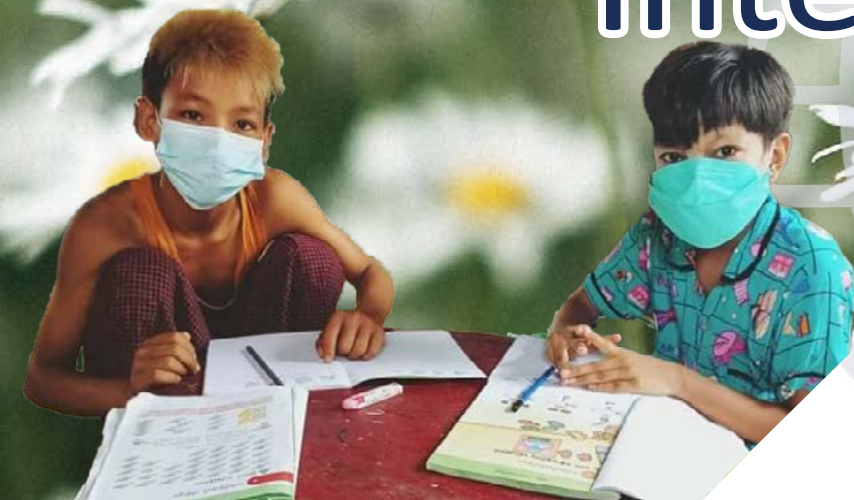


Deaf Ministries International

Issue 36 | October 2021



*Taking the Gospel
to the Deaf*

Remembering Neville

It's been one year since our beloved founder, father and friend Neville Muir passed away. How much we miss him! We miss his love for the Gospel and for the Deaf, his apostolic gifting, his delightful sense of humour, his far-reaching compassion, his tireless devotion, his fabulous faux pas, his humility, his stories of the past and his vision for the future.

November 12, 2020 was a sad day for us all: we lost someone truly special. It was also a time to be grateful: we had lived with someone truly special. He reached into all of our lives. Hundreds of wishes and testimonies came in after Neville's passing, many printed in our



December 2020 newsletter, many more online and on paper. All of them said the same thing but in so many different ways: Neville reminded us of what Jesus would do.

Because of Neville, we continue to do what Jesus would do. This newsletter is testimony to the ongoing work that Neville started. It tells the unceasing story of Deaf lives touched, saved and empowered. The work of DMI honours Neville as it brings glory to God.

We extend our fondest condolences to Lill and family at this time.

*Give praise to the Lord, proclaim His name; make known
among the nations what he has done. Psalm 105:1*

www.deafmin.org



Muir Family Update

Thank you to all our supporters who have expressed love and concern for Lill and Ian over the last twelve months. We want to bring you an update, to let you know how they are both going. Lill has faced the last year with incredible resilience and faith. There have been many sad moments, as she grieves for Neville, but she has kept on going, and has found many things to be joyful about despite the sadness. The last months have been hard, with lockdown in Melbourne preventing her doing her normal social activities. However, she makes time each day for playing the piano, going for walks, and joining an online Bible study which her church runs each afternoon. Lill has maintained a connection with DMI, helping on newsletter days and sitting in on board meetings—she has become quite proficient at figuring out how to get on Zoom! Ian has found adjusting to life without his Papa very tough, but there are many things to praise God for as well. Ian now has one day off work a week to have a “play day” with his support worker, which has made the other four days of work much more manageable for him. Even during lockdown, he has been allowed to go out with his support worker, even if it is only for a takeaway lunch and a walk in the park. He video calls family members each day, checking in on how everyone is doing and proudly showing off the food he has cooked twice a week with a support worker. Neville would

be thrilled to see how far Ian has come in his communication this year—needing to reach out to ask for support when he is struggling, looking after Lill, and working with his speech therapist and psychologist, have all led to him coming out of his shell and becoming much more comfortable with communication. Ian is hanging out for lockdown to end so that he can have his brothers over for a movie night, and take the family out for lunch at his favourite café. Please continue to pray for Lill and Ian, and for the rest of the family as they support them and help them.



