

# Deaf Ministries International

Issue 54 | November 2024  
GERMANY EDITION

*Taking the Gospel  
to the Deaf*

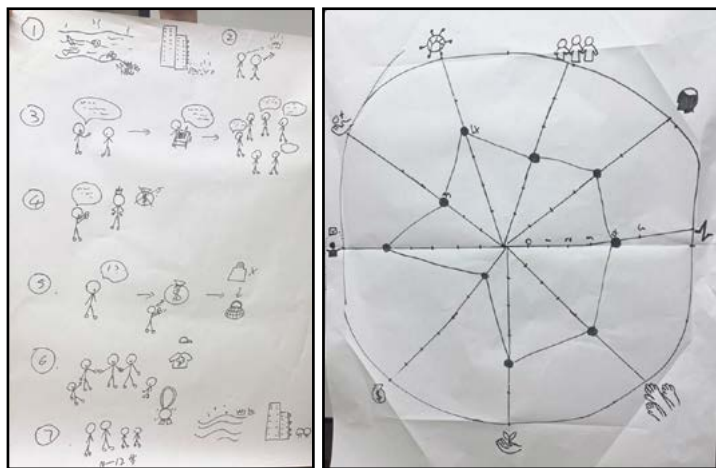
## *God alive and well in China!*

Christian writer Philip Yancey wrote, "Before going to China I met with one of the missionaries who had been expelled in 1950. "We felt so sorry for the church we left behind," he said. "They had no one to teach them, no printing presses, no seminaries, no one to run their clinics and orphanages. No resources, really, except the Holy Spirit." [With 100 million Christians in China today], it appears the Holy Spirit did just fine." In a similar way, for political, health and logistic reasons, our Deaf leaders in China have not been able to get together for seven long years and there were fears that such a long separation would cause discouragement and loss of faith. Yet in April this year, our Deaf leaders were able to gather for a training and were overjoyed at how God had been at work amongst them. The leader of the training helped the team map out the last 20 years of ministry which led to a fresh revelation of how God had been working in their midst and guiding them all the time!



They wrote down this 'grace line' and were grateful and amazed that in all that time, no-one had given up, no-one had been lost. From that point, the team made plans to use resources to work with the government and the broader church for ministry. Goals for fundraising and fruitful living were set, as well as for social and spiritual outreaches. The team felt so excited about this training and for what lies ahead in the future for the Deaf in China.

Our Deaf pastors in China desperately need more training and resources. We are hoping to send them USD3,619/AUD5,370 by the end of the year to meet these needs. If you feel led to give for this purpose, please go to: <https://deafmin.org/donate/> and note 'China pastor support'.



*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)





## Remembering Steve

*It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Steve McAllister, Chairman of our International Board and Secretary of our Australian Board. But Steve was so much more than these titles. He was a wise leader, a skilled mentor, a good friend, a loving family man, a great man of faith. He will be dearly missed.*

*Steve was diagnosed with a rare form of very aggressive cancer last November. Major surgery, chemotherapy and radiation had little effect, and the years remaining to him quickly became months which quickly became days which then became hours. He passed away on September 23.*

*It's tempting to look back on Steve's life and say with affection, "Wasn't he good!" Many would rightly say so. But it would be more accurate to look back on Steve's life and say with affection, "Wasn't God good!" Indeed, He was and is.*



*A thanksgiving service was held for Steve at Drouin Baptist Church on October 2. It was a fitting tribute to a wonderful man. Steve is survived by his wife Diane, his daughter Amy (DMI's Communications Coordinator) and husband Rod, his son Joshua and wife Laura Jane, and seven grandchildren.*

*Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

*"Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."*

*John 11:24-27*

## BURUNDI

DAB (Deaf Action Burundi) Director Fabien reports that the Deaf Christian community in Burundi is growing. The exciting rise in the number of Deaf believers in Bujumbura is strengthening the Deaf community.

DAB is also proud to be supporting two Deaf church members in Bubanza as they embark on tomato farming ventures. This empowers them to become financially independent and contribute to the local economy. It's encouraging to see other loan

beneficiaries diligently repaying their debts, fostering a culture of financial responsibility and allowing us to assist even more individuals in the future. The DAB team expresses their thanks to DMI for supporting all these developments.

Our long-term goal in Burundi is to establish a dedicated Centre for the Deaf. Through continued saving and the generous support of our partners, we aim to acquire land for this wonderful project.

## UGANDA

### Clean Water

The Neville Muir Comprehensive School in Lira, Uganda is enjoying abundant fresh water from a new pump and borehole installed last month thanks to donations received at the Sydney trivia night. The previous bore hole and pump had broken and the staff and students had resorted to using swamp water. The new pump enables the school to have access to clean water on its own property.

