

PRAYERPOINTS

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS: A PRAYING PEOPLE IMPACTING A LOST WORLD



Deaf storying at a theme park

First mission trip

BEAM* AND CHUN,* a couple from the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai, had been believers for two years and were ready to take their first mission trip. They were on fire for the Lord, well trained in evangelism and had a heart for the Deaf in their country. Over the years many of their friends had moved from Chiang Mai to Bangkok, and they were more than eager to introduce them to their friend, international worker Bethany Forrester.*

During their school break, Beam, Chun and their team joined Bethany in Bangkok for two weeks. While there, they met many Deaf people and told Bible stories everywhere they went: soccer practice, festivals, schools, theme parks, food courts, dorm rooms and outdoor cafés. God led them to start

relationships with more than 30 new people and share Bible stories with hundreds more.

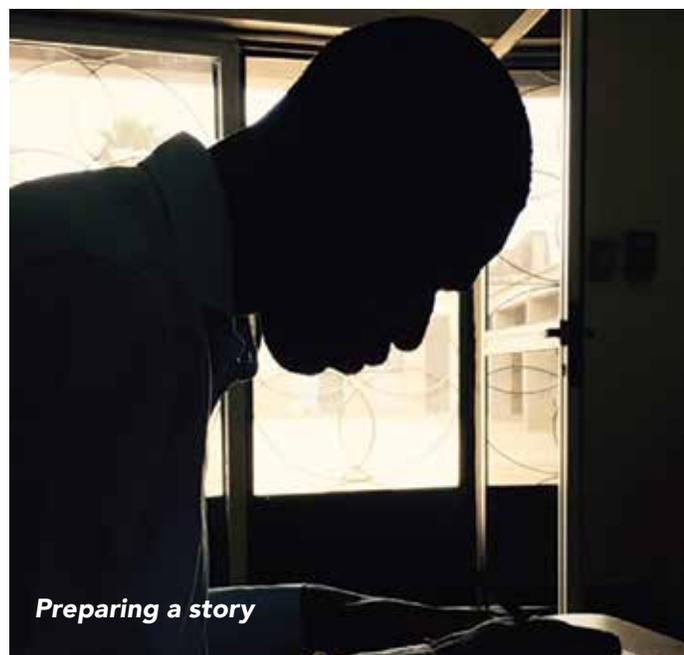
Pray for Bethany as she follows up over the next few months and disciples her new friends. Pray also that the seeds that were planted will grow and that the Deaf in Bangkok will hunger for the Word. Pray for Beam and Chun as they continue to witness in Chiang Mai and surrounding areas.

Crafting Bible stories

SHORTLY AFTER HIS arrival in West Africa, worker Paul Yount* visited the home of a Deaf local believer named Philippe.* Paul, Philippe and Jean* (another Deaf local believer) sat down with Philippe's father, a hearing pastor in the city. Paul told him that he wanted Philippe and Jean to help him start a Deaf church.

Philippe's father looked at Paul, smiled, pointed to Philippe with his right hand, then to Paul with his left hand, brought the hands together and "gave" Philippe to Paul. They all understood what the gestures meant: Now Paul had the responsibility of teaching Philippe and Jean how to craft stories from the Bible, share them with Deaf people and plant Deaf churches.

Pray that these Deaf believers will understand, internalize and utilize the Bible truths being taught through His stories. Pray that they will take these stories and share them with other Deaf people.



Preparing a story

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer (Psalm 19:14, ESV).

1 DEAF OF BANGLADESH. Pray for workers in Bangladesh to find favor with “gatekeepers,” people of peace and influence who open doors to meet Deaf women. Pray for opportunities to share stories and build relationships that will lead to Deaf women coming to faith and beginning a Deaf-led group.

2 ANGOLA. AIDS is a leading cause of infectious deaths around the world. Pray for increased efforts to educate people about this disease and about how it spreads. Ask that those who suffer with this disease will have the opportunity to hear about Christ before they die.

3 HOKKIEN OF EAST ASIA AND BEYOND (HAWK-in). Pray for the HT Church in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, as they minister in their community. The HT Church is also involved in international ministry. Ask God to bless their many ministries for His glory.

4 DEAF OF CENTRAL ASIA. Pray for the equipping of Deaf believers in Bible study and sharing through storying. New countries are being

surveyed to locate believers in hopes of teaching them these valuable skills. Pray for those who are already receiving training and for those who will soon.

5 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES. A common thread throughout Central Asia is that men and women enjoy interacting with believers and talking about religion but have no personal conviction about their own sin and need for a Savior. Pray that Central Asian peoples who are willing to discuss Christianity will experience genuine hunger and thirst for God’s truth.

