



Deaf Pathway GLOBAL

2021 Annual Report

Deaf Pathway Global is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization

DEAF without a BIBLE

72 MILLION
DEAF PEOPLE
GLOBALLY

234 NATURAL
SIGN
LANGUAGES

When we think of a Bible, we think of a book - the written Word of God. Where there are written languages, there are printed translations of the Bible into those languages. A Deaf Bible, however, is the translation of scriptures into Sign language and recorded on video. You might be wondering, "Why can't the Deaf just read the Bible?". The natural languages of the Deaf are not written. Most of the Deaf worldwide do not communicate via the written text, but rather by sign alone. The Deaf are hungry for a solution that ensures people like themselves the opportunity to access God's Word. The vast majority of the Deaf worldwide have yet to see a single scripture or Bible story in their language.

We're working to change that!

This year, Deaf Pathway Global celebrated its first anniversary as a 501(c)(3) non-profit Bible translation entity. However, members of our team have been engaged in Bible translation work for many years. In 2021, we were able to translate a total of 42 Bible portions into a Sign Roots translation template that is being utilized to accelerate translation of the Bible into multiple sign languages. We have selected 300 Bible portions that focus on multiple aspects of the task of missions: entry, evangelism, discipleship, healthy church formation, leadership development, and networking. Our prayer is that Deaf people will be transformed when they see and receive God's Word in their heart languages, and form indigenous, reproducible church plants among their people and around the World.

Vesta D Sauter
Executive Director



OUR MISSION

Transforming lives through
Deaf-driven
innovative approaches to
Bible translation
empowering
Deaf persons
to utilize and share
God's Message
in their natural language.



**We are forging
a pathway**

by which Deaf people of every country
have the Bible in their own natural sign language.



In 2021 you made it possible for a team of 12 Deaf persons to translate God's Word into multiple Sign Languages.

TRANSFORMING **LIVES** THROUGH DEAF-DRIVEN INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO BIBLE TRANSLATION

The chief purpose for sign language translations is accessibility to the Word and the transformative power contained within it. Deaf Pathway's translation process is grounded in the Sign Roots framework of natural language. This framework does not depend on lexical signs for translation but is governed by an understanding of the common linguistic features found in natural signed languages. Regardless of hundreds of uniquely different Sign Language lexicons, Sign Roots puts forth cogent new notions that could have powerful implications not only with the translation process itself but with sharpening the two-edged sword of God's Word that can be understood by Deaf people and thereby change lives. Sign Roots aims to harness the innate proficiency of Deaf signers to exploit the similarities of sign language grammatical organization at the most basic building block level or root and holds promise for Bible translations in the heart language of signers to reach a broader sector of Deaf people around the world in a more timely manner.

Judith A. Oliver PhD, Linguistics

Sign Roots is foundational to natural Sign Languages

The Deaf can communicate with each other utilizing a lexicon that is fundamental and common to all natural sign languages regardless of their country of origin.

We call this Sign Roots.



Deaf Pathway Global workers, like me, are using our hands to equip Deaf Bible translators to produce Scripture translations that are clear, accurate, and natural.

I am one of the 72 million Deaf people around the world with limited access to Scripture in my heart language. My name is Rusty and I serve at Deaf Pathway Global as a video editor. I am always profoundly moved whenever I see and edit naturally signed translations of Bible portions from countries like Mexico, China, or Senegal.

Native Deaf people can utilize a lexicon that is fundamental to all natural sign languages despite there being no universal sign language. We call this Sign Roots. Sign Roots lives at the heart of all sign languages and is innately communicated between sign language users.



The term “natural language” represents language that has developed spontaneously within a community of speakers or signers.



Deaf Pathway Translation Approach

The Deaf Pathway translation process harnesses the rich, visual lexicon that is universally found in all the world's natural sign languages. Sign languages around the world share foundational and universal concepts through the Sign Roots - a unique blend of facial expressions, body movements, and hand signals that are iconic across sign languages.

Providentially, conversations based in Sign Roots have a very high percentage of understanding between each sign language group. Herein lies the impetus for our process to expedite the translation of God's message into the heart language of potentially every Deaf people group in the world.

One of the unique characteristics of Deaf Pathway's Bible translation process is individual, color-coded, and sketched scenes of Bible narratives that are arranged by the Deaf into chronologically ordered storyboard scripts. The Bible Consultants use their exegetical work to provide visual descriptions of source material from which the translator uses to draw visual images. The storyboard scripts and images are checked by a Bible Consultant to ensure Biblical accuracy. The team then uses these scripts to produce the "Visual Sign Source" video. This video is a tool for Deaf Bible translators. Each completed "Visual Sign Source" is accompanied by a series of videos showing illustrated storyboards, dramatic portrayals, a visual dictionary of terms, and pictures of biblical images that all serve as a toolbox for the Bible translator.

Translators from various countries and sign languages utilize these "Visual Sign Source" videos and infuse local or indigenous signs that are specific to their own national sign languages.

HEART TO HANDS - HANDS TO HANDS - HANDS TO HEART



BEGINNINGS:

This translation series includes Creation through Job.



PATRIARCHS:

This translation series covers the period of the three patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac & Jacob.



EGYPT & EXODUS:

This translation series covers the period of Joseph through to the Exodus.



