



Deaf Ministries International

Issue 18 | September 2018



“The One who called you is completely dependable. If He said it, He’ll do it!”

1 Thessalonians 5:24 (The Message)

www.deafmin.org



Neville's Update

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We have just returned from a lovely weekend in a town called Orange, which is in the high country of New South Wales west of the Blue Mountains. On the way I had an oncologist's visit and learned all was ok for the time being. I have a bone scan and MRI in 3 months' time.

The invitation to Orange came from a couple who were in a church I visited in Sydney with our youth group 52 years ago! We had not been in touch since then. She remembered that I was involved with the deaf so wrote and asked if we could provide literature and information for their regular missions promotion Sunday. Instead, I said that we would come and do it in person.

We visited some friends and supporters on the way in a town called Cowra, famous for a Japanese Prisoner of war camp, a Japanese Cemetery and Japanese garden. Ian is still not well and does not like any discussion about death or anything sad, so he stayed in the car while Lill looked around; I had been there before.

After a delightful weekend, we travelled over to a town called Bathurst to visit a deaf friend and supporter who had broken her leg and was immobile. Following the lovely visit we started on our homeward journey hoping to make it in one hit. A mistake!!! We crossed the Victorian

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border, the road was empty, and then suddenly a bang and we had hit the newly built safety fence on the side of the highway. My poor car was quite badly banged-up but was drivable in spite of the power steering not working. After negotiating with the insurance company, the vehicle is now being repaired. My advice is, don't drive when tired!! Not staying in a motel for a night was false economy. Praise God we are all ok.

A trip I was able to make, which ended happily, was to Lebanon in May/June. Open Doors ministry made it possible to bring about 30 of our deaf believers from Syria to their conference held in Beirut. It was held in Lebanon because Gunnar and I were unable to enter Syria. Also, it was nice for the group to have time away from the conflicts they face at home.



*Above: Fadi & Family
Right: Nedal & family*

The venue was a wonderful Catholic conference centre, high on the mountains behind Beirut . The view from the centre was beautiful, overlooking the city and the Mediterranean. Gunnar preached on the theme of the “Love of the Father”, a very timely topic to a group of people who had just experienced 7 years of war. It was a very uplifting and encouraging time for us all.

I had been wondering if it was time to quit and handover everything to others. I felt pretty useless as I was hobbling around on a walking stick and in pain. I found out however, that my presence was very much appreciated; if only just to encourage and give hugs to those who were in great need of love and encouragement. An embrace meant so much. My great wish now is to visit Syria, if at all possible, while I am physically able.

The final blessing was the provision of a van for the work in Syria. Our generous faithful supporter Kathi (from Japan) made this possible. Thank you to all our supporters whose small and large donations make the work of DMI possible.



New van for DMI Syria

God Bless and thank you,



Neville and Lill.

Malawi

These past months have seen the transformation of many lives. DMI evangelists have been out in remote areas preaching the good news to the deaf and their hearts have been opened to receive Christ.

The evangelists begin their interaction through an awareness campaign, not only to the deaf but also their families and relatives. They teach them that the deaf should be treated as equals and not rejected from their homes be-

cause of their disability. The campaign also highlights the right for education and to work. They provide the opportunity for both deaf and hearing to learn sign language.

Once communication and a relationship is established, there is the opportunity to share the gospel. The evangelists then give an invitation to attend the deaf church, which has been very well received.

By God's grace, twenty one deaf have been saved, nine have been baptised and a new deaf church has been planted! Praise God!

Due to the growth, DMI Malawi is now in the process of training pastors, evangelists and leaders.

You may remember in our last newsletter we shared about the construction of a bakery to help support the work in Malawi. Unfortunately, due to theft of materials, the opening was delayed. The site now has a security fence so hopefully this will deter future thefts. Gunnar (DMI Vice-Director) had the privilege of officially opening the bakery.

Please continue to keep the Malawian people in your prayers. For those on the ground sharing the gospel and especially those who have recently found their new life in Christ.

Tanzania

DMI Tanzania thanks you for your continued prayer and support. They have had a focus on encouraging the youth in their congregation to be more involved in the life of the ministry in their community. To be examples of Christ to their peers and those around them. The church is running a prayer and youth group on a Thursday and Saturday. They are excited and encouraged to see the spiritual growth in the youth over the past few months. After the Saturday gathering, the youth help clean and set up the building for the church service the next day, creating a sense of community and belonging. Jane continues with the CODA (Children Of Deaf Adults) program. It has been very successful and appreciated by the parents. The children have done extremely well in learning sign language and have been easily communicating with their parents. Jane provides a snack for the children each week so that there is no reason to disturb the parents in the service. The reason for this is that for the deaf, their eyes are their ears and so if they are not looking at the preacher who is signing, they don't "hear" what is being said.



Jane with CODA group

Three of our young workers working alongside Daniel were those who were ordained. It was a moving experience even participating over Skype. God bless Alfred Charles Maduga, Sersor Joseph Msimbete and Joseph Reuben Hizza.

Neville recently participated in an ordination service in Dar Es Salam, Tanzania. No, he did not pop over there for the weekend but did so on Skype. There is nothing in the Bible which says you cannot ordain someone over Skype, so that is what he did. Those in the flesh who took part were Ps Josephat and Ps Daniel...Neville laid hands on the computer!



