

Deaf Ministries International

Issue 42 | November 2022

*Taking the Gospel
to the Deaf*



CONGRATULATIONS TO GRADUATES FROM UGANDA BIBLE SCHOOL

On the 27th of August 2022, we held a graduation ceremony for the two groups of Bible school students whose graduation dates had twice been postponed due to administrative issues and to Covid 19 lockdowns. These included 3 Rwandese, 2 Congolese, 4 Ugandans, 1 Kenyan, 1 South Sudanese, and 2 Burundians – 13 in all.

It was a day of great celebration, including a procession, a devotion, speeches, entertainment, the awarding of certificates and transcripts, and the commissioning of graduates for the work ahead. The Academic Dean (Jeremiah) was the Master of Ceremonies (MC), and the awarding of certificates was led by Dr. Sarah Namirembe, the Chief Guest, together with the Principal and Academic Dean. The commissioning of the graduates was led by the Principal and Rev. Samuel Kabwana who gifted all the graduating students new NLT Bibles as they start their journey in ministry.

Among the invited guests were Rose Bulime, wife to the late

Rev. Bulime; Hon. Nkwangu Robert, Director of Uganda National Association of the Deaf; Dr. Sam, Head of the Department of people with disabilities, Kyambogo University; the Overseer of Full Gospel Churches, Directors from different countries, and DAU Board members, among others.



and Middle Eastern fields. And we plan to build a seminary for the deaf in the Philippines to serve the deaf in Asia. Having three seminaries on three different continents will help us

Training the deaf to take the gospel to the deaf is a surprisingly unique strategy but one that is very successful. Former graduates from DMI's Bible School have led hundreds of deaf to Christ. Current graduates hold the same aspirations. Our vision for Bible schools for the Deaf remains a top priority. In April we purchased land to rebuild our Ugandan Bible school. We have a fantastic collaboration with ÅI Folkehøyskole in Norway to train the deaf in and for our European

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

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our vision to take the gospel to the deaf all over the world. Our big plans for the Bible school in Uganda go beyond the physical facilities. Students currently graduate with a certificate in theology and Christian ministry. Our plan is to develop the courses so that in the near future students can study for a diploma and eventually a degree.



3 Faithful Servants Pass On

DMI mourns the loss of three faithful servants, each of whom had served with devotion in their respective fields. They will be sadly missed, yet we also rejoice in the knowledge that they are now with our Lord Jesus, having received the end result of their faith, eternal life.



Alayne Madore

Alayne was a larger-than-life character who had been involved with DMI since its very early days. A friend of Neville's since her youth, Alayne chaired the DMI Japan board for decades. She visited many of our fields, attended all our conferences and was a generous supporter right to the end. She passed away on September 23rd, aged 81 and is survived by her husband and a son.



Pastor Ochaite from DR Congo, passed away on 4 October. A young husband and father and a graduate from the Bible school just this year, Pastor Ochaite's passing was a shock to many. He was poisoned (murdered). DMI was able to provide funds for his funeral which was attended by thousands. He was 48 and leaves behind a wife and child.

Andibo Ochaite



Davie Bandaawe

Davie was part of our mission team under Elton going from Malawi to Mozambique. He was hit by a motorbike on September 20 and died the following day. Elton had a terrible time transporting the body back to Malawi and it was heartbreaking for us to struggle to help him. Davie leaves behind a wife and 5 children (one deaf).

John 14:1-3 NLT

"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am."

Bible School - Norway

DMI is constantly reaching new deaf people all over the world - and not always in the developing world! We have recently started a wonderful collaboration with Ål Folkehøyskole in Norway, most recently involving a week-long FatherHeart conference with 45 participants from nine different European countries.

This was a fantastic gathering of warm fellowship and rich learning. The conference complements our four-month Bible course at LIV, at Folkehoyskolen where a class of six foreign students study under a full-time teacher, Ruth Njihia from Kenya. Ruth is the daughter of one of DMI's deaf missionaries, Daniel Njihia, whom Neville Muir once sent to Tanzania,



where he served for many years. It's wonderful to see people from developing countries ministering to people from developed countries - a direct outcome of DMI's work.

