



Deaf Ministries International

Issue 57 | April 2025

TANZANIA FLOURISHING

Deaf Action Tanzania (DAT) has been growing in leaps and bounds with a dynamism that is seeing many souls saved, character built, and livelihoods established.

Evangelical efforts have seen 30 new believers come to faith in the last quarter, 10 of those now preparing for baptism. Pastoral care has seen conflict resolution in our churches through trainings and spiritual mentor-ship. DAT Director Joseph reports that a recent Deaf camp helped attendees to not lose sight of the standard of holy living required by God of His heavenly people. He reports that spiritual and humanitarian support has helped lead groups of believers into a measurable maturity in ministry and strength in faith.

In practical terms, this has involved supporting the educational needs of two children of Deaf single mothers in Dar es Salaam with school uniforms, school bags and school fees. In our Bukoba church, DAT contributed Tsh 400,000 for medical treatment to Evangelist Egidius Andrew who was injured in a motorcycle accident last year. Director Joseph visited him to comfort, pray and hand over the donation. DAT members helped Evangelist Adoro Juma from Ifakara find a place to live and provided a mattress after she was evicted from her ancestral home, which is Muslim. Her family is upset with her Christian commitment and has threatened to kill her if she does not convert to Islam. Members fasted, prayed and supported Doto Kija who, at over 70 years of age is the oldest believer in our DAT churches and one of the first members of the church since it was established over 25 years ago. She found comfort in their visits, prayers and words of blessings which helped her regain her health. She now comes to church every Sunday as usual although she lives 30 kilometers away from the church. Such faithfulness!

DAT is to be applauded for our latest church plant in Shinyanga (photo), for its thriving Sunday School classes in churches and for its

solid training program for students, evangelists and leaders. (See Training article on page *)



New church plant in Shinyanga

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And much more!

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



TANZANIA continued....

Scripture classes for the Deaf which continue to be provided in primary and secondary schools by our pastors and evangelists, producing young disciples of Jesus and preparing future church leaders. Over 300 students are benefiting from these programs.



Rice farming aids self-sustainability

Deaf Action Tanzania (DAT) hired 11 acres of farmland for Tsh 5 million to develop a new agricultural project. Funds were raised from selling 45 bags of rice in September 2024. DAT purchased 44 bags of seeds and fertilizers for Tsh 3 million for the new farming season. Because of financial difficulties, the planting started late. 40 more bags of rice were sold to keep things going but the team refrained from selling any more because the price of rice remains unstable.

The next stage of development in the project involves the preparation of the rice fields including preparing the soil, watering the fields if the rain comes late, and spraying herbicides. Planting is planned for early next month. The forecast for rain this season is not good, so DAT is looking to purchase a water hauling machine to irrigate the fields.



Rice fields

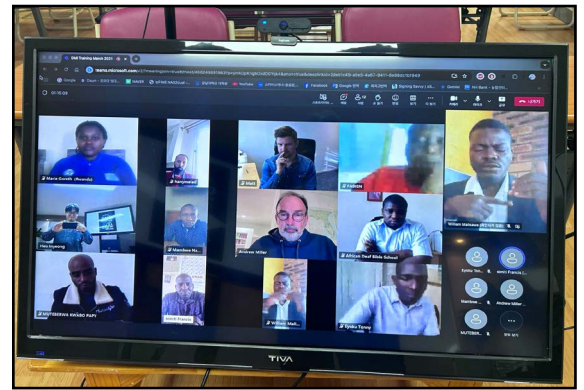
TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION

This year we are focusing on providing more training for our pastors, evangelists and teachers in the field. Many of our evangelists, in particular, work in remote areas with little contact, ongoing training or encouragement. We're working to see that they get the support they need.

In-person training. In-person training is always best. More funding will allow for our pastors and evangelists to gather from across our broad fields (some of the countries are really big!) for training and

encouragement. Some training is provided by DMI International staff, others by local leaders. All of it strengthens our ministry workers.

Online training. For those who cannot attend in person or for those desiring extra training, we have started online training sessions, Deaf-led by International Board member Ps In Yeong from Korea and DMI International Development Coordinator Matthijs. Our first session in March was limited to 14 attendees while we got the bugs out of the system. The extermination was successful so these sessions will continue monthly and be available for the hundreds of pastors and evangelists we support all over the world. Sessions are taught in a 'DMI-International sign language'. Participants who might struggle with this are encouraged to arrange their own interpreter. There is real excitement for these sessions.



Online Director conference calls. Each quarter now, we hold conference video calls so all our field directors – throughout Africa, the Middle East and Asia – can get together and share successes, challenges, and ideas. It's also an opportunity to get to know each other better, to establish a stronger unity across our fields and pray for one another.

