



Graduation and Parents' Day

KENYA – IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN INTEGRATED SCHOOL

For the first time in more than two years, schools were allowed to hold graduations and parents' meetings in the school. The Immanuel Christian Integrated School held its 12th graduation ceremony and for the first time in the history of the school, they held their first Integrated Graduation ceremony in the presence of Regional Education Officers including Reverend Vitalis Oduor who is also a Board Member of the school. The parents were very encouraged and delighted with their hearing children being allowed to study with children who are Deaf. They could not imagine their own hearing children being involved in everyday activities using sign language. From this celebration, the parents, along with the board members, advocated for a need for a Junior High School building for children transitioning from Primary School to Junior High School. Wesley is working with Pastor Gantt to make this happen. Watch this space!



DR CONGO - BENI SCHOOL



Our Beni School has started the construction of its secondary school following a generous donation left in a will. The secondary school is 40m away from the primary school and will consist of 11 rooms. They plan to finish the construction of the classrooms in June or July, and the office has already been completed. 25 students are ready to start at secondary school which will open from September, this year.

Students have been travelling to and from school safely. Rebels are still present but none of our students or staff at the school have been victims. The school garden is producing excellent crops of vegetables and some of the students have been inspired to start their own home gardens as well.



(Left) Classroom construction. (Middle) Completed secondary school office.



New Name

Immanuel Christian School for the Deaf is now called Immanuel Christian Integrated School due to the new Kenyan Government policy. All students – Deaf and hearing – received new uniforms and they are very happy to wear them.



UGANDA

Neville Muir Comprehensive School



Thanks to very generous donations from supporters in Norway, the classrooms for the Neville Muir Comprehensive School in Lira, run by Director Dennis Dag-Kene have now started to be built! What a wonderful development! The NGO "New Start" in Norway and other Norwegian donors have provided

this initial funding of AUS45,000. **There is still a need to raise the remaining AUS15,000 to complete the classrooms.**

These classrooms were required by the Ugandan government. The foundations and the concrete structure will be professionally built and the students of the school (studying brick laying) will do the brick laying! With the easing of COVID restrictions, the school has about 300 deaf, disabled or poor students enrol. This is fabulous but with so many students,

classes were being held outside which was problematic on rainy or windy days. The new classrooms allow students to learn in a safe, effective and compliant way.



Foundations for new classrooms



Schools reopened and the students are back in school and vocational colleges. Four students from UNAD are learning carpentry and joinery. One student, Yubu, has been relocated and is studying at A Chance for a Child – a vocational college in Kaziba in Mityana. He is studying catering. Simon is still at RUTI studying to be a cobbler.

Yubu



Correction

We would like to correct a mistake in our previous newsletter. A kind and generous donor of students in Kenya who kindly gifted nine students in Kenya with new items – school shoes, school bags and umbrellas - is

from the United States, not Australia. The students love their gifts. Thank you!

Updates from some of the 2021 Malaika Comprehensive Vocational School Graduates

Sylvia received a monetary gift to start up her own business. She managed to buy a deep freezer, sandwich maker, microwave oven, commercial potato chipper, fridge guard, palette, apron and cap and printed receipt books. She still needs



Sylvia

We are looking to provide a financial gift for Winnie to start her own business and are helping her make a business plan so she can start her own journey of self-sustainability. We look forward to seeing what business she will start in the future.

some key equipment including a coffee maker, display, furniture, start up rent and wages, electricity money and start up materials. She is currently working at Endiro.

Winnie continues to work with a hearing friend at a salon. The salon belongs to her hearing friend.



Winnie

UGANDA CLASSROOM CAMPAIGN



Please help us build four classrooms at the Neville Muir Comprehensive School in Lira, Uganda.

AUSTRALIAN SUPPORTERS:

Please donate through Deaf Action via our website or using the bank details on the back of the newsletter
<https://deafmin.org/donate/>

ALL OTHER COUNTRIES:

Please donate through DMI via our website or using the bank details on the back of the newsletter
<https://deafmin.org/donate/>

Follow the links for Uganda Classroom Campaign
Thank you for your generous help at this time.

MYANMAR - MUIR SCHOOL

Things continue to deteriorate in Myanmar but our staff and students are counting their blessings. Hardships are increasing but more Deaf people have been coming to the church where rice and oil are given to them: 72 bags of rice and 72 bottles of oil were donated by Rev. Masago and friends from the Japan Deaf Church. Our Director Pa-Lian says, "Many people have lost their jobs and when I ask them about their daily life, most of them answer that they are okay for now. It's a miracle for people with no job or income, how they are sustained every day. It is sure we are more valuable than sparrows in God's eye. We are so thankful."

Food aid was sent to 7 workers in Yangon and to the Muir School in Kalay. Schools are still closed in Myanmar including the Muir School. Security and safety are a big problem as the teachers continue to travel to the students' homes to do home tutoring. Kalay is still a battleground, with shots



being fired every day at 3pm! The students are still learning at home. Pa-Lian is preparing to go to Kalay to prepare for the next academic year. Our Deaf school will open in June if conditions are no worse than they currently are. The school has already been closed for two years.

F.C.L.C – LIGAO - PHILIPPINES



F.C.L.C purchased a new grass cutter and new camera from the Christmas Catalogue items. The school has started its third quarter. All teachers and staff are fully vaccinated. They are still in blended or modular distance learning. The Department of Education encourages both public and private schools to have limited face-to-face classes but F.C.L.C needs more time to prepare to be able to conduct limited face-to-face classes. Students who usually reside in the dormitory must wait a bit longer until the dormitory is allowed to be opened as commuting often will result in expensive transportation expenses.

