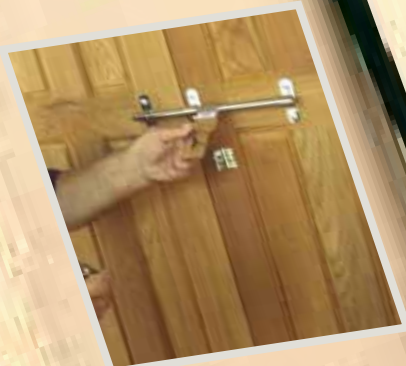




# Deaf Ministries International

April 2014  
Issue 16 | March 2018

What doors  
will God unlock  
in 2018?



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



## Neville's Update

Greetings for the first time in 2018 ... just as we enter March!

2018 began with a rocky start; on the home front that is. Our 4th son Ian became quite ill, so our proposed trip to the US was cancelled due to his condition. He got progressively worse, was hospitalised and finally put into a program of home visitations by psychiatric nurses, under the supervision of a psychiatrist. It is believed that all his problems, including hallucinations, pains and lack of energy, was caused by a virus which threw out his thyroid balance sending his thyroid count sky high to 73 when it should have been around 0.1 – 0.5. That reading has been brought back to normal, the medication has stopped the voices and hallucinations and he has been able to do a few hours of work on several occasions. He is still not 100%, but is much better. The current medications make him very sleepy.

I underwent bone scans and a CT scan recently and now have a result from all the activity. Praise God the cancer has still not gone into the bones and, I was told that my bones are in pristine condition! The cancer however, is enjoying a spread through more lymph glands. I am now on two new medications in addition to the hormone shots.

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## Myanmar

The cost of the shots is around \$1,000 and one of the new medications cost \$3,000 a bottle. Praise God for the medical benefits offered by the Australian Government, as I only have to pay a minute portion of this amount. I have to go back into hospital on March 2nd for a cystoscopy to investigate my other cancer - on the bladder. We are praying for a favourable report there also.

My arthritis is getting worse making me hobble around like some old guy 20+ years my senior but, I am able to keep going. I am also able to travel and work as much as I can cope with; God willing, I will be able to keep up with the itinerary for much of this year.

Thank you for your prayers and ongoing support,



Neville & Lill Muir

The most ambitious trip to date has been to Myanmar. Some years ago we started a church a long way out of Kalay in a little village called Pyin Daw Oo. I doubt if you could find it on a map. It took me a couple of years before I could even remember its name. During a survey of the greater area we found 48 deaf people in this village so I always just called it '*48 Deaf People Village*'.

Over the past few years, Saw Monday, one of our deaf teachers at the school and Nawl Uk, the Principal, visited the village, taught Burmese sign language as well as the Burmese language and presented the Gospel to a mostly illiterate group of people. Slowly, a little church fellowship developed and we had the privilege of baptising a growing number of deaf people. A block of land was eventually purchased and a building constructed to be used as a church. It was of a frail construction and swayed when I, in particular, entered. Fortunately, it did not collapse before a new church was constructed using more sturdy materials.





*It is official - cutting of the ribbon*



During the service, we also ordained Pa Lian and Naing Naing Kyaw, enabling them to perform the ordinances of the church. We once again look forward to a blessed 2018 as we reach deaf people with good news of Jesus.



It was this building that I had the privilege of officially opening, unlocking and dedicating early February after the congregation had patiently waited quite some weeks for my arrival. The main worship sanctuary is on the 2nd floor and the ground floor will be used as a woodworking workshop to employ some of the local deaf men. They are all so proud of the building, which I thought was still a little unsteady, yet without difficulty, it held the huge number of people who entered for the service.

## Philippines

### Visayas

During November every year, Deaf Awareness Week is celebrated when the students from the dormitory participate. On this Family Day, the

parents came to join the celebrations at the beach with their deaf children; all were very happy. The school puts on a 2-day Basic Sign Language Train-

ing Seminar for parents and guardians of the deaf students, enabling better communication with their children.

*Recognition*



*Deaf Awareness Week celebrations*

## **Zamboanguita**

The employees of the DMI Naturally Negros facility were invited to participate in three different trade exhibitions during October, November & December. This involvement provided additional income as well as greater exposure of their successful growing of Super Napier grass and Azolla. Azolla is high in protein and is grown in ponds serviced by a new gravity-fed canal irrigation system. The production from these new initiatives will eventually reduce the animal feed costs considerably.



**Zamboanguita Immanuel Church of the Deaf** has moved back into the retail store, meeting every Sunday morning. This has enabled some local Deaf to attend, and many curious onlookers appreciate that Naturally Negros really is run by a church organization that promotes the message of Christ in Filipino Sign Language. There is definite growth within this Deaf group who eagerly want to sign their memory verses during worship time!

**Ligao**

Grade 12 students received work-place immersion late October; four joined two dressmaking businesses (one bridal) and ten others joined two bread and pastry-making businesses. This work experience is coordinated with the shop owners resulting in close monitoring and evaluation over a 3-week period.

***Income generating Projects***

The sows continue to produce litters although one of the older sows needs to be replaced. The purchase of pig-lets is in high demand and so it would be desirable to purchase 3 more breeding sows at \$120.00 each. 50 sacks of rice were provided to the dorm for consumption over the past

three months. The cow is in calf again; she and her two calves are in good condition.

