



Deaf Ministries International

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Congo water fountains up and spouting!



What a joy to see the students and staff at our Beni school squealing with delight, dancing and splashing each other with water - and drinking some of it, too! - after the construction of the water fountains was completed on December 21. The thrill was palpable. What a wonderful Christmas gift! Dozens of students gathered around with cups in hand to get a drink



- unlimited, clean and free - from the water gushing from the newly installed taps. Previously they would have had to walk or cycle

up to 10 kms to get clean water. How easily we take clean water for granted!

Thanks to a grant from an Australian foundation, the primary bore hole was set up on the school grounds providing clean water to 300 members of the school community, while 10 pipes carry water



Opening of the fountain

out into the surrounding towns and villages, overseen by local chiefs, bringing clean water to 12,000! What a fantastic development! Kudos to Alain, our Beni school principal for overseeing construction (while battling malaria and typhoid!) so that it was successfully completed on time and on budget.



Inside this issue:

- War Zones Pg 2
- Zambia Reborn Pg 2
- Uganda - Many saved in outreaches Pg 3
- New African Bible College Pg 4
- Love is in the air..... Pg 5
- News from supporting countries..... Pg 6
- Notice Board..... Pg 7
- Evangelist Profile..... Pg8

And much more!

Whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me. - Matthew 25:40



WAR ZONES

MYANMAR

Violent warfare continues in the northern areas of Myanmar where our school is located. Conditions in and around Kalay are highly unstable. Many young boys - including the Deaf - are being rounded up and forced into the reserve army. The only way to avoid it was to pay 100 lakhs (US\$2150). But a more recent directive states that anyone hiding from 'duty' is punishable by 5 years jail time, and the head of family receives 1 year of jail time, too. This recent directive extends to all girls aged 18-35 as well. Director Pa-lian laments that northern Myanmar is still a highly volatile place. The church in Yangon is more stable. Members were able to celebrate Christmas with gifts and special foods thanks to supporting churches in Japan and Korea. Pa-Lian remains upbeat despite the challenges saying in his characteristically stoic way, "By the grace of God all things are going well with us."



Food distribution



ZAMBIA

Zambia Reborn

It's been a tough season for our ministry in Zambia necessitating a change in leadership and the establishment of a new board. The new ministry team, named Deaf Action Ministries Zambia (DAMZ) has a unified and committed board. They found Janet, who had been without education for an extended period, and returned her to school, much to her great delight. She's such a capable girl.

The board has also selected two promising Deaf youths to attend our Bible school (in Uganda for 2025, then in Rwanda from 2026) to shore up the future of our Zambian ministry and reach more Deaf for Christ across the country. Plans to find Maliza continue and efforts to restart the prison ministry are underway. We hope to start the micro-loan program soon to enable economic sustainability.

DR CONGO

"I would have died" -A testimony from Katembo

I am totally shocked that the killing of the population has increased in Oicha.

Some days after my arrival back in Oicha, my neighbours' homes were attacked by rebels. It was a terrible night. So many people, one after another, were killed. My family and I, by the grace of God, were saved.

I want to thank so much DAC director Papy, Stanislas and Alain who came to visit me at home. They saw how bad the situation was for my family. We were exposed to mortal danger. In order to help me, they made the decision of moving me and my family away from the insecure quarter to the centre of the town where it is quite secure and peaceful. It was all done so quickly.

Surely my family and I would have died at the hands of the ADF rebels who appeared suddenly and killed many of my neighbours. If the DAC leaders didn't come and move us, I don't know whether we would still be alive.

Thanks Oh God. Thanks DAC for comforting me and my family.

I cannot forget your presence and good actions during that painful night. Please continue praying for me because the war is still going on. Please don't get tired of praying.

Thanks, thanks. Amen.

Katembo

DAC Evangelist

BREAKING NEWS

The entire city of Goma in western Congo has been taken over by the M23 rebel group. At latest reporting, our church members are okay but our church in Goma has been bombed and all schools (including our school in Minova) have been closed until further notice. Thousands have been killed and more wounded. Hunger and thirst is rife. Going to print, we have raised AUD10,891 to help bring relief in this major humanitarian crisis.

Thank you to all who have given!



Janet

UGANDA

Many Saved in Outreaches

Two outreaches held in Uganda saw dozens come to Christ. A Deaf Youth Camp held in Koboko in southern Uganda in early December led 8 young Deaf to faith. And an outreach in the town of Kangole in eastern Uganda saw 30 new believers confess and give their lives to Christ. We rejoice with grateful hearts over these decisions. Life in Uganda remains hard, and very much so for the Deaf.



