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# NEWSLETTER

## DEAF BIBLE TRANSLATION (ASLV)

The first full Bible translation for the Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing  
EVER now available!

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## OPEN HANDS DEAF SERVICES

An introduction to an organization on the front lines serving  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing to bring the truth of Jesus Christ.

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## LOCAL HAPPENINGS

How the local body of Christ is reaching and impacting the  
Deaf in our area and beyond.

# CONTENTS

## #01 - THE ASLV BIBLE

The first complete sign language Bible is now complete giving never before available access to God's word

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## #03 - OPEN HANDS DEAF SERVICES

A local organization and outreach of ministry for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community

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## #07 - HOW TO GET INVOLVED

What can people do to get involved with one of the most unreached people groups in the world

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## #10 - GIVE ME A SIGN

Do you want to learn some sign language? Here are some tips for those new to sign language or want to brush up

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## #12 - LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Quiam aut velessus, nimpore nobis etur sum a consecae poruptaquia poreperum sa alignam et ut laboremped quo exceres

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## #16 - THANK YOU

Thank you for your prayerful support! Other ways to get involved and contact us!

## Colliding of Cultures

The difference between Deaf and deaf... sometimes seen as (d) Deaf. The big 'D' Deaf are people who identify culturally as Deaf. This is a culture different from the 'hearing' culture. You will often see people groups identified as hearing or Deaf.



# TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Deaf culture is unique. Statistically 1% of Deaf in the United States will attend church ONE TIME this year. Note... this was pre-CV-19.

This staggering statistic is not limited to the United States, but reaches globally.

Only 2% of Deaf worldwide will ever be exposed to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our mission is to change this one person, community, nation at a time. You can help!



# Pioneer

## Bible Translators

[www.pioneerbible.org/deafgroup](http://www.pioneerbible.org/deafgroup)

[www.pioneerbible.org/jrbucklew](http://www.pioneerbible.org/jrbucklew)

### Equipping Deaf Believers to Reach Bibleless Deaf Peoples Worldwide

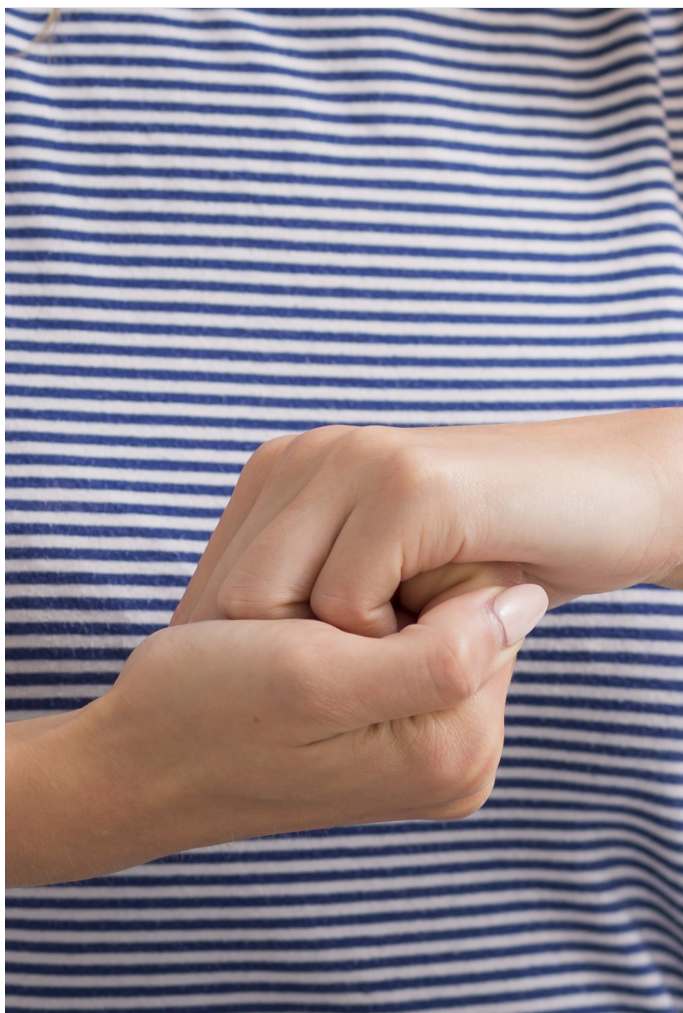
Pioneer Bible Translators longs to see transformed lives through God's Word in every language, including the 400 signed languages used by Deaf communities worldwide. Currently,

65 million Deaf people live without access to the Gospel. They seek to bridge that gap by equipping Deaf Christians to go to the most spiritually impoverished Deaf peo-

ple groups and serve cross-culturally as Bible translation facilitators, church planters, Deaf education specialists, and community development workers







# Open Hands Deaf Services is blessed to partner with Pioneer Bible Translators to achieve local Deaf mission goals

**J.R. Bucklew** serves as the Director of Development for Sign Language projects on the Pioneer Bible Translators Development team. As part of this team, he works with major donors, churches and foundations to build strategic partnerships with those projects. J.R. also acts as a Deaf Ministry Advocate, working to see Deaf people groups become a strategic focus of ministry efforts around the world. This means he works strategically with local Deaf ministries like ours to see Deaf lives transformed by the Gospel so they too can pray for, give to, and go serve among Deaf people groups around the world. He also serves as the chairman of the board for Open Hands Deaf Services.