MOUNT SINAI:

This translation series covers the period of preparations for the Israel Nation at Mount Sinai.



WILDERNESS:

This translation series covers Israel's years in the wilderness with Moses.



THE CONQUEST:

This translation series covers Joshua and the conquest of the promised land.



JUDGES:

This translation series covers the cycles of judgment upon Israel.



KINGS:

This translation series covers the period of Samuel and the three Kings.



PROPHETS:

This translation series covers a divided Kingdom and the prophets God sent.



GOSPELS:

This translation series focuses on the life and work of Jesus as written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.



ACTS:

This translation series covers the birth and expansion of the church.



LETTERS:

This translation series covers the letters written to believers and churches.



Deaf Pathway Bible™



Completed translation works are of limited value if there is no means of distributing or accessing them. Deaf Pathway Global developed a Bible app in Android and iOS formats to resolve this issue. In order to navigate through a written Bible, one must know the name of the book, the chapter, and the verse. The Deaf Pathway Bible's wordless app allows the Deaf users to visually navigate the app through a sequence of icons. The first thing that the Deaf user sees is a set of twelve square icons representing Biblical time periods.



In 2021, you made possible the addition of two languages* to the Deaf Pathway Bible app bringing the total of Sign Languages to fifteen (15).

Sign Languages in 2021

- American Sign Language
- Burkin Faso Sign Language
- Chinese Sign Language
- Colombian Sign Language
- Czech Sign Language
- Egyptian Sign Language*
- Hungarian Sign Language
- Indonesian Sign Language
- Mexican Sign Language
- Niger Sign Language
- Polish Sign Language
- Romanian Sign Language
- Russian Sign Language*
- Senegalese Sign Language
- Thai Sign Language



THE PERIOD
OF THE
PROPHETS



THE
CHARACTER
Daniel



BIBLICAL
GROUPING
Daniel



BIBLE
PORTION
Lion's Den



Deaf Pathway
GLOBAL



Deaf Pathway Bible™

Biblical Periods:

The square shape is used to frame icons that represent the chronology of the Bible's 12 periods.

Key Biblical Characters:

The vertical rectangle shape is used to frame icons that represent key characters in the Bible.

Grouping of Bible Portions:

The hexagon shape is used to frame icons that represent groupings of Bible portions under a key event.

Bible Portions:

The circular shape is used to frame icons that represent a specific Bible portion.

Topical Story Set:

The pentagon shape is used to frame icons that represent a grouping of Bible portions around a specific topic.



Deaf Pathway Bible™

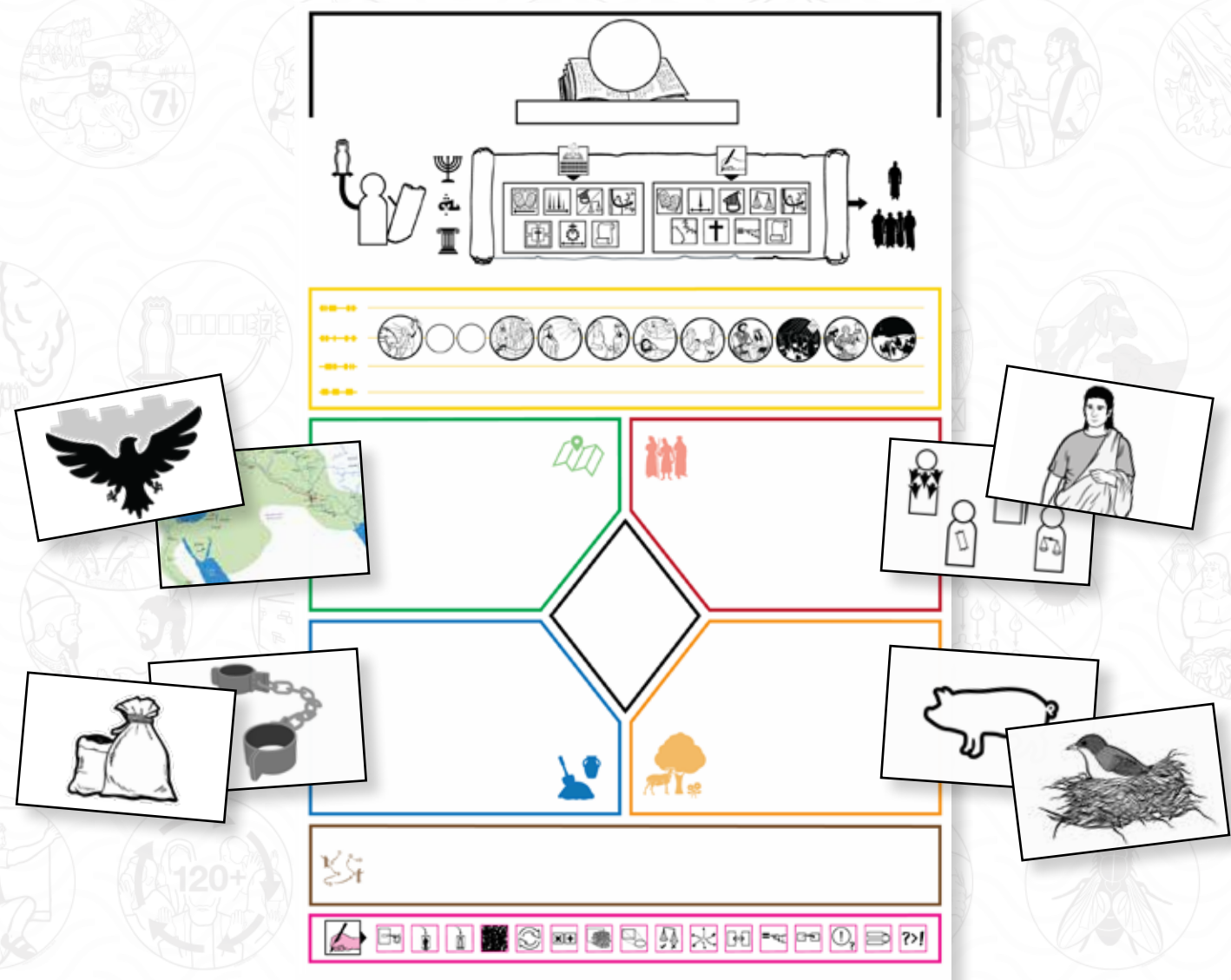
A circular icon has been developed for each of the 1,058 Bible portions translated into one or more of the 15 sign languages displayed on the Deaf Pathway Bible app. Each icon is developed by a Deaf artist and carefully tested with the Deaf from different regions of the world. Additionally, there are 265 navigation icons that serve as visual markers on the app. The shape of these navigation icons is the identifying marker of how the Bible portions are grouped.



