



101703 - Sri Lanka
Project Fact Sheet 2022

Sri Lanka: Gospel Parables in Sign Language

Overview

The Ceylon Bible Society (CBS) is translating the Gospel Parables of Jesus into Sign Language for the Christian deaf community in Sri Lanka.

The Need

There are over 300,000 deaf people in Sri Lanka, of which it can be assumed 8% are Christians. The World Health Organisation in 2019 revealed that approximately 9% of the population in Sri Lanka has loss of hearing. The deaf community is marginalised socio-politically, and deaf people are unable to get required services efficiently from schools, hospitals, banks, courts and more, due to the lack of Sinhala to Sign Language interpretation support.

There are only five Christian schools for the deaf, and only five church denominations translate their church services into Sign Language.

A visit to the School for the Deaf in Ratmalana convinced the Ceylon Bible Society of the importance of providing the children and young people with the Scriptures in their own language, Sign Language.





Project Goals

This project will produce Sign Language Scriptures to help the Deaf community of Sri Lanka to engage with the word of God. After researching the situation in schools for deaf students, the Ceylon Bible Society has taken steps to start recording sign language versions of Bible stories. Since 2019, CBS has been working on the Gospel Parables in Sri Lankan sign language, which they hope to complete before the end of the year.

Impact

This project aims to impact at least 1,000 people (the estimated number of Christians who are deaf is around 20,000). The project will also strengthen churches to work more closely with the deaf community. The resources will improve the quality of churches for the deaf, and result in more deaf people being able to be involved in Bible ministry.

The Gospel Parables in Sign Language will be a resource for deaf people and may motivate them to study the Bible. Despite the challenges they face, they will be able to experience more of the love and faithfulness of God. It is hoped that it will make them feel that they are a valuable gift from God.

Prayer Needs

- Please pray for the people who are signing this resource, that they would be able to learn the correct signs.
- Pray for wisdom in translating the Bible text into signs, and for the team to come to a common decision for certain sign words of the Bible. Pray for good collaboration among the committee making decisions.