

This Ministry Is Equipping Missionaries to Lead in the Deaf Community

Can deaf people be missionaries? The team at D00R International believes so, and they're developing sign language resources to expedite the process.

D00R President Rob Myers says many assume deaf people can use written tools as readily as their hearing friends, but reading is a sound-based activity. "Information access is a huge issue in the deaf community," he says, explaining many deaf prefer to learn new concepts in sign language.

"We're hoping to make video resources that would help local deaf communities [answer questions like], 'What is evangelism? How do I share the gospel [or] lead someone to the Lord? How do I disciple someone?'"

In partnership with several ministries, D00R is developing these resources to fuel deaf-led evangelism and church planting efforts. They're also working on tools for sign language Bible translation.

Each deaf community has a distinct language and culture, making deaf believers the best ones to deliver the good news of Jesus. However, it hasn't always been easy for deaf believers to enter the mission field.

A quarter-century ago, many mission organizations refused deaf believers simply because of their deafness. "Or, they [deaf believers] might have been constrained if they had to be a self-supported missionary. Then, they ran into issues trying to raise their support," Myers explains.

Thankfully, "the understanding of the need for deaf ministry

has shifted dramatically in the last 20 years,” he says.

Praise God for breaking barriers of misunderstanding! “We used to consider deaf ministry as a ‘special needs’ ministry alongside other special needs ministries. Now, we realize deaf communities are just minority language groups,” Myers says.

“In the same way that we would reach other minority language groups by doing Bible translation [and] training indigenous leaders, we do those same things now in deaf communities. The best people to reach those communities are other deaf people.”

As this training ministry moves forward, ask God to guide the process and bring many deaf people into His kingdom. Download a prayer calendar from D00R [here](#).

“Ultimately, we’re hoping these resources will help generate a curriculum for a training [and] leadership school,” Myers says. Find ways to support D00R’s efforts [here](#). “We would not be able to do the work that we do without being in partnership with other missions organizations, as well as other resource partners,” he continues. {eoa}

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