

# Deaf Ministries International

Issue 52 | June 2024

GERMANY EDITION

*Taking the Gospel  
to the Deaf*

## Patrick and Arsene Graduate! - RWANDA -

Congratulations to Patrick Tuyishimire (Director of Deaf Action Rwanda) and Arsene Ngabonziza (pastor and member of the DAMR Board) - both Deaf - who on May 24, graduated from the East African Christian College in postgraduate studies in Theology. This is an outstanding achievement and we are very proud of their hard work and success.

DMI places a high priority on raising Deaf leaders and Patrick and Arsene are shining examples of young Deaf who are rising to lead their communities. These qualifications empower them to improve the education and welfare of their fellow Deaf, set an example of can-do living, and take the gospel boldly and effec-

tively to a new generation of Deaf. We have been pleased to provide school and interpreter fees to enable them to achieve this great result.

Patrick shares his appreciation with us: "This accomplishment would not have been possible without your invaluable support and encouragement. Your support in our education has not only empowered us academically but has also strengthened our commitment to continue to serve our Almighty God and our community. It is our calling and deepest desire to continue our ministry, spreading the love and teachings of Christ to the Deaf community.

We are truly blessed to have the support from DMI, and we deeply appreciate the faith DMI has placed in us. Graduating with a degree in Theology is a significant milestone for us, and we are more prepared and inspired to serve God and our community. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will continue to serve our Heavenly Father with our whole hearts." Patrick and Arsene's qualifications are timely. The new African Bible school is scheduled to open in September, 2025 in Rwanda so they will be well placed to not only lead the ministry of Deaf Action Rwanda but to play a major role in the operations of the Bible school.



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

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# TANZANIA

## Ministry going from strength to strength

Deaf Action Tanzania (DAT) is one of our strongest fields. Led by Joseph Hiza, our 13 churches, 12 fellowships and numerous education and employment projects are doing exceedingly well. In the first quarter of the year, 57 Deaf joined our congregations across the country and accepted Christ as their saviour. Of those, 18 were baptised in Lake Victoria in May. The others will be baptised in the next quarter after completing baptism training. The new believers have already taken on evangelical roles and are serving to strengthen the faith of young and old believers alike.

Leadership training across our fields in Tanzania has enhanced the spiritual lives of our evangelists and leaders and created a positive

environment, instilling vision, hope and faith and fostering a sense of connectedness amongst our congregations in Ifakara, Morogoro, Ubaruku and Mbeya.

In Kigoma and Ifakara, evangelists were sent on a three-month outreach mission to communities reaching 15 Deaf family members, 19 Deaf friends and 7 previously unconnected Deaf gatherings. Our Mbeya and Ubaruku churches did the same under the guidance of Pastor Maduga. The programs also helped to raise awareness of the Deaf and Deaf churches in the hearing communities and succeeded in promoting positive attitudes towards the Deaf.

## 18 boys baptised!



Ben and Veronica Buyinza are gifted evangelists who continue to lead many Deaf to Christ. Working in the northern lakes area of Tanzania, they pastor two churches and several school fellowships. Last month they baptised 18 youths from a fellowship led by Veronica at the Bwiru Boys' Secondary School. Seemingly unconcerned by the herds of hippos and crocodiles swimming about, the boys were baptised in Lake Victoria and all lived to share their testimony of it.

We rejoice in these in these new lives, saved through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. In a world where many choose to take the broad road that leads to destruction, it's encouraging to see these young men make a decision to walk the narrow path that leads to life. We celebrate their baptism, and we pray for their growth to maturity in faith.



# PHILIPPINES

## Davao Churches

Pastors and evangelists continue to quietly and faithfully work their fields across the Philippines. Pastor Carl Rigel Reyes works as a preacher and facilitator at the Davao Immanuel Church of the Deaf. He also goes to Tagum Christian Fellowship every Sunday morning and afternoon to teach Sunday School. Pastor Glenn Yray works with him as a preacher and facilitator for the Sunday School and leads church worship in the Deaf Community. If Carl is sick or absent, Pastor Glenn will be the one to go to Tagum instead.

Last February, the church celebrated Valentine's Day to show and share love to each member so that Valentine's Day would not be only for lovers, but also for congregants to show a fresh love and kindness to their parents, sisters, brothers, friends and to everyone they know. This is how Valentine's Day is celebrated every year in the church. Pastor Albert, head of IDEAP (Immanuel Deaf Evangelists Association, Philippines) continues to ask for prayer for revival in the Deaf churches across the Philippines.



