



INTERNATIONAL

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



TRANSLATION. TRAINING. TRANSFORMATION.



# MISSION

Bringing God's Word  
and reproducing  
Christian fellowships to  
the Deaf of the world



**Translation. Training. Transformation.** That is a powerful combination, and it's at the heart of what we

do at DOOR. Take a look at some of the amazing things God has done through DOOR International in 2015. In this report you'll find:

- **Stories of transformation**, including what is happening in northern India
- Areas where your support is helping us make a **global impact among almost 12 million Deaf people**
- Some information about our operations and impact in 2015, including:
  - **98 new evangelists** and **45 new teachers** trained in our 2-by-2 program
  - **Approximately 8600 verses drafted or completed** in 2015 among our sign language translations
  - **24 sign language consultants-in-training** (13 Deaf) currently training to become translation consultants
- Opportunities we see in 2016

In 2015 we also saw the passing on of a torch. Mike Buus has served for over 15 years as the President of DOOR, and his wife Linda has served as Director of Support Services. Their commitment and impact in supporting DOOR's work in the Deaf community truly cannot be measured, but I am sure the Lord will say, "Well done, good and faithful servants." Mike has transitioned into the role of President Emeritus and Consultant for Special Projects, where he continues to support DOOR in various capacities. Linda continues to serve full-time, though she is working on her own transition over the next year. DOOR owes an incredible debt to these two, a debt only the Lord can repay.

**Rejoice with me in what God has done**, and what the coming year will bring! We would love for you to pray about your role in helping us reach more Deaf communities for Christ in 2016.

For His Kingdom and Glory,

*Rob Myers*  
Rob Myers

# TRANSLATION

**Can you imagine what it's like not to have access to Scripture?** What if the Bible was not available at all in English? Where would you go for truth and encouragement?

That's exactly why DOOR is committed to sign language Bible translation. As a member of Wycliffe Global Alliance and the Forum of Bible Agencies International, DOOR has the expertise to help Deaf communities worldwide produce quality translations that give their Deaf communities immediate access and understanding of God's Word.

Take a look at Dima's story about the beginning of a Russian Sign Language translation this year.



*"The Jehovah's Witnesses have DVDs for the Deaf in sign language. What does the church have to offer me?" signed my dad.*

*I was born Deaf into a Deaf family; my father, mother, and siblings are all Deaf.*

*After my own conversion, my father began to attend the Kingdom Hall. He was drawn by the quality DVDs they produce for the Deaf in sign languages around the world. When I encouraged him to attend church with me, he said, "What does the church have to offer me?" It was at that time that I began to see the dire need for the Bible in my heart language, sign language. I made several*

*feeble attempts at producing a Bible in Russian Sign Language, but lack of funding and expertise led to its downfall. I prayed for many years for the Lord to provide a way.*

*When I first heard about DOOR, I was excited to see their excellent sign language Bible DVDs. Now DOOR wanted to produce a Bible translation in Russian Sign Language. I attended a recruitment camp held by DOOR in St. Petersburg. Throughout the camp, I felt the Lord calling me. This had been on my heart for many years. Would they choose me?*

*When I was selected to join the Russian translation team, I wept and wept. The Lord is so good! **Now the Deaf will see God's Word in Russian Sign Language.**"*



# TRAINING

It's not enough for the Deaf to have access to Scripture. Without evangelists, church planters, teachers, and leaders in the community, how will Deaf people grow and share the gospel with others?

That is the beauty of DOOR's approach. **We translate the Bible into sign language so that we can equip local Deaf leaders to use it to reach their own people through a program we call 2-BY-2.** Take a look at the power of the gospel at work in northern India:



In May 2015 our Deaf 2-BY-2 staff in India celebrated some big milestones. Over the last ten years, God had done some amazing things through this ministry, including:

- **Training 234 Deaf evangelists**
- **Training 197 Deaf teachers**
- **2790 Deaf involved in Bible study classes using DOOR translation resources!**

God was now calling them to move northward, but the leaders had some honest reservations. Hinduism maintains a strong grip on north India, and no one was really sure what would happen as

they took the gospel to the Deaf there.

## **What happened in the coming months could only be the result of God at work.**

Within weeks of moving to some major cities, fellowships of 40 or more Deaf people began to form in several areas. In one particular city, two leaders have already seen over 50 people baptized!

