



# Deaf Ministries International

Issue 15 | December 2017



# JESUS

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**IS THE GREATEST GIFT**

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[www.deafmin.org](http://www.deafmin.org)

## Neville's Update

Dear Friends and Supporters

What a year! Some of it I would love to relive then some, I certainly would not. Nevertheless we are thankful for God's enabling through the rough bits and thankful too for the blessings and fun times within the good bits.

Thank you for your prayers and support during the cancer trials and other family health issues. We are getting towards the end of the year and so happy that we have been able to cope this far and certainly look forward to a New Year with less drama!



One of the great blessings of the year was the birth of number 9 grandchild. A healthy, hearty and rather large 4 kilo baby made his debut on the 10th of November; Josiah Lukas is his name, born to our eldest son Brent and

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wife Emma. Josiah was one of Israel's good, godly kings who ascended the throne at the age of 8. As a child, Brent loved a book titled '*Good Little King Josiah*' so I guess this influenced the choice of the name. Lukas is the Norwegian spelling for Luke. We really like the names.



Ian has spent a bit of time helping in the office. He was not well enough to go to work for a while but came and helped with a portion of our Christmas mail out. If you receive a Christmas card, which has some strange folds in it you will know why.

We have been blessed with lots of visitors this past year from; The Philippines, Norway, the US, Japan, Korea, Uganda, Ireland, England and other parts of Australia. Our house has a revolving door and it is a privilege to welcome believers and non-believers alike from around the world. Part of our ministry is hospitality at home, where we host fundraisers, dinners, board meetings, family gatherings, overnight guests and also serve many meals and cups of tea and coffee. I have been curtailed a bit this year in my deputation and speaking engagements; instead people have come to us. My travel and speaking opportunities have recently picked up again so I am trusting that next year will see us on the road again, God willing.

Thank you to all our faithful fellow workers, some serving in very difficult and dangerous places. There has been much fruit in some areas and disappointments in others. The guys in Zambia are still in jail and suffering great injustice. For them we pray that Christ's peace and joy will fill them, in spite of their circumstances.

May each one of us experience again the wonder of His love for us and experience the joy of this season. May justice be served too as we celebrate the coming of Jesus.

We want to wish you all a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy, God-filled New Year.



Neville, Lill and family

Two hearing impaired students were chosen to represent the school and participate in athletic games in track & field at the Provincial level.

City, Provincial, Regional and National Meetings are inclusive and very popular.

Annually, in the 3rd week of July, Disability Week is also celebrated. It was spearheaded by the Department of Social Welfare & Development. People with Disabilities are encouraged to celebrate by entering different games and programs. DSWD also provide information, regarding the privileges and benefits offered to a person with a disability.



# Philippines

## Bacolod

In the month of July, we celebrated the Nutrition Month, when the students were given information on the importance of eating a proper diet, or nutritious food, for healthy growth. During the celebration students must bring to school any fruit and vegetables that represent good nutritional value. Nutrition month is celebrated annually.



## Samar

The Immanuel Church of the Deaf in Borongan City have their own livelihood project, overseen by Pastor Rodel Manila. It is a small eatery, which sells cooked food and many other items. The income from this initiative will help towards the cost of the children's needs in the dormitory as well as the community children.



## Burundi

The sewing workshop has recently benefited by receiving 3 new sewing machines (waiting for photos)  
Are you able to help the Burundi administration centre to purchase:

- 2 x laptops USD1,372
- 1 x colour printer USD315
- 2 x office chairs USD189
- 1 x water dispenser USD257  
(essential during hot weather)

*Right: Bible study group*



Recently, a Chinese aid group donated many, many 25kg bags of rice to vulnerable groups in the region; here you can see the unloading of the very welcome 500 sacks given to DMI-Burundi (known locally as Deaf Action Burundi). The leadership in Burundi is a proactive team. It is their desire to hold annual training of the Evangelists and leaders to keep these dedicated people strong; their Christian faith constantly comes under attack. Funding, over and above their monthly budget, is required for the proposed 3-day event. 35 new followers of Jesus over recent weeks.



