The Deaf community worldwide resembles oral cultures — communicating through stories rather than the written word. Because of this, Bibles written in other languages don’t directly impact the hearts of signers.

The gospel message has reached less than two percent of the Deaf — they are among the most unreached people groups in the world.

The need for translation into ASL is great, as it will give the opportunity for nearly 3.2 million people in the U.S. to experience God’s Word in their language for the first time.

“We are standing at the crossroads of immense opportunity to reach the Deaf with the gospel,” the project advisers say.

The New Testament has already been translated into ASL. Work is underway on the Old Testament in order to complete the whole Bible.

The chronological translation will provide 110 narratives as a foundational overview of God’s Word for people who are unfamiliar with its message. The passages focus on three key areas — knowing Christ, discipleship, and church development and leadership.

Both the chronological and book-by-book translations will be produced in video format, with the sign language captured through a camera lens.

The full Bible will be the first complete Bible among Deaf communities worldwide! As such, it will serve as a source text for other translation work around the world.

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A team is now working to produce a book-by-book translation of God’s Word into ASL, as well as a chronological Bible overview!

We’re partnering with four deaf-minded organizations — DOOR International, Deaf Harbor, Deaf Missions and Deaf Bible Society — to accelerate translation and see God’s Word impact the Deaf.

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“When I saw chronological Bible translation for the first time, I became so excited because I want to learn more about God and his stories,” said a woman who had participated in a community review of the translation. “It made me cry tears of joy.”

The woman had grown up in the hearing community. She went to church but never understood what was taught. When a pastor or teacher would read verses, she didn’t know what they meant, although sometimes pictures would help.

But the translation of God’s Word in ASL, her heart language, helped her understand clearly.

“It really means a lot to me because I can sit and watch the stories without trying to figure it out,” she said. “Thank you so much for your work.”

Your prayers and investment will help the American Deaf community have access to God’s Word in the language that impacts their hearts!