

# Sign Language

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### **REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS BLOCK:**

1. **Read all the material** for this block.
2. **Learn deaf alphabet and basic signs.**
3. **Fill in the answers** to your **STUDY QUESTIONS** ahead of time so you will be better prepared for the EXAM during the final hour.
4. **Be prepared for a manual test.**

# Sign Language

## INTRODUCTION

Thousands of people are dying each day. This includes all kinds of people, whether they be rich or poor, young or old, blind or lame, deaf or hearing. Judgment is waiting and no one is excused in the eyes of God for He said, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23). "All" means the whole human race including the deaf. The Bible says in Rom. 10:14 "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not heard?, and how shall they hear without a preacher?" Deaf people need to know the love of God for them. They must realize their condition as sinners bound for hell. Somebody must tell them about Jesus, but the question is, who would care for their souls?

This course is designed to teach Christians about the philosophy of the deaf ministry and how to reach deaf people in their own language. It even prepares those men and women called by God in this area.

## HISTORY OF SIGN LANGUAGE

Sign language is very old. From earliest recorded history, gestures have been used for communication between groups of different languages and cultures. The use of the formalized language of signs, however, has been gradual, with the first attempt to do so occurring in the latter part of the 16th century.

In the 16th century an Italian physician, Girolamo Cardano, stated that the hearing of words was not necessary for the understanding of ideas. He developed a method for teaching the deaf, but it was never put into use. However, his ideas paved the way for dispelling the attitude that the deaf were incapable of learning.

It was in Spain that the first successful attempts to educate the deaf were made. A Spaniard, Pedro Ponce De Leon, succeeded in educating the deaf children of several noble Spanish families who were twits of Anty emaw, Apparently, Ponce De Leon taught these children to read and write and later to speak.

It was in France and Germany, however, that the public education of the deaf began. It was also in those countries that the arguments of methods began. In France, Abbe Charles de L'eppe founded the first public school for the deaf. Besides being considered

the father of public education of the deaf, he is also considered the father of the language of signs.

Abbe de L'eppe was convinced that the language of signs was the natural method of communication for deaf people and their education should be based on it. But he also recognized that the crude signs used by deaf people of that day could not be used as an educational tool. So he set himself to refining and developing this language of signs into a full language. Our present day Sign Language is derived from his system

In Germany, Samuel Heinicke was originating what eventually came to be known as the German method. In brief, it was the Oral Method of teaching a deaf child through speech and lip reading, with Sign Language absolutely forbidden. This started a controversy that persists to this day.

Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet was an American minister. He developed the education for the deaf in the United States. He founded the first school for the deaf there, and the first college for the deaf (Gallaudet College) was named after him.

Gallaudet was approached by Dr. Mason Cogswell who had a deaf daughter, Alice. Dr. Cogswell asked Gallaudet to journey to Europe and study the methods developed there to reach the deaf. He went to England first to study their methods, meaning to combine the best methods, oral and manual but this was unacceptable to the English educators he contacted. They wished him to use only their methods.

About this time, Abbe Sicard arrived on a lecture tour in London with two of his most famous pupils. Gallaudet was so impressed by the demonstrations that he abandoned this negotiations in England.

Gallaudet decided to go to Paris to study with Sicard. After studying in Paris for a few months, he returned to America, bringing with him Laurot Clerk who became the first deaf teacher of the deaf in the United States. Together they founded the American Asylum for the Deaf in Hartford, Connecticut, the present American School for the Deaf.

Gallaudet's method of Sign Language became the national language for the deaf in America. It has been developed and refined until it is now a classically beautiful and picturesque language of gestures by which the great majority of the deaf communicate

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with each other and with their hearing friends who take the trouble to learn the language.

## SIGN LANGUAGE

Sign Language is a way of communicating words, ideas and feelings using one's body mainly hands, arms and face. It is the language of the deaf people. Sign language is not using signs for the English language, but it is a language itself. Learn to forget English words and the sound of the words because Sign Language is a language of pictures, but remember how it looks and make the picture.

Why do we need to study Sign Language? Some of the reasons might be for additional knowledge or to understand a deaf friend. But the main reason is to evangelize the deaf. But why do we have to evangelize the deaf? It's because they are as lost as hearing people are. God is not a respecter of persons to provide a special excuse for them. (2 Peter 3:9).

## THREE TYPES OF SIGN LANGUAGE

### 1. Low Verbal (L.V.)

Signs in this category are home-made signs. This is the most basic form among the three types because signs are hard to (interpret) express or learn.

### 2. Average or Basic Sign Language

These are signs learned in school and they are expressed like writing a telegram. Deaf people use short sentences. Example "Boy Home" instead of the "the boy went home."

