

# Deaf Ministries International

Issue 30 | October 2020



*Taking the Gospel to the Deaf*

## You Have Given Hope!

All of us at DMI would like to thank you for your generous response to the Food Emergency Appeal. This appeal has been running for a number of months now to supply food to the Deaf in the develop-



ing countries that we work in. Through this appeal we have seen hope given to so many. It has given us opportunities to reach out to communities who are in crisis due to Covid-19. Many had no idea where their next meal was coming from. We've had stories continually

pouring in of how unbelievably grateful people are when receiving the food packages. It has given us the opportunity to share Christ with these people in a very practical way. We would like to share some stories with you.

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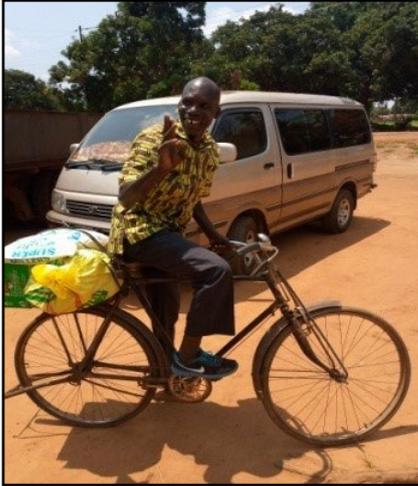
[www.deafmin.org](http://www.deafmin.org)



# Food Relief Appeal & COVID-19 Updates

## Uganda

### Lira



Richard Odong has served as a volunteer evangelist for quite some time under the guidance of Pastor Richard Opwonya. He travels around on his bike, sharing the gospel with the deaf in his local communities. Receiving his food package put a great big smile on his face.

DMI workers found this young, single mother at home with her young son. She didn't know where her family's next meal was coming from as there was no food in the house. Her initial nervousness in accepting the gift soon turned into gratefulness as her son, who was starving, now had food to eat.



Ambrose Okello is one of our Bible School students who is currently waiting to be able to attend his graduation. Before lockdown he was preaching at the Neville Muir Comprehensive Disabled School. Since both his parents passed away,

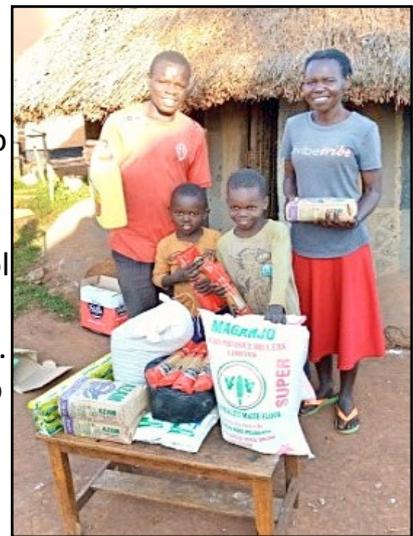
he lives on his own but a loving neighbour cares for his basic needs. He was so happy to receive the food gifts which gave him an opportunity to bless the family that cares for him by sharing the food. Samuel Orach was our first local evangelist in Gulu.

### Gulu



He has since finished up his time serving in this ministry. He has 11 biological children and one grandchild. All up he had 16 family members under his roof to feed, which would be a stressful task at the best of times. Covid-19 has made it all the more difficult to put food on the table. He and his family were overjoyed to receive the food gifts. One of his daughters said "The family can now start celebrating Christmas!"

Anena Sylvia is a graduate of the Bible School. She has since got married. She and her husband have one son of their own and also care for another boy whose parents are too poor to look after him. She is a teacher at the Mother Theresa Primary School but it is currently closed due to the virus. This means, she has no salary to feed her family so the food gift was a welcome relief.



The DMI Food Emergency Appeal has seen 70 families in the Gulu area receive life-changing food gifts. When the families wanted to know who had given them these gifts, the DMI workers were able to say they were a blessing from God.



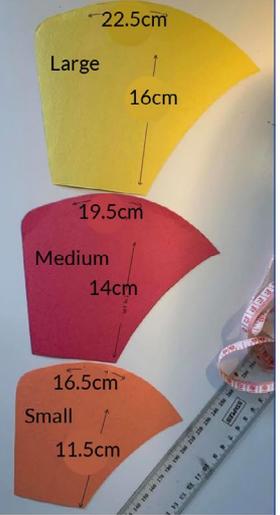
**\$15**

## Only 100 Masks Left!

Susi from our DMI Australia office has been busy making DMI face masks in her spare time outside of DMI's work hours. She would like to raise money towards operational costs for our General Fund.

She admits that sewing isn't usually her kind of thing as she would love to spend hours and hours cooking and baking! But during this time, sewing masks is her good idea to raise money.

\$15 each including postage. This will provide at least \$10 in profit, all for DMI. Her target is to make 200 masks, which means if she successfully sells all of them, she will raise a total of \$2000 profit for DMI! There are only 100 masks left to purchase so get in quick! The sizing can be found in the photos.



### TO ORDER:

Email Susi: [susiantjhai@deafmin.org](mailto:susiantjhai@deafmin.org), Include the size, quantity, and your shipping address.

