

# Deaf Ministries International

Issue 46 | June 2023

*Taking the Gospel  
to the Deaf*

## Let His Light Shine!

### New Believers

The mission of DMI is to take the gospel, education and employment to the Deaf all around the world. And that is what we are doing! In the last couple of months we have seen 12 baptisms in Rwanda, 6 baptisms in Tanzania and 9 baptisms in Uganda. That's a lot of celebrating in heaven and on earth! We're so pleased for the great efforts our pastors and evangelists are going to reach the lost and we're grateful to our supporters who enable this outreach to take place. Most of all, we thank God for His lavish redeeming love!



### New Churches

We're also pleased to announce the planting of three new churches since our last newsletter in April. A new church was planted in Tagum, near Davao in the Philippines, and two new churches were started in Kenya, one in Voi and one in Kwale. As one of our field directors said, "the fields are ripe for harvest; we just need more evangelists to go out into the fields!" This training of new evangelists and church planters is something we prioritise highly and are working very hard on.

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

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



## Neville's OAM Awarded



Lill and the whole Muir family are doing well. It was a thrill for them - Lill, Brent, Erik, David and Ian - to visit government house to receive the Order of Australia on behalf of Neville last month. The award was presented by The Hon Linda Dessau AC CVO, Governor of Victoria, and Mr Anthony How-

ard AM KC. The Order of Australia is presented to outstanding Australians for "meritorious, distinguished and conspicuous service" and for their significant impact at the local, national and international level. This award is, of course, a great honour for Neville and the Muir family, but it also honours the work that we support and do amongst the Deaf all around the world, and we can be proud of the role that we have played as representatives, volunteers and supporters.

**Video of the award ceremony can be seen here:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4ga7lv7cno&t=7s/>  
**Lill receives the award at 50:20.**

Lill remains strongly connected to DMI and Deaf Action and all the developments in the field. She attends our board meetings, church deputations and joins the volunteers in their work. She loves to see the work of DMI and DA continue. It's a source of great joy for her. Ian, Neville and Lill's youngest son, also continues to support DMI through student sponsorship. Ian sponsors Hastings and is happy to see him doing well at school.

## PHILIPPINES Ligao

Love (and pollen) is in the air



Earlier in the year our school in Ligao, Philippines, celebrated Love Month, a Valentine's Day series of events to give students "time to socialize, develop self-confidence, show off their best and let them experience what other people feel and act during formal gatherings". More recently, a 'Special Education Runway' was held in which a designer chose our senior students to launch his fashion line. The students looked stunning and wore the garments with great poise!



Out in the field, pollen was in full swing. Rice was harvested and milled and coconuts were harvested and made into copra.

The senior students were also introduced to Livelihood Training. The training aims to train students to become entrepreneurs and create their own livelihoods in the future. Students were taught – and experienced for themselves - how they can earn a living through self-employment, creating their own businesses from scratch and being their own boss.



The students learned how to make detergents, soaps and softeners, as well as strategies for marketing the product, finding a supplier, winning customers and sustaining a feasible business in their area. Bing and Anabelle have been doing a fabulous job with this.



## SYRIA

Our work in Syria is coming together again after a leadership change last year. Pastor Edward Awabdeh of the Christian Alliance Church at Damascus has a wonderful heart for the Deaf in the city and is working hard to rebuild the community there. It was encouraging to see a large group gather for Christmas and thirty Deaf now gather each week for services. Rita interprets and we have two new volunteers helping. More recently the Deaf church had a picnic for fellowship which was enjoyed by all.



The biggest challenge the Deaf in Syria face now is economic. Just as Matthijs wrote in our last newsletter about the terrible hardships being faced by the Deaf in Egypt, the plight of the Deaf in Syria is much the same. The cost of living has dramatically increased while income and employment opportunities have not.

Pastor Edward asks that we continue in prayer for the Deaf in Syria, especially Vera and her new-born baby who is suffering from kidney problems and multiple infections. He also offers

thanks to God because things are moving ahead again in this ministry and relationships inside the group are healthy and growing.

## FatherHeart School in the Middle East

We will be holding a Fatherheart school for the Deaf in Alexandria, Egypt from 1 July - 7 July. This will be the first time we have held a FatherHeart school in the Middle East. This is a big deal for us as it brings together Deaf Christians from Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine and Egypt to receive the message of how God the Father loves them. We believe this will also strengthen the Christian community among the Deaf in this region.

