

*Taking the Gospel to the Deaf*



# Deaf Ministries International

Issue 58 | June 2025

## BURUNDI

*Building toward a brighter future for the Deaf in the world's poorest country*



capita and the least happy according to the World Happiness Report. Our churches in Burundi recently baptised four new believers into a better life. Eleven more people are undergoing discipleship classes now and plan to be baptised in August. We're thrilled to see so many lives being changed here in Burundi in addition to the many baptisms that we've seen across other fields. We look forward to seeing these new believers firmly established in churches and growing to maturity in their faith.

Some promising developments have been made with the Makamba province government. Deaf Action Burundi leaders met with government representatives to talk about starting a new Deaf school in the region. They explained how coordination with the government in the Cibitoke province had led to the building of Deaf school and this could be a model for the Makamba province. The government representatives agreed and said they would like to help start simple classes (at first) for Deaf children – providing rooms that could also be used as a place of worship – as this would be a positive development for the Deaf in that region. Discussions are set to continue.

Great developments are being made by our team in DAB (Deaf Action Burundi) despite toiling in what is considered the poorest country in the world by GDP per

On the economic front, we're pleased to see that the Bajaj (motorbike taxi) projects are still making a profit despite the ongoing increases in fuel prices. The car that was kindly donated last quarter for staff travel has been put to good use and has enabled our DAB office to function efficiently. Our staff remain very thankful for this generosity.

But it hasn't all been smooth sailing and blue skies. Criminals broke into Thomas's house, stole possessions and money and kidnapped his daughter Lydia. The family was devastated. Lydia was lost for five days, but thankfully the police found her safe and well and she has been returned home.



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

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## DR CONGO

### New churches, new believers

Despite extraordinary hardships, owing to warfare and poverty, our pastors and evangelists continue to serve faithfully and fruitfully. On the 11th January 2025, we started a new church in Nyiragongo (North of Goma) for the Deaf who were not able to come to Goma for fellowship. The church is being led by evangelist Fabien Morisho together with evangelist Erick Kambale. We are using a house temporarily made available to us by a Christian family in the area.

Thanks to the generosity of DMI supporters, repairs to the Deaf church in Goma which had been partially destroyed by a bomb, were finished and services resumed on March 2. The church that was started in South Kivu by Ps Bahiti is increasing in attendance, averaging 30 Deaf people each week. *To see Papy talking about the rebuilding of the church, go to this link: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1FwoBqLE5B/> or find it on our Facebook page.*



*Rebuilt church in Goma*



Five deaf people were baptised alongside three hearing people in our Bunia Church under Jacob's pastorship. These baptisms were done in collaboration with a hearing church which also baptised 16 new believers on the same day.

There has been tragedy with the triumph. We were so pleased to hear about the release of one of our church members Patient Matakumba who was wrongfully jailed by the M23 rebels. The Church prayed like mad for his release and he was set free. Sadly, we lost another Deaf brother named Espoir who was shot because he was not able to hear the call of the soldiers as he was walking by in the evening.

Economic life remains very hard in Goma because the banks are still not operational and many workers have no access to their salaries. The population is starving more than ever before. The government hasn't paid the Beni secondary school teachers for months. They are grateful to receive their support from DMI, but this is only a fraction of the salary they receive from the government.

The war has also affected our loan projects in Congo. Many of our members lost their businesses while others have put their businesses on hold because there is simply no activity at all. So we have temporarily suspended the program until the insecurity improves.

### Baptisms in Congo

Two young Deaf ladies at our Beni school were baptised on Easter Sunday. Vuthala Kahindo's journey has been a challenging one. She was a student at our school three years ago when she was sexually abused and fell pregnant. Vuthala carried the baby to full term but unfortunately, it died three days after being born. A few months ago, God touched Vuthala's heart, she turned her life around, received discipleship training, and on April 20 was baptised. All the church rejoiced. Kamuvu Kavira has also experienced hardship. Raised in a single parent home, her mother remarried after some years, but her new husband rejected Kamuvu

and her siblings. She spent years moving from one relative's house to another. Kamuvu then discovered the Beni school for the Deaf and came to love study and to love God. Initially, her mother was opposed to this, but the school staff went and visited her mother and spoke with her.

