

Deaf Ministries International

Issue 29 | August 2020

*Taking the Gospel
to the Deaf*

Passing on the Baton

Australia

My health issues have brought me to a point where I felt I needed to make some decisions in preparation for the future. My current health situation is in fact very good at the moment. Recent bone scans and CT scans showed that the tumours in the lymph nodes had not increased and the ones in the bones had in fact shrunk and some had even disappeared. The chemo that I am on seems to be helping. This was very encouraging to the oncologist but not as much as it was to me! I also have hormone injections and an injection to strengthen the bones to stop the cancer going into the marrow. However, my prognosis is not so good, so I decided to step down as the International Director of DMI/DA and hand over the reins to Gunnar. We now have everything in

order should I suddenly deteriorate and find it difficult to function.

So what do I do now? Well I am not really sure. I have NOT resigned from DMI and I have been asked to continue on the boards both Australian and the International. So I guess I continue on as usual without the title! I come into the office most days and am on call to do anything that our office staff here ask me to do. I continue writing to sponsors and supporters and visit those I can manage to get to see. I write to workers and encourage where I can. I continue looking for new supporters. I will continue doing speaking engagements where I can, write parts of the newsletters, draw on my knowledge of past events, old relationships, and fill in

the gaps when others don't know what the reason is for doing things a certain way. I guess I will do whatever I am asked to do.

Andrew Miller from Sydney has been employed as the Australian Coordinator. Andrew began working with us as a DMI representative in the Sydney area. He had only just begun that work when we asked him to join us on a permanent part time basis as our Australian Coordinator. Andrew has been the one writing the blogs which many of you have been enjoying for some time now. If you have not read any of them then have a look at our web page where you will be able to find them. Andrew has been involved with DMI for many years at

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of Hope'



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a board level as well as being a generous supporter together with his family. He has owned and operated a language school and has pastored an International Church before returning to Australia recently. We are very excited about having Andrew on board and look forward to his input and wisdom in the days ahead. Andrew will be available for speaking engagements and sharing with any groups who would like to have him participate.

Thank you for your prayers and understanding. I will continue to serve for as long as the Lord gives me strength but will be withdrawing bit by bit as things go on.

God Bless,



Neville & Lill



Neville & Andrew

Food Relief Appeal & COVID-19 Updates Myanmar

We have received news that our school in Myanmar should be returning to face-to-face learning by the end of July. It's a late start to the academic year as they were due to start at the beginning of June, but it had to be delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It will be a staggered start as high school students will hopefully return first on July 15th, followed by middle and elementary students in the last week of the month. This however is not a guarantee as it depends how the virus situation is when the time comes. We praise God that no one from the school has contracted the virus and funds from the emergency food appeal have been able to keep our deaf brothers and sisters at the school and the church in Yangon fed.

Some time ago, Andrew mentioned in his blog that

the school has been in need of a secure fence for the safety of the students. The one they had was made of timber and falling apart. There was nothing stopping stray dogs, pigs or other wild creatures from coming into the grounds. There was also the problem of keeping the younger children within the safety of the grounds of the school and protection at night for the students that board. Within days of Andrew's blog mentioning the need for the fence going online, the funds were donated. While most of the funds for the fence came from one supporter, there were others who also gave towards this project which we are so thankful for. What a selfless blessing. You will see in the photos the new fence that is replacing the old.



Philippines - Ligao

In the Ligao area of the Philippines COVID 19 restrictions have been eased but senior citizens and those below 20 years old are not allowed to attend functions. Only 10 people can attend church services, and shops are open with limited numbers in the shop at the one time.

Fishermen of Christ Learning Centre in Ligao, is extremely thankful for the Typhoon Relief Funds that were given to repair the school and farm buildings. A lot of building repairs have been finished over the lockdown time but all schools in the Philippines, including ours, have been told there will be no face-to-face teaching for now! Students need to enrol 'online' and will attend classes online. This will be extremely difficult for many of our deaf students who do not have a computer, or live in an area where there is no access to technology. Our teachers returned to school in June to prepare for online teaching. The school has provided 'Personal Protection Equipment' for the teachers at school while they conduct online teaching together. This includes preparing and printing work sheets for many students who do not have a computer and will need to complete work sheets

at home. The government has said that normal education might resume in August.

Rice Mill

As mentioned earlier, it has been very hard for Filipino deaf folk to get out and about. Young people under 20 and senior citizens have tighter restrictions. To keep our teens who attend the school busy, they are being put to work in the rice fields. They are learning how to plant and harvest rice which are skills that could help them find work in the future.



Harvesting



Planting rice



Drying rice on school basketball courts

Syria



The Syrians are so grateful for the funds received from the food emergency appeal. Bundles of food were distributed to homes of the deaf and to those who were unable to come to the church to collect it due to being isolated because of the pandemic. Syria has been in lock-down just like so many other countries around the world.



