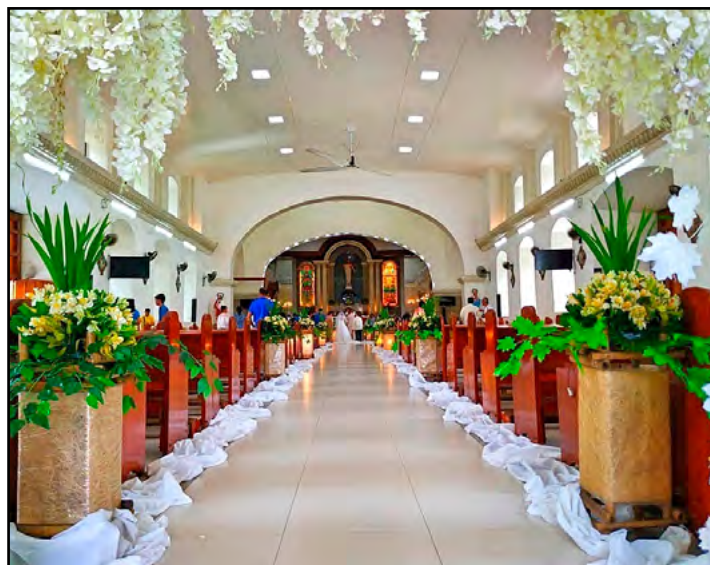




December 2019

What a success story!

Jonas is an ex-student who graduated from Ligao. He also trained and was given a small loan through the Small Business Training Program at Ligao. He repaid his original loan, and achieved remarkable success. He has now started his own business in event decoration and planning.



PHILIPPINES - Bacolod Dormitory

The Bacolod dormitory has now celebrated 15 years of helping the deaf community in Bacolod. Many deaf students have made deaf friends and completed education here. Congratulations to Albert and Kim who saw this need over 15 years ago. The dormitory is a loving home away from home. The students come from places where there are no suitable schools for deaf children and live at the Bacolod Dormitory during the week. Most go home each weekend but older ones like to stay sometimes if there is a special weekend activity in Bacolod! They also learn to keep their rooms tidy, and cook and garden.



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Bacolod Dormitory Cont...



Students dress up for celebrations

These students attend Special Education schools with hearing students. So it is an advantage that our deaf house parents can help them learn to

mix in with hearing children also. Our students participate in all the school sports programs. Two of our students advanced to the Provincial Sports Meeting competing against other schools in Track and Field events.

The Philippine government encourages special celebrations in every school each year. These students joined the Nutrition Week activities in July and the United Nations Celebration in October. Sport, eating and dressing up are always popular activities and all the students have

passed their grades for the first half of the new school year that started in June.

LIGAO Fishermen for Christ Learning Centre



USA vs Philippines basketball match

Visitors love to come to this school and often bring gifts or help with building and general maintenance; but I think it is really the children they love to see! The school is very grateful for their interest and donations that greatly contribute to the standard of the school.

In July a group from Berwick in Australia visited and helped build the new kitchen, paint doors, replace old globes with 80 LED ones and renovate the toilets.

In August Neville and Andrew visited to take photos of the students for sponsorship. An American Youth Team from Huntington Beach, California were visiting at the same time. They enjoyed playing basketball, joining in the bakery classes, planting trees, husking coconuts; as well as learning to

sign and make deaf friends their own age.

Then Ps Barry from Australia visited with more Americans in September and were a great blessing to everyone at Ligao. They helped with general maintenance and repaired the deaf farm workers quarters and installed new fans.

Each team took the whole school swimming, or to lunch or dinner out of the school. This was a real time of blessing for the whole school community. Each group was extremely generous, and altogether they have donated new uniforms for all the teachers and staff, new Tshirts and school bags for the students, bread and pastry cooking tools for the Senior High School elective studies, computers, fans, chairs, sports equipment, toys etc.



New kitchen renovations

DAVAO Deaf Ministries Institute

The Philippine government encourages all schools to participate in special celebrations throughout the year. Susi and I visited the school at Davao in September to take new photos of the students and update information. We were also entertained by the students when they celebrated National Language Week. The students performed dances dressed in national costumes from various parts of the Philippines. We saw the Bamboo Dance when the dancers need to jump very quickly while dancing between bamboo poles that are 'clapped together'! They were very agile and avoided getting their ankles hit during the dance.



