

Does God understand my language?

By Katey Hearth

USA (MNN) — Prayer: it's how Christians communicate with God. What does this mean for Deaf Christians? The Deaf communicate through sign language.... does God understand that? Does God understand all of the sign languages used by the 70 million Deaf people worldwide?

Severa is a Deaf believer connected to Deaf Bible Society. Through an interpreter, she tells Mission Network News these are common questions in the Deaf community.

"I didn't think that God understood my language, sign language, until I had somebody tell me, 'You can sign to God.'"

Whether Deaf or hearing, all new believers face the same challenge – spiritual growth doesn't happen until they have God's Word in their language and someone to teach them about Christ. Both are severely lacking in the Deaf world, so many new believers have no way to know what God is like.



(Photo courtesy Deaf Bible Society)

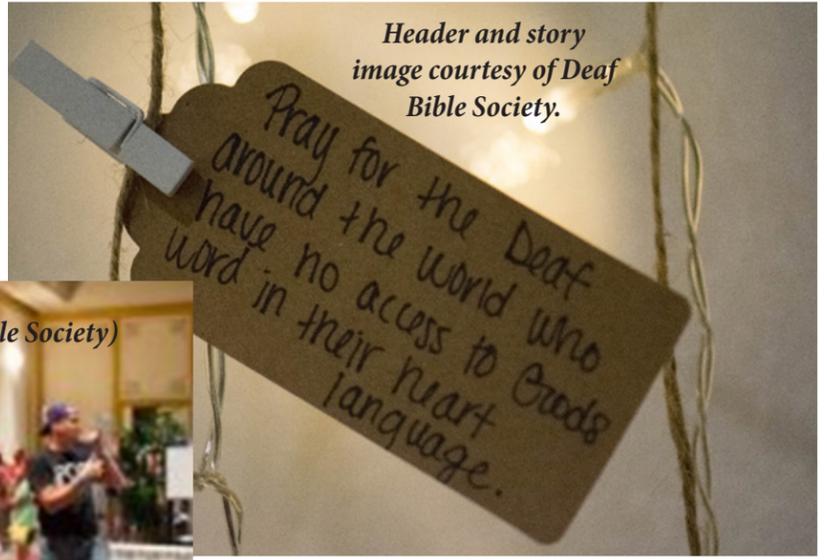
However, when Deaf Christians do encounter spiritual truths – like Severa learning about prayer – the results are life-changing. *"God understands your language. He understands signs,"* Severa recalls someone teaching her. *"That was thrilling to me, so from that point on, I completely changed how I thought about prayer and talking to God."*

Severa's story: Growing

up, Severa was surrounded by praying people. Her mother, also Deaf, loved to pray and faithfully attended church. Severa went with her and saw a man on the cross; she learned his name was Jesus, but her mother would not explain why He was crucified. At school, teachers told Severa to write down Bible verses and pray silently at their desks. People from the church came frequently to Severa's house

and prayed over her family. Time and again, Severa asked, "why?" but no one offered an explanation. Years passed, and Severa learned – as many Deaf do – how to live with unanswered questions. Everything changed when a Deaf friend offered to explain why Jesus was on the cross. As this friend signed the Gospel truth, "I finally understood and entered into relationship with Je-

sus," Severa says. Through a discipleship series called MasterLife: Developing a Rich Personal Relationship with the Master, Severa finally found answers to her many questions about prayer. *"It doesn't matter what the situation [is] that occurs in my life, no matter what I go through, I hold onto that. I hold onto that – being able to talk to God through prayer – and I know God answers, I have seen it many times,"* she says. *"God has called me as a missionary...and sometimes you do face tribulation and barriers. What do you do to get through that? You pray, and you talk to God."* Prayer is an important principle for Deaf and



Header and story image courtesy of Deaf Bible Society.