Tanzania - Lake District

The churches in the Lake District meet in school buildings in their communities. Depending on the school, they allow them to use the buildings for a certain number of evenings per week and Sundays. This allows them to run bible studies and youth programs throughout the week.

They have been encouraged over recent months with more new believers who have been baptised.





cially, they are preaching the gospel, training up new evangelists and many in the deaf community are being lead to Christ.

Samuel, Senior Advisor Africa-DAU (DMI-Uganda), came and ran a three day intensive in Goma for the DMI Congo board. He was able to share his experience, especially in the areas of administration and finances. While Samuel was there, he also had the opportunity to travel with Papy (DMI-Congo Chairman). They visited the congregation at the deaf church in Butembo and students at Beni School for the Deaf.

The Congo

As in many countries around the world, The Congo is hungry for the Good News of Christ. DMI Congo has planted five churches but can see the need for many more around the country. The Congo is the second largest country (land area) in Africa covering 905,568 square miles. That's slightly smaller than the size of Western Australia or similar to the size of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Utah, Arizona and Nebraska all joined together. It's such a huge area to cover, especially with limited resources for transport. But despite what the DMI Congo team lack finan-



Butembo Church



Deaf couple from Beni



Beni Christian Church for the Deaf has been increasing in number as evangelist, Luanda Alexis, has been ministering in

Papy preaching

the local deaf community. Luanda has been preaching, teaching, visiting deaf families or those with deaf family members, and the sick; many of whom have never heard the gospel or ever attended a church. She has taken the opportunity to encourage them to trust a Heavenly Father who loves and cares for them.

Please continue to pray for the challenges DMI-Congo face; the lack of transport to reach remote areas, provision of Bibles to be given to the deaf, funds to purchase a computer for their office, plus recruitment and training of more interpreters to help, especially during church services.

Kenya

The deaf church in Kenya continues to grow as the gospel is shared and people are hungry to heard God's word.

Unfortunately the children's ministry is struggling with small numbers due to the lack of transportation for the evangelists. DMI is in the process of raising the funds to purchase a van and two motorbikes to assists with this dilemma.



New classroom and office

The new classrooms and office have been completed at Immanuel School for the Deaf. They were officially opened by Michael Gantt and the Headmaster, Wesley. Michael is from America and is a partner in the ministry of the school in Kenya.



Michael and Wesley opening the new building



He has done an amazing job of raising awareness and funds for the school over the years. His

next goal is to raise funds to purchase a van for the school.



Students enjoying new building

The DMI-Kenya board has started to plan for the 8th DMI international conference in 2020 which will be held in Mombasa, Kenya. They are looking forward to hosting the conference and ask for prayer over the next few years as preparations are made.



DMI Kenya board

Philippines

Visayas - Bacolod

At the end of April, the 9th Negros Summer Deaf Camp was held in Murcia. All the deaf and hearing impaired in the Negros Occidental area came together to socialise, have fun and learn more about God through study sessions. The guest speaker this year was Rev. Masago Minatosaki and his wife from Japan, who are both hearing impaired. The theme for the camp this year was “Strong, fight, finish and faith”. It was a wonderful time of sharing and growing in faith resulting in four baptisms at the end of the camp.



Rev. Masago and his wife also had the opportunity to visit Naturally Negros farm and the DMI dorm in Bacolod. There they were joined by Charles and Sue Cameron, along with their son, Charles Jnr, who were visiting from Australia.



Rev Masago and his wife

The Cameron family treated the children in the dorm to dinner in a fine restaurant. This was a highlight and memorable experience for the children. They also generously donated carpentry tools and materials for cabinets in the boys' dormitory, which was greatly appreciated.

Cameron's and Bacolod dorm



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 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:

Deaf Action
info@deafaction.org.au
Ph: 03 5940 5431
www.deafaction.org.au

ONLY
\$40
PER MONTH

Prayer and Thanksgiving

Praise for the opportunities the evangelists have had to share Jesus in Malawi. For the many lives that have been saved through Christ. Praise and prayer for the new church plant. May it continue to grow as the gospel is shared. Praise for the opening of the bakery. Pray that it will provide more than just products but bread of life for the surrounding community.

Pray for continued safety and spiritual protection for our Directors as they travel to different places to encourage those in the field.

Praise for the need of more churches that need to be planted in the Congo. Pray for the safety and health of the evangelists as they travel great distances to share the gospel. Pray for the provision of transport so they are able to travel more efficiently and more often to remote locations.

Prayer for the workers in Syria and their continued protection. Give thanks for the conference held in Lebanon, that it was a time of great joy in celebrating Jesus together. That they were provided with a location that was safe. That Neville and Gunnar were able to attend to encourage and support this resilient and faithful group of believers.

Praise for the baptisms of new believers in the Philippines and Tanzania. Pray for spiritual protection as they grow in their faith and share it with those around them.

Pray for the provision of finances so that DMI is able to send the full allocated budget to our workers each month. That the work of DMI may continue until Christ's return. We are thankful that our Heavenly Father supplies all of our needs.



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