



THE SIMONS FAMILY

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

DOOR: THEN AND NOW

Whitney and I were honored to participate in DOOR's 40 Year Reunion in August. We were able to meet some of the early founders and volunteers who poured their hearts into reaching the Deaf in Texas. From there, DOOR grew to reach the United States and ultimately the world, sharing the love of Christ through camps, evangelism, ASL music, and outreach to Deaf youth. They set the foundation for what became Deaf Opportunity Outreach (DOOR), which then became DOOR International. DOOR's primary ministry focus is evangelism and church planting (which we call 2-by-2), and sign language Bible



translation. It was moving to see story after story of how the Lord guided and transformed the Deaf both near and far, how it started from just a few people in Texas to 230+ staff members in 20+ countries reaching so many around the world.



During the celebration, one of DOOR's long-time Deaf staff members, Mark Sorenson, shared how he had almost no access to God's Word in sign language growing up. When his Deaf children were growing up, they had increased access to the gospel in their language. But now, Mark's Deaf grandchildren are reaping an even greater benefit with so many translated Scripture passages and Christian resources in sign language. Around the world, we are now seeing more of the same, with second and third generations of Deaf people being impacted by the work of DOOR International.

So grateful to those faithful few, back in the beginning, who fearlessly led the way for what DOOR is today.

STRATEGIC MINISTRY COUNCIL AND DEAF ADVISORY BOARD

DOOR values Deaf people and Deaf culture, and believes God has equipped Deaf and hearing people to partner together in reaching the Deaf. In order to keep DOOR accountable and to make sure our ministry continues to thrive, we have

two groups providing advice and oversight other than the traditional board of directors. DOOR has the Strategic Ministry Council (SMC), made up of a majority of Deaf leaders from different departments within DOOR. They ensure DOOR continues to remain true to its vision, mission, and values, as well as providing suggestions on how to achieve DOOR's strategic goals. The SMC meets every month via Zoom, and in-person once a year. I am blessed and deeply honored to hold the position of Vice Chair of the SMC and to work with Mark Sorenson, Chair, and Susan Seabaugh, Secretary.



Strategic Ministry Council Team

One of the suggestions from the SMC was the establishment of the Deaf Advisory Board (DAB). The DAB is a board of six Deaf representatives from each of the populated continents, not affiliated with DOOR. They are able to provide outside advice and evaluate how DOOR's ministry is impacting the Deaf communities of the world, and how DOOR is partnering with others.

Our first-ever DAB meetings were held in September, in Hungary for 2 days. We're excited to see how God uses this to help guide DOOR's ministry in the future.



THE FUTURE MR. & MRS.

On May 31, our oldest son, Evan, asked his girlfriend, Maddie, to be his forever sweetheart. We look forward to gaining our first daughter-in-law.

They are both juniors at John Brown University. Evan is majoring in Computer Science with a minor in International Business, and Maddie is majoring in Graphic Design with a minor in Marketing. They will marry on May 23, 2026. Here is a fun Q&A with the couple.

- Who is more likely to steal food off the other's plate? **Maddie**
- Who is more likely to give a cheesy compliment? **Maddie**
- Who takes longer to get ready? **Evan**
- What was the last meal you cooked together?
Spaghetti and kielbasa
- Who is the tidiest and who is the messiest? **Maddie is tidier, and you can guess the rest!**
- If your partner were a superhero, what would their power be?
**Evan - strength
Maddie - time travel**
- What is your theme song as a couple? **Stand By Me**



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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

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.



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