

UNEVENTFUL



A Historic Day for DOOR

April 6, 2019 was a historic day for DOOR and for sign language translation worldwide, as we celebrated the certification of 15 Bible translation consultants (TCs). That increases the number of sign language translation consultants in the world by 100%.

We had the privilege of certifying two unique groups of consultants. The first group of 9 are Deaf; a unique group with extensive experience as translators, facilitators, and language advisors. Since all of them are profoundly Deaf, their heart language is sign language. In the last 4 years, they went through intense training in Bible translation, exegesis, consultant courses, interpersonal skills, language and cross-cultural skills, Biblical background, technology, organizational skills, and more. They traveled to Israel to study the Holy Land through a course provided by Hebrew

University and the Jerusalem Center for Bible Translators. They have traveled extensively for their training, missing their family and friends and facing many spiritual battles.

These 9 men were certified as specialized sign language Bible translation consultants. They are specialized consultants because they can check and approve certain portions of Scripture that they have studied in-depth. They focus on sociolinguistics, grammar, and more. These men play a huge part in making sure the translations are clear, natural and acceptable among Deaf communities.

The other group of 6 men are hearing with a passion for reaching Deaf people with God's Word. They had to learn a sign language and be immersed in the Deaf community and culture.

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In the past 7 years, these men were trained in language learning, Deaf culture, sign language linguistics, Bible translation, consultant courses, interpersonal skills, cross-cultural ministry, organization skills, mentoring, and more. They also traveled to Israel to study the Biblical lands. All of them have completed or are about to complete master's degrees related to Bible translation or sign language linguistics.

They were certified as Bible translation consultants with a specialty in sign language. They are qualified to approve any translated passages of the Bible for publication. However, even though they are trained and capable of checking sign language linguistics, they are not Deaf. To produce a quality

sign language Bible translation, DOOR recommends a hearing consultant work with a Deaf linguistic consultant when approving a sign language translation. Together, they make an excellent team, producing high-quality translations.

During the past 7 years, some consultants experienced trials and challenges. Two of them were arrested and jailed for the work they were doing in a sensitive country. One lost his newborn child, and others became seriously ill. But during the celebration, all of them stood in joyous victory, celebrating God's faithfulness in helping them complete their training. They stand ready to serve Deaf people and sign language Bible translations worldwide.



Celebration tents set up for the ceremony



Ceremony seating for 15 Translation Consultants



Consultants in Training (CITs) take group photo before the ceremony



Opening Worship



DOOR staff carry water to leadership for foot washing ceremony



DOOR leaders wash new consultants' feet



CEO Rob Myers captivated by this historical moment for the Deaf



DOOR Africa Director and Translation Consultant
Paul Njatha gives all glory to God



Deaf CIT George Arunga shares joys and trials from his training



Consultants give DOOR partners appreciation gifts



Vice President Jojo Ninan anoints CITs



CITs overcome with emotion. Holy Spirit descends and empowers



New consultants celebrate with cake-cutting ceremony



TCS receive official certification for completing
training

Sign Language Advancement Program

Before our celebration, the CITs spent a full week together in a sign language immersion experience. DOOR's Deaf and hearing CITs communicate with each other in sign languages all the time, but it's usually in a work environment, with the added stress of multiple goals and deadlines. This program allowed them to have an opportunity to grow linguistically and culturally through creative and fun team activities. Read the full article on DOOR's website!

There were no Deaf people or hearing people ... we were just people, brothers and sisters in Christ. — Deaf CIT



Deaf and hearing teammates from different countries compete together in a scavenger hunt



Deaf and hearing teammates construct a functioning cable car from a soda can, communicating only in sign language

DOOR INTERNATIONAL
DEAF REACHING DEAF FOR CHRIST

3,2,1... PRAY!

Those who were not told about him
WILL SEE
and those who have not heard
WILL UNDERSTAND.

Romans 15:21

PRAY FOR DEAF PEOPLE AT 3:21 PM (15:21)

3,2,1...Pray!

We're starting a new prayer initiative that lines up with the 50-by-25 movement. Come and pray with us by signing up at www.doorinternational.org/pray.



A Decal for your Decor

Show your support with a free DOOR decal! Simply send us an email and your contact information and we will drop one in the mail.

