

Deaf Ministries International

Issue 35 | AUGUST 2021

DENMARK EDITION

*Taking the Gospel
to the Deaf*

New life brings hope for Malawi

Our workers in Malawi have been doing a wonderful job with very limited resources and under very difficult circumstances. They have been active in distributing food to the Deaf. They have grown their church through door-to-door evangelism and have trained some newly Deaf people how to sign. They have also made a super start on their new farming project.



Unpacking new equipment



Preparing Soil



Planting seedlings



Crops growing!!

This new farming project is coming along very well and at such a needed time! It stems from our Self-Sustainability Fund. The photos (above) show how the fields (which have been rented) have been cultivated and the crops that are already growing. This will feed hungry stomachs and hopefully grow excess produce that can be sold and put into other self-sustainability projects. The harvest for most of these crops will be in November. Until then, the Deaf in Malawi remain in a food crisis, so we will channel funds from our Food Emergency Campaign to them. Please give generously to this Campaign.



FOOD EMERGENCY APPEAL

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 who DMI support in developing countries are still struggling harder than most. Lockdowns and restrictions for them means no work, no income, no food. We are continuing to run this appeal to raise much needed funds to give the Deaf access to staples to feed their families.

TO DONATE:

Paypal or Credit Card or Bank Transfer
donations go to:
www.deafmin.org/donate
(Click on Food Emergency button)

OR

Bank Transfer details are available on
the back cover
Use "food emergency" as ref.



www.deafmin.org



Food Emergency Appeal Update

In our last newsletter and on social media, we reported on some immediate needs for our Deaf communities in Burundi, D.R.Congo and Uganda. Burundi had families facing starvation, D.R.Congo had a volcanic eruption which destroyed homes and crops, and Uganda went into a 72-day lockdown due to a Covid outbreak resulting in no income for many families. All of these countries needed immediate food aid and thanks to our generous supporters, we were able to send it!

Burundi was sent \$20,000 as the DMI Burundi board had put together a 3 month food distribution plan to feed 124 people. D.R.Congo needed immediate aid relief for 350 people so we were able to send them \$10,000. They will be requiring more food aid in the near future as food prices are high and they are experiencing another wave of Covid. Uganda received \$13,000 to feed 120 of the DMI's evangelists, church members and students. They will also need to be sent more funds shortly

as this amount won't be enough for the whole 72 days. Food aid has blessed so many Deaf families during this season of Covid and has given DMI many opportunities to share Christ in a very practical way. The recipients have been ever so grateful as without this assistance, they would be facing

starvation.

Here is an expression of thanks we have received from one of the recipients in D.R.Congo:

"Dear DMI

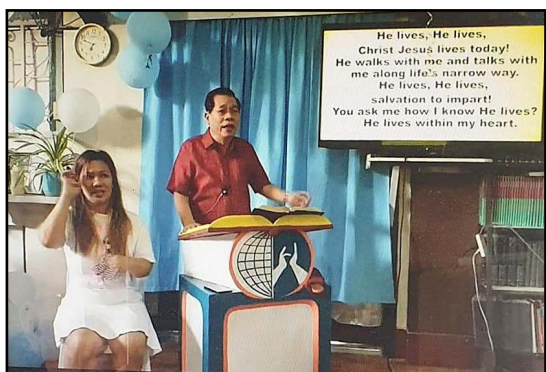
My name is Mazowezi of the deaf church in Goma DRCONGO , my deaf Pastor is Papy Mutemberwa. Now I thankful DMI to have supporter us food because of the volcano eruption many of us were very hungry because they were unable to buy food but now 350 deaf people feed by grace of DMI may God bless DMI.

Your sincerely thanks"

Thank you to all who have supported the food emergency appeal both financially and in prayer. You have not only changed lives but saved them.



Philippines Davao



It's been a very hard year for the school and church in Davao. They have been struggling not only with COVID-19 and the long lockdown associated with

it, but with natural disasters, too. Joshua has been struggling with his own health issues, too. As a result, there is very little activity at the school at the moment.

Nevertheless, we are pleased to report that the Davao Immanuel Church for the Deaf continues to hold services every Sunday. Joshua faithfully preaches the gospel each week, with signed interpretation, and the services are posted on Facebook for all those in outlying areas to join in. Please continue to pray for the situation in Davao.

