

# Deaf Ministries International

Issue 28 | June 2020

*Taking the Gospel  
to the Deaf*

## He's Got the Whole World in His Hands Kenya

Josephat is head of DMI Kenya and has sent us an update on the situation there:

"As COVID-19 continues to spread, the future has never felt so unpredictable. These are challenging times for us all, and we hope you're in good spirits and health! Right now, we're struggling to keep our DMI-Kenya Ministry alive with all the challenges we are currently facing.

Banning of social gatherings by the Government has forced us to instruct our believers to stay at home and follow church service online. Unfortunately, the majority of the Deaf in Kenya can't access the online sermon because they are unable to access the internet. So, only a few are lucky to follow the online sermon.

Covid-19 is both a health and economic emergency which has negatively affected DMI Kenya Board members, workers, Church members and their families. Some have lost their source of income since the Government announced some measures such as staying at home, prohibiting social gatherings, partial curfew and restrictions of movement from one county to another. Most of the Deaf here in Kenya are very vulnerable. This pandemic has resulted into a crisis within the families since most of them are now unable to pay their house rents and feed their families. The situation is getting worse as some house owners/landlords threaten to evict the Deaf tenants. Even the Deaf are forced to change their daily meal plan by taking one or



*Medical check before lock-down restrictions*

two meals a day. Sometimes others have to sleep hungry due to failure to get foods.

The government has failed to provide relief foods to the vulnerable Deaf community."

Please be in prayer as we navigate through these difficult times.

### In this issue:

Floods  
The Congo  
& Burundi

Food  
Emergency  
Appeal

Farwell  
to  
Brenda



[www.deafmin.org](http://www.deafmin.org)





# Tanzania

Daniel Njihia, whose nationality is Kenyan, has been an Evangelist working for DMI in Tanzania for over 20 years; he opened our first Deaf Church in Tanzania in the year 2000. We received an email from Daniel to say that he was in

Kenya when the borders were shut due to COVID-19 and was unable to return to Tanzania and his family at this time.

As most countries have experienced, churches and gatherings have been closed. Kenya has

also implemented a curfew with no one to be out of their homes between the hours of 5pm to 5am. Daniel is finding it frustrating being stuck in Kenya as he knows he is needed back in Tanzania to help support the Deaf during this time.

## Floods in The Congo and Burundi

If COVID-19 wasn't enough, the townships on the borders of The Congo and Burundi experienced severe flooding when the banks of the Ruzizi river overflowed after torrential rains. Thousands of homes have been lost and people displaced. We haven't received much written information about the situation but, we have been sent photos which sometimes speak louder than words. The floods did not impact the Beni community.







# COVID-19 FOOD EMERGENCY

COVID-19 has had an impact on all of us around the world. Some countries have been impacted more than others, but every country has felt the effects. Many people that DMI support in developing countries are struggling harder than most.

Lock-down for them means no work, no income, no food.

We are launching an appeal to raise much needed funds to give these people access to staples to feed their families.

**PLEASE DONATE:**

[www.deafmin.org/donate](http://www.deafmin.org/donate)  
(Click on Food  
Emergency button)



QR CODE

Bank Transfer  
(details on back cover)  
use "food emergency"  
as reference

## Food Already Being Delivered

The funds for the Food Emergency Relief have started to come in and we have been able to start sending them to the fields that are in desperate need of support. Families in The Congo, Malawi, Philippines and Syria were so grateful to receive food supplies over the past few weeks. COVID-19 lockdowns have meant no income for so many which has resulted in not being able to put food on the table for their families. We pray that we will be able to continue to feed the hungry not only physically but also spiritually during this extra tough season.



