

# DEAF ACTION SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2017

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## THANK YOU SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

I would like to pass on the sincere thanks from parents, teachers and students, who greatly appreciate the financial assistance given so our disadvantaged deaf children can go to school. The schools ask all parents to pay school fees, but many cannot afford to pay anything at all.

We do not deny education to any deaf child from a needy home.

## Immanuel Christian School for the Deaf in KENYA

More than 80 students are very grateful to be able to attend school at I.C.S.D. and they continue to work hard in their study and sport.

The months prior to the national elections in Kenya were very disruptive and a new election has been called by the High Court in Kenya! Since early this year food costs have increased. Corn has doubled in price, sugar, milk, vegetables and cereals have all tripled in price.

But the new dining and kitchen building shown in the middle of the two dormitories, is a wonderful asset to the school and the students are very grateful to have



the comfortable new buildings. It is used for school dinner and as a hall for school and parent meetings. It is the best hall available in the area.

The new classroom building will be a great asset, and plastering, painting and tiling is continuing.



The school is very grateful to an Indian family who visited and have very kindly donated heavy duty mattresses, blankets, plates and cups for each student.

## MUIR SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF at KALAY in MYANMAR

This school now has 36 students enrolled, 21 boys and 15 girls. 10 new little ones started in June and are settling into living away from home well. They are all over 5 and the older students love and care for the new little ones, so they adjust to school well. Even the older boys care for the little ones as in the photo below.



The causes of deafness at this school are both hereditary and due to tropical diseases such as malaria, meningitis, hepatitis; and high fevers that cause ear infections and hearing loss. The people in this Chin area live in small villages. There is no public transport and few people own motorbikes. This means that transport to a doctor is too late, or the child needs such high doses of antibiotic to save their life that their hearing is destroyed.

So there are many deaf adults in this area who live as farm workers and have never been to school. A teacher from the school visits the nearby town of Pyin Daw Oo every weekend to teach the adults basic life skills. Their old bamboo building is falling down and a concrete slab for a new building has been poured; but the wet season has stopped transport of building materials on flooded roads.

Subsistence farming and growing vegetables is an important life skill, so the students learn to care for the school garden and feed the 2 pigs.



## F. C. L. C. at Ligao in the PHILIPPINES

The new school year started on June the 5th, but teachers and parents were busy long before that date preparing for the students. Parents gave the school campus a thorough cleaning, painted rooms, and made minor repairs. The teachers returned to work in mid May and conducted home visits and follow up of students as well as general preparation of classrooms. There are 32 children enrolled in the Elementary School, 32 in Junior School and 24 in Senior High School.

Several young children commenced their Kindergarten year, and 15 students are returning to study at Year 12 level. Completing a full education is a great achievement for these deaf students and all parents are very grateful for the sponsorship and financial support that helps their children complete education and gain confidence.

The important role of parents is acknowledged at Graduation when a parent (not the Principal or teacher) actually presents the certificate to the student. The important role of parent participation in the child's education is emphasized right throughout their school years. The photos below show 2 parents with their sons on Graduation Day. The middle photo shows a performance of a flower dance, that signifies the maturing of the students during their school years.



Dressmaking, and Bread and Pastry production are two vocational subjects studied in Years 11 and 12. Shops that will provide work experience placements for the students have been found in the area. A fully qualified, volunteer Dressmaking Teacher, has offered to teach the Year 12 students the finer points of dressmaking.

The farm has provided finance for the school through the sale of 12 fattened pigs, a range of fruit, copra from coconuts and the harvesting of 58 sacks of rice. A new rice crop, vegetables and root crops have been planted again. The rice mill motor has been repaired and waterproofing of the 5 classroom roofs continues. A new kitchen is still needed.



## STUDENTS at SCHOOLS for the DEAF in UGANDA

All the sponsored students in Uganda are very needy and their parents cannot pay their school expenses. Some are orphans cared for by guardians or elderly grand parents. Others come from large families where the education of deaf children is not seen as a priority.

Thank you to those sponsors who regularly support the students at



**Wakiso Secondary School for the Deaf in Uganda.** These bright deaf students appreciate the opportunity they have been given. The Ugandan government build this new school in 2005. But the first secondary school for the deaf in Uganda was commenced many years ago by Deaf Ministries Interna-

tional. Thank you to the sponsors of these promising deaf students who would not receive secondary education without sponsorship.

There are 4 younger deaf children at **Ndeese Primary School** at Mukono, an outer suburb of Kampala, who now have sponsors, and are very thankful to go to school. They are in this group with some of their friends. Thank you for your generosity to them.



Some students at **St. Mary's School for the Deaf** have been sponsored for several years and continue to progress.



It is very sad to read about the extreme needs of some of the children in Uganda, but with thanks for sponsorship fifteen orphans or very needy students are attending school and receiving good nutrition .

## **BACOLOD DORMITORY and the FARM at ZAMBOANGUITA**

There are 20 students at this dormitory now and it is a wonderful home for the students. They all live too far away from a school for the deaf to travel from home each day. Travel home takes many hours for those who come from Samar Island. The youngest student is 6 and the eldest is 26 years old. The younger children attend the Special Education Center (SPED) for the Deaf and the older students attend Bacolod City High School. Both schools gives deaf children special attention.



***Bacolod SPED Center***



***Bacolod City High School***

The students have the chance to develop individual skills in the sport of their choice at school and enjoy playing games, using computers and Art and Craft activities in the dormitory after school.

Three ex-students have gained overseas employment, and now completed their first 3 months. They are glad to support themselves and help their families, and are returning to work for another 3 months.

The **farm at Zamboanguita** is going well and the 2 small shops that sell the produce are making a profit. Hen and quail eggs, goat's milk and cheese, fresh pork and herbs/vegetables are some of the produce for sale this season. 8 deaf people were employed earlier in the year prior to the monsoon rain when the farm was busy.

**Thank you to everyone who is sponsoring a deaf student or supporting the schools in general. We greatly appreciate your regular payments.**

**You can be assured that your sponsorship donations go to your student's school. Our office and travel expenses are paid by designated donations.**

**Education is a life changing gift to give a disadvantaged deaf child**

**Jenny Reid: Voluntary Sponsorship Coordinator**

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