Fatherheart schools. Every year, Gunnar lead these schools and/or trains up other leaders to run them across our fields. Last year we ran several in Africa and Asia. This year we are planning to run more, the next one being in August. The fatherhood schools are a powerful



ministry outreach helping those working in our fields, many of whom have had abusive or non-existent relationships with their earthly fathers, to know and experience the love of God their heavenly Father.

SUN training. SUN (Symbolic Universal Notation) trainings are run by Wycliffe, an organization we are proud to partner with, and enable Deaf who are unable to sign, to read and understand God's word by converting the gestures of sign language into symbols on a page.



Bible schools. Bible schools are at the heart of our mission. In Tanzania, 10 Bible students have just completed their three-year pastoral course and have returned to their respective regions. In their home churches, they will continue to provide evangelistic service while awaiting their final examination in April, 2025. The examination, together with follow-up programs (monitoring and evaluation), will determine whether the graduates will be future pastors,



senior evangelists, teachers or leaders. The new school year has just begun at our Ugandan Bible School with 7 Ugandan students and 8 from other countries. Those 8 will transfer to the ADPC (currently being constructed) from 2026. The fruit of our school in Uganda continues to grow as seen in the baptisms at the church of Rutshuru, led by Bible School graduate Elisee, in DRC last December.



New Bible College construction



MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE UPDATE

The massive earthquake in Myanmar on March 28 has caused widespread death and damage. We heard quickly from Pa Lian that the church members and building in Yangon were all fine, but our school in Kalay was close to the epicentre and communication was out for a couple of days. Our fears turned to relief and thanks, however, when Pa Lian sent the following message: "I could contact to Kalay just a minute ago. They are all safe. They told me that even they do not notice about earthquake. The earthquake reach them very weak."(sic) We praise God for His protection over our school and churches in Myanmar.

MORE BIKES!



Thanks to a generous grant from a church in the US, we were able to provide 6 motorbikes to pastors and evangelists in our fields. Motorbikes are one of the most valuable tools we have in the field as they enable our workers to get to their offices, to their churches, to their IGAs (income generating activities) and to the Deaf living in the most remote corners of the countries. Motorbikes rapidly accelerate gospel outreach. The six recipients of the bikes are pastors Arnel, Alan, and Glenn in the Philippines; Saw Monday in Myanmar; Zephie in Congo and Fulgence in Rwanda.

NEW FACILITIES

We have been truly blessed by the generosity of our supporters all around the world to be able to build new facilities and spruce up existing ones.

MYANMAR

In Myanmar, we are currently constructing new classrooms on the premises of the Muir School for the Deaf in Kalay. The new classrooms will mean that each grade can have its own room. Up until now, grades have had to share rooms and this has been challenging for the teachers. Amidst all the terrible warfare, it's wonderful to bless the students and staff with new classrooms. Donations have also enabled new drainage around the compound to keep the school drier and cleaner.



New classrooms

By the grace of God, the Yangon Deaf church is running well. Every Sunday we see 50-60 people regularly join services, sometimes more. God blesses and uses our Church pastor Naing Naing Kyaw who remains very active and his preaching has been drawing more Deaf people. We will have a summer camp from 17 -19 April at the church. One man will be baptized on Easter Sunday morning. Pa-lian is building a water tank to use for baptisms. He was in the middle of building it when the earthquake struck but fortunately there were no cracks so he could keep going. Many of our Deaf have confessed their belief in Jesus as their Lord and Saviour but they said they will get baptised after their mum/grandma etc has died. But their involvement in church - their prayers, testimonies and shared experiences - reflect their strong faith. According to Pa-lian, "they say their religion is Buddhism (culturally) but they believe in Jesus as their saviour and God."



Baptismal pool being built in Yangon

DR CONGO

In DR Congo, the clean water produced at the Beni school for the students, staff and surrounding towns and villages continues to be enjoyed with gratefulness. However, the great number of displaced people in the area because of the war has seen hostilities increase around the school, leading to minor damage of the newly installed water fountain and serious risk to our students. (Outside the school, two of our girls were recently assaulted and fell pregnant.) Without a security wall, we are inviting all sorts of trouble. Thanks to some generous supporters, we have pledged to build an AUD75,000 security wall – something Principal Alain has been pleading for for years. Construction should start in April.

In Yeong had planned to lead a mission team to the Beni school in February with other South Koreans and long-time supporter Tarja from Norway, but the sudden escalation in hostilities forced a change to Rwanda. All the paint and materials, however, were still sent to DAC where staff and workers got busy painting the school. The end result is fantastic!



Warfare – particularly the fall of the city of Goma to rebel groups – has also created a food crisis. Thanks again to DMI and DA supporters, AUD32,000 was raised to provide food relief, of which AUD28,500 has been distributed. One of our churches was bombed and part of the roof destroyed. Funds have been sent to repair the roof before bad weather causes any more damage.