Philippines - Ligao Church

Despite ongoing challenges with COVID, the Emmanuel Church of the Deaf in Ligao continues to take the gospel to the Deaf. Arnel has been faithfully pastoring with his wife Antonette, leading corporate worship and ministering from house to house. Two services are held every Sunday in the newly-finished church. They are careful to follow all the COVID protocols and with social distancing, the 20+ spaces are filled for each service.

Arnel's ministry goes way beyond 'church activities'. He has spent much of this year visiting houses, not only to share the Word but to assist in house repairs. After typhoons earlier in the year, there is plenty of work for them to do! This type of hands-on ministry establishes community. It helps to bring the Word to life. It shows people that Jesus doesn't only care for their future, he cares about their 'now'. It tells them that eternity is a present possession.

Arnel encourages us to join him in praising God for keeping him and all his loved ones safe in the midst of the pandemic; to praise God for His continuous daily protection and provision.



New church building



Myanmar

The situation in Myanmar is both horrifying and inspiring. In a recent text, Myanmar DMI's Director Pa-Lian wrote that “the situation is not as dangerous now - only a few bombs”. Despite the civil and COVID risks, the teachers at the school in Kalay go from house to house to continue with the children's education. The school principal reports that “the children are so happy that the teachers cannot stop teaching even with poor security”. Dressed from head to toe in protective equipment, they soldier on!

Teachers in students' homes wear medical protective clothing while teaching.



Elderly woman from Yangon church congregation receiving food relief.

D.R.Congo - Beni School

If you've been following the progress of the Beni school in D.R.Congo, you will know that the kitchen garden lunch project has been a great success! You will also remember that the farms that were bought are also well into production. There was just one speed bump that was causing some issues. The harvested produce was being stored in the kitchen that was built not long ago, ready to be used for lunches, with excess to be sold at markets. The building wasn't overly secure being made from wood panels, and thieves broke in and stole the harvested 100kg of beans! The solution was to build a strong, secure building made of concrete for the purpose of storing the produce. Thanks to some generous supporters, the building was constructed by a crew of 17 builders in 15 days! The crew was a team of both hearing and Deaf.



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Now the school has a secure building to store all of their harvested produce. The building that was originally used to store the produce will now be used as a kitchen again.

The staff and students at Beni school are so thankful for the support they have received to get this project up and running. It has changed so many lives. Not only are they fed but this project has also provided jobs and income for many Deaf in their community. "Thank you for your support, Thank you to care about us, Thank you for pushing us ahead, Thank you for promoting the Deaf. God is great. Praise the Lord." Alain (Director of Beni School for the Deaf)

Uganda - Lira Church

It's always such a joy when we hear news of believers going through the waters of baptism. Such a public commitment of faith.



We were recently delighted to be informed that 8 Deaf from Lira Immanuel church had been baptised in a local river. They were expecting to have 18 baptisms but due to floods and impassable roads, 10 were unable to make the journey from Apac. As you can imagine, this would have been so disappointing for

the participants. We look forward to hearing the news in the near future of their baptisms. We give thanks to God for these followers of Christ. May God's blessings be upon them as they grow in their faith and love for Him.

Those waiting to be baptised and their families.



FOOD EMERGENCY UGANDA & D.R.CONGO

Lira, Uganda

We have good news from the Neville Muir Comprehensive School in Lira, Uganda. Dennis reports that the pandemic is easing and about 200 students will be returning to our vocational school there from November! We have new dorms to receive the students and the staff are ready to go. The bad news is that we don't yet have crops ready to feed the students who come in. We need AUD 3,600 to bridge the gap for the next three months until the harvest is ready. Please help if you can.

