



John and Jenn SAMSON

serving DOOR International

an update from THE SAMSONS

God is Good!

Our last update came out in November, but it feels like a year ago. Let me try to cover everything that has happened since then.

We were planning to return to Kenya in early October, but God had a surprise miracle for Jenn, which was free eye surgery to correct her double vision. She met with an ophthalmologist for Felix, and they checked her eyes as well, because why not? When the doctor heard we were headed back to Kenya, they moved mountains for us to get a surgery in less than a month. Now Jenn's vision is vastly improved!



That surgery was a delaying tactic by God. At the end of October, I went to Chiang Mai, Thailand to present my research at

the global Bible Translation Conference. My presentation was about researching what level of sign language skill a Bible translation consultant needs. God made the presentation go well. Later in the week, I was approached by Stuart (the Director of CEDAR) and Shadrack (the International Director of Translation Consulting), and they asked me if I would consider joining DOOR's CEDAR Institute that has just gotten restarted.



John's New Role

CEDAR is a three-year, graduate-level specialized institute designed to train and certify sign language Bible translation consultants. If you remember, a few years ago I spent several months developing a program for teaching Hebrew to Deaf CITs. That project was for CEDAR. It was temporarily put on hold, but now it's full steam ahead! I'll be working on the curriculum development team. This fits me perfectly because I have a love for Greek and Hebrew, hold a degree in Theology and

Linguistics, and feel very strongly about the lack of education and Biblical access for Deaf people across the world. If you add my three years of experience doing consulting work in Kenya to the mix, it really feels like this is the job God has been preparing me for.

After talking with Jenn and praying a lot, we accepted the new position. I started this role January 5th and the first round of classes started in March. We have three incredibly experienced Deaf students who will be graduating as full consultants at the end of this year. Currently, I'm working at a sprint trying to develop the classes assigned to me before we have to teach them. I will have two or three to develop per quarter.

God's Provision

We will be staying in the state of Washington for this next chapter. My (John's) parents and sister live up here, and we believe God has placed us here for a reason. God has been teaching me a few things this year: to trust His ability to provide and to pray for specific things. I want to invite you all to pray with me this year for something specific. Now that we're back in the U.S., our costs have gone up. We're looking to increase our support by \$4800 per month (\$2500 of that is for insurance).

Typically, we would make a list of everyone we know and contact them and ask them for support. That's how we did it in 2020!

Through you, God provided for us abundantly to get us to our full support in less than a year.

However, God seems to be indicating something different for us this time. God has been showing me through various ways—repeated scripture passages, timely sermons, and conversations with people—that we should not ask anyone for support this year. We are simply to pray and fast, and watch God provide our full support.

This isn't the first time God has used money as a lesson in our missionary journey. One example is when we joined DOOR in 2019, we drove to Michigan for our orientation. When we returned to Texas, we had less than \$80 in our bank account and still needed to pay rent. Confused, we asked: "God, you called us very clearly. Why aren't you providing for us financially?" We didn't mention our situation to anyone and went to bed. In the morning we woke up to a \$10,000 deposit in our bank account. We were dumbfounded, and realized that God was teaching us a lesson about His ability to provide for us.

We know this is an unusual approach to support raising. However, God seems to be telling me this is how we are to do it this year and that He will provide our full support. So please pray with us daily for our support to come in this year. I will let you all know with the first newsletter next year how God provided abundantly.



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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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