

Deaf Ministries International

Issue 41 | September 2022

Taking the Gospel to the Deaf

Konnichiwa and Annyeonghaseyo

Andrew visits Japan and Korea

It was wonderful to be able to visit our supporters in Japan again and to visit our supporting churches in Korea for the first time. The two fields are quite different. DMI Japan is mainly supported by hearing churches while DMI Korea is mainly supported by deaf churches.

In Japan I was able to speak at a number of churches, including several in Nagoya for the first time, where we gained 8 new child sponsorships as well as more prayer and service partners. The visit to Japan also gave me the opportunity to meet with the Japan Board which is in a process of change, having just taken on a new constitution and new workers and volunteers. Unfortunately, our new Head-elect Dave Taylor has had to step down because of time constraints - such a shame because he was doing a brilliant job - and ever-faithful



Japan - Speaking at Minoh International Church

Alayne remains at the helm to keep DMI Japan firing.

The trip to Korea was always going to be an interesting one. All our contacts there are deaf and without English, and I don't speak or sign in Korean. How far would my Auslan take me? Not far, as I found out on my first day when signing "I'm sorry my signing is poor" to shocked faces. In Korean, I was apparently signing something about having sex with a signing woman! Never used those signs again!

The rest of the visit to Korea was very productive. I spoke in 3 churches (with interpreters), met a number of our pastors and missionaries and visited the Bible translation



Korea - Andrew visiting the Blue House

centre. Our International Board rep In Yeong took very good care of me and taught me a lot of 'useful' Korean signs, and meeting Doo Hyong Lee and his wife Kumiko was an absolute treat. You can read Doo Hyong's incredible testimony in the DMI blog on our website.

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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Organisationally, the trip to Korea was important and fruitful. DMI Korea has been very generous in support yet running semi-independently from the rest of DMI. This has made it hard to manage what is sent to the fields. We now have a much more coordinated global approach to support and a Korean Board is expected to be formed and functioning by the end of the year.

- Andrew Miller



Korea - Kumiko, Doo Hyong Lee and Andrew



Korea - With Seoul Union Church



Korea - Speaking at Seoul Union Church

A week with Jesus - Our future in the Middle East

The organization The Peace Dove for the Deaf in Amman, Jordan, arranged a week-long camp for the Deaf at the end of July. I was invited to preach and share about the work of DMI. The week was wonderful. Most of the participants were from Jordan, yet others came from Lebanon, Palestine and Dubai. It was a great chance to create a network for DMI and expand our work in the Middle East. At the same time, it is always a great blessing to see Deaf people longing for God's word. DMI has been active in Syria and Egypt for a long time by supporting church groups in Damascus (Syria), and Asyut and Cairo (Egypt). One of the five-year strategic goals set last year is to strengthen local congregations in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. There are many Deaf Christians in the Middle East, but most are not active due to a lack of Deaf leaders, interpreters who can give access to church services or leaders who can use sign language. That makes me think of Matthew 9:37: "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few". Becoming a Christian Deaf leader, or being one for a church, can be challenging due to the absence of Deaf role models



Prayer group

or learning from other like-minded leaders who can use sign language. Hence, finding ways to provide a place to be inspired, to learn from others or to have opportunities to share personal or church



Matthijs with Sahel & Eyad from Palestina

challenges is essential in the higher meaning of our long-term ministry work in the Middle East. An excellent example of this has been developed in East Africa by Gunnar Dehli, who has arranged and led many Fatherheart conferences. In organizing the Fatherheart conferences, evangelists, pastors and field directors from various East African countries are invited to join. By doing this, DMI country leaders, evangelists and pastors are inspired, and our network grows with a strong focus on bringing the Gospel to the Deaf community. Pray that God will provide a clear vision for DMI to proceed in the Middle East so that Deaf Christians can get to know each other, develop, and nurture their belief. Pray that we can expand our ministry work in the Middle East. Pray that good leaders may arise. I am thankful for this opportunity offered by Peace Dove under the leadership of Sahel Ababseh.

- Matthijs Terpstra, International Development Coordinator

Beni Secondary School Completed!

Over the last 6 months we've excitedly watched the progress of the Beni secondary school building project. It all began back in February with a ceremony and the laying of a foundation stone. We are thrilled to now share with you that the building project has been completed! No messing around in DR Congo!

Like any project there were a few hiccups along the way, including needing to extend the budget due to the price of materials rising dramatically. After much prayer, God provided the funds needed through generous donors and the building was able to be completed.

The new secondary school is a double story building with 10 classrooms. A new administration office was also built next to the secondary school classrooms. Many hands make light work as 34 laborers constructed the building, 14 of them Deaf. We are so grateful to all of those who donated towards

this project. Now these Deaf students will be able to complete their secondary education, making them much more employable and giving them a much brighter future.



