



Hope for Every Deaf Person

IMAGINE A BIBLE

IN EVERY SIGN LANGUAGE.

70 MILLION DEAF LIVES

TRANSFORMED BY THE

GOSPEL. THIS IS WHY DEAF

BIBLE SOCIETY EXISTS.

We believe that the Great Commission is true for all people, including the Deaf. We believe the Deaf have a right to access the Bible in their sign language resulting in a personal relationship with God and community within the Church.

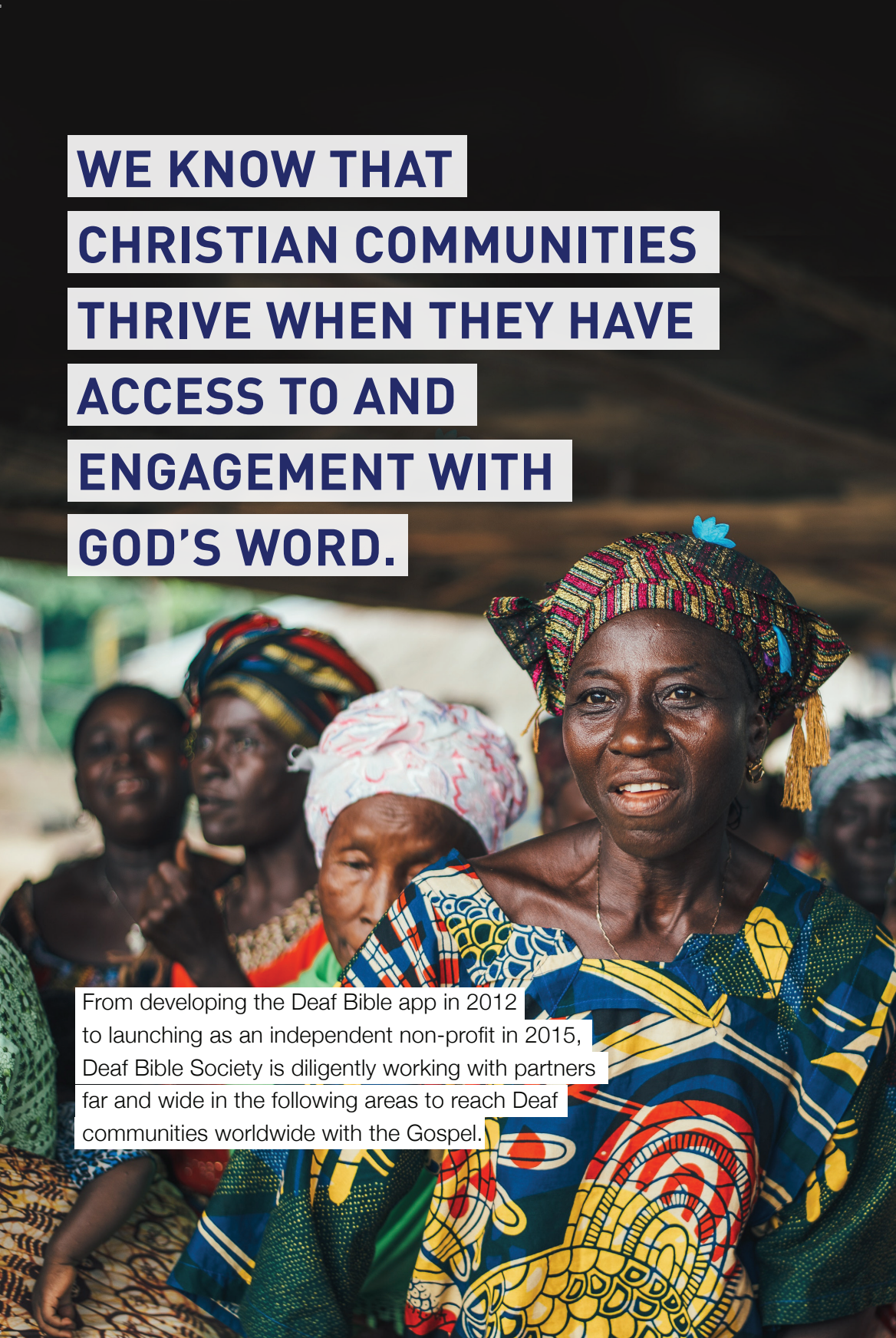


Our mission is God's Word
in Every Sign Language.