In 2021, our partners made possible the development of a total of 47 icons specifically for the Bible app bringing the total of icons on the app to 1335.

Translation Tools and Biblical Artwork

Icons and visuals are not only a viable part of the Deaf Pathway Bible but also an integral part of the translation process. Out of the Deaf Pathway's translation process emerges a plethora of visuals. A Deaf graphic artist and Deaf 3D animator work to translate concepts that emerge from the Deaf Bible translation process into graphics, icons, and artwork. This artwork and these graphics serve the Deaf translation teams across the globe.



In 2021 YOU made possible the efforts given to the development of 92 pieces of Biblical art and graphics that have served Deaf Bible translators of multiple sign languages.

Spiritual Formation Storyteller Guide



SERIES THREE
MISSION FOUNDATION
BIBLE PORTIONS



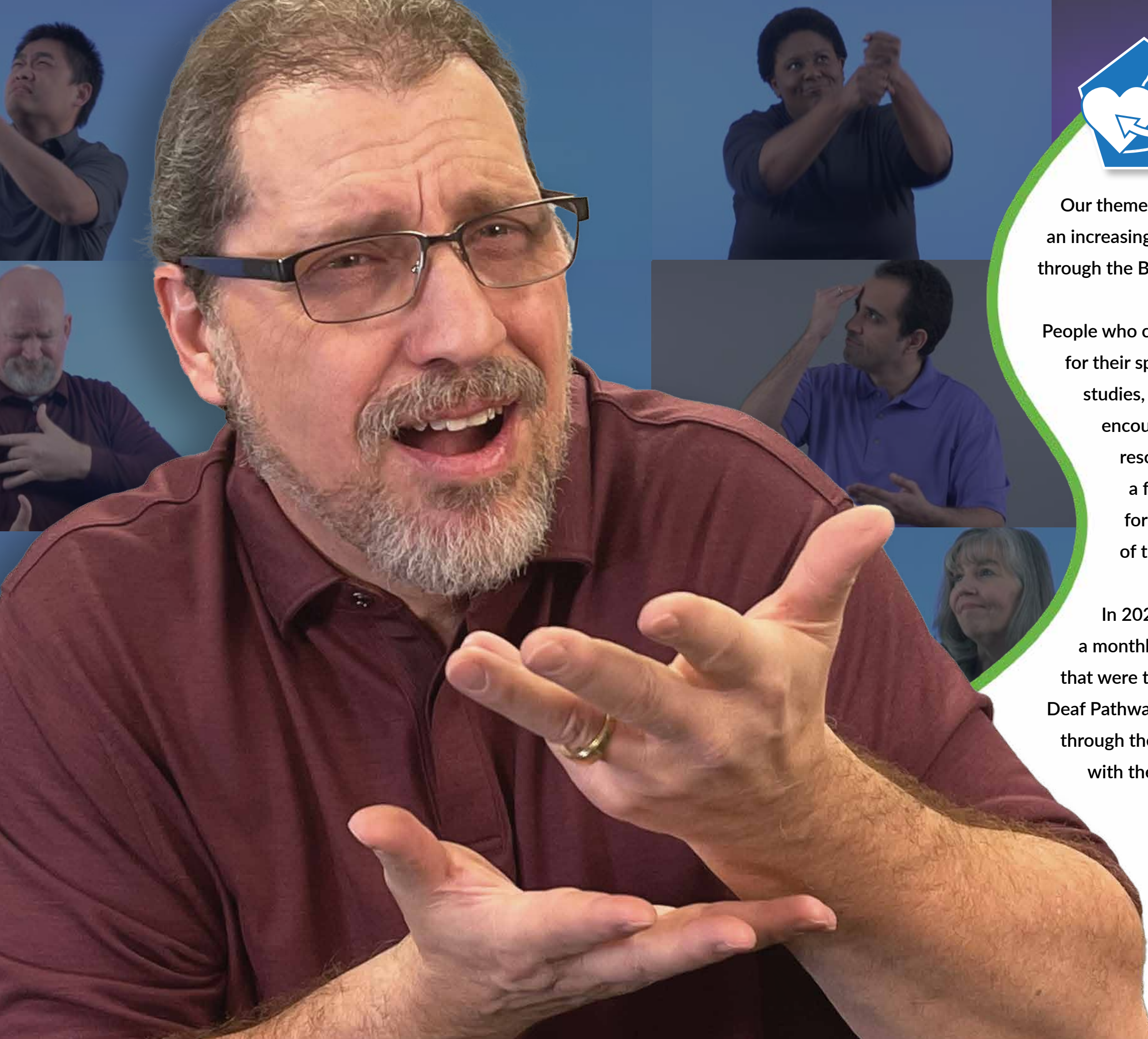
SERIES TWO
CHURCH FOUNDATION
BIBLE PORTIONS