### 3. Signing Exact English (S. E. E.)

Signs in this category are good for educational purposes but not in church. This is the most exact form among the three. It was invented by a hearing person wherein you sign every word in a sentence. Example "The baby is very beautiful."

## FACTS ABOUT THE DEAF

To begin getting to know deaf people and communicating with them, there are several things that you should know about them.

### 1. The Deaf are not Dumb

When speaking of the deaf, it is improper to use the term "deaf and dumb". Today, the word "dumb" means "stupid". The deaf are not stupid. They are simply people who have little or no useful learning ability. Deaf folks are just like other people.

### 2. The Deaf are Not Mute

"Mute" means "silent". The fact that a person cannot hear does not necessarily mean he cannot speak. Those who can hear are often surprised that deaf people have voices. The reason that they do not speak well is that they cannot hear sounds to learn to copy them. Any part of the body not used becomes stiff and unusable. So it is with the deaf person's voice.

### 3. All Deaf Can Be Taught to Speak

Some deaf people speak a great deal, others only a little. But all can be taught to speak some. Often, parents are led to believe that teaching their deaf child to speak will make him perfectly normal. But in spite of what many educators say, the deaf need special education. Deafness is a handicap.

### 4. The Greatest Need of the Deaf is Language

The deaf person needs to be taught the proper use of the English language and of his own language in reading, writing and speaking. Every means possible should be employed to help the deaf person grasp a better understanding of the written word.

### 5. Deafness Places a Person in Complete Silence

This silence affects him emotionally, educationally, socially, spiritually and economically. Many deaf are in mental hospitals that do not need to be. But because parents, loved ones and friends cannot understand them, the deaf often become frustrated. They live shut-up in a world of their own and sometimes act "strangely".

### 6. In Order for a Deaf Person to Learn, Someone Must have The Time and Patience to Teach Him

They know only what someone takes the time to tell them.

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## 7. There Are Different Means of Educating the Deaf

### a) *Oral Training.*

*The deaf is taught to speak as well as he can, communicating with his speech and reading the lips of those with whom he is speaking. Lip-reading and speech are very important for the deaf person. The hearing people about him generally do not understand the language of Signs. Many deaf do not read lips well enough to communicate with the hearing, and attempting to read the lips of a speaker standing before an audience is impractical, if not impossible.*

### b) *Manual Method.*

*It is easier to project a thought to a deaf person in Sign Language than by other methods such as speech or lip-reading. However, the manually trained deaf person who has not learned speech and lip-reading is often at a loss in our hearing world.*

### c) *Total Communication.*

*This is the combination of all methods and uses lip-reading and writing. This is by far the most practical of the three methods. The deaf must learn to read, speak, spell and understand the meaning of words. All too often more attention is given to the speaking of words than to the comprehension of their meaning.*

## 8. Deaf People Are Happy When We Know Signs

Deaf people live in a world of loneliness. They become interested and make friends with you if you know their language.

## 9. Deaf People Take Everything Literally

It is hard for the deaf to understand slang or a play on words. Many words in the Bible such as "thine", "thou", "thee", and "behold" are foreign to deaf people. It is very difficult for deaf people to understand jokes.

## 10. Deaf Make Noise

Deaf people cannot hear themselves. Sometimes they make noises then they eat. Sometimes they will slam a door very loudly. They may drag their feet when they walk. This is because they cannot hear themselves. Be patient with them and help them. Teach them not to make noises and slam doors.

## 11. Deaf Are Frank

They will say what they think. They will tell you if your hair is ugly. They are not trying to be rude. They are just saying what they think. They are also very frank about sexual matters. Many hearing people are very embarrassed by the frankness of deaf people. Learn to accept it. Learn to be frank back to them about matters of Scripture. Don't say "do not sin". Tell them exactly that sins are bad. (name sin)

## 12. Deaf Are Ignorant About Many Things

They are not stupid. They just do not know. Deaf people do not understand anything until people explain it to them. Be patient to explain about money, marriage and spiritual things. Without your help, maybe they will not understand.

## 13. Deaf People Misunderstand Things

Be patient and explain things. If they do not understand, then say it another way. Use examples to teach them.

## 14. Deaf People Are Curious

They want to know what hearing people are saying. Always interpret for a deaf person even if you are just talking with your friends. When you do not interpret, they feel you are gossiping about them.

## 15. Deaf People Are Not Good Readers

They cannot understand many words. Help them to understand the Bible. When you write something to the deaf, use very simple English.

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## RULES FOR LEARNING SIGNS

### 1. To Learn the Alphabet

- Keep arms free and easy.
- Keep palm toward the person to whom you are speaking.
- Do not sling or slur.
- Learn well first; add speed later.
- Practice on these words: ade, fan, mop, cow, box, jar, sky, hat, quill, glove.

