Genocide ravaged the nation of Rwanda 25 years ago, leaving many people vulnerable and marginalized — including the Deaf.

In recent years, the country has bounced back from the devastation of war and is experiencing industrial growth. The economic boost has led to an increased standard of living for many people.

Unfortunately the Deaf in Rwanda remain isolated from their nation’s development. Social, economic and cultural inequality are the norm for them.

This disparity extends into the realm of faith too. Deaf people feel isolated from Scripture because it’s only available in the written language of the hearing population.

Rwandan Sign Language, on the other hand, is kinetic and visual. It’s the language and form that touches the hearts of the Deaf in Rwanda, using motion, expressions and signs.

To truly understand and engage with God’s Word, the Rwandan Deaf need access to Scripture in their own sign language.

We’re working in partnership with a local team to make Scripture available for the first time in Rwandan Sign Language!

In this three-year project, the team will translate 32 chronological Bible stories — spanning Old and New Testament content from Creation to Pentecost.

Produced in video format, the sign language narratives will be available through the Deaf Bible App, on SD cards and DVDs, and via the website of the Rwandan Sign Language Bible Translation Society.

Some of the translation team members already have biblical knowledge and experience with video translation. Further training in Bible translation principles, video editing and project management will be ongoing throughout the project.

In addition, a partner organization will train 30 Rwandan Deaf leaders, equipping them to help others engage with God’s Word. These leaders will distribute the sign language Scripture on SD cards throughout Deaf communities.

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Your prayers and gifts will help make the first Scripture available for the Deaf in Rwanda — in a language and form they clearly understand!