### TO PAY:

Please transfer payment directly;  
Deaf Ministries International BSB: 633 000 Acct no: 145833539  
Reference: SurnameMask Example: SmithMask.

## Kenya

Rev. Josephat Mulongo reports with the DMI Kenya family that the food emergency support has been received with great thanks and widely distributed. Because of the generous ongoing donations from DMI supporters, food packages have now been distributed to hundreds of families in over 13 regions of Kenya including the Kisii, Nairobi, Malindi, Coast, Bungoma, Mombasa, Shanzu, Kiserian, Rift Valley, Kilifi, Kakamega, Gede, Oyugis, Nyanza, Kiambu and Mumias regions.

These aren't just place names. These represent all the people who have been rescued from starvation by DMI's food packages.

Our Kenyan brothers and sisters would especially like to express their deepest gratitude to Mrs. Kathi Kitao for her generous contribution towards our Food Emergency Appeal. Kathi sent KES.587,204 and the funds arrived just as our Deaf brothers and



sisters were struggling to put food on the table as a result of the impact of this pandemic. DMI staff were able to purchase and distribute foodstuffs such as maize, flour, wheat, cooking oil, tea leaves, rice and detergent for 300 Deaf families in the Immanuel Churches of the Deaf across the country. Kathi's donation, as all donations, were very important to the Deaf Kenyan churches. We received numerous testimonies and great thanks from the Deaf members of our churches who were very grateful for the support.

Rev Josephat is to be commended for moving so quickly and distributing food supplies so widely to so many families in need. What a tremendous effort! What a great result!



# D.R.Congo



Nowhere has the food emergency been more acute than in D.R.Congo. Our students there were literally starving but thanks to the generosity of DMI's supporters, a crisis was averted. Alain Kalungwana, Director of our school in Beni, wasted no time in buying the food and distributing it amongst the students and staff. Rice, beans, bananas, cabbages, sweet potatoes, cassava leaves, Ugali and spinach (amongst other foods) all make for tasty and healthy meals.

Food was distributed to 62 deaf pupils and 8 teachers which was very, very welcome since many of the students were hardly eating anything at home. So where there had been great concern, there is now an uncontainable joy. Upon receiving the funds, Alain wrote:

*"Wow! Wow! Wow!*

*I'm dying of joy, wow, wow, wow!*

*With this project, you are saving the health of Deaf children because they could die of hunger.*

*We keep praying continuously for DMI, may God keep you stronger and protect you in everything."* Hygiene has also been a priority at the school. Hand washing, social distancing and mask wearing protocols are strictly followed. As a result, we have had no reported cases of Covid-19 amongst any of our students or staff at the school.

An on-campus lunch program was also started when the students returned to class on October 5, which not only satisfied the students' hunger but kept them safely on the school grounds. Cooking for the lunch program is all done outside on open fires which works well until this happens:



Downpours are frequent, so we are now running a campaign to build a simple kitchen so the staff can cook (and the students can eat) rain, hail or shine! Thank you again for your wonderful generosity, which is reaching deep into the Congolese countryside.

## Beni School - The D.R.Congo FARM AND LUNCH APPEAL

*The need for food at our Beni School in The Congo is a very big concern. Many of the children walk nearly 2 km to and from school every day and often have no breakfast! We have started a lunch program so the children have one good meal every school day!*

**Because of your generous donations they are able to build a kitchen! Now we need to buy equipment and are looking to raise animals with the aim of our schools being more self-sustaining. We would be very grateful for your donations towards this special project.**

### TO DONATE:

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

or

See alternate payment details on the back page



# Myanmar

A second wave of the Coronavirus has delayed the students' return to the Muir School for the Deaf in Kalay, Myanmar. The break has given workers the chance to make the necessary changes at the school to cope with the pandemic. The new wall was built, as reported in the last newsletter. Hand sanitising stations have been set up, the girls and boys dorm rooms have been switched to meet social distancing requirements, and thanks to the generous donations of DMI supporters, a new - and much needed - girls' bathroom has been built and readied. (Previously boys and girls took turns to use the same bathroom which was not ideal.)



Students in higher grades have been enjoying some

English letter writing homework in preparation for their sister-school relationship with the Northbridge Public School in Sydney. This was due to have started by now, but was delayed until the new year because of the restrictions.

Wonderful news for our school principal in Kalay, Zung Hlawn Tial, who safely delivered a beautiful baby girl on October 10. Mother and princess are both doing well.

The church in Yangon is still unable to meet but have been overwhelmed with thankfulness for

the food aid which has now reached them. Pa-Lian, our Director in Myanmar and Pastor of the Deaf church in Yangon, reports how elated parishioners were to receive much needed food and financial support.



*Pa-Lian is passing the food hamper to this lady who will be taking it to an 80 year old woman from their congregation.*

Many of the recipients were elderly and disabled with no other hope of receiving help. 18 families in all were blessed with food and financial aid, in addition to the 60 church members who received food packages in the previous month.