### 2. Words with Similar Meaning have the Same Signs.

Examples: happy, joy, glad, want, longing, love, dear, loving.

### 3. Words with different meanings have different signs.

a) "Save" as from sin, is different from "save" as with money.

b) "Meat" is different from "meet".

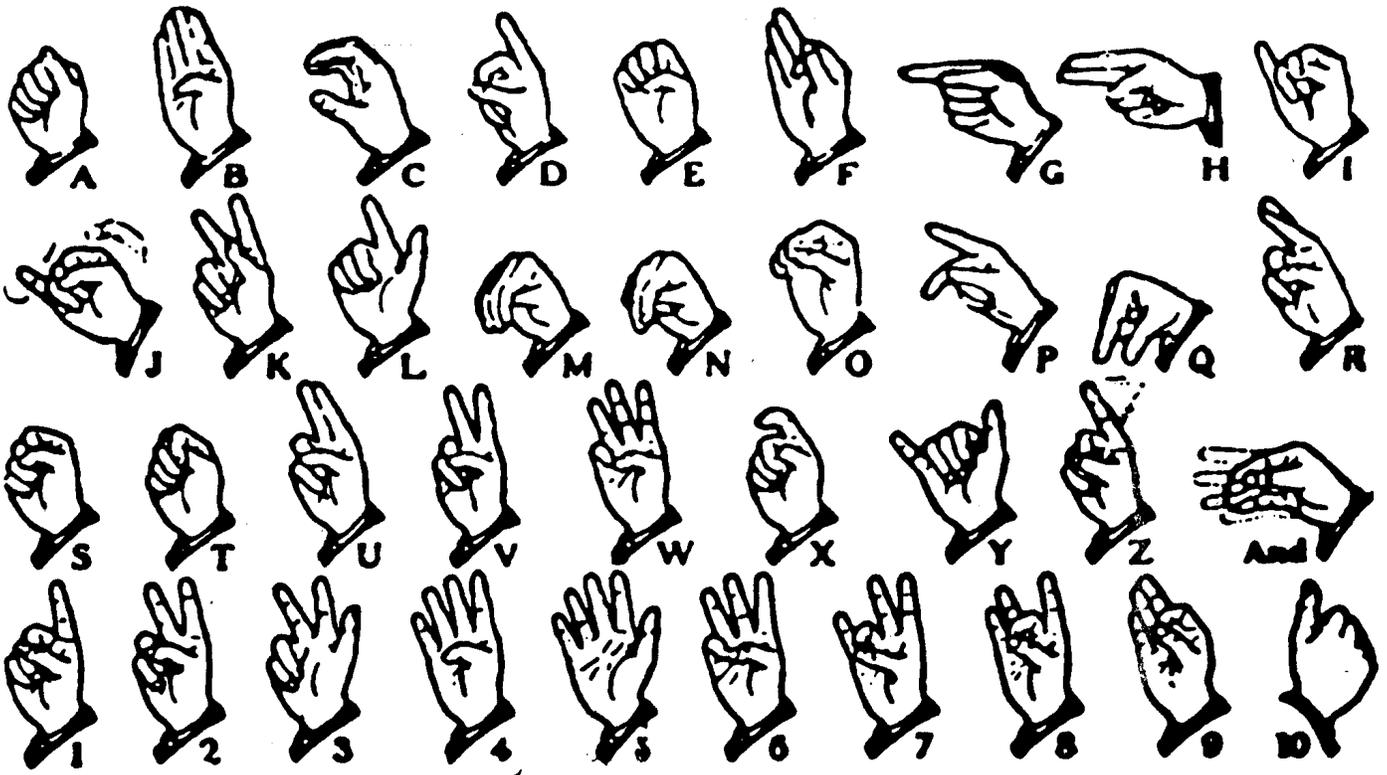
### 4. Tenses in Sign Language.

Deaf children today are being taught to put endings into their signs to denote future or past tense.

However, you will find the older deaf indicate future or past by signing "in the future", or "in the past".

### 5. Plurals in Sign Language.

Again today deaf children are being taught to show the 's' on the sign to denote more than one. However, the older deaf add "many" to the noun to show more than one. In using the word "men", "many, many" with the sign for "man" shows there are several men.



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## INTERPRETING FOR THE DEAF

Translating is saying exactly what the speaker says. Interpreting is taking what the speaker says and restating it in the language of the deaf.

### 1. The Objects of Interpreting

- a. Be clear in your signs.  
Be clear in the meaning of your signs and spell as slow as possible.
- b. Be clear in your ideas.  
Use the simplest of ideas and words.  
Be sure they understand you. Use the signs the deaf know.