The Fatherheart schools give participants the opportunity to experience that we are God the Father's beloved sons and daughters in Christ. During the week, students get thorough experience and Bible teaching about God's Fatherly love for us. There is also plenty of quiet time to digest what is taught, so the love of God can be personally experienced as a reality in the heart.

We see this week as a key opportunity to continue the work among deaf Christians in the Middle East and to encourage the leaders to persist in their valuable work.



Father Heart School in Africa

## CHINA

Our Chinese sisters and brothers have been going through a really hard time but their ability to praise and rejoice amidst hardship is inspiring.



In Km\*, one of the women in our church was hospitalised with a very serious illness. Other members of the church went to the hospital to pray over her. She recovered and is back home again now, praise God.

In Tj\*, Hx\*, Tg\* and Yk\* many got sick with COVID and couldn't go to church for the longest time.

Restrictions have finally lifted and they are so happy to finally be able to meet in person in church again. They write, "praise the Lord no matter what happens we still want to worship God."

We're sad to report that Miss Lin, a hearing lady who was a great supporter of the Deaf, passed away earlier this year. One of our leaders writes that "Miss Lin dedicated her whole life to God and to the Deaf in China. She brought the good news of Jesus to the Chinese Deaf. She was a wonderful lady who worked so hard then got cancer and passed away. We miss her." A true unsung hero of the faith.

*\* For security reasons we can't print full place names.*



Miss Lin's funeral

# Motorbikes Help Ministry - and they're cool!

Thanks to generous donations from sponsors, we were able to provide evangelists in Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Congo with motorbikes for evangelism. This has allowed our evangelists to reach villages and remote regions that they would otherwise never get to on foot or by public transport. But it's more than that. It allows our pastors and evangelists to go and preach in more than one church on a Sunday. Seth, one of our evangelists in Rwanda, reports: "I reached the center at Nyabugogo at 4:30am and entered the office of Horizons [bus company] but they said I wouldn't be able to get a bus until 9:00am. I went to another company and they said I wouldn't get a bus until 2:00pm." Seth wasn't able to get to church to preach that day. This problem is not uncommon in Rwanda and other fields. Motorbikes are the solution here. Seven bikes were provided in total in the following distribution:

Rwanda (2): Justine and Patrick

Burundi (2): Egide and Jean

Uganda (1): Enoch

Congo (1): Temo

Our evangelists – and those they are reaching - couldn't be happier.

*Justine is a 56-year old Evangelist in Rwanda. She lives in a rural area and has knee problems which have been restricting her movements. The bike allows her to get around, including continuing her work at the Deaf School Training in Barerwe.*

*Temo is a teacher and evangelist in DR Congo. He shares his bike with Mika, the vice director of the school. The bike is very helpful in their work both in Minova and out of Minova visiting students' families who live far from Minova, and also in supporting agricultural projects and other school activities.*



Justine



Enoch



Temo

## Current areas of need

We would kindly ask that those who contribute toward these campaigns do so without redirecting giving from our much needed General Fund. Thank you!

*Donations can be made via our website or follow the donation details on the back page.*



Uganda, Bambanze's Mill  
Flour mill and storage shed  
**AUD6250**



Gift to the Syrian Church



More motorbikes for evangelists  
**AUD2000 each**



'Sponsor a worker to go to DMI Conference'  
<https://deafmin.org/conference/>

## D.R. CONGO

Our workers in DR Congo continue to serve with great joy despite the great danger.

A recent mission trip to Minova was a case in point. On the road from Sake to Minova our team was ambushed by a group of M23 rebels and held at gunpoint. Much panic ensued. They asked our team for IDs which they had but all our team members were deaf and couldn't communicate further with the rebels. The rebels checked over the car and the donations of food being carried and decided to let our team go. Praise God! They could just as easily have been robbed or killed.



