



DEAF MINISTRIES

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Dear Friend,

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"For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's." Romans 14:8

We all are going to die! This past year, we have had a sobering reminder of the preciousness and brevity of life. But in the last three months, we have had a series of unusual events that have reminded us that we do not have control over very much in our lives, including the way in which we die. As I was working late at night on taxes, I recognized that I was not alone in the room. After quickly opening our front and patio doors to let the bat circling the room out, the bat realized that he was not alone and engaged in a very unequal game of mortal combat. The bat lost. Then my oldest son arrived home after work to find the mission house completely filled with smoke and not a single detector had alarmed. Praise the Lord, the root cause was a single, smoldering square of carpet where a spark had jumped the perimeter of the wood-stove. Then came the packages! UPS delivered both large and expensive items we had not ordered but that were in our name. Even after contacting the vendor and rejecting the deliveries, one of the packages returned to our doorstep despite us putting a signature requirement! The customer service manager at UPS said we are in some sort of "twilight zone," and the regular driver stopped by to apologize as he was out on vacation when this happened. A deep freezer in our garage allowed food to spoil without us getting poisoned; and then a fire extinguisher under our bus's driver seat discharged, yet I was able to safely maneuver to a stop and we could all exit before choking on the chemical fire retardant! To top it off, our next door neighbor had a shooting at his house, and we arrived home after church to find not only his house but our property cordoned off with yellow crime scene tape. By my count, that is an average of more than 2 events per month - and my guess is, that from a spiritual vantage point, there were even more "near misses."

So what is the Lord doing? That was the question that came from one of our national workers in Africa as we prepared to bury yet another faithful worker and as the church steps up to support yet another widow. The encouragement I gave this worker among the Deaf is the same counsel I must give myself: the Lord is sanctifying us in ways we have never seen or experienced before.

CHAD - The annual camp for the Deaf normally hosted in March was rescheduled for August 2021. COVID delays.

IVORY COAST - We received word that, in addition to the six Deaf we were supposed to witness being baptized in 2020, there were six additional Deaf who have since joined the ranks of those counting the cost to follow Christ! We are awaiting more information on the results of a deaf camp held at the end of July.



Ps. Japheth & dorm prep

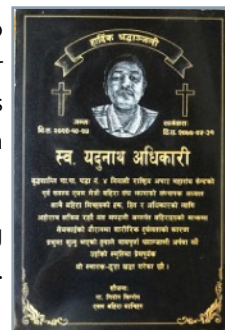


First deaf couple to marry

LIBERIA - Numerous organizations have been partnering with our deaf school to build the first dormitory on a small plot of land. Many exciting things are happening; but, the most important thing is the first wedding celebration between two deaf people who previously had lived together. The church has made great financial sacrifices to demonstrate to unbelieving family members that a wedding is more than just symbolic: like baptism, it is obedience to God's call to be separate and distinct from the world!

COLOMBIA - Our national worker reported that they no longer can use the narrow garage structure for meeting with the deaf church and have secured a large area on a farm outside the city where they continue with in-person meetings.

INDIA - In 2016, I handed a pamphlet in braille to our national worker and told him that he needed to prepare for God sending him not only the Deaf, but the Deaf-Blind. How exciting it is to see their church not only ministering to the first deaf-blind person at the deaf training center but also this person trusting the Lord with his life while being among the many who have tested positive with COVID.



NEPAL - We continue to pray for a new worker among the Deaf and for restrictions to be lifted long enough for a memorial to be dedicated as a testimony of faith in Christ in this strongly Hindu region. Pictured on right: in loving memory of our deaf worker who passed away during COVID lockdown.

MYANMAR - We do not yet have a deaf ministry in Myanmar, but our national worker expressed interest in reaching the Deaf when we last met. Our Field Ministry Department has placed a special emphasis on relief for this field, and I want to reinforce that need in a way that only the Lord can make clear. In Denver, CO, we have a group of refugees from the Karen people who are Baptists. When I last met with them, I learned firsthand of the atrocities that they know about (whether through family members or recent visits to the country). Please prayerfully consider the strategic nature of this need: we are on the cusp of being able to finally reach the Deaf in this country, and, between the turmoil of the coup and COVID, literally hundreds of believers have died...with more deaths every day. If Jesus does not return, we know the outcome: God will give grace.

MAKI HOME - We sent out five of our "arrows" this summer: three of our boys volunteered at church food bank, two boys volunteered at three different Christian camps, two boys volunteered at VBS, and three boys attended three other Christian camps! And, nobody got sick even as the world seemed to revert to crisis mode. So, let us continue to occupy until Jesus comes!

"For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living."
Romans 14:9

Working with the Deaf for Christ,

Kevin Maki

If you have a **NEW** email, please take a moment to contact us at office@ipmworld.org with your new email address. Thank you.