### 2. The Ethics of Interpreting

- a. Be loyal to the speaker. Interpret to the deaf what the speaker is saying. Do not insert your own ideas.
- b. Be clear to the deaf.

### 3. The Fundamentals of Interpreting

- a. The mass of words or the speed of the speaker have nothing to do with the ability to interpret
- b. You must understand the speaker.
- c. You must become the speaker. Copy the actions and emotions of the speaker.
- d. Interpret the speaker's thoughts and ideas, not his exact words.

## INTERPRET THROUGH THE EYES OF THE DEAF

The deaf people need you. They need interpreters to help and advise them. You need to understand how the deaf feel. You should remember that the deaf must sit and look at you all the time. They cannot look away and still understand the message.

### 1. Your Signs

- a. Do not be sloppy. Sloppy signs are not clear and are hard to understand.
- b. Men should not sign in a sissy, feminine manner
- c. Do not sign too fast! The deaf cannot understand very fast signs.

- d. Do not use signs that are too large or too small.
- e. Do not sign stiffly.
- f. Stop your habits. Do not play with your hair, rub your nose, or pull on your clothes, etc. This is irritating.
- g. Look at the deaf. Don't look at the Bible or the preacher, unless a scripture is being read.
- h. Smile while you interpret.
- i. Use your mouth. It helps the deaf to understand. The deaf like that better.
- j. Accept help from the deaf. It is their language and they just want to help you.

### 2. The Way You Look

- a. Be clean. Have clean clothes, body and hair.
- b. Use plain colored clothes. Do not use sleeveless dress, or tight-fitting clothes.
- c. Do not use jewelry while interpreting. It will reflect the light and hurt the eyes of the deaf.
- d. Do not use brightly colored fingernail polish.

### 3. Your Interpreting

- a. Use expressions. An interpreter without facial expressions is boring.
- b. Make it interesting. Copy the actions and emotions of the speaker.
- c. The deaf get depressed and hurt when others are enjoying the speaker. They see hearing people laughing, but the interpreter is not expressing the funny ideas well, so the deaf cannot enjoy it also.

## MUSIC PROGRAM FOR THE DEAF (EPHESIANS 5:19)

### 1. Interpreting Music

- a. Why Music?  
It praises the Lord. It prepares our hearts to receive the Word of God. It pleases the Lord.  
It is a way to serve the Lord.

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- b. Understand what you are singing. If you can't understand what you are singing neither will the deaf
- c. Become familiar with the songs your church uses often.

## 2. Method of Interpreting

- a. Be relaxed and have confidence.
- b. Interpret thoughts, not words.
- c. No interpreter is absolutely right about a way to interpret phrases.
- d. Just because there is sign for the word the way it is spelled, does not mean that it is the right sign to use.
- e. Sign smoothly and with rhythm - keep up with the rhythm.
- f. Practice signing at home.
- g. Use your mouth with your signs.
- h. Use expression and look at the deaf. Look in the right direction. Look up for the word "up".
- i. Avoid spelling in signing.
- j. Make sure pronouns are understood.
- k. Drop unnecessary words. Ex. in, that, and, etc.
- l. Be careful of negatives. (Isn't He Wonderful - should be signed. "Jesus is Wonderful")
- m. Put question marks on the end of sentences.

## 3. Deaf in the Music Ministry

- a. Teach the deaf why we have music.
- b. Use the deaf in the song ministry. Schedule them for the special music. The deaf will enjoy it and it makes them feel good. This can bring blessings to hearing people.

## 4. Philosophy of Working with the Deaf

- a. Be involved with the deaf.
- b. Communicate with the deaf on their level.
- c. Help the deaf in their total life.
- d. Communicate the Gospel with understanding.

## TEACHING UNEDUCATED DEAF PEOPLE

The need is very great. There are thousands of deaf who have never been to school. They have no language and they need to be saved.

Many deaf workers are afraid to try to reach the low verbal deaf. They are afraid that they are "too hard".

We need to reach the easy and hard ones. The goal is teaching them to understand enough signs to be saved. Remember, we are evangelists not educators.

### 1. Methods of Teaching the Low Verbals

- a. Teach the ABC's. Use an alphabet card and a blackboard. Take your time. Make sure they understand.
- b. Use pictures to teach the signs. Cut out pictures out of magazines and paste them on paper. Print the word for the object under the picture. Show the picture and the sign. Make sure they can spell the word.
- c. Talk to them in sign language. Talk to them as you would to a small child who is learning to talk.
- d. Remember the way babies learn to talk.
  - 1) Nouns (Mama, Papa, table, dog, etc.)
  - 2) Verbs (Go, eat, play)
  - 3) Adjectives (bad, good, white, etc.)
  - 4) Then they go back and learn more complex verbs, etc.

