

Deaf Ministries International

Issue 20 | January 2019

Taking the Gospel to the Deaf

Happy New Year!

We have begun the new year on a high and are excited about what the Lord has in store for us this year. As a trial, we are using a different format for our newsletter. There wasn't anything wrong with the old one but, a change of format might bring a freshness which may attract an interest in looking at it. We are never sure how many letters just get dumped into file #13 (the rubbish bin) and never looked at. Your feedback would be appreciated.

I am looking forward to getting through all the chemo stuff and back into full swing. I have just finished my second treatment and really feel like a cancer patient because my hair has started to fall out. There wasn't much there in the first place so



no great loss. I am managing ok and have been able to continue working for the most part. I am taking it easy and obeying doctor's orders. During my first treatment I craved French Fries, this time I enjoyed a cup of tea with cheese & crackers during the process. We are happy to report that Ian is also doing better; is back at work and, although still fairly

heavily medicated, is coping very well. We hope to have the medication reduced early in February. Lill is managing very well too, which is great as she has more responsibilities with Ian being a bit limited and me not 100%. God is good and we are getting through very well.

I guess I will be a bit limited until the end of April but, I am still available for deputation meetings locally between treatments. Local means anywhere from Melbourne to Perth to Darwin and in between. No overseas ones however! Thank you for your prayers and understanding.

God Bless,
Neville and Lill



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Tanzania

The team in Tanzania continue to be enthusiastic about sharing the gospel with the deaf, not only in their own communities, but



reaching out to those who have not yet been exposed to Christ. In late 2018, DMI Tanzania took the opportunity to participate in celebrating deaf week. A group from the deaf church travelled nine hours to the country's capital, Dodoma. There they shared with guests by singing, using sign

language and showed their skills in making handcrafts. Many guests were interested in what they had to share and they were able to break down some 'walls' between the hearing and the deaf. There are still many prejudice assumptions against the deaf in this country. Parents of deaf children were able to see

the joy and fellowship that was shared among this deaf group and as a result, were willing to send their children to a deaf church. What an opportunity for these deaf children to finally hear the gospel in a language they understand, to have fellowship and be encour-

aged by other deaf believers. You may remember in last year's September newsletter, when we shared the story of Neville ordaining three pastors over Skype. We have received reports that they are hard at work, teaching and guiding the church and helping the congregation to grow in their spiritual walk. The congregation are very thankful for them as there are many deaf people in Tanzania but, the workers are few. They ask that we continue to pray for them as they serve



Because of your support ...

With funds that came in last year we are slowly purchasing vehicles and equipment for some of our fields. A motor bike for the Congo; a 3-wheeled (or maybe a 4-wheeled) bike for one of our handicapped evangelists in Uganda; further equipment for Kenya; insurances paid and crash helmets purchased. We are so thankful for the donations



received to make this necessary equipment available. We pray for safety for our workers who will be using these vehicles.

It's Your Opportunity to Give



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 for a brochure or more information

The Congo

The Congo continues to face great challenges of safety due to rebel operations. The roads are unsafe to travel due to rebel attacks, which can result in looting and often people are killed. People are understandably hesitant to travel, which is a challenge when there are communities of the deaf who need to be reached. Besides the rebel attacks, they also have had to face outbreaks of Ebola. Some of the deaths from this unforgiving disease have affected members of the deaf community in Beni.

Despite these horrific circumstances the work continues. Our deaf school in Beni has two new buildings thanks to the generous gifts from Norwegian donors.



The school had a celebration for the opening of the new buildings, which included drama,

cultural dancing and sharing a meal together. There are twenty-five students who are eager to learn. These students all come from very poor families and they struggle to pay the fees.



Support is needed to supply the students with notebooks, pens and even clothes.

As a necessary safety precaution, the teachers have been taught how to protect themselves and the students from contracting Ebola. Hygiene measures have been put in place, which the staff and children need to follow to help prevent an outbreak.

Please keep this community in

your prayers as they continue to “do life” in such dangerous circumstances.

The Deaf Churches in Beni, Goma and Butembo continue to meet regularly, growing spiritually and sharing the gospel by reaching out to the deaf in their communities. They have been sharing passages from the bible with the deaf who are sick in hospitals and visiting the homes of those who are celebrating the birth of babies. Revd Josephat Mulongo visited a man in a hospital in



North Kivu. While cultivating his farm on a hillside, a rock dislodged, rolled down and crushed his lower leg. It was so badly broken that the doctors had to amputate. This man lives in a remote village with his wife and two children. Josephat was able to share the gospel with him and offer him a small gift from the church. Please keep this man in your prayers; pray for guidance as he needs to find a way to provide for his family, and that he will put his trust in God for his future.



Gone home to Glory



It is with great sadness we report the passing of two wonderful workers among the deaf. Kenneth Nuttall died of a sudden heart attack at his home in Scotland. He had been an evangelist in the UK for many years and had been interested in the work of DMI during this time. Our condolences to his wife, children and grandchildren.

Kenneth

Israel Mungumwena was an outstanding deaf person, former Chairman of the Burundi National Association of the Deaf and DMI evangelist. He died suddenly while returning to his home village. At the time of writing, the cause of Israel's death is not known.

Everyone who knew these men of God are in a state of shock at the moment. Your prayers for family, friends and associates would be most appreciated.



Israel

Praise and Prayer

- Praise for the gift of a new year where we have the opportunity to share the gospel so that many more lives will be touched by God's saving grace.
- Pray for Neville and family as he continues with his chemo treatment. Pray that the treatment will work! That he will travel once again, encouraging those in the fields and to oversee the work.
- Pray for comfort for the families of Kenneth and Israel. Give thanks for these men of God; for the way they dedicated their lives to following Jesus with hearts for sharing the gospel with the unreached.
- Praise for the work that continues in the Congo despite the civil unrest and outbreak of disease. Pray for protection for our workers as they share the gospel to those who need to hear it the most, that they continue to be a light in a country containing such darkness.
- Praise for the opportunity the Tanzanian group had to participate in deaf awareness week; that they were able to break down some walls of ignorance so that deaf children could be given the opportunity to hear and understand the word of God.
- While giving God the glory that DMI will receive the financial support it needs to meet the 2019 budgets for the fields, we acknowledge that there will always be months of scarcity. Trusting our faithful God, who is in charge of every detail and knows whose hearts to touch.



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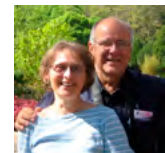
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