To expand the production and online sale of these commodities, sales of livestock, butchered meat and poultry, rice and chocolates, they would like to purchase:

- refrigerator \$375
- meat mincer \$300
- chicken plucking machine \$600
- vacuum pack sealer \$200
- cocoa bean grinder \$300

**If you are able to contribute in any way towards the purchase of these items, please contact the DMI Australia office: [info@deafmin.org](mailto:info@deafmin.org)**

**Tanzania**

**Lake District**

Evangelist Veronica is dedicated to ministering to young deaf adults, especially those attending Bwiru Boys' Secondary School. Many schools have a new law where students may not venture far from the school and this is why Veronica is welcome to hold classes at the school.





Another new group of older students dedicated themselves to Baptismal instruction and were baptized in the waters of Lake Victoria early November.

Bible stories are taught at Bugando Primary School each Tuesday and Thursday. The new church for the deaf in Sengerema enjoy morning fellowship and Bible teachings. Some gather for group prayer after the worship program. Although the church is very much in need of a caretaker, the group is always encouraged by Veronica's teaching on spiritual growth and keeping up the faith.

## Kenya

### Mombasa

Ev. Gabriel and his wife Margaret, rejoice in the safe arrival of their daughter after many miscarriages. All praise to our Heavenly Father as He watches over her well into childhood and beyond.



### Nairobi

Josephat reports that his condition feels almost normal again after the many operations and treatment for colon cancer over the past year. *"I can smile that I am cancer free for now and will check up by CT scan and test blood on 7th March"*

The next 5-day Father Heart Seminar is to be held in Kenya from 26th April. Ps Josephat Mulongo will assist the DMI Vice-President, Gunnar Dehli. They are praying for a repeat of the inaugural seminar, held in Uganda, which was a life changing experience for all attendees.

Baptism of two young ladies who attend the Immanuel Church for the Deaf in Nairobi.



## Uganda



Gunnar from Norway and Josephat from Kenya (above) have just concluded extensive travels and intense ministry in Uganda, DR Congo, Burundi and Rwanda. One of the most obvious changes they negotiated is in Uganda, where Robert (left) has taken on the role of Projects Director, supervising and administering income-generating projects. Funding for these projects will be drawn from the gift donated for that specific purpose, by a generous donor from Japan. Sam (right) is no longer Director and now holds the position of Senior Advisor for Africa. Josephat will temporarily fill the Director of Uganda position until the local board can appoint a new Director. Counselling on some issues in the Congo took up much of their time and energy together with encouraging workers in Burundi and Rwanda, which was very rewarding. We are so grateful for their ministry in these countries.





# Syria

We mentioned the opening of the Speaking Hands Centre in the December newsletter. People from nearby sub-urbs are also learning about this place; that it exists to offer help to all the deaf people regardless of their background, whether Christian or Muslim. In addition to the existing programs, handcraft classes are also being offered. The main goal of the centre is “to

*direct them to the real and true life, for the person to live a purpose-driven life and to stay away from the chaotic existence that most Syrian deaf live.”*

Free counselling will be provided to those who need it; they find this to be a place of comfort. Children are included in various sessions during the five days that the centre is open. Social engagement is encouraged.



# MISSIONS EXPOSURE

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 2018 Missions Exposure Team

**The Plan:** to visit Fishermen of Christ Learning Centre, a Deaf Ministries International school for 80 deaf children at Ligao in Bicol Province, the Philippines; visit churches for hearing & 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 23 September - Return 4 October

**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 needs.

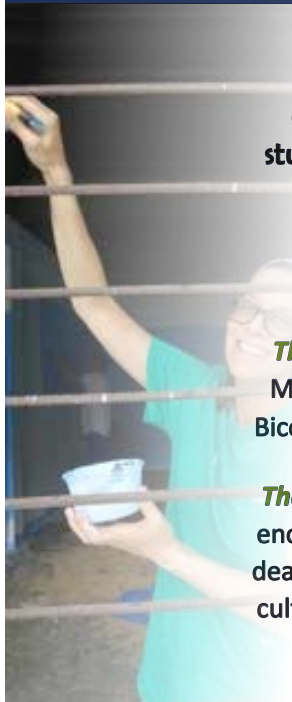
**Want to know more? Contact Barry Cutchie:**

**03 5626 1107 0409 065 967**

**bcutchie@bigpond.com**

**Life changing experience guaranteed!**

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





# STUDENT SPONSORSHIP

The Deaf Action 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 to equip 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](mailto:info@deafaction.org.au)**  
**Ph: 03 5940 5431**  
**[www.deafaction.org.au](http://www.deafaction.org.au)**

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



# Prayer and Thanksgiving

*Thank you Heavenly Father for answering many prayers. We glorify Your name in these areas:*

*For faithfully protecting our brothers and sisters living with extreme uncertainty in Syria; You have been their guiding Light and Counsellor*

*For the success of the Father Heart seminar held in Uganda, seeing lives changed and Godly commitment strengthened*

*For the continuing improvement to Josephat's health to the point where he is able to take on additional (temporary) roles*

*For the containment of Neville's cancer, that it is not affecting his bones. We pray that your supernatural power be added to the medications*

*For safe travels throughout Myanmar. We pray for Your continuing protection of the professing Christians in that country*

*For those who are newly baptised wherever they may be; keep them from evil dear Father*

*Ian's road back to good health still encounters twists and turns; dear Lord be a fortress for the whole family we pray*

*Again we acknowledge the dedication of DMI leaders, teachers, evangelists, pastors, employees and volunteers in every country where you have placed them Lord, we pray that You are their focus, strength and encouragement*



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

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