Use this same order on the uneducated deaf.

Think of them as babies just learning to talk.

- e. Use Bible stories in teaching them different signs. Use the story of the Flood to teach the different animals.

- f. Review, review, REVIEW !!!

The most common mistakes deaf workers make are: they teach things that the deaf do not understand, they forget to teach the Bible - they spend too much time on ABC's and other things, and they give up and say. "They can't be saved".

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## LEADING THE DEAF TO THE LORD

The main goal of the Christian workers with the deaf should be to lead deaf people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Because the deaf individual has a hard time understanding many of the words and principles in the Bible, he must be dealt with somewhat differently from a hearing person.

### Four Things To Deal With

#### 1. Teach about SIN.

You could use pictures to show various sins (smoking, drinking, anger, fighting, etc.) You could also have drama concerning different sins. (You could act out a child not obeying his mother). You can also use a black heart to represent sin. Make sure they understand sin.

#### 2. Teach about HEAVEN AND HELL.

Use a match to show the fires of hell. Make a picture of both heaven and hell. Teach the words "bad" and "good". Make sure they understand the difference. Explain that hell is bad and heaven is good. Tell them who lives in each place. Tell them some of the things found in Heaven and Hell. Teach them that people who do bad (sin) will go to Hell.

#### 3. Teach about JESUS.

Use a good story book about the life of Christ. Teach them that Jesus was good although He died on the cross.

#### 4. Teach about RECEIVING CHRIST.

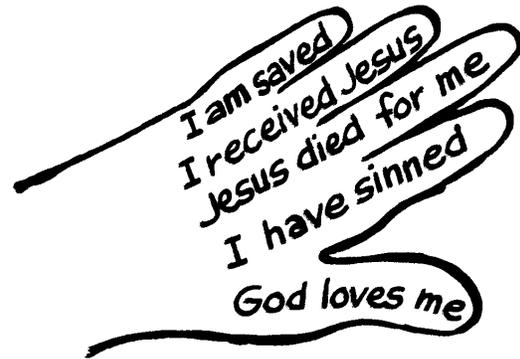
Most of the deaf understand the sign "forgive". Make sure they understand that they go to Heaven through Jesus. When deaf wants to be saved, keep the prayer very simple. Say something like "Jesus, I am bad. Forgive my bad (sins). Come in my heart. Save me, Amen."

## METHODS TO USE

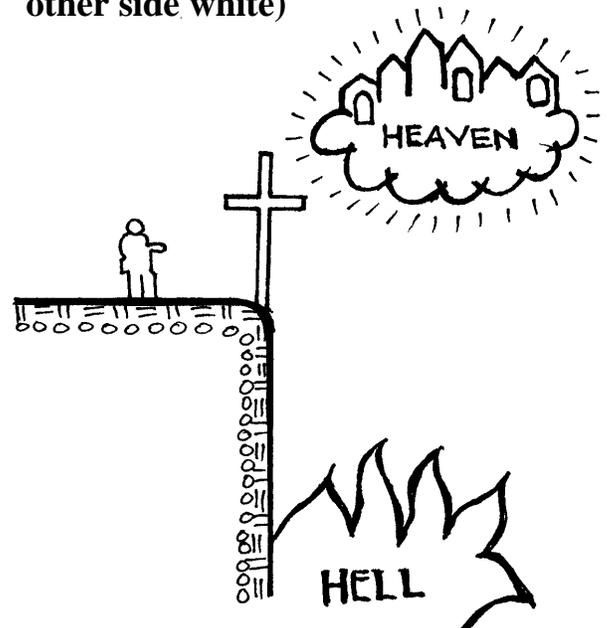
#### 1. Substitution

Person - God - Jesus

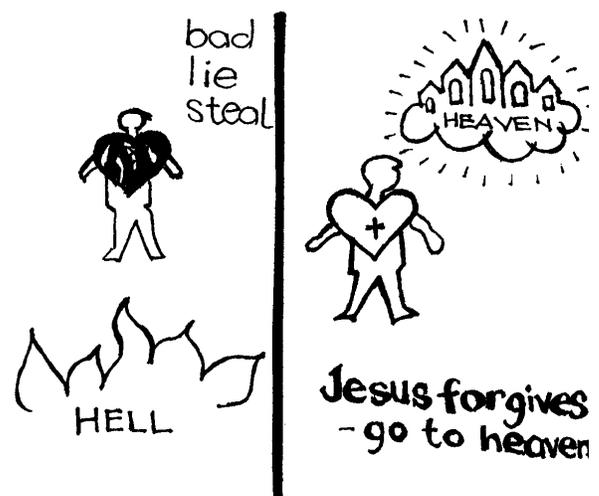
#### 2. Wordless Book



#### 4. MAKE A HEART (ONE SIDE BLACK and the other side white)



#### 5. Two Hearts Illustration



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## 6. Way to Heaven (FLASH CARDS)

In checking their salvation, use the Opposite Technique. After praying, ask the deaf "You accepted Jesus, You go to hell?" If the deaf understands the presentation and made a decision to accept Jesus, the answer will be NO. But if he did not understand, he will say YES.

