



SUMMER 2023

STUART & LINDA THIESSEN SERVING WITH DOOR INTERNATIONAL

stuartt@doorinternational.org | doorinternational.org

CEDAR

My motivation for being involved with CEDAR is we truly believe that well-trained Deaf people are the best equipped to check detailed translation work in a signed language. The three most important challenges are:

- **Salary** - For various reasons (ask for details), it is challenging for Deaf people to follow the missionary approach to build a network of partners who contribute.
- **Training** - Most hearing translation consultants-in-training get training from graduate schools, workshops, conferences, etc. But those are often not accessible for Deaf participants.
- **Resources** - While there are many resources available in English, Spanish, and a few other languages, those resources are not necessarily accessible for translation teams or Deaf consultants-in-training. These resources do not necessarily address specific needs.

Please continue to pray as the CEDAR team explores options for collaboration and looks at our contribution to these challenges.

SIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATION TOOL (SLTT)

Caio has done a wonderful job of contacting Deaf translation teams to get feedback and provide training. This year, we are developing one major feature that will let partners use the SLTT to develop and publish translation and exegetical resources in sign languages. We are on track to release an initial version of this by October. **Please pray for our developers as they work on this major feature as well as working on other requested features and fixing bugs.**

TRANSLATION RESOURCES TRAINING

Recently, the translation resources that the TRT team has developed (30 hours of resources in ASL!) received final approval. Using these resources, the team developed training for translation teams. In April, they went to Costa Rica to provide training. Unfortunately, we have not been able to schedule other training as training depends on the translation teams' budgets. The TRT team has now developed an alternative training approach that we will be testing this fall that does not require travel. **Please pray for the trainees involved.**

FAMILY UPDATE

We will meet the newest member of our family in October! Daniel and Mallory will be welcoming a new baby girl.



Please continue to pray for the provision of funding for the ASL Chronological Bible Translation (ASL CBT) project in 2024. Those who have seen ASL CBT and use it speak highly of its clarity and naturalness.

OTHER CONSULTING/ MINISTRY WORK

- I have the privilege of working with an Israeli exegetical resources team and I will be checking some of the resources that they are developing.
- We have been planning visits with those who contribute to our work. **If you are interested in a visit or would like us to share with others you know, please let us know.**

TRAVEL IN APRIL

This April, I traveled to Cyprus, Isaret*, and Greece. In Cyprus, I attended a gathering of Deaf people from Eurasia led by Wycliffe Global Partnership to discuss sign language Bible translation work in their countries. **Please pray for the people who came as they think through next steps to see a translation begin in their country.**

Our visit to Isaret* went well. We discovered more groundwork is needed. **Please pray for next steps towards a translation there.**

I attended the annual Forum of Bible Translation Agencies International (FOBAI) conference in Athens. It was good to meet with partners and discuss collaboration.

After that conference, I was able to see Philippi, Berea, and Thessaloniki. It is one thing to read about these places, but it is another thing to see them. Let me share a few photos.

(1) This is a Roman road Paul likely traveled from Neapolis to Philippi.

(2) A Greek amphitheater (a common structure) in Philippi where the community would gather for both decision-making and entertainment

(3) The Bereans were commended as more noble because they checked the Scriptures to see if Paul was teaching correctly. Here is a memorial of that occasion. We were so thankful for the interpreters who made all the guide's explanations accessible for us.

(4) The temples were typically in high places that emphasized the distance between the gods and the people like the Acropolis in Athens, and suggested that their deities were somehow more powerful than an invisible God who chooses to dwell among His people.

Thank you for being a part of helping people meet our God who dwells with us.

*—names changed for security purposes



DOOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEAF REACHING DEAF FOR CHRIST

1142 44th St SE
Grand Rapids, MI • 49508
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.

Send gifts to: Dept. 9012, P.O. Box 30516, Lansing, MI 48909-8016
or at doorinternational.org/donate

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.