Pa-Lian would like to extend a personal thank you as they are feeling very truly blessed. During this pandemic, teachers and workers have continue to received their full pay, while Non Government Organisation's have had to give pay cuts or no pay at all to workers due to not working during lockdown time. So thanks to all donors for faithfully continue to support DMI. The school has been once again put into lockdown until restrictions are lifted.

# Malawi



Due to Government regulations put in place because of Covid-19, the bakery in Malawi has had to close temporarily until restrictions are lifted. This has made life a struggle for the workers who now have no income for their salaries or for ministry.

Food Emergency funds have brought huge relief to these families providing them with much needed food supplies. Workers are looking forward to the day when they can re-open the bakery and start serving the community again.



# Food Emergency Appeal Donation Distribution

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 of food than others so the funds are divided accordingly. As the pandemic is still ongoing, we will be keeping the Food Emergency Appeal open until things improve.

Food emergency we have collected so far:	DMI AUD	DA AUD	Total AUD
	43,064.49	31,015.00	74,079.49
<b>Food emergency Distribution:</b>	<b>DMI AUD</b>	<b>DA AUD</b>	<b>Total</b>
Congo Beni School	1,686.81	3,000.00	4,686.81
Congo Beni School lunch Program	-	7,816.24	7,816.24
Dennis Bible school	2,017.30	3,000.00	5,017.30
Kenya School	8,000.00	5,100.00	13,100.00
Myanmar School (including workers in Yangon)	1,137.51	3,000.00	4,137.51
Rwanda student	-	300.00	300.00
Rwandan workers	1,434.29		1,434.29
Malawi	1,379.99		1,379.99
Ugandan workers	14,605.01		14,605.01
Syria	1,377.32		1,377.32
Kenya church	10,287.24		10,287.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,925.47</b>	<b>22,216.24</b>	<b>64,141.71</b>

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

## Christmas Gift Catalogue Out Now!



Meaningful Gifts, Transforming Lives

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

# Neville's Update

Hi Everyone. I'm the reason the newsletter is coming out late! I haven't been able to get my wits together since my stay in hospital. The doctors have been trying to get my pain under control and the new meds are making me even more wonky than I was before.

There is some good news though. After being sent home a few weeks ago and told there was nothing more that could be done for me, my wonderful oncologist got onto the medical company and the insurance company and they enabled me to secure a terribly, terribly expensive treatment that the insurance company will cover. So I am now receiving a \$60,000 treatment for free!

I commenced that treatment about two and a half weeks ago which was followed by a period in hospital for pain management. I'm now going through a series of reactions and I'm not sure if they are related to the pain medication or if they are a chemical reaction from the new treatment. So at the moment I'm feeling a bit under the weather, the cause of which I'm not quite sure.

But I'm very thankful that I've been given this opportunity for another go at life. I'm trusting the Lord that he will have more purposes for me over the next few months and maybe even years. This is where I am at the moment.

My family and friends are very thankful too that I have this extra lease of life to keep me going a bit longer. Thank you for your prayers and encouragements. I will need continued prayer and I'm grateful for your persistence in it. I'm planning on taking some sick leave as I'm finding everything a bit much at the moment so please bear with me as I withdraw from the scene from time to time. I look forward to coming back refreshed so I can continue to serve God at DMI as much as I can.

Blessings,

Neville & Lill Muir



**ART  
EXHIBITION**

In January, DMI will be holding its first ever art exhibition! Held in Sydney, the exhibition will display the artwork of DMI students from Myanmar and the Philippines, but with a twist! Some of the pieces will be original and unedited, but most have been professionally crafted into magnificent collages. The exhibition (the first of many, we hope!) will be both a fundraising event and a means to bring understanding of the Deaf in developing countries to Australians. Visitors are welcome to just view the artwork, or to buy postcard prints, full-size prints or original works. (Something for everyone's budget!)

**January 30 - February 12**

**Gallery 307, 305-307  
Sailors Bay Rd  
Northbridge NSW**

**Enquiries: [andrew.miller@deafmin.org](mailto:andrew.miller@deafmin.org)**

# Congratulations Joey and Alice



Neville's longtime supporter and travel companion from DMI China, Joey Yag, has shared with us the exciting news of the safe arrival of his firstborn, a son! He and his wife, Alice, serve at a Deaf Church in Dali, China. They have named their son Yang Zi Yi, which means 'born in Autumn' and 'honoring God'. His English name is Zachariah. We wish God's blessing on this new little family.



## Praise and Prayer

- We praise for the gift of new life. We pray for Your blessing upon Joey, Alice and little Zach as they begin this new journey as a family. May Zach grow not only to know You, but love and serve You throughout his life.
- 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. We pray for Neville at this time as he begins a new treatment. We pray for relief from the constant pain and side effects he's experiencing at this time. We pray that you will give him peace and also strength to keep fighting this unforgiving disease.
- We pray for the ongoing work of DMI. We thank you for all of those involved with the work all around the world. We pray that even though every country is facing it's own challenges at this time, that they are able to continue to reach out and minister to the deaf, showing them how loved they are by our Heavenly Father.



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

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