



School & Project News



November 2023
USA EDITION

DEAF AND HEARING COMING TOGETHER

Immanuel Integrated Christian School - Kenya

It has been two years since our school in Kenya became an Integrated School! The community has embraced the school well. The school is growing as one of the most loved and appreciated institutions within the Kenyan community. The Deaf students appreciate the integration as they continue to make friendships and create bonds amongst their hearing peers and friends. There is a great improvement in academic performance between both Deaf and hearing students. Many hearing students are learning to sign, and they are able to help their Deaf friends in classes and also their Deaf siblings at home.

IICS has been recognised as the Best Model School in providing an integrated school program that is giving back to society by providing quality education that is affordable to the less fortunate and low income earners. There are some challenges being an integrated school. IICS had to hire more teachers and change the school registration to an integrated school and also embrace a new integrated curriculum. They had been able to do a teacher refresher course to equip their teachers on the new developments in the integrated program.



Since Professor Kathi Kitao's visit in the last quarter, there were more finished crochet products from the teachers and students. IICS plans to commercialise the products as there was a good number of parents who have shown interest in learning how to crochet and buy the products. Students have shown a great passion for crocheting; it is already a part of their curriculum. Kathi will start open



classes next year for the parents and locals.

Despite the financial constraints the school has faced, they continue to deliver their core mandate in serving Deaf children and less fortunate children in the community. The farm is doing extremely well. In their first season of planting, they harvested around 10 bags of maize. The land has been fenced recently to deter neighbours' animals from eating the produce. They have already planted more maize and beans for this season. They have done weeding recently and look forward to a better harvest. The poultry project is going well too. They will receive one day old chicks at the end of this month.

The Year 8 students will be starting their National Exams soon. We wish them the best in their exams! IICS also excelled in ball games and represented the school at the Regional and National sport festivals. They emerged as the Best Performing in the category of Hearing Impaired Learners. The Scouts team made it to the Nationals. The team was nominated to go and participate in the Continental Festival but due to the lack of resources, limited time for preparation and funds, the team wasn't able to go.



UGANDA

Ugandan National Association for the Deaf Vocational College



The four boys, Jordan, Kenneth, Samuel and Brian are continuing their studies for Certificate Level 1 Carpentry and Joinery course and Solome is continuing her studies in

Sweater Knitting at Ugandan National Association for the Deaf. They are making great progress, with the boys producing wonderful furniture pieces and Solome making beautiful sweaters. We hope that the boys will be able to sit for their final Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) level 2 exams at the end of this year. The results will come out early next year and the graduation will be held next year. They are thankful and appreciative of their sponsors who have helped them

to continue to study at UNAD. Solome will continue her studies and will complete her studies in 2024.

The UNAD students participated in the National Youth Camp organised by Immanuel Church of the Deaf Makerere. Several activities included growth mindset activities, liquid soap making, making bands, necklaces, handbags, training for investment opportunities, playing both outdoors and indoors sports and performing a cultural show.



Update on Mary Kyosimire

Both Mary and her son Simon are in good health. Simon will be ready to join pre-school next year. He can talk well now. Mary's pig was sold and two little piglets were bought to continue her piggery project. However the piggery project has not had the anticipated results as it has been difficult to



regularly monitor. Mary wants to go back to school to finish her vocational studies. This will be a great opportunity for her as the training is done in Sign Language and she will easily catch up. Mary will need

more support for her studies and would appreciate it if DMI supporters could help her.

Allan Lule

Allan graduated from UNAD on 20th September 2023. He graduated with a Certificate Level 2 Carpentry and Joinery.

Yubu Ssekidde

Since finishing his course at A Chance, Yubu is currently taking a casual job at the sand pits to support his mother, father and himself. Yubu's future plan is to run a food stall selling chapati, egg rolls, donuts and samosa.



Neville Muir Comprehensive School

In Term 3, 184 students returned for the term including Deaf students. They are preparing for the 6th graduation ceremony in November. The students continue to develop their skills, working hard to make beautiful dresses, practice hair dressing skills, and make model houses out of blocks on the training site with limited training materials and resources available.





Above: Model Houses

Right: Hairdressing

The school has only one borehole to provide water for the whole school. It is currently broken down and the school is in great fear that they will not have access to water, and furthermore if the health authorities find out, they will close the school if they know about the situation. The technician has checked for problems and most parts will need to be replaced.



