



Academic Success

KENYA - Immanuel Integrated Christian School



Five Deaf students completed their Grade 8 National Exams with flying colours and will proceed to Kuja High School for the Deaf for the commencement of their final high school years. At our Immanuel Integrated Christian School, they have been running the new Junior Secondary School curriculum, and hired extra teachers. Some of the old teachers have been kind to volunteer for free to support the Junior Secondary School. Five Deaf students also passed the Grade 6 National Exams and will be admitted to the new program of Junior Secondary School. Five Deaf students also passed kindergarten with their hearing peers and will proceed to Grade 1 at IICS.

The Integrated Program is going so well. Deaf students are given the opportunity to build relationships with their hearing peers from an early stage of life. The hearing stu-

dents also learn how to work along with their peers who have a disability, by playing together, learning sign language together, sharing meals, studying together, in fact, doing everything together. Deaf students are living in a shared education culture that accepts all, not a life that discriminates against people with disabilities. Some of the Deaf students' parents have enrolled their hearing kids, too!



NEVILLE RECOGNISED IN AUSTRALIA DAY 2023 HONOURS LIST



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

On January 26, Australia Day, Governor-General David Hurley posthumously 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. 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.



UGANDA Ugandan National Association for Deaf Vocational Colleges

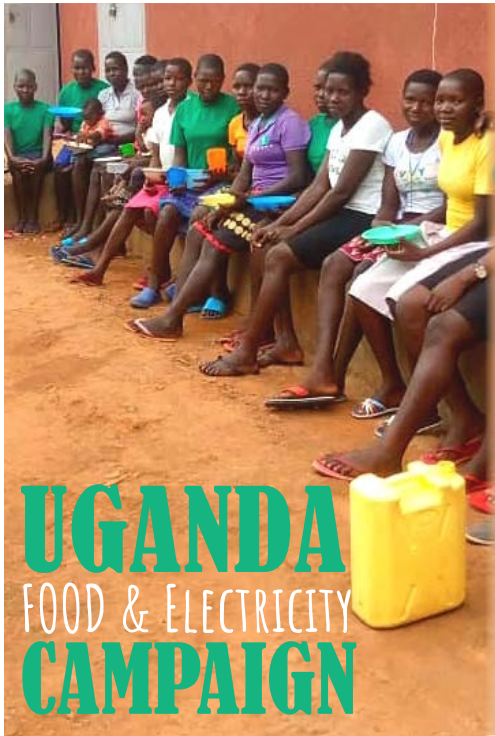
Four students sat for the Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) level 1 exams. Brian, Jordan, Kenneth and Samuel returned to school on 6th February 2023 to continue their studies for DIT level 2. Allan has completed DIT level 2 and will be graduating soon.



Updates from one of the 2021 Malaika Comprehensive Vocational School Graduates



Winnie started her own business – a hair dressing salon in the first week of November 2022. She was able to purchase most equipment and materials. On her first day, she made Ugx.45,000. She was so excited to make her own first money from her business. She often has hearing customers who loved her work (including Andrew who stopped in for some treatment last November). They felt comfortable and assured that Winnie knows what she is doing.



We have a food emergency at the Neville Muir Comprehensive School school run by Dennis in Lira. We have 300 hungry mouths to feed and the cassava trees we planted are not ready for harvest.
AUS 2,000 is needed for this food emergency.

We also need **AUS 3,000** to set up the electricity for the school. They run on solar power but it is very weak and does not have nearly enough power to run the whole school. There are many classroom activities that require a stable electricity source including computer studies, sewing and carpentry. The school will be responsible for paying the electricity bill every month but it needs the money for connecting the electricity.

If you are able to donate towards the food emergency or purchase of electricity to run the school, please go to our website:
www.defmin.org/donate
 or follow payment details on the back.
Reference: Ugandafood or Ugandapower

PHILIPPINES

Ligao - Fishermen of Christ Learning Center

Three students graduated from Year 12 last year on 5th July 2022. Congratulations to Richard, Krishna and Karina! They were able to celebrate in graduation gown style with their families and friends.



Above: Richard, Krishna and Karina.



Right: Karina with her Grandmother.



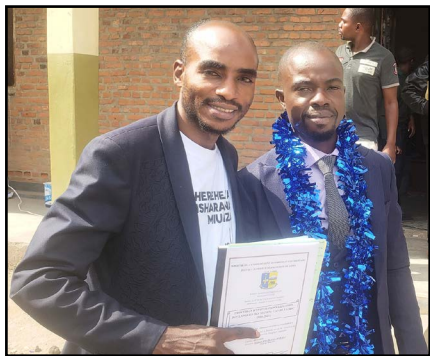
Kerrie Christie and her daughter Ashleigh visited the school to host a Mental Health Seminar for the teachers and staff. It included a Mental Health Professional Development Day, class visits, devotions and children's talks. It was well received by all.

The school also held a Classroom Christmas Party on 15th December 2022. Then, after a short school break, all students and teachers returned to school on 4th January 2023. Classes are back to normal, the canteen is busy again with food available for lunch and snacks. The school also held a special Valentine's Day celebration on 14th February 2023.



