



BOBBY McCOY, DOOR INTERNATIONAL

# REACHING

THE DEAF IN THEIR HEART LANGUAGE

winter 2018

## KENYAN CULTURE

- There are 43 officially-recognized tribes who identify Kenya as their home nation. They each speak a different language and hold different culture and customs. Each Kenyan takes pride in their tribal background.
- Roasted goat is a delicacy and a must for important celebrations in Kenya.
- Kenya is known for their incredibly fast distance runners. Interesting fact: a majority of these famed runners come from one tribe, the Kalenjin. Many train in Iten, Kenya, which stands at an elevation nearing 8000 feet above sea level.

bobbym@doorinternational.org

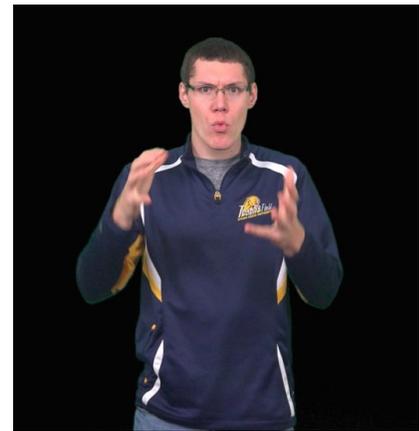
A lot of changes have happened in the last several months, but I know **one thing, God has not change!** Amen! Below, you will find highlights of God's work in my life since my last newsletter.

## GOD IS UNCHANGING

JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME YESTERDAY AND TODAY AND FOREVER

As many of you know, due to issues surrounding the presidential election in Kenya, DOOR decided it was best to postpone the plan to move to Kenya until January 2018. **In the interim, God had a plan.** I moved from Michigan to Minnesota to help the American Sign Language (ASL) translation team at Deaf Harbor.

During my three-month tenure in Minnesota, my primary role was to serve as a facilitator: **developing a first draft of the translation, taking the written language and translating it into ASL, and helping out with Consultant feedback on some of the drafts.** We worked on the story of Isaac and Ishmael, the testimony and stoning of Stephen, and Jesus' message to the seven churches in the Book of Revelation. **My time in Minnesota was a great preparation for the work I would be doing in Kenya.**



WORKING ON AN ASL DRAFT

At the beginning of January, I flew to Kenya to begin my instruction as a Consultant-In-Training (CIT). I will be staying in Kenya for at least a year. **I am working with the Kenya Sign Language (KSL) team.** The KSL team is divided into two groups: the KSL translation team and KSL DEEP team. **The KSL translation team focuses on Bible translation, while the KSL DEEP team focuses on making notes, like you would see in study Bibles.** The DEEPs are primarily used as a reference for church leaders to study before teaching.

As we translate God's Word into sign language, we analyze the written Greek and Hebrew manuscripts to acquire a better understanding of each story as it was originally recorded. **Many times, we learn something for the first time as a result of our Scripture study and dialogue**, having never fully understood it before. Therefore, we are working to translate the Word into sign language but, at the same time, continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord. **This is the beauty of God's Word, that it never returns void but accomplishes what He desires.** As it is written in Philippians 3:12, "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me."

## DOES NOT RETURN VOID... **GOD'S WORD** ...BUT ACCOMPLISHES WHAT HE DESIRES



I recently worked with the KSL team to develop a first draft of Numbers 3:1-13, where God told Moses to bring the Levites to serve the Aaron and his sons. When it came to the part where God told Moses that the Levites will take the place of the first male offspring, the translation team did not understand this. As a CIT, I explained how, originally, the Israelites gave their firstborn sons because the firstborn belong to God. This particular portion of Scripture is yet to be translated into KSL. I then explained the concept of the Levites becoming God's as a replacement of the firstborn. Smiles grew on their faces. **They rejoiced and stated, "Before, we did not know there were so many connections in the Bible. Now we see the whole picture better."** As they gain new insights into the Bible, they can share with others. I am amazed by the team's desire to know what God authored in the Bible.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for the ASL translation team as they aim to **complete the second set of Scripture (77 stories) by October 2018.**
- Pray for the KSL and KSL DEEP teams as they finish Scripture. In June 2018, **we plan to celebrate the publication of approximately 80% of the New Testament in KSL!** Praise the Lord!
- As I learn and adapt to the Kenyan language, culture, and customs, please pray for peace, wisdom, understanding, and patience.
- The Kenyan national government is still unsettled following the election; **please pray for peace.**
- For the first time in history, Deaf communities in four nations have access to published sign language Scripture! **Please pray for DOOR's Deaf 2-by-2 teams in these countries as they use the published Scriptures to reach the Deaf who have yet to know Him.**

DOOR International's mission is to bring God's Word and reproducing Christian fellowships to the Deaf of the world. DOOR is a non-denominational, non-profit (501)(c)3 Christian mission organization of many Deaf people (and a few hearing people).



To contact us: DOOR International, 135 N State St, Suite 200, Zeeland, MI 49464; Ph: 616-741-7200

Email: [door@doorinternational.org](mailto:door@doorinternational.org) Websites: [www.doorinternational.org](http://www.doorinternational.org) / [www.deafbibles.com](http://www.deafbibles.com)

To send donations: Dept. 9012, P.O. Box 30516, Lansing, MI 48909-8016

While DOOR seeks to apply every gift as intended, all contributions are solicited with the understanding that DOOR has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds.