



WINTER 2022

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SERVING WITH DOOR INTERNATIONAL

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TRINITY TEACHING IN SOUTH ASIA

There are many barriers to making the gospel available to Deaf communities. From language deprivation, to stigmas about Deaf people being a curse, to major gaps in information access, Deaf ministry faces challenges that no other ministry faces. But one major challenge to advancing the gospel is the work of Jehovah's Witnesses.

Jehovah's Witnesses target Deaf communities. I'm not altogether sure why, though likely it is because they lack access to information to combat some of the cultish beliefs. JWs go after sign language interpreters, and fast-track trying to produce translations of their New World "Translation" of the Bible. (This translation is just as "off" in sign languages as it is in written languages.)

In one particular country in South Asia, the impact of JWs has been particularly striking. DOOR started work in 2016 through Deaf missionaries from a neighboring country, and by 2019, a Bible translation project had begun in the local sign language. **However, when the translation team moved back into the country in March 2022, local JW leaders started to work on a translation team member named Banju*.**



In late August, it became clear that Banju was not going to continue in Bible translation work, and that he was trying to convince others to join the JWs. The team asked for someone to come to the country who could provide further teaching to strengthen both the Deaf translation team and the Deaf church planting teams from further attack. **That person would need experience teaching Deaf leaders, a knowledge of the Trinity, experience interacting with JWs, and a relationship with the team.** Because several other ministry leaders were either sick or unavailable, I (Rob) ended up traveling last-minute to provide this training alongside a Deaf leader from a neighboring country.



We spent a full week reviewing good biblical interpretation principles, an in-depth dive into the doctrine of the Trinity, a history of the JW organization, a comparison of what Christians and JWs believe, and finally, how to approach a conversation with a JW member. About 15 leaders from the translation team and the evangelism/ church planting teams were there. **Prior to coming, all of these leaders were standing strong in their faith. But by the end of the week, all of them could articulate why they believe what they do, and could easily identify error from sound biblical doctrine.**

I was so encouraged to hear last week that during the few months after that training not one believer from their churches has been turned to the JW organization! Praise God with us! Please continue to pray for these leaders! **This is not the end of their struggle, but that struggle is not against flesh and blood.** Pray also for Banju, that the Lord would turn his heart.

FAMILY UPDATES

As we head into the holiday season, we are filled with gratitude for all that God has done, and for your partnership in the gospel (Phil. 1:6).



Jon is finishing his fourth semester at College of the Ozarks in the southwest Missouri area this fall. He is thoroughly enjoying his English and philosophy classes, and is headed toward an English Education degree, preparing to teach English in high school or college.

Mason started his first semester as a mechanical engineering major at the University of Central Florida (UCF), right down the road from us. He lives at home and commutes to school. He is building some great community there, particularly through the Reformed University Fellowship on campus.

Michelle has been volunteering with our church's student ministry group, meeting weekly with the high school girls in the group. Michelle also traveled with Rob to South Asia in October to see the commissioning of 60 Deaf leaders there. It was truly amazing!

Elliot returned to Hagerty High School as a 10th grader. He is quite involved in modeling and design, in robotics, and in computers. He takes after his Grandpa Mason, who was a systems engineer for Boeing for a number of years.

Luke returned to Ecclesial Classical School in 5th grade. He has grown so much, and enjoys many extracurricular activities connected to his school. If you catch him on his own, he most likely will be working on an origami project of some kind.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY

for all of us as Rob continues to balance the immense weight of leading a large ministry (230 staff in 30+ countries) while also prioritizing our family. **Pray for endurance, strength, and wisdom as he supports this season of growth for DOOR.**

Thank you, dear friends!



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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.

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