



Deaf Ministries International

Issue 11 | December 2016



*Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*

www.deafmin.org

Neville's Update

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Our best wishes to you for a very Blessed and Joyous Christmas Season. Yes, it is that time of year again when our thoughts and attention are drawn to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, whose earthly birth we celebrate with our various cultural and family traditions that mean so much to us. As the world situation darkens, stress and pressures assail us and materialism and consumerism all shout out to silence the message that Jesus is the light of the world and the one who came to save us from our sins. We hope that this Christmas will be one when you are touched and blessed by Christ in a very special way as you celebrate His coming.

Another year is behind us with very soon a new one to look forward to. Every year we comment on the speed in which time seems to pass with events blurring into each other. I am forced to stop and contemplate on just what has happened this year, particularly with DMI and our ministry. Another bout of cancer and major surgery in February threw me for a loop for a while but I am almost fully recovered from that, although tests will soon determine the real situation. I still managed to travel a bit, having spent time in Africa, Korea and the Philippines includ-

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ing my first trip to Malawi, a renewed contact with South Sudan and another first to Lebanon to meet our Syrian workers because I was unable to get into Syria itself.



Despite the escalating challenges, the work in Syria is booming. The uncertainty and fear seems to have broken down many barriers and opened doors into schools and the lives of people we never dreamed of. Because of the faithfulness and determined ministry of Nedal and Fadi and their willingness to remain in Syria, God has honoured their faith by producing much spiritual fruit. They are an inspiration to us all. The work in Southern Sudan has been held together in spite of war and lack of finances and other resources by Moris and his wife Ursula, and Caroline, a Ugandan young lady of immense capabilities ... I was most impressed. I was further encouraged by Elton, the director of our work in Malawi. His enthusiasm, drive and dedication puts us to shame. In the last year or so he has started 10 churches for the deaf in Malawi and 3

in Mozambique. Meanwhile, our other workers and leaders continue to press on in the places where they have been planted, to bless and encourage the deaf.

Hany in Upper Egypt is working in a village where there are 50 deaf people. He has started an informal school, self-help projects and a church. Nagy is supervising the work in Cairo, Alexandria and Suez.

Denis in Uganda, despite his physical handicap and deafness, started a school for handicapped people and leads 4 churches. And so the many stories of dedicated, sacrificial workers go on; we have much to be thankful for.

On the home front Lill and I were blessed with another grandson, Jack Neville Muir, number 4 for David and Ruthie. What a joy to have a growing family. There are 17 in our immediate family now but so many birthdays to remember is a challenge and we have run out of ideas for gifts!



On the not so happy side of things, we are facing a disastrous financial situation to close off the year. Unless a miracle occurs in the next weeks we will again, barely be able to meet 50% of the promised budget. Please join us in prayer for a miracle of provision. This will be the 4th time this year we have had a shortfall, which puts a great strain on our workers, more so at this time of year.

Thank you for your love and support over the past year. Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year.



Neville and Lill

Philippines

For some years now we have been trying to work out how to have a more centralised and coordinated approach to our work in the Philippines. We have 4 separate registrations for DMI

work in the country because the work is spread over many islands and areas. Our activities in the Philippines contain schools, churches, farms and projects of various kinds so it made things difficult to organise under one leader. However, we have now managed to commence a new organisation, or fellowship, for our deaf evangelists and pastors. A group of 16 including Angel from China, Doug from Zambuanguita, Arnel, Aser & Willy from Bicol, Ace & Ronland from Mindanao, Albert & Kim plus 7 others from Visayas and me, made up the meeting. We have a new association now called Deaf Evangelists Association Philippines (DEAP). We hope this will result in a coordinated outreach to start new churches as well as a means of encouragement and the sharing of ideas to resolve any problems and to strengthen the work of DMI in the Philippines.

Of the group of evangelists who met in Bacolod to form the new association, 5 were graduates of our schools in the Philippines. Other graduates working with us were not able to attend the gathering. The three from Bicol were all graduates of our school in Ligao. Arnel leads the work there and supervises the churches, while Willy and Aser are teachers in the school



as well as leading a church each. Ronland and Ace are graduates from the school in Davao. It is a real encouragement to us to see our graduates growing stronger in their faith as well as contributing to the Ministry of DMI.

Left: Graduated students have formed a church.

Below: Neville with the DEAP group



Korea

Just a few weeks ago I was in Korea for a brief visit and shared about the work of DMI in a couple of churches in Incheon and Seoul. It was a privilege to stay in the homes of Yong Whan & family in Incheon, In Yong & family in

Chuncheon and Doo Hyong & Kumiko, also in Incheon. I have no shortage of places to stay when back in Korea.