Baptisms of 8 Deaf youth



Poverty is crippling and opportunities are scarce. We are working through the churches to bring education and employment opportunities to the Deaf. (We currently have dozens of business loans operating across the country). Many needs remain. Perhaps the most pressing need is that of motorbikes for transport. These enable our people to get to school, work and ministry areas. Contact Andrew if you would like to help with these at andrew.miller@deafmin.org

Mission to South Sudan

DMI is looking to expand into South Sudan. This is a call we have been considering for some time and on December 1, Gunnar and DAU Director Tonny journeyed into Juba in southern South Sudan to work with contacts we have through Wycliffe Associates, DOOR and our own Bible school graduates to investigate the most efficient and effective



Tonny and Josephine in South Sudan

way to plant a church and reach the Deaf with the gospel. Tonny and Gunnar made good use of the opportunity, holding a meeting of Deaf leaders in South Sudan with the goal of linking with an established hearing church, appointing a leader for the intended Deaf church and raising leaders from among the Deaf youth. This bore immediate fruit when DMI supported two of the youth to attend a Deaf camp in Uganda the following week, an experience which was beneficial for all involved. The team of Deaf leaders have formed a committee (a forerunner to a functioning board) to work together and coordinate with DMI and DAU to establish a new church for the Deaf. Pray with us through this development.

Africans in Snow

Is there anything funnier than watching Africans dressed in thick puffer jackets shiver in the snow while their Norwegian counterparts sit comfortably beside them in open neck shirts? That was the scene last November when DAU Director Tonny Eyoku and Dennis Dag-kene, Director of our Neville Muir Comprehensive School in Uganda, joined DMI Senior Advisor Gunnar Delhi in Oslo. But this was much more than an exercise in social/climate experimentation. Indeed, some wonderful work was accomplished. Several fundraising meetings, prayer groups, fellowship gatherings, church services, school visits and trainings kept Tonny and Dennis busy throughout their two-week stay, and their Norwegian hosts occupied and occasionally entertained. Their meetings were with both Deaf and hearing groups. They participated in the running of a Fatherheart discipleship school and a weekend retreat for the Deaf. They ministered to several people who wanted them to pray for them, and also had a wonderful opportunity to share their moving testimonies on a national Christian TV channel.

Snow aside, culture shock abounded for the Ugandans with high-risk diets (*rakfisk* (fermented trout), anyone?) and a low sun setting at 4pm but they did their best to make the most of the trip. One of the purposes of the visit was to raise funds for Dennis' house. (He had previously given his house to the school to use as a classroom.) Funds raised together with a housing loan from DMI should see Dennis in his own home by the end of the year.



RWANDA

New African Bible College Construction begins!

Construction on our new African Deaf Bible College (ADBC) in Rwanda began in December. This is a huge milestone for us as we work to achieve a major vision goal. Operations manuals and curriculums are being designed. Staff are being prepared. The school will ultimately have the capacity to train up to 350 Deaf and signing students at a time - coming from all over the African continent - and each of whom, once graduated, will return to their countries as qualified evangelists and pastors to strengthen existing Deaf churches or plant new ones.



Before construction began, the Rwandan Board members gathered at the African Deaf Bible College site for prayer to seek God's guidance and blessings for the construction and for the future students and staff of ADBC. The opening of the school is slated for January 2026. While the cost of building the school has largely been pro-



vided, significant financial support is still needed for the running of the school. We are looking at around AUD65,000 a year to operate the school and are applying for grants to meet this need. Please prayerfully consider how you might be able to help with this. This new African Deaf Bible College is part of a larger vision to establish three seminaries for the Deaf, one in each of Africa, Europe/the Middle East and Asia, to train the Deaf to take the gospel to the Deaf in local sign languages all over the world. We're really excited for this.



Rwandan Board members gathering to pray

Creating awareness to prevent violence

In December, in collaboration with the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians, our DAMR team trained more than 60 Deaf women from the Immanuel Bible Deaf Church (ICDR) on the understanding and prevention of Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The participants included Deaf mothers, Deaf young girls, unwed Deaf mothers, married Deaf women, Deaf Pastors and evangelists, and others who



have faced gender violence. The training aimed to make participants understand GBV, its causes, and the importance of prevention. At the end of the training, many participants shared their testimonies.



Self-sustainability project



In November, our DAMR team purchased 3 hectares of land in the Nyagatare District to start a rice field as a sustainability project. In January, the planting began. Since the land is located near where

Evangelist Fulgence Uwimana preaches in church, he will assist DAMR in monitoring the land and rice every Sunday after services, and any day when he has free time. As required, we registered the land under a cooperative which provides everything necessary for rice farming, including seeds, fertilizers, and other needs. Moreover, the cooperative owns a warehouse which we will use to store our harvest. The cooperative will also assist in finding markets and selling the rice we produce.