Bacolod

Albert and Kim report that students in the Bacolod dormitory have completed their modules for the school year and will now have just a few weeks before classes begin for the 2021-2022 school year later this month. However, a difficult decision had to be made regarding the dormitory. The licence was due to expire in December 2020. With only three students currently staying at the dorm and still no social worker, in addition to the very uncertain future of school opening, the board concluded that they would have to temporarily close the dorm. Once the pandemic is over and they are able to operate the dorm again, they will begin the process of obtaining a license.

The PICD church, however, remains open and active. The Deaf continue to attend Sunday worship, and God's word continues to be preached. They celebrated God's blessing over us with their 17th Annivesary last July 18, 2021! They continue with precautions like hand sanitiser, face shields, face masks and physical distancing. Pastor Rodel Manila has been leading a small worship time in Zamboanguita and Dumaguete cities as well as teaching Filipino Sign Language to some interested members at Dumaguete First Baptist Church.

...continued

Bacolod continued

Pastor Rodel continues to manage the chicken layer project in Zamboanguita and he and his wife have been growing vegetables in their yard for food. Raymart has another new batch of quail chicks to replace some not-so-productive older quail. A mushroom production project has also been started, so now there are plenty of fresh mushrooms we need to find a market for the 1-2 kg per day harvest! Azolla production is really good now and is used to supplement the quail and chicken feeds. One of the three rental units at the Clutton residence in Zamboanguita now has a long term tenant, too. Proceeds from any rentals are donated to PICD. We praise God for His provision in the Visayas.



COVID safe church service

Myanmar

Myanmar continues to struggle with a devastating epidemic and ongoing political unrest. Yangon has been decimated by the virus with 600-800 people dying every day. At the cemeteries, dead bodies are stacked up and burned. One of those was an elderly lady from our church. Pa-Lian shares his sadness at being restricted from attending the funeral to give his "heartfelt farewell". There is no end in sight to this disaster. The hospitals are still not accepting COVID patients and there is little oxygen available for the sick. Furthermore, reports Pa-lian, there is no income for the Deaf and they are at a loss as to what to do.

Despite all this adversity, there have been some positive developments. Our school in Kalay was able to hold summer

tuition for 6 of our Deaf students and some neighbourhood children for a few weeks until "the streets became a battleground" (as Pa-lian puts it) and they had to close up again. Saw Monday and some other staff stay at the school to protect the property and to care for the animals. Until recently, our congregation was surviving on the 60 bags of rice, 60 bottles of oil, noodles and onions that a kind Korean couple donated. Just in the last week, we have finally been able to get money through to Pa-Lian and the rest of the team in Yangon and Kalay. This is a life-sustaining development for a people who have struggled just to survive, and we're grateful for this. Please continue to lift Pa-lian, Saw Monday, and all the staff, students and congregants in prayer as a matter of urgency.

A Visit to Japan

Most places around the world are still off limits because of the pandemic but I was able to get a special work permit to visit Japan. With two weeks of home quarantine in Japan and two weeks of hotel quarantine back in Australia, it took seven weeks to make the three week trip! Though the fields are calling and it was a very fruitful visit, I think I'll wait till quarantines are over before venturing overseas again!

The trip gave me the opportunity to speak at several churches - Minoh International Church (where I pastored for twelve years), Osaka International Church (where Neville and Lill attended when they were living in Japan), and Kyoto Christian

Fellowship Center (where the Chair of DMI Japan Alayne Ma-dore attends). The congregations were very responsive, giving generously, sponsoring children, and buying Susi's masks. More so, each of the churches renewed their commitment to DMI in prayer, promotion and other forms of support.

One of those areas was volunteer support. I attended a meeting of the Japan Board (as well as meeting up individually with Board members on other occasions) and the need for fresh volunteers was clear. The Japan Board, chaired by Alayne and anchored by my dear friend and mentor Jack Marshall (now 92!), could do with some new young faces and hands to learn the ropes and carry DMI Japan into the future. I'm thrilled to say that at least 8 new people have stepped forward and are enthusiastic to join the work of DMI and to serve the Deaf. This is a wonderful example of God's providence. Please pray for the current Board and the new volunteers as they come together and form a new team for DMI Japan.

