



Kenyan Sign Language IG*

God has Plans for the Deaf

All those who attended the dedication of the new Deaf Bible Translation and Training Centre in February 2011 passed by the monument erected in front of the buildings. The monument was inspired by Samuel’s raising of the Ebenezer stone in 1 Samuel 7:12. Africa area director Paul said, “I imagined that as they looked at that big rock it would remind them of what Deaf people worldwide have been under. The Deaf have been trapped under a great weight without a Bible in their heart language—sign language.”

The inscription on the plaque, which was placed on the rock reads:

“Our families have experienced God’s love and guidance as expressed in the Bible, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11) We hope all served at this Deaf Bible Training and Translation Center will know that God has a plan for their lives too.”

- **Pray for good relations and healthy community life for the seven translation teams from different countries working at the Deaf Bible Training and Translation Center.**

Special Day of Joy!

Several leaders from organizations who partner with Deaf Opportunity Outreach (DOOR) and The Seed Company to provide the Scriptures for the Deaf attended the dedication. Here are some of their comments:

“The level and depth of careful and methodical planning to detail and organization of the master plan to envision DOOR facilities and prayers fall nothing short of excellent!!! I was moved by the quality of staff as well as experiencing the love and spirit of Jesus. Thank you for the opportunity and honor to share in your special day of joy.”

“I felt like I discovered an entire population group which had been marginalized throughout church history. Thinking of Jesus’ words to John the Baptist as he responded to the question, ‘Is He the One we’ve been waiting for or must we wait for another.’ Jesus answered they should report back that the blind can see, deaf hear, lame can walk and the dead are raised to life. I felt like I saw the genesis of a mighty movement to give honor to Deaf people and open their spiritual hearing forever.”



- **Location: Kenya, Africa**
- **Number of Speakers: 200,000**
- **Year Project Began: 2009**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2012**

- **Praise God for the dedication of the world’s first-ever Deaf Bible Training and Translation Center in Nairobi, Kenya.**



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Satisfying Spiritual Hunger

After Joseph, Deaf leader of the Deaf Fellowship in Malindi, watched the DVD “How to Know God” (literally ‘Know God How?’) many times, he sent a text message asking for more. At that time they were out of stock. When a new batch came in January he received a copy and eagerly placed it in the DVD player. He was disappointed to discover that it was the same set of stories. He had wanted more stories, the next series!

He sent another text explaining his gratefulness and clarifying his request! Jared of DOOR was so sorry that he misunderstood his request. He sent him a text informing him that the next series of stories were being worked on at the DOOR translation center and were yet to be published. Joseph requested that once the Bible stories were ready, he be notified. He said he needed to grow deeper in God’s word, and that the signed Scripture and lessons were very clear to him, thereby providing the avenue for his spiritual growth.

The next set will soon be ready to satisfy Joseph’s spiritual hunger. The team recently completed 12 more stories which leaves only 14 more to go before the entire series ‘How to Follow God’ (literally ‘Follow God How?’) is completed. Following standard procedure, team members tested the 12 stories and are making final edits using the feedback from the Deaf community. The testers found the teaching points included with the stories to be relevant and applicable to their lives.

Proud of Growth

The Deaf church in Machakos, Kenya, which was founded by sign language translator Simon Njoroge, celebrated its fourth anniversary on March 27, 2011. The area Bishop attended the event along with over 130 Deaf and many hearing people. On this special occasion the Deaf led the worship service in the hearing church. They signed music, testimonies and Paul Njatha the DOOR Africa Director signed the sermon. Many people were amazed to learn what was happening in the Deaf world.

During the worship service, the DOOR Deaf Hand translators also shared about the sign language Bible translation work going on. The Bishop was very impressed! He bought 20 DVD Bibles for the Deaf who met in Machakos town fellowship. He was very proud of the growth that had been experienced at the Deaf fellowship.

- **Pray for strength and wisdom for the translators to complete the remaining stories in the “How to Follow God” series.**
- **Pray for availability of more sign language Bible translation consultants to work with the many Deaf translation teams.**
- **Praise God that the DOOR Consultants-in-Training (CITs) attended Translation Consultants’ Development Workshop (TCDW) in South Asia (January 21st -Feb 6th 2011).**
- **Praise God that the Scriptures are bringing spiritual growth to the Deaf community.**