Kenya



Wesley, the Director of our school in Kenya, has been overwhelmed by the response to the food emergency appeal. After we received emails of desperation with phrases such as “our deaf children are dying from hunger!” we straight away were able to send funds to try and relieve strain on these families.

The majority of the students at the Kenya school come from backgrounds with stories of rejection, unacceptance, out-

cast due to their disability, orphaned due to HIV, left to be raised with grandparents who are jobless or brought up in single parent homes. This is life without the extra strains of Covid-19.

Lock-down for these people has now meant there is no work, no income, no food. Students have been sent home due to not being allowed to be at the school at this time. They have limited movement due to curfews and the economy has taken a hard hit. We have found that students are running away from home and back to the school in search of food and refuge.

The funds that you donated are feeding communities like this. Food was distributed to families who were starving. Wesley has called the food packages being distributed “baskets of hope”. Many of these families didn’t know where their next meal was



coming from, so the food has been received with tears of joy, thankfulness and praise to our Heavenly Father who used you to answer their prayers.



The “baskets of hope” consist of, 30kg of maize(corn), 5kg of rice, 5kg beans, cooking oil, a bucket of sweet potatoes, 2kg of sugar, a bar of soap and sanitary items.

This initiative has also given the workers an invaluable opportunity to connect more closely with the community they serve.

Advertise your business &
SUPPORT
the next
DMI International
Conference

From the next edition of DMI and DA newsletters we will be running advertisements to promote your business among other DMI supporters, and to raise funds to help DMI's staff get to the next DMI International Conference.

Ad size: H4.5cm x W6.7cm
Cost: \$50 per edition

Enquiries: AmyJack amy.jack@deafmin.org



Thank you for feeding the hungry!

Your support is giving hope to those who thought all was lost. Here is an update of the funds raised through the Food Emergency Appeal and where they are being sent. The funds have been sent in staggered increments since April. Some countries are in more need for food than others so the funds are divided according. As the pandemic is still ongoing, we will be keeping the Food Emergency Appeal open until things improve.

COUNTRY	DMI	DEAF ACTION	
Malawi	\$ 879.99		
Uganda	\$ 14,605.01		
Lira School, Uganda		\$ 3,000.00	
Kenya School	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 5,100.00	
Kenya Church	\$ 10,287.24		
Rwanda	\$ 1,434.29	\$ 300.00	
Congo	\$ 1,686.87		
Beni School, Congo		\$ 3,000.00	
Myanmar School		\$ 3,000.00	
TOTAL SENT	\$ 36,893.40	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 51,293.40

Thanks to your generous donations, we have so far raised AUD63,909 with AUD51,293 already been sent to the fields!!
The funds will continue to be sent as needed until the pandemic passes.

If you'd like to make a donation to the Food Emergency Appeal, head to our website for details: www.deafmin.org/donate

Sewing Workshop, Nairobi - Kenya



Some years ago now, a sewing workshop was set up in Nairobi to provide work for deaf women with AIDS. It is overseen by Josephat (DMI Director for East Africa) who also pastors the Nairobi Church for the Deaf.

The workshop has not only provided an income for these women but has been a place of refuge where they can feel loved and accepted despite their disability and disease.



The equipment in the workshop is now getting tired and worn out. We have been given a list of their needs that can be found on our website if you'd like to make a donation towards this project.
www.deafmin.org/donate

Dave & Rhonda



We are pleased to introduce to you Dave and Rhonda Stockbridge who have graciously offered to be DMI/DA representatives in Western Australia. Rhonda has been involved with the deaf for many years. She worked at the Victorian School for Deaf Children, the same time that Neville taught there way

back in the 1960s. Dave and Rhonda live in Perth and are available for meetings in Western Australia. Dave is a pilot and used to fly all over the place, but they are limited to driving distance at this stage. If you would like to hear more about DMI or can include them in your meetings in any way (Western Australia only), they can be contacted either by phone or email:

0439 598 153

david_stockbridge@outlook.com

Praise and Prayer

- Praise for the generous hearts that have helped raise funds for the Food Emergency Appeal. Thank you that it has given us the opportunity to give hope and feed those that would otherwise be starving during this time. Thank you that it has also given DMI workers the opportunity to reach out to their communities and show them the love of Jesus in a practical way.
- Thank you for Neville and Lill who have devoted their lives to reaching out to the deaf in so many countries around the world. Thank you for Neville's servant heart that has given him the desire to do all he can to see his deaf brothers and sisters come to know Christ. We continue to pray for healing from cancer and as he steps down from his International Director position, that he will have opportunity to rest and recover from treatments.
- Thanks for Gunnar and Andrew who have answered Your call to serve with DMI. We pray for them both as they learn what their roles entail and settle into their positions.
- We pray for the ongoing work of DMI. That even though the organisation is going through a few changes, that it will be a smooth transition and we continue to reach out and minister to the deaf, showing them how loved they are by our Heavenly Father.



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**DMI Evangelistic
Donations:**

Please make cheques payable to:

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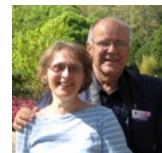
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