

Deaf Ministries International

Issue 37 | December 2021

USA EDITION



*Taking the Gospel
to the Deaf*

Christmas Greetings

2021 has been another rollercoaster year of unknowns, lockdowns, boarder closures, extreme weather, natural disasters, job loses, school closures and many other struggles, but despite all these things, our God is good! The Gospel is still being taken to the Deaf, Deaf students are still getting an education, struggling families are being fed, believers are being baptised and new projects are off to a successful start. God is shining bright out of the darkness, and many are being drawn to Him.

We at DMI would like to sincerely thank each one of our supporters for not only financial support, but also prayer support this year. Your support has meant that we have been able to continue to take the gospel to the Deaf and support them in practical ways throughout this year. We've received many messages of overwhelming thanks from across our fields for the generosity of those in supporting countries. For many, DMI's support has been their lifeline, especially throughout this difficult pandemic season.

We are excited for you to join us as we look forward to see what God has in store for DMI in 2022!!

*From all the staff, board,
members & volunteers at
DMI Australia,
we would like to wish you a blessed
Christmas and a Happy New Year!*



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

www.deafmin.org



Special Projects

We thank God for the special projects we have been able to complete this year, and extend our gratitude to our many generous supporters:



On top of these special projects, we were able to send 100% of our budgets to the field every month this year. We praise God for these wonderful provisions. Thank you all so much for helping us to do this.



Beni, D.R.Congo



Kenya



Burundi



Malawi



Ligao, Philippines

And here is next year's wish list. So many needs! So many lives to lift!



(Budgets are estimated in AUD)

Please join us in prayer and giving to help us develop these projects.



DMI supporters Chas, Sue, Charles and Neoliza purchased 10 acres in Roleystone (near Perth, Western Australia) in February this year. The property has olive, cherry, various nut and fruit trees. In June the olives were processed into Cold Press Extra Virgin Olive Oil which they wish to sell at markets and on their Facebook page shortly. In June and July they

picked citrus and in November cherries, and shortly they will be

picking the next cherries. 100% of the proceeds from the fruit have been and will be donated to DMI this year and the profits from the sale of the olive oil also. They hope they can continue to do this for 2022 and onwards. [You can follow them or contact them on their Facebook page. Search for "Cameron's Orchard"](#) Thank you, Chas, Sue and Team!



FUNDRAISING DINNER SYDNEY

Sydney will hold its major annual fundraising dinner on **3 March** (World Hearing Day - which, incidentally is for the Deaf!). Held at the **View Hotel in North Sydney**, former **Wallaby Captain Nick Farr-Jones** will be guest speaker. We are aiming for 120 to come. Keep the date and let your friends know!

Andrew in Melbourne (Australia)

I was thrilled to be able to visit Melbourne in November and speak at a number of churches and clubs. It was great to be able to meet supporters face to face again! Thanks to the Monash City Church of Christ, Beaconsfield Baptist Church, Mitcham Baptist Church, the Noble Park Rotary Club and last but definitely not least Murray and Nola Marke and all my new missions friends up in Kyabram who received me so warmly. Thank you for your ongoing support.

There is a real need to strengthen our church support base, both in reconnecting with our supporting churches and reaching into new churches. Please help me to do this. I'm based in Sydney, and visit Melbourne frequently but will travel to just

about anywhere I'm invited! (Fiji looks nice...) Please speak to your pastors and missions teams and ask if I would be able to meet with them to share the wonderful work that DMI continues to do amongst the Deaf. Neville's vision and mission really is alive and well! Let's ensure it continues to be so.

- Andrew Miller

Andrew can be reached at
andrew.miller@deafmin.org
or on 040-333-9676.



Uganda - Full Steam Ahead

Our Bible and vocational students in Uganda are back into their courses and powering ahead!



Shabira, Sylvia, Peter & Winnie home for the holidays soon after a challenging year of study and restrictions.

