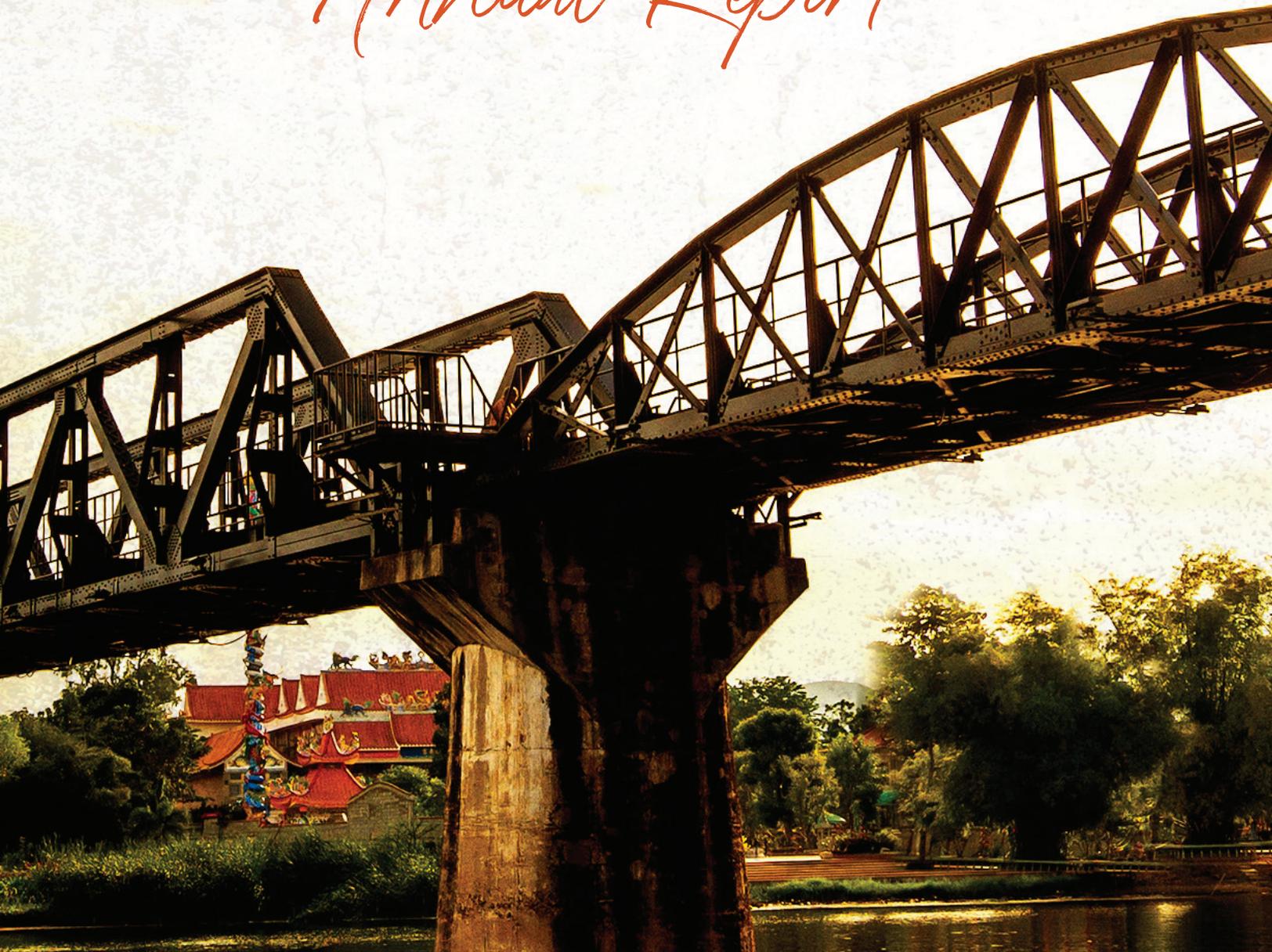


DOOR INTERNATIONAL
DEAF REACHING DEAF FOR CHRIST

2020

Annual Report



Still Moving



2020 was an unexpected year. Travel was largely shut down, the words pandemic and social distancing were on everyone's hands and lips, and many of our staff learned how to do the majority of their work remotely.

“Be still and know that I am God.”

Psalm 46:10

Even though 2020 wasn't easy for many of us, I am reminded by Psalm 46:10, “Be still and know that I am God.” This pandemic brought an unexpected outcome in 2020 for DOOR. It allowed all of us to step back from traveling and lay out groundwork to better support and sustain our growing ministry. We were forced to be still, and God moved in many powerful ways that showed us that He is, as always, in control.

Virtual Bible studies and fellowships sprang up in the most remote of places. Technology was and continues to be a bridge for all of us to the world outside of our homes. We were able to provide training and build programs that our staff have been needing for years.