3 WAYS TO EXPERIENCE JOY in Retirement

Have you seen the viral photo dubbed "Success Kid"? At the time his mother originally posted it, Sammy Laney was just 11 months old—but quickly became a national favorite. Millions have viewed his tiny fist-pump alongside phrases that illustrate daily successes, like "Does the laundry. Finds \$5 in pants pocket."



Maybe people love Success Kid because of that "job well done" feeling. Perhaps that's also why many individuals identify retirement as one of the happiest seasons of their lives. There are three special sources of joy that make the golden years shine:

1. The JOYS of travel. Traveling lets you experience fun and beauty. And when you travel to visit family—or bring them along—your trip can also become a special and unexpected way to build deeper relationships and create opportunities to share a legacy of faith.

2. The JOYS of family. The sweetness of experiencing children and grandchildren is unlike anything else. It's no surprise this proverb says "Children's children are the crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children" (Proverbs 17:6).

3. The JOYS of giving. Being able to bless a ministry like DOOR International provides a special kind of fulfillment. You can include a gift in your will or estate plan to support eternal work long after you're gone. And if you've reached the age of 70½, giving from your IRA is an ideal option.

As you reflect on the joy that fills your heart today, perhaps you feel a bit like David in Psalm 116:12, "What shall I return to the Lord for all His goodness to me?" National Estate Planning Awareness Week is October 21-27 and this is a great time to think about how you may want to allocate your assets to maximize joy for your loved ones and the ministries you care about.

Please consider including DOOR International in your will. Contact Brad Wiechertjes at (616) 741-7015 or bradw@doorinternational.org.

SEEDS TO PLANT

2019 GOAL

DOOR is involved in 15 active translations

2019 GOAL

New 2-by-2 teams in training: 41 teams planted

2019 GOAL

9.5 million Deaf impacted

2022 GOAL

73 teams planted

2022 GOAL

20.5 million Deaf impacted

2025 GOAL

37.4 million Deaf impacted

"What shall I return to the Lord for all His goodness to me?"

PSALM 116:12

Use Psalm 116:12:

Reflect today on the joy of travel



Reflect today on the joy of family



Reflect today on the joy of giving



Now is a great time . . .

UNCHANGED

There are **70 Million** Deaf

There are **350+**
different sign languages

Fewer than **2%** of the Deaf
population know Christ

90%
struggle to read

85%
of deaf children do not have parents
who know sign language

only **30-40%**
of speech can be lip read

DOOR is working to change lives by
translating Scripture and planting
Deaf-led churches

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Dear Friends,

God is moving in Deaf communities. Whether it is church planting beginning in East Asia among the world's largest Deaf people group, new translations starting in South Asia that will provide tools to church planters currently enduring intense persecution for the gospel, or key research and relationship-building in potential new countries, God is opening doors like we have never seen before. No movement of God occurs in isolation, however.

A movement requires prayer. As Jesus describes in John 15:5, we cannot make any eternal impact unless we abide in him. We depend on the Holy Spirit to tear down strongholds that have kept Deaf communities separated from the gospel for millennia. That is why we are launching the **3-2-1 Prayer Campaign**. These communities will no longer need to be labeled as "unreached."

A movement requires planning. As our leadership sensed God's call to more, to reach more Deaf around the world with the gospel in a deeper way, we knew that would require structural changes within DOOR. During the last year and a half, DOOR leadership has carefully rolled out **a new ministry structure** that we believe will set up DOOR



and its leaders to be able to shoulder the future growth that we already see happening and we anticipate will continue. This also involves caring for our staff and bringing on more leaders so that we do not burn out our most precious resource: the people God has entrusted to us.

A movement requires partnerships. God never intended one person or one organization to work alone. That is why we value partnerships with organizations like the Seed Company. Our recent **commissioning of 15 new translation consultants** was a direct result of Seed Company's financial support of internships for each of them. And as I spoke about this momentous occasion at Seed Company's ForWord conference in April, I thanked God again for all of the people and organizations that have come alongside us throughout the years. **This work is your work too.**

Join us in this movement of God among Deaf communities worldwide, and tell others about what God is doing. Let's no longer allow God's work among the Deaf to be one of the best kept secrets in Christian ministry today.

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Rob Myers, President/CEO