Here is what one leader had to say in July 2015 (about 6 weeks after moving to the area):

*Every Saturday I meet with 60 Deaf people to teach them God's Word in a Deaf way through Chronological Bible Study. Ad-*

*ditionally I meet with 10 Deaf leaders, and my wife meets with 12 Deaf women to encourage and grow them in their faith. There were 6 Deaf leaders here previously, but they were involved in a hearing church and forced to follow a hearing way of teaching. All were frustrated until DOOR's method came. They are now hungry to learn and praising God!*

And just as exciting is the fact that this ministry involves 3rd generation Deaf leaders. **God is truly raising up leaders who pour out their lives and training into others**, multiplying the effect of the gospel in local Deaf communities.



# TRANSFORMATION

While we at DOOR have a passion for translating God's Word, and for providing training to local Deaf leaders, the real exciting part of ministry is to see the impact these have on

local Deaf communities. The only word we can use is transformation.

Take a look at this story of a young man who went from being a child soldier to an evangelist:



**What would you do if rebels entered your village, slaughtered most of your family members, kidnapped you, and forced you to join their army as a child soldier?**

Martin was born in a rural village in Burundi, where he became deaf at age 4 due to an illness. When Martin turned 14, the civil war raging in Burundi finally reached his village. Rebel forces came in and shot many of the villagers. Martin took off running, but was shot in the head by a stray bullet, and eventually caught and led back to another village. There he was forced to join the rebel army as a child soldier and slaughter people in other villages.

Martin eventually escaped, but he was haunted by the guilt of his murderous past. Three years ago his life changed completely when



he met another Deaf person for the first time in his life. He met Francois, a 2-BY-2 leader from DOOR, who taught him

Scripture using DOOR's Burundi Sign Language translation! This year he reported:

*I have learned about God's plan of salvation for all people; I believe in Jesus Christ and God's Word. I know God has forgiven me; God's Word in Burundi Sign Language tells me that! Before, I thought I was not important because I am Deaf. Now I know that God knows me and cares about my life and all Deaf people.*

**Martin is now reaching out to other Deaf in remote villages who were in his same situation.**

God is truly multiplying kingdom leaders in the Deaf community.



