



September 2022  
UK EDITION



# Beni Secondary School Classrooms Complete!

Another year has finished for Beni School. 40 students passed their end of year exams. 20 students failed due to over-enrolment of numbers. They are all in good health and are on holidays until the end of August.

The secondary school building construction is now finished! There was a delay as the price of the building materials went up, however thanks to DMI and DA supporters, we were able to finish the classrooms before school re-starts in September. Ten classrooms (five on the second floor and four on the first floor) were built along with an office of three rooms. 34 workers including 14 Deaf worked to achieve this milestone! The school will aim to start secondary school classes on the same day as the inauguration which will be on 5th September 2022.

Unfortunately, students aren't eating every day. They only eat twice a week due to food stock limits, and the rising costs of fuel and food. In the first term, the school planted cabbage

and amaranthus seeds. The crops are growing and should be ready for harvest this month or in October. When the harvest is ready, the school hopes to resume feeding the students three times a week.

The students received new school bags, exercise books and note pads, school uniforms, soccer team uniforms and boots and sports materials. They also received donations of 54

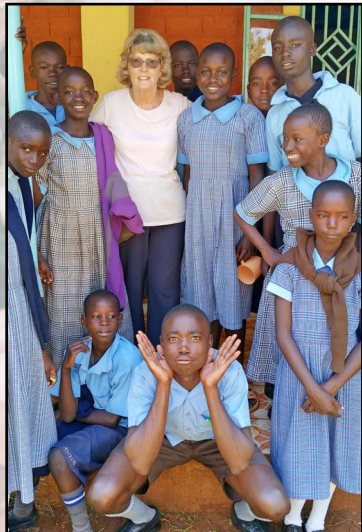


*Students receiving new sports equipment*

desks, 3 tables and 3 chairs. There are still challenges. They lack a school bus for the Deaf students, need to find a cleaner to oversee the school compound and the vegetable garden, and there is an insufficiency of teaching materials and books.



# 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!



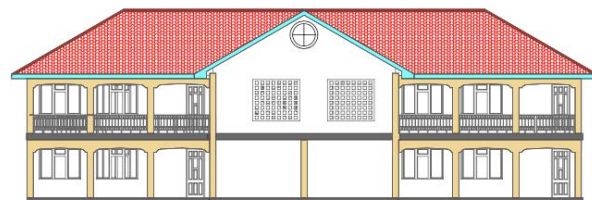
## Kenya Immanuel Integrated Christian School Junior High School in the works

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.

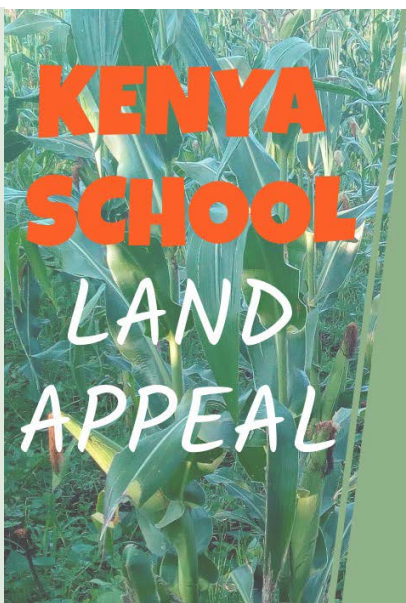


*Digging the foundations*



*Design for the Junior High School*

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 AUS\$17,000. Within that, the second biggest cost (after salaries) is food for the students and staff at AUS\$6,000. There is a block of land for sale adjoining the school. The cost of that land is AUS\$22,000. 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.



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:*

### 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:

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## Kenyan Sign Language is now one of the three National Languages of Kenya!

With the rollout of the new nation-wide curriculum, Sign Language has been recognised as one of the three National Languages of Kenya. Now all schools must teach sign language to their students from Junior Secondary School level. This is a huge milestone since the integration of the school.

