

DEAF ACTION NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2016



Head Office: PO Box 395, Beaconsfield, Vic 3807 Aust
Tel: 03 5940 5431 Office Email: info@deafaction.org.au
Webpage: www.deafaction.org.au
Sponsorship Coordinator: Jenny Reid jenny.reid@deafmin.org



MANY THANKS to YOU our FAITHFUL SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

for the extra payments you made when I explained in June that we were badly behind in support payments to our schools. We are very grateful to those who are able to sponsor more than one student.

Our schools economize as much as they can but government standards must be followed. The schools are asking all parents to pay some expenses, but many are too poor to pay anything at all.

SUCCESS for DEAF STUDENTS

It is encouraging to see senior students who excel after many years of study and character development, with thanks to our dedicated teachers who work for low salaries.

Rommel at Ligao, Philippines completed study then set up a piggery with a loan from the school. He has now started a small business and peddles his cart from town to town selling small tools. The Livelihood Program loaned him money to buy a generator so that he can to sharpen the knives and tools while he is in each town.



Uwimana in Rwanda has now commenced Year 1 at Kigali University to complete a Bachelor of Business Management. She lost her parents in the Rwandan genocide 20 years ago but has excelled in all her studies with support from generous sponsors. We expect she will be a leader of the deaf in future years.

Jerome at Davao, Philippines graduated with a Bachelor degree and a Certificate in Massage Therapy. He was also awarded

the **Best Character Award** for 3 consecutive years and now works as a Massage Therapist at Rest Massage and Sauna. He has received many compliments about his performance and ethics.



IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL for the DEAF in KENYA

There is wonderful news from Kenya where the concrete slab has been poured for the new 2 storey Academic Centre. It will include 10 classrooms and 4 offices and allow for future expansion. The slab was completely constructed by hand without the benefit of any heavy equipment. All the water for the concrete was brought by donkey cart from a village spring. A computer room, sewing centre and small engine repair shop are included for future vocational training.



The current financial crisis DMI is experiencing has prevented the funding of any new buildings, so we are very grateful to **Ps. Michael Gantt, Director of the Kenya Development Fund in the USA** for raising funds for the construction of the boys' and girls' dormitories, and the Dining Hall and Kitchen Building that were opened this year.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Ps. Gantt for his devotion to this school and fundraising over several years.

The new Hall has many uses including dining, large group activities when raining and school assembly. Tables can be stacked at the side and the floor is fully tiled and easy to clean.



The school farm is going well. Beans, sweet potatoes, cabbages and corn are now growing. The cows supply milk for the school and the poultry give eggs for protein. Students are also trained in caring for the animals.

There is more good news from Kenya because a formal agreement has been made with Vision Teacher Training College to offer a Diploma and a Certificate Program to train teachers at the school. Four ICSD teachers and 2 graduates, Lillian Anyango & Maureen Anyango (not sisters), have already enrolled to study there. They were sponsored students while studying at ICSD and Kuja High School.

Fishermen of Christ Learning Center - LIGAO - PHILIPPINES

F.C.L.C. celebrated their 33rd Anniversary in September and Ps. Barry Cutchie was the speaker at their Foundation Ceremony. He lead a Work Team from Australia who repaired and painted the building to be used by the Year 11 students.

All secondary schools in the Philippines must now extend their education to Year 11 and 12. As well as continuing formal Maths and English our older students are learning cooking, sewing and beauty therapy skills. These vocational subjects have helped past students gain employment or start their own small businesses in the Philippines.



July was National Nutrition Month, and August was the month for Ligao City to conduct the Fire Drill Activity. September was the FCLC Anniversary and the students presented a Cultural Show for the work team.



Parent and Teacher conferences were also held in September. Three of the senior girls, Cyrene, Jovy and Erika were chosen by their hometowns for the Ms. Deaf Bicolandia Festival conducted by Legaspi City.

Fund raising by the school included selling pigs, harvesting 2,000 coconuts that were made into copra, planting rice and other seedlings, and preparing land for planting corn. The basketball court was swept and used by local farmers to dry their rice, for a small fee. A busy half year!

BACOLOD DORMITORY and ZAMBOANGUITA FARM

Some new students who have missed schooling when young have joined the dormitory recently and are working hard at school. Two of our students represented their school and won races in the District Sports in October. Other students in the boy and girl scouts joined a camp and learnt many skills as well as having fun. All students joined the 'Linggo Ng Wika' National Heroes Day celebrations.