[www.deafmin.org](http://www.deafmin.org)



# From Neville:

2020 has certainly been a year with so many unexpected twists, turns and changes which none of us saw coming. We are in the process of trying to get back to what we were used to, but I don't think that will ever fully happen. Some of the changes though we are very happy to welcome in. In our last newsletter the front-page article was written by Amy Jack. Someone called and asked who Amy was! Let me explain. Amy has been working in our office one day a week for the past 11 years now. She has been an admin assistant to Brenda, formatted the newsletter, does a lot of our graphic work and has been called on to help in many other matters around the office. Amy is the mother of 3 boys and lives together with her husband Rod in Drouin, West Gippsland, Victoria. This year Amy has doubled her time and is now working with us for two days a week and, has extended her duties to managing the website and Facebook page. Since the lock down she has been working from home as she has had to home school her children too. Hopefully as restrictions lessen and kids can go back to school, she can start coming back to work in the office. Thanks Amy.



Still more changes for us are afoot but this one is not so good. After 15 years of faithful service with DMI, Brenda is leaving us. This had nothing to do with lockdowns or COVID-19 viruses, but a desire to move closer to her daughter. Unfortunately for us her daughter lives in Townsville

in Northern Queensland. Brenda, together with her husband Darrell is moving from chilly Gippsland, Victoria, to the tropical north, so quite a change in store for them.

We cannot thank Brenda enough for her service to God though her work with DMI and Deaf Action over these past years. You may not have met her, but many of you will have received emails or spoken to her over the phone and been greeted warmly in her New Zealand accent. Now she will be in the tropics enjoying mangoes, pineapples and other tropical fruits, but hopefully not too many cane toads or crocodiles! Brenda began working for us when the office was in our home. She has overseen the office, its development and move to Pakenham during that time. Brenda has served with great distinction and integrity and has been a vital part of DMI since a few years after our arrival in Australia.

During her early days with DMI she was responsible for bookkeeping and was able, together with her daughter, to trace a large amount of money which went missing while the distribution of our funds was being handled by another organisation. In 2007, under the guidance and governance of World Relief Australia, the development of the Deaf Action Fund was another task Brenda was heavily involved with. She has had the joy of receiving donations over the phone and the not so pleasant tasks of fending off prank calls. We will always be thankful for Brenda; she has represented us in churches and conventions, ladies' groups and Bible study groups. She has so often gone the extra mile on behalf of the organisation.

We wish her and Darrell, God's richest blessings as they relocate into a new community. She will no doubt still be a good representative for DMI should the opportunity arise in Townsville. We hope and trust that our friendship will continue in spite of the long distance of separation.

On behalf of all DMI, I want to thank Brenda for her commitment and all she has contributed to this Ministry over the past 15 years.

Neville Muir

**We have many things to be thankful and grateful for even though the world is full of uncertainty at this time. Please continue to pray for the work of DMI as we reach out and minister to the deaf in different ways to how we have in the past. May we serve with servant hearts and our actions be those that reflect Christ in all we do.**



[www.deafmin.org](http://www.deafmin.org)

## DMI Evangelistic Donations:

*Please make cheques payable to:*

Deaf Ministries International  
Details for EFT:

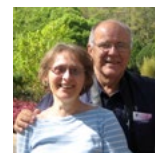
BSB: 633-000

Account: 145833539

Deaf Ministries International  
P O Box 395  
Beaconsfield, Victoria 3807  
Australia

Ph: 03 5940 5431

e-mail: [info@deafmin.org](mailto:info@deafmin.org)



**International Director  
& Missionary  
Neville & Lill Muir**  
[muir@deafmin.org](mailto:muir@deafmin.org)  
[lill@deafmin.org](mailto:lill@deafmin.org)  
0402 181 820 (Mobile)



[www.deafaction.org.au](http://www.deafaction.org.au)

## Tax-deductible Donations:

*Please make cheques payable to:*

Deaf Action

Details for EFT

BSB: 633-000

Account: 145834263

Credit Card facility available at office  
Paypal facility (secure) on website

Deaf Action  
P O Box 395  
Beaconsfield, Victoria 3807  
Australia

Ph: 03 5940 5431

e-mail: [info@deafaction.org.au](mailto:info@deafaction.org.au)