-Andrew Miller, National Coordinator



Andrew speaking at Minoh



DMI General Fund Campaign

Over the last half year or so we have run numerous campaigns for some very great needs. Because of your generosity, we have been able to feed hundreds of starving families in Uganda, DR Congo and Burundi through our food emergency campaign. We have been able to build dormitories in Uganda, plant fields in Malawi, buy fields and grow crops in DR Congo, and more. These are all worthy and even exciting projects.

Our General Fund doesn't quite generate the same excitement but is at the core of our operations. Our monthly budgets for church and school rents, teacher salaries, pastor and evangelist salaries, facility maintenance and other Deaf community concerns all come from our General Fund.

I'm sure you will also be pleased to know how faithfully we distribute these funds. As mentioned in the 'DMI Expenses vs Income Ratio' article, over 82% of our expenses go directly to our schools and communities overseas, and much of this comes from the General Fund.

As July-October tend to be our 'driest' months, please remember to give generously to our General Fund so that we can continue to send out budgets to the field where they are so needed and are doing so much good amongst the deaf in our schools and communities.

Thank you!

DMI's Expenses vs Income Ratio

One of the things that is important to all supporters is knowing that the money they are donating is going where it is intended to go, and that it is being wisely used. This newsletter (and others) provides testimony to where the money is going and how it is being used. Lives are being changed!

As a registered charity, DMI is fully compliant with, and annually reviewed by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

It's also important for us to be transparent with supporters regarding expenses so that you can have confidence in the

way we are using our income. The ratio of our total expenses is important: almost 83% of our expenses go directly to the fields; payroll expenses are at 10.8%; administration costs are at 5.3%, advertising and fundraising costs are at just above 1%). These figures show responsible stewardship. They are comparable to the most prudent of Christian charities (and are far better than many). DMI's expenses ratio has always been good but these figures show that it is getting even better. So as you give, know that your gifts are being wisely - and gratefully - used.

Tanzania

You may remember reading this in our newsletter from April: *"Daniel is the DMI leader of Tanzania but he originates from Kenya. He headed back to Kenya over a year ago to renew his work permit and then COVID-19 struck and he got stuck! His work permit was denied which he believes is due to some that are opposed to him sharing the gospel...With a roller coaster of lockdowns in Kenya, he hasn't been able to reapply for the permit."*

Thank you for your prayers as Daniel has been able to return to Tanzania for a short visit. He still needs to return to Kenya to secure his work visa, but he has been very thankful to have this opportunity to be reunited with his family and catch up with the work, even if it is only for a short time.

He firstly attended a Fatherheart conference, a wedding and visited a new Deaf church. He has asked for us to be in prayer for the new church and also that his work visa will be granted. He is hopeful, as Tanzania has a new government who are more accepting of missionaries and evangelists.

Despite Daniel's absence, the ministry has been in full flight. COVID restrictions have been minimal at this stage. A new church was planted and over 100 people attended the grand opening. They have run several workshops on leadership, marriage and relationships, and have conducted baptisms. Over all, 80 people attended these workshops, 20 people ac-



Fatherheart conference

cepted Christ and 13 were baptised. The Fatherheart conference was attended by over 30 people where they were blessed by the teaching of Rev Josephat, Ruth Njihia from Kenya and online by Gunner Dehli, DMI's International Director. It is so encouraging and exciting to hear how God is moving and stirring the hearts of our Tanzanian brothers and sisters. Continue to keep them in your prayers as they grow in their faith and share Christ's love, ministering to those around them.

Uganda

Ugandan Bible School

The Bible school commenced its academic year on April 7th after their lockdown was lifted. The new year brought two new enrolments: a male from Zambia and a female from D.R.Congo, bringing the current number of students to 10. The school is running with Ugandan COVID restrictions in place, doing their best to ensure the students' safety. The



Father Heart conference

teachers managed to cover the lesson requirements for first term but unfortunately the second lockdown took effect before they were able to complete their exams.

Some students have remained at the school during the lockdown, spending time growing vegetables in a small garden, with cooking lessons and creating early learning education teaching aids.

