

# Witnessing God's Movement in The Gambia

— NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2024 —



CHERISHING EVERY MOMENT  
WATCHING BEAUTIFUL  
BECAUSE WAAVES

## DEAR MISSION SUPPORTERS

I am thrilled to share the incredible ways God is actively transforming the lives of the Deaf community in The Gambia! From prayer-led initiatives to forging powerful partnerships, this journey has been marked by God's guidance and impactful moments of service.



HELPING RICHLIAN OUT

## PRAYER-LED INITIATIVES

Upon my arrival in The Gambia, I dedicated the first two weeks to intense prayer, seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance for the ministry work ahead. During this time, I also served at Samaritana, an anti-sexual trafficking ministry. Working alongside an employee, Richlian, we took on various outdoor tasks and cleaned the house's interior. During this time together, Richlian and I bonded, growing in our relationship, and I taught him some basic words in Gambian Sign Language (GSL). I was deeply moved by how well he remembered Kari's instructions on escorting me for my DeafBlind needs, and he did a fantastic job accompanying me every week to get food.

## UNITING FOR A GREATER PURPOSE

My connection with the Gambia Deaf Women Society (GDWS), which began five years ago, remains strong. Most Deaf women in GDWS strongly value their Muslim beliefs. Recently, I met Charles, a believer in Christ, a disability rights advocate, and founder of the BethGold Foundation (BGF). Seeing an opportunity to bridge connections, I organized a meeting to unite GDWS and BGF in their shared pursuit of supporting Deaf individuals. I advocated for Deaf people to use their voices to express their needs and beliefs. Witnessing the determination of these groups to help each other filled them with hope and brought me joy!



CHARLES ESCORTED ME & HAD THE  
DISCUSSION ABOUT THE PLANS

**BethGold Foundation ensures quality inclusive education and promotes lifelong learning opportunities for children with disabilities. Charles shared with me his desire to bring light to the community in The Gambia. He agreed that Deaf individuals are one of the unreached groups that lack access to the gospel due to communication barriers. He partnered with me to mobilize the Deaf community to help the Global Partnership team prepare for the upcoming training project. He received approval from his job to have the first week of June off. Charles would like to share his experience partnering with me briefly:**

***"Our partnership with Kevlasha is a testament to the power of collaboration and the universal language of perseverance. Our story will continue to inspire many, demonstrating that with determination and solidarity, barriers can be broken, and meaningful change can be achieved."***



**MEETING WITH THE GROUPS  
OF THE GDWS & BGF**

## **BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE**

**A wonderful development occurred when my Deaf Senegalese friend, Kemo, visited The Gambia for a week to assist with the ministry, coinciding with Charles joining us to work together.**

**We visited one of the Deaf schools, a Catholic institution. Seeing how God used each of us to work together was amazing. We spoke with the principal, who summoned two teachers that Charles knew. All of them recalled me from five years ago. Charles explained the Bible translation project to them, and I added some necessary information as I signed in GSL. Kemo showed them a video of the Senegalese Sign Language (SSL) Bible. Additionally, I shared the American Sign Language (ASL) Bible from Deaf Missions, demonstrating various translation methods and projects to provide every Deaf person with access to God's word in their heart language, both in Africa and worldwide. Kemo also assisted me in gathering all the information using ProTactile communication due to the dim lighting in the principal's office.**

**The teachers were very impressed with how God uses sign language video translations in the Bible for Deaf people to understand His word. They agreed that most Deaf individuals struggle to comprehend the written Bible. The teachers promptly shared information about the Bible translation project with the Deaf students and other teachers at the school. They have gathered some students interested in participating and will provide us with a list soon. They asked us to revisit the Deaf school to explain the project to the Deaf students. Please pray that I receive God's wisdom in expressing this through their language to help them understand better. Charles and I remained in touch with the Global Partnership team as we worked on community mobilization here in The Gambia, sharing updates and receiving advice to ensure we achieve the necessary steps for the upcoming training.**





**EATING MEAL TOGETHER -  
FELLOWSHIP WITH DEAF GAMBIANS**

## **STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS**

The three of us traveled through some villages, meeting Deaf people. It was heartwarming to reconnect with individuals who were part of The Gambia Deaf Church (TGDC) five years ago. When I visited The Gambia a few months ago, from early February to mid-March, I didn't have the opportunity to see them. However, upon my return, I finally had a chance to reconnect. We shared fellowship, meals, and prayers. Seeing the joy on their faces as we discussed the upcoming Bible translation training was truly inspiring, especially knowing it would be in their heart language.

I want to clarify that TGDC closed a year ago. The Deaf people who attended that church have since scattered. I was told that a few of them joined hearing churches without interpreters, while others attended a Catholic church with interpreting services. Many, however, are not interested in attending hearing churches due to communication barriers. Additionally, it's important to note that The Gambia is predominantly Muslim, with 95% of the population practicing Islam. Please pray for the Deaf community in The Gambia as they navigate these challenges and seek spiritual guidance.

## **PERSONAL REFLECTION**

Reflecting on my journey, each interaction with the Deaf community in The Gambia has been significant. From moments of prayer to practical service, every step reinforces my faith in God's plan for these communities.

## **GRATITUDE**

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. Your partnership and faith in this mission are invaluable. Your encouragement inspires me to keep pressing forward, knowing that we are bringing God's Word to the Deaf community in The Gambia through their heart language!

## **PRAY WITH ME & THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP TEAM**

Join us in prayer for wisdom, guidance, and strategies to make God's vision a reality for the Deaf community in The Gambia, enabling them to access the Bible in their heart language. Pray that hearts will open, eager to participate in the Bible project.

*With gratitude and blessings,*

*Kevlasha*

Together, we can make a lasting impact and bring God's Word to those who need it most. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us!



**ENJOYING MANGO WITH DEAF GAMBIAN**



**AGREED TO GET A PICTURE AFTER THE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE BIBLE PROJECT**



**JUST LEFT THE VILLAGE -  
ON THE WAY TO HOME**