D.R.CONGO

Beni School for the Deaf



Headmaster Luanda Batakomerwa Didi recently graduated from his studies in History and Social Sciences.

Papy with Headmaster Luanda Batakomerwa Didi

The school had a break over Christmas and New Year and returned on 9th January 2023. They announced the grade results from the first term and distributed special gifts to the students. The special gifts included clothes, biscuits, chewing gum, sweets, balloons, water and juice.



Due to a good harvest, Beni students were able to eat 3 school lunches a week. The school still has some portions left. The school garden harvested cabbages, tomatoes and amaranths. The students were able to take some home to share with their parents. They are considering buying a 3-wheeled



motorcycle to help collect the crops from the farmlands to reduce transport costs.

MYANMAR

Muir School for the Deaf

There are 33 students at the school now. The war continues; every night the sounds of guns firing downtown can be heard. The military council has declared martial law in 37 townships including Kalay. In many regions, farmers cannot work in their fields. The price of rice and oil goes up every day. Pa-Lian cannot see the Kalay township getting back to normal in the near future. However, the future of the school

is in good hands. It is expected that more students will come in the next academic year. There are 7 classes and 5 teachers. They want to recruit a new graduate teacher. The school will have final exams in the second week of March, and from the third week of March they will have summer holidays. The teachers and students are preparing hard for the exams. The next school academic year will start on 1st June 2023.

BACOLOD

Congratulations to Realyn Villarín and Gerald Febreo on completing their grades at High School. Realyn has passed Grade 10 SPED with Honours and has now advanced to Grade 11. Gerald has passed Grade 11 SPED with Honours too and



has now advanced to Grade 12. Ryan Menza studied hard too in his final year. He is expressing

interest in attending the Deaf Evangelistic Alliance Foundation Bible College in Laguna to become a pastor/church leader after he finishes his studies.



Mary Montero is progressing well in school and has good scores in Reading, English and Maths. She has had face-to-face classes since August 2022. Her results haven't come out yet, but she is expected to advance to Grade 7.

Community projects - providing self-sustainability

Access to financial opportunities is crucial for businesses everywhere worldwide. Deaf individuals often face barriers to accessing financial resources and getting opportunities to start their own businesses. Traditional financial institutions may not trust or believe in them due to their disability, leading to limited access to funding to start or expand a business. Deaf people may also lack opportunities to develop their

business skills due to limitations in their education or commercial network.

One solution provided by DMI to this challenge is the Menno and Ruth Ediger Development Fund (MREDF), which provides personal loans to groups of 3-5 people (working as a collective) who want to start or grow a business. The group approach helps overcome limitations, promotes mutual

learning, and provides support among the group in their own language - sign language. The borrowers also help each other by using their networks to get more clients for each other's businesses. This way, everyone's business can grow and succeed together, and the group can achieve their goal of successful loan repayments.

Kitchen Garden in DR Congo



Our school kitchen gardens serve four purposes: meet an immediate food need, educate students in horticulture, provide employment for our school graduates, and bring an income into the community. They also - importantly - bring a measure of self-sustainability into the school communities. Our project in DR Congo became fully self-sustainable (meeting the above objectives) within 18 months of its inception.

Farm, Rice Mill and Shop in Ligao, Philippines

At our school and dormitory in Ligao, Philippines, we operate a farm and rice plantation. The farm grows tropical

crops such as coconuts, pineapples, and avocados; and raises cows, pigs and chickens. This farm provides work for the Deaf



(often graduates of the school), income for the school and food for the dormitory. The school also owns and operates a canteen selling lunch and snacks. They also own and operate a rice mill, providing a vital service to local farmers. At the front of the school there is a small shop, selling farm produce and other groceries to the local area.

New Project – Kitchen Garden, Kenya

We are hoping that Kenya will be able to commence its farm and kitchen garden soon. Using the newly-purchased 2 acres of land, the kitchen garden will educate students in agriculture, reduce food costs for the school as well as providing food for the dormitory students. This will save over \$20,000 a year which can be directed to other fields and will move the school closer towards self-sustainability. Watch this space!

WE URGENTLY NEED SPONSORS TO SUPPORT THESE STUDENTS!



Tsongo Kavira
Grade 2
Beni, D.R. Congo



John Basilan
Grade 8
Ligao, Philippines



Kisasali Muhindo
Grade 1
Beni D.R.Congo



Joei Baranda
Grade 7
Ligao, Philippines



Ysabelle Borjal
Grade Kinder
Ligao, Philippines

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

Ambassadors, Members and Volunteers Needed!

On the back of this newsletter, there are 5 faces that we claim are running DMI and DA. That's not quite true. There is actually a legion of volunteers, advisors, members and ambassadors – and of course supporters! – who helps keep DMI and DA 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 and DA 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.





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 air-conditioned 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>



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Kay van Namen

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Thank you for continuing to support our schools students,
teachers and self-sustainability projects.

Warm regards,

Kay

Sponsorship Coordinator



Neville & Lill Muir
DMI & DA
Founders