At the time of writing this, Uganda is 42 days into a 72-day lockdown. Some restrictions have eased very slightly but the government has stated that schools must remain closed until they have reached sufficient vaccination numbers.



Making palm oil

Ugandan Immanuel Church for the Deaf

The church members enjoyed meeting again face to face for a few months after the first lockdown was lifted with congregation numbers around 65-85 people. We are so very thankful for God's protection as there are no reports of church members falling ill with COVID at this stage. Bible studies were meeting weekly as church members and Bible school students gathered around God's word.

Since the commencement of the 72-day lockdown, church leaders have been reaching out to church members online via social media and text messages. Local television stations are also airing some church services that interpret the message which has been a wonderful service to the Deaf community. As we have reported in the food emergency updates, during this lockdown Ugandan food prices hit the roof which left thousands of Ugandans unable to afford food. Thankfully, we

were able to send food emergency funds to our Evangelists and church members. Those that received this blessing are so thankful as they had no idea where their next meal was coming from.

Please keep our Ugandan DMI family in your prayers as they navigate this long period of lockdown. Many are struggling but we know that our God is bigger than all the struggles they face.



Last service before lockdown

GET INVOLVED

WE WOULD LOVE
TO HAVE YOU HELP
US IN OUR
MINISTRY TO THE
DEAF



There are three ways you can do this:

Please pray for us and those we serve. Keep tabs on our latest prayer requests through the newsletter updates, by following our "Pray" tab on the website, or receiving regular prayer points by email. See <https://deafmin.org/prayer/>

DMI operates entirely on the support of individual donors. We receive no public grants or government support. Your donation counts and there are many ways to give! You can sponsor a child, a school, a pastor, a church, or contribute to an employment project, a special campaign (disaster relief etc), or to our Self-Sustainability Fund. Donations to our general fund are also most welcome! We can then put your gift to work where it is most needed at the time. See <https://deafmin.org/donate/>

You can serve with us as a volunteer in any number of capacities, depending on where you live. Helping with office work, newsletter mailouts, translations, fundraisers or representing DMI in more official capacities at events or church deputations are all of value. Talk to us about the best fit for you. Email us at: info@deafmin.org

Praise and Prayer

- Firstly, we want to give praise and honour to our awesome God who is over and above all things. We pray that all that we do in this ministry brings glory to His name.
- Praise for the provision that gives this ministry opportunity to reach out and support our Deaf brothers and sisters in a time of such struggle and hardship.
- Give thanks for the funds that were given to support the project in Malawi. We pray for God's protection over the crops as they grow. We pray that the crops will be bountiful and that there will be enough food not only to feed the Deaf community, but to sell so that more seeds and fertiliser can be bought to keep this project running.
- Praise for the way that the Food Emergency Appeal has been able to save so many families from starvation during this season of COVID, and for the generous supporters that opened their hearts and wallets to ensure that the DMI community are fed. Give thanks for the opportunities it has given DMI to reach out and share the gospel, providing not only physical food, but spiritual food too.
- We pray for Myanmar and the heart-breaking situation they are facing each day. We pray for protection over our staff, students, pastors and church members. May they draw upon God's strength, love and comfort in such a dark time. We give thanks that we are now able to get money to them and may it be a blessing to them as they support the Deaf community around them.
- Give thanks for Andrew's safe travels to and from Japan. That he had opportunity to speak of the work of DMI in some churches while he was there. Give thanks for the response he received and the hearts that we stirred to help bring the Gospel to the Deaf. Pray for the current Board and the new volunteers as they come together and form a new team for DMI Japan.
- Pray for the Philippines as that continue to navigate their way through lockdowns and restrictions. Give thanks for the way the churches in Bacalod and Davao are finding ways to reach out and share the Word with the Deaf community.
- Give thanks for the work in Tanzania. May God's hand of protection be over the new church and it's leaders, that it will grow and flourish and many Deaf will come to know our Heavenly Father who loves them with a love that is more than words can express.
- Pray for the church and the Bible school in Uganda as they get through this latest lockdown. Give thanks that DMI has been able to provide food for the evangelists, church families and students during this difficult time.



*Neville & Lill Muir
DMI Founders*



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