We also saw a generous outpouring of prayer and gifts from friends and partners like you. **You built a bridge between DOOR and the Deaf of the world with your support, and we are immensely grateful.** As we look forward to what God has in store for 2021, we are reminded that unless the Lord builds this house, we are laboring in vain. But if we remain in Him, and He remains in us, we can bear much fruit!

Will you continue helping us build bridges to the Gospel for the Deaf community as we work towards the goal God has given us: to reach 50% of the Deaf worldwide by the year 2025?

All for His glory,

Rob Myers,
President/CEO

2020

Highlights

Milestones

We completed a project five years in the making: the translation of 119 Chronological Bible Translation narratives into American Sign Language (ASL)! ASL is to the Deaf community as English is to the world. Many Deaf people know some ASL, and it is used in multiple countries outside of the United States.

A new translation project was started in a North African country with the third largest Deaf population in Africa.

We developed a new groundbreaking reporting system that allows all the members of our 2-by-2 ministry to report in sign language.

We are now tracking the usage of CBT passages by 2-by-2 teams.

A new webpage was built to provide another way for the Deaf to directly access God's Word. We're continuing to upload more of the translations we've worked on over the years.

Scripture Distribution

In the beginning stages of the pandemic, we realized that one of the greatest needs for Deaf communities was access to the Gospel. Their spiritual hunger was evident, as we received numerous reports of isolation from the Gospel since schools and churches were closed. Many Deaf people live in areas stricken with poverty and they're limited in what they can spend on cell phone and internet data.



Our technology team worked to answer this need, but as we started planning ways to meet this spiritual hunger, we realized we couldn't do this endeavor alone. We put out a call for funds to support the development of various Scripture distribution tools, such as SD cards for areas with limited access to internet or cell phone service and the development of our own webpage with all of the sign languages we've translated so far. Before 2020, we've had to depend almost entirely on partners to do this distribution, but now we realize that the need and demand far outweighs our supply.

You answered this call eagerly, and we raised a good sum specifically for the purpose of distributing God's Word in the regions we work in. As a result of your generosity, we have built our webpage and are uploading the sign languages we've translated so far. Additionally, we are providing SD cards to our centers, where they will distribute them among the Deaf in need.

"...spiritual hunger was evident, as we received numerous reports of isolation from the Gospel since schools and churches were closed."

\$ 30/30 Days

Africa & Asia

Earlier this year, DOOR International received many reports of Deaf people and families suffering from a lack of food as many lost their jobs due to the lockdowns and economic challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

God put a call to action on the hearts of DOOR leadership, and we shared that call to action with you. You heard this call, and your generous response was a big answer to prayer! You have blessed many Deaf people and families with your gift. DOOR missionaries have been working to bring food to families in need.

Recently, we received word that Deaf schools were also suffering. Most of these schools were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but many have begun to reopen after seven months of being closed. Many of the Deaf



**Faces covered for security purposes*

kids were overjoyed to be back at school among their peers, because most remained isolated at home due to barriers in communication with their families and neighbors.

Often, Deaf schools are residential schools and the kids live on campus because their own homes are far away. The children at one such school in Mundika, Kenya, were missing meals because the school's food stores were empty. They depended on donations to keep the children fed. DOOR has been sending missionaries to Mundika for the past five years to teach the children about Jesus, and there were smiles on all the children's faces when our missionary arrived with much-needed food.

Thank you for enabling us to show the love of Christ in such a tangible way.

In Asia, a young Deaf girl named Pari* shared her joy in receiving both physical food and spiritual food from our workers there. She lives with her mom and sister in a small house. Her mother is the breadwinner because her father abandoned their family years ago. When her mom lost her job due to COVID-19, the three had no way to get more food.

DOOR provided a bag of food including grain, rice, oil and flour, and enough essential supplies to last a month to each family. The workers also shared the Good News about Jesus, reaching many who have never heard the gospel before. Pari said that this food—both physical and spiritual—has been a ray of hope in the darkness of this pandemic.

We also noticed that many Deaf people lack essential access to information. They knew that they had to follow the lockdown procedures, such as social distancing and the stay-at-home orders, but they didn't know why. We sent out a call to the Deaf churches in Asia, encouraging them to share information and answer questions whenever possible.

We are continuing to bring food to Deaf families in both Africa and Asia, and we anticipate being able to continue feeding them for months to come.

Thank you for allowing the light of Christ to shine through your generosity so we can bring much-needed sustenance, both physical and spiritual, to the Deaf people who are hurting as a result of this pandemic. For some of you, this contribution may have required great sacrifice on your part, and we want you to know that your gift did not go unnoticed.