The Incheon Church lead by Kim Yong Whan, went to no end of trouble to



Kim Yong Whan & Family

hold a day of celebration and thanksgiving for God's 37 years of leading and provision since the commencement of DMI's work in Korea in 1979. Mostly, it was a fundraising day through food sales, but also through direct donations and a sponsorship drive to increase the number of Korean sponsors. Three deaf brothers, whom Austin Oh found when he was ministering in Korea and who we put through school in Chuncheon and Seoul, came for the celebration. They took on the sponsorship of three of our deaf kids in Africa and the Philippines saying they wanted to help needy deaf kids just like they had



Enjoying the celebrations in Incheon

been helped years before. This really touched me.



Group from Chuncheon

Sunday saw me back at Seoul Union Church where we, as a family, attended during our years in Korea. I was surprised to meet people who were still there as it had been 26 years since we left. This church has been supporting us all this time. I then spoke at the Seimoonan Presbyterian Church in Seoul, which is the oldest church in Korea; the first one established in that county. During the short time in Chuncheon I managed to include a visit to Moon Myong Ja, one of our original Chuncheon members. The three girls in the family have a crippling disease as well as being deaf. Her two younger sisters have both passed away and Moon Myong Ja is left being cared for by her 88-year-old mum. Her signing is most difficult to read back now as she is losing more and more control of her body and movements, yet every Sunday she never

misses church and is always so cheerful and positive. Another inspiring person whom we have had the privilege to know.



Neville with Moon Myong Ja



Myong Ei's wife, Kim Kil Ja



Doo Hyong's wife, Kumiko Lee

Map shows the spread of the Ministry which commenced in South Korea 37 years ago



The importance of sponsorship



The faithful, continuous sponsorship of deaf children and young people in our schools and centres is a vitally important way for us to give these precious deaf people an education and training for life. It is also an effective way for them to come under the influence of the gospel and to make a personal faith in Jesus, a reality.

Our recent gathering in Bacolod (page 5) was proof of this. 5 of the pastors and leaders who attended were graduates of our schools. These young adult leaders were themselves, once sponsored children and through the generous support of many of you, their influence is now carried back to the schools and churches where they work. Many of the church

members were also sponsored students, and so the blessings are continued.

Sponsorship is an all important way for us to not only provide an education but also a very effective avenue to present the claims of Christ.

We are in need of many more sponsors.

Would you, your church, Bible study group, class or perhaps a group of friends or family members, commit to sponsorship? The influence that you can have by sponsoring can produce eternal results.

God Bless you as you consider taking up the challenge



STUDENT SPONSORSHIP

Deaf Action's sponsorship program assists deaf children to attend schools in remote towns in Asia and Africa. \$40 a month helps to cover costs of education, skills and moral training, which equips them to lead productive and fruitful lives. Programs range from kindergarten right through to college level. The schools also work with young adults who have missed out on schooling due to poverty or lack of opportunity. You can help by sponsoring a child in either Myanmar, the Philippines, Kenya or Uganda.

For more information please contact:

Deaf Action
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Sons and daughters of a loving Father

"I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters,"
says the Lord Almighty." 2 Corinthians 6:18

WWW.DMI2017.COM

Registration is Open!

<http://www.dmi2017.com/second-announcement/>

This is where you will find answers to your questions and other
links to assist you with Visa application (where required), etc.

ShortTermMissionUpdate

Update by Barry Cutchie



During September a team of 8 from Melbourne visited Fishermen of Christ Learning Center, Ligao, Philippines. It was an exciting time as the school was celebrating its 33rd Foundation Day. There was lots of dancing, sports and food and it gave us visitors a wonderful insight into the world of the deaf and Filipino culture. We were able to assist with painting, basic repairs, building a table-tennis table and, to participate in class time. On the weekend we played tourists and then on Sunday participated in a worship service with the deaf. Before leaving we threw a party for the children and treated the teachers and their families to a night out at Jollee Bee (think 'McDonalds'). Our intention is always to go and be a blessing but, we always come home feeling that we were the ones being so blessed!

If you would like to join a team to bless FCLC, then contact the DMI Office. Next visit January 30 – February 10, 2017



Prayer and Thanksgiving

Continue to pray for Emmanuel in Zambia whose appeal for clemency was not responded to. The lawyer remains committed to following up

Pray for the health issues of both Neville and Lill; that God would be guiding the doctors and specialists

Pray for the finances of DMI which are in drought condition! Pray for a release of funds to bless the international workers and to maintain the work

Pray that the new fellowship of Evangelists and leaders in the Philippines will be a blessing and will help expand church growth in that country

Pray for the January work teams from Melbourne off to Davao & Ligao in the Philippines in January/February. Pray that they will be a blessing and encouragement to the ministres there. Pray also for travelling mercies

Give praise for an unexpected gift in November, which enabled us to send our full commitment to the fields. We have failed to do so four times this year



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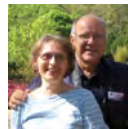
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