



Marie FOR DEAF Honduras

...and they that have not heard shall understand. Romans 15:21



I continue teaching a national couple, Marlon and Bridgy Sierra, intensive **Honduran Sign Language (LESHO) courses** in preparation to begin a Deaf ministry together. We have completed over 170 hours of LESHO class and immersion time; over 1/3 of our goal!

Marlon is primarily focused on teaching a lesson for Deaf adults and Bridgy prepares to teach deaf children (most of whom know no sign language). To practice, we ask local Deaf people to come watch them teach. In the process, the Deaf guests are learning about God and the Bible, and several are showing enthusiasm as they anticipate the start of a Deaf ministry. Please pray that the Word of God affects their lives, even in these preliminary "practice" classes.



Bridgy practices teaching a Bible verse to Marlon & a Deaf teen. Most of the lesson is taught through gestures/ acting (notice Bridgy's costumes).

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As part of the LESHO/Deaf culture/Deaf ministry curriculum with the Sierras, we took a **road trip to El Salvador** (approx. 5 hours) to visit a well-established Deaf ministry in a Baptist church. Though we found the LESSA (Salvadoran sign language) dramatically different from LESHO (Honduran sign language), it was a good practice for using common gestures and lots of facial expressions to communicate! Over the weekend we interviewed 7 interpreters, visited Deaf people in their homes with the Deaf ministry director, and joined a Father's Day celebration in the church's Deaf class.

The Deaf in El Salvador give a Father's Day presentation in the main church service.



Most of my schedule is consumed with practicing Bible lessons in LESHO with Marlon and Bridgy Sierra, explaining LESHO vs. Spanish grammar to the Deaf teacher so he can teach the Sierras more clearly, visiting Deaf people, planning Deaf visits, or praying together. However, apart from all things Deaf-related, I have the pleasure of teaching some piano lessons and discipling two young women at church. Also, when I have a Friday evening free, I make some crafts with kids at the Children's Home (run by my teammates John and Rachelle Gardner). Last week we made **play-doh volcanoes**, they were definitely a hit! ☺



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