Left: Alain - Principal of Beni School. Right: Sam - Africa Senior Advisor

Habari! - Matthijs visits Uganda

Deaf Action Uganda is a complex field. One of the top receivers of DMI support, its main activity is running a Bible school with nine deaf students from East Africa. It has 16 ongoing microfinance loans, and recently established four group loans. DAU finances nine evangelists and has a support program for seven children attending school and has 12 staff workers. Its main church, Immanuel Church of the Deaf (ICD), has 250 members.



In July, International Development Coordinator Matthijs visited Uganda to develop new strategies - especially the new group loan program - and encourage those in the field. He did a brilliant job of assessing the needs there. Some areas are still in the early stages of development and require more attention, yet the new group loan program is showing particular promise.



Matthijs with Dennis

UGANDA CLASSROOM CAMPAIGN

Please help us finish the job!

We are very close to finishing the extra classrooms at the Neville Muir Comprehensive School in Uganda. The cost to build was AUS60,000. We have raised AUS48,000. We still need another AUS12,000 to finish the job. The building has been 80% completed. Please help us finish it off! 300 students and staff will be most grateful!

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/>

Thank you for your generous help at this time.



Kathi's Visit to Kenya



One of DMI's biggest supporters, Professor Kathi Kitao from Japan (she's American but lives in Japan!) visited our school in Kenya (mainly) and our Uganda field (briefly) for three months from May this year. She established a library at our Integrated Christian School and insti-

tuted an extensive reading program for the students, training the teachers as well. This involved starting a Lunch Hour Reading Program which we expect will have enormous long term benefits. Kathi was told before starting the program

that 'Kenya doesn't have a reading culture'. Well, that is about to change! She also taught crochet to a number of the girls ("the boys don't do that sort of thing" she was told!), some who took to it with



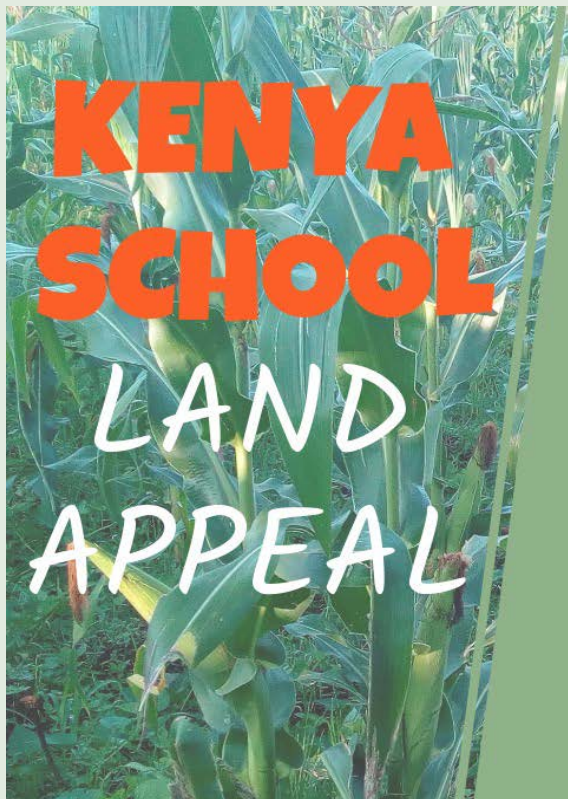
an uncommon passion. There are now a lot of hairdos at the school being coiffed with crocheted bandanas!

New Junior High at Kenya School

The expansion dream for our Immanuel Integrated Christian School for the Deaf to include a junior high school is being realised. The school, recently evolved into an integrated school where hearing and deaf students learn side by side, regularly achieves the highest grades of any deaf school in Kenya. Now, thanks to some generous support through Pastor Michael Gantt's (USA) fundraising efforts and Kathi Kitao's generous donation, the building of the secondary school has already started and a ground-breaking ceremony held. The Kenyan government has given their approval for the curriculum for the school and we hope to have things up and running by the start of 2023.

Now, the secondary school is being built on the school's current property but it is using up land that we were using to grow crops. So soon we will have more students attending but less room to grow their food. The total quarterly cost for running the school is AUS17,000. Within that, the second biggest cost (after salaries) is food for the students and staff at AUS6,000. There is a block of land for sale adjoining the school. The cost of that land is AUS22,000. We could recover the cost of purchasing the land within a year, and then direct surplus funds to other areas of development in following years.

Please help us purchase this plot of land.



We've run out of room! What a great problem to have. With the expansion of the secondary school, there are more students attending, but we've run out of space to grow crops to help feed the students.

We need **AUS 22,000** to buy the plot of land adjoining the school, to provide room for crops and further future expansions.