## BASIC SIGNS

1. You, Ye (Ikaw) - point to the person
2. Me, (Ako) - touch center of chest with right index finger.
3. My, Mine (Akin) - right open hand flat against chest
4. I, (Ako) - the letter "I" in front of chest.
5. Our (Atin) - move a cupped hand from the right side of the chest to the other.
6. The (Ang) - move "T" hand from left to right in front of body.
7. Which (Alin) - move both "A" hands, thumbs upward up and down alternately.
8. Here (Dito) - place both "supine" (palms up) palms, with fingers pointing outward, in front of the body.
9. Where (Saan) - move right index finger back and forth several times.
10. Us (Tayo) - move right "U" finger from right shoulder outward and around to left shoulder.
11. We (Tayo) - "W" touching right then left side of chest.
12. Who (Sino) - circle index finger around lips.
13. When (Kailan) - left index finger point up then right index finger circle around it.
14. What (Ano) - draw the right index finger downward across the left open palm.
15. How (Paano) - place curved hands back to back with fingers pointing down, turn hands in this position until finger are pointing up.
16. Why (Bakit) - flick middle "sensitive" finger off forehead.
17. Because (Sapagkat) - index finger touching forehead moving sideward to "A" hand.
18. Different (Iba) - cross index fingers, then pull apart, repeat several times.

19. Same (Pareho) - "Y" hand moving back and forth from the objects that are the same.
20. Future (Panghinaharap) - "F" hand on palms, open from side of head going forward.
21. Boy (Batang Lalaki) - hold imaginary bill of cap with right hand.
22. Man (Mama) - open hand, thumb touching forehead then chest.
23. Father (Tatay) - open hand touching forehead.
24. Grandfather (Lolo) - two "A" hands by forehead with one in front of the other. Open and close.
25. Brother (Kapatid na lalaki) - "B" hand by right side forehead. Hands drops alongside of head.
26. Son (Anak na Lalaki) - sign "Boy" then "baby".
27. Husband (Asawang Lalaki) - sign "man" then sign "marriage" both hand closed together.
28. Girl (Batang babae) - "A" hand, thumb along side chin line on right side of face
29. Woman (Ale) - open hand, thumb touching chin then chest.
30. Mother (Nanay) - open hand, thumb on chin.
31. Grandmother (Lola) two "A" hands at chin, open and close.
32. Sister (Kapatid na babae) - closed fist by chin. Forefinger opens and closes several times rapidly
33. Daughter (Anak na babae) - sign "girl", then sign "baby"
34. Wife (Asawang babae) - sign "woman", then "marriage"
35. Family (Pamilya) - with "F" hands circle outwardly, touching thumbs and then little fingers
36. Marriage (Kasal) - right hand grabs hold on left hand.
37. Children (Mga bata) - with palms parallel to the floor, indicate the heights of several children by touching the tops of their imagined heads.