In Yeong in Rwanda

International Board member, pastor and occasional comedian, In Yeong Heo from South Korea is currently leading a two-week volunteer mission to Rwanda. The team had planned to paint our new secondary school in Beni, Congo but with the escalation of hostilities there, had to make a last-minute schedule change. They will assist in the construction of the new Bible college in Rwanda,

conduct a leaders' workshop, minister in some of the Deaf churches around Kigali and do a little sightseeing. The South Korean missions teams are experienced in overseas missions. This is their fifth endeavour, after bringing colour to our classrooms and churches in Myanmar, the Philippines (twice) and Kenya in past years.

KENYA

Our team in Kenya has planted a new church in a village called Bungoma in the far west of Kenya about 400 kms from Nairobi and about 170 kms north of our school in Ringa. It is being led by Deaf evangelist Paul Wafula. It is the team's hope and prayer that the new church will grow and increase in membership so that more Deaf people will have access to the Gospel. The team is planning to start several new churches this year in regions across the country. Churches in all fields have had steady numbers in attendance while our head church in Nairobi has seen hundreds attend in person and online services. The use of the SUN program is also expanding,

enabling the less literate to have access to the Bible and understand its message.



LOVE IS IN THE AIR

*Josephat
& Claire*

Josephat Mulongo has been the esteemed Director of Deaf Action Kenya for many years. Marie Claire Uwineza has been one of our most effective pastors in Rwanda. They met at the International Conference in 2023, fell in love, and the rest is ministry. They married in December. Claire has moved to Kenya and together she and Josephat have planted a new church where they now serve the Deaf. Gunnar and several African Directors attended the ceremony. We wish Josephat and Claire every happiness and blessing in their new life. And single friends, take note, the next conference is in beautiful Cebu, Philippines in May next year.

DR Congo evangelist Obongoni Jeff married his sweetheart Giselle in a moving ceremony in December. DMI was able to support DAC Director Papy and Treasurer Alain to attend the wedding. Papy preached at the wedding and Alain and his wife were the spiritual parents of the new couple. The attendance of Papy and Alain was valuable. It's so important for the Deaf (and hearing) community to see and understand the heart of Christian marriage. DMI has been providing this support to strengthen Deaf marriages and families - a vital part of Christian ministry and wellbeing for Deaf couples.

The wedding also consisted of a Deaf choir which was a first for many in attendance. The ceremony was followed by a lavish feast. Papy reports that the couple were blessed, the weather was superb and - something we don't think much about in the west when planning a wedding - there event was free of security concerns. Papy passes on his thanks for DMI's prayer and support.

*Jeff &
Giselle*



PHILIPPINES

Bacolod

Our PICD congregations around Negros Island in the Philippines continue to preach the word of God to many Deaf people in Bacolod and nearby areas. Pastors visited many homes of those who are Deaf and encouraged them to come to church where they can be taught about God's Word and be surrounded by other Christians. They also offer the opportunity to participate in Sunday services via Zoom. Increasingly, more Deaf people are attending



Biblical character costumes

Sunday worship in person in our churches. The pastors also organised a Deaf 'Sportsfest and Thanksgiving Day' on

November 17. Many games were played like a Biblical character costume contest to determine who had the best outfit. Mary Jane won that one! Other Deaf churches held similar character costume contests, with members dressing up in their favourite garb and strutting their stuff for other Deaf watching.



Bacolod Immanuel Church for the Deaf

NEWS FROM SUPPORTING COUNTRIES

AUSTRALIA

Mission team to Bicol Deaf Action

A hearty thank you to the team from Berwick Church of Christ in Melbourne who in January completed a two-week mission trip to our Bicol Deaf Action school in Ligao. In doing so, they not only set a world record in the number of facilities improved in a two-week period but provided wonderful support for the staff and students in the process.



Team ready to go!

The team succeeded in renovating the canteen, including providing new tables and chairs, freezers, signage, fans and extra stock for the shelves, enabling the canteen to run much more profitably. Class-

rooms were also fitted out with new tables, chairs, whiteboards and roofing, and 10 new laptops

were donated to the school as well! The dorms were painted and fans were installed, and numerous other repairs were carried out around the school and farm - all in the midst of dripping heat and pouring rain! More so, the team provided the teachers with a much-needed retreat and a McDonalds day for the students! Our sincere appreciation to the whole team for their fabulous work and generosity toward the school.



Australian Deaf Conference

The Australian Deaf Christian Network held its annual conference in Sydney on January 6-10. Deaf pastors and Christians came from all over Australia for the gathering under the theme "Encourage and strengthen". Former DMI Australian Board Chairman Rod Chapman spoke via Zoom boldly on repentance and forgiveness. DMI International Director Andrew gave a presentation on the work that DMI is doing around the world, and this generated a strong response.



