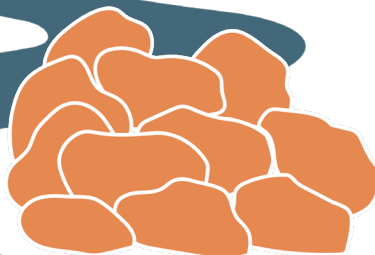




THE SIMONS FAMILY

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



STONES OF REMEMBRANCE

DOOR International is celebrating 40 years of ministry this year. I

(Whitney) was reflecting on the story when Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land. On this momentous occasion, Joshua set up **12 stones of remembrance** to never forget what God had done. I have a tendency to think of this story in the context of God's faithfulness to me, remembering His sovereignty and all He's brought me through. This time, I saw the story in a different light. I thought of the stones of remembrance as people, places, and events which by the hand of God brought me to where I am today. I thought of Moses and Joshua, how the Lord used them in the Israelites' redemption story. I'm sure that when the Israelites looked at those stones of remembrance, they couldn't help but think of Moses and Joshua and the vital role they played in their story. **Consider the people in your life that were instrumental in your spiritual milestones, your "stones of remembrance."**

I'm so grateful that God uses broken people—like Moses, you, and me—to work in the lives of His people. I think of so many of you who have made a profound difference in a Deaf person's life through your prayers and faithful support over the years—**those whose stones of remembrance would not be possible without you catching the vision of God's heart for Deaf people.**

With that in mind, let's look at two recent stories that might become a stone of remembrance for those involved. Both places Jeremy has had the privilege to work with, setting up their Bible translation studios and providing training and support.

A STONE OF NEW LIFE

Many people in Mountland* have either had no access to the gospel at all, or attended hearing churches with family members for many years without understanding anything. The disciple-making (2-by-2) teams are changing that narrative by planting seeds in Deaf hearts and providing them with access to the gospel.

A STONE OF CLARITY

Mika* had been a believer for some time, and she wanted to be baptized. **But she never had the opportunity to learn about baptism and its significance in a believer's journey.** DOOR's Deaf leader Soran* taught her about baptism and why it is a symbol of the new life found in Christ. **With joy in her heart, Mika was baptized with a clear understanding of why this was important.** DOOR's teams work hard to provide opportunities for new Deaf believers to learn about and understand things like baptism.

*—names changed for security



Marcos*, a 58-year-old Deaf Christian, asked a question during a community testing session in Aela Mukdasa* about the devil testing Jesus after his 40 days in the wilderness.

When the passage from Matthew 4:1-11 was shared, Marcos's eyes widened with realization. **He had never encountered the Scriptures so clearly in his native sign language.** Marcos had received fragments of information here and there from both Deaf and hearing friends over the years, but he had never gotten a chance to see the full picture.

He had always believed that Jesus' testing took place during his 40 days in the wilderness. But now, as he viewed the team's translation, Marcos recognized the significance of Matthew 4:2, which revealed the timing of Jesus' testing.

Many Deaf Aela Mukdasans struggle to identify whether the testing took place during or after the forty days of fasting due to their lower proficiency in the national written language. For Marcos, this newfound clarity was a profound gift, a bridge connecting him and his community to the Word of God in their language. He said, **"This is the advantage of accessing the Scripture in our heart language rather than depending on someone else to explain to us."**



Marcos expressed a sense of awe and humility. **Despite his steadfast attendance at church for over 30 years, there were depths of Biblical knowledge he had yet to uncover, knowledge that even young children in the hearing community possessed.** But Marcos's heart brimmed with hope. **He saw in this moment not just personal growth, but a harbinger of greater things to come for the Deaf community in Aela Mukdasa.** Together, we are anticipating a future where every heart, Deaf and hearing alike, is touched by the transformative power of God's Word.

*—names changed for security



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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
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