

The Project Plan and Goals

The DSRV Project will have one Editor/Adapter, Pastor Richard Moody. Pastor Moody has 34 years of experience with the Deaf and their language. During the past 20 years, he developed a Gloss method (symbols connected with sign language names) that helped the Pastors sign the 3-Year Lectionary and he finished adapting that Lectionary for the Church. Lay people have also learned that Gloss system and used that to sign the Lessons in their Churches.

Though a benefit to the Deaf Churches and Pastors, the Lectionary was really not in a format that Deaf people could use with their friends and in their own study. It was also limited in the total amount of the Scriptures that it provided to the Deaf. The Gloss system in an abridged, simpler version will be used in the DSRV adaption of the Scriptures. Also, as you have seen in this folder, DSRV adaption will extensively correct and rearrange the English structure, presenting the same concept to the non-verbal reader's eyes as God presents to the verbal reader's eyes.

There are 1,189 Chapters in the Bible with over 31,000 verses. Based on finishing an average Chapter (26 verses) per working day and considering vacations, etc., each year, the Goal for this project is to adapt the Scriptures into the DSRV format during the next 5 years. Unlike the scope of the Lectionary Project, Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the Deaf considers that the DSRV adaption will require at least a full time position and the Church's local mission will suffer if Pastor Moody attempts to complete this full time project along with his Church duties. The funding of this project will include everything necessary to Call an Assistant Pastor to serve with Pastor Moody while he completes this DSRV adaptation.

Who will benefit from the DSRV adaptation?

- Deaf Members of any Denomination in their daily reading, study and witnessing to their Deaf friends
- Any Pastor of any Denomination as he works with a Deaf person
- The Deaf Institute of Theology (DIT) Pastors. DIT is a new program at the Seminary, providing the Curriculum in the language of the Deaf so more Deaf men can become Pastors. DSRV will provide the Scripture material that DIT graduates can use with their people in their everyday ministry
- Interpreters of any Denomination will be able to use DSRV while the Pastor reads the Lessons to the Congregation. Three of the Bible Chapters completed each week will be those that are needed in the Lutheran Service Book (LSB) Lectionary. Also Pastors serving the Deaf who want to use LSB.
- The Deaf evangelists and their Deaf people in our Deaf mission work in Ghana and the Deaf in other countries that use English.



Deaf Signing Reader's Version

*A printed Bible Version for the Deaf and those serving Deaf people
A Bible Version adapting English concepts for the Signing Deaf thinker*

1135 Macklind Ave • St. Louis, MO 63110

314-533-6035 (TTY/V/VP)

holycrossdeaf.org • holycrossdeaf@aol.com

Laurent Clerc, a famous deaf man and teacher of the Deaf, shared the following story summarized here:

After one teacher threw something from his mouth and another teacher caught it and then threw something back, the teacher wrote a French sentence on the Board and left.

I studied those words; got up from my seat;
moved words from the end to the beginning;
rearranged words in the center;
stepped back and understood the meaning!

A Non-Verbal Mind structure

A child's mind structures itself! A hearing child's mind uses the ears to build its verbal structure. Blind people speak the language of the country where they are born. Their ears, as with all the hearing children, structure their minds with the language they hear. A Deaf child's mind uses the eyes to build its non-verbal structure. This naturally leads the Deaf person to want and use Sign Language as a natural non-verbal output that the language in his mind produces. Verbal outputs (voice) and inputs (lip reading) are like a foreign language to this non-verbal structure.

English Structure Problems

Additionally, a non-verbally structured mind encounters some parts of English that are foreign to their thinking process. The famous Deaf man, Laurent Clerc shared that during his early education in the late 1800s he had to rearrange the difficult French sentence construction and then could understand the meaning. Deaf people today encounter the same difficulty in English constructions. DSRV rearranges Bible language to accomplish the same result: God's meaning to the eyes, mind and heart of the Deaf person.

DSRV English Restructured

On the facing page is a brief explanation of the various English structural problems that the DSRV adapts. 96% of all the Deaf people in the United States do not go to Church. Romans 1:16 says:

I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes...

More Church groups and others have tried to reach the Deaf minority than any other minority in our country. So why then has the response been so small? The Editor/Adapter of DSRV maintains that regular English structured Bible verses do not present God's clear Gospel to the eyes of the non-verbal structured mind of the Deaf. Therefore, those "Bible" words are not God's power to cause faith in the hearts of the Deaf and, sadly, 96% prove the point! Even in the simple verse above presents problems for the non-verbal mind structure: "I am not ashamed" is Passive; the "not" is in the wrong position; the "because" clause should be first; "for" is a result clause of God's power; the "who" isn't a question; "believe" is faith, God's gift, in action (Eph.2:8-9);

Romans 1:16 (DSRV): *THE GOSPEL IS GOD'S POWER ABLE TO SAVE PEOPLE THAT HAVE FAITH IN [JESUS]... <THEREFORE> THE GOSPEL DOES NOT EMBARRASS ME, NO!*

See holycrossdeaf.org for the symbol explanation sheet.

DSRV Adapts the English:

- **VOCABULARY**

Limited to English words, "sign names," with well known signs.

- **PASSIVE VOICE**

The non-verbal mind structure understands everything in the **active** voice! It most often perceives the Passive Voice as only a past tense statement. An Active reading of a Passive statement has the wrong actor. Biblically that is deadly! Instead of God, often the person himself is the actor! This is the **ultimate confusion** of Law and Gospel!

- **NEGATIVES**

in English occur first. In Sign Language it occurs at the end of the statement. This means the wrong part of the statement is understood as negated. Also, questions that include a negative are understood as negative, ie: *The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ?* (1 Cor. 10:16) is understood as the cup of blessing is not the blood of Christ.

- **PRONOUNS**

in a declined language have endings that connect them to the noun they refer. In Sign Language, positioning accomplishes that same result. Not so in English. Additionally, the English "you" has no indication for the singular or plural form. Very confusing for the Deaf person.

- **RELATIVE PRONOUNS** (who, how, which, when, etc.)

are always questions in sign Language! Not so in English but often misunderstood as such by the Deaf person. "...who was conceived by the Holy Spirit" becomes: "Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit?"

- **RESULT CLAUSES**

are signed with the "because" and "for"; English invented signs that are not conceptually non-verbal. For the Deaf, the statement or condition is signed first then the accomplished result is signed! Often a simple word order change with an action verb or a "therefore" accomplishes clear understanding by the Deaf reader.

- **PREPOSITIONS**

have a correct and understood use in Sign Language but not as used in the English prepositional phrases which are the Passive Voice actors or modifiers of other words. The sign order often replaces the need for the preposition!

Please Support The Version Reader's Deaf Signing Project

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link and please follow up your gift with an E-mail to give us all the information we ask for on the form above and to let us know where you want your gift applied.

If you have questions, please call 314-533-6035 (TTY/Voice/VP) or write to the address above. You can also contact Pastor Moody on the Internet at holycrossdeaf@aol.com.