Kamuvu was baptised together with Vuthala and they continue to attend the Beni school as (slightly)



### New Beni School Wall Going up!



With sincere thanks to Deaf Action supporters, the long-needed security wall is being constructed at our Beni school in DR

Congo as we go to print. A construction ceremony was held on June 3 with DAC Director Papy, Secretary John Gakuru, the regional burgomaster representing the mayor of Beni, the president of the Beni Deaf Association, teachers, the Parents' Committee, journalists, and students all in attendance. The burgomaster sincerely thanked DAC and DMI, saying that their actions have made the Beni Deaf School famous and that the Deaf are doing marvelous things in Beni. He offered 5 sacks of cement to support the project and laid the first foundation stone. It was a day of great joy for all involved.



### Thank you

*'All of us at the Lamuka Center say thank you very much for the aid the Deaf people at the Kiwanja Church have received following the conflict with weapons and the humanitarian crisis in North Kivu and South Kivu. More than 45 Deaf people have benefited from the emergency food. May God bless all those who contributed to this emergency aid.'*

Mazoezi Meshake Prince  
Managing Director of the Lamuka Center  
Rutshuru, DR Congo



# CAN YOU HELP?

## Ligao

Maintenance costs for our school van have come in at AUD1,400. Repairs need to be made soon to avoid other problems occurring. Please support by giving at <https://deafmin.org/donate/> and reference 'Ligao van'. (Tax deductible - through DA)

## Tanzania - Work van needed

Our DAT team is doing a fantastic job. They have just acquired land with a house that will function as the DAT headquarters alongside the current church, DAT church offices and guesthouse. They are now focused on building their long-awaited piggery sustainability project. Preparations begin this month with drilling for water, construction of facilities and the transportation of materials between Dar es Salaam and the project site. AUD20,000 is needed to complete this project. (Tax deductible - through DA)

## Laptops and phones

Andrew will be going to Africa in October. Our directors and field workers are using very old equipment which barely works (if at all). It's a great opportunity for him to take new or good quality used equipment to give to our workers. If you have good quality, used laptops or phones or would like to donate new ones, please contact Andrew at:

[andrew.miller@deafmin.org](mailto:andrew.miller@deafmin.org)

## KEEP UP TO DATE

Be sure to follow us on any of our social media platforms. We are on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram. By subscribing to these, you can keep up-to-date with the latest news in our fields and also help us to climb that algorithm and have a stronger presence on social media.

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Consider making a  
**TAX DEDUCTIBLE  
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Before June 30



Text deductible donations can be made through our Deaf Action account:

**Name of Account:** Deaf Action

**BSB/Account:** 633-000 145 834 263

**Reference:** General fund



See our website for credit card and PayPal options:

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

## EGYPT

### Matthijs Ministers in Egypt



I am thankful to have had the opportunity to visit Egypt with DMI Norwegian board chairwoman Heidi Woll. Together with her sister Lillian, we visited several places that DMI is actively supporting. In 2023, we received a generous donation from a US Church to build a clothing factory to support Deaf women in Manfalut, a city six hours' drive south of Cairo. We are thankful to have

witnessed the impact the project is having on three Deaf women who now enjoy a steady income from the project. The women are making bed sheets, and sales



are going well. Please pray that this may continue and that the project's objectives may be achieved, including the employing of 25 people in the longer term. The project is being overseen by Hany Melad, a pastor who has been ministering among the Deaf for many years.

Another great blessing we are initiating with local churches is the Teach the Teacher program. This ministry program integrates ministry, employment, and education by

empowering young Deaf adults to become Bible storytellers for Deaf and CODA children. A key aim is to foster Deaf role models and encourage and active participation of young Deaf adults in the signing churches. Currently, services are limited to interpreted services. The program is led by Sahel Ababseh, a gifted storyteller and Bible translator from Jordan.

We were really encouraged to hear from Daoud Milad, one of the members of the participating Coptic churches in Minya, who said, "Now, I can tell Bible stories with excitement, and my hearing son (6) loves them." It's a powerful reminder of how education and access to Deaf assemblies can transform families. The Teach the Teacher program is currently running in two churches in Minya.