SERIES ONE
JESUS FOUNDATION
BIBLE PORTIONS

The Deaf are storytellers and have a unique capability for retaining information and sharing it accurately through the utilization of mnemonics and visuals. We are working to translate 300 Bible scripture portions into each of the world's sign languages. The 300 scripture portions provide a foundation for multiple Bible story sets. These sets are used for the expressed purpose of sharing the gospel, discipleship, spiritual formation, church planting, and leadership development. These are presented mnemonically through the rendering of assigned handshapes and visuals.





HOPE SERIES

Our theme for 2022 is HOPE in CHRIST. We are praying that an increasing number of Deaf people will find HOPE in Christ through the Bible portions we were able to translate in 2021.

People who can hear have access to almost unlimited resources for their spiritual well being. There are countless books, studies, and devotionals, intended to inspire, strengthen, encourage, and challenge. There are very few such resources geared to the spiritual needs of the Deaf in a format that is accessible to them. There is a need for resources that incorporate the thought processes of the Deaf.

In 2022, Deaf Pathway launches the “Hope Series”, a monthly devotional based on eleven scripture portions that were translated in 2021. These will be released via Deaf Pathway Global’s social media outlets. We pray that, through these monthly posts, Deaf individuals will engage with the Deaf Pathway Bible on a regular basis.



In 2021, a total of 42 Bible portions were translated. Your partnership made this possible. Pray that the Hope Series will bring HOPE to hundreds of Deaf across the state of Tennessee, America and the world.

OUR VISION

A set of 300 scripture portions that provides foundational truths for the missionary task in each of the natural sign languages worldwide.

Deaf Pathway Global is working to produce a translation template for at least 300 Bible portions in the Sign Roots that leads to an accelerated Bible translation process in multiple sign languages. These portions focus on multiple aspects of the task of missions: entry, evangelism, discipleship, healthy church formation, leadership development, and networking. The 300 Bible portions undergird multiple indigenous church plants among the unreached Deaf peoples around the globe!

300 BIBLE PORTIONS

in each of the world's sign languages.



ENTRY

A set of narratives from the book of Acts that focus on patterns and practices of Paul as he entered cities, communities, and homes to share the Gospel of Christ.



GOSPEL

A set of Bible portions that present the full gospel of Jesus Christ under five themes: God and man, Love of Jesus, Sin and Salvation, Holy Spirit, Treasures of Heaven. In the scripture set is God's plan to reconcile mankind to himself.



DISCIPLE

A set of Bible portions that focus on the identity, task, and responsibilities of a believer.



CHURCH

A set of foundational Bible portions focuses on the basis, functions, and mission of the church is introduced, as well as, the spiritual dynamics of the body of believers.



LEADERS

A set of Bible portions that focuses on servant leadership and of men and women who were leaders.



NETWORK

A set of Bible portions that provides a Biblical understanding of how the early church networked, encouraged and supported one another and provided financial support as needed.



A Deaf Croatian Tour Guide leads a Deaf American Team to important Deaf locations.



ENTRY

Deaf Balkans

A Deaf team traveling to survey a country in the Balkans was not sure where they should start but then remembered how Paul would seek out places and persons of peace. It was Paul's practice, when he entered a new town or country, to go to a synagogue, a market place, and other locations where folks gathered. The team leader felt they, too, would go to where the Deaf are likely to gather. And they did! They were able to make inroads into the Deaf community and learn about their culture, education, social norms, and spiritual needs. This opened a door to opportunities to share the good news.



A group of Deaf Asians gather in a park and watch as a Gospel story is shared.



GOSPEL

Bible Impacts Deaf Asians

Sung*, a Deaf missionary who travels from village to village, became more effective in his witness after learning a set of five Bible stories that contained key elements of a Gospel presentation. Sung was thrilled to see how the Bible stories he shared were easily reproduced and shared over and over by others. Sung knows that his Deaf friends have long struggled to understand the written form of Bible stories and Bible portions. He, Deaf since birth, has benefitted from having access to the Deaf Pathway Bible app where he can find a growing number of Bible stories in his natural language.

* pseudonym



A Deaf African man shares how God's Word is impacting his Deaf community.