Bunia, D.R.Congo

Life is harder in Bunia, DR Congo. Reports and photos of the sickness and killings sent to us literally made some of our staff sick. (We could never print them here.) It is a horrible, horrible situation there. Papy sadly also lost his baby niece due to sickness. Because of the poor security, prices for basic necessities have skyrocketed. The food situation there is dire so we are appealing for food relief for Bunia. *Anything* you can give will help.



Prayer Partners

Here at DMI, we want to always firstly give all praise and honour to God who is over and above all things and pray that all we do in this ministry brings glory to His name. In Philippians 4, God asks us to bring all our requests to Him and to thank Him for all he's done. Prayer is such an important part of this ministry, and we'd like to ask you to partner with us in praying for the work that DMI is involved in. Each week we are going to share a few prayer points and we ask that you join with us in bringing them before God in prayer. We may not be able to do much by our strength, but with God, nothing is impossible!!

Would like to become a prayer partner?

To receive weekly prayer points via email: info@deafmin.org

To be a part of monthly online prayer meetings contact

Andrew Miller: andrew.miller@deafmin.org

You can also find prayer points weekly at www.deafmin.org/prayer

Don't worry about anything;
instead, pray about everything.
Philippians 4:6

Malawi - Farming Success

Many of you have not only been following the progress of the Malawi self-sustainability project, but have generously contributed towards it. We are pleased to inform you the first crops have been a huge success! DMI was able to use funds raised to buy all things needed to give this farm the best chance of a successful harvest. This included a petrol run water pump which has meant crops are well irrigated, even in the dryer months.



The first planting of cauliflowers and tomatoes have been harvested and sold at the local markets. The cauliflowers sold for a good price but unfortunately, this time, the price of tomatoes was lower than expected. It is the "off season" for growing vegetables, so there was an expectation that the tomatoes would reach a higher price. A few growers from other areas also brought their "off season" tomatoes to market, which drove the price down. Nevertheless, it's wonderful to see such bountiful harvests in our Malawian fields!

Our aim is to set up more projects like this, and other self-sustainability initiatives, in more locations where DMI is currently working.



Bountiful first harvest



To donate towards future self-sustainability projects,
visit our website: www.deafmin.org/donate



Malawi - Bible Study with a twist

16 keen participants from the DMI church in Malawi boarded a bus to spend the week in a nearby town to study God's word together as a group. Due to COVID restrictions, they were unable to meet in their regular building. During this journey the bus was stopped by Police for a routine check. For some unknown reason all of the 16 Deaf weren't wearing masks. In Malawi this is an arrestable offence! All 16 were arrested and taken back to the police station where they were locked up until each could pay their fines. If they were unable to pay their fine, they would face the court the following Monday and have charges against their names or possibly be locked up in jail for 6 months.

After some desperate communications back and forth with Elton (DMI Director for Malawi) DMI agreed to pay the fines this time as all the families were too poor to pay, and we didn't want them to have charges against their names. All 16 were released and continued their journey to the Bible study week led by Pastor Fraction. Elton made sure everyone was given a mask and reminded them not to travel without one again. We're guessing that will be a Bible study they won't forget in a hurry!!



Christmas Gift Catalogue Out Now!

Meaningful Gifts, Transforming Lives

www.deafmin.org/donate

Tanzania



The Immanuel Church for the Deaf in Tanzania has had an intentional focus of getting the gospel message to Deaf school students. They have been granted special permission to preach to the students that attend Ngara Secondary School for the Deaf. Services have been held with the students on Sundays and many have come

to know Christ since ministering there. The evangelists have asked us to be in prayer for these students as they grow in their faith and prepare for baptism.

Daniel Njihia has also had opportunity to meet with Deaf pastors in the area. Many of the pastors began their Christian walk while attending the Immanuel Church for the Deaf, and have since trained as pastors, taking up ministries under the umbrella of hearing churches. Some rumours and whispers have been causing some unrest between the different churches. The Immanuel Church leaders decided it would be a good idea to gather the pastors together and remind them that they are all on the same mission: to serve Christ and bring the gospel to His people. Our prayer for these pastors comes from the book of Proverbs 4:23, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."