Monthly Newsletter Template



The first ever Sign Language Bible has been completed. A project spanning decades is finally here. Now, of more than 400 known sign languages world-wide, there is ONE complete Bible in sign language. The ASLV (American Sign Language

# 1ST EVER FULL SIGN LANGUAGE BIBLE

Imagine being forced to read, understand, and apply the Bible and all of its truths in a language you don't speak and may not be fluent in. Imagine someone telling you that the Word of God is not available in your 1st language.

This has been the case for so many Deaf individuals around the world. There has not been a single available full bible translation for any sign language until mid 2020. To

date, there are more than 400 known sign languages and now there is one full translation. This ground breaking project completion will provide access to Deaf in America.

Why is this such a huge achievement? Sign language is not a written or "spoken" language. Additionally, American Sign Language is not simply English with the hands. ASL has its own grammatical

structure, nuances, figures of speech and non-English equivalents.

Due to technology, this version is widely accessible through commonly used platforms such as mobile devices, tablets, and computer computers This, for the first time, has made the Word of God available to more people in the Deaf community more than ever before.



Traditionally, the Bible has been dependant on individual sign language interpreters for translation and interpretation. Many interpreters may or may not have a deep enough theological understanding of meaning and context of portions of the Bible to effectively and accurately convey the message. More over, there are many instances where a non-believing interpreter is used to rendering the Bible and its meaning to the Deaf. This practice can pave the way for huge variances or flat out incorrect interpretations of scripture. With the ASLV (American Sign Language Version), there is now more of a standard in target language rendering. In other terms, each time someone sees the same verse it is presented more consistently leading to greater understanding of Christian concepts found in the Bible.

The ASLV project has been decades in the making with cooperation of several translation organizations. This successful model is being emulated worldwide to bring the gospel truth to every tribe and tongue.

**<sup>9</sup> For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

**-Philippians 2:9-11 (NASB)**

Imagine the joy of understanding the good news! Imagine the peace of eternal salvation in your language! Join us in celebrating this monumental achievement opening the door to so many who, now, have full access to the full gospel!



**<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.**

**-2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NASB)**

# OPEN HANDS DEAF SERVICES

Open Hands Deaf Services is organized for charitable, religious, and educational, purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Open Hands Deaf Services provides the bridge between physical needs of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community and the spiritual needs of EVERYONE... including those that are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Access to effective communication is core to the mission of Open Hands.



***Open Hands***  
**DEAF SERVICES**





The story of Open Hands starts, first and foremost, with ministry in the name of Jesus Christ. Steve and Angie Evans, founders of Open Hands, have been serving together for more than 13 years in Deaf ministry. They met through Deaf ministry and have had the opportunity to serve in many different capacities through the years. Through their experience, they have been blessed to see several Deaf, in the community, come to authentically know Christ and substantively grow in their Christian walk. Currently, Steve & Angie lead a Deaf ministry at First Baptist Church in Benton, LA. Steve leads Sunday School taught exclusively in American Sign Language.

Angie has been active in the Deaf community for more than 30 years. She has worked as an interpreter both in and out of the traditional church setting. Angie is a true giver and servant at heart. Her gentle grace is inspiring to women, both young and old, whom Open Hands directly serves.



**“Ministry reaches beyond the walls of the church. Many times we have to help with people’s physical needs in order to help with their spiritual needs. Open Hands Deaf Services was started to reach those needs.”**

**-Steve Evans (CEO/Executive Director)**

But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

-James 1:22 (NASB)

We view Open Hands is an extension of the Deaf ministry that is housed at FBC Benton. God has blessed us with capabilities that are only from Him. We are fortunate enough to have five interpreters which opens the door for Deaf to serve in any capacity that the Lord may lead them.

Generally speaking, Deaf ministries tend to become a “church within a church.” Our approach is allowing

Deaf members to be a part of the body of Christ and serve where their gifting is. We are blessed to have a team of qualified interpreters that afford the ability for involvement of Deaf members from participating in the hearing choir, to serving with the men’s ministry, to access to weekly women’s bible studies and beyond. In many respects, Deaf members can serve like any hearing member and can serve in a typical capacity within the body of the church.