Our vision is to create local,
sustainable, Great Commission
initiatives among the Deaf to
reveal the hope of the Gospel
so that every Deaf person
has the opportunity to receive,
experience, and share it.

Your partnership is vital in
reaching the Deaf around the
world with the Gospel in their
sign language.

**WE KNOW THAT
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES
THRIVE WHEN THEY HAVE
ACCESS TO AND
ENGAGEMENT WITH
GOD'S WORD.**



From developing the Deaf Bible app in 2012 to launching as an independent non-profit in 2015, Deaf Bible Society is diligently working with partners far and wide in the following areas to reach Deaf communities worldwide with the Gospel.

Translation Acceleration

of Scripture into sign languages

Scripture Engagement to train
and equip Deaf leaders to develop
Christ-centered communities

Advocacy to educate others
about bringing the Gospel to the
Deaf in their unique sign languages

Technology for Deaf people to
access and engage with God's Truth

Translation Acceleration

THIS IS WHERE IT ALL BEGINS

Ever since God uttered life into existence, people have been finding ways to share His Truth with others. While the Bible translation movement has primarily focused on a written approach, a nation is still waiting for God's Word: the Deaf.

A Deaf person's heart language is sign language. It is a visual language. There are over 400 known sign languages, yet none of them have a full Bible translated.

Your partnership brings together the expertise of Deaf Bible Society, translators, consultants, and a local Deaf community to produce a sign language Bible translation in video format. Your partnership in accelerating sign language Bible translation projects ensures more Deaf communities will be able to engage with the Gospel in their visual language.

A LIVING LEGACY

Sina, a Deaf woman in Tanzania, was raised in a superstitious family that practiced an ancestral religion. While living in a Deaf community with her husband, she fell ill. She had no money for doctors, and the local clinic could not diagnose her condition. She lived in fear and despair.

One day, the Gospel came to Sina's village through the Tanzanian Sign Language Bible on the Deaf Bible App. Thanks to the tireless efforts of a Bible translation team, Sina learned that there was a God who loved her and knew her language. She accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior.

Sina grew to be a passionate follower of Jesus. She clung to the Scriptures and was committed to following Jesus wherever He led her. One year after her conversion, Sina's illness overcame her, and she went home to be with the Lord. She left a legacy of faith for her husband and two young daughters.

Since her death, Sina's husband has become a Deaf Bible leader in their community and distributes the Tanzanian Sign Language Bible on micro SD cards. From the diligent work of the translation team, God's Word became alive and active in the hearts of Sina and her family.



TRANSLATION BY THE NUMBERS

- **400+ SIGN LANGUAGES TOTAL**
- **70+ MILLION DEAF PEOPLE WORLDWIDE**
- **2% OF WHOM HAVE EXPERIENCED THE GOSPEL**

TRANSLATION BREAKDOWN

30

Translations planned
for this year but waiting
for funding

28

Translations
with some Scripture

25

Translation
Acceleration translations
in progress

TRANSLATION BREAKDOWN

**125 SIGN LANGUAGES WITH
SCRIPTURE AVAILABLE BY 2021**

Engagement

TRAINING & EQUIPPING DEAF COMMUNITIES FOR NEW LIFE

When a sign language Bible translation project is completed, we can't just "put it out there" and expect the local Deaf community to engage with it. Deaf leaders within the community need to be identified, trained, and equipped to reach others with the video Bible in their sign language.

Deaf leaders are being trained on how to effectively use technology to share the Bible with others and facilitate Deaf Bible programs. These programs allow local Deaf communities

to watch a sign language Bible translation together and then discuss it. Your partnership ensures local Deaf leaders are identified, trained, and equipped to teach others how to engage with God's Word, both individually and in community.

MEL AND KARI

A young Deaf couple was having marital challenges. They had been attending a Deaf church for some time, but there wasn't a lot of growth in their relationship with each other or with God. Mel was never able to answer questions correctly about the Bible because he couldn't understand it.

Instead of reading during the Bible study, the pastor of their church started showing a Bible translation in American Sign Language on the screen. Mel began to understand. When the pastor asked him what

happened, Mel replied, "it was clear because it was in American Sign Language." Everyone in the church was overjoyed! In all the years Mel had been coming to church, this was the first time he understood the Truth, because he was able to see it in his sign language.