The team took desperately needed corn, flour, rice, beans, soap, oil and blankets to 45 displaced Deaf in Minova and 14 others in Sake. They also took something more valuable to them: the good news

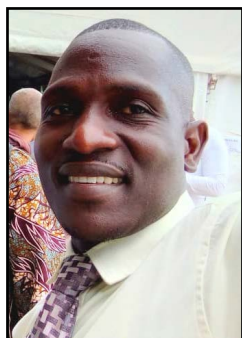
of Jesus. The Deaf were taught, encouraged, challenged and



equipped. Our Congolese leaders thank DMI for the financial and prayer support we give and praise our mighty God for His protection and provision.

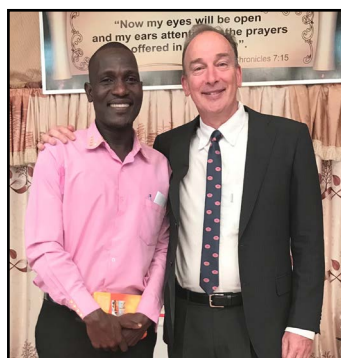


## UGANDA



Uganda is a well-developed field that has been experiencing challenges in leadership transitions over the last few years. Tonny, who has been Director in Uganda for not yet 12 months, is doing an outstanding job of leading DAU (Deaf Action Uganda) into wise stewardship and mission success. This is not always easy, but Tonny, supported by a good local Board, is proving up to the task.

He and mission coordinator David Bulime have been visiting our 13 employed evangelists who oversee 20 churches and fellowships around the country, encouraging and training them. This culminated in a national training conference held in mid-May, based on the theme "Rebuilding the wall" (from Nehemiah 2:5). The conference attracted over 60 participants with the leaders establishing a network to share information,



encourage one another, forge unity and coordinate plans for future ministry.

There are a number of other ministries being developed at DAU including:

- a Sign Language Training Project. Sixteen students have enrolled this quarter. The instructors have continued to do their work diligently and final exams were held at the end of April.
  - A Singles Workshop held over three sessions, preparing young men and women for marriage.
  - Skin care and Cosmetology Training. Conducted by a beauty and makeup specialist, these trainings have been attended by 27 Deaf women, 1 Deaf man and 10 hearing women and encourage self-employment.
- DAU continues to oversee 32 young entrepreneurs under our microloan program having already seen 6 others fully repay their loans.



## Tablets & Projectors



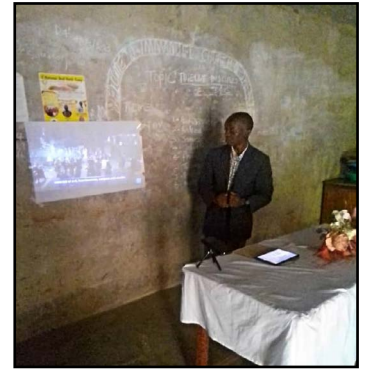
The 30 Samsung tablets and 15 projectors that were distributed amongst our fields in Uganda, Congo and Rwanda are yielding great fruit! Deaf church members are being shown sign language videos in relation to the preaching, bringing greater clarity and interest. Since Deaf learners typically respond to visual learning plus sign language, there's great benefit to using these visual teaching materials.

This is different from an evangelist only reading the Bible and explaining. Sometimes the evangelist may not be able to narrate all the details of stories, or some listening might not have the sign language skills to catch everything, but these Bible stories come



with illustrations which bring a greater understanding of the gospel to the Deaf. The stories can also be repeated several times, which is great especially for the Deaf children. They're watching them like Saturday morning cartoons!

The projectors are also being used by schools to teach sign language and show educational movies in the evening before dinner for our boarders.



# News from Supporting Countries



Deaf Action held a fundraising dinner at the Northbridge Golf Club on April 14. The night was a great success, raising \$6,388.85. \$4,400 was raised through the games and silent auction items. The proceeds from the evening will go to support a new self-sustainability project for the Deaf in Rwanda.



The guests were inspired by keynote speaker Andrew Fisher from Jesus Racing. He spoke well, and challenged the guests to find God's true purpose for their lives and strive towards it. Andrew Miller, our IOC, also spoke about our sustainability project in Burundi which was funded by last year's dinner, and the proposed project in Rwanda. Dinner was a sumptuous 3-course meal, and the

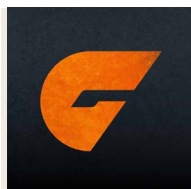
guests participated in games and a silent auction with goods



and services kindly donated from local businesses. Amy Jack, our Communications Coordinator came up from Melbourne for the event as MC and chief decorator and did a sensational job. The most hotly contested item was the Crowne Plaza Terrigal Pacific accommodation which went for \$450! The most popular items were Tyrell's VIP Premium Tasting Experience for Two, an Escape Room session from Central Coast Virtual Reality, and 4 tickets to Luna Park Sydney. A special thank you to all who attended and supported the event and gave so generously.



