

INFOCUS

Scripture in Romanian Sign Language is Transforming the Deaf Community



More than 90,000 Deaf people living across Romania use Romanian Sign Language to communicate. Culturally, they view themselves as members of a vibrant community with its own unique language and identity.

Some Deaf people have been members of Christian churches in Romania for many years, but due to communication challenges with society around them and limited access to God's Word, they haven't been able to receive discipleship.

As translators continue to work on the Romanian Sign Language translation, praise God that stories of hope and transformation are already emerging as people engage with available Scripture portions.

A Newfound Connection

The Romanian pastor wasn't sure what to do.

He had adopted a Deaf boy into his family and wanted to teach him about the Bible. But after trying for a while, the hearing pastor could tell that his Deaf son didn't understand the Scripture in spoken and written Romanian.

Then one day, the pastor saw a video depicting a New Testament passage. The story was of Jesus calming the storm — and it was in Romanian Sign Language. When the father showed the video to his son, the boy perked up and seemed to clearly understand the story's message.

Excitedly, the pastor reached out to the Romanian Sign Language translation team who created the video.

As a result, the team members soon connected the family to a local Deaf church. There the boy is able to form relationships with other Deaf believers while growing in his faith through Scripture — communicated in a language and form that impacts his heart.

Through God's Eyes

Seated alongside other Romanian Deaf Christians in a local church, Emma watched the Scripture video depicting the story of Jesus' birth. Even though Emma was in the video and had gone through the work of translating, memorizing and recording it, she was still moved by the message that day.

"Seeing it in church really touched my heart," Emma signed. She also marveled at how Jesus came as a baby to bring salvation to the world. "On earth, Jesus didn't want to be a boss," Emma signed. "He chose to be human so we would easily accept him."

A Committed Contributor

Ovidiu, a Romanian Deaf man, had tried to follow God several times in his life. "My parents are devoted Christians," he signed, "but I would often stray from the faith."

"Then four years ago, I felt the Lord speaking to my heart," Ovidiu signed, "and he gave me answers to my questions." Now Ovidiu feels completely reconciled with God. "I have decided to follow him, and I will do so for the rest of my life."

Today Ovidiu is a member of the Romanian Sign Language translation team. He translates Scripture and helps interpret words his colleagues may be unfamiliar with in the printed Romanian translation. Recently he was also chosen to serve on a church committee. "It's a joy for me to be involved in translation work and in my church," Ovidiu signed. "I thank God for all of the blessings he has given me."

Praise God for the work he's doing among the Deaf community through Romanian Sign Language!



Lessons From Lesser Knowns

Scripture is a feast, but some of the richest passages can often be overlooked. We invite you to dive deep into lesser-known Scripture and explore other “lesser-known” areas ... like international recipes off the beaten path!

Get our devotional “Lessons from Lesser Knowns” at wycliffe.org/dinnerparty and be nourished by lesser-known stories that highlight God’s astonishing way of working.



A GLIMPSE OF ROMANIA

The name “Romania” stems from the Roman conquest and means the land of “those who are of the Romans.” Because of this history, there is diversity in language, religion and culture across the country.

Romania is comprised of beautiful mountains and rolling hills, fertile plains and numerous rivers and lakes. Many Romanians live in the countryside since a primary source of income in the country is agriculture. Most of Romania’s southern border is formed by its biggest river, the Danube.

You can make a difference in places like Romania by joining our prayer team. Sign up at wycliffe.org/prayer to receive prayer emails on various countries, people groups and more to help you pray about what God is doing around the world.



WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE WORLD

- » There are over 400 sign languages around the world, and none of them have a complete Bible. Ask God to bring additional team members to work on sign language translation projects.
- » Praise God for the technology available today that makes sign language translations possible.
- » Pray that Deaf communities in Romania and around the world would recognize God’s love for their language and culture.

ROMANIA

FAST FACTS



POPULATION: **19,964,000**

NUMBER OF LANGUAGES: **29**

NUMBER OF LANGUAGES WITH ...

No Scripture: **2**

Scripture Portions: **1**

New Testaments: **7**

Bibles: **19**

*Statistics are from wycliffe.net.