

# Hand of God

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## *One Congregation's Story*

Eighteen months ago, Mt. Calvary, Waukesha, Wisconsin, was a congregation that thought its deaf ministry would end when its only deaf visitor went home to heaven. Today it's a congregation with five deaf members, a growing number of hard of hearing members, and a handful of regular deaf visitors. How God works in mysterious ways!

Mt. Calvary offers interpreted worship every Sunday and for every mid-week Advent-Lent worship service. We offer an induction loop and Williams Sound systems for our hard of hearing members.

### **Growing in Faith Together**

The pace of the regular Bible study course was too fast, yet our deaf members wanted to study the Bible. The Board of Adult Discipleship asked for volunteers to teach various Bible study courses. One option was a new Bible class for the deaf.

Dan Burrie had an interest in sign language and interest outreach to the deaf. He had taken a few sign language courses in college. While he couldn't fluently interpret the class, he was willing to lead.

### **Class Begins**

The class began studying the book of John in September 2008. Dan led with an interpreter present to ensure full communication. Various Bibles were borrowed and used to find one with a good readability level. The Deaf Bible was found to have a few errors. Another Bible only had the New Testament. The NIV-R still had difficult sentence structure. It was finally decided that we'd use the NIV as our main source but look at The Deaf Bible too and point out the errors.

### **New Challenge**

Words in print and an interpreter just weren't helping the class participants fully visualize what was said. Who were all these people in the lesson? What did they look like? What was happening to whom? Was it John the disciple or John the Baptist or someone else being referred to?

Consultation with Pastor Jim Behringer of Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls WI, led to the trial of a *Matthew* DVD from NPH. Today we show a subtitled chapter of the DVD at the start of class with the interpreter also interpreting the DVD. Then we open our Bibles, and work through our study sheets. It has been working quite well. We can get a better understanding from the actors while following with the reading of our Bibles and discussion.

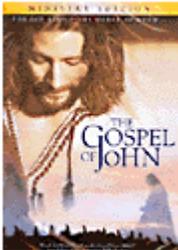
***Matthew* DVD from *The Visual Bible* is available through Northwestern Publishing House \$24.99 [www.nph.net](http://www.nph.net) Other books of the Bible are also available.**

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**WELS Evangelical Synod  
Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive Waukesha, WI 53188-1108  
414-256-3888 800-827-5482 [www.wels.net/deaf](http://www.wels.net/deaf)**



For more information, please contact WELS Special Ministries at 414-256-3241



[DVD-Gospel of John Visual Bible](#)

Catalog Item Number: 334140



[DVD-Matthew Visual Bible 2 Disk](#)

Catalog Item Number: 334130



[DVD-Acts The Visual Bible NIV](#)

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