DMI General Fund Campaign

Our General Funds need you! It's wonderful how many projects we have been able to support this year thanks to your generous support. Our food campaigns have kept hundreds of Deaf families alive and healthy. We have been able to build dormitories in Uganda, plant fields in Malawi, buy fields and grow crops in DR Congo, restore water to Ligao, upgrade our sewing workshop in Kenya and more. These are all much-needed and exciting projects amongst the Deaf.

But we also have rents and salaries to pay in the field, facilities to upkeep and equipment to run. We have basic admin costs, programs to run and newsletters to produce! These are often not as exciting to support as the projects but without them, the mission of DMI - taking the gospel and education and employment to the Deaf - cannot be achieved. Please give generously to our General Fund so we can be sure to meet our core mission goals.



IT'S A
BOY!

We praise God and give hearty congratulations to David and Kay van Namen on the birth of their son Matthew Judah who was born on 13 October. Mother and son are doing well, and father David and brother Joshua are over the moon! Kay and David are both Deaf. Kay has been working in our Melbourne office since May as Sponsorship and Administration Assistant and David has served on our Australian Board for a number of years. We welcome young Matthew into the DMI family.



IT'S A
GIRL!

We'd like to send congratulations to Amdibo Ochaite and wife who have given birth to a precious baby girl. Amdibo is an evangelist and serves as part of the DMI team in Uganda. We pray that God will bless and protect them as they begin this new chapter of their lives together.



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**FUNDRAISING
DINNERS
SYDNEY
MELBOURNE**

On March 3, 2022 we will be holding a fundraising dinner in Sydney with former Wallaby captain Nick Farr-Jones as guest speaker. Details to come but keep and share the date for now! In May, we will also be holding a fundraising dinner in Melbourne (details to come).

We will be running a silent auction on the night and are looking for supporters to donate goods and services to be auctioned off. If you have a business - or access to one - and could provide goods and/or services for auction, please let us know. We have some big plans for 2022 and these fundraising dinners will help us achieve them. Our thanks in advance for your support.

Leadership Changes - Gunnar retiring; Andrew and Matthijs stepping up

Our much-loved International Director Gunnar Dehli has retired effective September 1. At the ripe old age of 67, Gunnar has decided to step down from his position but the good news is, he is not stepping out! Gunnar will stay on in a part-time position as International Advisor. He will also stay on as a full member of the International Board. We thank Gunnar for his wise and faithful service and look forward to his ongoing contributions to DMI's future.

As of September 1, DMI's leadership is being shared between Australia's Andrew Miller and Norway's Matthijs Terpstra. As International Operations Coordinator, Andrew will oversee all the daily operations of DMI (including administration, finance, PR, fundraising and service). As International Development Coordinator, Matthijs

will oversee all DMI's development projects (including sustainable development, finance, pastoral care, and networking). Andrew and Matthijs will also serve on the International Board as well as their respective national Boards.

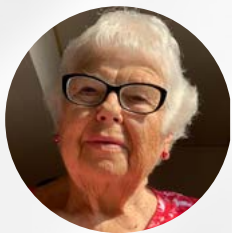
As a part of the same restructuring, Susi Tjhai has been appointed Finance Co-ordinator for DMI's global operations. She has the formidable task of sending all the funding exactly where it needs to go, overseeing the budgeting, advising the International Board, and making sure that all our work is done as economically as possible. Please pray for Andrew, Matthijs, Susi and Gunnar as they all take on new roles!



DMI Japan - Faces Old and New

DMI Japan was home to the original International Board and still retains a vital place in DMI's global operations, supporting DMI in prayer, sponsorships, promotions and fundraising. Our Japan Board has consisted of some of our longest serving members and is now in a process of transformation. New members have joined us in both Board and Volunteer capacities (though everyone is a volunteer!) to help lead DMI Japan into a new era of honouring God through service to the Deaf.