**Name changed*



American Sign Language

Chronological Bible Translation

A major milestone that was accomplished in 2020 was the completion of our five-year project translating 119 passages of Scripture into American Sign Language (ASL). Thanks to our partners at Deaf Harbor, we are grateful that these vital passages are now available in ASL.

Before this project, the ASL users of the world had only 32 passages available in their heart language. These 32 passages were selected with the goal of showing Deaf people who God is, and Jesus' role in our salvation. The additional translated passages recently released provide an even deeper understanding of the Gospel message and are curated with the goal of a relationship with God in mind. Additionally, many of the passages show the origins of the church and teach us how to live as believers. The 119 passages provide more than 2,000 translated verses, and there are more than 50 hours of released footage in all.

ASL users of the world had only 32 passages available in their heart language.

One key component of the ASL CBT is there are more information segments. The translation team released more than 500 additional information segments alongside the translated passages. These information segments are gold nuggets of contextual information providing a deeper look into Biblical history and culture, word definitions, and more.

Such a resource has never been seen before in the Deaf community. For years, they've had to depend on their often tenuous grasp of their second language (English or another written language) to learn from Bible study tools and commentaries. But now these segments are bringing a new dimension to Bible studies and personal devotion time for the Deaf people of the United States and the world.

The feedback Deaf Harbor and DOOR have received from the Deaf people who have ASL as their first language has blown us away. They are so hungry for the Gospel, and we are grateful to be part of God's providing some of the Bible in their heart language.

We know that there are many more passages to be translated, and even though the translation team is now working on another project, they are still volunteering part of their time to continue adding more translated passages to the Chronological Bible Translation in ASL. If you'd like to check out the 119 translated CBT passages, **visit deafharbor.org/tv/cbt**.

ASL Chronological Bible Translation Team:

3 TRANSLATORS	16 SIGNERS	4 CONSULTANTS
1 CONSULTANT- IN-TRAINING	5 VIDEO EDITORS	98 COMMUNITY CHECKS



Church

Why do Deaf people need Deaf churches?

Deaf people need Deaf churches because Deaf reaching Deaf for Christ is at the heart of everything we do at DOOR. Our church planting ministry, also known as 2-by-2, consists of pairs of Deaf leaders going out to evangelize, disciple and plant Deaf churches.

There are three common types of church services in the Deaf community: interpreted services, Deaf churches supported by hearing churches, and independent Deaf churches.

Interpreted services consist of Deaf people being integrated into the hearing services, receiving access to the sermon, worship and prayers through sign language interpreters.

A Deaf church supported by a hearing church typically receives the use of a room in the hearing church building, receives supervision from leaders in the hearing church, and more. Services are often patterned after hearing churches, and the hearing leaders supervising are often unfamiliar with the Deaf culture and language.

An independent Deaf church is completely run by Deaf leaders, who find their own building (or an open space under a tree or a member's home) for the congregants. These types of churches often look different from the typical church service, having been adapted to better fit the Deaf culture and language.

DOOR believes that the best place for Deaf people to grow and use their spiritual gifts is within the independent Deaf church. Deaf people are part of people groups with rich language and culture, and they flourish in churches reflecting that language and culture. With no language or cultural barriers, they can steward their spiritual gifts and thrive as members of the body of Christ.





2 2

2-by-2 Restructure

Since 2005, DOOR has been one of the world's leading ministries in the area of planting churches among the Deaf. When DOOR originally began the 2-by-2 ministry, we had all teams report to a few leaders who oversaw the entire program. In 2019, DOOR underwent an organizational restructure to better serve the growing needs of the organization. Our newly appointed Director of 2-by-2, Manuel*, immediately dove into a comprehensive look at the 2-by-2 ministry.

His reviews and meetings with the current supervisors brought us to the realization that the teams needed more than what we have been giving them. That led us to restructure the ministry. The teams' day-to-day operation will continue as usual, but now we have a three-tier system: local leaders, regional leaders, and national leaders. Some of our staff are fully capable of strategic planning and leading a national program. Others are more limited but can provide leadership at a regional level. Still others operate best at a local level (like local pastors).

DOOR's 2-by-2 leadership developed qualifications for each of these levels and has evaluated all of the staff to determine where all 2-by-2 team members fall in these categories. This year, DOOR will transition its funding to pay only regional and country leaders while continuing to train local leaders.

In addition to the new categories for the leaders, Manuel and his team developed a **system to best assess the needs of the regions we are doing ministry in and/or plan to do future work. This new system is as follows on the right:**

1

Few to no Deaf believers

In this case, Deaf missionaries from outside the people group must be recruited to start evangelizing and begin local believers' fellowships. As these grow, the missionaries will choose local leaders, split into two or more teams, and continue to work until local leaders can begin to plan at the regional or national level.