Countries with  
Active Work: **13**

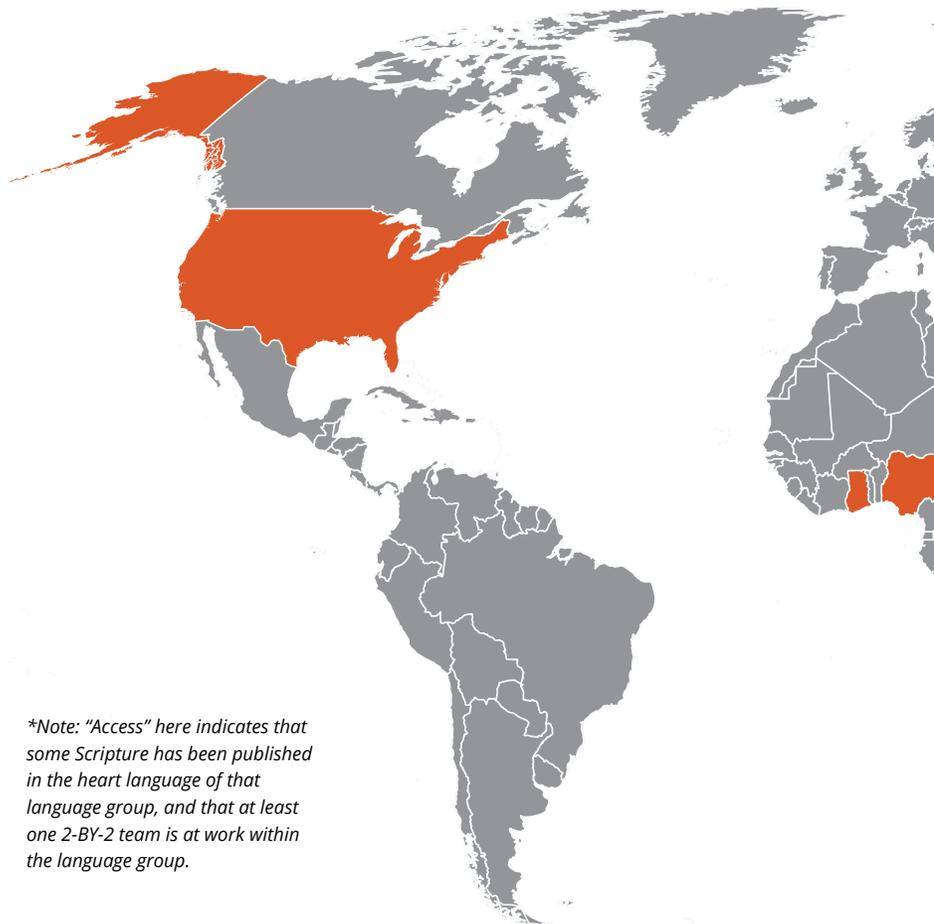


Language  
Groups: **16**

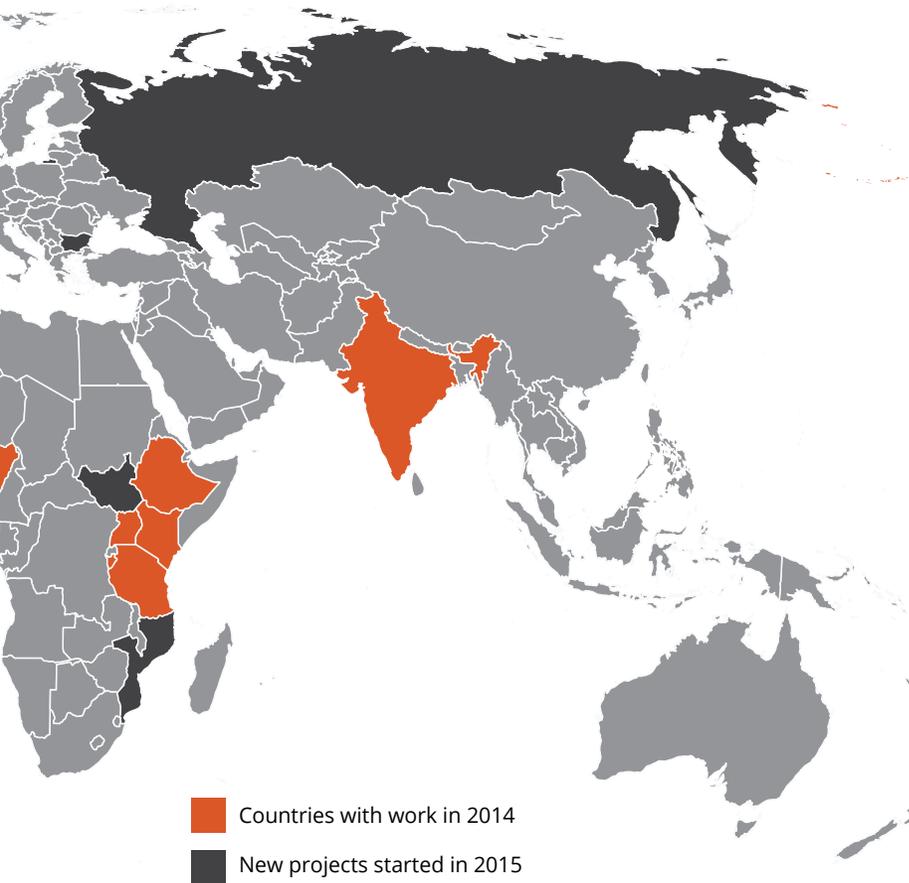


Total number of Deaf with access\* to both  
DOOR Translation and 2-BY-2 Training:  
**7.3 million**

| Sign Language          | Continent | Population       |
|------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Burundi                | Africa    | 102,000          |
| Ethiopia               | Africa    | 941,000          |
| Ghana                  | Africa    | 259,000          |
| Kenya                  | Africa    | 443,000          |
| Nigeria                | Africa    | 1,760,000        |
| Tanzania               | Africa    | 493,000          |
| Uganda                 | Africa    | 376,000          |
| United States          | Americas  | 750,000          |
| India - Andhra Pradesh | Asia      | 348,000          |
| India - Karnataka      | Asia      | 641,000          |
| India - Kerala         | Asia      | 497,000          |
| India - Tamil Nadu     | Asia      | 679,000          |
| <b>Total</b>           |           | <b>7,289,000</b> |



