



Deaf Ministries International

Issue 19 | December 2018

Peace on Earth



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Neville's Update

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We come to the last newsletter for 2018! As always, I wonder why each year seems to pass faster than the last. We did not get around to taking down our Christmas lights from last year so it will be an easier job getting ready for Christmas this year!

For us as a family, it has been a bit of a tumultuous year in many ways. DMI also has had some bumps along the way. Ian is still a great concern for us. Following a virus last November, his thyroid became quite unbalanced and he began to experience hallucinations, voices in his head and became very depressed and fearful of things that were not there. Through medication his thyroid has returned to normal but, he did not. We are still trying various medications, none of which seem to help. He wants to get better and asks us constantly to pray for him.

Lill is doing very well and is managing without much difficulty. I am ok and a recent scan showed that the cancer had not gone into the bones. However, at the same time, they found a new tumour in the groin area showing that my current treatment was not holding the spread. At about the time you receive this letter, I will undergo a PET scan, which will determine more accurately the spread of

In this Issue:

Neville's Update 2

Farewell Matt 3

Malawi 4

Rwanda 5

Uganda..... 6

China 7

Syria 8

Philippines 9

Prayer & thanksgiving . . 12



the disease. Future treatment will be decided upon after that scan.

Our trusty financial manager, Matt, resigned at the end of September after nine and a half years and what an impact he made over that time. We were concerned with how to fill his shoes, but God had that under control providing two to take his place almost immediately. Susi works in our office in Melbourne and Matthijs works in Norway. Between them, they manage our finances and projects. Susi is originally from Indonesia and Matthijs is a deaf Dutchman living in Norway. We have quite an internationally diverse team.

Thanks so much for your prayers and support. God has enabled us to continue in our service for Him among the deaf people group whom we love very much. We plan like we will go on forever, but live a day at a time knowing that we are in His hands and have nothing to fear.

God Bless you all and may you have a wonderful Christmas celebration as we remember the Lord Jesus whom we serve.

Merry Christmas,



Neville , Lill and Ian

Farewell Matt



As Neville briefly mentioned in his update, we have said goodbye to our dedicated finance manager, Matt Farmilo. Matt has worked for DMI for 9.5 years! What a blessing he has been to DMI since he took on the role in 2009. During his time with us he has helped DMI and Deaf Action grow and made sure that the financial management and administration is

current and up to date with the required standards being met. He also travelled to the fields, training and coaching our workers and preaching at several of our churches throughout Africa and the Philippines. We are so grateful for all the work he has done and the many ways he has contributed to the Ministry to reach more and more deaf in developing countries. We will miss him greatly but pray for God's blessing to be upon him and his wife, Andrea, as they start this new chapter. Thank you Matt!!

Malawi



In our last few newsletters we have talked about the bakery that was being built in Malawi to not only provide employment for the deaf and put profits back into DMI Malawi, but to be an outreach to the local community. After a few delays we are excited to announce that it is open and baking! DMI's Vice-Director, Gunnar Dehli was able to attend the grand opening. He was given the honour of putting the first tray into the oven and the first to eat the freshly

baked bread. The bakery currently has three deaf and two hearing employees. Many of the deaf, and their families in the surrounding areas, do not know sign language. The DMI Malawi team has started a sign language and Bible teaching program. The program is titled "Sign language is a language" and is for both deaf and hearing to learn, with the purpose of breaking down the barriers of communication between them. It also opens up opportunities to share the gospel. Just by door-knocking to meet the deaf in





*Above: Gunnar and workers
with first trays of bread*

the surrounding communities, DMI evangelists were able to share the gospel with them in their homes, resulting in twelve people giving their life to Christ. We praise God for these dedicated ambassadors for Christ.



Right: Little girl in front of bakery wall

Rwanda



at Group Bible University. Participants trained in leadership skills and bible knowledge. This training helps the evangelists to grow spiritually and in their knowledge of God's word.

Another type of training that has been offered in the past few months is 'sign language bible translation'. Facilitators travelled from the USA to train the participants in Kigali, Rwanda. The trainers teach how to evangelise to the deaf through pre-recorded videos. This makes it possible for the deaf to be reached in areas that don't have churches or Christian outreach.

The ICDR leadership conference was held in Rwanda's capital, Kigali. The theme of the conference this year was "Spiritual Discipleship" and was held



Sign language video training in Rwanda



Uganda

The new DMI Ugandan Development Project Office was opened by Jeff Weston (Australian). Jeff is on the International board. His role focused on self-sustainability projects. Those who would like to start a self-sustaining project can apply to the new development office for a loan to get their projects off the ground. The project

applications are carefully considered before being given approval. A few loans have already been given.

