

International Partnership Ministries

Local Church
Deaf Bible Institute
Leader Handbook

**Pastor or
Deaf Ministry Leader**

Dear Pastor/Deaf Ministry Leader,

Thank you for your interest in the Local-Church Deaf Bible Institute. Your heart to train and win Deaf people touches our hearts. In International Partnership Ministries (IPM), we asked ourselves how to best train future Deaf workers. Other Deaf/hearing leaders were asking us the same question.



The church people win the Deaf to Christ. How does that church move forward to train future Deaf Sunday school teachers, deacons, pastors, and missionaries? I believe God wants Deaf and hearing pastors, missionaries, and workers for the Lord's service. How will the Deaf get the Bible training they need?

*A few years ago, I needed to drive to the doctor's office. While driving, I was able to listen to 3 Bible messages on CDs. **Some** of the doctrine was new. **Other** doctrine was a review. **All** the doctrine and teaching helped me. The Deaf cannot do that. Deaf learn from what they see.*

In America today, many fundamental Bible colleges are closing or drifting with weak doctrine. In 2015, I know of only 2 small fundamental Deaf Bible colleges in the USA. IPM and many Deaf/hearing leaders believe that the **local church** is the best place to train the Deaf for future service. Why send the Deaf to colleges and risk that the Deaf not return or that they change their doctrine? Most Bibles colleges target hearing people. In 2014 an IPM Deaf missionary attended a fundamental hearing college. He struggled learning the material. Other Deaf in hearing colleges said much material went right past them because they did not understand. Even with interpreters, often the Deaf do not understand much of what is taught in a hearing college. The teaching is too fast and can go right past the Deaf. Remember, English is not their first language. Many Deaf struggle with reading English. Many of them do not fully understand when they read an English textbook. Churches have Spanish Bible Institutes for Spanish speaking people. Churches should also have Deaf Bible institutes for the Deaf. Deaf sign language is not simply our spoken language in signs. Sign language is very different with its own grammar, vocabulary, and syntax.

I encourage churches to provide Deaf Bible institutes. **The Deaf need training focused on them. That can happen in your local church. We are very excited about that possibility.** This IPM local-church Deaf Bible Institute is created in conjunction with the Deaf, written for the Deaf, and signed for the Deaf. **Our desire is to provide:**

- Written teaching manuals for the teachers.
- Study guides for the Deaf students.
- Tests that the teachers can use with the Deaf students.
- Videos in American Sign Language (ASL) for your church/teachers to use. *(If you decide to teach the Deaf without our signing videos, fine. However your teachers should teach using sign language. If a hearing person teaches by speaking and needs an interpreter that will not help the Deaf as much).* Use ASL teachers or videos that IPM will try to provide. If you use a different sign language please teach using your sign language. You can also video record teaching to help other fundamental churches in your area. If you

video record in another sign language, please send IPM a copy of the videos. IPM can offer the videos to others who use the same sign language.

IPM's position is fundamental and Baptist in doctrine and practice. We use the King James Version of the Bible in English. IPM's policy is:

“Because of its nearly universal acceptance and its proven reliability, the King James Version of the Bible shall be used by IPM missionaries in English-speaking fields and by representatives and missionaries in their speaking engagements in local churches. IPM missionaries and national leaders working in countries where languages other than English are used shall carefully choose a translation of the Bible for their ministry which is well recognized as a reliable translation and is universally or nearly universally accepted by other fundamental ministries in that country.”

DEAF BIBLE INSTITUTE SUGGESTIONS

- Teach 4-5 hours/week on any day(s) that is convenient to the church and students.
- Teach using ASL or your local natural sign language (if you are in another country)
- Teach slower.
- Teach creatively.
- Explain words.
- Use pictures, maps, drama, and possibly Power Point slides
- Review the teaching with the students.
- Ask the class questions.
- If you use videos, stop the videos at any time to ask your class a question or to explain something.
- Teach simple, clear, and direct.
- Remember, this is a Deaf Bible institute; not a hearing Bible college.
- Stay true to fundamental Bible doctrine.
- Keep Student Lists for each course.
- Keep grades carefully for each student.
- Reward and motivate the students.
- Give Bible institute diploma at the end.