## THANK YOU TO THE BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORTED THE FUNDRAISER:





# 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>



### 'Sponsor a worker to go to Deaf Ministries International Conference'

DMI's 8th International Conference will be held in Kenya in August this year. The conference is open to all DMI supporters and workers. The conference will provide an exceptional opportunity for DMI supporters and workers to share an enriching time together through presentations, trainings, workshops and social events, all aimed to strengthen our capacity to achieve our mission goals.

Western staff will all be paying for their own transport and accommodation of course, and we have set aside a modest budget to help as many local workers as possible to attend. Yet many field workers will not have the support or the means to join us. Would you consider sponsoring a field worker (in part or in full) to attend the conference? It would mean the world to them. Sponsorship costs per person are listed below by country. The sponsorships will not be tax deductible. See the following link for sponsorship costs per person:

<https://deafmin.org/conference/>

Save the Date!

## TRIVIA NIGHTS

Melbourne Fundraising Trivia Night at Monash City Church of Christ, Saturday evening Aug 26

Sydney Fundraising Trivia Night at St Marks Anglican Church Northbridge, Saturday evening Sept 2

\$20 entry. Lots of fun. Great prizes. Organise your table of nerds now!  
More details to come.

## DMI & Deaf Action AGM

On May 20th, staff, Australian board members and members



gathered for the DMI and Deaf Action AGM. It was a wonderful opportunity to gather together and talk about all the ways God has blessed the ministry over the past year. We also reflected on any struggles and looked forward to future plans in the coming years. We'd like to thank Steve and Di McAllister once again for their generous hospitality at their beautiful property at Labertouche. Please continue to pray for the mission of DMI taking the gospel, education and employment to the Deaf all around the world. More detailed information can be found in our Annual Review on the website and of course you are also welcome to contact us directly.



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



[www.deafministriesinternational.com](http://www.deafministriesinternational.com)

## DMI Evangelistic Donations:

Please make cheques payable to:

Deaf Ministries International  
Details for EFT:  
BSB: 633-000  
Account: 145833539

Credit Card facility available at office or PayPal (secure) on website.

### DMI Australian Office



Deaf Ministries International  
P.O.Box 395  
Beaconsfield, Victoria 3807  
Australia  
Ph: 03 5940 5431  
SMS/WhatsApp  
0487 209 881  
e-mail: [info@deafmin.org](mailto:info@deafmin.org)



[www.deafmin.org/deaf-action](http://www.deafmin.org/deaf-action)

## Tax-deductible Donations:

Please make cheques payable to:

Deaf Action  
Details for EFT  
BSB: 633-000  
Account: 145834263

Credit Card facility available at office or PayPal (secure) on website

Deaf Action  
P.O.Box 395  
Beaconsfield, Victoria 3807  
Australia  
Ph: 03 5940 5431  
e-mail: [info@deafaction.org.au](mailto:info@deafaction.org.au)

## Praise and Prayer

### New Believers

We give all the praise and glory to Almighty God as Deaf from around the world are coming to Christ. We pray for those who have recently been baptised. For their spiritual protection and growth as they continue on their faith journey.

### Syria

We give thanks for the ministry in Syria. We pray for the Deaf community as they face economic challenges. Pray for Vera and her new-born baby who is suffering from kidney problems and multiple infections.

### D.R. Congo

We give thanks for keeping Papy safe as he encountered rebel forces on his way to deliver much needed supplies to Minova. Pray for continued safety as he travels through other dangerous areas.

### Sydney Fundraising Dinner

We give thanks for such a successful fundraiser, for the generosity of those who attended and the words that Andrew Fisher shared with us about finding the purpose that God has for our lives.

### DMI Conference

We give thanks for the opportunity to hold the 8th DMI conference in Kenya in August. We pray that many will be able to come from all around the world and fellowship together. We pray that God's hand will be over all of the preparations for the organisers and the delegates' travel plans.



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