

12. Help make the Deaf comfortable. By having a separate room where the Deaf can have their own Bible discussions, it allows them to feel at ease and comfortable. It will also be an encouragement for them to invite their friends to attend the small group. The Deaf group itself will outreach to other Deaf in the community. It will also help develop a strong fellowship. Strong relationships will increase among the Deaf.

13. Providing interpreters is important for the development of a Deaf ministry. Interpreters may be needed for the worship and other spiritual services; however, the Deaf should have a significant part in any decisions that are made regarding their own spiritual growth.

14. Regular sign language classes should be held for church members. If possible, allow a Deaf person to teach the classes.

15. Become knowledgeable of available resources. Various materials and organizations around the world within the Seventh-day Adventist Church are available. The global Deaf website sponsored by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists lists various global resources including other Adventist websites. Go to www.AdventistDeaf.org

16. Become aware of various events for the Deaf. Events such as camp meeting, conferences, and evangelistic meeting are also listed on the General Conference website.



www.AdventistDeaf.org

PRINCIPLES TO REMEMBER

1. Get attention first. A wave or light touch on the shoulder is often all that is needed.
2. Be sensitive to the angle of view. Keep eyes contact at same level—sit or stand if necessary.
3. Speak with a normal voice or tone. Don't exaggerate lip movements. Keep hands away from mouth. Write on paper if lip reading isn't possible.
4. Summarize at the beginning. Clarify the general topic first. This makes it easier to follow the conversation. Don't change subjects suddenly.

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“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.” – Proverbs 31:8,9 (NIV)



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BEGINNING A DEAF MINISTRY



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BEGINNING A DEAF MINISTRY

By Thompson U. Kay

1. Pray constantly. Ask God to give you genuine love and concern for establishing a ministry with the Deaf. He will help you understand their needs. He will give you wisdom to aid you in understanding their culture.

2. Learn sign language. Some colleges, schools, churches and civic organizations may teach sign language classes that can be helpful. Purchase books, and DVDs that will aid you in understanding the Deaf culture.

3. Become acquainted with the Deaf.

A. Become a true friend to the Deaf. Do not force yourself on Deaf people. In making



your acquaintance you may need to write your message, finger spell or sign to communicate.

B. You can become acquainted with Deaf people by going to their location. Visit churches, clubs, community programs

and various organizations for the Deaf. There may be a listing of services in the telephone directory.

C. Be observant. Another way to meet Deaf people while shopping or visiting the park or various community activities is to notice if the individuals are using sign language. When you notice a person signing, make their acquaintance. If you do not know the sign language use pencil and paper to communicate.

4. Become well acquainted with the Deaf person. Let them know you need help in understanding their language and their culture. Be attentive to their needs.

5. Invite the Deaf to different community activities or to your home. This will enable you to become better acquainted with them.

6. Provide social events in your home for the Deaf. Get to know who they are and discover what their hobbies, successes, and their struggles are

7. Encourage the Deaf person to start a Deaf group. This should be done once a strong relationship has been established.

A. The Deaf can share games and teach sign language.

B. The Deaf can share their testimonies.



C. Show captioned movies or movies with sign language.

8. Remember the Deaf like interaction. This is especially true in a small group setting where they are comfortable asking questions among their peers.

9. Regularly invite the small group to your home to discuss various Bible topics. Continue the discussions for a while in your home then move your discussions to the church.

10. Ask the pastor/church administrator for a separate room for the Deaf group.

11. Assist the Deaf. Hearing individuals can do this by helping with their children, with food if there are potlucks. It is important to remember to allow the Deaf to be the leaders of their own group.