We recently changed our vision statement from "Deaf Ministries International (DMI) is an International Christian ministry network taking the gospel, education and employment to the Deaf in developing countries" to "Deaf Ministries International (DMI) is an International Christian ministry network taking the gospel, education and employment to the Deaf all around the world." Our work in Norway reflects this expanded vision.



New Self-Sustainability Projects - Tanzania, Burundi, Uganda, DR Congo

Last year we started self-sustainability projects in DR Congo and Malawi. Despite challenges, these have been going well. In recent months, we have started new self-sustainability projects in Tanzania, Burundi, Uganda and another in DR Congo.

Tanzania



In Tanzania, Ben has begun a water soap project and a batik project. This quarter they have made 40 jerry cans, 200 tubs and 760 one-litre bottles of soap, and 350 batik items. Revenue from these projects is projected to be \$5500 per quarter.



Burundi

In Burundi, Fabien has started a farming project, growing maize, beans, soybeans and sorghum (look it up!) aiming for almost \$7,000 in revenue a quarter. Additional phases of the project will expand into food processing and a piggery.

Uganda

Uganda's project has just been approved. Using an unused section of the new Bible school land, Tonny will oversee the development of a piggery, some goat herding and crop farming. The piggery (the main business) is expected to make \$4,300 in the first year.



DR Congo

In DR Congo (our first project in DRC was at the school in Beni), under Temo's leadership we have started a kitchen garden at the Minova school for the Deaf to provide for lunches for the students. The garden will grow cabbages, potatoes, beans, corn and cassava.

The goal of each of these projects is as obvious as it is important: to bring a significant level of self-sustainability into our fields. This is no mean feat, given the many challenges of nature, and jittery local and global economies. The more self-sustainable our fields become, the more we can reach into new fields. Pray for these projects and others as they are planned.

Bountiful Harvest in the Philippines!

God is Lord of the bounty! The staff and students in Ligao are thrilled that this year's harvest was free from calamity and any loss. They harvested 65 bags of rice which were sun-dried immediately after harvesting so they wouldn't spoil in storage. Deaf graduates were employed to dry the rice. The school makes some extra profit during harvest by renting out the drying area to local farmers who come with huge harvests. This keeps our rice mill busy, too, so it's been a fruitful season! Ronald Lunas, our deaf rice mill operator, manages the mill very well.



The school has also enjoyed a large harvest of avocados, as well as other fruits and vegetables. The farm animals are all in good condition. One of the sows is pregnant now. They recently dressed 60 white chickens and butchered one pig. We are truly thankful for these blessings.

Our staff in Ligao have been working so hard throughout the pandemic. Thanks to the generosity of a local businessman and women, our staff were able to enjoy an overnight stay at a beach resort! Treats were also distributed amongst the students. Our staff were so grateful to be appreciated in this way.

DR Congo - Bible Camp in Goma

Our leaders in DR Congo are doing a fantastic job. 18 DMI pastors and evangelists got together with other Deaf at a Bible Camp in Goma for 5 days in August. This was a huge success. 120 Deaf from ten regions of DRC as well as Rwanda and Burundi joined the event under the theme of "The Path of the Patriarchs". A team from the USA under Tim Foster led the teaching. It was a rewarding time of study and fellowship.

DR Congo - Outreach in Kavumu

In early October, DR Congo director Papy Kwabo and secretary John Gakuru visited the deaf school and boarding house in Kavumu which we are supporting. The students and staff are in a desperate situation there. Papy and John took flour and rice to them, as well as notebooks and pens for the students, and chalk for the teachers.



DR Congo - Mission to Sake

On 16 August, Luada led a team of 5 DAC church members on a mission trip to Sake to seek the Deaf who have not yet heard of Jesus. The goal is to start a new church there. Part of the current ministry involves running Bible classes in sign language for Deaf children.