DISCIPLE

Deaf Disciple in West Africa

His name is Samuel*. He is a Deaf believer, who does not yet have a Bible in his natural language, and yet is being encouraged by the Deaf Pathway workers who meet with him every Monday to provide a newly translated Bible story in his natural language. Samuel wastes no time telling the Bible story to the Deaf students who attend the Deaf school where he works. While Samuel waits for the next story, he practices the Bible story he has learned and works with a Bible translation coach to ensure the story is checked and accurate, after which it will be filmed and made available on the Deaf Pathway app for other Deaf in his country.

* pseudonym



A Deaf Mexican storyteller shares a portion from the Bible



CHURCH

Deaf Fellowship in Mexico

The Deaf Pathway's Healthy Church Set consists of Bible portions that give focus to the spiritual dynamics of a healthy church. A small group of Deaf gather in the city of Puebla to learn what the Bible says about being a follower of Christ and how followers of Christ are to function as the body of believers—the church. Here Diego, a Deaf believer, is leading the group as it discusses a Bible story about one of the key functions of a healthy church.



A young Deaf Thai woman shares what God is doing in her country.



LEADERSHIP

Deaf Thai Leaders

A small group of Deaf Thais met with missionaries who told them stories from the Bible. In time, each gave their life to Jesus Christ. Each of these disciples committed themselves to learning and applying the Bible stories from the Deaf Pathway Spiritual Formation Set. As their faith strengthened so did their fellowship. They met regularly together either under a favorite tree or in the marketplace. Over time they had enough money to rent a building where they created a place for worship, training, ministry, and Bible translation work. These Deaf Thais are leading an effort to translate Bible stories into the natural sign language of their people group. We are working to equip and assist them in this endeavor.



A Deaf Czech man shares about the work of Deaf believers



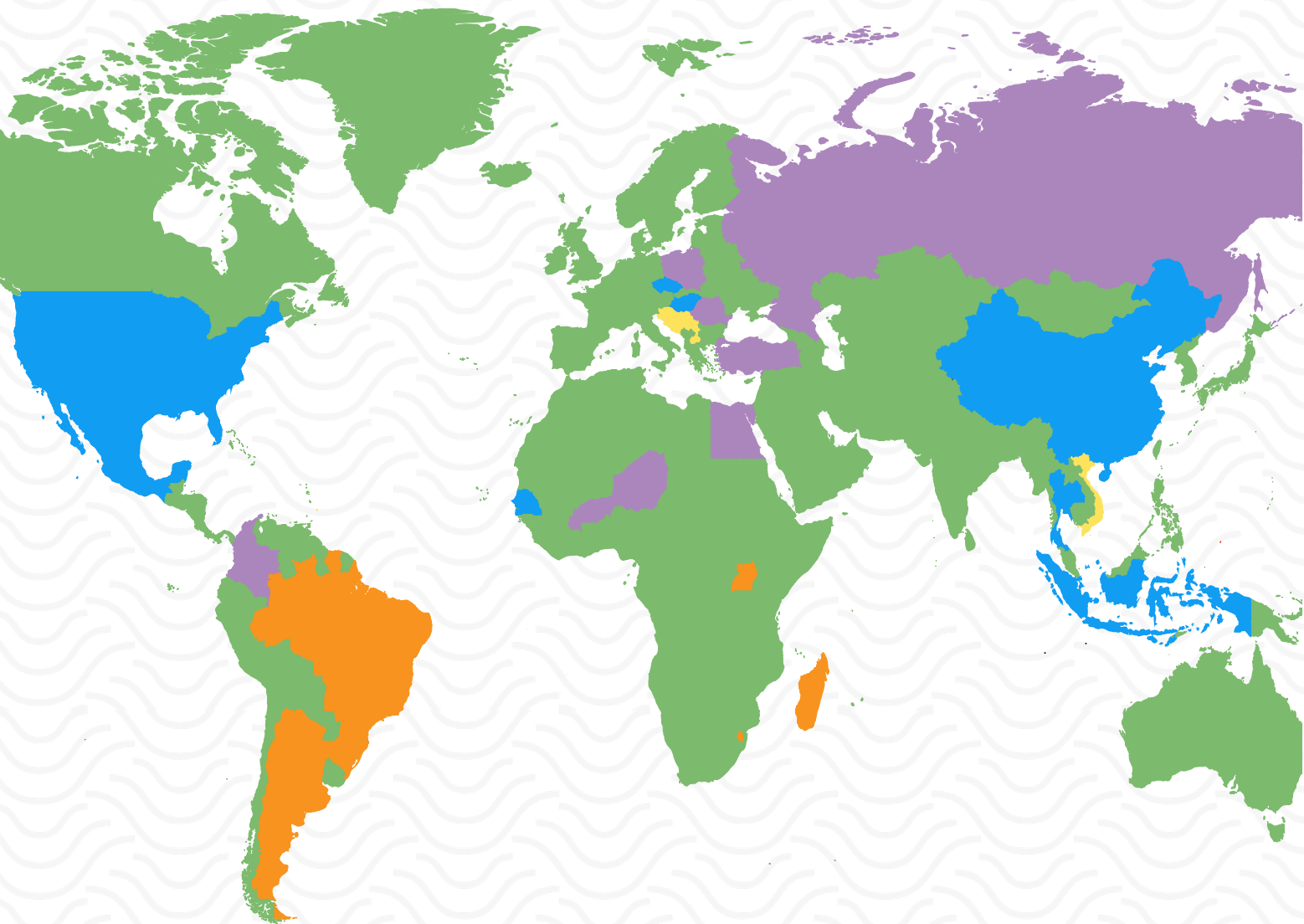
NETWORKING

Deaf Czech Churches Network

As Deaf Pathway Bible stories and passages are shared and Deaf people become saved, and are discipled, some become Bible translators themselves and leaders in their church groups.