6 BEJA OF EGYPT, SUDAN AND ERITREA (BEE-ja). The Beja fear the jinn, or evil spirits, that are believed to inhabit places without people, such as some mountaintops. Ask God to open the hearts of the Beja, causing them to turn to the One who says, “Fear not, for I am with you” (Isaiah 41:10a).

7 DEAF OF COLOMBIA. There are more than 20,000 Deaf living in the area of Bucaramanga, Colombia, with no Deaf churches. Pray for workers and Deaf believers who desire to reach the Deaf of this area. Pray that Deaf believers will show the love of Christ and that many Deaf will follow Jesus as a result.

8 BHUTAN. Ask God to reveal to new Bhutanese believers the joy of being able to pray anytime, anywhere — that prayer is no longer confined to the temple. Pray that new believers will be bold in their faith, sharing this truth with other Buddhists.

9 UDMURTS OF RUSSIA (ood-MERTS). Praise God for the delivery of 1,000 New

Testaments in Udmurt that will be distributed to Udmurts, both in the village and in the city. Pray for those who receive a copy, asking that they will read it and seek Him in truth.

10 DEAF OF WEST AFRICA. Most Deaf in West Africa do not know Jesus, often following family traditions and worshipping Allah. They may have heard some stories but do not grasp that God loves the Deaf and seeks a relationship with them. Pray for believers to boldly share His stories so that many will be saved.

11 THAI-MALAY OF THAILAND (ty-mah-LAY). One of the great barriers to the gospel among the Thai-Malay is the members of one’s own household and extended family. Pray that genuine faith will overcome the fear of man. Ask God to open ways for those who are believing to be discipled.

12 QUILOMBOLAS OF BRAZIL (key-lohm-BALL-uhs). Most Quilombolas live far from city centers and have to travel to get medical help and schooling past the fourth grade. Many live in extreme poverty with little or no access to the gospel. Ask God to send workers to the Quilombolas of Brazil.

13 DEAF OF SOUTH ASIA. Workers often visit a tailor shop where both the tailor and his wife are Deaf. The wife has very little language, which is common, and has a hard time understanding Bible stories. Pray that Deaf women will understand the gospel and make a decision to follow Christ.

14 BAMBARA OF MALI (BAHM-bah-rah). A chronological Bible storying team has finished a set of 45 stories that is being distributed on SD cards for use in portable devices. Pray that these stories will go out and that the power of the Word will change hearts.

Deaf storying at school



15 SY PEOPLES OF SOUTH CHINA.

The Mountain people, a subgroup of the SY peoples, have a population of about 1 million. Less than 1 percent are believers. Most say that the gospel is a Western belief, one they cannot receive. Pray that many Mountain people will follow Jesus.

16 DEAF OF EAST ASIA.

After being trained in stories about God's plan for salvation, volunteers were sent out with Deaf local believers. Praise God for the impact on Deaf who did not know these stories. The local believers followed up, and some of the Deaf have become believers. Pray that the new believers will now share the stories.

17 RUMELIAN TURKS OF THE BALKANS.

Pray as a worker begins work in a new neighborhood. Ask God to provide ideas of how to engage the Turkish-speaking people in the neighborhood. Pray for "people of peace" (Luke 10:6) who can open doors for the gospel.

18 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.

Iran is home to the largest Jewish population in the Middle East outside of Israel and Turkey. But the population has diminished drastically over the years. Pray for the safety and salvation of the remaining Jews scattered throughout Iran.

19 DEAF OF HUNGARY.

About 70 Deaf people from Hungary and neighboring countries attended a Deaf Summer Camp this past year. Pray for plans that are being made now for the 2016 camp. Pray that Deaf people in Europe will come to know Jesus through stories shared during camp.

20 HINDU PEOPLES OF MYANMAR.

Lift up a new village that is being visited by a Good News worker and a national partner. The pair entered the village with the gift of a water filter for the village leader. Pray that return visits to this village

will provide an open door for the gospel to be shared.

21 ARMENIAN PEOPLE OF ARMENIA.

Disabled Armenians are often forgotten by society. Pray for a work to begin among special-needs families. There is a great need for such a ministry, but it seems very little progress has been made so far.

22 DEAF OF EAST ASIA.

Plans are being made right now for Bible storying camps to take place throughout East Asia and other parts of the world. Pray that nationals will use their skills and training to facilitate these Bible storying camps on their own.

23 HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM.

Right now, more than 300 seekers are being engaged and invited to Bible studies across the city. Pray that God will bring those whose hearts have been opened by Him. Pray that each seeker Bible study will grow into the body of Christ in their context.

24 UNREACHED PEOPLES OF NORTH BRAZIL.

"Highpoint" is a city where many people from unreached people groups live and work to support their families. Ask God for wisdom as workers engage both the lost and saved members of these people groups.

