the Father to provide persons of peace (Luke 10) at the schools. Pray that many Deaf students will come to know Him.

**25 GLOBAL DEAF PEOPLES.** Pray that missionaries will not become weary in doing good. Ask the Father to help them trust in Him with their whole hearts as they persevere. Pray they will abide in Him daily so they can do their work without hindrance. Ask God to bring a harvest among the Deaf.

**26 DEAF OF WEST AFRICA.** Pray for more workers among the Deaf of Africa. There are nearly 14 million Deaf and only a handful of workers. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out more workers to join in the task. Pray that He will make the paths clear for new workers to reach out to lost Deaf.

**27 GLOBAL DEAF PEOPLES.** Pray for workers who will be on stateside assignment this year. Ask the Father to grant them times of encouragement and refreshing. Pray that they will connect with churches and help raise awareness and support for work among the Deaf around the world.

**28 DEAF OF WEST AFRICA.** Pray for a West African Deaf Bible translation team as they continue working towards their goal of rendering approximately 120 Bible stories into one of West Africa's natural sign languages by the end of 2024. Pray that His Stories will reach many Deaf for His glory.

**29 DEAF OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.** A Deaf church in a Southeast Asian country has been working with the Deaf in "Light Town." Praise the Lord that as His Stories have been shared, the number of new believers has increased! Pray that He will continue adding to their number daily.

**30 GLOBAL DEAF PEOPLES.** International Deaf Week is Sept 22-28, 2024. Most countries have gatherings to promote Deaf rights, businesses, and sign language resources. Pray that many lost Deaf will connect with Deaf believers and be drawn to the Lord.

**31 GLOBAL DEAF PEOPLES.** The 70 million Deaf people around the world use over 200 sign languages. They are some of the least evangelized people on earth, and prayer is essential to the task of reaching them. Please pray for all Deaf to have an opportunity to understand and respond to the gospel.



*Will is sharing God's stories. IMB Photo.*

## THE GOSPEL SPREADS AMONG DEAF AS A NEW BELIEVER SHARES

Will, a new believer, attended the Asian Deaf Theological Training taught by two Southeast Asian Deaf Christian leaders. After completing the training, Will had a one-week break before resuming his other university classes. He used this free time to visit a town in the northern part of his country and share what he had learned. Initially, Will shared

with a few friends. Impressed, they brought more friends, who then invited even more friends. Within a week, seven Deaf were attending the Bible study, and four had professed faith in Christ. When Will returned to university, he continued teaching via video calls. A month later, eight people had professed faith, and 10 were regularly attending the Bible study. Will hopes to return to the town and baptize the believers. Pray for Will and these new Deaf believers to continue boldly sharing.

## NEW DEAF BELIEVERS ARE EQUIPPED TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

A team had been working in a large Southeast Asian city for over 20 years before God blessed them with seeing a plentiful harvest. Several Deaf college students became believers and recently completed the Asian Deaf Theological Training program. They are equipped and empowered to go out and share the gospel with their classmates and other Deaf. This has been a refreshing time for the workers. Pray for them as they seek to engage Deaf college students more in discipleship. Praise God for how He is working in this city.



## WHY IS A MISSIONARY PRESENCE NEEDED AMONG GLOBAL DEAF PEOPLES?



**An estimated 80 million culturally Deaf have almost no access to Scripture in their heart language.**



**The majority of the Deaf have never seen Jesus' name signed in their language. Often ignored and oppressed, the Deaf are some of the least evangelized people on earth.**



**Face-to-face gatherings are the lifeblood in Deaf culture, because communication only happens visually in this community.**

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Some names may have been changed for security reasons. BI 13.5M 11/23 P7701-1

## REACHING THE NATIONS, TOGETHER.