Despite the troubles, DAC Director Papy reports that our six Deaf churches (all in the east of DRC) continue to gather for worship and live for Christ. On the 15th December last year, three girls and two boys were baptised at the church of Rutshuru. The church of Rutshuru is led by Elisee who recently finished her Bible training in Kampala. Circumstances remain dire in DRC. Papy asks that we not stop praying for the churches.



NEW FACILITIES cont...

RWANDA

Construction of the African Deaf Bible College (ADBC) is well under way in Rwanda. The College is paramount to our vision in taking the gospel to the Deaf all over the African continent. Most of the structures are nearing completion. And as the walls go up, the word goes out. The ADBC Prospectus has been prepared and is being sent out to churches and mission organisations all over the world, seeking student enrolments and mission partnerships. We are asking for help with operating costs and in providing student scholarships. Please see the prospectus here: <https://deafmin.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/ADBC-Prospectus-WEB2.pdf> and contact Andrew if you can offer support.

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Ministry in Rwanda continues to flourish. On the cover of our December 2023 newsletter, we wrote about Fulgence, the young man who came away from the International Conference in Kenya, so inspired that he went door knocking in his hometown to start a new church. My, how it has grown! The love of God resonates in the assemblies as Fulgence preaches the gospel. He adds, "More than 50 Deaf now gather at the church in a room graciously lent to us. Many members come from vulnerable families and grew up with no education, so we teach them Sign Language. With support from DAMR, we have been able to support vulnerable families by providing essential items such as sanitary pads for girls and women, kitenges for Deaf women (used to sew clothes for themselves and their children), and goats for the most vulnerable families. If we get further support, we will provide more goats to the vulnerable Deaf families, enabling them to raise livestock to meet their basic needs."

One of the challenges we have faced in building the school was registering Deaf Action Ministries Rwanda (DAMR) with local authorities. This was needed for the school's qualifications to be recognised. The application was successful, but it also meant that we are now required to pay a VAT tax of 18%! Suddenly we are \$45,000 short to complete the construction of the College! The final payment for the school is next month so we are making an appeal and praying for help with this final payment. If you are able to help, please give at <https://deafmin.org/donate/> and refer to 'Bible College'. (Donations are not tax deductible.)

BURUNDI



A 'new' car has been provided for our Deaf Action Burundi (DAB) team thanks to generous donors in Australia. Public transport in Burundi is unreliable and expensive. Staff typically arrive at the bus station in the early hours of the morning and wait for hours for a bus that may never come or if it does, they can't get on. It makes turning up for work difficult and ministry extra challenging. The car serves as a 'company bus' and ensures work efficiency and more ministry opportunities.

Aided by the car, ministry to the Deaf in Burundi continues. We have six active Deaf fellowships/churches operating in Bujumbura, Cibitoke, Bubanza, Kayanza, Gitega and Rumonge. The churches are active in Sunday services, community outreach, and Bible translation. Leaders actively engage in outreach, visiting Deaf individuals who cannot attend church services. This includes utilizing visual Bible story translations, which are crucial for those with limited literacy.

The DAB churches in Burundi are integral to two important Bible translation initiatives, generously supported by Deaf Owner Translation (DOT) and the Deaf Bible Society. These projects are crucial in providing accessible scripture to the Deaf community. In the last two years, 81 Bible verses have been successfully translated with another 42 additional verses scheduled for completion this year. Over 1,189 Deaf individuals have already benefited from reading the translated Bible verses, demonstrating the project's substantial impact. Baptism ceremonies are scheduled for April 2025.

Christian leadership training to equip Deaf leaders has also been prioritised. Amongst other fruits, this has resulted in the commitment to ordain Thomas and Thierry as pastors, recognizing their dedication and service to the Deaf community.

IN YEONG IN CHINA

** For security reasons, city names are included by their first letter only*

We are keeping In Yeong busy. After returning from Rwanda, In Yeong headed to China to preach in our churches and lead a 3-day workshop before going to the Philippines for more preaching and teaching at a Deaf camp. In his own words...

"As I listened to the story of how the late missionary Choi Myung Myung left Korea in 1999 to save the souls of the Chinese farmers, I realized once again how great his dedication and love were. It was so touching to learn that the missionary journey began with the establishment of the Deaf Church in K, followed by the Deaf Church in D in 2003 and the Deaf Church in T in 2006. It was heartwarming to hear that the seeds of faith planted by Missionary Choi are now bearing fruit for many people. I am so thankful for God's work, and I can't help but give Him the glory.

I arrived in K on March 21, and worshiped at the Deaf Church there before heading to D the next day. On the 23rd, we had a worshipped at the service at D, and from March 24th to 26th, we had a three-day Bible workshop there. The participants listened to the sermons with tears in their eyes, which gave me great strength and made me even more passionate about sharing the Word. It was a really fruitful and meaningful time.