## New Scouts Club

Both Deaf and Hearing students have been participating in scouting activities and competitions at the sub-Country level. IICS became the Best Overall School amongst 42 participants. They proceeded to Country competitions and became the BEST School in all the competitions they participated in! The school now will compete



in the African Regionals competition. We wish them the best.

## Pig Farming

IICS will start a pig farming project. This project will be a good source of income for the school and will also provide a good source of protein!

## Professor Kathi Kitao

Professor Kathi Kitao visited the school for three months. She set up a newly equipped library and held a seminar on extensive reading for the teachers. She also introduced an extensive reading program for the school, which includes a daily Lunch Hour Reading Program in which the students and teachers are able to borrow books from the library on a daily or weekly basis. She trained a teacher to take charge of the library before she left.



## Sewing Workshop makes delivery to IICS

Rev. Josephat, Mrs Christine and Anne Kaunda travelled over 5 hours from the Nairobi Sewing workshop to the school to present 27 girls (8 Hearing & 19 Deaf) with new reusable sanitary pads. This project aims to educate the girls about menstrual hygiene and sanitation led by Mrs Christine and Anne. They also demonstrated how to use and clean the pads. The girls 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 believe 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 on board with this program.



Kathi was told before starting the program that 'Kenya doesn't have a reading culture'. Well, that is about to change!

Kathi also introduced a crocheting class which attracted a big number of students and staff. This initiative has prepared another pathway for vocational training as well as being a source of income for Deaf students.



## Kuja High School for the Deaf

Our sponsored students are making an impact in their respective academic and sporting fields. Charity was recently elected the President of the campus which has a population of 276 students. Charity wants to become a lawyer in the future. She is in Year 3 and is also the best performing overall Deaf student in Kenya. Paul, also a promising student, is the top student in his Year 2 class. Rita, who is in Year 4, is the best long-distance runner in the country. She recently represented Kenya in the Africa Paralympics that took place in Accra Ghana!



Charity



Paul



Rita

## Myanmar

### Muir School in Myanmar

The Muir School school reopened in June this year with 27 students returning for face-to-face learning. The students are so happy to be back at school. Kalay is still often a battleground; it is still dangerous to be out on the streets. There are frequent gun fights on the streets outside the school. The school fences are high enough to protect the students and teachers and keep them safe, but it is a hostile environment for them to be in.



## Philippines

### Bacolod Dormitory



The students are continuing training online and find some modules very difficult. Learning is still in the form of individualised instruction that allows learners to use self-learning mod-

ules in print or digital format, whichever is applicable for the learner. Learning resources include textbooks, activity sheets, study guides and other study materials. Two students, Realyn and Gerald from the dormitory, are both academic awardees and have completed grades 9 and 10 (respectively) with honours. Gerald is a high school graduate and is commended for achieving this. They both studied hard using their laptops. At the time of writing, Mary is awaiting her results. She has been excelling in reading, English and Maths. She proceeded to Grade 6 for face-to-face classes in August.



Mary



## Uganda

### Ugandan National Association for the Deaf Vocational College



Five students are doing a Certificate Level 1 carpentry and joinery course which is a two-year course. Brian, Jordan, Kenneth and Samuel are in their first year and Allan is in his second year of the course. The vocational

college is planning to add Level 2 next year. The students are

completing their overall progress marks and now are having assessments and preparing for their end-of-term exams.



## 'A Chance for a Child' Vocational College



Yubu is completing a Certificate in Catering this year which is a 1-year course. He is well looked after and in good health. He is provided with scholastic and personal items from DMI. The college also provides an interpreter for Yubu to complete his studies. He will be completing his course at the end of this year.

## Mulago School for the Deaf

Solome is still studying in Primary 5, she needs more assistance to get to Primary 7. We hope she can join a vocational school once she finishes Primary 7. She is in good health and is studying well.

## Ruti Rehabilitation

Simon is progressing well and in good health. He is slowly learning the crafts of shoe and handbag making, improving on his skills with leather materials.

