



The Silent World

partner with us!

We're here to answer her question...

"Can Jesus hear MY prayers?"

FACTS YOU MAY NOT KNOW:

- About **32 million** Americans have some form of hearing loss. Of these, around **17 million** are under the age of 62.
- The number of Americans who are severely to profoundly deaf is over **6 million**.
- The native language of Deaf people in the US is American Sign Language (ASL). It's the **third most-used language in North America**.
- **96%** of deaf children have parents with "normal hearing," yet it's estimated **fewer than two out of 10** of those hearing parents ever become proficient enough in sign language to tell a Bible story to their child.
- Deaf people who use ASL as their primary language really have **a distinct and unique culture** with their own heroes, legends, social customs, stories, jokes, and shared goals and experiences.
- **Fewer than 8 out of every 100** deaf people in the US attend church. **Fewer than 4 out of 100** claim a personal relationship with Christ.
- The Deaf community has been listed by a number of missions organizations as **the largest unreached people group in North America**.



SILENT BLESSINGS
Deaf Ministries

8930 Bash Street, Suite E
Indianapolis, IN 46256
1-877-FOR-DEAF
friends@silentblessings.org
www.silentblessings.org



SILENT BLESSINGS
Deaf Ministries

Rachel's Story

Rachel was the second born child of Marshall and Terry Lawrence...



One day her dad stood at the door, calling playfully to her to see if she would turn. When she didn't respond to his voice, but instead to the light coming on, what her parents had suspected became clear: **Rachel is Deaf.**

Her parents knew virtually nothing about what it means to be deaf or to communicate among the Deaf. After searching widely, they found few resources that would help them communicate with Rachel or help them to teach her about Jesus.

Rachel's parents' decision to send her to the Indiana School for the Deaf gave Rachel a language (ASL) that she could own and a culture that embraced her. It also revealed a lack of support for families with Deaf children. Her deafness led to the development of a ministry to advocate for the Deaf. Living at school during the week, Rachel often traveled with Marshall to share with churches about the lack of outreach to precious lives like hers. **Rachel's life is the very inspiration for this ministry that is now reaching many.**

Today, Rachel is serving on the ASL Bible translation team at Deaf Missions in Iowa.

what we do... advocate

We believe the best way to reach Deaf people is through (1) the development of a strong Deaf church and (2) investment in the spiritual development of Deaf children. To do these things, we believe the church needs a new model for Deaf ministry: **outreach that is cross-cultural.**

- ▶ We encourage cooperation between Deaf and hearing leaders.
- ▶ We support leadership training and education programs to equip Deaf.
- ▶ We encourage specific programs and outreach for Deaf children.
- ▶ We do our best to give Deaf ministers a chance to "be heard."
- ▶ We remind church leaders to keep hard-of-hearing individuals in the life of the church in all church programming, from those who are Deaf to those experiencing hearing loss.

educate

Most hearing people know very little about the Deaf world. It's impossible to minister when we don't understand one another. Plus, the vast majority of Deaf families have hearing members, too. We try to open communication and understanding to better love one another and share the healing knowledge of Jesus through our presentations, seminars, Deaf awareness weekends, congregational consulting, and children's ministry resources,

create

There's a great need for new Deaf ministry resources, whether for families with Deaf children or for church kids' ministries. That's why we're hard at work creating new videos/DVDs, books, and other materials of high technical quality and sound Biblical truth.



One of those resources is **Dr. Wonder's Workshop**, a nationwide weekly Christian television series specifically designed for Deaf children and their hearing friends and family members. This is a joint effort of Silent Blessings, Deaf Missions, and Deaf Video Communications.

We also have a new **VBS curriculum** currently under development. Plus we produce Deaf awareness materials, videos, and public service announcements for Christian radio.

For more information about any of our resources, call **1-877-FOR-DEAF** or **www.silentblessings.org**