If you are able to donate towards the purchase of this land, please follow the instructions below:

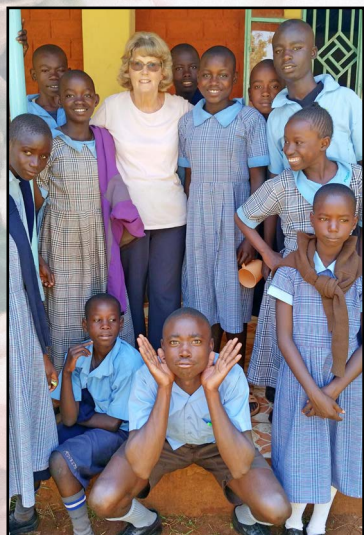
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ALL OTHER COUNTRIES:

Please donate through **DMI** via our website or using the bank details on the back of the newsletter
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THANK YOU



Jenny Reid, our Child Sponsorship Coordinator, retired on 31 July after 17 years of devoted service. Jenny has been a pillar of DMI and DA's sponsorship program since 2005. Originally a teacher of the Deaf, Jenny served with Neville, Lill, and Brenda in the office in Melbourne and on several service trips and at international conferences. Jenny took on an increasing workload, eventually taking on her current role, a position in which she not only kept

track of all the students in our schools – many hundreds over the years – and their sponsors, but also singlehandedly wrote the Deaf Action Newsletter each quarter.

Jenny would like to thank all other volunteers who helped her when needed, and enjoyed meeting sponsors at deputations, making student cards etc, and keeping student-related matters running smoothly. She did all this, working three days a week for 17 years, on a volunteer basis! DMI is blessed to have the very talented Kay van Namen step in as our new Child Sponsorship Coordinator and she is doing a stellar job. Yet Jenny will be greatly missed. We plan to say thank you and farewell to Jenny at the Melbourne gala dinner, so there's another reason to attend!



China

We are saddened to inform you that one of our pastors in China has passed away. Unfortunately, we cannot name him for security reasons, but he was not only a pastor but one of the main leaders of our work in China. Though elderly, his passing was unexpected and so the news comes as a shock to many. Please pray for those who are grieving, especially his widow, his family and those closest to him.

The work in China is spread out across many different parts of the country – and China is a big country! Different areas seem to have different limitations as to what they are able to do when it comes to Covid restrictions. In most provinces, the Deaf are still gathering online, but this has not discouraged our workers from sharing the gospel with them. They've had online signed singing services, church services, prayer meetings, Bible studies and some have just completed 4 days of leadership training online.



Group learning sign language

In one area of China, the government actually asked some of our workers to run a 2-hour session teaching sign language to those from a different district. Our workers have informed us that this is an encouraging sign that the government is acknowledging



the Deaf and some of their needs.

The café has expanded to selling breads which from the photos look pretty tasty! Products such as mugs, preserved produce and framed pictures that are made by the Deaf are also for sale at the shop. The Deaf continue to use the café as a meeting place for prayer meetings, teaching sessions and general catch ups. God is very much at work in a country where its leaders are trying so hard to keep Him out! Praise God that he is bigger than our circumstances.



Some of the products sold in the café

Ligao Church Inauguration

Our new church in Ligao held its official inauguration on July 17. Pastor Arnel shares with us what a fantastic occasion it was: "This church was built by the Deaf. They worked so hard to accomplish this great dream and now we just want to thank God for this unbelievable blessing."

Pastor Masago Minatozaki headed the worship service, teaching about the Lord of the Church (Matthew 16:13-18). This was followed by the traditional ribbon cutting ceremony

where the pastors of (the province of) Albay, alongside Pastor Masago, blessed and prayed for the church and its promising future for all deaf in the area. "Almost 90 deaf people attended on the day," continues Pastor Albert, "and we were so happy to see so many people excited for this occasion." The kitchen staff prepared a lunch for everyone to enjoy after the inauguration.

Photos in field snapshots page

New Group Loan Program Looking Good



Orientation workshop for loan applicants

For many years, DMI International has focused almost exclusively on expanding its ministry and service to deaf communities around the world. This has resulted in the establishment of numerous churches, schools, dormitories, camps and other forms of ministry in more than 20 countries around the world. At the same time, there has been less of an emphasis on making these ministries sustainable without ongoing financial support from DMI International. Most of DMI's ministry fields rely on monthly support from DMI for at least 90% of their income. The new group loan program is set to change this.

Money generously provided through the M&R Ediger Development Fund will enable DMI's existing ministries to develop

local sources of income that will decrease their dependence on monthly support from DMI.

The group loan training workshop, held in June, was very successful. It helped participants to apply for loan applications, to understand the guidelines, practice real business life skills using the game of life, understand the DAU-MREDF Group loan approach, and develop business plans and business sustainability.

20 applicants working in 4 business groups have been approved to start in the program.