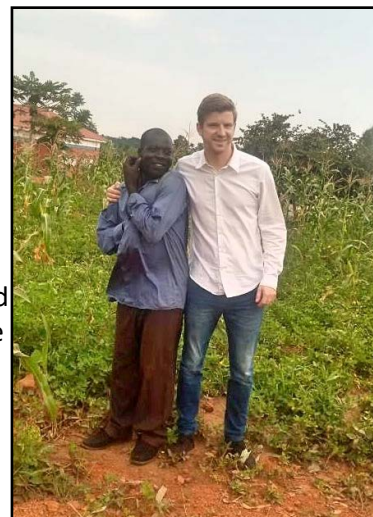
## Neville Muir Comprehensive School



The construction of the new classrooms is ongoing and expected to finish shortly. We would like to say thank you to all the supporters who supported this project. 260 students reported to the school in Term 2. Currently, there are four departments – Tailoring, Hairdressing, Block Laying and Con-

crete Practice, and Carpentry and Joinery. They are looking forward to building more departments in the near future – Motor Vehicle Technology, Agriculture and Electrical Installation.

Matthijs Terpstra visited the school in June and encouraged the students to study hard. He praised the teachers for their hard work. The school will hold its fifth graduation ceremony in November this year. 37 students will graduate.



*Dennis & Matthijs*

# 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!

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*Thank you for your generous help at this time.*



## Zambia

### Hastings

Due to a clerical error, Hastings was not able to sit for his exams in August. The school submitted the wrong name and despite our letters of appeal and Lewis travelling to the province to speak to the education authorities, there was no change. Hastings will have to wait another whole year to sit the exams again. He was understandably gutted, as we all were. The school has apologised for the mistake and someone lost their job, but that doesn't help Hastings. He will spend another year studying and try again next year.

### Janet

Janet is doing well in school. She has jumped from Grade 2 to Grade 4 this year! She is a very smart girl.

### Maliza

After being rejected from St Mulumba School, Maliza has relocated back home and will soon receive home schooling. He is being provided support at home. The new teacher will take up home schooling with him so Maliza can continue his education.



## WE URGENTLY NEED SPONSORS TO SUPPORT THESE STUDENTS!



Matthew Ferrancullo  
Grade 3  
Ligao, Philippines



Jessa Buena  
Grade 2  
Ligao, Philippines



Junior Muviringoma  
Grade 4  
Beni, DR Congo



Tsongo Syndi  
Grade 3  
Beni, DR Congo



Mumbere Tsongo  
Grade 1  
Beni, DR Congo

To sponsor any of these students, please go to our  
website: <https://deafmin.org/child-sponsorship/>  
or email: [info@deafaction.org.au](mailto:info@deafaction.org.au)

Thank you for continuing to support our schools students,  
teachers and self-sustainability projects.  
Warm regards,  
Kay  
Sponsorship Coordinator



[www.deafmin.org](http://www.deafmin.org)

### DMI Donations:

Please make cheques payable to:

**Midlands Christian Fellowship**  
(unless you already have an  
arrangement with Stewardship UK)

### Details for EFT:

SWIFT CODE: BENDAU3B

BSB: 633-000

Account: 145833539

Name: Deaf Ministries International

### Payments & Inquiries:

Deaf Ministries International  
C/- Mrs Gabi McFarland  
SMS: 07773 466 771 (Gabi)  
e-mail: [mcfbobgabi@gmail.com](mailto:mcfbobgabi@gmail.com)

### Sponsorship Office Address:

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Beaconsfield, Victoria 3807  
Australia

Ph: +613 5940 5431  
e-mail: [info@deafmin.org](mailto:info@deafmin.org)



### Sponsorship Coordinator:

**Kay van Namen**

[kay.vannamen@deafmin.org](mailto:kay.vannamen@deafmin.org)



Neville & Lill Muir  
DMI & DA Founders