# Ministering to the Deaf in Your Community

## Introduction

Deaf Ministry involves bringing 2 worlds and languages together.

The Deaf have their language (American Sign Language) and culture.

The Hearing have their language (English) and culture.

Our King James Bible is in English.

English is a "foreign language" for them.

The Deaf need help understanding the Bible.

God loves the Deaf.

Who will go for God and tell them?

If not you, then who? If not now, then when?

Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons are reaching the Deaf.

Will you?

**I. Vision - Loving God**

A. Worship Services inspire a greater love for God.

1. Interpret clearly.

2. Interpret faithfully – true to the meaning, content, spirit of the

Speaker.

3. Deaf Ministry Leader – pray for and mentor this person.

B. We must prepare for the Worship Services (Deaf Ministry Leader):

1. Service segments (eg cue card) 🡪 interpreter schedule

2. Prayer (spontaneous) – skilled interpreter

3. Songs – prepared ahead of time

4. Offertory – signed (prepared)

5. Sermon – skilled interpreter (notes/outline as early as possible)

6. Invitation – 2 interpreters (for preacher, singer)

7. Counseling – counselor + interpreter, or gifted signer

8. Scribe(s) – add synonyms/explanations, visuals

9. Improve the interpreting – practice, workshops

C. Transportation is often required.

D. Therefore, for Worship Services we need help:

1. Cue cards as early as possible to prepare

2. Sermon notes as early as possible to prepare

3. Drivers willing to bring Deaf

4. Training for other interpreters to help

5. Deaf section: good line of sight to preacher

6. Good ushers to reduce traffic thru the Deaf section

7. Friendly faces that greet Deaf

8. Counselors that go slowly

9. Scribes to help take notes for the Deaf

**II. Vision - Growing Together**

A. Sunday School Class in ASL is critical.

1. For Deaf Ministry

2. For individual Deaf spiritual growth

B. Simple (English) Daily devotions

C. Vocabulary – explain the words and phrases

D. Discipleship – critical for growth

E. Soul-winning – tracts for Deaf Ministry/Class

F. Escort them and interpret for them to better assimilate them.

G. Develop Deaf Leaders.

H. Contact List – pray, visit, write, text, call, e-mail

I. Activities for the Deaf are KEY to reach more Deaf.

J. Sign Language Classes for church and Deaf family members

K. English/Reading Help – slow down and explain verses in class

**III. Vision - Serving Others**

A. Soul-winning – train them to give tracts, learn verses

B. Discipleship – 1 on 1 with a signer

C. Family, friends – encourage them to reach/invite these

D. Other Church ministry(s) - interpret for the Deaf as needed so they can serve (eg greet, usher)