Papy and John had an enjoyable time of teaching and fellowship with everyone there and spent time with the school director and committee to discuss further support. Most of the children are suffering from scabies and need medicines for various illnesses.

The school needs more volunteers to help with the running of operations, and more funds for medicine, food, teacher salaries and rent. On the Sunday, Papy shared the Word of God with them and encouraged them in their faith, before he and John returned to Goma by the evening boat.



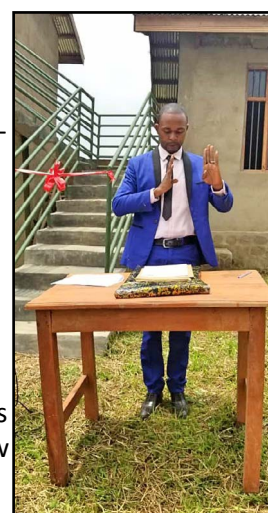
DR Congo - Beni Secondary School Opens!

On September 5, 2022, the Beni secondary school finally opened to much pomp and pageantry. It was a special day. Many guests were present at the ceremony including the mayor of Beni and other political and administrative leaders. Members of the local education board, DAC board members, parents of the deaf and of course the deaf community themselves were all present.



The ceremony ran for two hours and included many speeches, ribbon-cutting, and a lot of prayer and praising as students and staff sang and danced. And so not just a new

school year, but a new era of learning for the Deaf in Beni, was launched. The day was full of joy. Participants praised the name of God and acknowledged the great support that DMI has given to the school. Special thanks must be given to William Edward Blackeby, who donated funds from his will to build the school. It's because of his great generosity alone and his love for the Deaf that the secondary school was able to be built. Our thanks to his son Graham and daughter-in-law Joy who have been so very supportive throughout.



Alain & Papy

Uganda - Classrooms in Lira now completed

Six months ago, the students at the Neville Muir comprehensive school in Lira, were studying under trees and in open fields. With COVID restrictions relaxing, hundreds of students returned to the school so there was a need (local government enforced) to build extra classrooms.



Thanks to the generosity of DMI supporters, all funding has come in and the classrooms have recently been completed. Now, rain, hail or shine, the students can continue their studies without inhibitions. Studies at the vocational school include Brick Laying and Concrete Practice, Carpentry and



Joinery, Tailoring and Hairdressing, and the school will soon be introducing Knitting, Computer studies, Mechanics and Driving, and others. These courses are making a tangible difference in the lives of the deaf and disadvantaged in Uganda. The employment rate for graduates is over 90%! We are thankful to Dennis, the director of the school for his faithful oversight, and for the compassion and generosity shown by all our supporters. Thank you!

Myanmar Persevering

Our school and churches continue to struggle bravely with the challenges facing them in Myanmar. We now have 30 students at the school and every morning Saw Monday and his wife lead the students and staff in their morning devotions. It's beautiful to see and they are all so faithful in their worship and study and care for one another.



We almost lost one of our teachers, Biak Lian Mang, when he escorted by motorbike some children who were sick back to their home. When he returned to the main street of our school, a gun fight broke out and a man right in front of Biak was shot. A girl at the gasoline station (not from our school) was also shot when a bullet ricocheted and hit her leg. A few minutes later the firing stopped and he quickly returned to the school.

Pa-Lian recently went to the Pindaw Oo church with Saw Monday and two other school teachers. It was raining heavily but even so about 15 were able to come to the church for worship. The congregation in Yangon is having its ups and

downs. It's wonderful that they are having 80 or 90 people come to services each week. Yet one of the church members passed away last month and another 86-year-old widow lost her home and has nowhere to live. Another member came to his home saying she had tuberculosis and needed food and medicine. While Pa-Lian was talking to her, another woman with a baby came to his home/the church and began to cry saying they had no food. Life is very hard for many in Myanmar now. Even so Pa-Lian and Naing Naing Kyaw continue to visit church members with deacons to take rations and help as much as they can.



