

# Deaf Ministries International

Issue 40 | July 2022

*Taking the Gospel to the Deaf*

## DMI Growing Strong in Rwanda

A new church plant, an ordination for new pastors, a workshop for evangelists, a new house church established - these are just some of the ways that DMI has been flourishing in Rwanda this year. Under the young but wise leadership of Director Patrick Tuyishimire and with the steady support of the local Board and pastors, our Rwanda team (known as Deaf Action Rwanda (DAR)) is rapidly becoming a standout field for DMI.



**Newly ordained pastors: Patrick, Seth, Alphonsine & Arsene**

In February, a new ICDR (Immanuel Church of the Deaf, Rwanda) church was established. Planted in the Kamonyi District, this is the seventh church for the Deaf DMI has planted in Rwanda. It is led by Valentine Nyirarukundo, an evangelist with DAR, and currently has 17 members. It is growing fast as word spreads that this church for the Deaf has opened. Patrick says, "Deaf people were overjoyed because they were going to attend a church that has a preacher to preach them

by their own heart language". Many are illiterate, though, so Valentine also uses a photo book to tell the story of the gospel to them. Claire and Patrick have also visited the church to encourage the Deaf and help establish the church.

More recently, a workshop run by Wycliff and attended by 16 evangelists and volunteers from DMI'S ICDR church trained participants to share the Word of God with the illiterate Deaf and Deaf-blind. (This is a similar training to the one given to our workers from Burundi - see article on 'Burundi - Bible Translation Training Centre' in this newsletter.) With the ordination of four new pastors by Gunnar earlier this year, and



the ongoing training of our workers, more church growth is expected across the country. Administratively, DAR is in the process of registering with the Rwandan government as a registered charity organisation.

*Continued on pg 2*

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

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This is a big step and will give them the status to raise funds independently and to have a bigger hand in vision casting and in local matters. The preparing of a constitution under the local board has been a big part of this.

Going forward, Patrick and the team have big plans. They have a vision for the education and the salvation of all Rwandan Deaf people. Patrick has developed plans for a large school for the Deaf - a million-dollar plan (literally) - a large step in seeing that every Deaf child in Rwanda receives a meaningful education. He has developed evangelical plans to see that every Deaf person in Rwanda hears the good news of the gospel. And he is working to see that every Deaf person has the opportunity to be gainfully employed.



## DMI General Fund

It never ceases to amaze me how many new developments we're able to complete each year thanks to the generous giving of our supporters. You might remember last year we were able to build extra classrooms, dormitories, church buildings, workshops, storerooms as well as develop numerous farmlands. This year we have already been able to build an entire secondary school in DR Congo, build classrooms in Uganda, rebuild our vocational centre and churches in Malawi, buy land for the Bible School in Uganda and more. We praise God for these fabulous developments!

Building them is one thing. Maintaining them is another. With each new facility we have more staff to employ, more equipment to set up (or replace), and more general running costs. This is why giving to the General Fund is so important. The General Fund keeps the whole ministry going. No, it doesn't have that sense of 'I did it!' regarding a new facility but it does ensure that we can fulfil our primary mission goals: to take the gospel to the Deaf and to provide education and employment as well.

Every month for the last three years, I'm pleased to say that we have sent 100% of our budgets to the field. It hasn't always been that way. In some years prior to that, we were only able to send 80% or 70% of budgets to the field and that was very hard on those we support. This year we've been struggling to send the full monthly budget to the fields. For those who are not already, can I ask you to **please commit to sending monthly donations to our General Fund?** This would be very helpful in supporting the hundreds of Deaf pastors, evangelists, teachers and support staff in the field.

Donations can be made via our website [deafmin.org/donate](http://deafmin.org/donate) or using the banking details on the back of this newsletter.

## Africa

### Burundi - Bible Translation Training Centre

Exciting things are happening in Burundi. Around 3 years ago, members of ICDB (Immanuel Church for the Deaf, Burundi) a DMI-founded church, had the desire placed on their hearts to translate the Bible into sign language so that it could be taken to the Deaf and Deaf/Blind throughout Burundi. A small Bible training centre was then formed.