In addition to the water pump, we were able to provide 14 new sewing machines for the sewing classes at the school. Previously, up to 50 girls were sharing two old machines! The 14 new machines makes the wait time much shorter and the lessons much more practical.



## Ps Richard Opwonya retires

Ps Richard has been caring for the Deaf in Lira for decades. As the pastor of ICD Lira, his faithful service has seen dozens come to Christ. Ps Richard is now getting on in years. He is struggling with health issues and his eyesight is failing. Even so, in his twilight years of ministry, he is currently preparing a group of five for baptism and is leading a small fellowship group. Our sincere thanks to Ps Richard for his many years of loving ministry.

## TANZANIA

Our churches in Tanzania continue to excel in fellowship, discipleship, evangelism and ministry to the Deaf communities.

### Fellowship

Sunday worship, evening prayer meetings and weekly fellowship and Sunday schools for our children continued across 6 regions of Tanzania. In the Kigoma and Tanga regions where there is a large Muslim population, our fellowships have been progressing well each Sunday. We plan to send two students from our local Bible school in the next quarter to some of the younger congregations to strengthen the churches in their knowledge of the gospel, their love for God and their love for each other.



## RWANDA

DAMR (Deaf Action Ministries Rwanda) Director Patrick reports on the lovingkindness of ICDR-Kamonyi church members who raised funds and provided food and hygiene items for a single mother and her child. This act of kindness highlights the church's commitment to supporting those in need, and treating all members, however vulnerable, like family.

Through our partnership between Wycliffe Associates (WA), DAMR received \$4,855 for a two-week workshop to translate the Bible into Rwanda Sign Language, and \$5,300 for a four-day Symbolic Universal Notation (SUN) training. From June 19 to 22, a SUN training was held in Musanze District, Northern Province of Rwanda. This training helped 15 SUN facilitators gain more experience in reading and writing the SUN language. Additionally, there were 5 new participants. The primary objective of SUN is to reach illiterate Deaf people and enable them to access and understand the Bible.

The church in Rwanda also thanks DMI for providing 20 new

## Uganda Bible School

While a lot of attention has turned to the new African Bible school being developed in Rwanda, our long-running Bible school in Uganda continues to train evangelists and pastors for work in our fields. Even after the African Deaf Bible College opens in January, 2026, the Ugandan Bible school will continue to train local Ugandans in seminary studies.

### Discipleship

Bible studies continued for 10 pastoral students (future pastors, teachers and leaders) through to the end of June. They then returned to their respective regions to serve their congregations, as well as schools and clubs for the Deaf. In the next quarter, they will be sent on to the Kigoma, Ubaruku, Tanga, Morogoro and Ifaraka areas, as well as to Dar es Salaam.

### Evangelism

Two motor circles which were provided to the Ifakara and Ubaruku congregations are getting great use, enabling our pastors and evangelists to travel to the churches and encourage attendance.

### Ministry

Local DMI staff officiated at the wedding of a Deaf couple in Mwanza. Courtship training was also provided in the congregations of Mbeya and Kigoma which brought together 77 interested people including 10 new believers who joined the churches after participating in the open training.

### Discipleship

chairs for the ICDR-Kamonyi church and 30 new chairs for ICDR-Musanze church.



Andrew with Stacy Shawiak from Wycliffe Associates

## Bible Campaign

AUD650

Kinyarwanda Bibles are available in Rwanda for **US15.00 each**. Patrick requests thirty (30) for the DAMR office to provide Kinyarwanda Bibles to those in their church communities who prefer the Kinyarwanda language to English or French. With RWF 600,000 (**USD440**), DAMR can buy 30 Kinyarwanda Bibles and provide them to Kinyarwanda-preferred speakers, as gifts to new believers, and to Deaf couples on their wedding day.

If you are moved to do so, please give here:

<https://deafmin.org/donate/> and note 'Bibles for Rwanda'.

## Remembering the Poor

In June, DMI sent \$1,000 to help with the food emergency unfolding in Bulengo, DR Congo. DAC Director Papy and evangelists Temo, John and Eric teamed up to distribute much-needed food relief to 40 Deaf families. Supplies distributed included rice, corn flour, beans, sugar, oil, salt and washing detergent. Thank you to all our supporters who gave so generously to this campaign.



Likewise, our church and school members in Myanmar were overjoyed to receive food support. Pa-Lian, our director in Yangon writes in his usual buoyant way, "We give praise to God. How happy we are! No more worries for food in this academic year. We do not know and cannot give thanks personally to who donated to us, so please pass our thanks and happiness to them. Last Sunday I gave a testimony in church saying we believe and trust that God is a living God and a God who always rescues on time. God knows not only his children's needs but also know the names of those who believe in Him."