2

Deaf believers present, but churches are weak

In this case, DOOR will help the local community create a committee (mostly Deaf) which will choose two or more people to be trained for one year by DOOR. They will return with one additional outside Deaf missionary to begin local work, and split into two or more teams when enough believers' fellowships have formed. Work will then expand to the regional and national level.

3

Places with churches using hearing methodologies

In this case, DOOR will help the local community create a committee (mostly Deaf) which will choose two or more people to be trained for one year by DOOR. These leaders will return and begin a "trainer of trainers" program to train leaders around the region and nation, with centralized two-week trainings and in-the-field follow-up.

4

Strong churches using Chronological Bible Translation

In this case, one country leader will be chosen to support indigenous regional teams, continuing to provide as-needed support as a "trainer of trainers."

** Name changed for security purposes*

Reporting Improvement: A new reporting system was implemented in October as part of the 2-by-2 ministry restructure; teams are now required to report as soon as they host an event, teach a CBT class, or gather with the Deaf leaders they are training. This is already turning out to be successful in terms of accountability and has allowed us to be more aware of what is happening on the field in a timely manner.

Financials

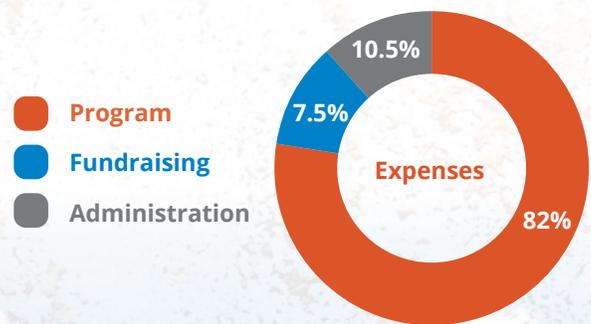
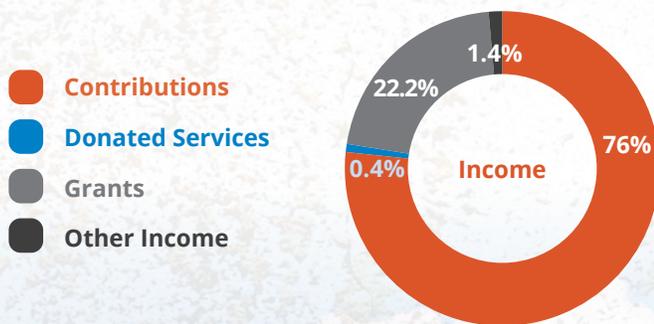
Looking Back

Sometimes God's greatest provision comes when least expected. Early concerns about the impact of the pandemic on DOOR's financials later turned to praise and celebration as God faithfully provided for our growing ministry. DOOR International is abundantly grateful to God for His provision in 2020.

We want to make you aware that approximately \$1M of income is the result of pledge commitments. While reported as income now, the vast majority of this funding will be received over the next several years, dependent on the specific pledge. This begins to position us well for the increased ministry we believe God is calling us to do.

Please consider how God is calling you to be a part of this growing vision to reach more Deaf for Christ. Thank you for your steady and faithful giving that increases our impact. We appreciate your sacrifice.

	FY 2020
INCOME	
Contributions	\$4,182,054
Donated Services	\$24,000
Grants	\$1,219,366
Other Income	<u>\$74,720</u>
Total Income	\$5,500,140
EXPENSE	
Program Expense	\$3,544,563
Fundraising Expense	\$327,230
Administration Expense	<u>\$455,953</u>
Total Expense	\$4,327,746
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$1,172,394



2021

Take Action

**In 2018 DOOR began the movement of reaching
50% of the world's Deaf by the year 2025.**

We are working in many different regions to reach Deaf communities through sign language Scripture and churches led by Deaf leaders. Please consider partnering with us to reach the Deaf for Christ.



Mail your gift to:
DOOR International
DEPT. 9012 - PO BOX 30516, Lansing, MI 28909-8016



Visit www.DOORInternational.org/give-a-gift
to make an online gift

Include DOOR International in your will and become a member of the
Buus Legacy Circle.



To request a Buus Legacy Circle brochure or to move forward with including DOOR
in your will, please contact Brad Wiechertjes at bradw@doorinternational.org or
call 616.741.7015. For more information, visit www.doorinternational.org/legacy

Additional resources for Legacy Giving can be found at:
www.ncfgiving.com and www.barnabasfoundation.com.

Follow us at DOOR International:





Vision

Every Deaf person transformed by knowing, following, and serving God

Mission

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

Values

- Deaf as people groups with rich language and culture
- Deaf as leaders and providers of Deaf ministry, giving direction at all levels
- CBS (Chronological Bible Storying) as the best initial spiritual formation resource for the Deaf
- God has gifted Deaf and hearing believers to together build God's kingdom among the Deaf