



photo by Soren Kjelgaard

The Deaf of Denmark The Danish Sign Language Community

The Danish government provides classes for parents of newly diagnosed Deaf infants and children with a full range of medical and audio logical options for Deaf. There are many schools for the Deaf and Danish sign language is recognized as being the key to educating Deaf. There are scores of vocational training for Deaf adults as well as hearing aids and special communication devices provided for Deaf. This socialistic government provides for the physical wellbeing of Deaf, which often leads to apathy and hopelessness. The Evangelical Lutheran church is doing a translation of selected portions of scripture and the missal readings done in the Lutheran Church service. The book of Luke was just dedicated in February 2013 with Queen Margrethe at the celebration which took place in the Danish Deaf Church in Copenhagen. In spite of all of these advantages, many Danish Deaf are apathetic towards God in the pursuit of materialistic and worldly possessions and hobbies. A revival is needed to show the Deaf their spiritual need for God. Chronological Bible Storying has been taught by Deaf Opportunity Out Reach (D.O.O.R.) to several Danish Deaf in hopes that Storying will turn the hearts of many Deaf from worldly pursuits to a vital relationship with God.

Primary Religion:
 Non-religious

Disciples (Matt 28:19):
 Less than 5%

Churches:
 5

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):
 Book of Luke

Population (date):
 5,000



The Deaf of Denmark

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 (pastor ratio)
Number Of Missionaries Working	10
Comment	Missionary ratio is <1:100
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. There are small evangelical Deaf churches associated with hearing churches in Copenhagen, Odense, Vejle and Rodding. There is also a Muslim Deaf Church in Copenhagen.
Number Of Churches	5
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Portions. The government has officially sanctioned the work of translating the Official Church readings into sign language and this includes some portions of scriptures. Deaf do have access to the whole Bible in Danish. Danish as the national language, which is a second language for most Deaf. Sign is the first and heart language for most Deaf. There may be some videos with sermons or rough translations available. The Bible is in the process of being translated into Sign Language. United Bible Society is involved. The first Scripture Selections have been put on to videotape which includes Scripture texts for Christmas – Easter and Pentecost plus other Church doctrinal texts such as the Apostles Creed –Nicene Creed, etc.
Any Hindrance To Scripture Distribution?	None. Religious freedom is allowed in Denmark. If the Scriptures are put in video form where there is no need for a literacy program, this will help with receptivity.
Forms Of Gospel Presentation	Literature and films/videos are available in Danish. Some videos in Danish Sign Language may be available. The Jesus film has NOT been translated into Danish Sign Language.
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Missionaries who want to come along side the current evangelical Deaf workers would be welcome. Training of leaders is a critical need.

The Deaf of Denmark

Group Description

Countries Where People Group Lives

Country Name Denmark

Population

According to the European Union of the Deaf, the Number of Deaf Sign Language Users is 4,000. They add that the number of Working Sign Language Interpreters is 300.

Language & Linguistics

Primary Language

DANISH SIGN LANGUAGE

Second Languages

DANISH

Comment (Second Language)

90% of Danish Deaf are functionally literate in Danish.

Literacy

Adult Literacy Percentage

90%

Comment (Literacy)

90% of Danish Deaf are functionally literate in Danish.

The Deaf of Denmark

Status of Christianity

Church Growth

Lay Leaders	25
Comment (Church Growth)	DOOR International (Deaf Opportunity Outreach) is working among the Danish Deaf. DOOR's main ministry is church planting. There are 4 adherents to DOOR's work. The Deaf Christian Fellowship (DCF) is another organization engaged in church planting among the Danish Deaf. There are 3 DCF congregations. The Deaf Pentecostal Fellowship (DPF) is also engaged in church planting. There are DPF congregations.
Comment (Church Growth)	Missionaries to the Danish Deaf are Danish nationals.

Religion And Response

Items For Prayer	Harvest among the Deaf Understanding of the Gospel Growth in their Christian Walk, and training for national leaders More workers to work with the Deaf
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Scripture

Available Scripture	Portions—the book of Luke was dedicated in 2013
Form Of Scripture Available	Audio-visual
Comment (Scripture)	Literature and films/videos are available in Danish. Some videos in Danish Sign Language may be available. The Jesus film has NOT been translated into Danish Sign Language.
Other Forms Of Gospel Available:	
Literature	Yes
Recordings	No
Film/Videos	Yes
Radio	No