Bible literacy is a large area of focus within the ministry.

“I was shocked! We were going over a basics of the Bible one week and asked the group to use the concordance to find a particular passage. The deer in the headlights look was eye-opening to how much there needs to be done in this area.”

It is difficult to draw a separation between church ministry and Open Hands. At the end of the day we are Christians everywhere we go in everything we do in every hour of the day.



# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Pray!

Prayer is **POWERFUL**! Jesus' example of frequent prayer is something that is lost in today's culture. We want ALL to come to the saving knowledge and truth of Jesus Christ!

- Pray with us as we minister to this largely unreached people group.
- Pray that lives will be changed.
- Pray that we recognize opportunities that God devinely places in our path
- Pray that we are effective
- Pray for endurance
- Pray that He is exalted
- Pray that those who are blinded by the world system will have the scaled removed
- Pray for the families
- Pray that God will raise up more men that are willing to be accountable men to lead





**<sup>16</sup> Be happy [in your faith] and rejoice and be glad-hearted continually (always);**

**<sup>17</sup> Be unceasing in prayer [praying perseveringly];**

**<sup>18</sup> Thank [God] in everything [no matter what the circumstances may be, be thankful and give thanks], for this is the will of God for you [who are] in Christ Jesus [the Revealer and Mediator of that will].**

**-1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (AMP)**

God is good!

7 " Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

-Matthew 7:7-8 (NASB)





**Join in the Fun!**

“

COFFEE-  
-FELLOW  
Fun





**-LOCAL HAPPENINGS-**

# DEAF SHARE

What is Deaf Share? This is an event set up for the deaf every other month. It is fun, food for the body, and food for the soul.

Social activity is an important part of Deaf culture and Deaf ministry. Deaf Share is set up to provide a positive, loving and fun environment to fellowship and share the love of Jesus.

What is the best part of fellowship? TIME! Along with food and coffee, we share a devotional time because Jesus is the reason for all that we do.

We always need volunteers for setup, breakdown and meals. If you or someone you know wants to serve, reach out to us: [steve@openhandsdeafservices.com](mailto:steve@openhandsdeafservices.com)

# FOOD FELLOWSHIP-

Brush up on your signs... or learn something new

# GIVE ME A SIGN



## Fun Fact:

In American Sign Language there is a different sign for LOVE

Love - something like food or activity

Love - love for a person

There is a difference between someone who uses sign language and an interpreter. An interpreter is held to a higher standard of professionalism and an accepted code of ethical conduct. Some activities in the sign language world require specific certifications that require specialized training.

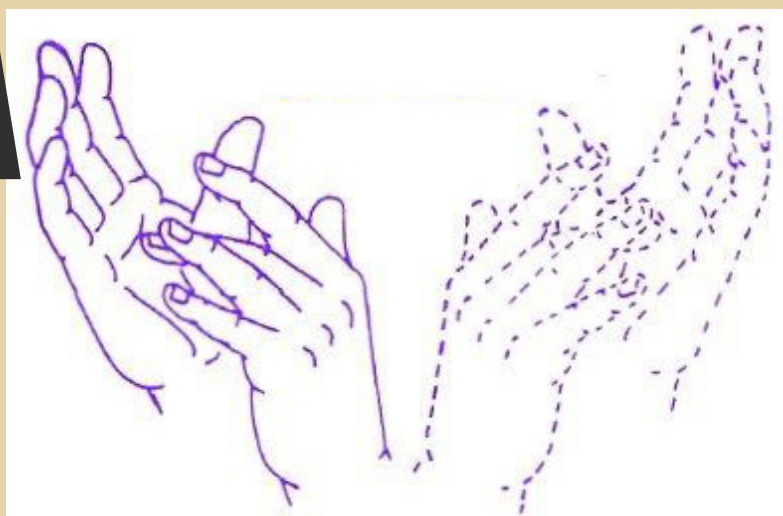
Anyone can learn to use sign language to communicate. Don't be afraid... there are so many people willing to help you along in your journey.





An easy way to remember the sign for 'Jesus' our LORD and savior... use your middle finger to touch the palm where Jesus was pierced at crucifixion.

**A**



Step 2 is to copy the same motion, except on the other hand.

**B**





If you want more information on how to get involved in Deaf culture, Deaf ministry or want to start on a road towards becoming an interpreter, let us know! You can contact us at any time via email [openhandsdeafservices@gmail.com](mailto:openhandsdeafservices@gmail.com) or you can call us 318-575-3323. Join our mailing list and be kept up to date on everything going on.

Do you want to become a financial partner with us? Open Hands Deaf Services is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your financial contribution may be tax deductible.

# THANK YOU!