DAU Board Chair Olivia presenting an Orientation certificate for loan applicant

Group Loan project vs Self-Sustainability Fund project

We have two funds working to achieve self-sustainability in our fields, and they do this in two different yet complementary ways.

What's the difference?

Group Loans

The Group Loans generously provided through the M&R Ediger Development Fund are **loans to individuals**. The individuals are working in small groups for support and accountability. The loans are to be repaid back to the Fund, and all profits from the business go to support the individual and their family. This provides empowerment and dignity to individual Deaf, helping them break from the cycle of poverty that is so prevalent amongst the Deaf in developing countries.

Self-Sustainability Fund

The Self-Sustainability Fund provides **grants to communities**. It endeavours to achieve four outcomes:

1. To meet an immediate community need (eg food supply),
2. Educate students (eg in agriculture)
3. Provide employment (to school graduates and other local Deaf) and
4. Bring in a profit for the community.

The grant does not need to be paid back to the fund. It is to be 'paid forward' within the community to develop other projects and meet other needs.



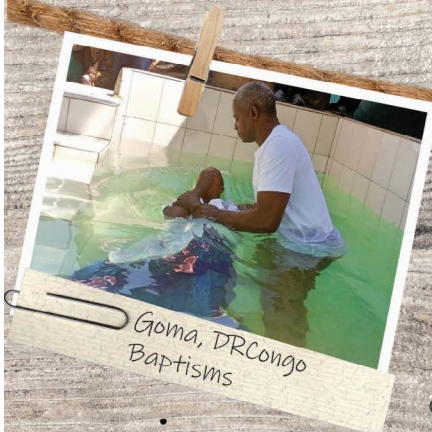
MREDF GROUP LOAN RECIPIENTS 2022



The next second round await list of MREDF Group Loan Recipients 2022



SNAPSHOTS FROM AROUND THE FIELDS



Goma, DR Congo
Baptisms



Goma, DR Congo
Ordination of new Pastors
& evangelists



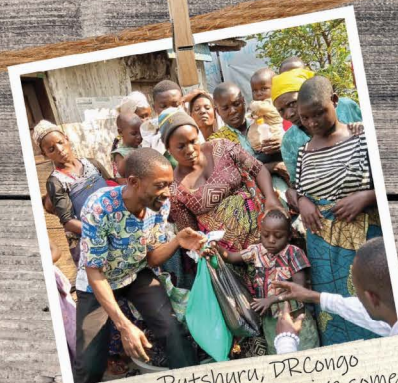
Bacolod, Philippines
ICDP 18th Church
Anniversary



Bacolod, Philippines
Rodel's thankful for
his new computer.



Tanzania
17 baptisms of Deaf
youth.



Rutshuru, DR Congo
80 people receive some
beans, flour, salt and
soap.



Zambia
New Deaf church opening.



Zambia
Dancing at the new
church opening.



Tanzania
New soap making self-
sustainability project.



Ligao, Philippines
Church official opening.



Ligao, Philippines
Church opening group
photo.



Ligao, Philippines
New church building.

DEAF MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Gala Fundraising Dinner & Silent Auction

15th October 2022



Building a better world for the Deaf in developing countries



Auslan friendly!

RSVP: info@deafmin.org

All proceeds from the evening will go to support the Self-Sustainability Fund of Deaf Ministries International. DMI is a non-profit Christian charity whose mission has taken the gospel, education and employment to the Deaf in developing countries for over 40 years.

Sage Hotel, F5/211 Maroondah Hwy,
Ringwood VIC 3134
(Parking in Eastland Shopping Centre Carpark)



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TICKETS
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GAMES &
SILENT AUCTION

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 Jenny and her many years of serving through the work of DMI. We give thanks for the lives that have been changed because of her work as sponsorship coordinator. We pray that God will continue to bless her in whatever he has in store for her next chapter.
- Praise for Andrew and Matthijs both having successful and encouraging and safe trips. We give thanks for God's continual provision and opportunities to support and encourage the Deaf, sharing the gospel throughout Africa and Asia.
- We give thanks for Kathi and the way she has such a heart for the Deaf, always ready and willing to help in any way she can. We give thanks for the new library she has set up in Kenya school and the reading program that has now begun as a result. We pray for provision to buy the new land next to the school so that crops can be grown to feed the students.
- We give thanks for the completion of the secondary school in Beni, DR Congo. We pray for protection over the school and all of those who come on to the grounds. That the school will be a safe place and a beacon of light in country that far from peaceful.



Neville & Lill Muir
DMI Founders



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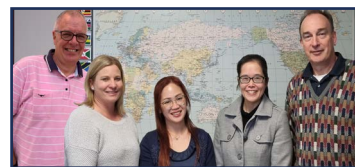
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