



Deaf Ministries International

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*"For God has
not given us a
Spirit of fear,
but of power
and of love and
of a sound mind"
2 Timothy 1:7*



www.deafmin.org



Neville's Update

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Lill, Ian and I have just returned from a memorable month away in Korea, Japan and China. The trip was inspired by the celebration of the 35th Anniversary of the church in Kangwha, Korea. I was instrumental in starting that church, which is on an island off the west coast of Korea. How different Kangwha is now from what it was 35 years ago. When we started the church it was in a small country town in a setting of rice paddies and ginseng plantations. On arriving this time I had no idea where to go to find the church as there was so much change. Fortunately we were in the good hands of Doo Hyong and Kumiko, the current leaders of the church, who lead the way. When we started the church we met in a local hearing church but after a few years we were asked to leave and the only available spot was a hot-house used for planting vegetables. We froze in winter and sweltered in summer. Doo Hyong and Kumiko valiantly raised funds to build the current beautiful chapel they now use.



Neville leading the Lord's supper in Kangwha chapel

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When it was opened it stood out for all to see but now one has to search, as it is surrounded by tall buildings and hides in the shadow of them all.



The generosity of the Koreans is amazing. They covered all our expenses, air fares included and even made it possible for us to go on to Japan and China for further meetings and activities.



Alayne and Hidehiro Madore

In Kyoto, we were hosted by Alayne Madore and her husband Hidehiro. Life was a bit difficult for Alayne as she had recently broken her wrist; driving and fussing over us was a bit of a trial. With three others sharing the driving, we did get to all the places on the itinerary that Alayne had arranged.

We were able to share in meetings in Kyoto, Osaka, Nagoya and Hamamatsu as well as having times with friends and other supporters. We had a blessed time. Some 13 new children were sponsored and existing supporters were encouraged to continue. All very worthwhile.

The final leg of the journey was to China. We were put up in a hotel on our arrival where we stayed a few days then drove a hire car to Dali where our work there started many years ago. Joey had arranged a lovely home-stay overlooking the lake. The host and hostess were lovely and made us welcome while chatting on in Chinese, none of which we understood. We answered in English, none of which they understood. We all got on well however.

One of my highlights each time I go to China is spending some time with Joey's grandmother. This faithful old lady, together with her recently deceased husband, have been ardent believers for years. They endured the persecution during



the Cultural revolution and came out stronger than ever. She is a great prayer warrior for DMI and her family. People like her make it possible for us to continue.

Things are getting a bit tough in China again so we will have to be careful about what we say and how we say it. In another town we had the joy of ordaining a young deaf man as the pastor. He had been a gangster and had been



jailed. While in jail his then girlfriend became a Christian and on his release, lead him to the Lord. He is now the pastor and leader of the church and the girlfriend is now his wife. She is also the main machinist at the Hearts and Hands workshop, the products from which many of you are familiar.

We thank God for enough health and strength to have made this trip. Thank you for your prayers and support. By the time that you receive this newsletter I will have just returned from a camp held in Lebanon, for our Syrian church members.



Neville & Lill

Burundi

Deaf Action Burundi continues to share the word of God throughout many regions in their country. Part of their recent program has been to visit Deaf children in three different regions. During this period they were able to minister to 450 children with the hope that they will now know a little more of Jesus' love.



Visiting students in schools

The Burundian team has also been helping Deaf students make the transition from primary to secondary school. These children have to attend hearing schools, so the team helps them enrol, attain the books they might need and meet with their parents to discuss strategies to pay for school fees.

In the Bubanza province, there are a number of deaf youth; they have never had the opportunity of education, or employment. The Deaf Action



Teaching the youth

Burundi team have begun to teach them sign language so that they can not only communicate but, also learn about God. It is not a straight forward or easy task but the team are not ones to give up! The region is not at all easy to access. When the road runs out, it's another three hour journey by foot to reach the community.

Please continue to keep the Deaf Action Burundi team in prayer as they travel around their country, sharing God's love in a country that is politically unstable.

Tanzania

Daniel (Director) and his wife Jane (H) are a part of the DMI team in Tanzania. Jane has started a program for the young CODA (Children of Deaf Adults) in their church. These children are hearing and it is so important for them to also feel connected to their

church. Often, hearing children of deaf parents feel bored and disconnected when attending church, and to their parents. Some refuse to go to church altogether because it does not feel relevant to them. Jane is bridging the gap for these families. It's not only an opportunity to teach the children sign language so that they can communicate with their parents, but ensuring the children still feel valued, loved, and most importantly, hear the gospel in a way that is relevant to them. Thank the Lord that Daniel is recovering well from Malaria and was able to meet with classmates from the Ugandan Bible School training days.



