

Deaf Ministries International

Issue 24 | October 2019

Taking the Gospel to the Deaf

Dear Friends,

A newsletter from some months ago included mostly African news. A few people thought we were only working in Africa and had dropped our other fields. When you read this newsletter you might think we only work in the Philippines as that land will be the focus for this one. The reason for this emphasis is because Lill, Ian and I have just spent time in Ligao and Bacolod, as has Pastor Andrew who writes our blogs. Jenny our sponsorship coordinator and Susi our finance administrator, visited Davao also. Some people thought that I was being irresponsible travelling in the middle of treatment, but my oncologist told me to go as the chemo treatment was not working anyway. She referred me to Peter MacCullum Cancer Centre to take part in a medical trial on my return. When I presented at Peter Mac I was told I was not

a good candidate due to my other cancers and medical conditions. So, it was back to Epworth Hospital and my old oncology department for some other kind of treatment. I spent a week in Epworth for pain management. It seems that chemo is not working and my best chance is to get a new medication, which is not on the free list. It costs \$3729 a bottle each month, which is a bit out of my league. My oncologist

pleaded with the pharmaceutical company to give me the medicine on compassionate grounds. I was miraculously given the go ahead and started on the 9th of October. So, giving thanks to God that I was given the opportunity to take the medication, and prayer that it will work!

Lill flew to Norway 1st October for a month so Ian and I will hold the fort. Pray that we will manage ok

and don't burn the house down or have some other kind of disaster. Ian is still not very well and I am hardly a picture of vigour and health, but with God's help, and our boys and family around us, we will manage.

God Bless,



Neville and Lill



In this issue:

15 years
Anniversary
Bacolod

A visit
to
Davao

Ligao
vs
USA



www.deafmin.org



Bacolod



Some 15 years ago, Albert (D) and Kim (D) Mercado moved to Bacolod in the central part of the Philippines to begin a ministry to the deaf. Albert, being Filipino and Kim, a Korean missionary. They started a church

in the city of Bacolod followed by 10 more on the island of Negros. As well as that, they opened a dormitory for deaf children in Bacolod so that some rural deaf children and young people could attend the government school in that city.



About 120 deaf people joined in to celebrate 15 years of ministry in the Visayas region of the Philippines. It was great to have Lee Doo Hyong & Kumiko from Korea join the celebration, together with Doug & Val Clutton, Canadians living in the Philippines, who drove some 6 hours from

further south to attend. Lill & Ian came from Australia for the occasion. One of the pressing needs of the dormitory is to employ a qualified social worker. This is a requirement of the government if we want to keep our licence. We regard

it as an expensive nuisance as Albert & Kim can manage quite well but, we have to obey the powers that be. Finding one who knows sign language and can understand the deaf is another matter. Pray that we will be able to meet these demands and the added finances.



Making Christmas cards



Neville helping dorm kids with homework

2020 International Conference - Kenya

Every three years, DMI holds an international conference.

This is a great opportunity for you to share in fellowship with other DMI supporters and workers from around the world.

Next conference will be held in Kenya

VENUE:

Mombasa Continental Resort

DATE:

10th – 15th August 2020

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Inyeong Heo (South Korea)

Registrations are open!
www.dmikenya2020.com



John 17:21 "... that all of them may be one Father, just as you are in me and I am in you"



There are all kinds of ways to raise money for DMI. The Cameron family in Perth Western Australia obtained large loads of small bags of grain. They emptied the wheat into drums and sold them to support the work in the Philippines. Neoliza, from Bacolod, is here with her fiancé Charles. Thanks to the Camerons for their generosity, time and resources.



Davao

By Susi (DMI Bookkeeper and Sponsorship Assistant) **My First Visit to Davao**

In early September, I went with Jenny (DA Sponsorship Co-ordinator), for a short visit to our Deaf school in Davao, Philippines. It was my first time there. In fact it was my first time ever to visit one of our schools! I have been helping Jenny with her sponsorship program for almost a year now and I have 'known' the students from reading their profiles in Jenny's spreadsheet! I was very excited to have the opportunity to meet them in person and to visit the school.