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38. People (Mga tao) - "P" hands in a circular movement.
39. Love (Pag-ibig) - hands crossed over heart or chest.
40. Like (Gusto) - pulling of heart strings with thumb and middle finger.
41. Hate, Awful, Despise (Inis) - flicking of both middle finger off thumbs.
42. Good (Mabuti) - right hand from mouth to left hand with both palms up.
43. Bad (Masama) - right hand from mouth to left hand with right hand changing to palm down position.
44. Happy (Masaya) - hands touching body showing bubbling inside
45. Sad (Malungkot) - place palms of both "five" hands in front of the face; move hands downward slightly as head bows
46. Talk (Mag-salita) - "D" hands in front of mouth back & forward alternately.
47. Eat (Kumain) - pantomime putting food to mouth.
48. Deaf - point to ear then mouth.
49. Sit (Upo) - with "U" hands, one sits on the other.
50. Stand (Tayo) - with "U" right hand standing in left palm.
51. Open (Bukas) - "B" hands, index fingers touching with palms out; show hands opening.
52. Close (Nakasara) - "B" hands, show hands closing
53. Sing (Umawit) - open right palm, swing it over the left arm.
54. Come (Halika) - index fingers show coming.
55. Go (Pumunta) - move one or both hands away from body.
56. Work (Trabaho) - strike right "S" hand against back of wrist of left "S" hand several times.
57. Help (Tulong) - lift right "A" hand with left "prone" hand.
58. Visit (Magbisita) - two "V's" circled on front of body
59. Cry (Iyak) - show tears from eyes with index finger.
60. Laugh (Tawa) - right "L" hand on chin move it in and out slightly.
61. God (Diyos) - Bring "B" hand above head down to "B" hand at chest.
62. Jesus (Hesus) - middle sensitive finger of right hand points to nail print in left palm points to nail print in right palm.
63. Save (Ligtas) - cross "S" hands to symbolize being bound by sin, then pull hands apart.
64. Power (Kapangyarihan) - "P" hand coming from shoulder to crook of elbow to show muscle.
65. Saviour (Tagapagligtas) - "save" plus the "er" sign.
66. Christ (Kristo) - move "C" of right hand from left shoulder to right hip.
67. Lord (Panginoon) - lift "L" right hand from left shoulder to right hip.
68. Sin (Kasalanan) - move index fingers in a circular fashion
69. Devil (Diablo) - "3" hand; fingers bent; thumb touching forehead
70. Backslide (Lumayo sa Panginoon) - move right "A" hand toward body from left "A" hand.
71. Tempt (Tukso) - tap the left elbow with the right index finger
72. Christian (Kristiano) - sign "Jesus" then "er".
73. Believe (Pananampalataya) - touch the forehead with index finger, then clasp hands.
74. Trust (Tiwala) - touch forehead with index finger then clasp hands.
75. Blessed (Mapalad) - place both "A" hands before the mouth, palms down; bring hands down and out.
76. Testimony (Patotoo) - hold the "T" of the right hand and shake back and forth.
77. Right (Tama) - form "O" hands; take right hand and place it on the index finger side of the left hand
78. Heaven (Langit) - make sign for house above head; then right hand under left to show entrance to heaven
79. Church (Simbahan) - right "C" on the closed left hand.

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80. Preach (Mangaral) - "F" of right hand held at right side of the head and moved back and forth.
81. Teach (Magturo) - take from your head and give it to the head of others.
82. Hell (Impierno) - point to lips for red, then wiggle all fingers
83. Punish (Parusa) - hold with left hand, spank with other.
84. Spirit (Espiritu) - "F's" pulled in opposite direction one up. one down.
85. Crucify (Ipako) - show prints of nails in hands, then hang.
86. Water (Tubig) - "W" on chin.
87. Money (Pera) - right "F" hand on the left palm.
88. Day (Araw) - left arm parallel to the floor with palm down; right arm straight up folding into left arm
89. Night (Gabi) - left arm parallel to the floor with palm down; right wrist bent over left wrist.
90. Afternoon (Hapon) - left arm parallel to the floor with palm down; right elbow rest on left hand.
91. Morning (Umaga) - left arm parallel to the floor with palm down in crook of right elbow, right hand coming up toward face.
92. Tomorrow (Bukas) - right "A" hand beside cheek, going forward.
93. Friend (Kaibigan) - both index fingers hooked together.
94. Face (Mukha) - with index finger circle face.
95. Thank You (Salamat) - open hands, palm facing body; touches mouth and then brought out toward person being thanked.
96. Beautiful (Maganda) - "five" hand in front of face becomes "and" hand, then opens again to "five" hand.
97. Ugly (Pangit) - right fist in front of nose. Hand opens into "five" hand.
98. Enemy (Kaaway) - Draw index fingers apart to symbolize a broken friendship.

## DEAF SUNDAY SCHOOL

### 1. Be On Time.

It is important to begin on time every Sunday. Many deaf workers complain that the deaf do not come to church on time. If you start late, you are teaching them to be late. If you want the deaf to come at the right time, please start at the right time.

### 2. Sing.

It is important to teach the deaf good Gospel songs. It is fine to use short children's songs when you first begin your deaf work. It is alright to use children's songs for the Low-Verbal deaf. But the older deaf who can sign well should be taught Gospel Hymns which are sung in the church. Sunday School time is a good time to teach what the songs mean. Many of the songs teach doctrines. The deaf will enjoy the songs more if they can understand the songs. Take time during Sunday School to teach new songs and their meanings.

### 3. Teach A Separate Class for the Deaf.

In some churches I have been in, the deaf workers interpret the adult or children's Sunday School. This is not a good idea. The deaf have special needs. The best place to teach the deaf the special things they need is in a special Sunday School class. The deaf need a separate class so they can learn the doctrines that hearing people know, but the deaf do not. The deaf need a special class so they can learn the Bible in a simple way they can understand.

### 4. Teach Simple Lessons.

Make sure that everything you teach is easy to understand. You can teach any doctrine in the Bible in a clear, easy and understandable way. Make sure your signs and ideas are simple. The more one-syllable words you use, the easier the deaf can understand your lessons.

