



September 2019

A New School Year Has Begun

The schools in the Philippines and Myanmar started their new school year in June and approximately 380 deaf students are studying at our schools. All our schools use signing and spoken language. Like spoken languages worldwide, deaf sign languages are different in most countries! Some countries use a one handed alphabet and others a two handed alphabet. Some deaf signs are similar but, many are different. But the important thing is that young children are learning to communicate using deaf signs and many are finding a deaf friend for the first time in their lives!

Myanmar



Neville was very pleased to be able to visit Myanmar with Andrew and encourage the workers and deaf students there. The children in Kalay like to line up and shake hands when guests arrive as



Biak - past student

in this photo. There are 40 deaf children this year, including 5 new Grade 1 children. Most children come from towns in the Chin area and school gives them education and deaf friends. The government insists that our 9 high school students attend classes at the government high school, where

teachers do not sign. But our caring teachers help them understand their notes after school hours.

A lady Principal has now been appointed to the school and she is wearing her *Look* shirt to remind the students to watch the teacher.

Biak, one of our past students is only the second deaf student in the whole of Myanmar to complete the full 6 years of High school. He is now employed as a teacher at our school. What a successful young man.

Deaf supporters from Korea visited recently and donated 2 new TVs, a refrigerator and tools.

The 'Myanmar Deaf Development Community' recently offered education to our deaf people in Yangon, explaining "the rights of disabled people and the need to decrease gender based violence."



Principal

KENYA

Kenya Water Appeal - Sufficient funds raised!!



I am so pleased to thank all our supporters for donations for the 'Water for Kenya' appeal in the last newsletter. We have raised sufficient to cover the cost for bore water to be brought by pipeline to the school.

Learning new skills

The school in Kenya has now introduced new skills, which students need to learn prior to starting secondary education. The older students are learning to use computers and the girls are learning sewing. Thank you to those who have donated towards the purchase of computers and sewing machines. More are needed, so if you would like to consider donating the cost of one please contact us.

The graduates from this school continue to have the highest exam results of all schools (including hearing) in this part of Kenya. 8 graduate students gained very good results in the Kenyan Certificate of Primary

The local Education Board has helped us with these negotiations. The water will come from another school and through 4 private properties by a pipeline. Payments have been made to the school and the property owners. The District Water Engineer is now helping to plan the route for the 2km pipeline to follow. Tanks for storage and plumbing will also be needed at our school. This water supply will make a huge difference to the comfort of students and teachers.

Education and are now studying at Kuja High school. 9 other students are combining practical training and study at Sikri Vocational College where they learn a trade.



PHILIPPINES

Bacolod Dormitory

This dormitory has 12 students living at the dormitory and continuing their study at the schools in Bacolod. Some students have gained enough confidence to travel independently to their school or are attending a school closer to home. They have now left our Sponsorship program.

The students who live at the Bacolod Dormitory and attend primary and secondary schools in Bacolod, have achieved very good results in their end of year exams.



Realyn

Graduated from Grade 6 and received Honours and Academic Excellence Awards for Co-operation, Patience and Perseverance



Regine

Completed Grade 4 and received Academic Awards for Best in Art, Penmanship, and Dancer of the Year



Mary Jane

Completed Grade 2 and received the Extra Miler, Happy helper, Cheerful Soul, and Eager Beaver Awards!



Rhean

Graduated from Grade 6 and received Honours and Academic Excellence Awards in Art and Reading



Gerald

Completed Grade 7 (Year 1) High School and received Honours and Academic Awards

LIGAO - Fishermen of Christ Learning Center

Neville Muir, our Founding Director visited the school in August at the same time as a group of young people from America. The students at Ligao always enjoy teaching visitors to sign in Philippine sign language and everyone likes playing games. The visitors toured the school rice fields and tree plantations, made friends with the pigs and inspected the poultry farm and rice mill.



Drinking fresh coconut juice was a new experience for them and tree planting is one of the tasks they enjoyed while there. They also visited the Mayon Volcano viewing site and other local tourist attractions.

There are 77 students now attending this school with classes for Kindergarten to Senior High School students and more young ones will start as they are ready, throughout the year.

Nutrition Week is celebrated each year in the Philippines and the students cook and learn about the importance of eating fresh and nourishing food. The school sets a good example because the farm grows many tropical fruits, and farm products are sold to the public in the school shop.



DAVAO - Deaf Ministries Institute

The students have returned to school after their holidays and have settled into their new grades. The graduates who completed a College degree have studied for more than 16 years, and those who graduated from High School have worked hard for at least 13 years. They are all to be commended for their perseverance in achieving this level of education. The 3 College Graduates are shown here.



ZAMBOANGUITA - Naturally Negros Project



Naturally Negros is now making many new products for sale to their customers. This organisation employs deaf people as workers and trains them on the job. Their products include Mango Chutney, Pickled Cauliflower and Pickled Quail Eggs. They now offer Liquid Hand Soap in a foaming dispenser, Bath Soap, and will soon have Shampoo. Products now include 16 different Essential Oils, Skin Oils, Virgin Coconut Oil, 3 kinds of Coffee, and their best ever seller is honey.

UGANDA



There was a heavy storm through the Wakiso Secondary School area about a month ago and the roof was ripped off the 2 classrooms where the Senior 1 and Senior 2 students were sitting their exam.

The news from Uganda reads:
“The roof went flying, cutting

down two trees in the compound and finally landed about 50 metres from the classroom block. All this happened without the knowledge of the deaf students but they were alerted by their hearing teachers. At first the rain was kept from wetting the students by the ceiling boards, and the teachers planned an evacuation of the students into the neighbouring blocks. No sooner had they left the rooms than the ceiling boards gave way and sank due to the weight of water!” As well as damage to the building many school books were ruined by the rain and will need to be replaced.

Vocational Training is very important for our older students so they have a skill to use to support themselves through life. Simon K. in Uganda has now commenced a training course in Shoe Repairing at a Vocational School that caters for deaf students. He has some contact with his birth family but they cannot sign and he has been cared for by the family of another deaf student. The deaf who have little themselves try to help each other.



*Simon K with Rachel (left)
& her Mother (centre)*

St. Marys School for the Deaf at Mityana

Mityana is about 70 km from the capital city, Kampala. Four students are sponsored there. They are orphans or from very poor homes and are very thankful to be able to attend school. The school also teaches girls sewing and boys craft work that can lead to work when older.



Their progress is monitored by our Student Sponsorship Coordinator in Uganda who visits them and encourages them to study hard. This Sewing Room shows older girls learning how to use sewing machines.



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We are very grateful to all our loyal sponsors. A special thank you to our supporters who give extra donations during these 'later' months of the year when our income drops, yet the costs of the schools are ongoing.