So, I left my two primary school aged daughters (Grade 5 and Grade 2) at home for my dear husband to look after. It was very unsettling when I left early in the morning for the airport on departure day because the night before my 2nd daughter had a 40°C fever which, thankfully by God's protection, had dropped down to 38°C within an hour. She had caught some viral infections from her recovering sister who was sick the week before. I felt very sorry and torn leaving her while she was sick. Thankfully my dear husband reassured me he would look after her and that I should just focus on what I need to do.

Mabuhay! As Filipinos say to welcome their visitors. We arrived in Davao in the evening around 9pm. When the school gate opened, I was very surprised to see a little boy suddenly appear and did some cartwheels across the floor and danced to greet us. He was followed by some other older students. They also signed a welcome song for us. I thought, wow! What a wonderful 'Mabuhay'!

The school celebrated National Language Week that week. So the next day, instead of their regular class time, for the whole day the students competed with each other in groups performing traditional dances, signing poems and a national costume showcase. Jenny and I sat as judges on the panel for the costume showcase (I took my role very seriously, giving deep thought before giving scores with Jenny pretty much copying everything from my scores paper! Haha!)

In the midst of that, we managed to take the individual photos of the students, which will be used for the front of students sponsorship cards.

On the second day, classes were back to normal. We took the opportunity to

get the students to make Christmas cards to send to their sponsors. I was able to have a good chat with some of the students during that time. They taught me Filipino Sign Language and I shared some Auslan with them too.

The highlight would be the day I finally received a sign name! In the Deaf community, a hearing person cannot give themselves a sign name. It must be given by a Deaf person and usually the sign name is given after a long observation on your personal traits or your physical appearance. Two boys, Ken Mac Lloyd Kiay and Nicole John Guleng discussed between themselves and decided on a sign name for me! With the hand-shape of an 'S' (as in American Sign Language) from my first name 'Susi' combine with the movement using the same hand along chin drawing out a smiley lips. I asked them "Why is that?" They said, because since the first day I had arrived, they noticed I always have smile on my face! I was very happy with my newly acquired sign name!

We departed the next day. It was a very short trip, too short I would say. I wish I had more of an opportunity to talk more with the students and to see how they were doing in their classes. But, I was also looking forward to seeing my family again. I can't wait until the next opportunity to meet students from our other Deaf schools.



Ligao



The Ligao school is encouraged by work teams who have come to visit from Australia, Korea and the US. They were recently blessed again by a team of high school kids from California. Together with their Youth Pastor, and

another friend as a chaperone, a group came from the Huntington Beach First Christian Church. They had a rousing time playing with our kids and interacting with our teachers. An intense basketball game kept everyone on their toes, cheering on our Filipino team, who were outdone by the Americans.



They took part in classroom activities including a cooking class, planted trees and enjoyed coconut juice straight from the coconut.



Thank you to all who came and participated and for the wonderful hospitality of our local people.

Praise and Prayer

- Praise for God's calling on Albert and Kim to Bacolod all those years ago to begin a ministry to the Deaf. Praise for the way God has used them to help plant many churches. For also providing a place where Deaf children can stay so they can not only receive an education, but be loved, nurtured and taught how much Jesus loves them.
- Praise for the opportunity Susi and Jenny had to visit the school in Davao. Praise for their safe travels and that they not only were able to see the work first hand, but meet and build relationships with the students and teachers.
- Praise for families like the Camerons who have a heart to help continue the work of DMI in a financial way; for the passion that they have to see Deaf communities know Christ's love and sacrifice for them. Pray for others to be prompted to help support the work of DMI in their own creative way.
- Praise for the recent STM trip of Huntington Beach church to Ligao. Give thanks not only for the work they did while they were there, but the relationships they built with the teachers and students.
- We continue to pray for Neville and the management of the cancer symptoms. We pray for strength as he begins another new treatment during October. We pray for healing from this unforgiving disease. Pray for Lill and the family as they support Neville through this challenging time.



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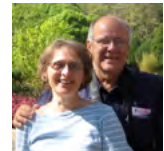
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