

The Deaf of Vietnam

The Northern Vietnamese Sign Language Community



There are about 1,200,000 deaf people in Vietnam, many of whom haven't gone to school due to poverty and a shortage of schools for the deaf. This means few deaf people know how to read well, so when a deaf person becomes a believer, understanding the Bible becomes a big challenge.

For this reason, the Vietnam Partnership program of the United Bible Societies is working on Scripture portions in sign language to help the deaf in Vietnam learn the Bible through videoed stories. As there is no standardized sign language in Vietnam, the sign language in Hanoi has been selected for videoing. It is hoped that perhaps that variety will become a standard and also serve the people who sign the variety in Haiphong. There is another variety used in the south that is very different.

The deaf translation team is made up of five people from the north who hope and pray that all deaf people in Vietnam will see and understand the videos. The process includes reading the Bible, summarizing the story, drawing pictures to increase understanding, translating into sign language – which is very challenging when there is new term – and finally videoing the story.

Working on this project has been a spiritual blessing for each individual on the translation team. When the three year project is over, they hope to continue working together to evangelize the deaf as they firmly believe that Scripture changes hearts.

Primary Religion:

Buddhism

Disciples (Matt 28:19):

1%

Churches:

Unknown

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):

None

Population (date):

Potentially 600,000 (2016)



The Deaf of Venezuela

Group Description

Population All Countries

Comment

Potentially 1,200,000 as a rough estimate

When we speak about Deaf people as opposed to deaf people, we're making the distinction of, among other things, their language of preference. Simply stated, Deaf people identify with the Deaf culture and use that signed language; deaf people do not and prefer to use the spoken language. Estimating the population of a Deaf community is difficult. Quite honestly, no one knows how many Deaf there are in a given country.

However, some generalities seem to hold true. In 1st world nations (like the US) 1-2 people in 1000 are Deaf; in those nations that are considered "2nd world", 3-4 people per 1000 are Deaf; in 3rd world nations, the numbers are much higher: 6-8 people per 1000 are Deaf. Again, this is an estimation only. There is absolutely no quantifiable documentation to support these numbers. But, they are the best we know.

As implied, the estimated number of deaf is always larger than the number of those who learn sign language and become part of the Deaf community. Some become deaf late in life. Some children's parents do not have the funds to send their child to a deaf school and some of these children never encounter others with whom to communicate. Almost all deaf children are born to hearing parents. Instead these children grow and work at home where they use gestures and sounds but do not have a true language. The number of these is unknown.