

Deaf Ministries International

Issue 44 | December 2023

USA EDITION

*Taking the Gospel
to the Deaf*

NEVILLE RECOGNISED IN AUSTRALIA DAY 2023 HONOURS LIST

On January 26, Australia Day, Governor-General David Hurley post-humously recognised Neville as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM). What a great honour for the Muir family, and what a wonderful distinction for DMI!

By bestowing this award, the Governor-General “recognises outstanding Australians for meritorious, distinguished and conspicuous service” acknowledging their significant impact at the local, national and international level. “They are, quite simply,” the Governor-General said, “inspiring”. Anyone who met Neville would know this is true.

The official listing appears, in part, as follows:

MEMBER (AM) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

The late Reverend Neville MUIR

Formerly of Beaconsfield VIC 3807

For significant service to the deaf community, and to international Christian ministry.

Deaf Ministries International

- *Founder and International Director.*
- *Founder, Deaf Action, aid and development projects, 2007-2020.*
- *Speaker, various International Conferences.*
- *World Opportunities International*
- *Missionary and Founder, numerous Deaf Churches and Schools,*

Internationally, Immanuel School and Churches, since 1979.

- *Missionary, established a Deaf Church, Incheon, South Korea, 1979-2020.*
- *Sponsor, World Vision, 1965-1980s.*

The award also recognises Neville’s additional roles, including his work as a pastor, teacher and elder, and acknowledges many of the awards that Neville received throughout his life. It doesn’t, however, acknowledge the thousands of Deaf who heard the gospel from Neville’s own hands and gave their life to Christ. While it acknowledges that Neville “established numerous Deaf churches”, that does not quite do justice to the 180 Deaf churches that Neville founded!

Neither does it recognise Neville as a modern-day apostle to the Deaf. So those additional and ultimately greater honours, we recognise here.

We applied for this honour for Neville around the time of his passing. The process typically takes a couple of years to complete. Lill will receive the award on Neville’s behalf in a ceremony in April or May this year.



Neville Muir,
Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

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

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Kenya - Immanuel Integrated Christian School

Kitchen garden land purchased!

DMI's Immanuel Integrated Christian School in Kenya is one of our largest and most successful schools. Its students are regularly amongst the top Deaf students in Kenya. Last year, we added a new secondary school to the facility, significantly expanding the school's capacity. But extra students means extra mouths to feed! Even before the expansion of the school, the food bill was massive.

Thanks to a very kind and generous donor in Australia, we were able to purchase 2 acres of land beside the school to use for farming. This land will be used to educate students in agriculture, produce enough food for the school's own consumption, as well as providing food for students at the dorm. This will save over \$20,000 a year which can be directed to other fields, and will move the school closer toward self-sustainability.

Director Wesley says, "This is God's doing. We lack words to express our deepest gratitude to our Heavenly Father for supply-

ing our needs when we least expected."

The donation also enables us to buy seedlings, fertiliser, farming tools and other equipment.

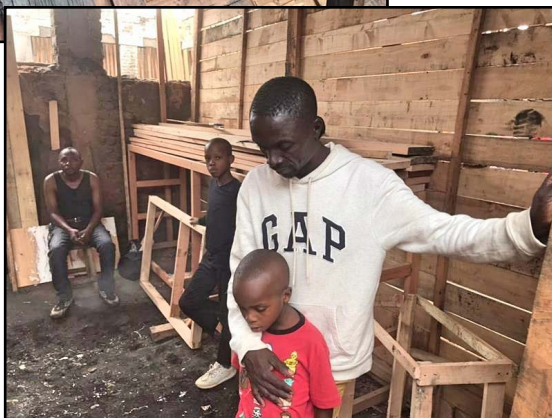


Burundi

Joinery burned down!

One of the three DMI-sponsored joineries that Matthijs and Andrew visited last November in Burundi has, tragically, burned down. No-one was injured but Jean-Bosco Mugisha, the young Deaf man working there, has lost everything. He needs US300 to build a new joinery, US1,000 to replace all his tools, and US300 to buy all the wood he needs to get his business up and running.

Deaf Action Burundi (DAB) have already raised \$300 to build the joinery building. We still need \$1300 to get his business up and running again. If you can help out, please do.



Self-sustainability fields flourishing

In our last newsletter we reported that the fields purchased as a part of our self-sustainability program in Burundi had been prepared and, with the rains approaching, were ready for planting. Well, the rains came and our crops have been growing!

Eugene, our man on the ground, reports that beans, maize, sor-



Beans and Maize



ghum and soya beans have burst out of the soil and are on track for a bountiful harvest between the middle and the end of February. The only problem we have at the moment is that it looks like we will have too big a harvest and we don't have enough storage to keep all the crops! We're working on a solution now. Please pray for the protection of these crops as they continue to ripen, for a plenteous harvest and profitable sales.



International Conference August 2023!

Registrations are now open!

Time to jump online and start registering for the 8th DMI conference. The conference will take place in Mombasa, Kenya, on August 7-11, 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".