Trainees travelled to Kenya where they completed a 2-3 year course during which they recorded 3 DVD's in Burundian Sign Language: how to know God, how to serve God, and how to follow God. Upon returning to Burundi, the new graduates created their own Deaf association for Bible translation called ABTBS. Most of the board of

ABTBS consist of members of the Immanuel Church of the Deaf with DMI Burundi Director Fabien Hamissi serving as chairperson. Following the establishment of ABTBS, Wycliffe Bible Translators keenly agreed to support and provide further training through this new association. One course provided is Bible translation into sign language (called the DOT program), and the other trains







## Zambia

The gospel continues to be taken to the Deaf in Zambia. A new church was established in April in Katete in the Eastern Province of the country and already has 78 members! The church is led by Pastor Kennedy Mbewe, with help from his assistants Charles Sakala and Andrew Banda.

The ministry includes outreach to homes and workplaces and has started marriage counselling. Counsellors also work with children every Wednesday and Friday to encourage behavioural change through Bible stories. The ministry encourages hearing people to join the ministry so there are some hearing people who are part of the deaf church in all ICDZ (Immanuel Church for the Deaf, Zambia) congregations. Parents of Deaf children are also taught how to sign.



After his shock brain fade in his exams last year - he'd never failed a test in his life before! - the brilliant Hastings has been working very hard to prepare for his coming matriculation ex-

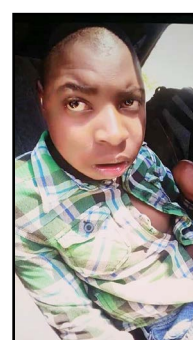
members to teach the word of God to the Deaf, including those who have never attended school, and to Deaf/Blind people (called the SUN program). The Immanuel Church for the Deaf will be responsible for supporting the SUN program. Evangelist Patrick Ndiokubwayo was appointed as project manager of the SUN program in Burundi. The program is set to start in June and we ask you to join us in prayer for the trainers and trainees as they seek to grow in skills and knowledge, and to spread the gospel in sign language throughout Burundi.



*Hastings*



*Janet*



*Maliza*

ams. He is keen to study medicine at university and we are keen to see him realise this dream.

Janet has also been doing very well in school; so well, in fact, that she has jumped from 2nd grade into 4th grade!

Maliza has been having a little bit more of a hard time with his education. He will move into home schooling with a tutor and Lewis has done a great job arranging this. Maliza is in good health and spirits.

Lewis has also been following up on two Deaf prisoners, Jairy and Mamabo, who have been sick for some time. Their families never visit them which is not only sad but problematic because if there is no family care, they are unlikely to be released from prison at the end of their sentence. Lewis is working to contact their family members to arrange visitations, not only to help secure their release, but so they can know that they are loved.

## Kenya - Sewing Workshop



We are delighted to inform you that the reusable sanitary pad project has made its first delivery to our Immanuel Christian Integrated School in Kenya. Rev. Josephat, Mrs Christine and Anne Kaunda travelled over 5 hours from the Nairobi Sewing workshop to the school to make their delivery to the female students.

27 Girls (8 hearing & 19 Deaf) in grades 4 – 8 were the recipients of the sanitary items. Before handing them out, the girls participated in an education session about menstrual hygiene

and sanitation lead by Mrs Christine and Anne. They also demonstrated how to use and clean the pads. The children were very enthusiastic, excited and eager to learn.

Not all of the girls who received the packages have begun their menstruation cycle yet, but the teachers believed that early education is very important. The female teachers at the school will now do follow up sessions with the girls and continue to educate them about their bodies.

Now the hope is that word will start to spread and more



schools in the area will come onboard with this program.



## DR Congo - Raw report

Every quarter we receive reports from the fields and they are always (well, not always, but usually!) such a delight to read. We usually take some key developments or challenges and present them to you as a story. But here is an unedited snapshot of our report from DR Congo, warts and all. It's so encouraging to read the many positive developments, and sobering to read the many challenges. Yet even with the challenges, it's truly inspiring how fruitful this field is.

