

A brief report on progress ~ July 2024

News on the gospel of Mark: we undertook final filming of a couple more sections of Chapter 15 recently; these need to be checked but we are hopeful that completion is this year! One of the national conferences will be using the BSL Bible translation of Mark in their 'BSL Stream' this summer.

Genesis has a bit more pace to the project with the software and experience of the translation teams. We have completed an initial translation of 14 chapters (11-25) relating to Abraham and have recently started looking at Creation. This is a lot of fun as it is so beautiful and creative in the BSL being produced, hopefully reflecting something of creation itself. So much poetry and so much detail that is left to the imagination that it can be hard to decide what it looked like.

The Genesis project has brought about some new and interesting discussion as the Abraham stories are less familiar to the Deaf community than the Mark narratives. Comparisons between Isaac and Jesus have been encouraging and discussion that the 'horrid story of Sodom and Gomorrah isn't the story I thought'. Understanding who was related to who and who was married to who

and who sleeps with who also caused a good amount of surprise and learning about cultural norms in both translation teams and Community Check groups.

To avoid the confusion of lots of unfamiliar finger-spelling we have started to introduce maps and family trees. These are not easy to edit in but are helpful for anyone trying to follow.

We are currently in the review stage for the Abraham chapters and hopefully will be moving on to final filming after the summer.

The translation of Genesis has increased awareness of BSLBTP and with that a small increase in donations. We have spent the money donated by Saltley but currently have funding from other donors to continue (complete?) Genesis.

As we publish Mark, trustees are looking at starting translating John's gospel with view to bringing in more translators. We have a small amount of funding in place to start this project. Of course ongoing support for our work continues to be valued and as always we are thankful for donations.

Anna Smith on behalf of BSL Bible Translation Project

The language of the Bible becomes sign language

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