



March—April 2024

Dear Pastor and Church Family,

We spent all of March and April teaching sign language and making acquaintances with deaf people in Melbourne, Australia. As we have seen in Europe, the Gospel is not as readily accepted as missionaries find in third world countries; the work takes time and patience. Like most missionaries, we live for and look forward to the time of reaping, but no harvest ever takes place where no one has plowed, seeded, and watered. In Melbourne, we are plowing new ground and planting all the seeds we can for a future harvest. We are trusting the Lord to send someone along behind us to water the seed and help it grow.

Years ago, on our first trip to Australia, we were present for the opening of a new deaf ministry in Melbourne, started by Robert and Lisa Gunter in a church about an hour west of where we are working now. Robert and Lisa invested their lives into that ministry, and slowly but surely it grew into a group of about thirty people. As a result, some other churches also started deaf ministries, but as of now we do not know of any Independent Baptist church with a thriving deaf ministry in Australia. After the Gunters were unable to return to Australia following COVID and medical issues, the ministry they built for the Deaf in Melbourne sadly dissolved. A few of the Deaf Robert and Lisa reached are now attending Wesburn Baptist Church where we are teaching sign language. Pray they will remain faithful and catch a burden to reach their friends for Christ.

Due to Amanda's health we are unable to return to the United States at this time. We have applied for a six-month extension on our visa. We believe God has more work for us here and there will be more fruit for the additional time of labor. Pray God will bless the work and make it profitable and pray that souls will be reached for Christ.

If you are not aware of Amanda's illness you can find all of the relevant Go Deaf Missions posts on Facebook or at [GoDeafMissions.com](http://GoDeafMissions.com) in one of the slider menus. We ask for continued prayers on her behalf.

We have strived to do effective ministry despite the complications in Amanda's health. Having a team makes it possible. It has been a blessing to have our whole team together, and God keeps providing for our needs in unexpected ways. We are still praying God will supply more monthly support for Timothy and Marie.

We are beginning a visa application process to bring Marie to the US with us when we return. She already has some support raised from churches here in Australia, and we hope to help her raise more before coming to the US. If the Lord would allow you to have a part in supporting Marie or Timothy, please contact us for details. They are a great help and a blessing to the Go Deaf Missions Team.

Your Hands to the Deaf Worldwide,

John, Tricia, Amanda & David Olson