### Positive developments

1. Seminar to the youth from 23 to 25 march 2022 on the gender based violence;
2. On 27 march 2022, a young deaf decided to receive Christ in his life and quit alcoholic life; it was during the Sunday service that he stood and testified;
3. On the 08 march 2022, the deaf women celebrated the women day and held conference for all deaf women on the role of a women in the society;
4. On the 10 February 2022, DAC started building the head office as sponsored by DMI;
5. On the 13 February 2022, the men held a meeting on how to organize a mutual cooperative for self-promotion and mutual assistance.
6. On the 11 february2022, the church committee visited George WAKUNGU, who was injured by military as they met him on road and was not able to communicate with them. They beat him not knowing he was a Deaf. We praise God he is well now;
7. The church conference in Beni followed by the Lord's supper by pastor Papy Muteberwa;
8. Support from Beni school project income to the school of deaf in Bunia with USD150 for students food;
9. Farmland production in Beni during this term: a. Nogera: Oil: 60 liters, Cocoanuts: 0kg, Beans: 50kgs, Bananas: 4 bunches of bananas; b. Musenze: Beans: 100kgs, Fire wood: 3 trees which fell down because of the storm; c. Matembo: (rented land 200m x20m): cassava production to be reported in the second term.
10. Beni students sponsorship: in this term the students received School bags, book-notes, School uniforms and Sports materials;
11. Monthly salary from DMI to the four Beni teachers who are not paid by the government;
12. Construction of Beni secondary school: 5 rooms and of-ice over now, and ongoing construction for the More 5 rooms upstairs. room size is 7m x 6m;



13. Donation from Norwegian Refugee council NGO(NRC) to the school of Beni:54 desks, 3 tables and 3 chairs for Deaf students;
14. The Deaf School in Minova was able to get donation of USD 600 from an American volunteer woman. With the amount the school director purchased 3 sewing machines, cloths with needles for sewing students and 2 plane tools for carpenters students...
15. Visiting the backsliders and encourage them to come back to church!
16. Visit and preaching in the hearing churches based on invitations;
17. Ministering to the sick at their homes and hospitals;
18. Comforting families who lost their relatives;

### Challenges

1. The church of Beni lost two girls members of church. They both died from short sickness,
2. Miss Justine KALINDI and Jeannette MASIKA. Thu church organized funeral ceremonies in collaboration with their families;
3. Insecurity and killings in North-Kivu Province and Ituri province. The road is insecure for people to travel;
4. Students no longer eat every day as before. From January to March 2022, Students eat three times a week. The stock managers are trying to economize the food stock;
5. One builder wouldn't during construction of Beni secondary school. We bless the Lord for he was healed after two weeks taking medicine;
6. Lack of salary to the teachers of the Deaf school in Minova who are holding primary school for children and vocational program for the adults;
7. Lack of musical instruments to use during praise and worship services in DAC churches in Goma, Beni and Uvira ;
8. Our churches need to have a land where to construct a temple for their own: Butembo, Beni and Uvira.
9. Lack of training in bible and ministry for church leaders.
10. Lack of bibles for believers
11. Lack of projector for visual teachings on PowerPoint;
12. Lack of host families for the Deaf who would like to attend school in the town
13. Lack of assistance to the deaf orphans and widows in our churches
14. Lack of school bus for Beni deaf children
15. Lack of nursery school for Deaf children and vocational class for the adults in Beni;
16. Some of Beni school teachers are so far not paid by the government.
17. Low payment allowance to the evangelists who are married and have family challenges.



# Asia

## China - You can't lock God out!

As many of you would have seen on the news, China is still fighting the Covid virus by implementing lockdowns, the most severe restrictions being enforced on Shanghai and surrounding areas. Many issues and struggles have arisen because of these restrictions, and we ask you to pray for all those who are suffering as a result.

Even though there are so many struggles that our Deaf brothers and sisters are facing in China, the name of Jesus is very much alive.

In the south-western provinces, our coffee shop has moved to a new location which just happens to be under the church! When the shop recently re-opened many came to celebrate and they even had a band come and play music. The coffee shop is not just a business that is run by the Deaf to bring in some income, but a place where people can come and gather



together to encourage one another and pray. We pray for this ministry that it will continue to grow and bless all those who walk through the doors.

