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# DEAF MINISTRIES

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**“Only fear the LORD, and serve him with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.”  
1 Sam. 12:24**

Dear Friend,

April 2019

### **WHAT REALLY MATTERS?**

A move forces a person to reflect on what is REALLY important. Invariably a person moving brings some things needful and later realizes some things were left behind that should have been brought...while other things brought have become non-essential. During January 2019 we moved from CA to CO.

### **A WINTER ADVENTURE!**

Basic survival requires some extra clothes. We know that the scriptures teach that a person would have at least two garments. If someone takes away your “coat” then you should also give your “cloak” or vice versa. Despite the best weather reports available, we found ourselves at 3,000 ft. elevation trying to put chains on our bus and van while it was sleeting. Those warm, dry clothes, inside our vehicles felt so good after the chains were installed! They also ensured that we did not get sick staying in wet clothes as we cleared Donner pass and entered Nevada.

It is almost unimaginable to be without a means of communication. Hence, in the scriptures messengers who relayed the status in a battle or delivered instructions were critical. As we came out of Salt Lake City, our boys noticed that our van following the bus was no longer with us as we started up the long grade towards WY. We pulled over and our phone rang. An officer from Utah Highway Patrol asked us “Do you know this guy who cannot talk?” Thankfully our deaf driver had thought to not only text us a single word “Police” but had dialed our number so the officer could understand that deaf people use sign language. (The same technology allowed us to let the airline know that due to the 60 mph+ winds on the WY freeway, we would not be able to get our driver to the Denver airport. The roads were being closed.)

**A Utah Highway Patrolmen asked “Do you know this man who cannot talk?”**

Plenty of water and a bit of food or money is also a part of good trip planning. The Bible says we are not to worry about tomorrow but when a two day trip has delays and becomes three days, a little margin is wise. In fact, we can extend this point a bit farther by adding two more essential items: shelter and light. We know that Jesus “came away” from the crowds and found shelter inside the hull of a boat. This is critical for having enough rest and protection from the elements of cold/heat/moisture, not to mention a degree of privacy! Twice we rejoiced to have the warmth of heaters in our bus to spend the night as we pulled up at rest areas behind schedule and not even close to potential lodging. Light is necessary to see the road ahead and to read a map for direction. The scripture says that if the blind lead the blind, both fall in a ditch. Our deaf driver shared with us that he could not see our bus as the driving winds blew snow across the road and we certainly could not see the semi-truck whose tracks we followed right ahead of us!

Finally, let us think if there is anything we may have forgotten that is essential...oh, companionship! The Bible says that two are better than one and that a threefold cord is not easily broken. Our children all had their blankets, pillows, or favorite stuffed animal. But how much better is it to have a sibling or parent willing to play a game of chess, read a book, sing a hymn, or pray together? Which is why we as believers have an extreme advantage over the world: God is with us! You can lose everything else (ask Jonah!) and yet survive absolutely impossible situations.

## MORE ADVENTURES (DEAF AROUND THE WORLD)!!

We take for granted so many blessings that the Lord bestows upon us, so this report is a plea for us to consider what is **REALLY** important and then give sacrificially as the Lord allows.

**CHAD, AFRICA** – Pastor Tokinon reported in the most recent deaf Bible camp they had over 150 deaf in attendance. When I asked him about their greatest need, he quickly replied they need about \$2,000 to drill a bore hole well for water. This will regularly benefit the one teacher who knows sign language and 25 deaf students ages six to 25 that attend his school.

(Pictured: an example of the type of well needed in Chad.)



**LIBERIA, W. AFRICA** – Japheth Zuo works alongside our national workers to reach the Deaf. Although we provide him about \$50 a month to transport and provide lunch for the children, he indicates that as the school size has doubled these funds are not enough. Furthermore, less than \$3,000 remains to be raised to complete a challenge grant to build the Deaf a school.

(Pictured: Pastor Zuo praying with deaf students and three of these deaf students who came to Christ.)



**KOLKATA, INDIA** – Biak V. let us know that they have raised some 8.8% of the need to build the deaf training center that will benefit some 40 faithful members of his church and more than 200 Deaf that visit on occasion. A supporter asked me if I believed this total amount would ever be raised and I quickly replied: *"all it takes is one person to die and give the proceeds from an overpriced CA house sale!"*

(Pictured: Outreach by Pastor Biak in a crowded room in a Muslim area.)



A couple of years ago, I had the privilege of visiting supporters who live in Singapore. I took a wrong turn and ended up coming in late for S.S. class as my friend was reading John 15:5 and talking about the purging that God allows in the vine to produce fruit. I wept and wept as the Lord had been preparing my heart to really understand the sufficiency of Christ (in the light of our insufficiency). May we live each day as if we are preparing to move: keeping in perspective **ONLY** what is absolutely essential.

*"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."*

John 15:5

Working with the Deaf for Christ,

  
Kevin Maki

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