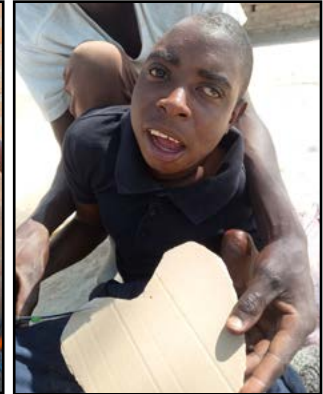
Right: Broken borehole pump

ZAMBIA

Mazila Chabenya

Mazila has a new tutor working with him. His name is Harry Choma. He is married and has two children. He has a love for lame children and finished his studies in Special Education in April this year. He is helping Mazila learn life skills and is also homeschooling him. He knows some sign language as he has an uncle who is Deaf. Mazila is doing well and is in good health. He used to be sad because he missed his friends at school but these days, he is getting used to learning from home.

Lewis (left), Harry (right)



Hastings Chaambwa

We're sorry to report that Hastings has had a bit of a rough run and has not been doing as well as we had hoped. A bright, young boy, he was tapped by Neville as a student with real potential. He sailed through his schooling and was doing very well. In a shock to us all, when he sat for his final exams two years ago, he failed! Then last year when he went to sit for them again, a clerical error denied him the chance to sit for the exams. Hastings was devastated and we shared in his

grief. This year he sat for his finals a third time and regretfully, he has not passed his exams again. This is sad because we had such high expectations for him. We expected him to achieve his dream of going on to university and studying medicine. Nevertheless, there will be other opportunities for Hastings and we will work with him to realise the best course now for him.

BURUNDI

Ephphatha School for the Deaf

Ephphatha School for the Deaf has moved location from Gasenyi to Maramvya. It is a 15 minute car drive from the Bujumbura International Airport. They are facing difficulties with the internet connection, water access and electricity. There are now 13 DeafBlind at the school. The students are doing well in classes. They are very happy at school but worried about some untrained teachers who are not able to help them understand well. They have a challenge with reading due to no electricity.

Deaf Action Burundi will continue to advocate and lobby for teacher training for these students. There will be a team

from America and Colombia coming to Burundi in January 2024 to provide training to the teachers, Deaf leaders, parents of the DeafBlind students and sign language interpreters.



We urgently need sponsors to support these students!



Princess Jeliane Broqueza
(Girl) Grade 7
Ligao, Philippines



Jean Iteriteka (Boy)
Grade 2
Burundi



Mukuhi Kavira (Girl)
Grade 2
Beni, D.R.Congo



Festus Onyango (Boy)
Grade 4
Kenya

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

DR CONGO

The students at Beni School for the Deaf have been on holidays until September. 63 Deaf students at the Primary School returned for the 2023-2024 school year. There are also 51 hearing students at the school.

At the Secondary School, 14 Deaf students returned for the 2023-2024 school year. There are also 3 hearing students at the school.



Students resumed eating their school lunches however there wasn't enough food because of the increase in student numbers. The students received new notebooks, school bags, rulers, pens and pencils at the start of the academic year.

Rwanda Tresor Nsengiyumva



Tresor started boarding at Umutara Deaf School on 28th September. He has been placed in the Top Class of Pre-School (Nursery). Next year he will be promoted to the first year of Primary School. The reason for placing him in the Top Class of Pre-School is to help him start studying well and to improve his learning. The Head Teacher was initially considering placing him in the Low Class of Pre-School but because Tresor is understanding quickly and is old enough, they decided to put him in the Top Class. He is making new friends among his classmates and other students at the school. He seems to be very happy at the school. He has settled in well overall which is pleasing to see.

On the International Day of the Deaf, Deaf Action Rwanda (DAR) collaborated with the National Association of the Deaf to celebrate this day. The DAR standard pull-up banner was prominently displayed in the designated place to present organisations operating in Rwanda. After the celebration, Tresor joined the DAR leaders as they stood in front of the DAR Standard pull-up banner.



PHILIPPINES

Fishermen of Christ Learning Center Ligao

At Fishermen of Christ Learning Center, 61 Deaf students returned to school for the 2023-2024 school year.

In late September, FCLC celebrated their 40 years of excellence in raising young Deaf children through education. Under the theme "4 Decades of Faithfulness", three days were set apart, dutifully prepared and overseen by Director Bing and Principal Anabelle, for all the students and staff to enjoy. The celebrations, boisterous at times, started with a police escort motorcade through the city, and included artistic performances from the students, art contests, sporting contests, games and fellowship times. All these were undertaken with great enthusiasm by the students and staff.