Mel and Kari downloaded the Deaf Bible app to their mobile phones and began watching God's Word in American Sign Language. They have been discussing God's Word with others and their community. Access to and engagement with the Bible in their language is helping their marriage to heal and grow!



SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT
BY THE NUMBERS

- **80+ NORTH AMERICAN LEADERS TRAINED**
- **150+ INTERNATIONAL LEADERS TRAINED**
- **3 TOGETHER EVENTS INSPIRING AND
EQUIPPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF
DEAF LEADERS**

Technology

ALL THINGS WORKING TOGETHER

Technology is helping to reach the Deaf with God's Word in ways that weren't possible just a few decades ago. Advances in hardware and software are advancing the Kingdom of God among one of the world's last unreached people groups.

HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE WAYS TECHNOLOGY IS BEING LEVERAGED:

- Chameleon, a new avatar software, is being developed to conceal the identities of signers in translations for persecuted regions.
- Websites, mobile phones, apps, and micro SD cards enable Deaf communities around the world to engage with God's Word.
- Deaf Bible app is providing Scripture in 28 translations. Nearly one million people have engaged with God's Word in their sign language since launching the app in 2012!

FATHER AND SON

For a long time now I have been pressing my father to watch the Bible in American Sign Language (ASL), but he has been hesitant. You see my dad and I are Deaf, and my dad grew up being taught that reading the Bible in English was the only way to experience God's Word.

Watching my father watch God's Word in ASL melted my heart. He was actually taking the Scriptures in! When I was young he was the teacher, but now that I am older I am teaching him new things.

Though he is already a believer, he was really always resistant to the use of technology for watching the Bible in ASL. One week I was visiting, and I had set in my mind that I was going to nudge him a little more. I asked him if we could do a father-son devotional, just to show him the Deaf Bible app.



TECHNOLOGY BY THE NUMBERS

Deaf Bible Platform

This platform allows the Deaf to engage with God's Word in various sign languages on their phone, tablet, or computer. Online you can explore sign language Bible parallels by displaying different languages or version at the same time. 800,000+ total app downloads and 28 sign language Bible translations available.

Deaf Church Where

An online platform that provides the Deaf within the U.S. a visual resource and contacts for, along with accessibility to, Deaf churches and ministries nationwide.

Chameleon

Technology that uses avatars to conceal the identity of a signer throughout a Bible translation project for sign languages in persecuted regions.

Deaf Christian Media Network

A network that allows the Deaf to engage with thousands of sign language Christian resources, including devotionals, children's Bible stories, and more.

Micro SD Cards

Deaf people living in remote and hard-to-reach regions can access God's Word without the Internet.

Sign Language Database

A resource that hosts information on the 400+ sign languages used around the world and keeps DBS and our partners updated on all the sign language Bible projects that are occurring.

Advocacy

THE DEAF ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

The Deaf have long been ignored and overlooked. Advocacy's primary focus is to shine light on the Deaf Bible cause and to educate others about bringing the Gospel to the Deaf in their unique sign languages.

ADVOCACY CAN TAKE MANY FORMS:

- Educating yourself about Deaf culture and letting others know helps bring light and truth into many misperceptions.
- Praying for a specific Deaf community in a particular country brings greater awareness to the unique needs of that group and helps to prepare their hearts and minds for the Gospel.
- Giving to Deaf Bible Society supports advocacy efforts already underway.

AN ADVOCATE JUST LIKE YOU

The following testimony comes from Mike Silva, a world renowned evangelist and a Deaf advocate just like you:

Deaf Bible has absolutely changed our lives and our ministry. We just finished a large festival here in Colombia and we discovered for the first time that there were at least 12,000 Deaf individuals in this city! Before we've gone into cities and left cities, and we never asked [about the Deaf], but now that we've been made keenly aware and it has changed our ministry.

We had [interpreters for Deaf people] at our festival for the very first time, and it opened up [ministry to] a people group that was once missed and overlooked. We're convinced that when the Bible says that we are to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with everyone that obviously includes people who cannot hear. It's because of you, and your ministry, that you have empowered us to become better, more effective, more sensitive, and more obedient to the call of Jesus Christ!