Jane with her group of hearing children

Malawi

These past months there have been several activities for deaf awareness, sign language training, evangelism and a deaf conference, which included

Bible training. They also had meetings to discuss how they could develop the ministry there.



*DA-Malawi
Director, Elton
Mukarangeya*

There has been an exciting development with a grant being received to start a bakery. The bakery will employ four people; two cooks, a sales person and a security guard. Not only will their goods be for sale at the shop, but also at local markets around the district. This creates an opportunity for employment for the deaf and the profits will go towards the ministry in Malawi.



Bakery under construction

Uganda

There are many small, faithful, deaf churches across Uganda. Many with an average congregation of just 15-20. Evangelists do their best to visit, keep in contact and continually encourage these ones in their faith. Even though they are small in number, please keep these congregations in prayer as they minister in their communities.

The Immanuel Church for the Deaf in Kampala has enjoyed visits from some International guests in recent months. DMI Vice-Director, Gunnar Dehli (Norway) and Interim DA-Uganda Director, Josephat Mulongo (Kenya) visited to inform the church and bible school leadership on how to implement new processes and changes. They also convened the 'Father Heart' seminar. Seminars have been held in many African countries with the focus on *"how to develop our own hearts to be like that of our Heavenly Father"*.



Above: Gunnar with participants of the Father Heart seminar



Right: Korean mission team

Although Josephat is the director of DA Kenya, he will also be taking on the responsibility of Uganda until another director is appointed. A mission team from South Korea visited and enjoyed a time of sharing and fellowship with members of the congregation.



For some time, Ps. Stephen has struggled to find time to keep the youth program vibrant and meeting regularly but, not anymore. The church has just appointed a youth leadership team, which includes some of the youth from the church. They look forward to the way God will lead this new team to

encourage and share the gospel to the Deaf youth in Kampala.

Kenya

The South Korean team that visited Uganda, also had the opportunity to visit the Immanuel School and Church for the deaf in Kenya. They blessed the deaf community with gifts of clothing and purchasing a water tank for the school. They also repainted parts of the school for which the teachers and students were very grateful.



Left: Korean team with students

Below: Repainted buildings





Praise God for the good health of DMI-Kenya workers Gabriel and Margaret's daughter. Please pray for continued health for their family.

Some of the DMI-Kenya workers were able to attend the Father Heart conference in Norway. They were blessed through the teachings of James Jordan and got to experience something never before seen by some of them ... snow!



Syria

Despite living in a country that has constant war and conflict, God is very much alive and at work through the DMI Syria team. They have shared with us photos of their weekly church meetings and activities.

The deaf centre has created an environment where the deaf can come together to learn skills, sign language and build relationships. This centre also gives opportunities to share the gospel with the deaf in the Damascus community. Please continue to keep this faithful team in your prayers.



Studying at the Deaf Centre




Teaching children sign



Deaf Centre team

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 Davao school for the deaf, a Deaf Ministries International school for deaf children in Davao and surrounding province in the Philippines; visit churches for hearing & deaf.

The Purpose: 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. Take the Staff to Paradise Island and have a party for the kids. To get a reality check on poverty.



The Dates: Depart **23 September** - Return **6 October**

The Cost: \$1,500.00 which includes accommodation, meals, flights, transfers and insurance.

Age range of team: 16 - 30 years

Want to know more?

Contact Chris Hennequin: 0400 591 670

ghennequin@bigpond.com

**Life changing experience
guaranteed!**



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:

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ONLY
\$40
PER MONTH

Prayer and Thanksgiving

Thanks for the opportunities that Neville, Lill & Ian got to experience in Korea, Japan and China. Praise for the way the Gospel continues to be shared and the way churches are growing in these countries.

Praise for the opportunities to share Jesus in Burundi. Pray for all of the children who have heard the Gospel. May it sow seeds and impact their hearts.

Pray for Daniel, and Jane as she ministers to the hearing children who have deaf parents attending church in Tanzania. Pray that these families will feel connected and full of love for each other and God.

Thanks for the wonderful provision to build a bakery in Malawi. Pray that it will be a beacon in the community and provide opportunities for the workers to share Christ.

Pray for all of the small congregations around Uganda. Pray that they will feel encouraged and compelled to share Christ in their villages.

Pray for the workers in Syria and their continued protection. Praise for the way God has used them to show His love and light in times of such darkness.



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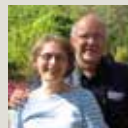
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