*All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.*  
Galatians 2:10

## Grants Change Lives

Since our last newsletter we have been blessed with three grants which will bring tremendous improvement to the lives of the Deaf across our fields.

### 1. Housing loan fund

The cost of living has skyrocketed all over the world and nowhere more so than in developing countries. These hardships have impacted the Deaf more than others, forcing them into poor and sometimes dangerous housing conditions. This applies to our field directors as well who have families and have taken on the enormous job of overseeing our operations in their respective countries. Their wages are low even by local standards. To help them escape the rent trap, we have received a grant which enables us to provide interest free housing loans to our directors. So instead of paying rent, they can now buy their

own house and pay it off in under 10 years. And so a whole life trajectory changes for the better. As loans are repaid, others in our fields can benefit in the same way. Four housing loans have been approved so far.



### 2. School loan fund

The teachers and staff at our school in Kenya live from paycheck to paycheck which creates a serious problem when there is a medical or personal emergency. In response to this, a generous donor has provided a grant to be used as a school loan fund. It is hoped that the success of this program will lead to loan funds being extended to other schools in DMI's network.

### 3. Water fountain grant

An Australian foundation has provided DMI/DA with a AUD48,000 grant to install water fountains in and around our school in Beni, DR Congo. 12,000 people (300 Deaf and 11,700 hearing) living in and around the city of Beni will benefit from this grant. Because of war, thousands of people have been displaced, worsening the crisis of a lack of clean water in the city. People living in and around our school currently have to travel up to 10 kms (by foot or by bicycle) to the nearest well. Construction of one well/fountain producing water to 10 hydrants throughout the local community each with 5 taps can provide clean water for 3,000 families daily. One of the hydrants would be within our school grounds, the other 9 would be spread

throughout the community and operating under the authority of local chiefs.



Responsibly executed, grants change lives. If you are connected to a foundation or trust, please consider providing a grant for the work that DMI and DA are doing. Similarly, bequests left to DMI can bring lasting change. Many needs remain in our fields. The Deaf are amongst the most vulnerable people in the world, and DMI is amongst the most responsible in managing support.

## News from Supporting Countries

### Melbourne team goes on STM to the Philippines

On the 23rd September 14 of us – a family of 5, a family of 6, and 3 friends – flew over to the FCLC school in Bicol, Legaspi, for a week's stay.

In that time we:

- Painted the interior of the school's kitchen
- Our 10 teenagers and young adults were divided up into the school's 3 teams that competed their way through 3 full days of Anniversary celebrations, with much fun and laughter had by all
- Treated the school to a 'pool day' for the last day of Anniversary celebrations
- Passed on 14 second-hand laptops from a generous Crossway donor
- Played cards and games with the boarding student each night in our accommodation



## BAPTISMS ACROSS THE FIELDS

### Philippines

In June at the Flordeliza Resort in Bacacay, Albay, Albert baptised 8 new believers from the ICD Ligao church.



### Rwanda

In September, six new believers were baptised at our ICDR-Kicukiro church in Rwanda.



### Tanzania

Ben Buyinza, his wife Veronica and John Mwakasalala also baptised 18 teenagers from Bwiru High School. This has swelled the number of born-again Christians in attendance at the church in Mwanza and added a real sense of excitement. The church in Mbeya also held baptisms for 9 Deaf individuals in the Njovwe River, an exercise led by Alfred Maduga and assisted by Evangelist Ernest Msyete.



### DR Congo

In May, three Deaf were baptised by pastor Adolf who serves in Uvira.



### Uganda

Paul Mubiru, the Principal of the school, reports the wonderful news that several of the students who previously only had an elementary knowledge of the Christian faith, have made firm decisions to accept Christ as their personal saviour, been baptised, move in the gifts of the Holy Spirit and have seen their spiritual discipline greatly improve. We rejoice with Paul and his team of teachers and interpreters at this great news.



- Visited the school's farm to see their amazing crop of coconut and cocoa trees, and vegetables, and pigs and chickens, and;
- Attended Deaf church on Sunday morning, where 6 of our team briefly shared around a common theme as the morning message.

We also fund-raised several thousand dollars, which we will be pleased to pass on to DMI for the school's use in their wish-list of future projects.

Each of our team fully engaged with and enjoyed everything going on around them, which as team leader was an absolute joy to watch. Some of them are already talking about 'next time',

and; they would all wholeheartedly recommend their experience from this week to their family and friends.

We respect and sincerely thank again Lady Bing and Mam Anabelle for their faithful service at the school, and; we are grateful for their generous hospitality once again to a visiting Australian team.

