

PROJECT NO: N/A

TAX | NON-TAX

Australia



AUSLAN Bible Translation



Overview

The Auslan (Australian Sign Language) project provides Bible translations for deaf people in Australia. In 2020, the project paused to transition into a new committee. Now that the translation work has relaunched, the team is moving towards more translation work and Bible engagement resources, including the production of Auslan animation videos.

The Need

In 1996, Bible Society was approached by Christians in the Deaf community to help them translate the Bible into Auslan. In the two and a half decades since, the team has worked under translation consultant John Harris and project chair Mac Adam. Auslan is primarily used in Australia, and is one of about 130 sign languages worldwide. It dates back around 200 years and is used by about 20,000 people to communicate every day.

In 2020, when John and Mac both turned 80, the Auslan translation project began to transition towards new leadership under fellow Bible Society translation consultant, Amy Cruickshanks. Part of the transition to new leadership will involve the training of new deaf translators.

130

sign languages worldwide, AUSLAN is one of them.

> 16,000

people in Australia use Auslan at home (2021 Australian census).

Goals

In 2022, The Auslan team produced an animation video of the *Who? What? Why? How? of Christmas* story in partnership with, Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia. The video is based on a children's book by Susannah Mcfarlane around the

questions children have about God and Christmas.

For 2023, this project will work on an Easter production for the *Jesus. All About Life* campaign as well as create other Bible engagement resources around key topics and

events. More work is underway to produce materials for youth and children, including an Auslan translation of Jonah.

Impact

The impact of this project will be seen as 20,000 daily users of Auslan are able to engage with the Bible more fully. Through the Auslan translation, deaf people in Australia are provided the tools to understand the message of the Bible in greater depth — many to understand it for the first time.

The team have published Luke, John, Acts, selections of the Pentateuch, selections of Paul's epistles, as well as a full retelling of the story of Jesus (a combination of all four Gospels).

Testimonies

"After a lifetime of reading a printed Bible in English and trying to understand its detailed message, Mum found that the Bible came alive with the Auslan Bible. Mum was reading the Bible in her first language for the first time. Many deaf people have come to us and said how they have read a passage many times throughout their life, but this is the first time they have truly understood it.

"What a blessing it is for Deaf people to read the Bible in their language to understand more of the Bible's message."

Peter Bonser, a member of the Auslan translation team.

Prayer Needs

- Please pray for ongoing translation work, especially with a new committee on board.
- Pray for wisdom as the team chart the way forward.
- Praise God for the spiritual growth and sharing made possible by the Auslan Scriptures.
- Praise God for the team's wonderful partnership with the Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia in creating engaging Auslan animation videos that teaches around the word of God.

