



DAN, SARAH, AND EZRA

THE EBERLE FAMILY

SERVING WITH DOOR INTERNATIONAL

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VALUE OF INFORMATION

In many ways, mission work in Deaf communities is several decades behind similar ministries in hearing communities. **Much of this is due to a lack of understanding and reliable information about sign languages and Deaf communities around the world.** While a great deal of research has been done on many of the 7,117 living languages in the world today, many remain poorly documented; **the reality is that we really can only guess at how many distinct sign languages exist in the world.**

Here are some facts about sign language information:

- There are probably between 300 and 400 distinct sign languages in the world. We don't know because **there are entire regions of the world that haven't been thoroughly researched yet!**
- **The majority of sign languages have not been well documented, if at all.**
- The number of people qualified (and willing) to do this kind of language identification and documentation is quite small.
- **Without reliable information about language, even basic decisions about Bible translation are very difficult.** Translators might not know where (geographically) to start or how many people their translation will reach.
- **Much information about sign languages exists only at the local level,** and is not published, written down, or even shared.

Because of these challenges, DOOR is dedicated to the gathering, sharing and coordination of information about sign languages around the world. We have staff dedicated to researching, writing and publishing scholarly articles about sign languages.

PARTNERS

Here are some of the organizations we work with to further this kind of research:

- **The Ethnologue is an online database of all the world's languages.** It's the most complete database, but doesn't have a lot of depth. Much needs to be added related to sign languages.
- **Aveditz is a strategic sign language database** which includes not only language information, but also information about Bible translation projects. **It will allow partners to see which organizations are working in a given language or region, and the status of any projects in the area.**
- Joshua Project is an online database that tracks statistics and progress related to the Great Commission. **It estimates which people groups have been reached with the Gospel. Many Deaf communities are included, but a lot more work needs to be done.**

THANKFUL HEARTS

"Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:15-18

As we all know this has been a tumultuous year! **But through it all we see even more how God has provided in so many ways.** We are truly thankful for his guidance and provision for us and our families during this year.

FAMILY NEWS

Much of Dan's time has been taken up by providing training to teams in various countries. This entails more time on Zoom and some crazy hours meeting with staff in different time zones. One big project has been continuing to train DOOR staff on a new piece of software to accelerate Bible translation!



We had the joy of taking a much needed vacation in Western Maryland with Dan's family. It was the perfect place of retreat as we were at Harrington Manor State Park. **We were able to enjoy the beauty of God's creation in the forest, nearby waterfalls and lake.** We were also able to get lots of game time in!



Sarah and Ezra have completed 12 weeks of school and are looking forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas by working on various projects and learning about the true meaning of these holidays.

- Around the start of 2020, Sarah's dad, Bill Damon, was quite sick, and we praise the Lord for his improving health and opportunities to enjoy lots of time with both him and mom this year.

PRAISES

- In 12 years of marriage, this is the longest time we've spent at home! We've enjoyed time together, playing games, and doing home projects.
- Ezra is growing and maturing in so many ways, **in his knowledge of God's Word and the world around him.** He is a joy to us!
- We are thankful for technology and how it allows us to continue to be in contact with many around the world that need training and encouragement during this time when travel is restricted.
- We are truly grateful to all of you who sacrificially give and pray for our ministry with DOOR International. Thank you so much for partnering with us. **You are appreciated!**



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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.

Send gifts to: 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.