The farm at Zamboanguita is consistently productive now and funds raised are used to help support the dormitory. Some deaf workers are employed there also. Doug and Val Clutton are to be commended for their dedication to this farming project over several years.

DEAF MINISTRIES INSTITUTE at DAVAO in the PHILIPPINES

The Induction Ceremony for newly appointed official student roles was held in July and the previous President passed a big key to the new President. These official roles encourage older students to develop responsibility and gain confidence, and include roles like 'Junior Police'. Earthquake and Fire Drill was conducted in July so students are familiar with what to do in an emergency.



The school joined special activities for National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation week when the abilities of deaf people are highlighted throughout the whole country.



During Filipino Month the students dressed in the traditional clothes of the area they come from, and competed in a folk dance contest and traditional Filipino games. The Filipino government encourages all people to celebrate their ancestors and family background.

Another special activity was a Deaf Journalist who taught photography and reporting skills. This activity encouraged the deaf students to develop their English writing skills and learn photography.

CAGAYAN DE ORO DORMITORY

The students at Cagayan continue to enjoy learning and achieve good results. Most of them come from distant mountain areas and cannot go home very often but they are one happy family together and enjoy the weekend activities at the dormitory.



MUIR SCHOOL for the DEAF in MYANMAR

We are grateful to everyone world wide who is sponsoring one or more deaf students in Myanmar. We greatly appreciate your regular payment of the full amount each year

There are over 30 students at this school now and some older students have gone on to high schools. Three girls who did not get the chance to start school until they were over 10 years old, are studying basic literacy & numeracy skills with the practical skills of sewing, housekeeping and computer skills added to their curriculum. They are also very willing to help the younger children and clean the dormitory. Opportunities for young deaf women are limited in country areas of Myanmar but these girls are happy to learn skills that will help them in adult life.



No local assistance or special consideration is given to deaf children in Myanmar who must learn the same subjects and pass the same exam as the hearing students at the government school. Our students do very well and sometimes gain higher marks than the hearing students.

We have 6 classes but only 5 teachers because the school is not able to pay the same salary as the government school. **We are very grateful to our dedicated teachers who accept a reduced salary.** On the bright side, government electricity is now supplied to the school although payment was needed for cable, meter box and connection costs.

The monsoon rains were very severe this year, bridges were washed away and the road to the Pin Taw Oo village deaf community has been cut since mid year. Our teachers have not been able to visit to teach and help the deaf adults there. The flimsy wood and bamboo building at Pin Taw Oo was also badly damaged and needs replacing.

It is difficult for deaf people in these disadvantaged countries, but they are happy to learn to communicate using sign language and have deaf friends. They are very grateful to the sponsors and supporters who donate to help them.

STUDENTS at SCHOOLS for the DEAF in UGANDA

There are also SUCCESS STORIES in Uganda. 10 older students have graduated from tertiary courses or training colleges over the last 2 years. Some are teaching, some have clerical positions and some have trained in a vocational area. New students from very needy backgrounds now need sponsorship in Uganda. They are:

Allan



Solome



Kenneth



All our sponsored children come from very needy families and cannot continue school without sponsorship. These disadvantaged families struggle to give their hearing children education. So the deaf child usually misses out and sadly the girls are often excluded from education.

Please contact me if you would like to sponsor one of these students or if you would like extra newsletters to give to others

WE URGENTLY NEED MORE SPONSORS TO KEEP OUR SCHOOLS OPEN

Deaf Action student sponsorship monthly payments of \$40 (school \$20) are fully tax deductible and go to your child's school. Our office expenses are kept as low as possible with some workers volunteering their time.

If you would like a speaker to share about sponsorship for a group please contact me. We have interesting slideshows and videos of the students and would be glad to present them to advertise Deaf Action.

You could invite people who are not sponsors to a presentation at your home or sporting group, church, etc.

Please contact me if you can help in any way.

Education is the best gift to give a disadvantaged deaf child

I would personally like to thank all sponsors and supporters for your ongoing donations to Deaf Action

I hope you and your family have a joyful Christmas and a New Year filled with many happy memories



Jenny Reid: Voluntary Sponsorship Coordinator

Email: jenny.reid@deafmin.org Tel. or text: 0411 118 507

