



THE SIMONS FAMILY

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MISUNDERSTANDING TO CLARITY

Our first year in Kenya, we were invited to a special church service by a hearing Kenyan friend. As the service began, many curious eyes were fixed on us, being not only white but also Deaf. The service got underway and we all rose to sing. **One little Kenyan girl, in particular, continued to glance our way.** I, Jeremy, motioned a greeting to her, not a wave where you move your hand sideways, but one in which you move your fingers up and down. **The girl's face grew perplexed. She hesitantly came over and sat on my lap. Now I was the one who was perplexed. I kept thinking, why did she come sit on my lap? Was it related to culture? What was it?** We had been in Kenya less than a year, and I had inadvertently made a common gesture used among both the hearing and the Deaf meaning "come here". I realized the big miscommunication.

In the same way, today around the world, many organizations and people, though well meaning, try to teach the Deaf about Jesus without thoroughly knowing the culture or language. Differences in culture and language can easily cause misunderstandings. **One example that I witnessed in Kenya at a Deaf church was about the English words 'leaves' and 'leave'. In the story of Adam and Eve, when they sinned, the Bible states they covered themselves with fig leaves. The Deaf individual, reading the English Bible, signed "After they sinned, Adam and Eve fig leave (left)."** One can see where the misunderstanding occurred. Leave, being a homophone, can be confusing. For many Deaf people, the spoken/written language (in this case, English) is possibly their second or third language. Over the years, we have seen countless misunderstandings when Deaf people read the Bible in the national language. This is true of any person reading the Bible in a language that is not in their "mother tongue". **It is plain to see the need and value of having a Bible in their heart language. That is why DOOR believes so strongly in their mission to reach Deaf with God's Word in the language that speaks to their heart: sign language.**

We continue to thank the Lord for your ongoing prayers and support. Though I've said it many times, we truly could not do it without you. Thank you!



STUDIO IN A BOX

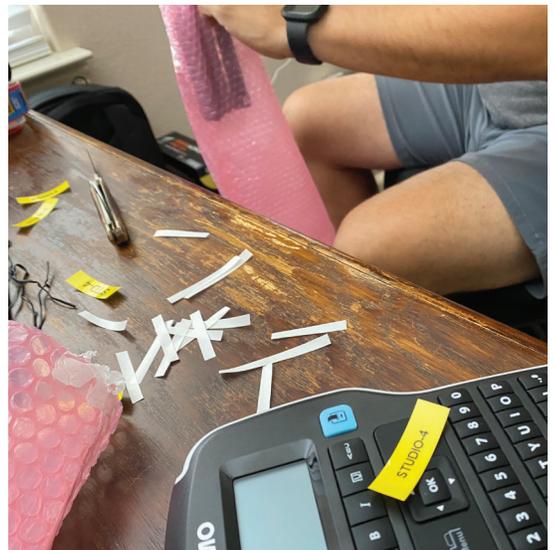
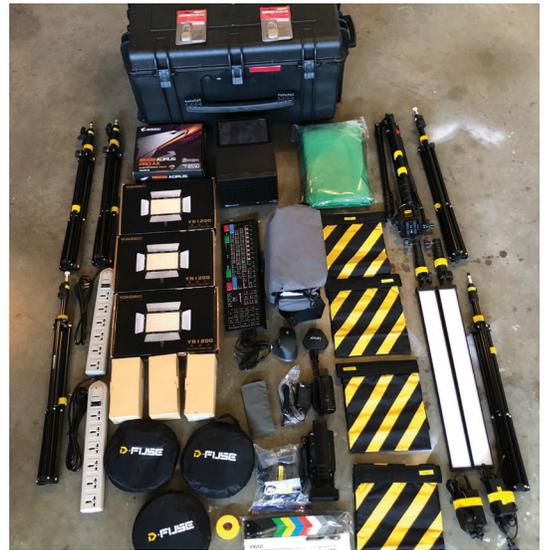
(SIB) I, Jeremy, have traveled to many different countries to set up video studios and provide technical support to sign language Bible translation teams. **On each trip, the greatest challenge I face is sourcing equipment, from video cameras and tripods to computers and studio lighting.** This happens due to a variety of reasons:

- No knowledge of the local spoken/written language
- Not familiar with the area, stores, etc.
- Cost increase for imported items
- Time constraints, limited time in country
- Can't find the right equipment

On my recent trip to the Middle East, it took me more than two weeks to find all the equipment needed. The process can be very time consuming. **As I explain what I need, when translating from English into the local language fails, I have to resort to simply showing pictures.**

The idea of Studio in a Box (SIB) came as we brainstormed ways to expedite this process and decrease the need for overseas trips. Here is how it works. I pack everything needed to set up a studio into a large box, excluding computer monitors and TVs which can be bought locally. New translation teams receive one year of training at one of DOOR's Training and Translation Centers. **When they arrive at the center, their SIB will be there waiting for them. Along with their translation training, they receive instruction on how to set up each item in the box as well as how to pack it back into the box.** After their year at the center, they return to their home country with their SIB in tow to continue their Bible translation.

As this is a new project, it took me a considerable amount of time, sorting out each item that would go into the first SIB as well as subsequent boxes. The first SIB was sent to Kenya last month for a South East Asian translation team. We just received word that the SIB arrived in Kenya safely. As the team unpacked the first SIB, they provided valuable feedback that will help us continue refining the SIB boxes for future translations. **We are excited for this new project. Please pray for wisdom as we continue to sort out the logistics and details.**



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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).

To Send Donations: Dept. 9012, P.O. Box 30516, Lansing, MI 48909-8016

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