A local hotel offered graduating students a traineeship in hospitality and 2 male and 2 female

MYANMAR Muir School for the Deaf

The students returned to school in June after the school holidays. There are 40 students studying at the school. The holidays are during the monsoon time of the year when temperatures are high, and heavy rain cause floods and makes travel on unmade roads very difficult. Sometimes the roads are unpassable. But all students have been able to return to school.

There are 31 Primary School students and 9 High School students. The government insist that our high school students attend the government high school.



students have now completed this training. It gives them an opportunity for employment in the future and the hotel has committed to continuing this training for senior students at the school. The students and teachers are currently preparing for their annual Anniversary celebration on November 28th. A special School Christmas program is also planned for December 15th. Most students go home but several young adult students who do not have parents stay at school with the Director and family. They earn some pocket money helping to look after the school while it is officially closed, and have become 'family' to each other. Some needy ex-students who have no homes are employed as general workers at the school.



The girls and boys all like playing soccer together at school during their play times.

Muir School for the Deaf Cont...



This is hard for them because the high school teachers do not sign! After school our students come back to the dormitory and our teachers help them with their lessons.

One of our teachers goes to Pintaw Oo village each weekend and teaches the adults who have never been to school. Abel, one of our past students lives there, and helps the older adults who have never been to school. Korean supporters donated clothes for the school and the deaf adults at Pintaw Oo village.

The pig project is going well and there are 4 big pigs that enjoy eating the school food scraps. Some pigs were sold last year.

CONGO Beni School for the Deaf

We badly need sponsors to support this school that has 70 deaf students who have never attended a suitable school before! New furniture has been bought and a toilet block has now been built. This is very important because Ebola continues to be a health problem in the Congo and the students are taught about good everyday hygiene. There are male and female toilets for staff and students, but they are not flushing water toilets like most of us enjoy! You need to flush with the dipper of water; but this help will stop Ebola in our school!



KENYA

Immanuel Christian School for the Deaf



This school will soon have a water supply! Teachers and students can then stop taking the donkey cart to the spring each day or carrying water on their heads!

THANK YOU very much for all the donations for the WATER FOR KENYA APPEAL.

Special thanks go to Barry and

Gail in Australia for suggesting that bore water was a possibility in this area of Kenya, and for their generous donation. The appeal has raised over \$20,000! We are very grateful for all donations.

The original cost to drill for water ourselves was too high, so our appreciation also goes to Weseley the school Director, who gained the cooperation and assistance of the local Education Board and the local Water Engineer. These regional government boards will monitor the work for us! This is a great advantage because the water will be piped 2.5 km from another school and through private properties. Workers are digging trenches to lay pipes now and the water will need to be pumped into tanks at the school to ensure uninterrupted supply. Thank you also to generous lady supporters in Japan who donated money for land, a new brick



kitchen and sewing machines for older students to learn to sew. Tailoring and Dressmaking are important skills that lead to vocational study and formal qualifications at Sikri Vocational College in Kenya. This college caters specially for our deaf students and it is an ideal place for our teenagers to gain qualifications in practical skills, trades, and farming. Other secondary students go on to learn more academic subjects at Kuja high School. Both



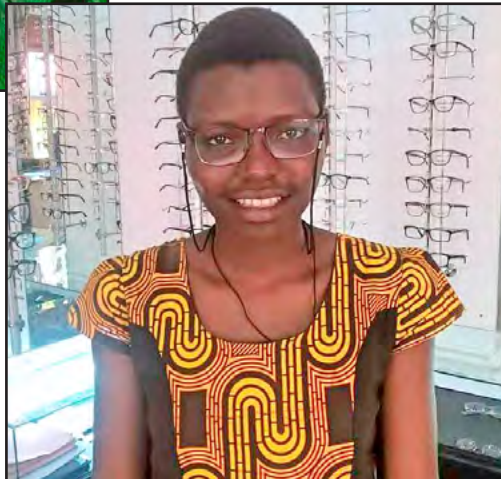
New kitchen

UGANDA



It is wonderful to see our older deaf students completing vocational training so they have a work skill and can support themselves through life. This is our final aim in education. Winnie is doing the practical work in hairdressing in this photo. The Kenyan ladies like their hair braided and even wash it in the braids!

Rachel started having eye problems but now has glasses that are helping her a great deal.



Simon has started his vocational training in shoe repairing and some students at St. Marys School and Mulago School are sitting for their end of year government exams.

Sylvia and Peter are continuing their practical placements for their qualifications in Institutional Catering and will finish next year. Sylvia also runs Signing Classes as a volunteer. Teaching sign language is one of our aims in Uganda so family conversation can include the deaf child.

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.

We hope you have a very happy Christmas and blessed New Year



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Credit Card facility available at office

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