

The Deaf of Slovakia

The Deaf Community of Slovakia



Father Frantisek Bartos started the Christian Center of Deaf in Banska Bystra Slovakia. He has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Deaf though out all of Slovakia and has even started a publication called KCNS. He has started interpreter-training programs to train more interpreters for the Deaf in Slovakia. There are at least two residential schools for Deaf orphans in Slovakia under this pastor's auspices. Within this past year IMB started teaching Chronological Bible Storying to Deaf which has been very well received. Some of the vocational training available to Deaf includes glass making, cooking, key making, painting, sewing and wood working. Many Deaf struggle with learning the national language of Slovak as verbal languages are often a second language for most Deaf and many are only functionally literate. Even though Czech Republic and Slovakia were one country in the past there is only about a 50% similarity of signs and they most likely will need a separate video translation of the scriptures.

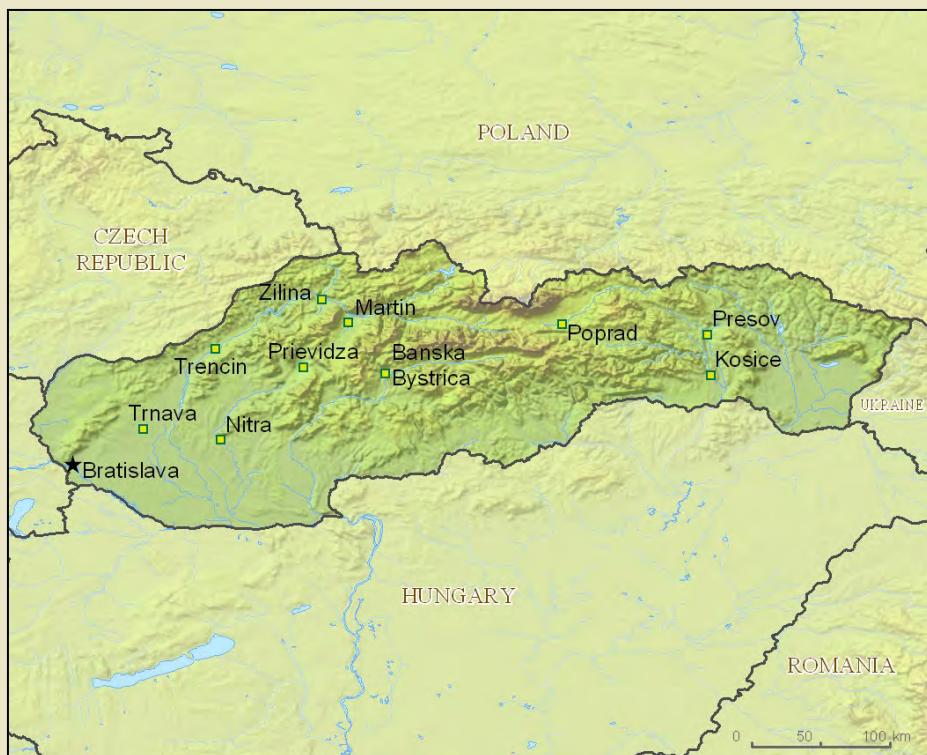
Primary Religion:
 Non-religious

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

Churches:
 12

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):
 None

Population (date):
 15,000 (date unknown)



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Have They Heard The Gospel

Call Themselves Christian	Less than 15%
Believe In Jesus As God And Only Savior	Less than 3%
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son	Less than 5%
Have Not Heard Who Jesus Is	Greater than 95%
Comment (Pastors)	Less than 1:100 ratio
Comment (Missionaries)	Less than 1:100 ratio
Response to the Gospel	Most Deaf when they have had the opportunity have responded eagerly and almost immediately have had a desire to reach other Deaf that they know. Father Bartos has worked tirelessly with the Deaf for many years and has established at least 2 schools for Deaf orphans and has trained many interpreters for the Deaf. The Southern Baptists have also been making regular visits to Slovakia Several Deaf from Slovakia have gone to Deaf Christian camps.
Is the Word of God Translated?	No. Portions may be available. There may be some videos with sermons or rough translations available but the entire New Testament is not available at this time. Deaf do have access to the whole Bible in Slovak. Slovak as the national language, which is a second language for most Deaf. Sign is the first and heart language for most Deaf
Any Hindrance to Scripture Distribution?	No, religious freedom is allowed in this country. If the scripture is put in video form where there is no need for a literacy program, this will help in the receptivity of the Scriptures.
Forms of Gospel Presentation Available	Literature and films/videos are available in Italian. Some videos in Swiss-Italian Sign Language may be available. The Jesus film has NOT been translated into Swiss Italian Sign Language.
What Kind of Missionaries Are Needed?	Missionaries who want to come along side of the current evangelical Deaf workers would be welcome. Training of leaders is a critical need.

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Group Description

Population

According to the European Union of the Deaf, the Number of Deaf Sign Language Users is 10 to 20,000 but the date of this estimate is unknown. They add that the number of Working Sign Language Interpreters is 44.

Language and Linguistics

Primary Language

SLOVAKIAN SIGN LANGUAGE

Secondary Language

SLOVAKIAN

Comment

Slovak is the second language for most Deaf in Slovakia. Many Deaf struggle with learning Slovak.

Linguistically Related Languages

CZECH SIGN LANGUAGE

Comments (Related Languages)

There is approximately 50% lexical similarity with Czech Sign Language

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Status of Christianity

Church Growth

Comment (Church Growth)

Father Bartos has a tremendous heart for the Deaf and has worked tirelessly on their behalf and holds services many times during the week. There are at least 12 churches in Slovakia in the following cities: Banska Bystrica, Bratislava, Kosice, Kovacova, Kremnica, Levoca, Lucenec, Nitra, Presov, Puchov, Trencin, and Zvolen.

Comment (Church Growth)

The Sunset International Bible Institute is involved in ministry to the Slovakian Deaf. Deaf.

Religion and Response

Items for Prayer

Need many more interpreters for Deaf who which to further their education in the national language
Need more Chronological Bible Storying instructors to help train the Deaf in Bible Storying
Need for more evangelical workers to help reach the Deaf population

Scripture

Translation Status

Probable

Available Scripture

Portions

Comment (Scripture)

Literature and films/videos are available in Slovak. Some videos in Slovakian Sign Language may be available. The Jesus film has NOT been translated into Slovakian Sign Language.

Other Forms Of Gospel Available

Literature: Yes
Recordings: No
Film/Videos: Yes
Radio: No

Missions and Churches

Organization Name

Roman Catholic Church

Organization Name

Southern Baptist Convention (USA)

Number Of Congregations

1

Number Of Expatriate Workers

4