We also had several productive meetings with other churches in Cairo. Please pray that the program will continue to expand so that all target groups can benefit - enhancing self-reliance and building confidence. The seeds we see are sowing in Egypt - in education, employment, and ministry - will strengthen the Deaf Christian community in the longer term, and building God's kingdom. Egypt needs your continuous prayers and support.



Matthijs Terpstra

International Development Coordinator





## PHILIPPINES

### Davao



In early April, 30 Deaf gathered for a camp in Davao, hosted by pastor Glenn Yray. Participants were mainly local but some traveled a great distance. Arnel and Noel spent several days coming all the way from Ligao by motorbike and sidecar, sleeping out under the stars at night! Albert, In Yeong and Andrew were guest speakers at the camp. The theme of the camp was "To serve the Lord". Through preaching, dramas and worship, this theme was expounded and camp members were strengthened in faith. Albert and In Yeong's teaching in particular had a profound impact on the participants, despite at times preaching under torchlight during blackouts! There was to be no stopping the message: some Deaf were hearing the gospel for the first time. Despite the odd glitch, the camp was a great success. The times of fellowship were rich.

### Bacolod

On his way to Ligao, Andrew stopped in for a couple of days at our dormitory in Bacolod to visit the students, superbly parented by Albert and Kim. The students had begun their Easter break, but all returned to welcome him and engage in some serious playing of boardgames. Andrew shared with the wide-eyed students about DMI's operations all around the world and got to hear some wonderful testimonies from the students.



*Albert giving a devotion to dorm students*



### Ligao

On April 15, Bicol Deaf Action celebrated its 41st graduation. 5 students moved up and 7 final year students graduated, reflecting the hard work they and their teachers



have put in over the last year. It was a glorious ceremony, full of pomp and ceremony, and a near-infinite number of photos.

All students received medals for a variety of achievements and a certificate of completion from Bing, Anabelle and Andrew (who was given a traditional Filipino shirt to wear - one of the finest he has ever worn, and certainly the itchiest). Students and staff left for their well-deserved summer holiday the next day.

## JAPAN

### Filipinos Foray into Japan

Pastor Arnel, his wife Antonette (a teacher at our Ligao school) and Sarah Jane (also a teacher at Ligao) visited Japan in May to speak in churches and schools to



raise awareness about DMI, deafness and poverty, and to spare the Japanese from having to listen to me drone on again about the wonders of our ministry. In Yeong caught wind of the visit and invited himself along - he wouldn't take no for an answer - and so my wife, daughter and I enjoyed having four Deaf stay with us for two weeks.

The visit was valuable in every respect. Arnel and In Yeong gave sermons to Deaf and hearing congregations as well as at Christian university campuses, while Antonette and Sarah Jane moved people to tears with their



*In Yeong, Sarah Jane, Pastor Arnel, Antonette, Jo Anne Ricohermoso, Pastor Joseph Ricohermoso, Andrew*

## IN YEONG THE INVINCIBLE



Many years ago, a young Deaf boy was sent away to a home for the Deaf. While he was there, a tragic gas accident at home claimed the lives of his father and brother, and critically injured his mother who survived. A kind Australian man named Neville cared for the boy and arranged for him to continue his education, later in life guiding him toward ministry. That young boy was In Yeong Heo. In Yeong now pastors the Chuncheon church in South Korea, is a member of the DMI International Board and frequently travels the world to minister to the Deaf. He has become a pillar of DMI's operations. This year alone he has lead mission teams and ministered for DMI in Rwanda, the Philippines (three times!), China and Japan, as well as in his native South Korea. His wicked sense of humour has also left its mark on these unsuspecting peoples.





*Pastor Arnel preaching*

testimonies. Sarah Jane also did a fabulous job leading congregations and crowds - Deaf and hearing - in Deaf worship. It was a real treat to see her exercise her gift on a new (and much bigger) stage. (See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owCBXmO07uE>)

Long-supporting churches got to hear first-hand from the Deaf in our fields while churches, schools and community groups new to us got to hear about DMI - and support us - for the first time. Our visiting Deaf got to meet with Japanese Deaf for the first time. Don't choke on your tea but I was translating the sermons and testimonies (after a lot of practice).

Over the second weekend, we visited the Sasebo Deaf church in Nagasaki, led by Ps Minatozaki who has been a generous supporter of DMI for many years. Our Deaf team did a wonderful job ministering throughout the morning and afternoon services, bringing their work in Japan to a fruitful and slightly fatigued end.

