



# Deaf Ministries



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Your partner with national missionaries around the world

Dear Friend,

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*“The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD...he turneth it whithersoever he will.”  
 Proverbs 21:1*



Revolution. In American history, we talk in terms of “the shot heard round the world”! We consider the rise and fall of parties, governments, and yes, even nations to effect change.

In this letter, we take up the stories of two regions that are side-by-side and yet radically different. Starting in the east, we are receiving multiple reports of threats, violence, and inability to process government paperwork unless the term “Christian” is removed from the application.

**Nepal** - Bro. Kipgen reports of using a room to conduct weekly Bible study with the Deaf, who are being taught by one deaf man who’s responsible for the main outreach on behalf of his church. He also asks for prayers for protection as a Hindu extremist wounded a local secretary, and others have threatened churches and pastors.

**Sikkim** - Bro. Guite reports that, although they have located a group of roughly 70 Deaf in a nearby town and have a worker, their ability to erect a bamboo meeting place in this remote area is hindered in part by the government’s demand that they alter their statement of purpose to remove the gospel. This regulation is part of a larger movement being led by the current Modi government and the RSS (Hindu Nationalist Party) to ensure that foreign influence and money are not converting the Hindu majority of India.

Moving to the west, we find believers traveling from states like Orissa to Kolkata to freely worship and the large population of Muslims moderating tolerance of Christians by the Hindu majority.



**Kolkata** - Bro. Vaiphei reports that their application to form a NGO (Non-governmental organization) for a deaf training center has been approved. There are still hurdles that must be cleared before the group can have a place of their own. However, God is still adding to their numbers as three more young men have followed the Lord in believer’s baptism, and a married deaf couple came to Christ while visiting their church from out of town. The goal of the reactionary Hindu majority is to stifle growth of other belief systems; but, Christ came to set men free and, in this sense, a spiritual revolution to build His church is well under way. Let us pray and give while the doors are open - for there will come a time when we can no longer do so!

Revolutionary. In world history, we think in terms of new ideas that shape the course of humanity. The intrinsic worth of each human soul has led to the end of slavery, the right of women and minorities to vote, and even legal protections against child labor, human trafficking, and unsafe working conditions. Change undoubtedly affects us.

While tensions may exist between the unbelieving world system and the seeds of the gospel affecting the lives of men and women, there is a recognition by the world that the NGO’s from “outside” of India (and other third world countries) are causing real changes that impact even us!

When I visited India, one of the deaf men who came to the deaf training center showed me a pin he had received from KFC, recognizing his local franchise for outstanding achievement. Pastor Vaiphei noted in his most recent prayer letter that a number of their men have to work quite a bit on Sundays due to their work schedules at KFC. It may not seem revolutionary to some, but KFC is leading the way in employing deaf people! Historically, deaf people are underemployed in comparison to their abilities, and the ability to be hired for a job is a big deal! As these young men are taking a stand for Christ, they will be thrust out of their Hindu or Muslim homes. The fact that they can earn income apart from the historical means of begging on the streets or doing piece work behind the scenes is revolutionary. The fact that Christian NGO's are literally the only organizations teaching the Deaf critical communication skills and equipping deaf employees to meet the expectations of their hearing employers is also revolutionary. As Christians, we teach that those who wish to eat should work and that those who follow Christ should work in order to be able to give. When the door closes so that foreign NGO's can no longer give funds and technical assistance, we trust that this fledgling group will be equipped to stand alone. More than that, we trust they will be able to influence regions that have already become closed to our assistance.



Working with the Deaf for Christ,

Kevin Maki

If you change your email, would you please take a moment to contact us at [office@ipmworld.org](mailto:office@ipmworld.org) with your new email and name.  
Thank you so much.