

The Deaf People of Hungary Hungarian Sign Language Community



The combination of decades of Communism plus emphasis for almost a century on oralism has prevented many Deaf from understanding the Gospel. The Deaf Community is still living with the belief that it is better to speak than to sign. Because of this there is a heavy emphasis on Hungarian lip reading. This is further complicated by the fact that Hungary has 7 main Deaf Schools, each with its own sign language dialect. Hungarian Sign Language is not an officially recognized language, nor is it used in public or business functions. This limits the educational and vocational opportunities available to many Hungarian Deaf. There are, however, quite a few Deaf Associations and Clubs within Hungary. This is where the Deaf go for socialization and friendships. Because of the outright rejection that many Deaf have experienced from the hearing community it is hard for most Deaf to trust hearing people. This results in many barriers to reaching this community. Missionaries who have gone to Hungary have been welcomed when they used Hungarian Sign Language. Most of the Deaf in Hungary are not opposed to Christianity they just haven't had the opportunity to understand it in their own language. Once they understand it they are eager to share it with their friends and family.

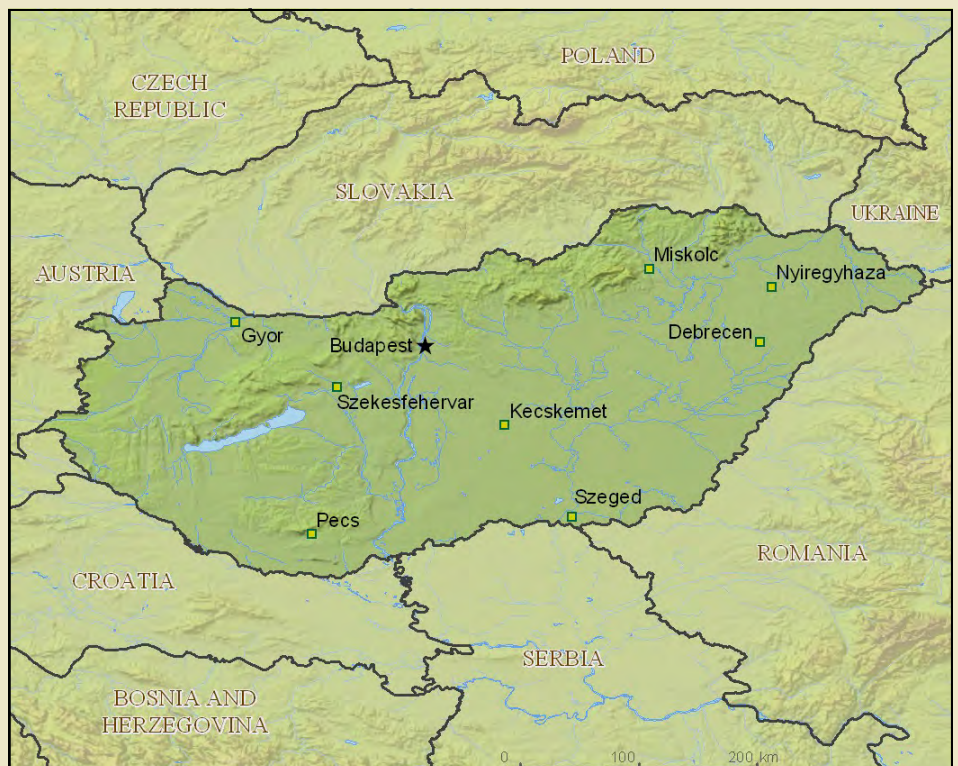
- Primary Religion:**
Non-religious

- Disciples (Matt 28:19):**
Less than 3%

- Churches:**
Unknown

- Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):**
Bible available

- Population (date):**
9,000 (2014)



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Have They Heard the Gospel?

Call Themselves Christian	Less than 10 %
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior	Less than 3%
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son	Less than 10%
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion	Greater than 90 %
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is	Greater than 90 %
Comment (Pastors)	Less than 3%
Number Of Missionaries Working	14
Comment	Missionary/population is less than 3%
Response To The Gospel	Evangelism among the Hungarian Deaf has only begun in the past 3-4 years. In 2003 was the first baptism as well as the first Deaf Church service. Outreach has been mainly through friendships and there has been a good response.
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Technically no. However the World Bible Translation Center has translated their Easy to Read Bible into Hungarian and some Hungarian Deaf Christians have accepted it as the closest they have to an understandable Scripture. DOOR and the Southern Baptists are using the Chronological Storytelling method to share the Scriptures. CBS is a combination of drama and narration to explain the Bible to those who have difficulty reading the Scripture. Southern Baptist are currently working on a readable translation of the Bible for Deaf Hungarians to use as a resource when sharing the CBS method.
Any Hindrance To Scripture Distribution?	Deaf Hungarians since World War 2 have been raised in oral schools. A major concern would be the struggle of many Hungarians to read the Bible in print form.
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available	So far at this time there is nothing on video for the general public. The Jesus film is not yet translated into Hungarian Sign Language.
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	With mission work still in the beginning stages its not known exactly how much cross cultural assistance would be needed. However there is a definite need for those trained in Bible translation and Bible teaching. Especially those who have had training in both Sign Languages and Linguistics. Though Hungary was under Communist rule for several decades most Hungarians have an awareness of what Christianity is. The majority of Deaf Hungarians would be open to those who are fluent in sign language and would treat their culture with respect.

The Hungarian Sign Language Community

Group Description

Countries Where People Group Lives

Country Name Hungary

Population

According to the European Union of the Deaf, the Number of Deaf Sign Language Users is 9,000. They add that the number of Working Sign Language Interpreters is 70.

Language & Linguistics

Primary Language

HUNGARIAN SIGN LANGUAGE

Second Languages

HUNGARIAN

The Hungarian Sign Language Community

Status of Christianity

Church Growth

Lay Leaders

Less than 15

Comment

So far as is known there is only one fully functioning Deaf Church in Budapest. This is a result of Deaf Opportunity Outreach. The Southern Baptists are taking responsibility of nurturing and encouraging the Church to develop as well as doing outreach through friendship evangelism. There are numerous interpreted ministries connected to hearing churches.

Comment

Total expatriate missionaries: 10

Total national missionaries: 4 [nationals who are not native to this people]

Religion & Response

Attitude To Christianity

Somewhat receptive

Attitude To Religious Change

Somewhat receptive

Spiritual Climate And Openness

When the gospel is explained clearly in sign most Deaf are receptive to understanding more about God and desire a personal relationship with Jesus.

Recommended Approaches

Use CBS as Deaf are an oral culture.

Current Needs

More personnel who are trained in Chronological Bible Storying.

Items For Prayer

More workers to work with the Deaf

Items For Prayer

Understanding of the Gospel

Items For Prayer

Growth in their Christian Walk, and training for national leaders

Items For Prayer

Harvest among the Deaf

Missions and Churches

Organization Name

DOOR

Organization Name

IMB