Juanita Kimpton  
Team leader



*Playing cards with students*

*Donated computers*

*Team members with students*

## Andrew Warmly Received in US Churches

Through September and October, I was invited to speak in several US churches, all of which were very warm in their reception of me and generous in their support of DMI. As I am currently based in LA, I bounced back and forth across the US like a ping pong ball, first in and out of Arkansas, then Florida, then South Carolina before settling in amongst the LA churches. Compression socks became a permanent feature of my wardrobe.

### Four Winds Church, Conway, Arkansas

I was invited to give a pre-service DMI presentation to about 50 members of the church before giving a DMI-related sermon in the service to the full church. Four Winds Church has long been a generous supporter of DMI and church members dug deep to give individually as well. Then we all went out and ate catfish for lunch, the famous southern hospitality in full swing.



*Four Winds Church*

### Tomoka Church, Orlando Beach, Florida

This is a new church connection for DMI and I was blown away at the reception given. Tomoka is the most mission-minded church I have ever come across (they have missions in every

country of the world - literally!) and they were keen to partner with us in our work to the Deaf. They gave us mission spots in each of their four services as well as meetings with the missions team and more southern hospitality to enjoy. The financial support they have pledged is absolutely wonderful. I was also able to sneak in to their Chinese congregation who welcomed me with open arms, urged me to give an impromptu mission spot then fed me Chinese food for lunch.



### Hilton Head Presbyterian Church, Hilton Head, South Carolina

Hilton head has partnered with DMI at the highest level for decades. Following a mission spot in both services, members of the church responded generously in prayer partnerships, financial giving and areas of service. A breakfast meeting with the missions team leaders was also encouraging. We look forward to partnering with HHPC for many years to come.

### Emmanuel Church of the Deaf, Los Angeles, California

This is not one of DMI's Immanuel Churches of the Deaf but rather a small, independent church for the Deaf who just

happen to have virtually the same name! I was invited to give a DMI-related sermon (with an interpreter – my signing is still atrocious) and the congregation responded warmly. We are grateful for the support and friendships that we have with this new connection.



DMI USA remains a very important partner in our network and we are grateful for the support we receive from the churches and individuals there. Special thanks also to our faithful volunteers Min & Esther Yoo, Irene Kim and Weston Syverson.

Andrew Miller  
International Director

## Young-Joo on Sunrise

On September 23 our very own Young-Joo Park (member of the Australian Board) appeared on the Australian morning television show 'Sunrise' to advocate for the Deaf on the International Day of Sign Languages, to celebrate the more than 70 million people around the world who use sign for their

first language and to spread awareness on the importance of learning how to sign - for Deaf and hearing people. Young-Joo did a great job and even succeeded in teaching the show hosts a few Auslan signs.



## Notice Board

### New DMI PR Videos

We are thrilled to announce that new (and long overdue!) PR videos have been produced. We're very proud of these and feel they present DMI in an informative, captivating way. Our thanks to Mike Harris at Mustard Seed Church in Kyoto, Japan for his expertise in putting them together. The videos include DMI staff and field workers, John Howard's personal endorsement, and a sneak appearance by a carabao. The full video is 5 minutes long and there is a shorter 2½ minute version. You can see the videos here:

Full version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNGepcvuVEs&t=47s>  
Short version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLWbLt-Mom0>

Please forward them to your friends and ask for them to be played in your churches. The whole world needs to know what we are doing!



### SAVE THE DATE

**What?:** DMI Conference  
**Where?:** Cebu, Philippines  
**When?:** May 4-8, 2026



# Pastor Profile

**Name:** Alan Ebona  
**Age:** 40

**Work:** Pastor, Silay Deaf Church  
**Location:** Silay city, Negros Island, Philippines  
**Deafness:** From age 6 or 7 after accident  
**Greatest challenge:** Ministering to the Deaf of different signing ability  
**Greatest joy:** Sharing the gospel with new Deaf members at church  
**Greatest need:** More trained Deaf workers for the harvest!

For more on Alan, see his soon-to-be-posted DMI Chats interview at <https://interviews.deafmin.org/>

## 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!!*

### Baptisms

Give thanks for the many baptisms over the last few months in the Philippines, Tanzania, Uganda, Congo, Rwanda and others, and pray for the spiritual growth of the new believers.

### China

Pray that our evangelists in China would be encouraged and fruitful in their outreach and fellowship ministries.

### Evangelists

Pray that our evangelists would be encouraged and emboldened to share the Word fearlessly to the unreached Deaf in their fields and that God would ready the hearts of those they share with to receive Christ.

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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International Director



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Communications Coordinator



Kay van Namen  
Sponsorship & Administration Coordinator



Neville (OAM) & Lill Muir  
DMI Founders



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## DMI DONATIONS:

Christian Ministry + School,  
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*(non tax deductible in Australia)*



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