

# Trudy's 'Communication Professional of the Year Award'

Trudy Field, who works as a British Sign Language interpreter, is Chair of the BSL Bible Translation subcommittee. She is working hard on this ambitious project, which is proving to be a massive task for everyone involved since the start of the mission back in 2006.

Trudy, from Scunthorpe, was inspired to become an interpreter following a visit to a church where she noticed that a Deaf person had difficulty understanding the service. She decided to learn BSL, gaining employment at Doncaster College for the Deaf, Humberside Council, RNID and eventually becoming a full time freelance interpreter.

Trudy has worked in the interpreting field for over 20 years and has a vast wealth of knowledge and experience. Committed to an excellence in interpreting, she challenges colleagues to constantly improve their standards. She is dedicated to providing the most accurate interpretation possible, even when it involves a history lesson to do so, tracing ideas, words and concepts right back to their original source. She refuses to accept the status quo and will tackle any issue head on, however difficult it may be.

Trudy has been involved in many aspects of training and development over the years. A member of the National Registers of Communication Professionals working with Deaf and Deafblind people she is also former Chair of the Independent Registration Panel and a Fellow of the Association of Sign Language Interpreters.

Speaking about the BSL Bible Translation Project, the Project team said, *'Many Deaf people will have experience of translating parts of an English version of the Bible into BSL or will have watched BSL interpreters doing this. You may also have experienced BSL versions of Bible stories that are not exactly translations but are free version or re-telling of the stories with dramatic embellishments or other adaptations to put across the meaning or to apply it to people's lives.'*

*'What has not yet been made available is a recorded scholarly version of full texts of the Bible in BSL, translating the original Hebrew and Greek texts, rather than rendering an English translation second-hand: a translation which conveys the meaning of the text with historical accuracy, informed by theological discussion.'*

*'This is not an easy or a small task, but the BSL Bible Translation Project has made a start, and in spring 2011 will present a pilot version of the first section of Mark's Gospel for consultation with the Deaf community, the Deaf Church and all interested parties.'*

She continued, *'The first task of the translator is to discover the meaning of the original text. Our translation teams work with*



*biblical scholars and discuss the meaning of the original Greek text and Mark's message to his first readers.'*

*'Teams of Deaf people and BSL linguists then work creatively on equivalent ways of expressing in BSL the meaning of the original text. We try to find a way of doing this that both conveys the meaning of the original text with accuracy, and expresses it in BSL naturally. We try to keep the same verse order, and only change this where the meaning is conveyed more naturally, and as accurately, in the changed order.'*

*'The drafts are shown to focus groups of Deaf people and to BSL linguists and discussed again with biblical scholars. They are revised and recorded, and the first sections are now ready for final filming.'*

Trudy has a fantastic finish to 2010 by scooping the Communication Professional of the Year Award in association with NRCPD, at the annual Signature Awards which took place in London.