hearing believers alike. It's also an easy way for hearing believers to partner with Deaf Christian workers. Just text the word "pray" to 444999, and you'll start receiving prayer requests from Deaf Bible Society. As we mentioned last month, Deaf Bible Society is looking for approximately 200 prayer warriors to come alongside their efforts in 2019. *"Pray for somebody to go into Deaf communities and explain things to them,"* Severa requests. *"Pray for funding to start projects and [Bible] translation in Deaf communities."* Mission Network News PO Box 2211, Naperville, IL 60567 web: www.mnnonline.org

providers to explain themselves. In response to the motion, Planned Parenthood attorneys argued that "whether any of the four relevant affiliates complied with a technical law about permissible reimbursement" is not relevant to the lawsuit, and that questions about invoices showing that Planned Parenthood affiliates did in fact profit from the sale of fetal body parts have "zero bearing" on the issues in the case. On Thursday, the court granted the Life Legal's motion and ordered Planned Parenthood to provide responses by January 31. *"Since the day the first CMP video was released, Planned Parenthood has proclaimed its innocence and insisted it was the victim of a 'smear' that it sold baby parts,"* said Alexandra Snyder, Execu-

Planned Parenthood Ordered to Answer Questions About Illegal Money for Baby Parts Scheme



MEDIA ADVISORY, Jan. 25, 2019 /Standard News-wire/ -- Four California Planned Parenthood affiliates have been ordered to respond to questions about their profit margin from procuring organs and tissue from aborted babies and selling them to fetal tissue procurement companies.

Three years ago, Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) and several Planned Parenthood affiliates sued CMP, David Daleiden, Sandra Merritt,

Albin Rhomberg, and other investigators in federal district court, asserting fifteen claims ranging from racketeering to invasion of privacy. Their lawsuit alleges that the videos showing Planned Parenthood doctors callously discussing the price of baby parts were "misleadingly edited" to make it appear that Planned Parenthood clinics were violating federal and state laws against profiting from the sale of fetal parts. Planned Parenthood claims it brought

the lawsuit to "further expose the falsity" of the videos and recover millions of dollars in damages for the alleged harm the videos caused to Planned Parenthood by CMP's allegations of criminal activity. However, discovery in the lawsuit revealed that the four Planned Parenthood affiliates most heavily involved in fetal tissue procurement, while receiving monthly payments from fetal tissue marketers, kept no records of their legally allowable costs. The House

Select Panel investigating Planned Parenthood's fetal tissue procurement practices determined that, in practice, the costs were nominal to non-existent. In the face of this evidence, Planned Parenthood continued to deny that their revenues exceeded their expenses, but flatly refused to explain the discrepancy. Life Legal Defense Foundation then sought an order from Magistrate Judge Donna Ryu of the Northern District of California, compelling the abortion

tive Director of Life Legal Defense Foundation. *"We know money went in, baby parts went out, and costs were negligible. We look forward to Planned Parenthood finally have to explain how that didn't violate federal law."* About Life Legal Defense Foundation Life Legal Defense Foundation was established in 1989, and is a nonprofit organization composed of attorneys and other concerned citizens committed to giving helpless and innocent human beings of any age, and their advocates, a trained and committed voice in the courtrooms of our nation. For more information about the Life Legal Defense Foundation, visit www.lldf.org.

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Join us to bring hope for underprivileged kids in India

Joel Children's Home in India, has brought light to many underprivileged, abandoned and orphaned kids with God's love. So far it has been run in a rented building. The children have been praying for a permanent place for more than 10 years. God has heard their prayers. They now have a piece of land in Rajapalayam, Tamil Nadu State, India, and by faith they have started to build their living facility there. A

place where those underprivileged children can comfortably rest, study and glorify God. This would be their house on this earth. It is a house for the children who wandered in the roadside without a place to lay down. Now the building has reached up to roof level. Still it needs twenty thousand US dollars to complete the house. They are appealing for a generous donation from kind hearted people. Your small contribution will do



big changes in their lives. Donations and correspondence can be made through Faith International Christian Center PO Box 14931 Bradenton, FL 34280 USA.