Special thanks to DMI Japan who were so supportive throughout, especially Kami and Mamiko who helped with scheduling and joined us on several occasions. Special kudos to our visitors for trying a hot spring bath, to Antonette for not crying even once during her testimonies, and to Sarah Jane for managing to eat an entire packet of natto.

Andrew Miller  
International Director



*Sarah Jane leading worship*



*In Yeong preaching*



*Antonette sharing her testimony*

## RWANDA Rwanda Excelling

In the first quarter of 2025, our formidable DAMR (Deaf Action Ministries Rwanda) team reached over 340 Deaf and shared the Gospel with them. This is a great achievement but, as director Patrick notes, with an estimated 80,000 Deaf people in Rwanda, there is still much work to be done. Here's how they are chipping away at it:

Our pastors and evangelists in Rwanda are building some wonderful partnerships with other churches and Christian organisations, collaborating with them to reach Deaf people all over the country. They worked with the African Evangelistic Enterprise (AEE) in outreach over the Easter season. They teamed up with 13 visitors from Hope Chapel in the USA to reach Deaf Rwandan youth and distribute much needed provisions. They participated in a strategic planning workshop organised by the Deaf Education Alliance Rwanda (DEAR). And perhaps most significantly,



our team hosted the DOT (Deaf Owned Translation) African country leaders meeting at the end of April, sponsored by Wycliffe Associates. In addition to these collaborations, Director Patrick was chosen, along with Uganda Director Tonny, to travel to the Philippines to co-teach the one-week SUN workshop at the Philippines Immanuel Churches of the Deaf (PICD). There, they worked alongside DMI pastors Albert and In Yeong (who is everywhere nowadays!).

Young Fulgence is powering on. You might recall he started a church for the Deaf in the Eastern Province after attending our International Conference in Kenya in 2023. We gave an update on his church activities in our last newsletter. But in reports just come in, we see that Fulgence's church membership is now at 61, making it our largest Deaf congregation in all of Rwanda! There's no stopping him!

His is not the only church growing in Rwanda.

Across our churches in the last few months, we've seen seven new baptisms and face the increasing problem of limited space in our church meetings.

The borrowed rooms are often too small for the number of Deaf people who attend and at times, there are not enough



seats for all participants. Our DAMR leadership are planning to build a church facility for the Deaf in the future that will have plenty of room for everyone.

Our Rwandan team are also excelling in their self sustainability programs. We're really pleased to see the developments here. In November last year, we purchased 3 hectares of land in the Nyagatare District to grow rice. The rice has been planted and is growing well. The harvest begins as we go to print. Field facilitator Fulgence lives nearby and is assisting DAMR in monitoring the land every weekend, and any day when he has free time. Importantly for the success of this program, we registered the business with a local cooperative which has been providing all we need for rice farming, including seed, fertiliser, and other needs. They will also assist with storing our harvested rice in its warehouse, finding markets and selling the rice.





## ADBC construction nearly complete

The construction of the African Deaf Bible College (ADBC) is progressing well and construction is now 70% complete. The builders have requested a 3-month extension which is fine. It means the construction of ADBC is now expected to be fully completed by September 2025. The college will open in January 2026.

We are still short by AUD12,000 to cover the surprise VAT tax imposed on us recently by the Rwandan government. And we are very keen to receive partnership support for operating costs and scholarship support for students from 2026. Please contact Andrew if you are able to help in either of these ways.

[andrew.miller@deafmin.org](mailto:andrew.miller@deafmin.org)



## Motorbikes

Florentine Uwineza and Justine Mukanoheri (both from Rwanda) are two of the six evangelists across our fields who received motorbikes thanks to a grant from a church in Arizona, USA. The motorbikes really help them to travel quickly and easily to reach Deaf people in the areas where they serve, solving many of the transportation challenges they previously faced.

While they use the motorbikes regularly in their ministry, on weekdays when they are not using their motorbikes as often, they sometimes rent them out to help cover the cost of maintaining the bikes.



