

Auslan Bible Translation



Project: N/A
Tax-Deductible

Australia

Overview

Bible Society Australia is supporting the Auslan Bible Project, which has been working with the Deaf community since 1997 to translate Scripture into Auslan, the language of more than 16,000 Australians. Auslan has no written form, so the Bible must be translated visually through video. With only 13% of the Bible translated so far, significant progress is still needed. The project continues to expand its reach through new children's Bible stories, improved online access, and deeper engagement with Deaf Christians nationwide.



The Need

More than 16,000 people in Australia use Auslan at home, yet only two full Bible books — John and Acts — are currently available in Auslan, with 4% of the Old Testament and 37% of the New Testament translated. The Deaf community consistently expresses a desire for Scripture in their heart language, as traditional text-based Bibles in other languages are not accessible for many Deaf people. The recently redesigned Auslan Bible website provides easier access, but substantial work remains to offer a full Bible. Expanding translation, especially for children and young people, remains a pressing priority.

- **Two** complete Bible books available in Auslan
- **13%** of the Auslan Bible translated to date

Goals

In 2026, the Auslan Bible Project will continue strengthening connections with the Deaf Christian community through forums across Australia, seeking input to shape translation priorities. In partnership with Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia, the team plans to publish at least five new children's Bible stories about Jesus, building on the strong engagement seen in previous years. Community insights gathered through forums will guide decisions about which Scriptures to translate next. The project will also focus on enhancing accessibility through ongoing updates to the auslan.bible platform, ensuring Auslan users can easily view, share, and study Scripture in their own language.

Impact

In 2025, the Auslan Bible Project broadened access to Scripture through new children's Bible stories, including Jesus Feeds Over 5,000 People and The Son Who Left Home, both launched during National Week of Deaf People. A further two stories, The Story of the Good Samaritan and Jesus and Zacchaeus, are nearing completion for release in 2026.

The launch of Alpha in Auslan in July was a significant milestone, with this new resource warmly received by members of the Deaf community. Now small groups around the country are gathering together to watch these videos with the aim of learning more about God and Christianity.

Since August, the new, revised Auslan Bible website has dramatically improved accessibility, enabling users to find specific passages quickly and share Scripture within their communities.

Forums held in Brisbane and Melbourne fostered deeper community engagement and will expand nationally in 2026. These developments collectively strengthen Scripture engagement and visibility of the Deaf Christian community.

Impact in Numbers

7

children's Bible stories translated and published across 2024–2025.

2

national Auslan Bible forums held in 2025 (Brisbane, Melbourne), with more planned for 2026.

Testimony

"Having the Bible in Auslan means people in the Deaf community can have full access to the Good News in their own language — not by text but on video. Their faces light up when they see the Gospel in Auslan — that is priceless! I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has donated to the project and supported our work, your contributions have helped enormously. And thank you for your prayers — they are so very valuable. Without prayer, none of this would have happened. We just appreciate your partnership so much."

— Trudy Fraser, Auslan Bible Project Translator

How Your Support Helps

\$50

can help support community forums where Deaf Christians shape translation priorities.

\$100

can help cover the cost of travel for Auslan translation team members.

\$1,000

can help fund a project translator's work.

Later, Jesus talked to the people again. He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never live in darkness. They will have the light that gives life."

— **John 8:12, ERV**