Churches are still meeting online or in parks. Whether they are able to meet online or in person, prayer meetings have never stopped regardless of the situation. In the words of one of our Chinese workers "Praise Lord, we still can worship Him now!"



*Prayer meeting at the cafe.  
(Faces have been blurred for safety reasons)*



*Praise and worship at the cafe*

## Myanmar - Light in the Darkness

Myanmar may still be a mess but we know that's when God does some of his best work! Despite the situation around them, the church in Yangon held a summer Bible camp in the church building at the end of April. The theme of the camp was "Put out into the deep". Twenty-four people attended and we are thankful for God's protection over them for the duration.

It was a time of growing and much to be thankful for as God stirred in the hearts of two of the ladies who attended and made the decision to be followers of Christ on the second day. One, a Muslim lady, expressed to Pa Lian, "I am very happy for knowing God. My husband let me follow Jesus, now I believe in Jesus." The other, a Buddhist lady, said that now she believes in Jesus and wants to be baptised. Praise God!

The situation in Yangon has settled enough for church activities to resume and many Deaf have taken advantage of that with services of up to 80 people! What a blessing for them to finally fellowship together again.



*960kms away in Kalay, where the Neville Muir School for the*

*Pindaw Oo Church near Kalay*

Deaf is situated, the circumstances are quite different. There is still much political unrest and it's quite dangerous to be out



Among them are 5 new students. The children were so happy to be back at school after having to shut the doors over 2 years ago, firstly due to COVID and then because of all the political unrest.



*Students and teachers hiding in the darkness*

Yet in recent days, fighting in the streets of Kalay has returned. Pa-Lian stays in close contact with us: "Tonight, the shooting started at around 10:00pm just a few hundred metres from the school. All our children are hiding in the kitchen as I am writing to you. In the midst of this situation, our youngest student Htoo Chia Su was asleep and while they all hurried down to the kitchen to hide, her clothes fell off. Now as they recall what happened and tell me, they are all laughing." We're glad they can retain a sense of humour in such traumatic times. But it remains traumatic. At night, they stay quiet, in darkness, not daring to turn any lights on. The power is turned off. They all huddle together and sleep in a small downstairs room. Pa-Lian's words are warm and he tries to be reassuring: "It is as usual and no need much afraid. Our school fences are high enough". We pray for peace, giving thanks for our school staff and church leaders who continue to faithfully serve in Jesus' name.

## Philippines - Rodel, a Deafblind Pastor with a Vision



It might sound ironic to say that a man who is without vision has a great vision. But that is the case with Pastor Rodel, who is serving the Deaf in the Negros region of the Philippines. Rodel, who is deafblind, has been serving with DMI for almost ten years. It hasn't always been easy. He has had to battle the prejudice

of others, and the blight of COVID, not to mention overcome the challenges of his own disabilities. But his vision to reach the Deaf with the gospel of Christ has been clear and unwavering - and fruitful.

Before COVID, Rodel was pastoring 40 Deaf church members across congregations in Borongon and in Zamboangita. He was working in association with Pastor Albert (deaf) in Bacolod and Dr Doug Clutton (hearing) who has been signing

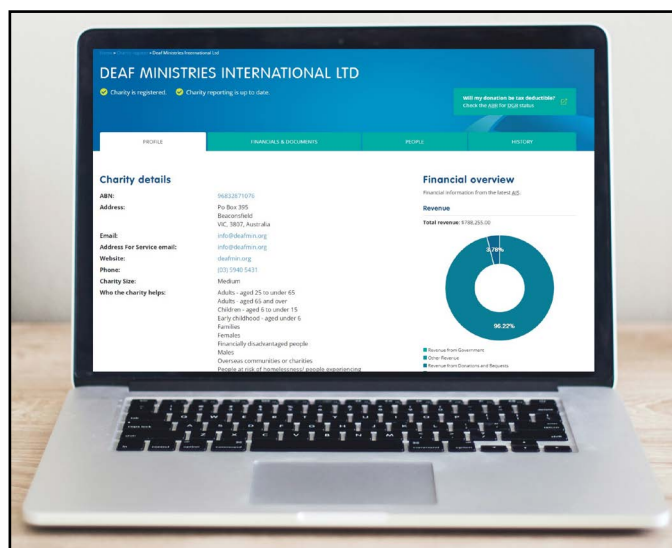
for the Deaf in DMI's churches for many years. With church members having to stay away throughout the pandemic, Rodel's congregants have dwindled to 10. But his vision hasn't dwindled. Rodel's passion to reach the deaf is unchanged. With restrictions easing, now is the time to reach out and start building up the churches again. Many years ago, Rodel was given an old computer which he used to present sermons. But it's so old now it barely works. With his very limited eyesight, he could really use a large screen computer. This would enable him to continue ministering to the poorly educated Deaf who rely on visuals for understanding. Doug reports that the computer best suited to Pastor Rodel's needs costs US\$1,700. If you can contribute toward this, please do so.

