

DEAF ACTION NEWSLETTER - MAY 2017

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THANK YOU SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

We are grateful to everyone who has given to our schools and vocational training programs already this year.

Thank you for your kindness to deaf children and young adults in the disadvantaged countries of Philippines, Myanmar, Kenya and Uganda. Life is very hard for the deaf in these countries.

JUNE is the END of the FINANCIAL YEAR!

It is close to the end of the financial year now so if you would like to increase your tax deductible donations for this financial year we would be very thankful for any extra amounts you are able to donate. Our 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. Our schools economise as much as they can but government regulations for schools must be followed.

SUCCESS for DEAF STUDENTS

It is very encouraging to see many senior students who excel after years of study and character development; with thanks to our dedicated teachers who work for low salaries.



This is **Sara Jane**. She is 22 and has been supported to complete her education at Ligao. She graduated from secondary school at F.C.L.C. last year and is currently studying to be a teacher at Laguna Teachers' College.

Jomar is 24 and he completed secondary education at D.M.I. in Davao. He then continued his study and graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Education in 2016

from the D.M.I College in Davao. He is now training on the job in the school and is another example of what deaf students can achieve if they are given the opportunity of an education.



FISHERMEN of CHRIST LEARNING CENTRE at LIGAO, PHILIPPINES

Another typhoon hit this school on Christmas Day 2016! There seems to be no end to the hardship the Filipino people endure. Smaller buildings were damaged and the fruit on the plantation trees was destroyed. Classroom rooves were damaged and the supporting timber beams, which need replacing, may not survive any more bad weather.

In February a work team from Australia brought 2 more computers to the school and completed a range of minor works. This included temporary repair of the classrooms rooves; replacing the windows that were broken; installing exhaust fans in the toilets and building a stronger smoke house.

School fundraising activities last year allowed for the stage in the hall to be extended and tiled; as shown in this photo of young students performing a dance at the 32nd Graduation ceremony in March 2017. Five students graduated from the Elementary (Primary) school. Nine students



completed Grade 10, but will continue to Year 12 now that 6 years of secondary education is required in the Philippines.

The students who completed Grade 10 will continue to study the important English and Mathematics subjects as well as choosing vocational subjects for Years 11 and 12. They have chosen Bread and Pastry production, and Dressmaking. Both these areas can help provide employment or small home business opportunities for deaf people.

Another SUCCESS STORY comes from Ligao where Neville Muir once saw a young boy living on the street. Neville thought he was deaf by his behaviour and eventually arranged for him to come to our school. This was a long and difficult adjustment for Jesus, but he was loved and cared for by the teachers and other workers and has slowly changed his ways. He is now a happy and caring young man. He will be 21 this year and lives at the school. He cooks and works at the weekend to support himself and is continuing his study. He is completely changed by the love that has been shown to him.



Immanuel Christian School for the Deaf in KENYA

What a momentous year this has been for the 100 students at I.C.S.D. in Kenya! The new hall/kitchen building is now used for meals and assembly. It replaced an old tin dining room and smoky kitchen. Now a



new two-storey building is well on the way to completion. **Very special thanks go to Pastor Michael Gantt from the U.S.A.** who has raised most of the finance for these buildings. Thanks also to a generous supporter from Japan. This new Administration and Classroom building is prominently placed between the two dormitories. Our school buildings will be some of the best in this part of Kenya and this extra space will allow for future vocational training opportunities for older students.

Eight students have gained entry to Kuja High School after passing with high scores that allow them to continue education at secondary level. They are to be commended for achieving this level and we hope they will study hard and be future leaders of the deaf in Kenya. The school continues to excel in sport and was ranked best in the county. 14 students were selected to go on to the Regional Sport festival where 500 students will participate.

BACOLOD and BORONGAN DORMITORIES in the PHILIPPINES

More than 30 students board at these two dormitories and attend various schools that cater for their needs. Learning does not stop after school. Home work is supervised and activities include using computers, sport and craft.



BACOLOD and BORONGAN DORMITORIES continued

Some students who stayed at these dormitories, and travelled home for the weekend, have now learned to travel to school independently. Using public transport is another skill deaf students need to gain confidence in so that they can travel by themselves in the hearing world.

Deaf Ministries Institute at DAVAO in the PHILIPPINES

Over 90 students from kindergarten to college level completed another year of study at D.M.I. Davao in April this year. They have now returned to commence the new school year. 9 Elementary students, 8 High School students and 6 Bachelor of Education students graduated this year. Awards for academic excellence were presented and included academic and sporting honours, plus awards for a range of achievements and skills. This photo shows the teachers and graduates from each of the school levels.



All students are commended for at least one particular subject, or skill they have gained. They are presented with a certificate for their achievements over

the year. These include most respectful, industrious, resourceful, inquisitive, patient, generous, punctual, neat, etc.

The teachers are careful to be sure no one misses out on gaining a certificate for at least one aspect of their school work in which they do well. In addition to the Graduation Ceremony the school conducts Commencement Exercises that prepare students for the new school year.

A work team from Australia visited in January and completed minor works at the school. They ran a camp including activities that help develop water safety skills.



MUIR SCHOOL for the DEAF at Kalay in MYANMAR

The students at Muir School for the Deaf have returned to school after the school holidays during the monsoon season. There are very few sealed roads and very little public transport, so travel is extremely difficult during the monsoon. More than 30 students attend this school and some travel from little villages in the Chin Hills and near the border with



India. Nights can be cold in Kalay so the students now have warm school wind-cheaters as part of their uniform. Our school has been given permission to extend their curriculum to Year 9 and students in Year 10 go to high schools.

The school has a productive garden where the students learn to grow food on a minor scale. They have also raised 8 pigs that will go off to market soon to provide some minor fundraising for the school.

Our leaders in Myanmar have been working on publishing a book of Burmese signs for several years, and it is now nearing completion. This will be a great advantage for all deaf people in Myanmar where signs for deaf people have not been consistent.



The concrete slab for the new deaf community building at the little town of Pyin Dae Oo near Kalay has been poured and the new two-storey building is progressing well. It will include a workshop for the deaf adults who have had no education. It is difficult for deaf people in these disadvantaged countries, but they are happy to learn to communicate using sign language and enjoy having deaf friends.



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STUDENTS at SCHOOLS for the DEAF in UGANDA

We do not have our own school for the deaf in Uganda, but some very needy deaf students, who are orphans or have no family who can pay their school fees, are supported so that they can attend school.

Brian, Mary, Sam, Prossy and Yuba at St. Mary's School for the Deaf have progressed to Grade 5 now and are doing well at school. Jordan, Alan and Solome are also very needy and attend Ndesse Primary School. They understand the value of education and their smiles show the self esteem school attendance is giving them.



Carolyn graduated with vocational training in tailoring and is now working in her aunt's dressmaking shop. Absolom, Simon and Ruth continue their teaching careers and Joseph has completed his tertiary qualifications and will be married in April. He is considering his employment opportunities.

Thank you to everyone who is sponsoring one or more deaf students. We greatly appreciate your regular payment of the full amount each year. All payments received by the end of June will be receipted in time for this financial year.

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

If you would like a speaker to share about sponsorship for a group please contact me. I have interesting slideshows and videos of the students and would be glad to present them to advertise Deaf Action. Please contact me if you can help in any way.

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

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