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"Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story ..."

Psalms 107:2a (NIV)

How many Deaf testimonies have you heard lately?

Deaf communities around the world love stories. **Their interactions are filled with rich narrative that entertains, teaches, passes on values, and reinforces identity and belonging.** They learn deep theological truths through the narratives of the Bible ... things we might miss as we tend to focus more on the epistles to learn these truths.

Deaf people are often more open about sharing their own stories with each other, of struggle or triumph, sorrow or joy, than many in hearing communities are. **Relationship, discipleship, and training are birthed and nurtured in the context of story.**

Unfortunately, Deaf people are not often given the opportunity to share their stories in hearing spaces. **And so the hearing church misses out on what God is doing in the Deaf world, so well portrayed in Deaf people's stories.**

I want to share a Deaf couple's story with you, to let you in, to give you a peek into what you may be missing:

A Deaf couple, Frimpong and Esther, own a bread baking business in Ghana. They had been Christians for years, but had no access to church or fellowship in a language they could understand (Ghanaian Sign Language, or GSL).

Then Ofori, a Deaf church planter from DOOR, shared Scripture that had been translated into GSL, in video format. They were so grateful, and began to spend time in His Word. Ofori praised God, but didn't expect what happened next.

The couple started hosting weekly devotions for their four Deaf employees at the bakery. Word spread, and other Deaf people in the community began to come. The discussions about God's Word began to take longer, so Frimpong and Esther rescheduled the meetings to Saturdays, to allow for more time.

prayer REQUESTS

- For Frimpong and Esther, as they continue to grow in their faith and lead others to do the same.
- That the Lord would continue to work in ongoing training of hearing Bible translation leaders, resulting in partnerships leading to more Scripture access for Deaf people in sign languages.
- For joy and wisdom in my time with family in this season.



As the group grew, they decided to begin meeting on Sundays also, as a believer's fellowship. **Saturdays drew Deaf people from non-believers to mature Christians, and Sundays became a place for Deaf believers to pray and support each other.**

Isn't it encouraging to hear this story of bakers becoming church planters? **Doesn't it lead you to thank and praise God?** That was the goal and response in Psalm 107, too.

Psalm 107:31-32: "Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind. Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people and praise him in the council of the elders."

HEARING *training*

A partnership between Deaf and hearing organizations can be complicated and difficult because of cultural and experiential differences. A coalition of Deaf Bible leaders from Bible translation organizations have asked me to train hearing Bible translation leaders. **So in the past year, I've taught 45 hearing people from 14 different organizations "Partnering Well in Deaf Spaces."** Some responses:



- "I had no idea. This changes everything."
- "I wish we had known this earlier."
- "I think I've unknowingly violated everything you just taught! I'm grateful for the opportunity to learn and change."
- "Everyone in the Bible translation world should know this."

FAMILY

I'll be in the Houston area from Thanksgiving through New Year's, to spend time with and offer support to my family. We were excited and grateful to be able to celebrate Thanksgiving together.



Christmas

The story of Christmas is part of the larger greatest story of all time – God became man to reconcile us to our Creator, to restore our broken relationship with Him, to give us the great gift of adoption, making us His very own. May we never lose the awe of Christmas that draws us to praise and worship. Merry Christmas!

Would you like to see the GSL Scripture translation of the Christmas story that Frimpong and Esther and their friends will be watching this year? Here is a [link](#) for you!



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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).

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