**Pastor Rodel features in our latest blog.**  
**You can read it here:**

<https://deafministriesinternational.com/39-rodel/>

## Our Stewardship

We'd like all our supporters to know how faithfully we use all our funds. This is public knowledge (and can be found on the Australian Government's ACNC website for any charity: <https://www.acnc.gov.au/>). You might be surprised to hear that many Christian organisations use as much as 50% (or more) of their donations for payroll/administration. At DMI (DMI+DA), we're proud of the fact that over 80% of our revenue (all from donations) goes directly to the field. We are holding payroll to within 15% and admin costs to within 5% of revenue. For an organisation with our economy of scale, we believe this is exceptionally good and we will continue to work to hold or even improve on this.





# News from Supporting Countries

## Changes in the USA

Our USA supporters have always demonstrated an uncommon generosity and kindness. For many years, they have been led by Peter Pfeil and Kathy Toth. Peter & Liz Pfeil and Kathy were long-time friends of Neville and Lill's and have selflessly served in the US for decades, handling all our book-keeping, tax filing and other administrative tasks.

Peter and Kathy feel it's time to pass on the baton and I'm very pleased to announce that God has provided some wonderful people to step into their roles. In a slight restructuring of roles, Min and Esther Yoo will take care of DMI's administrative work, and Irene Kim will head up our PR work in the States. Min & Esther and Irene are members of The Garden church in LA and also served for a number of years as missionaries at the Minoh International Church in Japan where



Min & Esther Yoo



Irene Kim

Andrew was serving as pastor. We welcome them warmly to the DMI family and look forward to working with them in the years ahead.

## Jesus Racing Update

Our name is out there racing around the racetrack on the Jesus Racing team car. The team ran into a few hurdles on their first weekend of racing for the season but have taken it as a weekend of learning and are already preparing for the next event. Andrew Fisher placed 16th and 14th in the final two races.



### NOTE TO US RESIDENTS

All cheques should now be forwarded to:

Deaf Ministries International  
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## 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](mailto:info@deafmin.org)

To be a part of monthly online prayer meetings contact

Andrew Miller: [andrew.miller@deafmin.org](mailto:andrew.miller@deafmin.org)

You can also find prayer points weekly at [www.deafmin.org/prayer](http://www.deafmin.org/prayer)



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





## 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 the amazing growth of the work in Rwanda. We are thankful for the many hearts that have been open to hear the gospel and then answer the call to share it with their communities. We pray for the newly ordained pastors. We pray for physical and spiritual protection for them and their families as they've made this commitment to serve as God's messengers of the gospel.
- Praise for the new churches that have been planted in Zambia. We pray that they will continue to grow and flourish as more Deaf come to know Christ. We pray that the churches will stay true to the gospel, becoming a pillar of light in their communities.
- We pray for Myanmar and the ongoing political unrest. We give thanks for the dedication of the school staff making sure that despite the circumstances, the students can continue with their education. We pray for their protection and safety at the school as the violence escalates.
- We give thanks for the ministry in China. We're so thankful for their example of faithfulness and trust in God in all circumstances. We pray for continued protection of the churches and despite not always being able to meet physically, that the Christian Deaf community will continue to grow and the Deaf will continue to be reached.



Neville & Lill Muir  
DMI Founders



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