Pa-Lian is requesting an increase to Naing Naing Kyaw's salary. He's very active in the church and community and it's such a difficult time. His salary is 130,000 MMK (about \$45 a month). Over the last few months, prices have doubled – which makes living very difficult. Pa-Lian's request is for a 200,000 MMK salary which is close to that that the teachers at the school receive.

If you would like to help support Naing Naing Kyaw in this way, please contact the office by emailing us at info@deafmin.org

News from Supporting Countries

The End of an Era, the Dawn of a New Age

Melbourne office moving!

For many years the Melbourne office has been the nerve centre of DMI's activities, and supporters would have fond memories of Neville, Lill, Brenda, Jenny, Matt and slightly younger versions of Amy and Susi working with volunteers, shuffling between desks to keep the ministry going. With an increase in (still young!) mainly work-from-home mums on staff, a dramatic increase in rental costs and an itinerant International Operations Coordinator who spends most of his time in Sydney, we needed to find a new home. St James Anglican Church in Pakenham is the answer to our prayers. They have provided a very nice facility to us at a fraction of the previous cost. Staff will continue to work from

home a lot of the time, but for two or three days a week, from mid November, we will meet in various combinations at St James to keep operations going. We are thankful for our time in the old Melbourne office, and grateful to Ps Matt Scheffer at St James who has received us so warmly. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with St James in our new premises.



Melbourne Fundraising Gala Dinner and Silent Auction



On 15th October we enjoyed our gala fundraising dinner at the Sage Hotel in Melbourne. It was a great success raising almost \$4500 and bringing many in the Deaf and hearing communities together for an evening of warm fellowship, games and scrumptious dining.

Andrew remembered Neville in his speech and shared with us the amazing things that DMI has been doing over the last twelve months and our vision for the coming years. This includes our ongoing commitment to child sponsorship, our passion to take the gospel to the Deaf, our work to train the Deaf in our Bible seminaries, and our efforts to drastically



raise self-sustainability in our fields. Special thanks to the Melbourne staff for going to so much trouble to make the evening glow. Amy did a brilliant job with decorations and made the whole place look fabulous. Kay arranged for dozens of silent auction items which were snapped up with glee. Susie accosted people with her EFTPOS machine in the friendliest way. We're already excited for our next dinner!



Thank you to the businesses that supported our fundraiser





International Conference Set For August 2023!

Set the date and start saving! After a long COVID-induced hiatus, DMI's 8th International Conference in Kenya is finally happening! Originally slated for 2020, the conference will take place in Mombasa, Kenya, on August 7-12, 2023. The speaker will be Heo In Yeong from South Korea and the theme will be based on John 17:21 "That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you".

The resort holds a maximum of 300 people. Two other hotels/hostels will also be available in Shanzu. Breakfasts will be separate (by accommodation) but for lunches and dinners we will all be together. There will be opportunities for tourism after the conference.

Details will be provided in future editions of this newsletter and on social media. For now, mark it in your diary and get yourself a kufi hat!

Praise and Prayer

The Middle East

Pray for Sahel and our churches in the Middle East as we work to raise leaders and reach the Deaf there.

Funds

Pray for our general fund and for a good response to our Christmas appeal going out this week.

Australia

Give thanks for a successful fundraising dinner in Melbourne on Saturday. Give thanks for our connections with Monash Church of Christ and Beaconsfield Baptist Church which Andrew spoke at on Sunday.

Myanmar

Pray for peace. Pray for the students who are back at the school. Give thanks for Saw Monday and his wife who continue to serve so faithfully at the school.

International Board

Pray for the international board meeting that is coming up on November 28. Pray for wisdom in setting the budget for next year.

Travel

Pray for Andrew and Matthijs as they travel to Africa in November. Pray for safety and positive experiences as they visit the fields.



Neville & Lill Muir
DMI Founders



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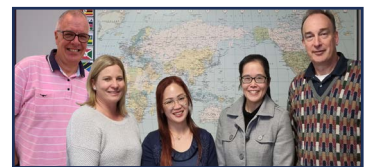
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