CURRICULUM

After careful discussions with leaders of Deaf ministries /churches, we suggest this order of classes. You are free to adapt the order and length of each subject to meet your needs. Also, if necessary, feel free to adapt the content of the course depending on your Deaf people, situation, and church policies. It is our prayer that your Deaf can be trained to serve God as missionaries, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and deacons. The Deaf also need a strong foundation in the Word of God to help them to not follow cults and false teachers. The Deaf

learn better in separate classes and at a slower pace. They are more comfortable learning in that setting. Their original language in the USA is ASL. Their English reading abilities vary. Therefore, in the USA we need to focus on training the Deaf using ASL. In different parts of the country some signs are different. We need to learn those variations to help us more effectively reach the Deaf with the gospel of Christ.

Courses - Doctrinal Foundation

Bibliology

The study of the Bible. Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

Creation/Genesis

Include teaching the literal six-day recent creation.

Theology

God's character. Trinity. Which cults deny this teaching?

Christology

Doctrine of Christ. Which cults and religions deny this teaching?

Soteriology

Doctrine of Salvation. Many churches deny this. Also, help the students understand how they can use these truths to evangelize others.

Pneumatology

Doctrine of the Holy Spirit. Warn the students about charismatic churches that twist this and many other doctrines.

Angelology

Doctrine of Angels and Demons

Anthropology

Doctrine of Man

Hamartiology

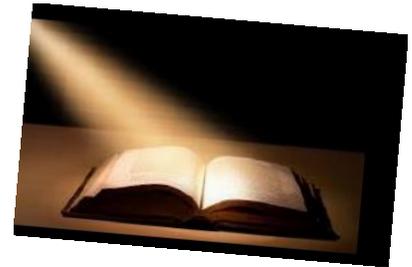
Doctrine of Sin

Ecclesiology

Doctrine of the Church. Include the authority of the local church.

Eschatology

Study of last things. Various Bible passages and Revelation.



Hermeneutics

Bible interpretation. The students need to understand the proper literal, historical, grammatical and contextual interpretation of Scripture. Help the students to stay away from the allegorical based interpretation of the Bible.

Practical Foundation

Personal Evangelism

The gospel doctrine has already been taught. Use a simple approach to pull it together to help the students know how to share the gospel. Practical experience is also needed.

Homiletics

Preaching in the Deaf church

Baptist Distinctives

Cults

Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Masons, and any other major Cults in your area.

World Religions

Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Shintoism, and any other major religion in your region.

Teacher Training 1

Child evangelism biblical basis, gospel, invitation, and Bible lessons

Teacher Training 2

Child evangelism, Christian growth, and discipleship

Modern Missions

History, principles, and methods

How to Teach a Class

Outlines, your presence as a teacher, and using visual aids

Catholicism

Ecumenism

Ecumenism and Charismatics

Spiritual Pastoral Leadership

Christian Home

Christian Women in the Church



Counseling

Biblical

Music

Administration/Finances/ Records

Church and personal



Bible Survey Foundation

Pentateuch

Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

Conquest

Joshua, Judges, Ruth

United Kingdom

1, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings

Poetical Books

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

Divided Kingdom 1

Kings, Chronicles

Divided Kingdom 2

Kings, Chronicles

Captivity

Kings, Chronicles, Daniel

Major Prophets

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

Minor Prophets

Hosea- Malachi

Return from Captivity

Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

Matthew/Mark

Luke/John

Acts

Church History

Church history with emphasis on Baptist history

Romans

1 and 2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians / Philippians

Colossians / 1, 2 Thessalonians

Pastoral Epistles

1, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon

Hebrews

James

1 and 2 Peter / Jude

1, 2, 3 John



I hope this information is helpful to you. Contact IPM if you have any questions or comments.
Thank you.

Dr. Curtis Young, Ph.D.
International Partnership Ministries
100 Spring Ave.
Hanover, PA 17331
E-mail: ipm@ipmworld.org
Web: www.ipmworld.org

Revised October 14, 2015