

VIDEO #1 Intro

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Hi, my name is Emily Wang. I am the program director for SUN with Wycliff Associates. SUN stands for "Symbolic Universal Notation". In this video I am going to be giving you a background of the SUN concept as well as the audiences that SUN reaches. So, in this picture, the woman on the right. Her name is Aura and she is a deaf woman in Uruguay. She had attended one of our deaf ownership translation events because she knew sign language and she was ready to help with the sign language program. When she arrived at the workshop, she realized that not only did she not understand anyone else who was signing at the workshop, but nobody else understood her. And that was because the sign language that she had learned 50 years ago had since become obsolete and been replaced with a more modern version of the Uruguayan sign language. As a result, she was not able to participate in that workshop. Well, when we looked into this problem, we realized that she was not the only one, in fact of the world's 70 million deaf people there [are] only... 80% of them do not have any access to education. In literacy or sign language. That means that about 60 million people have no way of accessing God's word even if it is translated into sign language. So, we thought about how we could get scripture to this population, the quickest and easiest way possible. We did not have time to spend years teaching someone literacy before they even got to scripture. So, the method that we had to bring to them and had to use had to be quick easy to learn and universal across all language. So, this is how SUN, (which stands for "Symbolic Universal Notation") was formed.

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In developing the SUN system we took inspiration from the Chinese language. The Chinese language is based on a set of small symbols that represent the basic concepts of that language. Those symbols are then combined and used in different ways to make all of the other symbols that are needed in the Chinese language. For example: this is the Chinese word for Woman.

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If we put two women together, we have the word for argument, which sometimes if not many times happens when two women get together. And so, we took another Chinese word: since woman isn't very intuitive, we didn't use that for woman, but one word we did use is the word for tree. This is the Chinese word for tree and right now it doesn't really look a whole lot like a tree, but if I do this

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that looks a little more like a tree. So, since we can use a universal picture to teach this word, we went ahead and borrowed this word from the Chinese language. Now if we had two trees, the concept is woods or "many trees". A place of "many trees" is represented by this symbol right here. So, with intuitive symbols, intuitive pictures we are able to then represent all the words needed in scripture. Here is another example,

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this is the word for person. It doesn't look a whole lot like a person until I do this [draws legs] Now it looks a little bit more like a person. It is a little easier to recognize. I am now going to add this word person to another Character. Right now, this doesn't look like a lot, but if I do that it looks a little bit more like a pencil or a pen. 0:06:20 Now if I combined these two symbols, we now have the word Author, Writer, or Scribe. A person who writes. That is how the SUN system is created. It is based on 90 basic symbols that are combined or changed to make all of the other symbols. An example of changing a basic symbol would be if I took the word person and I laid it down.

0:06:52 Now this symbol is changed by flipping it sideways and this is the symbol for sleep, rest, or lay down. By doing this with the 90 symbols we are able to represent all of the New Testament words with the SUN language.

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This is Sandra. Sandra is a 14-year-old deaf girl who lives in Paraguay. All her life since she was born deaf, she was neglected by her family because her family, (like many other families in Paraguay) considers children with disabilities a curse to the family. So, she was left at home and had no communication with any of her family members. When she was brought to the SUN workshop, she did not know sign language, she did not know how to read and she did not basic communication skills. After 3 days of learning SUN she was able to fluently read her first passage of scripture and sign it back using the standard Paraguayan sign language to her facilitators. After reading this scripture passage she then turned to her facilitator and asked in the new sign language that she asked, "how do I receive this Jesus into my heart?" The passage was on Jesus healing a deaf, mute man and she recognized that this is what she needed. Her facilitator did not mention anything about salvation or anything else about Jesus besides what was in the passage, but the Holy Spirit moved through the reading of the passage to stir in her heart a need for a Savior.

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This is just one example of how SUN has been impacting lives in the countries that we have taken it to. Also, in Paraguay we found there was a new audience that we had tried to work with, but that was actually a lot more prevalent than we had thought it was. So, we realized that not only were there people who were deaf, but there were also people who were deaf and blind. In fact, there are 600,000 people who are both deaf and blind. And as you can see in the next video in the next picture, these two gentlemen are brothers. They are both deaf and blind, they were born deaf and blind. They also had very little education. They did have education attempted in Paraguay by a blind school, but after 3 years of attempting to teach these brothers the school gave up and said, "there's nothing we can do". They were brought to a SUN workshop where we came with 3 dimensional versions of the pictures that were used with the deaf illiterate and we paired them with another deaf facilitator and by the end of the second day they were beginning to read their very first words and comprehending them, passing our comprehension tests with those first few characters that they learned. The change in their countenance really said volumes as to the effectiveness of what they were they learning. They were realizing that the

tiles that were in front of them carried a meaning that they could use to connect with the world around them.

0:11:33 The young man on the far right of this picture is David and He is a 19-year-old boy that was born in West Africa. When he was born, he was born completely deaf and mostly blind. His family took him to a doctor to try and improve his vision, and his doctor gave him [eye] drops that made him completely blind. So, he is completely blind and completely deaf and unable to communicate with his family or anyone else. They took him to an audiologist who also was a pastor and his name was Randy and Randy tried to work with David for a long time. Afterwards he said to the family, "There's nothing I can do. This is beyond what I'm able to do, what I know how to do. So, I'm sorry. There is really nothing I can do to help your son. When SUN came to this country the facilitator of this country took David and Randy to this workshop and we began to teach Randy how to teach a deaf blind person SUN. Randy started to work with David and he began to teach basic concepts just using the first few words. Pretty soon David was starting to catch on. He was catching on so quickly that he was even going home every single night and teaching his family SUN. Then when he would come back to the workshop, he would initiate conversations. He would really take ownership of his learning in dictating the pace that the lessons were to be taught in. He would not let the facilitator move on until he was sure he understood the word that he was learning. In 5 days, he was able to read 2 sentences of scripture. His two sentences of scripture were "people were throughout the whole land bringing sick people to Jesus". He was since made a salvation decision and continues to learn more about Jesus through SUN and through his facilitator teaching him the rest of the book of Mark.

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In developing SUN, we also wanted to reach people like Jugo and Pedro pictured up here. Jugo and Pedro are brothers and they are not only deaf, but they are also blind. There is currently an estimated 600,000 people in the world who are deaf and blind. Of course, that is just the number that is reported. Like the story of the deaf girl in Paraguay that I mentioned, a lot of people with disabilities are hidden from the public and they are not reported. The actual number of deaf-blind persons is much greater than 600,000. This proved to be another need we wanted to address with SUN as well. When we took SUN to Paraguay and introduced it to Jugo and Pedro, initially the results were very discouraging. I related that experience with the experience of teaching a "rag doll". They were very limp; they were unresponsive, and we were wondering whether this system would actually work with the deaf blind. Then we paired a deaf facilitator with the students and immediately there was a connection. Within the first day of working with the deaf facilitator they were able to read their first 4 words with complete comprehension. The reason they know they were completely comprehending what they were learning is they were passing the comprehension tests. For the numbers 1-4, which were their first words, they were able to take the tiles that represented the numbers 1-4. They were given those tiles scrambled and then they were able to put those tiles in numerical order after reading and signing back what each of those tiles meant. This opened the door for another audience that SUN could reach by using cards printed on a 3-Dimensional printer. We were able to teach the deaf-blind the same symbols using concept demonstrations and acting out the words.