### 5. Teach Doctrines.

It is fine to teach the deaf the Bible Stories. But as the deaf grow older, they need the teaching of Bible Doctrines to make their lives strong for the Lord. The deaf can be influenced by false cults. They need the knowledge of doctrines to refuse the false teachings of false teachers. They need the knowledge of Bible Doctrines to make

# Sign Language

them strong Christians who will say "No" to Satan's temptations. Without the knowledge of Bible Doctrines, the deaf lives will not be honoring to the Lord Jesus. Teach doctrines in an easy and understandable way.

## 6. Teach the Deaf to Serve God.

Deaf people can serve God. Take time to teach the deaf how to visit and win souls. Teach them how to teach Sunday School and how to preach. Teach them to fetch other deaf people to church. Teach them how to lead music. If you do not teach them to serve the Lord, no one else will teach them.

## 7. Win Souls in Sunday School.

I have met some deaf workers who forget that they are soul winners first. They call themselves deaf teachers, but forget to teach the most important thing of all - SALVATION! How we call ourselves deaf workers when we forget to tell them of Christ? Without Christ, the deaf will die and go to Hell! Teach deaf other things - Yes!! But NEVER forget to teach them first of Jesus who died for their sins.

## UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEMS OF THE DEAF

### INTRODUCTION

There will be problems. It is not easy to work with the deaf. It is like working with a different culture. It is a new way of life and thinking. Do not try to make them like us. Try to understand them as they are.

### I. PROBLEMS WITH YOURSELF.

#### A. Be sure you are called.

If you are not working with the deaf from your heart, you will quit easily.

#### B. "If it were easy, everyone would be doing it."

#### C. The Devil will give you problems.

#### D. The Lord doesn't need a talented person, he just needs a willing one.

### II. PROBLEMS WITH THE DEAF.

#### A. Frankness of the deaf.

They will say things that will hurt your feelings. "Don't stop because of hurt feelings."

#### B. Think deaf.

The sign language is not a new way of saying English or Pilipino. It is a language of its own.

#### C. Be with the deaf to learn their language.

#### D. Don't quit because you have only a few deaf.

You must win the deaf one by one. We can also win their families if we stay with it. Don't be discouraged with one.

### III. PROBLEMS WITH OTHER PEOPLE.

#### A. Jealousy.

There is often much envy among deaf workers.

#### B. Not just anyone should work with the deaf.

It is not good for a teen-age girl or boy to be in charge of the deaf department.

# Study Questions for Sign Language

1. What is the main reason why we have to study sign language? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why do we need to evangelize the deaf? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the most exact form of sign language? \_\_\_\_\_  
What is the basic form? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Deaf people are mute but they are not dumb.      \_\_\_\_\_ True      \_\_\_\_\_ False
5. Deafness places a person in complete silence; this affects him . \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What is the most practical of the three methods in educating the deaf? \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_ is saying exactly what the speaker says and \_\_\_\_\_  
is taking what the speaker says and re-stating it in the language of the deaf.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ praises the Lord. It prepares our hearts to receive the \_\_\_\_\_
9. Just because there is a sign for the word the way it is spelled, does not mean that it is the right sign to use.  
\_\_\_\_\_ True      \_\_\_\_\_ False
10. In winning the deaf to Christ, there are four things to deal with:  
Teach about \_\_\_\_\_  
Teach about and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
Teach about \_\_\_\_\_  
Teach about \_\_\_\_\_
11. What technique will you use to check if the deaf is saved or not? \_\_\_\_\_
12. In the ethics of interpreting, you must be \_\_\_\_\_ to the speaker and  
be to the deaf. \_\_\_\_\_
13. An interpreter with facial expressions is boring.      \_\_\_\_\_ True      \_\_\_\_\_ False
14. Teach doctrines in an easy and understandable way.      \_\_\_\_\_ True      \_\_\_\_\_ False

# *Sign Language*

by  
*Rev. Gilbert Toquero*

**"Bring forth  
the...deaf that  
have ears."**

**Isaiah 43:8**

**"...in that day  
shall the deaf  
hear the words  
of the book..."**

**Isaiah 29:18**

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# Exam Questions for Sign Language

**Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Teacher's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** / /

1. What is the main reason why we have to study sign language? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why do we need to evangelize the deaf? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the most exact form of sign language? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the basic form? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ True \_\_\_\_\_ False

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Teach about \_\_\_\_\_

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12. In the ethics of interpreting, you must be \_\_\_\_\_ to the speaker and

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13. An interpreter with facial expressions is boring. \_\_\_\_\_ True \_\_\_\_\_ False

14. Teach doctrines in an easy and understandable way. \_\_\_\_\_ True \_\_\_\_\_ False