These church groups come together, from time to time, to encourage one another in their efforts to reach other Deaf in their respective communities and to hold to their vision for reaching the lost Deaf. These Deaf believers network together to plant new churches in their communities, countries, and even beyond.

Deaf Pathway at Work



STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

LEAD TEAMS: Translation Projects

Deaf Pathway is working closely with translation efforts among Deaf people groups who are actively praying and seeking to plant and/or reproduce Deaf churches. Each group is working to translate a set of 300 strategically chosen scripture portions into their natural sign language. The blue countries on the map represent the seven countries where such work is underway. Members of these translation teams receive training, resources and support from Deaf Pathway and its partners.

UNDER DEVELOPMENT: Initial Stages

Deaf Pathway is working closely with various partners who are actively praying and planning towards the translation of 300 scripture portions into the natural sign languages of the countries listed. These seven countries, colored yellow on the corresponding map, are in the initial stages of engaging a Bible translation strategy that undergirds Biblical-based evangelism and discipleship, the formation of Deaf churches, and the development of Deaf leaders and Deaf networks.

DEAF BIBLE: Access Support

It is tragic when a video production of a scripture portion translated into the natural language of the Deaf is completed but there is no means for making the video readily available to the Deaf community. Deaf Pathway assists partners spearheading “natural language” translation efforts by providing a personalized wordless app through which their translation works can be easily accessible. The purple countries on the map represent nine languages where scripture portions have been translated and are being made available through the Deaf Pathway Bible app. Some of these sign languages have yet to engage in a strategy that furthers the translation of a Bible in their natural language. We continue to pray and plan as to who this need can be addressed.

NEW WORK: Initial Stages of Development

ERADICATING THE POVERTY OF SCRIPTURE AMONG THE DEAF NATIONS
Deaf Pathway is in communication with partners and individuals about the need for a Bible in the natural language of every Deaf people group. Time is of essence. The six countries that are colored orange on the corresponding map are where we have contacts who are prayerfully working toward a day when we can further expand access to God’s word by translating 300 strategically selected scripture portions into the natural sign languages of these places.

COUNTRIES ON THE MAP	Bible Translation Works on the Deaf Pathway App	
	Total in 2020	Total in 2021
7		
• China	185	263
• Czech	29	29
• Mexico	27	27
• Indonesia	19	19
• Senegal	6	6
• Thailand	103	113
• United States	820	858

COUNTRIES ON THE MAP	Bible Translation Works on the Deaf Pathway App	
	Total in 2020	Total in 2021
7		
• Vietnam		5*
CARIBBEAN BASIN		Filmed
• Barbados		
BALKANS		
• Bosnia		
• Croatia		
• Macedonia		
• Serbia		
• Slovenia		

COUNTRIES ON THE MAP	Bible Translation Works on the Deaf Pathway App	
	Total in 2020	Total in 2021
9		
• Colombia	20	20
• Burkina Faso	6	6
• Egypt		6
• Hungary	7	7
• Niger	5	5
• Poland	40	18
• Romania	55	10
• Russia		89
• Turkey		5*
		Filmed

COUNTRIES ON THE MAP	Bible Translation Works on the Deaf Pathway App	
	Total in 2020	Total in 2021
6		
• Colombia		0
• Burkina Faso		0
• Egypt		0
• Hungary		0
• Niger		0
• Poland		0

A culmination of 35 years of efforts toward a Deaf-driven Bible Translation approach! 2021 Goals Achieved

✓ Non-profit Status

DeafWay Global receives 501(c)3 non-profit status and files to do business as (DBA) Deaf Pathway Global.

✓ Communication | Resonate

With the help of Resonate Consultants we shaped our platform into a meaningful communication strategy to deliver a robust innovative branding that resonates with the Deaf and hearing alike and the development of creative communication assets. A redesign of the organization's Visual Identity presents a current and compelling reflection of our brand ethos, strong gospel-centered values and transformative translation work. A Visual Identity Suite with foundational Social Media Assets and Digital Graphics was developed. Additionally, a 10x10 exhibit with display graphics was fabricated and utilized at multiple small and large venues.

✓ Official Website

We completed the design, development and launch of an official Deaf Pathway website. Over 40 feature videos were produced in-house for the website.

✓ Public Launch

An official event was held during the Southern Baptist Convention, where Mike Glenn, Pastor of Brentwood Baptist and Paul Chitwood, President of the International Mission Board announced, in partnership, the launch of Deaf Pathway Global.

✓ Supporters

Capacity and Infrastructure were greatly expanded towards the development of current, new and potential supporters, resulting in a significant increase of giving.

✓ Translation

A refined and systematized translation process coincided with an expanded translation team, both locally and globally, that is directed toward greater capacity and production. Translation consultants from SEED Company were enlisted to review and provide feedback on the translation process.

✓ Partnerships | Finishing the Task, The Finishing Fund, SEED Company, IMB

Significant relationships were established and cultivated with like-minded organizations from which emerged increased cooperation and new partnerships. Deaf Pathways is working with these partners to give focus to the Bible-less, unchurched Deaf of the Balkans.

