



May 2014

MISSION GRANT STORY

**BIBLE STORY BOOKS IN SIGN LANGUAGE
AND WRITTEN TEXT \$100,000**

Lutheran Friends of the Deaf is a member of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations. They develop and disseminate resources for Deaf Ministry in congregations and training for church workers and religious interpreters. Deaf children around the world have learned Bible truths through their *"John of Beverly Series."* Some schools overseas still reproduce these 1950 - 1970 materials due to the lack of new materials. The requests for updated religious educational materials for the deaf come from countries like Kenya, Ghana, Zambia, Macau, India, and Russia. The response to the requests resulted in translation teams beginning work in 2010. The new Bible story series enables parents to teach their deaf or hearing impaired child about Jesus through digitized pictured American Sign Language in addition to familiarizing them with the written

English language. Each book includes one Bible story, colored illustrations, and concludes with an activities page to help children understand the Bible story more clearly. The series includes 12 stories to be printed in American Sign Language and English, as well as in Chinese Sign Language with Chinese text and Russian Sign Language and Russian text.

Friends of the Deaf through their travels, research, and interaction with pastors serving overseas realized that just as hearing individuals desire to learn English, so also the deaf in these countries desire to learn American Sign Language and English.

Three book titles have been published and two more are in the editing stage. Their work continues as they strive to complete the 12-story series in the three languages.