## Zamboangita Projects

Numerous self-sustainability projects are providing for pastors and their ministries across Negros Island. Pastor Rodel Manila, a DeafBlind man, and his wife Dina continue to manage the chicken layer project in Zamboangita and grow vegetables in their yard for food. Raymart Santerva continues to sell his quail eggs in Dumaguete. The mushroom production project continues to produce and 2 restaurants have signed up to buy them! We are experimenting with additional mushroom varieties like pink oyster and shiitake mushrooms.

Azolla production is really good now and is used by Pastors Liezl

Costorio, Roldan Pajor, Alan E. Ebona, Rodel Manila, Carl Rigel Reyes and Glenn Yray to supplement the quail and chicken feed. Raymart and Rodel both do various projects on the property and care for the grass and gardens. Renovations to the Poolside Cottage on the property have been completed and the pastors are now asking for prayer for additional guests. Valerie and Doug Clutton celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary at a nearby beach café in Zamboangita: Please continue to pray for Val and those who are caring for her daily.

## Update on Pastor Rodel



Pastor Rodel is DeafBlind and serves wholeheartedly in the Zamboangita region. Our mission partner Dr Doug Clutton gives us the following update:

It has been about 6 months since we first began to walk the road of cataract surgery on both of Pastor Rodel Manila's eyes. There was about 3 months between the surgeries, the second one completed Feb. 21, 2024. Finally in late April he was able to be fit with new eyeglasses (bifocals) which have greatly improved his ability to see both near and

far. He says he can read only with his right eye since the left eye has serious optic nerve degeneration. Although far from perfect vision, he now has much more confidence in getting around, and is finding reading much easier. So the process was well worthwhile. I can sign to him from a greater distance and he is much more aware of his surroundings.

As for your generous donations, we have tracked expenses very closely and were able to not only pay for all surgical and eyeglass expenses, but also to bring up to date his government benefits (SSS, "Pag-ibig" and Philhealth) and we have enough left to pay these benefits for another year or two. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for being a part of this new chapter in Rodel and Dina's life. By God's grace, we can safely say "Mission accomplished"!

## Mona Jane the Chess Champion

Congratulations to Mona Jane Fulgar, a grade 6 student at our boarding house in Bacolod, who won 2nd place in chess at the 26th Provincial Paralympiada in Bacolod. Mona Jane competed against other prodigies in the hearing impaired category for girls. Chess is not the only thing Mona Jane excels in. She also won awards this year for dancer of the year, artist of the year and athlete of the year! She is one to watch out for in years to come. We're so proud of her achievements.



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Many of our churches celebrated International Women's Day which was held on March 8. In fact, to honour the women in our congregations, some churches ran the whole of March as a celebration of women and mothers.



In Congo, a celebration of Deaf women was organised for the end of March, combined with the Easter services. All the women gathered in uniform and led a special Easter service. After the service, other activities were led by women such as drama, preaching, poems about violence and songs.

Likewise, our Tanzanian churches commemorated the day by holding special worship services. The women wore traditional clothes and received gifts from the church.

In Uganda, too, it was women who led the service carrying the theme of thankfulness as women who fear God. Women encouraged other women to always be faithful to their husbands. Many marriages had gone bad because of the unfaithfulness of wives so women were urged to be true in all ways of life, even in dressing modestly. Women, as the backbone of the family, were exhorted to live honourable lives and were praised for doing so.

# Blog Book Now Available!

Three years in the making!  
50 extraordinary interviews!  
170 pages of gorgeous full colour portraits  
and testimonies!

This beautiful coffee table book is a collection of 50 testimonies from the fields in which DMI operates. These are amazing testimonies. Yet in DMI, they are common. They tell of lives that have been radically transformed, sometimes miraculously, from darkness and despair to light and hope. They testify to the dedication and endurance of DMI's workers, and they testify to a God who hears, cares and rescues the Deaf.



**To Purchase:**  
Search for 'Signs and Wonders by Deaf Ministries International' at the Bookstore tab on the top menu of Lulu:  
<https://www.lulu.com/>

## BURUNDI

### Farm Project brings self-sustainability

Over the last three years, we have provided six community grants across our ministry network for the purpose of increasing self sustainability in our fields. (These are in addition to the dozens of micro loan projects which individuals have started.) The objectives of the community grants are four-fold: to meet a community need, to educate young Deaf, to provide employment for the Deaf, and to bring an income into the Deaf community. Not all projects are expected to achieve all four objectives.

