



## IMB Deaf Affinity

**Estimated Global population of Deaf –**  
35 million  
(Global Population of 7 billion X .005 or ½%)

7 short-term personnel  
19 long-term personnel (apprentice and career)  
26 total personnel assigned to Deaf Affinity

1,346,000 Deaf people per IMB Missionary

### Questions:

**Where are the Deaf?** In every country, among every tribe, in every city, town village. Wherever people are, there are probably Deaf people that are hidden, overlooked, ignored.

**Why are Deaf hidden or overlooked?** Deaf look like their hearing friends, families and neighbors. Most of the time, you will never know someone is Deaf unless you see them signing with someone.

Even today, in many places, Deaf are abused, locked away and hidden from others.

In some places, Deaf are punished for using sign language.

**Are there many Deaf Believers?** In most places, including the USA, believers are a minority and considered an Unreached People Group.

**Are Deaf going to Church?** In many places, Deaf are forced to go to the local religious gatherings.

There are very few Deaf churches, where the teaching/preaching is performed, in local Sign Language or Deaf led.

As a result, in hearing religious events or gatherings, most often, the Deaf have very little idea about what is being taught.

**Why not just give Deaf a written Bible or Scripture?** Most Deaf have had very limited access to education. Many Deaf can read and write to some degree. But, the language they are reading and trying to understand is their second language. Sign languages have a very different structure and grammar than the local spoken language.

**Why not produce a Deaf Bible and distribute it globally?** There are well over 200 distinct Sign Languages around the globe. In many places where there are no Deaf schools, people use “home signs” that family members make up to use within their families or communities.

### What can you and your churches do?

- Recognize Deaf are a unique Unreached People Group in your state and around the world.
- Help us identify Deaf and hearing churches that want to help make Deaf disciples in different countries.
- Because there are very few resources available for effectively sharing the Gospel with the Deaf, your church(es) can help support efforts to develop Gospel resources.
- Help us train churches and church networks to adopt and effectively engage a Deaf UPG.
- Help us promote volunteer opportunities among Deaf UPG's.

(Deaf Story projects for China, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Nepal, Senegal, Madagascar, Turkey, Mexico)

Basically, we can utilize Deaf and hearing individuals and churches help mobilize and equip them to help fulfill the Great Commission by making disciples among the many Deaf UPG's.

[Deafconnecting@globalmailonline.com](mailto:Deafconnecting@globalmailonline.com)  
<https://deafpeoples.imb.org>