

WINTER 2019

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SERVING WITH DOOR INTERNATIONAL

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## Deaf Strategic Alliance

This past August, DOOR hosted the first-ever Deaf Strategic Alliance (DSA) meeting in Michigan. Seven organizations with a focus on Deaf ministry attended the two-day session to discuss ways to best further the goal of reaching the Deaf community with the Gospel.

I attended as a representative for the Americas Development of Sign Language Association (ADSLA). We discussed ways how we could best share our resources and improve our partnerships with the other organizations. This was inspiring to see how God's people are working more and more in unison, and it is a beautiful example of how He intended the body of Christ to work together.



One major topic was the "big picture" of Deaf ministry today, and each organization had a chance to share what they were currently doing. And together, we figured out what still needed to be done. Deaf ministry is such a broad field, and there is still so much to do. But

God is faithful, and God has been bringing more people and more resources to help Deaf people come to know Him. Praise Him for that!

As a group, we did a puzzle together during our brief breaks to help us remember that if one organization tried to do everything alone, it would take forever to fill in all the missing pieces of Deaf ministry. With other members of the body of Christ, we can successfully reach more Deaf people in a shorter amount of time!

Please keep praying for DOOR, ADSLA, and all the other organizations. Pray that our partnerships remain strong and that we never lose sight of why we are doing this—to lead more people to Christ.

## PRAISE & PRAYER

- Praise the Lord that a new translation member, Ruth Anna Spooner, has joined our Chronological Bible Translation (CBT) team!
- The CBT team will be starting a new project in 2020. Please pray for the funding of this new project. Pray for wisdom from the Lord to guide Deaf Harbor's Executive Director and me as we work together developing our presentation and as we contact organizations to sponsor the work of our ministry.
- As we work for His Kingdom, we many times face adversity. Several of our team members and their families have experienced health issues. Please remember them in your prayers.

## New Team Member

### Ruth Anna Spooner

I want to introduce Ruth Anna Spooner; she has joined our translation team. She moved to Minnesota from Rochester, New York. She was working as an English professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). She was invited to attend our community check in the Rochester area two years ago, and she gave our team very good feedback. She came to visit Deaf Harbor and volunteered her time to help out our translation team for two weeks last May. During her time with us, I had the opportunity to learn about her degrees and her studies, which were mostly focused on English and teaching English. Her area of specialization for her Ph.D. was translation, specifically English to ASL translation. My team and I believed that she needed to be here with us, but we knew the project budget would not allow her to be a part of the team. BUT God was so good to us by providing funding through DOOR with the grant that funded this program at Deaf Harbor. It turned out they had funds left in the grant to hire her! We made her a job offer and she accepted! She put her house on the market, and it sold the next day! We are excited that God has led her to join our team.



## Africa in the US

Our family has yet another opportunity to host a young man from overseas—this time from South Africa. His name is Africa; yes, the same spelling as the continent. He has been accepted into RIT for the fall of 2020. RIT suggested that Africa attend a Deaf school for both ASL immersion and to focus on specific areas of study. He and his mother, Bridget, visited several Deaf schools. Both of them believed Metro Deaf School would be a great asset to his educational studies. It was his parents' wish that he be placed in a conservative Christian home. Since Metro Deaf School knew we had previously hosted a young man from Cameroon, the director recommended us for placement.



Africa and his parents came to Minnesota, last December and again this January to meet us. We had a wonderful time getting acquainted. Africa is now settled into our family. He started school and is now in 11th grade.



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### ABOUT DOOR

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).

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