



# Peace River Sign Language

## SOUTHEAST ASIA



### Quick Facts:

**Potential population impact:** 405,000  
**Number of languages served:** 1  
**Geographic area:** Southeast Asia  
**Timeline for current phase of project:** until September 2022



### Focus:

- Bible translation
- Scripture engagement



### Goal:

Complete Scripture passages. This will be done in the form of video clips, as most Deaf are functionally illiterate. Each video will focus on a single Scripture passage and highlight a theme such as *Dealing with Hardships*, *Follow the Spirit*, *God's Armour* and more.

### Snapshot:

There are more than 400 sign languages in use around the world today, yet not one of these groups has a full Bible in their language! 80% of the Deaf population does not even have access to formal education in order to learn to read and communicate with others. As you can imagine, this can lead to loneliness and despair. The Deaf need the hope of the gospel.

Peace River sign language users live in a restricted-access country in Southeast Asia, where Christians are a small minority. Most sign language users have not been exposed to the gospel message.

Through support from people like you, **a community of Deaf believers is working hard to translate a set of chronological Bible stories into their language, using sign language in a video format** because they are unable to read written scripts.

You can help the Chronological Bible Translation team reach the Peace River Sign Language community for the first time with the hope of God's Word.

### Challenges:

**Only 2% of the Deaf population worldwide has been introduced to the gospel.** Even though 400 sign languages exist around the world, only one has the New Testament. That means that nearly 70 million people are still waiting to understand the Good News.

Why do the Deaf need Bible translation? Since learning to read is much more difficult when a person cannot hear, most people who are Deaf cannot read. Deaf languages are full-fledged, living languages, and are completely different from the spoken and written languages surrounding them. Those who are Deaf need to encounter the Word of God in the form that they understand.

**Conflict, persecution, and restricted travel limit Christian activity.** There is strong opposition to church gatherings and language development in certain regions of the country.

**Discrimination against minority groups and the Deaf.** The Deaf groups we are working with are already part of minority ethnic groups. They are a minority group within a minority. Many assume that those who are Deaf are also mute or lack intelligence. They therefore experience discrimination and receive few educational or economic opportunities.

## The Plan:

**Produce a chronological translation of the Bible by September 2022:** Begin with New Testament portions (most of Acts, portions of Paul's letters, and sections of Revelation) focusing on the theme, "How to Serve God."

**Help the predominantly Buddhist Deaf population engage with Scripture:** share the Gospel of Mark and portions from the Old and New Testaments through chronological stories.

## The Impact:

In this Buddhist society, the hope of the gospel is desperately needed. When the Deaf understand God's Word, lives are changed for eternity. You could impact an entire language group and help share Christ's love with hundreds of thousands of people.

In the U.S., when a woman named Tanya began engaging with the Bible in American Sign Language, she was finally able to have a relationship with God. "I remember thinking, God I want to communicate, I want to understand who you are."

Then Tanya was introduced to a Deaf Bible app, in which the Scriptures were presented in video format. "The Bible became clear," she says. **"Before, I felt disconnected, but now I have a relationship with God. I feel so close to Him. Now I know that he is my father, my beloved.** I am so grateful for the gift of God's Word in sign language . . . thank you, God."

**Wouldn't it be amazing to hear a testimony like Tanya's from a Peace River Sign language speaker in Southeast Asia?** You can help make this happen.



Your prayer and financial support will help end Bible poverty for the Deaf population in Southeast Asia



...so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.  
Isaiah 55:11 (NIV)



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