Helen Keller is the most famous deaf-blind person who overcame such a challenge—thanks to the persistent and loving efforts of her teacher, Anne Sullivan, “the miracle worker.”

The deaf use their hands to communicate. People without disabilities also use hand gestures to express feelings. Some of those gestures are cross-cultural, universal, and common knowledge.

The Bible speaks of hands in many contexts. In the Sermon on the Mount, for instance, Jesus said that when giving, your left hand should not know what your right hand is doing. In other words, don’t make public your good works in order to exalt yourself (Matt. 6:1-4). Solomon says that whatever comes to your hands to do—do it according to the strength the Lord has given you, (Eccl. 9:10). Hands symbolize opportunity in this context. Hands on the head symbolise defeat (Jer. 2:37). You can use your hands to bless others or to fight others.

Deuteronomy 15, verses 7-8, speaks of two hand signs: tightfisted andopenhanded. Moses encouraged the Israelites to be openhanded toward those in need. “Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to,” (Deut. 15:10, NIV).

Appeal

What a great opportunity we have in front of us to receive God’s blessings by giving to our local Church budget. May you choose to be openhanded when it comes to mission.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for your openhandedness toward us, may we be reminded of your heart of generosity as we give. Amen.