

Summer 2023

THE SORENSON FAMILY

SERVING WITH DOOR INTERNATIONAL

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WHERE IN THE WAS MARK?



In our last newsletter, we shared that Mark would be taking a long three-week trip to the Middle East & Southern Europe area. Here are some updates from that trip. We deeply appreciate your support and prayers as he traveled and Lyndalou held down the fort at home. You are a tremendous blessing to us!

CYPRUS

This major trip kicked off with a week in Cyprus (an island in the Mediterranean Sea). Wycliffe hosted a conference focused on accelerating sign language Bible translations in Eurasia. As a member of the program committee, I gave several talks related to topics in translation and facilitated a panel of translators who discussed the opportunities and challenges they've experienced in their respective projects.

I had the tremendous privilege of running into many graduates from the DOOR-Europe Christian leadership training center we served at from 2000-2005 in Hungary. It was a joy to reconnect with them and to see how they are serving God in their communities.

ISARET*

Immediately after the Cyprus conference wrapped up, it was a short plane hop to Isaret* where five other DOOR leaders and myself met with potential partners in the country. This is a major gateway country in the Middle East, and we are evaluating the situation there to see whether their most imminent need is a translation project or a church planting team.

We hosted what is known as a “recruitment camp” and met 12 Deaf people from Isaret, who shared with us that there is an estimated total of 40 Deaf Christians in the whole country. Only 40 out of a population around 250,000 Deaf! This clearly shows us how deep the need is for the gospel in their language and people group. However, due to the extremely small number of believers there, we are praying for wisdom and discernment about how to best proceed.

*—names changed for security purposes

GREECE

This trip concluded with a week in Greece for the annual Forum of Bible Agencies International (FOBAI) meeting. The main focus of this year’s meeting was to discuss how the members of the Deaf Development Group (DDG) part of FOBAI can better share resources with each other to encourage and accelerate each other’s translation projects. **One major resource that came up often was DOOR’s Translation Resources Development project, which was recently completed and is proving to be an invaluable resource to many.** I plan to share more about that in our next newsletter!



Parts of ONE BODY

While in Greece for FOBAI, we were able to visit Corinth. One fascinating tidbit I learned in Corinth that I want to share with all of you is related to the what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. I encourage all of you to read this passage in its entirety. **It begins with verse 12 and speaks about unity and diversity in the body: “Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.”**

Paul used the illustration of the different body parts working together in the Body of Christ because of a custom specific to Corinth. There was a healing temple there belonging to Asklepios, the god of medicine. **Whenever a person was afflicted with an injury or a sickness in a body part, e.g. a broken arm or an injured eye, they would pay a carver to create a terra cotta carving of the arm or the eye. They would dedicate the carving to Asklepios and ask him to heal the body part.**



The illustration of the body having many parts really resonated with the Corinthians because of the temple of Asklepios and the terra cotta carvings. **Paul knew how to speak to them using metaphors they would understand.** Verses 26-27 say: “If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

The Word of God is rich and deep, and I look forward to continuing to excavate its gems as long as we live!



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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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