25 DEAF OF VIETNAM.

Pray for the continued translation of stories into Vietnamese Sign Language. Pray that the development of Deaf believers, churches and leaders will lead to an increased vision for reaching Deaf in cities throughout their country and in nearby countries with the same strategic plans.

26 NIAMEY, NIGER.

Pray for the construction of a new television tower for the only Christian radio and television station in the country of Niger. Hundreds have been listening

Deaf lady at alteration shop

and watching the programing. Ask God to use this form of media to bring many into a relationship with Him.

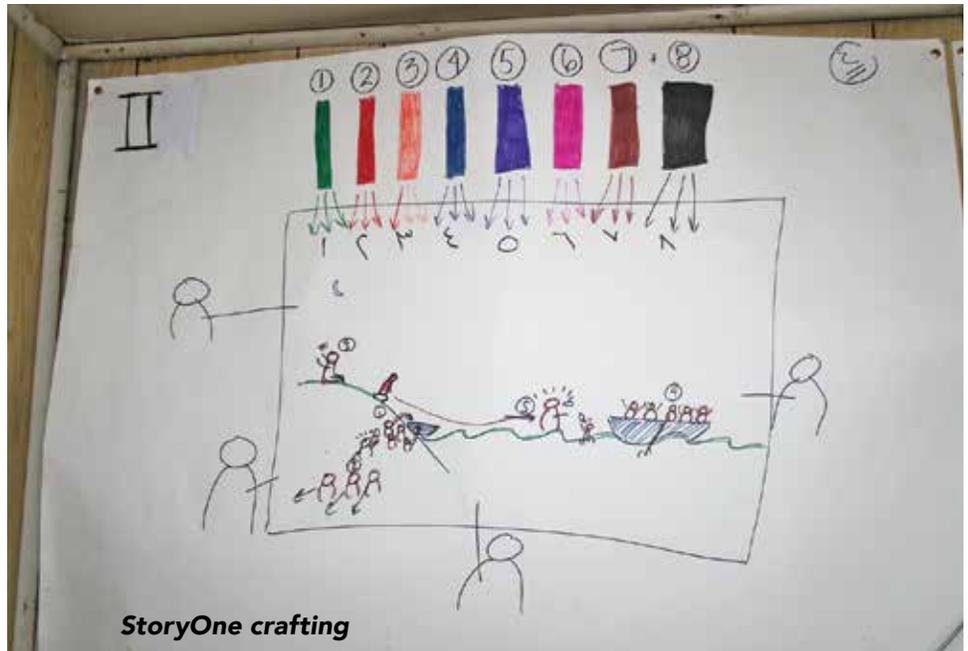
27 MUSLIMS OF CHINA. Pray for "persons of peace" (Luke 10:6) to be found as new work begins and believing families settle in new places. Pray for believers who are passionate about reaching the Hui (pronounced whey), a Muslim people group.

28 DEAF OF EGYPT. Pray for Deaf leaders and workers as they seek to translate stories into Egyptian Sign Language in order to help lead new believers to form churches, train leaders and reach Deaf Egyptians. Ask God to remove obstacles that are delaying or prohibiting these efforts.

29 TURKS OF THE BLACK SEA COAST. A new literature distribution point has been established in one Black Sea coastal city where there are very few believers. This is a place where people can come and ask questions about Christ and the gospel. Pray that God will use this tool to make His name known among the people there.

30 LAST FRONTIER. The parents of a student whom workers have been teaching heard the Word and received Jesus into their hearts. An English teacher also recently became a believer. Ask the Father to provide His presence and peace daily as they learn to live out His truth boldly, with growing wisdom.

31 DEAF OF NORTH KOREA. Pray for the Deaf of North Korea who have no Deaf churches and no Scripture in their heart language. Pray for open doors and for workers who will share stories with them, resulting in their coming to faith, forming Deaf-led churches, and sharing with others.



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A hospitable couple

WORKERS IN SOUTHEAST Asia had several opportunities to share Bible stories with Deaf Muslims during Ramadan, the 30-day fast observed by Muslims each year. During Ramadan it is offensive for those who are not participating in the fast to eat in front of those who are participating.

One day during Ramadan, workers Lauren Eady* and Kate Linquist* visited a Deaf couple in their home. Even though this couple was fasting, they still insisted on giving Lauren and Kate something to eat and drink just as they had each time the workers visited.

For this couple, hospitality trumped fasting, which really made an impression on Lauren and Kate. While they were visiting, Lauren and Kate were able to share some Bible stories with the couple. The wife seemed very interested. Pray for this Deaf couple and others to respond and follow Jesus.

*Name changed

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