We've been encouraged with the success some fields have had with these projects. In DR Congo, for example, the farming project has provided school lunches for the last three years despite tremendous hardships. Others have not succeeded, like our farming project in Malawi which, despite having a good start, was completely wiped out by typhoon Freddie last year. Other projects have had mixed results.

Some leniency is warranted here. According to Lawpath, "60% of businesses in Australia will fail within their first three years of operation, with 20% of businesses failing in their first year of operating." This is supposedly with highly educated people and a secure economy. We are partnering with people with a disability who have limited business education and are working in environments where theft, corruption and warfare are common. The challenges are huge



but it's worth persevering to see as many as possible achieve a good measure of self-sustainability.

In November 2022 we started a new community farming project in Burundi. We're pleased to see this continue to do well. The most recent report shows sales of corn to be strong, bringing in a good profit for the quarter. We look forward to seeing this project develop further in the coming quarters.

## DR CONGO

### Baby dedications

It was wonderful to see two Deaf couples bring their children to be dedicated to the Lord during the Easter day service at the Goma Deaf church on March 31. Papy, our director in DRC and pastor of the church dedicated the baby boys - both named Michael! Michael Kazingfu is the son of DAC Chairman Stanislas and his wife Ruffine. Michael Kitoko is the son of church members Guy and Irene. (Papy married these two couples in the same church!) More than 150 people attended the service to celebrate the Easter miracle and the dedication of the two boys. At a time when there is so much civil unrest and instability across the country, it's encouraging to see couples declaring their faith and committing their



families to Christ. We rejoice with them and look forward to seeing these little boys grow big, healthy and strong and be a blessing to their communities.

## EGYPT

### Learning how to live

Our mission partners in Egypt continue to provide Sunday school classes for Deaf children aged 3 to 14. Bible stories are taught in an easy and simple way, which has led to noticeable behavioural improvements. Stories in the last quarter include Jacob, Joseph, Jonah and John the Baptist. Each story teaches that trials are permitted by God and that God does not abandon His children and this lesson has had a deep impact on the Deaf Christian children who often find themselves ostracised in a Muslim country.

Meetings typically begin with prayer, before the children sing hymns, then hear a review of last week's story and the introduction to this week's story. Their time together finishes with games, colouring and drawing. The kids love it! Mission leader Sahel holds regular online training meetings with the Sunday School leaders to help them prepare and run classes.

One mother of three children who are in Sunday school - two Deaf and one hearing - tells us that when meetings started, her children



found it difficult to sit in. They lacked concentration and interest. If she was ever unable to attend with them they were terribly sad. Now during Sunday school meetings, however, their concentration has improved and their interest has risen. After hearing a story, the children are excited to explain it after returning home. She's so pleased to see her children flourish in this way.



# RWANDA

## God's Hands



In our February newsletter this year we told the heartwarming story of how the members of our church in Rwanda (DAMR) baked bricks and rebuilt the house of an old Deaf man and his Deaf daughter. The house had been destroyed by heavy rains and the family had nowhere to live. The actions of the church are a fine example of practical Christian love.

But there is more to this story. On the second day of building, Patrick, the DAMR Director, joined them. While he helped the Deaf church members bake bricks, he heard the life story of the old Deaf man and his daughter. Their story deeply touched his heart, making him realise that they truly needed DMI's support. Over the next few days, Patrick started raising money to buy doors for the house of this vulnerable Deaf family. He successfully raised FRW 240,000 (AUD280) and DAMR promptly sent the funds to the old man and his daughter so they could purchase doors for their house. They were truly grateful for this support. In this photo taken during the church's visit, the old Deaf man and his Deaf daughter are seated on the right side.



## God's Heart

Praise be to God! Patrick reports that some Deaf who served in the Deaf church when it was first established in Rwanda but wandered are returning and gathering in the Deaf Church again. Let us pray that they will commit to the church and that their faith will become strong, so they will not be defeated by temptation again. It's always encouraging to see God's children return to their homes and we rejoice in their fellowship once again.



## God's Mouth

Every quarter DAMR holds a meeting for all the ICDR (Immanuel Church of the Deaf Rwanda) evangelists, pastors and committee members. At the meeting, everyone is encouraged to present a report in front of the other attendees. They share the positive outcomes and achievements that have occurred at the ICDR Branches they represent. This allows everyone to learn from each other. Reports are typically inspiring and serve to strengthen the other members.