Usually held every 3 years, due to Covid, it has been 6 years since we've gathered together for an international conference. These conferences are always such an inspiration and a blessing to those who attend, as we hear what God is doing through DMI all around the world. Everyone is invited to attend so bring a friend and come along. Both Deaf and hearing attend these conferences with each country attending providing their own interpreter.

The conference will be held at the Mombasa Continental Resort which is also one of the accommodation options for the duration of the conference. The resort contains a 4-star hotel right on the water boasting beautiful ocean views, a large swimming pool, lounges, bar, recreational facilities, health club, Wi-Fi and airconditioned rooms. The other option is the Shanzu Girls Guide Hostel which is a budget accommodation option not too far from the resort. Breakfasts will be separate (by accommodation) but for lunches and dinners, we will all be together.

The program will consist of sessions with our keynote speaker, Heo In Yeong, mission reports from our fields, group activities, testimonies, time for leisure or to explore the surroundings and a day tour. The day tour will be a choice of 3 locations: Haller Park, Fort Jesus or Crocodile Farm.

There will be optional opportunities for tourism after the conference.

This conference is an opportunity for the DMI family from the fields and supporting countries to come together in one place for fellowship, fun, and to connect and build relationships.

For more details and registration, head to our conference website:

<https://dmiconferencekenya.com>



Kenya - Churches bringing life

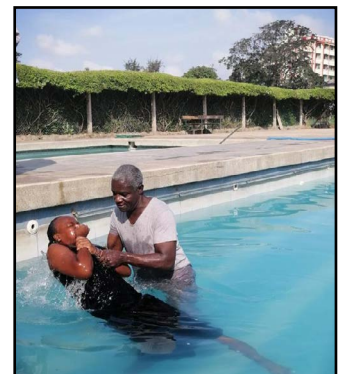


Baptism Candidates

The Immanuel Churches of the Deaf in Kenya have been doing well with good numbers attending services and new members baptised. We continue to offer online services for those who cannot attend in person and these are also watched in good numbers.

The church in Mombasa held a 3-day Christian camp. This was inspired by members wanting to discuss their new life in Christ

and the impact it has had in their lives. They also had sessions discussing drug abuse which has been rampant in the coastal regions. They shared about how they can avoid it and help those who are in it to change and have a life that is pleasing to the Lord. We praise God that during the camp, 5 people accepted Christ and are now baptized. In our Nairobi church, we have baptisms scheduled for the coming weeks.



Kenya - Churches bringing life continued...



Receiving Media Film Award

Our Immanuel Churches of the Deaf have also won a Kenya Media Film Award for the best faith-based vlog postings in all of Kenya! Vlog postings on social media include Deaf praise and worship and preaching.

One of the ongoing challenges for the churches in Kenya is the cost of rent. We have no church buildings of our own and this is something the church in Kenya has long been asking support for. The head church in Nairobi, led by Josephat, is our priority. Please pray for an opportunity to buy land and build a church there.

China - Ravaged by COVID

As many of you will have heard on the news reports over the past several months, China's government decided to put most parts of the country into lockdown again due to COVID outbreaks.

All reports that have come in from all over the country tell a similar story of people being unwell and many elderly passing away. It's been another tough season for our Chinese DMI family. But, despite these hardships, they look to the One who is above all our circumstances. Many Deaf have met every day online for prayer, Bible studies and fellowship.

Lockdowns lasted from October until December. Even though "stay at home" restrictions have been lifted, many still keep to their homes and continue to meet online. Small gatherings are being held at the coffee shop and in other provinces, spaces

have been found for their small gatherings.

Please pray for the health and safety for our Chinese brothers and sisters as they navigate through yet another difficult season.



Faces have been blurred for security purposes

Philippines - Visayas Churches Combine for Christmas



120 members from six DMI churches in the Visayas region of the Philippines held a combined Christmas service to celebrate the birth of Christ and enjoy warm fellowship. The Silay, Bago, Himamayla, San Carlos, Sipalay and Bacolod Emmanuel Churches of the Deaf gathered to hear Ps Albert speak on "I rejoice in my saviour" - turning despair and fear into joy and thanksgiving.

A special pork BBQ was prepared by the Bacolod church while members of other churches contributed with their favourite local foods. It was a wonderful day and after the lunch, members played games and each received a small gift for Christmas.

Uganda - Experiencing the love of God the Father

Deaf Action Uganda arranged a life changing 'school' for the Deaf in Lira, Uganda in the last week of January.

45 people from all over Uganda were gathered at the Neville Muir Comprehensive School for five days. The aim was to learn and to experience how Father is loving us as sons and daughters.

The teaching sessions were from 9am to 6pm every day. Still, the Deaf often expressed: "Continue! We want more!"