*\*Note: "Access" here indicates that some Scripture has been published in the heart language of that language group, and that at least one 2-BY-2 team is at work within the language group.*



Countries with work in 2014  
 New projects started in 2015



Additional language groups where DOOR is working:

| Sign Language          | Continent | Population       | Work        |
|------------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------|
| Mozambique             | Africa    | 258,000          | Translation |
| South Sudan            | Africa    | 113,000          | Translation |
| Russia                 | Europe    | 1,450,000        | Translation |
| Bulgaria               | Europe    | 73,000           | Translation |
| India - Haryana        | Asia      | 254,000          | 2-BY-2      |
| India - Madhya Pradesh | Asia      | 733,000          | 2-BY-2      |
| India - Maharashtra    | Asia      | 1,140,000        | 2-BY-2      |
| India - New Dehli      | Asia      | 99,000           | 2-BY-2      |
| India - Gujarat        | Asia      | 627,000          | 2-BY-2      |
| <b>Total</b>           |           | <b>4,747,000</b> |             |



# DOOR STAFF

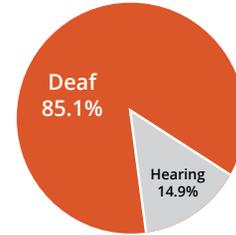
Our 188 full-time staff are committed to our mission of bringing God's Word and reproducing Christian fellowships to the Deaf around the world. They have a passionate desire to see God's Word on the hands and in the hearts of Deaf people everywhere.

DOOR values training and empowering the Deaf to reach their own people for Christ. A vast majority of our staff are Deaf, serving Christ within their own language groups.



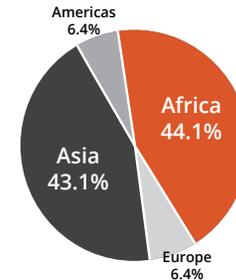
## Employees by Function

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Translators             | 66         |
| Consultants-in-Training | 24         |
| 2-BY-2 Team Members     | 57         |
| Support Staff           | 41         |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>188</b> |



## Employees by Deaf/Hearing

|         | Number | Percent |
|---------|--------|---------|
| Deaf    | 160    | 85.1%   |
| Hearing | 28     | 14.9%   |



## Employees by Region

| Continent | # of Staff | Percent |
|-----------|------------|---------|
| Africa    | 83         | 44.1%   |
| Americas  | 12         | 6.4%    |
| Asia      | 81         | 43.1%   |
| Europe    | 12         | 6.4%    |

## SCRIPTURE TRANSLATION



Verses newly drafted:  
**5450 verses**



Verses newly completed:  
**3200 verses**

## 2-BY-2 TRAINING

Number of  
2-BY-2 teams:  
**21**

New teachers  
trained:  
**45**

Deaf fellowships  
started:  
**64**

New evangelists  
trained:  
**98**

Church leaders re-  
ceiving additional  
training:  
**72**

Deaf school  
programs:  
**32**

# 2015 ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

## SCRIPTURE ACCESS



Passages played in  
DeafBibles.com:  
**25,839**



Unique users of DOOR  
translations through the  
Deaf Bible app:  
**84,450**

Other access through microSD cards, USB drives, etc.!

## OTHER ACTIVITIES



First ever sign language-based  
intensive exegetical and linguistic  
training course for translation  
consultants-in-training  
**11 Deaf participants,**  
**3 instructors**