"I'm glad I was able to share such a good experience. I pray that God's work will continue to be abundantly fulfilled in the future."



...and the Philippines

"I had the honour of attending the graduation ceremony of Abraham from Uganda, Notuan from Myanmar and Didier from Rwanda. They had just completed their 7-month ministry course in the Philippines. I was so proud to see the faith of these graduates grow little by little, as if they were chicks. I think the big question is whether they will be able to handle the work of the gospel when they return to their hometowns. I'm worried that they might struggle to survive the many tests and difficult situations, but your prayers will be a great help. I would really appreciate it if you could pray with us!"

Heo In Yeong
International Board Member

NEWS FROM SUPPORTING COUNTRIES

ANDREW'S ADVENTURES

"I spent March 'working from home' in Los Angeles where I had the opportunity to make new church connections and strengthen existing friendships. A deputation at The Garden Church has led to generous giving and the formation of a missions team, which I will join, to visit our Bicol Deaf Action school in July.

I put my rusting Japanese skills to the test when I was asked to speak at the Union Japanese Church in downtown LA. Their response was warm as seen in the student sponsorships and prayer partnerships we received. I also had opportunity to meet up with other supporting churches.



As we go to print, I am in the Philippines to join In Yeong at a Deaf camp in Davao before going to our BDA school in Ligao for the joy of joining their graduation ceremony. From there I will abduct three of their staff and take them to Japan where the Japanese churches and universities, tired of hearing my droning on about the wonders of DMI, can receive the news first hand from, well, the hands of the Filipinos. I'm thankful to our volunteers in Japan who have been tremendously supportive with the preparation. I expect great things from this endeavor and look forward to reporting on it in our next newsletter."

Andrew Miller
International Director

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

We are excited to announce the following events for Australian supporters.

JUNE 28

Sydney trivia night at St Mark's Anglican Church, Northbridge



Former Deputy Prime Minister
Hon John Anderson AC FTSE

AUG 13

Sydney fundraising dinner.

Special guest speaker: Former

Deputy Prime Minister
Hon John Anderson AC
FTSE at Northbridge
Golf Club

AUG 30

Melbourne trivia night at St James Anglican Church Pakenham (TBC!). Special guests, Bing and Annabelle from Ligao, Philippines.



Annabelle & Bing

International Conference 2026

Our next International Conference will be held in beautiful Cebu, Philippines. Details have been released so now is the time to start planning!



What?: DMI Conference



Where?: Bayfront Hotel Cebu North Reclamation, Kaohsiung Street, Cebu city, Philippines



When?: May 4-8, 2026



Theme: Be at the Center of God's will



Speakers: Rev. Masago Minatozaki (Japan), Rev. Yongwhan Kim (Korea), Rev. Matthijs Terpstra (Netherlands/Norway)



Cost: \$ 550 a room (1 pax), \$ 450 a room (2 pax), \$ 250 for dormitory style room

Free city tours included. Optional extra 2-day tours of Cebu and Bohol after the conference are available for \$380.

More details to come soon!



Evangelist Profile

Name: Arnel Benitez

Location: Ligao, Philippines

Deafness: From infancy, childhood illness.

Year started in ministry: 2008

Greatest challenge: Staying in touch with graduates.

Greatest joy: Seeing students at the school come to Christ.

Greatest need: A Deaf church in Manila to minister to school graduates and others.

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!!

Myanmar

Give thanks that our church in Yangon, and in particular our school in Kalay, which wasn't far from the epicentre, were completely unaffected by the earthquake and that no-one at the school was hurt. Pray for ongoing recovery efforts across the country.

China

Give thanks for In Yeong's wonderful ministry work in China last week. Pray that the churches will enjoy revival.

Filipino staff in Japan

Pray for Arnel, Antonette and Sarah Jane as they minister in the churches and universities in Japan. Pray for won souls and for increased support from the Japanese

African Bible School

Give thanks for positive responses to our outreach for support for our new African Deaf Bible College. Pray for more partnerships for the College.

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/>



Andrew Miller
International Director



Matthijs Terpstra
International
Development Coordinator



Susi Tjhai
Finance Coordinator



Amy Jack
Communications
Coordinator



Kay van Namen
Sponsorship &
Administration
Coordinator



Neville (OAM) & Lill Muir
DMI Founders



www.deafmin.org



NEW! <https://interviews.deafmin.org/>
<https://testimonies.deafmin.org/>



DMI DONATIONS:

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www.deafmin.org/deaf-action

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School, Employment and
Aid Projects
(*tax deductible in Australia*)



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Deaf Action



Details for bank Transfer:
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Account: 145834263



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