Meet the new-look Japan Board



Alayne Madore

Alayne has been on the Japan Board since it was first formed by Neville over 30 years ago. She has been chairing the Board for most of that time. A highly-esteemed figure in DMI, she has traveled to many of our fields with Neville and is keen to share with the newer members of the Japan team her love for the Deaf, the gospel and DMI.



Dave Taylor

Dave, our Chairman-elect, is new to DMI and works with Alayne to communicate and coordinate Japan initiatives and activities. Originally from New York, he lives in Kyoto, and is a university professor of business. He loves the Lord and looks forward to learning and serving the deaf through DMI.



Jack & Keiko Marshall

Jack and Keiko have a long association with DMI. Jack was the founding pastor of Osaka International Church where Neville first attended church in Japan, and first encouraged Neville to found DMI as an organisation. Jack and Keiko accompanied Neville in ministry trips to many DMI fields and have both served on the Japan Board for many years. Keiko continues on the Board as it's treasurer. Jack now sits on the Board as an honorary member.



Mamiko Rellosa

Mamiko is a busy mother of a 3 year-old boy. She works as the secretary of Osaka International Church where Neville and Lill first attended in Japan. Having Deaf friends at OIC, Mamiko has a passion to be involved in the work of DMI. She assists in administration and daily translations for DMI.

Long-term members **Nathan and Inge Mickelson**, and **Karen Ellrick**, continue to serve in training up our new volunteers. Please pray for and encourage the whole team in Japan for the wonderful work they do.

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.
- Give thanks again for the life of Neville; for the vision that you put in his heart to bring the gospel to the Deaf and the legacy that he has left behind. A year after his passing, we want to give thanks for the work of DMI that has continued and the lives that are still being transformed all because God put a desire in Neville's heart all those years ago.
- We give thanks for the Muir family. For the way that they've supported each other through this difficult year of learning how to live without their beloved Papa. We especially pray for Lill who faithfully stood side by side with Neville as they both gave so much of themselves for others. Thank you for her faithfulness, courage and resilience. Pray for comfort, especially on the hard days. Praise for the joy she has found in the little things and her continued desire to be involved in the work of DMI.
- Pray for the Deaf in Myanmar and Bunia (D.R.Congo) who are living in regions that are ravaged by civil unrest. We pray for their safety. We pray for protection. We pray for peace. May they draw upon God's strength, love and comfort in such a dark time.
- Praise God for the successful crops and harvests in the Malawi and Beni schools. We give thanks for the financial support that enabled these projects and provided every chance of success. We pray that this is just the beginning and God will continue to bless these crops for many years to come.
- Praise God for the baptisms that took place in Uganda. We pray for each of the participants, that they will continue to grow in their faith and desire to share Christ with others. We pray for those who weren't able to get there due to flooding, that they too will rejoice as they are baptised soon!
- Give thanks for the safe arrivals of the babies in the DMI family. Keep them healthy and strong and may they grow knowing Christ's love for them.
- Pray for the changes in leadership that have taken place. We give thanks for Gunnar and his love for Christ and desire to share that with the deaf. Thank you for his leadership over the past 2 years. We give thanks for God's timing in preparing and bringing people forward just at the right time. We pray for Andrew and Matthijs as they work together as a team to ensuring the vision of DMI is continued for many years to come. We pray for Susianti as she manages the finances. We pray for wisdom and guidance for all those in leadership roles.
- Give thanks for way God always provides. At this time, we especially pray for the provision of funds to cover the budgets of the fields for the next few months. We pray that hearts will be stirred to give so that the work of DMI won't just continue, but will impact and change lives as the gospel is shared.
- Give thanks for the Japan Board; for the faithful that have been serving for many years, and the new faces that have felt called to be a part of the DMI team. Pray for, and encourage, the whole team in Japan for the wonderful work they do.



Neville & Lill Muir
DMI Founders



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