They were joined in their celebrations by Dr Doug Clutton, a Canadian audiologist living in the Philippines and long-time DMI supporter; Heo In Yeong, a DMI International Board member from South Korea; and from Australia, International Operations Coordinator Andrew Miller, Finance Coordinator Susi Tjhai and Communications Coordinator Amy Jack. These dignitaries served as guest speakers, contest judges, companions, friends and general windbags. Part of our role in joining the celebrations was to observe the facilities and functions at the school. In this, it was a delight to see how well the organisation (for it is more than a school) now known as Bicol Deaf Action, fulfils the mission goals of DMI.

DMI's goals are to take the gospel, education and employment to the Deaf all around the world. The 60 students at the

school who excel in their studies - and those few (but much loved) with developmental disabilities - testify to the educational excellence of the classrooms here. The farm operating right beside and within the school grounds provides vocational training for students, employment for graduates and an income for the organisation.

Truly, Bicol Deaf Action is a shining light in DMI's operations and should be proud to so joyfully celebrate 40 years of faithfulness. But the real treasure here is the students and the joy they exhibit. We kept getting dragged into meetings (which were wonderfully productive) but all we really wanted to do was spend time with the students. Their joy and energy were infectious, and it was a treat to just watch them play volleyball, cheer on the basketball teams, dance, draw, dress up and reposition the sign-mangling fingers of well-meaning foreigners who were probably communicating something unholy. Ever-smiling, the students are clearly loved here and they, too, are becoming conduits of a higher love, and there is no greater education than that.

The celebrations were both impressive and a joy. Bing, Anabelle and all the staff are to be praised for organising such excellent anniversary celebrations. We presented certificates and bookmarks for all staff and pastors from DMI which Amy had prepared and we were truly sad when the day came for us to leave.



Drying rice



Piggery



Basketball



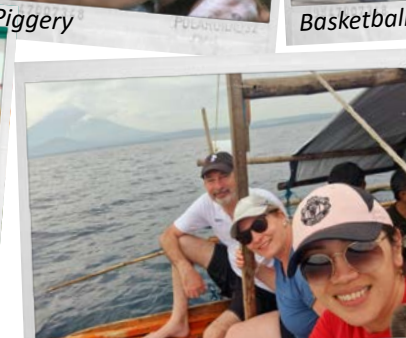
Volleyball



Anniversary artwork



Bing & Anabelle



Andrew, Amy & Susi



Past students



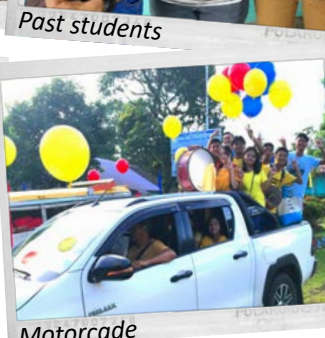
Lots of fun!



Celebrations



Anniversary banner



Motorcade



Some of the teachers at FCLC

LIGAO TEACHERS' EDUCATION FUND CAMPAIGN

Teachers at FLC are receiving much less pay than the local government school rates. FLC is lucky to have these teachers who are willing to stay on to teach Deaf students when they could be receiving more money from other schools. These teachers really have a great heart to serve. We are looking to change this, by better supporting our teachers through a salary increase. Would you be able to help with this, by giving \$40 per month to support the Ligao teachers?

Contact: Kay van Namen (Sponsorship Coordinator)
kay.vannamen@deafmin.org

Bacolod Boarding House

There are now 8 students living at the Boarding House. Rhean has returned to resume her studies, she stopped studying when Covid-19 pandemic began. She is now in Grade 10. Two new girls Hannah and Chricyl will be joining Mary in Grade 7 at Rizal Special Education Center. The students returned back to school on 4th September. Mona and Patricia passed their Grade 5 exams and will progress to Grade 6 in the new academic year. Mary passed her Grade 6 exams and will progress to Grade 7 in the new academic year. Realyn passed her Grade 10 exams and will progress to Grade 11. Gerald passed his Grade 11 exams and will progress to Grade 12.



Thank you, Susan Shannon!

It is with sadness and gratefulness that we announce that Susan Shannon has retired from the Australian Board of DMI and DA. Susan was a close friend of Neville's and was a member of the Board for decades. A respected member of the Deaf community in Australia, her contribution to DMI through the Board, events, Deaf camps and mission trips will be sorely missed. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you, Susan, for your many years of faithful service and friendship!

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Kay van Namen
Sponsorship &
Administration
Coordinator



Sponsorship Coordinator:
Kay van Namen
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Thank you for continuing to support our school students, teachers and self-sustainability projects.
Warm regards, Kay (Sponsorship Coordinator)



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Neville Muir (OAM)
& Lill Muir
DMI & DA Founders