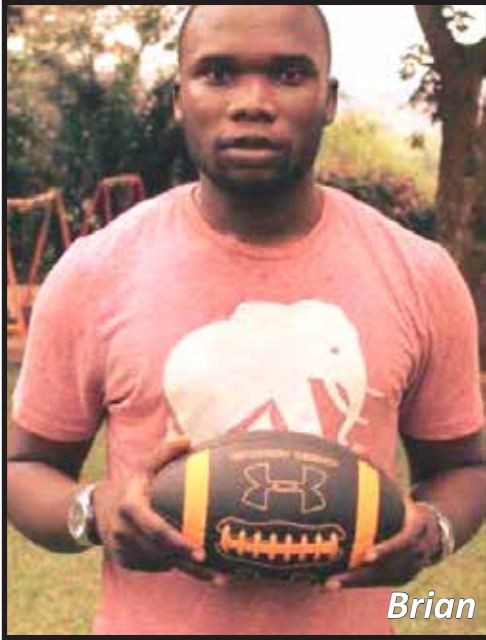


Denis is working as an evangelist for Deaf Action Uganda in the Lira District. He is also the Director of the Neville Muir Comprehensive Disabled School. Denis' application was approved for a loan to purchase land to grow crops.



Denis

The crops will be used to feed the students at the school and to take to market to sell. All the profits will be used to repay the loan. When it is repaid, he will be able to put future profits back into the school.



Brian

Brian is currently a board member and secretary of DA Uganda. He also happens to be the second son of the late David Bulime. He was approved to receive a loan to run an ice cream parlour. The business will employ deaf workers at the local university. The profits will be used to train other deaf youth on how to start and run a business. The ice cream is made in store by his skilled staff.

China

Deaf churches in China continue to grow despite the risks of being discovered and shut down. Celebrations were had in different churches with twelve, fifteen and nineteen year anniversaries of each congregation.



The bible translation team participated in some training. While they were there, they celebrated Chinese Autumn Day. Traditionally the festival is to celebrate the moon and the harvest of crops. It was a fun day of fun and fellowship.



Teaching the Chinese deaf

One of the evangelists travelled great distances across the country in order to share the gospel with the deaf. The gatherings were times of great fellowship through games, song, prayer and teaching. Please pray for these people as they share the love and promises of Jesus in a country where Christianity is not accepted.



Left: Chinese church celebrating 15th anniversary



Right: Chinese church celebrating 19th anniversary

Syria



In our last newsletter we were excited to share the news of a new van for the Syrian team. The van is proving to be a wonderful blessing. It has enabled our Syrian folk to travel and reach out to other parts of Syria now that ISIS has been driven out of those areas. Recently a trip was made to Homs, once an area under ISIS control. Many of the

deaf there have endured years of suffering. ISIS made many attempts to force the kidnapped victims to convert to Islam. On a recent trip to this area, the mayor even came to some of the meetings arranged for deaf people. Please continue to pray for the DMI workers as they share the love of Christ throughout this war torn country.



Philippines - Ligao

One of our wonderful benefactors from Japan made it possible to build two new classrooms which are now in full use. Barry Cutchie (from Melbourne) and his team dedicated these rooms, named in honour of Kathi's sisters. On a recent trip Neville was so pleased see how beautiful the rooms were and how they are being used to the full.

We had a new intake of kids this school year. Some students came back after a long absence, others transferred in from special units in

hearing schools where they have been sitting for years not understanding anything because the teachers could not sign. A few have arrived, having had no other experience of school.



Paul, one of our students, worked in Manila for many years as a dishwasher in a restaurant. He had never been to school and was completely illiterate. His boss told him that he must go to school and sent him to us. At the age of 23 Paul entered Kindergarten classes with an amazing desire to learn. Here he stands with his classmate, the youngest and smallest in the school. It gives us great joy to know that he is finally able to learn in a language he understands and have the opportunity to share Christ's unconditional love with this man.



MISSIONS EXPOSURE

A background image showing a group of people, mostly women, sitting around a table and working on a project. They appear to be in a classroom or workshop setting, with papers and materials on the table.

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 2019 Missions Exposure Team

End of January 2019

Want to know more?
Contact Barry Cutchie
bcutchie@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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Prayer and Thanksgiving



Give thanks for the time Matt has been involved with DMI and all the initiatives he has maintained during that time. Pray for him, and Andrea, as they follow God's calling in a new chapter.

Pray for Neville, Lill and Ian as they each continue to face health challenges. For guidance and wisdom in making decisions with regards to Neville's cancer treatment in the coming months.

Praise for the opening of the bakery in Malawi. Pray that it is a beacon for Christ in the community.

Pray for the work in China. Praise for the celebrations of the anniversaries of the churches. That they may continue to grow and nurture others, despite persecution from the government.

Praise for the way God is continuing to open doors in Syria. For continued safety for the DMI workers as they be light in such a dark place.

Praise for the opening of the Ugandan Development Project Office. May it be a blessing and an opportunity for the deaf to gain skills, support themselves, their families and the ongoing work of DMI.

Praise for our faithful sponsors who contribute to the ongoing work of DMI. Pray for the funds needed to ensure that the work of sharing the gospel to the deaf in developing countries can continue.



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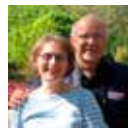
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