



PRAYERPOINTS

A PRAYING PEOPLE IMPACTING A LOST WORLD

Deaf Peoples: StoryOne Camps

What is it like for the 36 million Deaf worldwide who have virtually no access to Scripture? Is it satisfactory that their only access to Scripture is through majority languages that they do not read?

The Deaf are typically educated in the majority language of their countries, but most of them are functionally nonliterate, non-print communicators. Storying is significant to their culture and way of communicating. The transmission of Deaf heritage, norms, and events comes through storying.



IMB workers among the Deaf use StoryOne camps to help Deaf gain access to Bible stories in their heart languages.

These camps generally last 6 to 10 days and focus on the crafting of Bible stories that lay foundational truths about who Jesus is, what it means to be His follower, and what it means to be a church.

A StoryOne camp can leave the 12 to 20 attendees with as many as 15 Bible stories in their native sign language.

These camps build a foundation for eventual Scripture projects that provide additional Bible stories for Deaf communities. The IMB has many Scripture projects for sign languages around the world, all of which started with a single StoryOne camp.

"You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he." (Isaiah 43:10a, ESV)

1 DEAF PEOPLES. "And they ran to follow Jesus!" the Deaf man signed with a big smile on his face. After seeing the story of Jesus calling the first disciples, the picture of them running was very vivid to the Deaf. Pray that the Deaf of South Asia will run to follow Jesus.

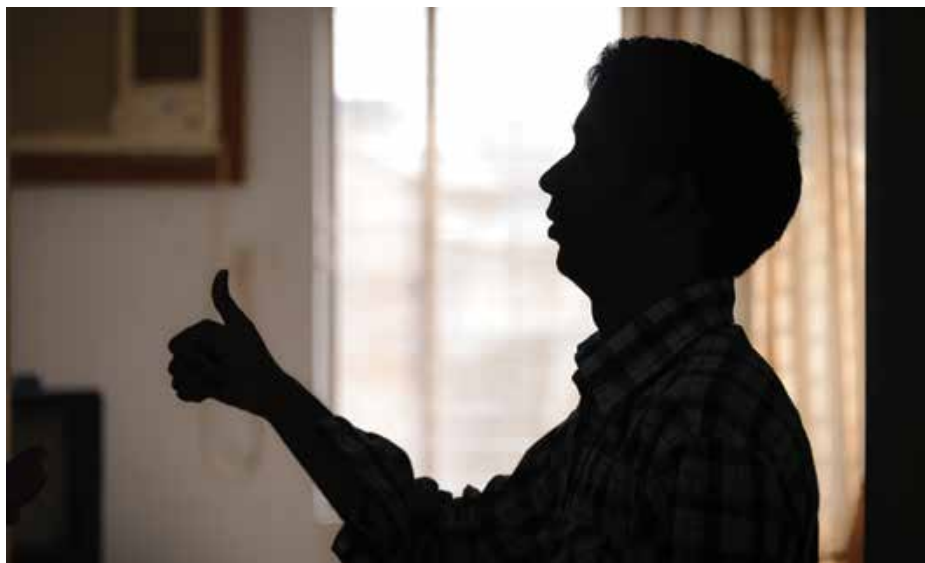
2 BAMBARA OF MALI. Maria* is the first woman in her village to become a believer. She has faced many challenges and now fears being baptized in her own village. Pray for workers as they talk with Maria and seek an opportunity for her to be baptized.

3 PEOPLE OF TAIWAN. Praise God for the freedom that exists in Taiwan to share the gospel! Pray that people will not simply accept Jesus as just another god from whom they can ask favors, but rather, turn to Him as the only way to salvation.

4 DEAF PEOPLES. Pray for an upcoming StoryOne camp in South Asia. Ask God to supply all that is needed and to raise up those who will attend so that Deaf may come and learn His stories and become better equipped to share with others.

5 HIJAZI SAUDI ARABS OF SAUDI ARABIA. Ask God to protect believers living in the Hijaz. Lift up those who are afraid to share the Truth or who think they are alone in their faith. Pray for Saudi Arabs who are seeking, asking that they will encounter believers.

6 PEOPLES OF HIMACHAL PRADESH, INDIA. The Go* and Ga* people have been without a witness for a long time. Praise God that some local pastors recently reported the first baptisms among these people groups!



7 DEAF PEOPLES. Ask the Father to raise up people who will pray fervently and relentlessly for the Deaf around the world, and pray that the Deaf will eagerly and earnestly seek to learn Bible stories to share with lost Deaf around them.

8 SORANI AND BEHDINI KURDS OF CENTRAL ASIA. Satan is working to cause division and mistrust among believers in "Valley Town." Pray that God will convict these brothers and sisters, heal their hearts, and lead them to reconciliation.

9 EUROPEAN PEOPLES. The Lord has provided several opportunities in the area of the Black Sea for our colleagues to teach and train national believers. Intercede for each one as they are used by the Father to encourage and empower national believers.

10 DEAF PEOPLES. Deaf believers from around the world recently met in the Middle East for a StoryOne camp. Many took God's stories back to countries where it is illegal to share the Good News. Pray for the Deaf as they share and face persecution.

11 ISAAN OF THAILAND. Pray for a training session that will be held with Isaan Christian small-

group leaders this month. Pray that they will catch a fresh vision for ministry and become bold servants of the Lord.

