

## **PRESS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

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### **LFD Announces the Arrival of Latest Bible Stories for Deaf and Hearing**

Lutheran Friends of the Deaf (LFD), a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and part of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, is moving along with its unique Bible Stories project. Combining written language, expressive artwork and illustrated sign language, the books are geared toward Deaf and hearing children alike. The main purpose, according to Rev. S.R. Schumacher, Director of Deaf Ministry for LFD, is “to teach children about Jesus.” He also noted that the books are a helpful resource in a variety of family and educational settings, “whether it’s a family composed of hearing and deaf members or a Sunday school class of hearing and deaf students.”

The latest books in the series of 12 to be published in written English and American Sign Language (ASL), “Jesus Heals the Deaf Man,” and “Noah and the Big Flood,” have been recently released, along with Chinese translations of the first and second stories, “Jesus Blesses the Children,” and “The First Christmas,” respectively. All dozen will eventually be translated into other written and sign languages, such as Russian and Spanish, in addition to Chinese.

Dr. Mark Prowatzke, Executive Director of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations is pleased that the project is well underway. He said, “This multilingual series is an exciting tool for Lutheran Friends of the Deaf as we begin an intentional expansion of the scope of our work around the world.” Indeed, the Chinese-translated texts will be a valuable resource as LFD continues its recently-begun mission outreach throughout Asia.

LFD’s mission, to enhance the life of the Deaf through Christ, is being met by this rewarding project. Upcoming titles include, “A Book of Prayers,” “Baby Moses,” “Daniel and the Lions,” “The Three Men in a Fiery Furnace,” “Samuel and God’s Call,” “Jesus and the Blind Man,” and “Feeding 5,000.”

Through the Bible Stories, LFD aims to evangelize and educate the Deaf in many parts of the world. “The Bible Stories are examples of our effort to carry out our mission of bringing the saving message of Christ to the deaf around the globe, by translating the stories into other written languages and their country’s complimenting sign language,” said Rev. Schumacher.

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He added that LFD has found students in various international regions who are also looking to learn English as a second language and the books have been quite useful in this teaching this as well.

The currently published stories, as well as future releases, are available at a minimal cost. For more information about titles and languages, comments, or to order copies, please call 1-800-264-0662. Visit [www.millneck.org](http://www.millneck.org) often for updates on the availability of stories.

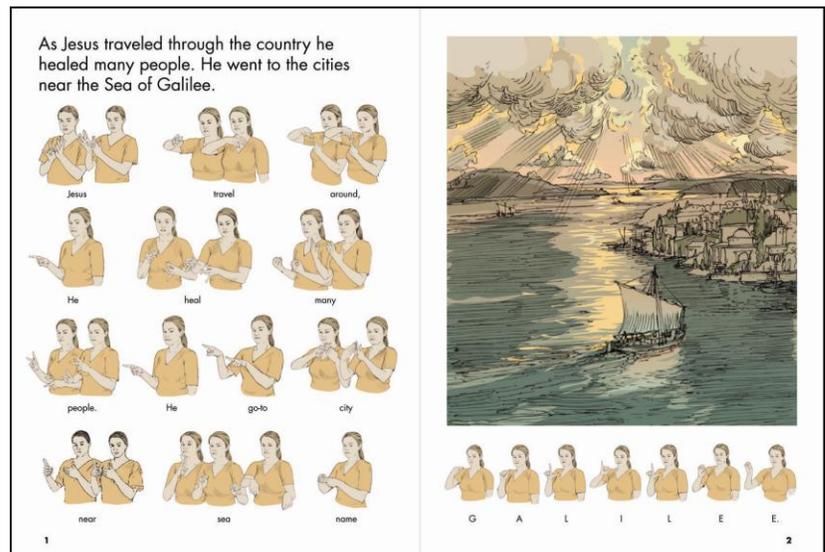
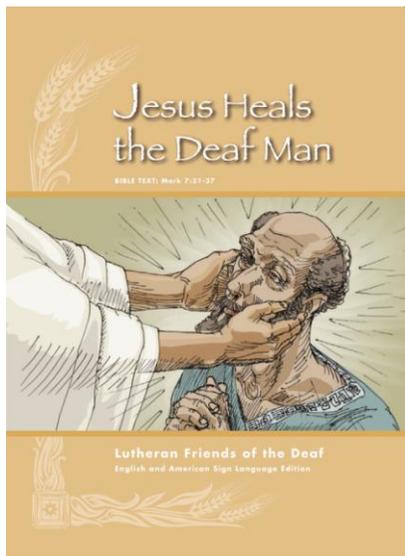
Lutheran Friends of the Deaf provides support for educational and evangelistic outreach to Deaf people of all ages throughout the United States and world. Mill Neck Foundation and Lutheran Friends of the Deaf are part of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, a not-for-profit group dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for people who are Deaf, or who have other special needs, through excellence in individually designed educational, vocational or spiritual programs and services. For more information, please call 1-800-264-0662 or visit <http://www.millneck.org>.

*Photo Captions:*

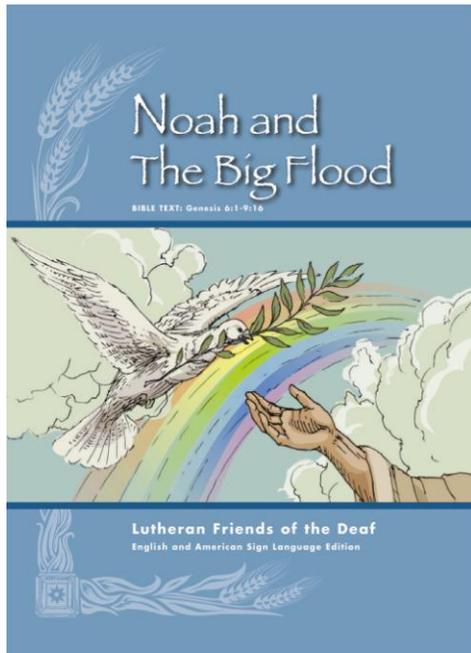
1. Cover and one of the interior spreads from “Jesus Heals the Deaf Man,” the fourth of 12 planned in the LFD’s Bible Stories series featuring written and sign language.
2. Cover of “Noah and the Big Flood.”
3. Chinese translations of the first two English language/ASL Bible stories, “Jesus Blesses the Children,” and “The First Christmas.”

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