During the meetings, the Chairman, Executive Director, or other experienced people train the ICDR leaders on topics such as evangelism and church leadership. This helps them stay focused and passionate for evangelical work, and reminds them of their divine calling (Matthew 28:19), of the promise of Jesus to be with them always, even to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20), and of the guidance of the Holy Spirit (John 14:26). The meetings give the team opportunity to pray together and share a meal with each other.



## God's Word

There is a real need in Rwanda for more Bibles. English Bibles are received from time to time and they are well used but the real need is for Kinyarwanda Bibles. Patrick has been requesting 30 Kinyarwanda Bibles for over a year now but we have never had the funding for it. 30 Kinyarwanda Bibles will cost AUD700 (\$23 each). We have approached various Bible societies for help with this but they always refer us to the Bible Society in Rwanda which then gives us this price! Please consider giving a gift toward Kinyarwanda Bibles. Donations can be made through the donate page on our website with reference to 'Rwanda Bibles'.



# News from Supporting Countries

## MELBOURNE

### Missions Month in Melbourne

May was Missions Month in Melbourne. That means that Andrew's schedule was nice and full! Supporters at our churches in Mill Park, Monash City, Beaconsfield and Drouin all enjoyed mission spots, hearing about the many developments in DMI's fields and extending their already generous support.

#### Mill Park Baptist Church

Mill Park holds services in English, Arabic and Korean. Andrew spoke at the English service and met up with members of the Arabic and Korean congregations. Each was warm in their welcome and generous in their response.



#### Monash City Church of Christ

25 people, mainly Deaf, gathered to hear the latest developments in DMI's fields and enjoy a sumptuous morning tea graciously provided by Monash City Church of Christ. Kay and Amy did an excellent job joining Andrew in making presentations. Warm fellowship was enjoyed afterwards and many were pleased to purchase the artworks produced by our Deaf school children.



#### Beaconsfield Baptist Church

Beaky Baptist is blessed with an abundance of musical virtuosos. They held a 3 hour concert of the most beautiful music to raise funds and awareness for the missions they support. Andrew was given a lectern, a fog of dry ice and a blinding light to aid his presentation. If only he could speak with the voice of Morgan Freeman. Nevertheless, DMI's work was enthusiastically embraced by the church.



#### Drouin Baptist Church

Drouin Baptist is to be praised for giving us the longest mission spot in DMI's history! It was a pleasure to share with the church and to praise God for the many developments we have seen in our fields over the last twelve months. The church responded warmly to our work and continues to support DMI through its regular giving and prayer partnerships.



# MALAWI

## Josephat and Joseph Visit Malawi

In May, Josephat, our Director in Kenya, and Joseph, our Director in Tanzania visited Malawi to meet with Elton, our Director in Malawi, and many of the Deaf we are ministering to there. Malawi has had a number of struggles since typhoon Freddie demolished the country early last year.

It was a good opportunity for Josephat and Joseph to teach the Deaf, review the situation in Malawi and make plans for the future. Discussions included increasing the number of Deaf Evangelists and re-opening the Deaf Bible training centre which has been shuttered since the typhoon. Elton hopes to train 15 Deaf in evangelism for one week every month. The Deaf community were greatly encouraged by Josephat and Joseph's visit and have asked them to visit again soon.



## Praise and Prayer

*Prayer is such an important part of this ministry, and we'd like to ask you to partner with us in praying for the work that DMI is involved in. We may not be able to do much by our strength, but with God, nothing is impossible!!*

### Patrick and Arsene

Give thanks for Patrick and Arsene graduating from their studies in Theology. For the wisdom and knowledge that they have gained, that they can now be equipped to share with their Deaf communities. Pray for protection for them and their families as they teach and proclaim the Gospel.

### Melbourne, Australia

Give thanks for the successful AGM and mission spots in Melbourne last week. Praise God for such supportive partnering churches.

### Ministry in Tanzania

Give thanks for the thriving ministry in Tanzania. For the Deaf that are being reached for Christ and those that have been recently baptised. Pray for the Pastors and Evangelists that are bringing the Gospel to these people. Pray for wisdom and guidance as they nurture the Deaf community.

### Women who are fearing God

Give thanks for the celebration across Africa of Deaf, God fearing women. Give thanks for the recognition of how valued they are in their communities. Pray for them as they continue to grow in their faith, sharing Christian values and love to all those they meet.

Weekly prayer points can be found on our website or sign up to be a prayer partner and receive them directly to your email.

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



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