## Robert visits Australia



Robert Ssewegudde, seen here with Jenny Reid the Sponsorship Coordinator, is the Chairman of the Ugandan Board. He visited Australia last week and thanks to the generosity of Emirates, his return trip was free! There were some matters he was able to discuss with Neville & Gunnar (by Skype) and hand-deliver Christmas cards made by Ugandan students for their sponsors - to be included in this December mail-out! Neville thought that Robert **might** carry on to Brisbane after visiting Melbourne but, *“why was he carrying two additional suit-cases?”* Answer: to take back unwanted clothing, books, linen, etc. to folk in need back in Uganda.



*Austin & Robert sort through the clothing*

## Syria

*“God is good all the time, that’s what we believe!! We say thank you to God for all of His care in the past days. We continue to meet weekly with the Deaf in our church. In partnership with our church, we have opened the first Centre for the Deaf in Damascus. This gives the Deaf the opportunity to come and learn the Arabic language, to learn computer*



*Centre for the Deaf*

*skills and sign language. We also help them realise their natural talents and encourage them to use them in their everyday lives.*

*Please continue to pray for us,*

*Fadi & Nedal*

*DMI Syria"*



## Tanzania

The Deaf church in Tanzania had the opportunity to participate in the celebrations of national Deaf week. They took a Deaf choir (below) and visited hearing churches in the area. Seeing the Christian Deaf worshiping, using only sign language, was a new experience for the many congregations they visited. It was an opportunity to bridge the gap between hearing and deaf. As a result, some parents of deaf children have allowed them to attend the Deaf church.



Students have returned from the Bible translation college in Kenya and are very keen to expand the work of DMI in their home country. Since their return, they have spent time with other Deaf, fasting and praying for God to provide the means for this to happen.





*Group who have been fasting and praying*

## North Tanzania

In the Lake District there continues to be Sunday church services for the Deaf, which consists of morning worship, Bible teaching lead by Benedict and prayer time in groups. Veronica, an evangelist, teaches them how to grow spiritually and encourages them to live out what they have been taught. Veronica also shares Bible teachings with the Deaf students at Bwiru Boys Secondary School every Friday and some Sundays.

Benedict continues to visit the deaf in surrounding areas, sharing the gospel and teaching about baptism. Please be in prayer for the groups that are to be baptised in the coming weeks; that they remain strong in their faith when they come under spiritual attack.

## D R Congo

To reach the Deaf in the many outlying towns and villages, motor bikes are the best mode of transport - especially when they have to be negotiated through and rescued from, muddy bog-mires like this one.

At USD995.00 each, we hope and pray that funding will become available for the purchase of this much needed transport.

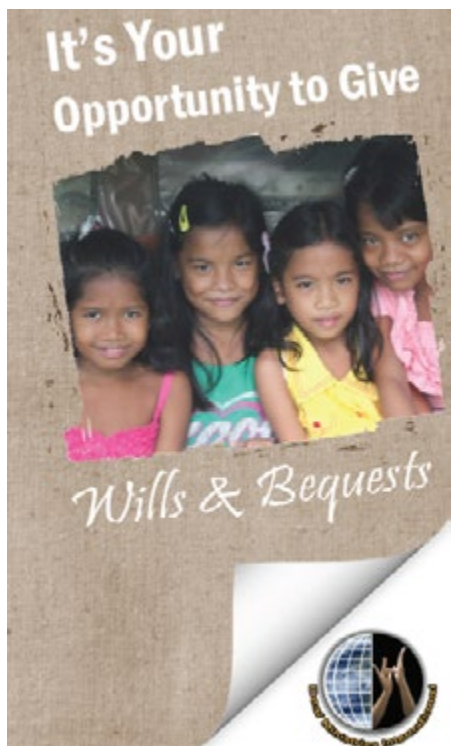






The Katembo triplets are thriving, probably due to Mrs Katembo benefitting from larger portions of food at meal times.