ADVOCATING THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

TODAY DEAF BIBLE SOCIETY IS

BLESSED TO BE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



400 CHURCHES



750 PRAYER PARTNERS



20 MINISTRY PARTNERS



2,000 U.S. DEAF ADVOCATES

Your Investment Changes Lives

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US IN
ADVOCATING FOR THE DEAF BIBLE CAUSE
IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS.

Prayer partner committed to standing in the gap of the Bible-less Deaf communities. Text the word PRAY to 444999 to receive text and email prayer alerts.

Deaf advocate who uses their platform to share about the needs of the Deaf and raise awareness to see that they too may have access to the Gospel.

Resource partner who funds a translation, scripture engagement, or needed technology. Our goal is to raise \$10 million for the Deaf Bible cause.

Volunteer at an upcoming Scripture Engagement event created to train and equip Deaf leaders.

FAQ's

Why are the Deaf one of the most unreached and unengaged people groups?

Throughout history, Deaf people have been shunned or cast out of hearing communities. During the time of Greek philosophers Aristotle and Socrates, Deaf people were thought to have no intelligence. During Hitler's reign, Deaf people were tested and tormented in science experiments. In the United States during the 1800s, certain groups tried to pass laws to prevent Deaf people from marrying and having children. Even within the last century, Deaf people have been forced into orality and the use of signed systems that represent spoken languages, instead of being allowed the freedom to use their native sign language.

In 1960, William Stokoe, an English professor at Gallaudet University, began researching and writing about signed languages. For the first time, signed languages became recognized as fullfledged, living languages, independent of spoken languages.

The work of translating the Bible into other languages has been around for centuries. For example, the English Bible was translated in the 1500s. Yet, not one of the world's 400+ known sign languages has a full Bible translation.

The historical mistreatment of the Deaf, the recent recognition of sign languages as unique and distinct languages, and the stark reality that no full Bible translation exists in any sign language yet—these reasons, and more, all contribute to the Deaf being one of the last and most unreached and unengaged people groups with the gospel.

What are the major differences between spoken and signed languages?

Communication is a basic human need. Language is the primary way to communicate, but its expression is different between the hearing and Deaf communities. Spoken languages are expressed through oral and aural means—with the voice and heard by the ears.

Signed languages are expressed gesturally and visually—by the hands and face and seen by the eyes. Sign languages are not derivatives nor are they “simplified” versions of a spoken language. They contain structures and processes different from what spoken languages use. A prime example of this is American Sign Language. It is not English. It is its own distinct language.

3. Why don't Deaf people just learn to read?

The hearing community begins learning how to read at a very young age. For most hearing children, this means starting with the alphabet and attaching sounds to each letter. From there they begin piecing together the letters to create words, then the words to form sentences. But for Deaf children, learning to read is a different process. They can't hear the sounds in a word, so they have to memorize the sequence of letters as a full word, attach the sequence to a concept, then the concept to a picture. For example, w-i-n-d spells "wind." When we hear this spoken, we know whether it's the movement of air or what's being done to a toy. Sound gives meaning, but for a Deaf person, it's still the same seen sequence. Context and contrast are what help give meaning. This is often why reading a sound/ text-based language is not considered a natural part to a Deaf person's native sign language.

Also, consider that as many as 80 percent of Deaf children around the world never receive access to a formal education. They continue to be shunned and thought of as "less than" by their hearing community. Even for the Deaf who can read, written language is a second language that requires extra effort. When a Deaf person can access the Bible in their native sign language, they can truly understand and connect with the Word of God.

4. What is the Deaf Bible platform?

The Deaf Bible platform is a tech-based resource that houses sign language Bible content in one location. Deaf Bible currently holds Scripture in more than 25 sign languages, a study Bible tool that offers brief introductions and lessons on passages of Scripture, and the JESUS film—a visual dramatization of Jesus' life—with interpretation in a number of sign languages. Users can access Deaf Bible through DeafBible.com and the Deaf Bible app, which can be downloaded from an Apple App or Google Play Store onto any smartphone or tablet. Deaf Bible can also be distributed through storage devices, such as a SIM card or USB, for people living in areas without Internet access.



www.DeafBibleSociety.com