Congratulations to Sylvia, Peter, Winnie and Shabira who graduated from their internships on November 26! Sylvia and Peter graduated from their hospitality internships, and Winnie and Shabira from their hairdressing internships at the Sparkles Beauty salon where Andrew is hoping to get his hair braided toward the end of next year. (It's not going to happen.) DMI covered the cost of the graduations, including gown hire and photos,

At the Bible school in Kampala, we have 10 students: 5 from DR Congo, 2 from Zambia and 3 from Uganda. They have been residing at the Bible school and have been able to attend classes throughout the lockdown. They will all be heading

transporting their parents/guardians to the graduation venue and providing a special meal for them to celebrate together.

Sylvia excelled both in class and her internship. Top marks resulted in a certificate of outstanding performance. The presentation was aired on the Uganda National Television station, UBC. She is very grateful to her sponsors who have enabled her to pursue her education and she is excited for her future.

Jordan and Allan have been learning carpentry at the UNAD Vocational Resource Centre and Rachel, who is specialising in garment design, is becoming very proficient with her Singer sewing machine.

Simon is studying leather work and shoemaking at the Ruti Rehabilitation Centre from which he hopes to qualify as a cobbler. His learning has been delayed because of COVID

but he is looking forward to graduating and joining the workforce.

All these students have come up through our student sponsorship program. It's wonderful to see them so well prepared for a life of independence, dignity and faith.



Allan

shoemaking at the Ruti Rehabilitation Centre from which he hopes to qualify as a cobbler. His learning has been delayed because of COVID



Rachel



Simon



Myanmar

Our DMI family in Myanmar have been very brave. The situation remains volatile and highly dangerous. The banking system is still problematic and we are trying to work our way around that. But there are bigger concerns at the moment. Pa-Lian recently sent us footage of an intense gunfire exchange between government and rebel forces just a block from our school in Kalay. He reports that, "On the day of the shooting, our principal was coming back from a deaf student's house to her own house at around 2:00pm. The shooting started an hour later." Despite these present dangers, our teachers continue to go three days a week to the children's houses to teach. They are so devoted to their students.



In Yangon where our church is, there is shooting every night though it is safer in the day. The members of our congre-

gation are all safe. None have been detained but some older members have died from COVID.

Pa-Lian writes, "Last night about 20 police and soldiers with guns came to my home about 12 midnight to check if we had any guests. This is normal now - for Kalay too. But we have no problem because we had no guests. They often check our phones to see if there is anything on them so we always 'clean' them after using them. We are thankful to DMI for the full support we receive so we do not starve. Everything is going well with us. And good news! This Sunday we will have the Lord's supper at church! One of our church friends - the Manassa family who were in our church in Yangon every Sunday and are now back in the USA - donated rice and oil so we will share it all. This Sunday our church members will be very happy. For Christmas day, we have received another donation from DMI's deaf pastor Rev. Heo In Yeong in Korea and we will share rice and oil again."

Let's give thanks and continue to pray for the safety and freedom of our congregants and students in Myanmar.



Uganda - Neville Muir Comprehensive School

300 students have registered to study in 2022 at the Neville Muir Comprehensive School, run by our indefatigable Director Dennis Dag-kane! (See <https://deafministriesinternational.com/25-dennis/>) The school re-opened on 1st November with 80 year 1 and year 2 students. Current course studies are Brick Laying and Concrete Practice (BCP), Hair Dressing (HD) and Tailoring and Cutting Garments (TCG) & Knitting, as well as Sign Language and English studies. There are 8 teachers at the school now but this will grow to 16 once the school is back in full swing.

The school is looking to increase its courses on offer to include Computer Literacy, Motor Vehicle Technology, Electrical Installation, Welding and Metal Fabrication, Painting and Decoration, Agriculture, and Formal Technical Education.

Dennis is active in leading church services and evangelical work. Daily morning devotions have resumed on the grounds with a fellowship time every evening. Every Friday afternoon there is a special fellowship event for all students and staff, and every Sunday a church service is held for all at the school. These Chris-

tian services and outreaches are an integral part of the community; for Dennis, they are the backbone of all that goes on at the school.

