



THE SIMONS FAMILY

JEREMY, WHITNEY, EVAN, JOSIAH, COLIN
serving in the US w/DOOR International

MAWL IN ACTION: PETER

Jesus knew He would be returning to the Father, so He trained others to go to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). In essence, Jesus worked Himself out of a job. What does it look like to 'work ourselves out of a job'? In the context of ministry, we use the MAWL method of leadership development: **Model, Assist, Watch, Leave.**

- **Model** - Show potential leaders how to do a particular skill or task, modeling how it is done
- **Assist** - The new leader does the task, with us there to observe and make suggestions
- **Watch** - The emerging leader refines their skills, with us providing less direction
- **Leave** - Help them apply this approach to leadership development with another potential leader

When living in Kenya, I (Jeremy) was sifting through a few candidates for a position in the tech department and found Peter, a young Kenyan who was determined to ace not just his job but life itself. We worked side by side for several years until I moved to the US. However, distance

didn't dampen our collaboration. I continued to work alongside him as he became the Campus Tech Supervisor in Kenya.



Peter didn't stop at supervising—he expanded his role, bringing in two Deaf Kenyans and leading them as a team. His journey isn't confined to Kenya; he's taken his skills to other African countries. Peter is someone with a burning passion for co-leading a thriving Deaf ministry that resonates with DOOR's mission.

All of this fits into the MAWL concept. Peter's progression follows the concept: starting by learning the ropes (model), moving to assisting with leadership and team building (assist), being under a watchful eye as he took charge (watch), and finally being independent, contributing not just locally but on a broader scale (leave).

In celebrating Peter's achievements, we acknowledge the power of shared goals and empowering others to step into their leadership potential, and to DOOR's commitment to cultivating leaders through the MAWL approach.

EMPOWERING DEAF IN ARKANSAS

We are well into six years of ministering and leading the Deaf ministry at Fellowship Bible Church in Rogers, Arkansas. **Fellowship's mission is to produce and release spiritual leaders who know and express the authentic Christ to Northwest Arkansas and the world.** In the same way, the Deaf ministry seeks to empower and equip the Deaf of Northwest Arkansas to become spiritual leaders who can carry on the work.

Though Jeremy has used MAWL many times in his work with DOOR, it is the first time we have used it at Fellowship. With the launch of several



small groups and a worship service last year, more responsibility and ownership has been handed over to new leaders. **We are focusing on assisting and watching as these leaders facilitate the Bible study.**

We are humbled that God continues to allow us into what He is doing both globally and locally. **Thank you for continuing to be the hands and feet of Jesus, strengthening us through your support and prayers.**

2023: A YEAR OF FIRSTS

Even though we have now been in the US for seven years, we are still experiencing 'firsts'.

- **US Ocean — In July, we took the boys to their first US ocean.** Does the Gulf of Mexico count? It was different than the Indian Ocean they are used to. Nonetheless, we had a fantastic time!
- **Plateaus and Canyons — At the end of 2023, we took an impromptu trip across Texas and New Mexico to Arizona and Utah to see the Horseshoe Bend, the Grand Canyon, and Monument Valley.** The boys were amazed that the landscape changed almost every half hour.
- **College — Our oldest, Evan, is our first to graduate from high school and enter college, living in the dorms.** Josiah will be off to university in the fall. He will be attending John Brown University along with Evan.
- **Cycling — We've not tried many organized sports, but Colin recently joined a mountain biking team.** It has been a wonderful experience for him and he has made lots of new friends. Jeremy has ridden with the team during practices; he loves it as much as Colin.



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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 doorinternational.org/donate

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