

REQUESTS

- Pray for Deaf people in two South Asian regions, where the first set of Scripture passages in their heart languages (sign languages) will be released soon. Pray that many will watch and understand God's Word, and that lives will be transformed.
- Pray for the Lord's guidance and wisdom as we focus on establishing a strong, robust member care program in DOOR. We truly desire that each of our staff would be healthy, resilient, and effective, even in the context of the many added stresses of serving full time in crosscultural ministry.
- Pray that I will continue to grow in my awareness of His presence and an evercloser walk with Him, that I will continue to be at "home" wherever He sends me.

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This is not always easy to answer for people who serve cross-culturally.

The Bible tells us that "our citizenship is in heaven," (Phil. 3:20a), we are "foreigners and exiles," (2 Pet. 11), and we are "Christ's ambassadors" (2 Cor. 5:20). All of that tells us one thing: ultimately nowhere on earth is truly our home.

In the past year, the Lord has used my life and ministry to teach me that truth in very tangible ways. Since I moved to Orlando last summer, I've been here for a total of maybe three months, staying with very gracious friends. And yet, wherever I've been, Jesus has been my home.

Here are a few examples of how I have seen and felt His presence in the past few months, and known that I was "home":

 South Asia – For a few months, I lived and worked among an amazing group of dear colleagues who are committed to translating God's Word for the millions of Deaf people in their region, even in the face of potential danger or persecution.
What a blessing to get to know and provide encouragement, training, and support to these brothers and sisters in Christ.





- Malaysia I found kindred spirits in Asian member care providers at a conference, and learned from them about the added challenges of providing member care in honor-shame cultures. Admitting weaknesses or struggles can be hard for any of us, but the difficulty is exponentially higher in cultures where such an admission brings significant shame to yourself and others. The answers are not simple, but a combination of relationship, wise modeling, and Scripture seem to be helpful.
- Greece What a joy to be part of an interpreting team who love Jesus and the Deaf world, facilitating Deaf/hearing communication at a high-level, international Bible translation conference! One Deaf person said to the conference leadership: "We are so grateful for
 - the ways you have truly welcomed us into the conversation. This has happened in



many ways, including the provision of excellent interpreting. Not many hearing people invite us to the table as you have." When the Lord opens opportunities for Deaf leaders to speak into international strategy and prayer in the Bible translation world, I'm at home.

For me, home is not about my furniture, my favorite tree in the back yard, or a specific food (although I do really like some good avocado toast!). Home is where I am walking with Jesus, and home is where His people are. In that sense, I have been home all year.

ANOTHER home

In the midst of my work travels, I was able to take a week off to visit precious friends in Budapest. As you may recall, Budapest was one of my "homes" for about six years in the early 2000s. Some of my closest friends still live there, and it still feels like home.

And most importantly, I see Jesus there, too. He is in the hearts and lives of my friends, in our conversations about both deep and mundane

> things, ever present in the sweet fellowship of His people.

And in some ways, you all are part of my "home." For one thing,

we are all citizens of His Kingdom, and all part of the same family. Besides that, we are partners in ministry, walking with Him together and participating as His Word is translated into sign languages and made accessible to Deaf people in their heart languages for the first time in history.

Thank you so much for who you are, and how we partner together in asking the Lord to bring His transformation to Deaf lives around the world.



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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 or at <u>doorinternational.org/donate</u>



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