

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

CONTACT

Michelle Yadoo
Marketing Communication Coordinator
(516) 922-4100, ext. 231

30 March 2012

LFD Releases Latest Bible Story 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, has recently released “The First Easter,” the latest book in its Bible Story Project. Using a combination of written language, stunning artwork and illustrated sign language, the goal of the endeavor is to aid hearing and Deaf children to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. In addition to American Sign Language (ASL), the Bible Stories will also be translated into other written and sign languages, such as Chinese, Spanish and Russian.

The first of the planned 12 stories to be developed, “Jesus Blesses the Children,” was published and subsequently distributed world-wide. The newest story, “The First Easter” follows publication of “The First Christmas.” Future titles include, “Jesus Heals a Deaf Man,” “A Book of Prayers,” “Noah and the Flood,” “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.”

Dr. Mark Prowatzke, Chief Executive 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.”

Rev. Schumacher speaks from the heart about the overall message of the Bible Stories. “These books will help parents and teachers in fulfilling God’s directive to teach His Word and message of salvation to children so that they might confess with the Samaritans after they, themselves, heard the words of Jesus: ‘And many more believed because of His word. They said to the woman, *It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world* (John 4:41, 42 ESV).”

LFD’s mission, to enhance the life of the Deaf through Christ, is being met by this rewarding project. “We strive to design and develop projects and programs that support ministries in proclaiming the saving message of Christ to the Deaf around the globe,” said Rev. Schumacher. “The Bible Stories are examples of our effort to carry out this mission to the Deaf by translating them into other written languages and their country’s complimenting Sign Language,” he added.

-more-

Through the Bible Stories, LFD aims to evangelize and educate the Deaf in many parts of the world. “We envision the books being used in classroom settings, catechetical lessons or even for the benefit of reading skills. Their use could also be in the education and evangelism of Deaf adults who have never heard the Word of God, and/or in Vacation Bible, Sunday and parochial schools,” said Rev. Schumacher.

The currently published stories, as well as the future nine 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 often for updates on the availability of future 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 Caption:

“The First Easter,” the third in the series of 12 Bible Stories being developed and distributed world-wide.

###