✓ Deaf Balkans Cluster Project | Translation & Church Planting

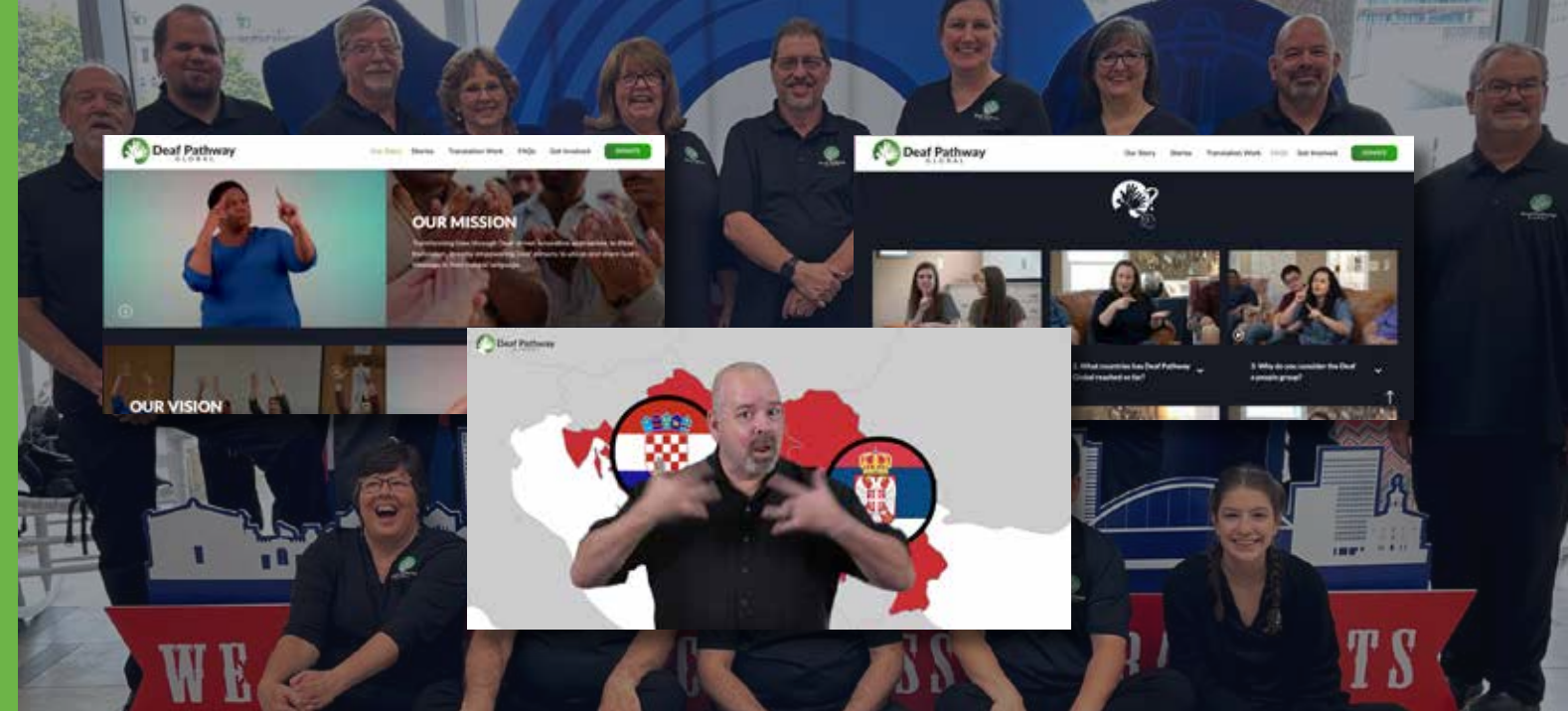
Steps toward a completed survey were implemented in efforts to facilitate Church Planting and Translation projects among a cluster of Sign languages within the Balkans.

✓ Deaf Translator App

Work has begun on the development of an app specifically for use by Deaf Bible translators. A Deaf Videographer, Editor and 3-D Animator have been enlisted and have started the development of animated graphics to enhance the app's navigation.

✓ Accountability and Excellence

We achieved the Gold Level Seal of Transparency with Candid, formerly GuideStar, demonstrating our commitment to transparency as a means of building confidence among potential supporters. We attended monthly training and one-on-one consultation meetings with Mission Increase to ensure we are working to develop and maintain the highest standards of practice and relational excellence with our donors.