With the number of students enrolled to study at the school next year, and extra courses planned, an additional four classrooms are needed at the school. As the photos here show, a lot of classes are conducted outside which might look nice in the sunshine but it isn't always sunny! Government regulations also stipulate that classes must be held indoors, so this is a project we need to get onto. At \$80,000 we add it to the list!

The staff and students at the school thank DMI supporters from the bottom of their hearts for all the support they have received.



Woodwork



Brick Laying and Concrete Practice



Hair Dressing



Tailoring and Cutting Garments

Tanzania - a testimony

Glory: From Islam to Christ



My name is Glory. I am the third child in an Islamic family of five. Like other Muslim children, I studied the Quran and followed its teachings.

But something was missing. As a child, I had many unanswered questions about Allah.

"Why did we have to pray five times a day? Why did we have to cover ourselves? Why did we have to speak to God in Arabic? Could God not understand our native language, which is Swahili?"

I always felt "disappointed" when I read the Quran and never felt a closeness to God by reading it.

My father often hitting my mother, saying that Islamic allowed him to punish an unruly wife, led me to hate my religion. When I was in 7th grade,

my parents divorced and my mother later died a heart -broken woman.

Poverty followed. Living on my own, I became desperate. I started a relationship with a hearing man while still at school so that I could rely on him on for daily necessities, and through this relationship I became pregnant which led me to abandon my studies. I gave birth to a son and started life with this man who was also from a Muslim family.

However, he would get drunk every night after coming home and beat me. All of this reminded me of my parents' life and my

mother's sad death. He left me for another woman, took my son and left me on my own. I was broken losing my son and my health deteriorated.

I found a part-time job in a hair salon where I met another deaf sister named Juliana. She was an evangelist and choir member at the Immanuel Church of the Deaf. She was always singing praises to God and shared with me the good news of Jesus' salvation. I also learned about this new faith from Jestina* who answered difficult questions for me and directed me to church leaders who could help.

I told my sister about this Good News but she chased me from her home after being advised by Muslim sheikhs.

Juliana and the church leaders helped me to find another place to live. Their love touched me so much. I was able to access the Bible and memorised verses that carried me through some awful times. It wasn't easy. But there is a verse in Matthew that talks about forgiving your enemies and those who persecute you. I asked God to help me to live those verses. Having accepted Jesus as my Saviour, I attended weekly baptism classes, and was baptised on May 23, 2020.

Now, I follow Jesus and listen to Him and see Him making a real difference in my life, an urge to live I never had before. I still need support spiritually and physically. God has given me back my son but without a full-time job I can't educate my son. Please pray for me, that I will get a permanent job or a sponsor for my son's education.

For Glory's full story, see check out Blog 36 on our website:
www.deafmin.org

For Jestina's story, see 2021 April DMI newsletter also on our website.

Kenya - Fatherheart Conference Going Ahead



As restrictions around the world begin to ease, we are working to return to the principle focus of our mission which is to take the gospel to the Deaf. For the last two years it has been necessary for us to lean more toward food and project support and these expressions of love are a vital part of our gospel work (and are ongoing).

Recently our International Advisor, Gunnar Dehli, visited Kenya to set up our next Fatherheart conference with Josephat (DAK Director), Sam (Africa Advisor), Ruth and others from DAK. The Father-

heart conferences are a wonderful way to lead the Deaf to experience God the Father's love for themselves in an intimate and powerful way. Pray for the success of these gatherings!



DMI AUSTRALIAN OFFICE CHRISTMAS HOURS

The DMI Australian office will be closed from **December 24 - January 10**

If you need to contact us, email: info@deafmin.org
and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

D.R.Congo, Bunia – Food Successfully Delivered

In our last newsletter we put out an appeal to help feed the Deaf in Bunia, a community that has experienced much trauma, heartache, sickness and starvation. We are very pleased to inform you that once again, God has provided, and 150 Deaf families have been given food supplies. As you can see in



the photos, it was received by some very grateful recipients!

Thank you to those who prayed for Pa-py's safety as he

travelled to Bunia to oversee the food distribution.