**24** sign language  
Consultants-in-Training  
(CITs) currently in training  
process

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

|                             | Unrestricted | Temporarily Restricted | Total       |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------------------------|-------------|
| <b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE:</b> |              |                        |             |
| Contributions               | \$684,271    | \$1,788,294            | \$2,472,565 |
| Donated Services            | \$63,170     | -                      | \$63,170    |
| Gain on Land Sale           | \$225,755    | -                      | \$225,755   |
| Other Income                | \$54,572     | -                      | \$54,572    |
|                             | \$1,027,768  | \$1,788,294            | \$2,816,062 |

|                                      |             |               |   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|---|
| <b>RECLASSIFICATIONS:</b>            |             |               |   |
| Net assets released from restriction | \$1,664,979 | (\$1,664,979) | - |

|  |                    |                  |                    |
|--|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Total Support, Revenue, and Reclassifications</b> | <b>\$2,692,747</b> | <b>\$123,315</b> | <b>\$2,816,062</b> |
|--|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|

|                        |                    |          |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|
| <b>EXPENSES:</b>       |                    |          |                    |
| Program Services       | \$2,010,148        | -        | \$2,010,148        |
| Supporting Activities: |                    |          |                    |
| Management and general | \$518,587          | -        | \$518,587          |
| Fundraising            | \$249,794          | -        | \$249,794          |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>  | <b>\$2,778,529</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>\$2,778,529</b> |

|                      |                    |                  |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Change in Net Assets | (\$85,782)         | \$123,315        | \$37,533           |
| <b>Net Assets:</b>   |                    |                  |                    |
| Beginning of Year    | \$3,695,877        | \$168,947        | \$3,864,824        |
| <b>End of Year</b>   | <b>\$3,610,095</b> | <b>\$292,262</b> | <b>\$3,902,357</b> |



DOOR International is a registered 501(c)3 organization. We strive to honor Christ in all areas of its ministry, including ethical and financial standards. We are a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) and uphold their rules for Christian ministries. Because we value financial transparency, our finances are audited annually, and audited financial statements are available upon request.

# 2016 OPPORTUNITIES

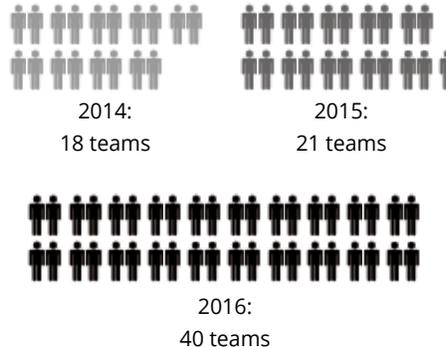
**God is opening up many doors for ministry in 2016.** Here are two areas we would like to highlight for your prayers and financial support:

## TRANSLATION: ASIA

Out of the over 400 sign languages worldwide, less than 40 of them have Scripture or active translation projects happening. The need is great for further work in providing training and assistance in sign language Bible translation to produce a clear, accurate, natural, and accepted translation. **DOOR has the opportunity to engage up to five more sign language groups in Asia by the end of this fiscal year.** That means millions more Deaf people getting first access to God's Word in their heart language!

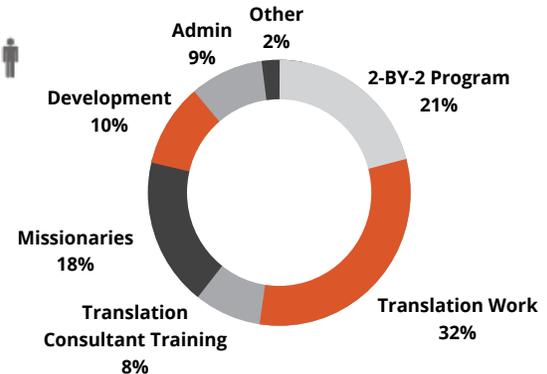
## 2-BY-2 TRAINING: EXPANSION

One of the unique parts of DOOR's ministry is our focus on both translation and training. We are one of the only organizations worldwide that works in both sign language Bible translation and church planting among the Deaf. And this year we feel God's prompting to expand our efforts in a significant way on the 2-BY-2 training side. In 2015, we had 21 active 2-BY-2 teams working on the ground. **We hope to have up to 40 teams working by the end of 2016.**



## 2016 BUDGET:

| Category Totals                 | Amount           |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 2-BY-2 Program                  | 767,735          |
| Translation Work                | 1,147,927        |
| Translation Consultant Training | 303,424          |
| Missionaries                    | 655,640          |
| Development                     | 370,174          |
| Admin                           | 343,217          |
| Other                           | 68,575           |
| <b>Total:</b>                   | <b>3,656,692</b> |





*As it is written,  
“Those who were not told about him  
will see, and those who have not heard  
will understand.” — ROMANS 15:21*

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