



THE SIMONS FAMILY

JEREMY, WHITNEY, EVAN, JOSIAH, COLIN

SHAN'S TESTIMONY

*Shan was born Deaf into a hearing Christian family; his parents didn't know sign language. Growing up, he went to church but never understood. **Later, he went to a large Deaf school. The students were unruly, beating one another up as well as teachers.** Because of this, many students were expelled. Shan wanted to be rid of school, so he decided to beat up a teacher in order to get expelled. Back home, he was very idle. **Shan had been getting into trouble from a young age, but he began to get into deeper mischief such as drinking and smoking.**



His neighbor, *Inoka (hearing), captured his attention. They began spending time together and decided to elope. The first four years of their marriage were rocky. Shan often went out drinking, getting into fights and getting arrested. Inoka and Shan separated five times, with Inoka going to stay with Shan's family. Each time, Shan returned with regret, wanting to straighten up. **His wife, being a strong Christian, was very patient and continued to encourage him.**



In the midst of all the turmoil, Shan met a DOOR leader in *Kai. By God's providence, Shan was selected to be a translator for the Kai Sign Language Bible translation. He did not know the Bible well and still struggled to understand when attending church. **He'd attend church but later find trouble again. Inoka pleaded with him to change his life.** When the Kai team moved to Kenya for training, Shan began to understand more fully as he began to attend worship services on campus with the other Deaf. While working to translate the Bible with the team, the story of Noah got his attention. He saw God punish the people for their sins. **Shan realized his own sin, and he went to Inoka, asking for her forgiveness. He even called his parents to apologize for all the trouble he had caused.**

He now sees how the Deaf people of Kai had no access to God's Word. He is so thankful to be a part of what God is doing to bring the Bible to the Deaf in his country. For years, his parents and his wife prayed that God would touch Shan's life. **God answered that prayer, and God is now touching others through Shan.**

*—names changed for security purposes

MANAGING EXPECTATIONS

It has been five years since we left our home in Kenya to return to the US. When we felt the Lord closing the door on Kenya due to Jeremy's health, we tried to have very little expectations about what life would be like back in the US and with Jeremy's diagnosis, or what ministry would look like stateside. **Releasing those expectations freed us to see God at work.**

But, many times in life we unknowingly place expectations on people, places and things. **And when we face unmet expectations, we often relinquish our joy.**

THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS WE CAN EXPECT.

- We can expect and trust God's Word to be true.
- We can expect God to be faithful.
- We can expect God to keep His promises.

When the Lord spoke to Moses in the burning bush in Exodus 3, little did Moses know that God's people would wander in the wilderness for 40 years. **But Moses did a beautiful thing. Time and again, he went to God and prayed for God to have mercy on the complaining, unbelieving people.**

In Luke 1 when the angel spoke to Mary telling her she would give birth to a son and he would be called Jesus, she said a beautiful thing. "For no word from God will ever fail. I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Luke 1:37-38

When our relationships, our careers, our ministry, our health, or our lives are not what we expect, we KNOW what we can expect from God. **His Word is true, He is faithful, and He keeps His promises.**

Let God remind you, as he did us, to manage your expectations. He continues to teach us that we can expect much from Him, no matter what we are facing.



THEN >> NOW



SO WHY DO WE SO EASILY JUMP TO...

- If God's Word is true, then why are things not working out as I expect?
- If God is faithful, then why is this so hard?
- If God keeps His promises, then why ____?



KENYA TRIP,
2022



135 N. State St., Suite 200
Zeeland, MI • 49464
616.741.7200
DOORInternational.org

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

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.