If you would like to be a DMI prayer partner and receive weekly prayer points, please see the details below.

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

Christmas Gift Catalogue Out Now!

Meaningful Gifts, Transforming Lives



www.deafmin.org/donate

IT'S A GIRL!

We'd like to send Congratulations to John Gakuru and wife who have given birth to a precious baby girl. John is the DAC secretary and board member in D.R.Congo. Please pray for the health of the baby and his wife as she recovers after a difficult birth.




GIVE THE GIFT OF Sponsorship

\$40 AUD PER MONTH

Why not give the gift of sponsorship to a child this Christmas?

The Deaf Action sponsorship program assists deaf children to attend schools in remote towns in Asia and Africa. \$40 a month helps to cover costs of education, skills and moral training to equip them to lead productive and fruitful lives. Programs range from kindergarten right through to college level. The schools also work with young adults who have missed out on schooling due to poverty or lack of opportunity. You can help by sponsoring a child in either Myanmar, the Philippines, Kenya or Uganda.

For more information please contact:

Deaf Action
info@deafaction.org.au
 Ph: 03 5940 5431
www.deafmin.org




DMI USA

The DMI USA Board originated at Jack & Keiko Marshall's home in Fresno, California during February of 2001. Neville Muir was our CEO, Jack Marshall (based in Japan and also a member of the Japan Board) was a DMI Missionary, and Peter Pfeil assumed the role of President, Treasurer and financial manager.



Peter Pfeil

Peter has faithfully served as President of the DMI USA Board since its inception in 2001. He and Neville did fundraising and promotional work first in the Cincinnati area, then later in South Carolina up until Neville's passing last year. Peter maintains contact with those churches and is looking to Andrew Miller to maintain and initiate new contacts in California, which Neville used to handle.



Jack & Keiko Marshall

DMI USA continues to fundraise for Jack & Keiko Marshall's ministry to Japanese students. They have lived in Amagasaki, Japan for many years in their ministry. They serve now as honorary members of the USA Board (as well as on the Japan Board).



Kathy Toth

Kathy has diligently supported DMI as the Assistant Treasurer since 2002. In 2008 she added the job of USA Child Sponsorship Co-Ordinator serving as a contact person for the US people who sponsor a child through DMI, mailing newsletters and Christmas cards from the children to their sponsors. She enjoys gardening and reading. She is the mother of 3 grown boys and is about to become a grandmother for the first time.

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.
- We give thanks for provision of funds to complete so many wonderful projects this year! Even though we have faced many difficulties in 2021, He continues to provide for our every need.
- We give thanks that we have been able to provide 100% of the budget this year, even when at times the funds came in at the last moment. We give thanks for the reminder that God always has a plan and He has his hand upon all things.
- We pray for our DMI family in Myanmar. The situation seems to be getting worse rather than better and we pray for peace. We pray for the safety of all our workers, teachers, pastors, students and church congregations. Give them the strength to rely on God and everything that they face each day.
- We also give thanks for the arrival of a baby to Deaf Action Congo's secretary John Gakuru and his wife. Please be in prayer for his wife's recovery after a distressful birth.
- Pray for Cameron's Orchard, a new initiative by supporter Sue Cameron and friends in Western Australia. All profits will be going to DMI. Pray that they will be able to get their permits finalised and will have buyers for all their products
- We give thanks for Glory and for the way God placed the right people in her life at the right time. We give thanks that she answered His call and is now sharing her story that others may come to know and be saved by grace.
- We give thanks for Papy's safety as he made the journey to deliver food to the Deaf community in Bunia. We pray that the people who received the food will be blessed beyond physical nourishment.
- We give thanks for the outstanding results and achievement of the Ugandan students. Give thanks for the sponsors who have generously given support over many years giving these students an opportunity that they may not have had. We pray for them as they begin to make plans for their futures.



*Neville & Lill Muir
DMI Founders*



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DMI Evangelistic Donations:

Details for EFT:

SWIFT CODE: BENDAU3B

BSB: 63-30-00

Account: 145833539

Paypal facility (secure) on website

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