Please pray for Katembo to be successful in finding a part-time job to supplement his church income.



## Considering DMI in your will?

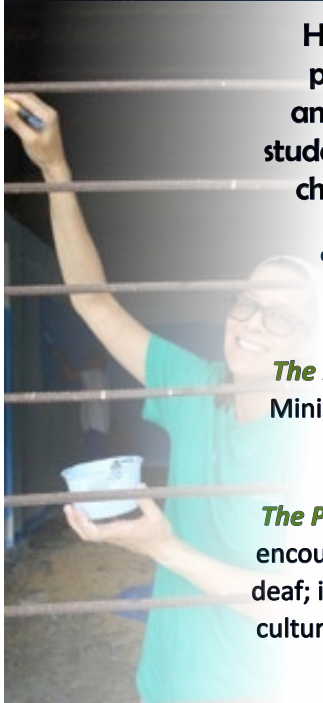
When preparing or updating your will, we would ask you to consider leaving a bequest to DMI.

By leaving a bequest to DMI, this legacy will continue to be invested in the lives of an often overlooked people group.

***Please contact us if you require more information***

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# SHORT TERM MISSION



Has God put it on your heart to do something for people less fortunate than yourself? It will be an amazing opportunity to support & encourage deaf students and staff at the Christian schools, support local churches, do some practical work and much more.

## Join a Philippine Missionary Exposure Team in January 2018

**The Plan:** to visit Fishermen of Christ Learning Centre, a Deaf Ministries International school for 80 deaf children at Ligao in Bicol Province; visit churches for hearing and deaf.

**The Purpose:** do general maintenance at the school; support & encourage the children and staff; participate in churches for the deaf; immerse into the world of the deaf, experience the Filipino culture; visit tourist sites such as Mayon volcano, Cagsawa ruins and a slice of Manila; get a reality check on poverty.

**The Dates:** Depart Monday January 29, return early Friday February 9.

**The Cost:** \$1,800.00 which includes accommodation, meals, flights, transfers and insurance.

**Project Money:** Team members raise additional funds for projects at the school; a party for the kids, dinner for the teachers and other projects.

**Want to know more? Contact Barry Cutchie:**

**03 5626 1107 0409 065 967**

**bcutchie@bigpond.com**

**Life changing experience guaranteed!**

**The Team must be limited to 12 members**





# 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, equipping 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**  
**info@deafaction.org.au**  
**Ph: 03 5940 5431**  
**www.deafaction.org.au**

**ONLY**  
**\$40**  
**PER MONTH**



# Prayer and Thanksgiving

*Praise the Lord for His continuing provision, peace and protection of the faithful leadership and followers in Syria*

*Pray for the successful running of the 3-month Bible course, run by Gunnar Dehli, to be held in the mountains of Norway commencing January*

*Please uphold Ian in your prayers; that the medication takes affect to stabilise his under-active thyroid, bringing it back to normality*

*Give thanks that Neville is maintaining his usual sense of humour and reasonably good health. Following the cancellation of his arranged trip to the US, we pray for God's enabling to stay in complete control and that doors will remain open for another attempt early 2018*

*Pray that DMI's highly valued and dedicated workers continue to receive fulfilment and strength in their demanding roles. We thank God for them; they are remarkable people*

*Give thanks for willing workers to join the short-term mission trips, immersing themselves in the deaf culture of another country and to make a practical difference*

*Pray for the many workers in African countries who are faced with constant spiritual attack; that they are comforted, reassured and strengthened by the Holy Spirit indwelling them*



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[www.deafmin.org](http://www.deafmin.org)

## DMI Evangelistic Donations:

*Please make cheques payable to:*

### Deaf Ministries International

Details for EFT: BSB: 633-000

Account: 145833539

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## Tax-deductible Donations:

*Please make cheques payable to:*

### Deaf Action

Details for EFT BSB: 633-000

Account: 145834263

*Credit Card facility available at office*

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