Left: Andrew and Anne presenting DMI.



Right: Young-Joo performing a song.



Special thanks to Australian Board member Young-Joo Byun for helping to run the DMI table and to supporter Anne Horton for interpreting Andrew's entire 75-minute presentation. Young-Joo and Anne also shared remarkable testimonies as supporters of DMI and as student sponsors. Thanks also to host Ps Stanley Grimmet for including DMI so warmly in the conference.

UK - Matthijs in UK

In January, Matthijs spent a wonderful weekend in London with UK sponsorship coordinator Alison Hayes and her husband, Paul, sharing the mission of DMI with Deaf churches, leaders and supporters from across the UK. Long-time DMI supporters, Bob and Gabi McFarland also joined.

In his presentations, Matthijs was able to spread awareness of DMI's work and strengthen connections with UK churches. He addressed three key areas: spiritual, mental, and physical well-being. In the Western world, the significance of spiritual life is diminishing, yet in the regions where we work, we witness the opposite - people are thirsting for spiritual leadership. As the Bible reminds

us, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." With growing support, we can make a real difference in the world, empowering Deaf leaders and enriching the Kingdom. Pray that we may see good results from the weekend with more churches including DMI in their sponsorship programs.

From left: Matthijs, Gabi, Alison & Bob



Count your blessings

Car

Thanks to generous giving at a Sydney church, we were able to bless our team in Burundi with a 'new' used car. This was essential because of the horrendous bus queues which start forming in the small hours of the morning and mean that our team members (along with much of the populace) are unable to catch a bus at all. The car will enable all our staff to get to work and to church and fellowship meetings - and on time, too.

Knitting Machine

Christie, one of our Australian supporters has donated the \$200 needed for new vocational school graduate Solome in Uganda to purchase her own knitting machine. That alone is a godsend but Christie's 16-year-old daughter Josie used all her savings and added the \$300 needed for Solome to open her own store! Solome is thrilled! With this, she has been able to start her own business, loan-free, and become economically independent. We are so touched by young Josie's kind heart and life-changing generosity. Thank you, Christie and Josie!

Farmland

Giving has also enabled us to rent farmland for our school in Mino-va, DR Congo. Food supply at the school had come to a crisis point because of rebel activity, sadly creating an enormous number of displaced people who were eating all our crops for the school. The farmland rented is in a secure area far from the warfare and refugees and will enable the school to be self-sustainable. We're thankful that the students and staff will now get a decent meal on a regular basis.

Notice Board

2025 Wish List

We are so grateful to our supporters for helping us to bless the Deaf in our fields. Below is our wish list for 2025. Please prayerfully consider how you can help us with this.

2025 Projects Wish List

- ✓ Burundi ministry car AUD7500
- Minova Kitchen Farmland AUD7500
- DAT Self Sustainability projects and
- ministry car AUD15,000
- Africa Bible School (Furnishings and
- equipment) AUD60,000

SAVE THE DATE

What?: DMI Conference
Where?: Cebu, Philippines
When?: May 4-8, 2024



DEAF ACTION
Christmas Campaign

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all those who gave so generously to our Christmas Campaign in December and January. We were able to raise **\$8500!** This will go towards our school supplies and employment projects, as well as to humanitarian needs as they arise.

Thank you so much!



Evangelist Profile

Name: Daniel Njihiya

Location: Nairobi, Kenya

Deafness: From age 7 from sickness.

Year started in ministry: 1982

Year retired (but still working!): 2022

Greatest challenge: To see a Deaf church building erected in Nairobi

Greatest joy: Seeing new Deaf believers

Greatest need: See younger pastors sponsored

Our pastors and evangelists need sponsorship to continue the work they are doing. For \$50 a month, would you please consider sponsoring a pastor?

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!!

DR Congo and Myanmar

Let's focus our prayers on the worsening wars in DR Congo and Myanmar. Our leaders in both fields are reporting extremely violent conflicts and harsh conditions. Pray for safety, peace and that the Christian gospel may prevail.

In Yeong and team

Pray for South Korean International Board member In Yeong as he and his team travel to Africa this week. They have cancelled their trip to Congo and will focus on visiting Rwanda and the Bible school. Pray for safe travels and powerful ministry.

Zambia

Give thanks for and pray for our new team in Zambia, led by Mambwe, as they work to re-establish the ministry.

The sick and grieving

Pray for Beni school Director Alain, Burundi Director Fabien, DAU Mission Director David, DAC evangelist Zephe who are all struggling with serious illness. Pray for healing.

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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