

## DEAF ACTION NEWSLETTER - MAY 2018

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### THANK YOU SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

We are very grateful to you all for your donations toward the running of our schools and vocational training programs. Thank you for your kindness to deaf students in the disadvantaged countries of Philippines, Myanmar, Kenya and Uganda. Life is very hard for deaf people in these countries, but education gives our students opportunities for the future and friends for life.

### TAX TIME IS NEAR

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 parents to pay fees, but some families cannot afford to pay anything. Some donate farm produce to the school.

### SUCCESS for DEAF STUDENTS

Our Year 12 students at Davao and Ligao have now graduated as the first deaf students to complete Senior High School at our schools in the Philippines. This is a great achievement for these students, parents and teachers. It is very encouraging to see deaf students who excel after years of study and character development; with thanks to our dedicated teachers who work for low salaries.

These graduates at Fishermen of Christ Learning Center in Ligao made their own Graduation Costumes as part of their assessment! They completed Dressmaking as their Technical Vocation during Year 12. Other students at Ligao chose Baking and Bread Making.



There is more news from both these schools inside

## Immanuel Christian School for the Deaf at Ringa in KENYA

So much has been happening at our school in Kenya, I don't know where to start! Ps Michael Gantt from the U.S.A. has continued to raise money to finish the Administration and Classroom building that will be opened in June. This final building, as well as the 2 dormitories and the Hall/Dining Room provide very good educational facilities for the deaf community in this area. **We are very grateful to Ps Gantt for his ongoing support of this school and fund raising for these buildings.**

**Deaf and hearing Trainee Teachers** are enrolled in the Teacher Training College on the same campus. They also gain teaching experience in the classrooms with guidance from the class teachers. **This photo shows the students with the lecturers and teachers.**



ICSD hosted the District Sports this year and also won 1st position overall! Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to make this event a success and to the 13 students who went to the Nationals in Mombasa.

The school farm continues to thrive with inter-cropping of corn and sweet potatoes, bananas, and 200 chickens ready for dinner!

The **cows graze between the buildings** to keep the grass down and washing is dried on the line of shrubs that border the dormitories.



Thank you all sponsors and supporters, for making this school a wonderful place for deaf students to grow strong and learn.

## Fishermen of Christ Learning Center, Ligao, Philippines



Mt Mayon Volcano erupted again on January the 12th. The government closed all schools for a week. The students who lived near it were moved to evacuation centres. Everyone needed face masks because the volcanic dust is dangerous to breathe. The school buildings and garden were covered with dust, but we are thankful that it did not kill the rice crop and fruit plantations.

Photo of Mayon Volcano taken from the school roof



The end of the school year has been very busy. Fifteen Senior High School students graduated (see photo page 1). The students in lower grades were not forgotten and they received **awards** at the **Award and Recognition Ceremony** on February 2nd.

The school has an excellent **Computer Room** now. **Thank you** to supporters who have donated towards high quality laptop computers. It is very important for deaf students to learn to use computers because it is a visual skill. Some students find jobs using computers. Mobile phones are also important for them.

The school is on a major road and has started a **shop selling rice, eggs, chicken, pork** and everyday food items; cold drinks and ice creams are also popular.



Two students who graduated are running this business. They have been trained in small business skills by the **Livelihood Program** that helps ex-students learn to support themselves for life.

## Deaf Ministries Institute at Davao in the Philippines

Graduation was a big success this year. The 23 students and teachers are shown in this photo. **CONGRATULATIONS** to them all.



11 Primary students (in white gowns)  
6 Senior High School students (in yellow)  
5 College students (in black gowns)  
The college students have been studying for more than 16 years!

This is a great achievement for each one.

## Bacolod Dormitory in the Philippines

19 deaf students are now staying at the dormitory. They are all good students and have won academic or sporting awards! 3 students graduated from Senior High School in April. 3 other students worked on-the-job at a hotel and restaurant for 180 hours. This gives them experience to help find jobs. Visitors from Australia were the **Illawarra Rotary** and the **Cameron family**. We thank them very much for their generosity.



## Muir School for the Deaf at Kalay in MYANMAR

The Myanmar government has changed the grade numbers and added a **Kindergarten year**; so please don't be surprised if the grade on your student's sponsorship card is lower than before! All students have finished another year of learning.

Several new children commenced their education in June last year when the new school year started. Sadly, some children have been deafened by tropical diseases like malaria and hepatitis. Families living in isolated villages cannot travel to doctors quickly. The children often need high doses of antibiotics and these can destroy their hearing.

The government is trying to address disadvantage.

**Disability Week**, is held each year. It highlights the achievements of disabled people. The whole school attended the celebrations at a hall in Kalay. The aim (written on the sign) is to foster



*'Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all.'* Our students presented a Chin traditional dance in **ethnic costume**.

The school visited **Agozya Dam about 30 miles from Kalay** for a picnic. The students enjoyed fishing, swimming and many different games. For Christmas the school visited the deaf community at Pyin Daw Oo



village. The teachers from the school go there every weekend and teach the adults who have never been to school.

The students help feed the pigs at school and water the garden. They have bananas, tomatoes, onions and garlic growing now.

## STUDENTS in UGANDA, ZAMBIA and RWANDA

Thank you to the sponsors of students in Zambia, Rwanda and Uganda. We do not have our own schools in these countries but individual students who are orphans or from very needy families are sponsored. Some students have now advanced to tertiary education and are exceptional deaf students.

The most advanced students are Alphonsine in Rwanda, who is studying for a degree in Business Studies; and Sylvia and Peter studying Institutional Catering in Uganda.



**Sign Language classes to train Interpreters** have been started in Uganda where Signing Interpreters are needed for students at tertiary level.

Rachel and Winnie are progressing well in their senior studies at Wakiso Secondary School for the Deaf in Uganda.

These students in red attend **St. Mary's School in Mityana, about 70 km from Kampala.** Another four disadvantaged students attend Ndesse School in Mukono, an outer suburb of Kampala. Among the younger students, Hastings and Maliza are continuing their study in Zambia.



### CHRISTMAS CARDS

Some of our children in these disadvantaged countries do not know their actual birthdays! But they do celebrate Christmas; so if you would like to send a Christmas card to your student please mail it to our office before November and I will mail all the cards to each school.

*If you live within driving distance from Melbourne and would like a speaker for a club or group please contact me.*

*I have interesting slideshows and videos of our deaf students, and would be glad to tell your group about Deaf Action.*

### THANK YOU FOR GIVING DEAF STUDENTS THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

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