DEAF BACOLOD STUDENTS - PHILIPPINES

In January 2022, three students from the Boarding House were enrolled in Special Education (SPED)/Public School in Bacolod City for face-to-face modules. The other three students who were living at the Boarding House are continuing to study online from their homes, completing work modules. Realyn and Gerald from the Bacolod Boarding House are currently studying TLE Cookery, learning how to make a variety of sandwiches.



DEAF ACTION FAMILY BROOD OF BOYS



Alphonsine & Arsene - Rwanda

We are excited to celebrate the safe arrival of Alphonsine & Arsene's baby boy, Stephen, on the 4th of March. Many of you would have followed Alphonsine's journey over the years through our sponsorship program. She escaped the Rwandan genocide as a child but lost many of her family including her parents. Alphonsine became more known to DMI in 2017 when she needed support after earning her place at university. She will resume her internship in May 2022 at her university where she is studying. Arsene is the Treasurer of Deaf Action in Rwanda. If you haven't already, make sure you go to the blog on our website and read Alphonsine's remarkable story.

Mang Hlei Sang - Myanmar

Congratulations to Mang Hlei Sang and his wife on the safe arrival of their baby boy. Mang Hlei Sang is one of our teachers at the Neville Muir School for the Deaf in Myanmar. What a precious gift of new life after such struggle and hardship over the past few years in their country. We pray for health and safety for this family as Myanmar still struggles to find peace and freedom for its people under military rule.



Alain – DR Congo

Alain and his wife are filled with joy as they announce the arrival of their new baby boy, Josue (Joshua), who arrived on April 3rd.

In February 2020, Alain and his wife gave birth to a son, who sadly passed away 3 days after his birth. They were then blessed with a daughter, Gabriella, in early 2021, and now they have been blessed with another precious son.

Alain expresses himself perfectly; *"I am about to die of joy...yesterday God re-gave me a son."*

Alain is not only the Director of the school, but is a vital member of the Deaf Action Board in DR Congo and is its treasurer, too.



Disaster Relief Campaign Update - Malawi



In our last newsletter we launched the Malawi Disaster Relief Campaign to assist our Deaf there in recovering from Cyclone Ana after it tore through the country causing huge amounts of damage. Thanks to your amazingly generous response this campaign is now fully funded. Funds raised are shown in the table to the right.

We at DMI and the DMI Malawi family are so grateful to all those who have contributed to assist in these recovery efforts.



Amount Raised	Phase	What for?
AUD500		Immediate response for food and water
AUD8,000		Extra food relief and temporary shelter for 200 families
AUD19,000	Phase 1	Rebuilding of the Vocational Training Centre – Fully raised
AUD9,000	Phase 2	Rebuilding of the security fence - Fully raised
AUD19,000	Phase 3	Rebuilding of the dormitory plus furnishings – Fully raised
AUD5,000	Phase 4	Replacing equipment for the training centre – Fully raised from the Christmas catalogue.



€30^{EUR}
PER MONTH

Why not give the gift of sponsorship to a child?

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

**WE URGENTLY NEED
SPONSORS TO SUPPORT
THESE STUDENTS!**



Erica Samaniego
Grade 8
Ligao, Philippines



Leonito Zafe
Grade 7
Ligao, Philippines



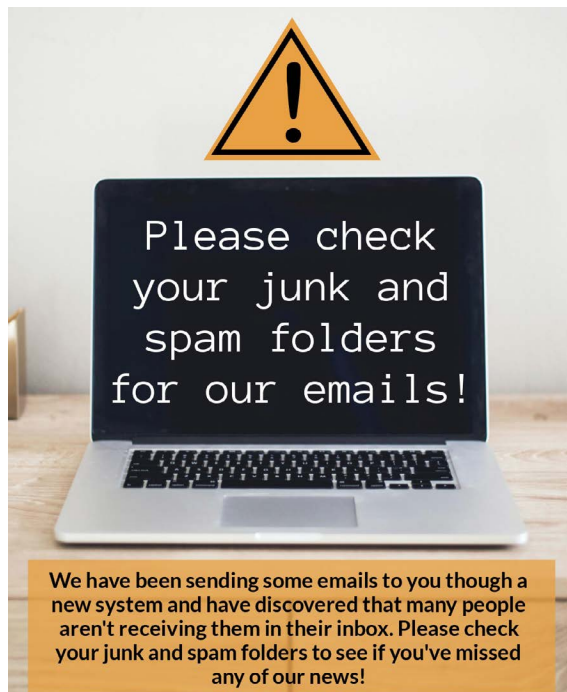
Janet Banda
Grade 3
Zambia



Yun Yatii Hlaing
Grade 1
Myanmar



Isaac Kombi
Grade 5
Beni, DR Congo



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We spend approximately \$6,900AUD a year on hardcopy newsletters.

This is a good use of funds if readers don't have email addresses or find the hardcopy easier to read. We love being able to bring you the news from the fields as regularly as possible. But for those who do have email, we can save some of that money and send more of it to the Deaf in need.

Can you make the change from hard copy newsletters to email versions? If you can, send us an email to

info@deafaction.org.au with your preferred mail address, requesting to make the change to e-newsletters. Thank you for your ongoing support of Deaf Action.



Keep up to date with all the latest news from **Deaf Ministries International** by receiving our other newsletter.

If you would like to receive this in addition to the Deaf Action newsletter, please contact us at **info@deafmin.org**



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Thank you for continuing to support our schools students, teachers and self-sustainability projects.

Warm regards,
Kay & Jenny
Sponsorship Team



Neville & Lill Muir
DMI & DA Founders