

In many Christian churches, you might have seen many people in the congregation but have you ever seen any deaf people in your church? Many pastors preach their sermons and many deaf people cannot hear their preaching so how would the deaf people receive the message of salvation? That's why I am writing this article about my deaf ministry, as a missionary to deaf people with the gospel in sign language, because millions of deaf people have never heard the gospel due to lack of ministry for the deaf in Europe.

Here is my testimony...

The Lord called me to go to a special mission for the unreached deaf people with the gospel in sign language since 2007. First I began my deaf ministry in Ireland then to France and Belgium. The deaf ministry is slightly different and this requires a lot of training.

The main problem is that vocabulary is limited among most deaf people and many of them are unable to read at college level, including reading the Authorised Version King James Bible because sign language is their primary language. This needs to adapt for them and I use a picture gospel (but I do not desire to use an easy Bible reading such as the Good News Bible version because this is not 100% Word of God.)

The Good News Bible is very popular among many deaf Christians in Britain and the United States for English speaking countries. Here in France they use the Bible d'Ostervald 1744 version with a revision in 1996, almost an authorised version as the King James Version. The Bible of Louis Segond 1910 is widely used in France but this bible version has a numerous omissions from the original Textus Receptus.

I also use an Authorised Version of King James Bible for my deaf ministry in Ireland. Here in France and Belgium it is almost impossible for the newly saved deaf Christians to be able to read the Bible so I had to adapt this in French Sign Language and I need to teach a new Biblical vocabulary!

I have a special Bible study for them every Friday evening and I teach them to read the Bible. I also use a Biblical story in sign language as well. This takes a lot of works and practice. Just myself and no one else to help me, I have tried to appeal to anyone who might want to be involved in a deaf ministry for months, as I did for Ireland. Many deaf missionaries have come to see my deaf ministry in France from America but they mostly enjoyed visiting Paris such as climbing up the Eiffel tower, seeing the Arc de Triumph etc. ...what a waste of time! They just came for one Sunday morning service then went back home to America!

If you are interested in deaf ministry either in France or Ireland, please feel free to contact me by writing. The Bible says...

And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book... Isaiah 29:18

And God warned me not to hide the gospel open to deaf

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost... 2 Corinthians 4:3

Frederic Yriarte
1, rue de Joyeuse
76000 Rouen
France