



John and Jenn
SAMSON
serving DOOR International
Kenya



AN UNEXPECTED CHAPTER

A lot has happened since the last newsletter!

Baby Felix arrived in August. Later in October, Jenn was having coffee with a friend. By God's grace, the friend recognized in Felix's forehead structure signs of craniosynostosis, which her child also had. We took Felix to our pediatrician in Kenya who referred us to a neurosurgeon who confirmed Felix has metopic craniosynostosis (also called trigonocephaly) and would need surgery to have it corrected. For context: babies' skulls are made of different bone plates that aren't attached. This is to allow the brain to grow unhindered. From birth, Felix's metopic (forehead) suture has been fused. He is currently fine, but as he grows, this would prevent the brain from growing in that direction and could eventually cause his brain to come under pressure, leading to serious issues. In order to prevent damage, the doctors need to surgically separate the bone plates and correct the shape of the forehead.

So, October was a whirlwind of doctor's appointments trying to figure out what we were dealing with, what to do about it, where to go for surgery, what to do about work, do we go to the States? If so, where do we live, and when do we need to go? We quickly found out that it would be best to do this surgery in the US. We found Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland, Oregon, that specializes in this surgery and the hospital is 30 minutes from where my parents are so we could live with them. We got an emergency passport from the US embassy and were on a plane to the US by November 15th. This was a difficult month and a half, but God was with us.

In short, we have been on an unexpected furlough for the past few months. Since Felix is doing fine, we've been doing support-raising. From December to March, we've traveled from Washington to New Mexico, Texas, Virginia, and back to Washington meeting with our supporters. While time and circumstances don't always allow us to meet, we very much do appreciate each one of you. Every one of you have an incredible impact on advancing the kingdom of God among Deaf people all over the world through your faithful support of our ministry.



Now, we are back in Washington awaiting the surgery, and John is back to his normal work. Long distance work is not as easy as in-person, but we are thankful that he can continue with a lot of the work while here.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- God to heal Felix, either supernaturally or through the doctors' care
- if through the doctors, pray for the surgery to go well and Felix to make a full recovery with no delays in development or other side effects
- for us to trust God and live well during this chapter of life
- for both Sophie and Felix to know they are loved and safe. For us to balance life well and give them both the love and attention they need. For us to point them to our Heavenly Father



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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.

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

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