On the last day, we had a testimony time. Nearly everybody wanted to testify about what they had received during the week. Here are some examples:

- I am not the same person now as I was when I came. I had a hard heart. Father has changed it.
- I had conflicts with my father and had plans of revenge. Now I have forgiven him and I have no desire to tell him about his faults.
- I haven't had any contact with my father for a long time. He planned to kill me. This week I have forgiven him. I have written a letter to him. I want to be a son to my father.
- I have forgiven my mother this week and my heart has become so full of joy.
- Now I have learned about the Trinity and that Jesus

teaches us to pray to Father

- I am so deeply touched, learned so much and received revelations.
- I am not confused any more, I have experienced Father loving me.



The school in Lira has really been a blessing!



The team of speakers has now travelled to Lusaka where Deaf Action Zambia is arranging a similar week. Here 26 people have gathered for the school. We are really looking forward to what God will do among these Deaf this week!

Gunnar Dehli
International Advisor

Gospel is alive and well in D.R. Congo – Sake & Minova

Despite knowing the risks they face every time they travel in D.R. Congo, Pastor Papy and his team are not deterred. Their faith is in a God who is bigger than all the evil that surrounds them and they want to share that faith with others.

In a small village called Sake, 30km out of Goma, a small church for the Deaf gathers to hear the gospel. Pastor Luanda was appointed by DAC to oversee this small congregation of 18 Deaf. Papy had the opportunity to take a group on an evangelical mission to visit the church. The choir from Goma also came along for the visit. It was an uplifting and encouraging time for all. There are always areas that need support and Papy could see the need for teaching sign language to the Deaf so that they can develop their communication, which in turn leads to knowledge and understanding. Overall, it was a blessed time that he was excited to share with us.

Where there is a need, Papy will go! Papy visited the Minova school for the Deaf at the end of last year. It's always encouraging for the teachers and kids to have someone like Papy come and give them that little extra bit of support. He was able to share the gospel with the kids and pray with some who were sick.

A single solar panel was purchased for the school so that they could have power to light up the classroom on gloomy days. The school is also a boarding school, so the panel will be used



to give some light at night and charge their mobile phones. All of a sudden we have a whole new appreciation for being able to plug our phone chargers into a socket and flick a switch! Please continue to pray for our D.R. Congo DMI family as they share the gospel and reach out to the Deaf in such a hostile environment.



Ambassadors, Members and Volunteers Needed!

On the back of this newsletter there are 5 faces which we claim are running DMI. That's not quite true. There is actually a legion of volunteers, advisors, members and ambassadors – and of course supporters! – who help keep DMI operating. For 2023, we need more volunteers, ambassadors and members. Volunteers typically help in the office preparing newsletters. Ambassadors represent DMI at various conferences and events throughout the year. Members serve as advisors at the AGM (and other meetings). If you are interested in serving DMI as a volunteer, ambassador or member, or knowing more about these

roles, please contact Andrew at
andrew.miller@deafmin.org

We would love to have your help.

Reaching into Fiji!

While on holidays in Fiji, Andrew was asked to speak at the Fijian Church in Vomo where he taught from 2 Timothy and shared about the work of DMI. This was well received by the congregation. (The pastor of the church is a former member of the Fijian rugby team. This news was well received by Andrew!) Afterwards Andrew spoke with staff who had connections to a Deaf school in Suva. Fiji have no churches for the Deaf so there is work for us to do there.



We are hoping to connect with churches in New Zealand toward the end of this year and, prayerfully, they will be willing to help support any outreach work in Fiji and other Pacific nations.

Thank You Hilde Hoogenhout Supporting the Mission



We always love the opportunity to share the creative ways people support the work of DMI. We'd like to give a big thank you to Hilde Hoogenhout who has so far raised \$100 through the sales of her bead art. She has found a way to do something she really loves and support DMI at the same time. Hilde has also generously donated 4 pieces of her artwork to be auctioned off at one of our silent auctions that will be held later this year.

Maybe you can be inspired by Hilde and use your creativity to help support DMI too.

Praise and Prayer

Fatherheart Conference

Pray for the Fatherheart conference being held in Zambia this week. Pray for the rich fruit of healing, forgiveness and the nearness of God.

China

Pray for Angel and our other workers who are dealing with the COVID outbreak and with political hostility.

DR Congo

Director Papy reports, "The M23 is advancing towards Goma and launching attacks...The road is blocked and it is now difficult to have access to food! We need your prayer for peace in our region and town!"

Dennis' School (Uganda)

They're struggling to cope at Dennis' school in Uganda with food, utility and van repair needs. Pray that we can meet those needs.

Prayer Points are updated weekly on our website: <https://deafmin.org/prayer>



Andrew Miller
International Operations
Coordinator



Matthijs Terpstra
International
Development Coordinator



Susi Tjhai
Finance Coordinator



Amy Jack
Communications
Coordinator



Kay van Namen
Sponsorship &
Administration
Coordinator



Neville & Lill Muir
DMI Founders



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USA Inquiries:

Deaf Ministries International

c/o Mrs Esther Yoo

5950 Cahill Ave

Tarzana, CA 91356

Email: re.yoos69@gmail.com



Deaf Ministries International
P.O.Box 395
Beaconsfield, Victoria 3807
Australia

Ph: 03 5940 5431

SMS: 0487 209 881

e-mail: info@deafmin.org