12 MIR OF COLOMBIA. Each week, a small group of Mir adults gather to hear Bible stories. They are often visibly moved as they learn about the character of God. Pray for open hearts to respond to His Word.

13 DEAF PEOPLES. Recently, Deaf believers in East Asia crafted 50 new Bible stories. Pray that more stories will be crafted and shared with the Deaf throughout Asia. Ask God to prepare the hearts of the lost to believe.

14 MUSLIMS OF SOUTH AFRICA. Workers are giving students SD cards for their phones that contain English lessons, a gospel presentation, and the Bible in their heart language. Pray that the students will listen and respond.

15 BAI AND NAXI OF CHINA. Pray for a new church among the Bai. Ask that they will be consistent in meeting and grow in their love for the Lord and fellow believers. Pray that they will reach out to their neighbors.

16 DEAF PEOPLES. Sharing stories with Deaf Central Asians is often difficult in a post-modern culture where Islam is the primary religious influence. Pray that God will break through these barriers as workers share His stories and show His love through their lives.

17 TUAREG OF THE SAHARA DESERT. Moha* lives in a town where he is surrounded by his own people and food and water supplies are adequate. Seemingly, he lacks nothing. Yet Moha is unhappy and doesn't know why. Ask the Father to draw Moha to the Truth.

18 JAMMU, INDIA. Doors are opening in new areas for ministry in the state of Jammu! Previously untouched areas now have a gospel minister living there to be a witness. Ask God to bless these laborers and give them contacts who will be eager to learn about Jesus.

19 DEAF PEOPLES. A StoryOne group in Southeast Asia spent hours crafting Bible stories into pictures and then signing the stories in their heart language. Thank the Father for blessing them with a semi-permanent space where multiple teams can craft stories at the same time.

20 TAJIKS OF AFGHANISTAN. Manny* recently received resources so that he and his family could listen to God's Word on his smartphone. Claim the promise that the Word of God will not return void, and pray that Manny and his family will turn to the Father.

21 BELGIAN NATIONALS OF BELGIUM. Tabitha* and Gina* have been studying the Bible with Baptist representatives in Ghent. Tabitha recently trusted Jesus as her Lord and Savior! Pray that Gina will open her heart soon.

22 DEAF PEOPLES. Southeast Asian Deaf believers often

sacrifice their days off to sign Bible stories! Ask God to give these StoryOne crafters strength to persevere in their work. Pray that His Word will be signed correctly.

23 SOUTHEAST ASIAN PEOPLES. The Father is growing the Khmer church in Cambodia, bringing many to Himself! Pray that believers will be called to reach other Khmer-speaking people who live in neighboring countries.

24 PA OF COLOMBIA. A small group of Pa men study the Bible regularly with national missionary Henry*. Henry hopes that they will become spiritual leaders in their community. Ask God to raise up leaders from among them.

25 DEAF PEOPLES. Twenty Deaf believers recently gathered to craft Bible stories in Southeast Asia. Praise God that four Bible stories were completed!

26 CONAKRY, GUINEA. While French is the official language of Guinea, many young people want to learn English. Pray for workers as they share spiritual truths while teaching English classes at a local youth center.

27 TOKYO, JAPAN. Compassion Ministries provides food, shelter, medical care, and work for Tokyo's homeless population.

It also provides Bible study groups, worship services, and discipleship training. Ask God to use this ministry to draw many to Himself.

28 DEAF PEOPLES. Workers in a West African community are meeting with a group at a Deaf school where they develop Deaf leaders in hopes of establishing a church. Ask God to provide a location for the church, and pray that the believers will be a light in the community.

29 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN UNENGAGED PEOPLES. Kuwait is home to more than 250,000 Arabs from Yemen, Oman, Jordan, and Lebanon. Pray that they will hear the gospel, believe, and take the Good News home to their own countries.

30 PEOPLES OF WEST BENGAL, INDIA. West Bengal has a population of more than 90 million, and only 1,400 known churches in the state. Pray that the Hindus, Muslims, and tribal peoples of West Bengal will encounter Jesus.

31 DEAF PEOPLES. Hannah Yount* meets with a group of West African Muslim women to teach them from God's Word. Pray that they will come to understand that Jesus is the only way to salvation and choose to follow Him.



StoryOne Camps in Mexico

Andy Hall*, missionary to the Deaf, went to his home in glory in January 2016. In the months prior to his passing, Andy was in the United States, passionately promoting a language story project for the Deaf of Mexico. It was his dream that they would be able to receive training to craft Bible stories so they could share, train, and empower other Deaf to share God's stories.

Andy's dream became a reality in June 2016, when week one of the StoryOne camp was held in Mexico. It was an amazing week, filled with learning how to craft and share Bible stories!

Nine Deaf nationals from Mexico and a group of trainers from the U.S. participated, trained, learned, and filmed seven stories in Mexican Sign Language. That week was just the beginning, because the Mexican Deaf can now share what they learned with other Deaf.

Pray that the follow-up, which will include two more weeks of training, will be able to take place. Pray that God's Word in their heart language will go forward and that many Mexican Deaf will become followers of Christ.



Learn more about
IMB's work among
Deaf peoples at
imb.org/deaf

**Names changed*

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