Champions

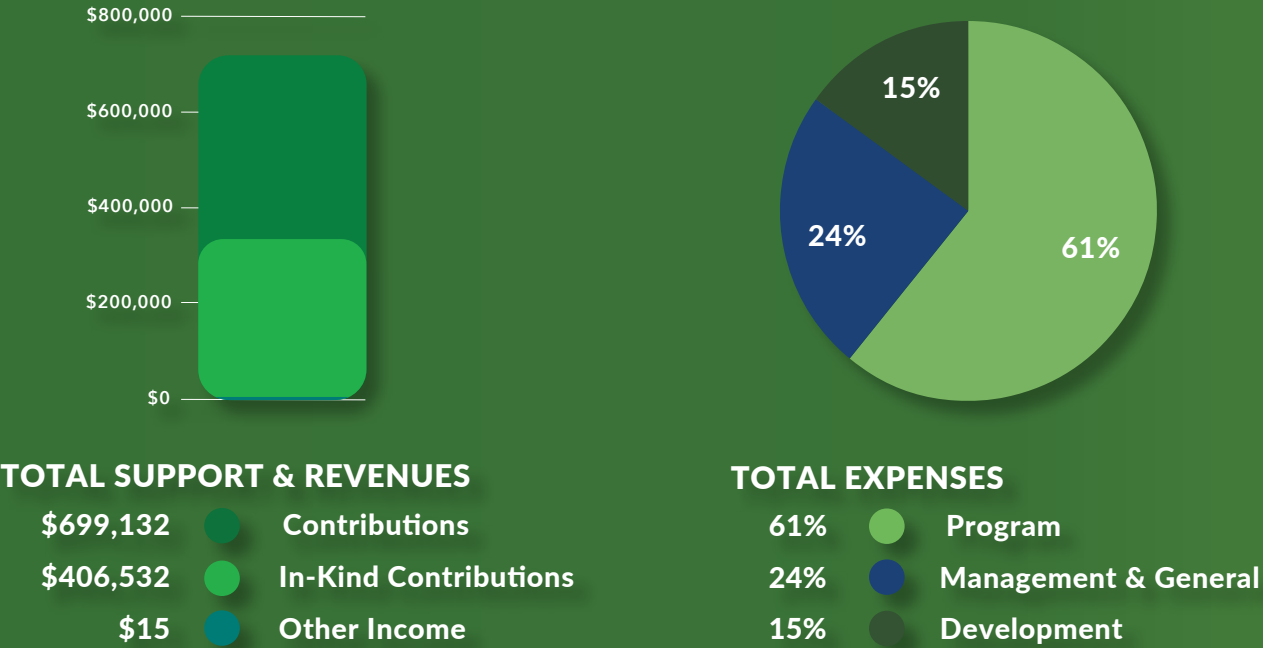


Victor Hou



No matter how much a person gives, whether it be \$5 or \$1000, whether it be monetary investment or an investment by way of goods or services, a person who invests in Deaf Pathway is a champion in every sense of the word. In 2021, we have been deeply grateful for how champions such as the Alvin and Sally Beaman Foundation, Brentwood Baptist Church, The Finishing Fund, and the International Mission Board have invested into the work of Deaf Pathway. And we are indebted to the many men and women who have given to champion the need for God’s Word in the natural language of every Deaf people group. Victor Hou, one of our Board members, loves Deaf Pathway, and has worked to champion our mission in multiple ways. The QR code leads to a special message from Victor Hou himself.

Financial Report



In 2021, a total of 30 persons have committed to be a **Deaf Pathway Torchbearer!** It is our desire to mobilize an army of 300, praying and giving, to make possible the translation of 300 Bible portions in each of the natural sign languages of the world.

Torchbearers

— 300 —

One day this past year some of the staff at Deaf Pathway were feeling overwhelmed by the enormity of the task before us, when our conversation turned to Gideon. While Gideon was working to mobilize a powerful army of thousands, God led Gideon to utilize a small army of 300 Torchbearers through which He displayed His glory and power. We then began to pray that God would give us an army of **300 Torchbearers**. By the end of 2021, a total of 30 men, women, youth, and children have joined this army in prayerful support of bringing God’s Word to the Bibleless Deaf.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Scott Harris
Chairman



Grant Lovejoy
SECRETARY



Victor Hou
TREASURER



Robert Moore



Aric Randolph



Betty Stirsman



Don McDoanld

Deaf Pathway Global's Board of Directors has two Deaf and five hearing members with plans to increase the total membership to nine in 2022. These board members have each been blessed with extensive experience across many vocational fields and with unique and complimentary skill sets. The board met each month throughout Deaf Pathway Global's first year as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, in order to strengthen and position Deaf Pathway Global for optimum opportunities to provide Deaf people access to God's Word in their natural languages. This was a year of many firsts built onto a foundation of years of collaboration and experience.

Millions of Deaf are waiting for the first scripture portion in their heart language. We are blessed to walk in a spirit of collaboration with churches and organizations that desire to see scripture poverty eradicated from the Deaf peoples of the world.



INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD
"Together, we transform lives"

BRENTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
Engaging the whole person with
the whole gospel of Jesus Christ
anywhere, anytime, with anybody.



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY
"Giving People Access To
the Life Changing Message of God's Word"

THE SEED COMPANY
"God's Word Transforms Lives."



FINISHING THE TASK
"We have been called."

SRV Partners
"Bringing Stories to Life"



THE FINISHING FUND
"Invest to Send the Gospel
Where it's Never Been Before"

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN
CENTER FOR THE DEAF
"Sharing Love with Deaf Children
In Developing Countries"



MISSION INCREASE
"Our Fruit is Measured
On Other People's Trees."

THE DEAF CHURCH OF
BRENTWOOD BAPTIST
Engaging the whole person with
the whole gospel of Jesus Christ
anywhere, anytime, with anybody.



SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFERENCE
OF THE DEAF
SBCDeaf.org

JST BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
"Churches Partnering
Together for the Gospel"





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GLOBAL

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