

How a Group of Japanese Deaf are Sharing The Gospel



Prayer Guide

Test me, Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; for I have always been mindful of your unfailing love and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness. I do not sit with the deceitful, nor do I associate with hypocrites. - Psalm 26:2-4 NIV



Pastor Matsumoto

Wisdom for him in his role as pastor of the Yamagata Deaf church, the board chair for the JSL Bible translation, and the consortium of SLBT projects in Asia/Pacific.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. - James 1:5 ESV

Mark Penner, United Bible Societies

There are countries where it is not safe for someone to have their face on the Sign Language Bible Translation (SLBT). We need a way to disguise the signer's identity. Many have tried to create this, but the project keeps stalling. It exists in the commercial world, but we've not been able to access it. *This is a big prayer request.* The work would go much faster if this was available.



Another prayer request would be for Deaf translation consultants. A rubric is being created to outline the education they would need to do this work.

Funding is a big issue for many projects. As with any translation project, just finishing the work is not the goal. Pray for scripture engagement—*for people to take the translated work and immerse themselves in the Scriptures.*

Pray for the Community Checkers (Also known as Comprehension Check). We always invite both Christian and not-yet Christian individuals from the Deaf community to view the drafts and give valuable feedback. Once the team has a version of the draft they and the consultant are happy with, they show it to community members. It's important to know if the drafts can be reasonably easily understood by someone viewing it for the first time, and usually checkers offer helpful suggestions for how the drafts can be improved for clarity. By this point, the translation team has usually been working on the draft over and over. It is crucial for the team to get fresh eyes on their work. This helps ensure the translation is accessible to anyone regardless of familiarity with Christianity or the amount of background knowledge and educational level. It is also a vital tool for Scripture Engagement and building bridges with the Deaf community which is largely not involved in church. It draws on the linguistic expertise of signers with experience in diverse fields like theatre, broadcasting, or sign language instruction. It provides a way for Deaf people to engage with the Bible when they wouldn't otherwise, and plays a big role in increasing community awareness and recognition of the

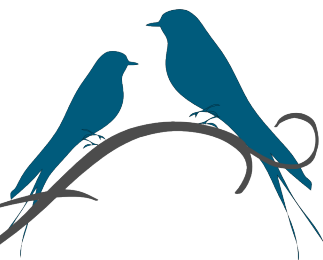
project. *Those looking at Ezra and Obadiah at the end of last year have gotten quite interested in who these prophets were, and what the Exile was about, and the team did quite an in-depth Bible study with them!* These non-churched Deaf people probably know more about these two books now than the average church goer!



Mary Esther Penner, WorldVenture

Good health for all workers. Healing for those dealing with medical issues.

COVID: The translators can do some work remotely, but meeting face-to-face, and without masks is so much better. Also recording is very difficult without all the necessary equipment. The bank of eight monitors (used like teleprompters) just isn't a reality for someone to have in their home working remotely.



How can you help?

Keep this in your Bible or where you can remember to pray.

We value our prayer partners. As Mary Esther says, *"We believe God works through the prayers of the saints."*

Give to the JSL Bible Project 6417-908

Go to <http://www.worldventure.com/JSLProject>

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All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. - 2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV

If you are interested in serving with WorldVenture to help in this field, go to <http://www.worldventure.com/go>