## Wedding Bells!

On March 8th, Deaf Action Ministry Rwanda (DAMR) celebrated the wedding of Jean De Dieu and Violette, a couple from Kigali. The ceremony was officiated by DAMR Board Chairman Omar Kayigi and held in a room borrowed from the African Evangelistic Enterprise (AEE). It was a truly blessed day, attended by both Deaf and hearing people, including the couple's parents, and friends. A Deaf choir sang and danced, a Bible was given to the couple as a gift and a team of DAMR pastors prayed over the couple.

Officiating weddings for the Deaf is vital for their wellbeing, their dignity and their future. Before the wedding, DAMR provided counseling to Jean De Dieu and Violette, helping them prepare for marriage and offering support to help them build a good and loving family. We wish Jean De Dieu and Violette a very happy and blessed life together.



## MYANMAR



As military battles rage in Myanmar our director Pa Lian reports on the never-ending battle to keep our school and churches alive.

*By the grace of God, we ended our school academic year 2024-2025 peacefully. We had a meeting with*

*parents of children and evaluated our teaching methods. Some parents expressed their dream for their children, giving thanks to the school, and then we ate lunch together at the school.*



*Thanks to the support of DMI, we could build good irrigation and new classrooms. Now with the new classroom building we can separate each class by grade. But still need new tables and chairs.*

*Kalay is one of the most unstable towns and it is like a prison. We cannot go beyond the town. After 6 pm no one is on the street till 6 am. So all foods and materials are at a high price.*

*Amongst it all, almost every day about 4- 6 pm young men are caught by the secret service to serve for the army reserve. They patrol with civilian clothes and cars so people do not notice them.*

*I am very sorry to tell about the Pyindaw Oo deaf church. There are only two deaf men left from all the church members. Others all flee to other places. The village is like a dumped village. Few villagers live there now. Our deaf church is safely standing but no one is attending.*

*We at the Yangon Deaf Church are going well. We had a summer camp from 17 – 19 April at the church. On 20th April one of the men was baptised. We need much your prayers.*

*With Thanks,*

*Yours,*

**Pa Lian**





# 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 AUD20,000
- Africa Bible School (furnishings and equipment) AUD60,000

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

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

**SYDNEY**  
DEAF MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL  
**TRIVIA NIGHT**  
Trivia fun fundraising for DMI

**\$20 PIP**  
**\$50 FAMILY TICKET**  
Kids (Primary School & Under) Free

Reserve a table (up to 8 per table) or just come along and join one on the night! Payment at the door.  
Snacks and drinks provided. Bring your friends!

**SATURDAY JUNE 28 7-9PM**

Auslan Friendly

St Marks Anglican Church (in the hall)  
1a Malacoota Rd, Northbridge, NSW  
RSVP Preferred 23rd JUNE: info@deafmin.org

**SYDNEY**  
**deaf ACTION**  
Fundraising Dinner

**AUG 13 2025**  
**6PM-10PM**  
**TICKETS \$125**

**GUEST SPEAKER:**  
Former Deputy Prime Minister  
Hon John Anderson AC FTSE

Auslan Friendly!

Find details on our website!

**MELBOURNE**  
DEAF MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL  
**TRIVIA NIGHT**  
SILENT AUCTION Fundraising for DMI

**\$20 PIP**  
**\$50 FAMILY TICKET**  
Kids (Primary School & Under) Free

Reserve a table (up to 10 per table) or just come along and join one on the night! Payment at the door.  
Snacks and drinks provided. Bring your friends!

**SATURDAY AUG 30 7-9PM**

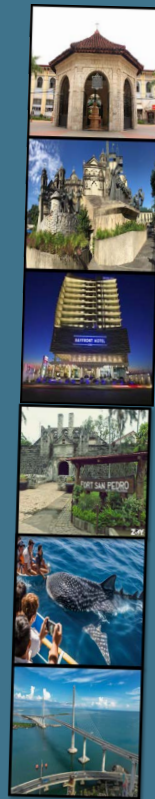
Auslan Friendly

**SPECIAL GUESTS**  
Anabelle & Big from Lipis, Philippines

St James Anglican Church  
41 Pakenham Rd, Pakenham, Vic  
RSVP Preferred AUG 26: info@deafmin.org

## 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 on the website soon!







## Evangelist Profile

**Name:** No Tuan

**Location:** Kalay, Myanmar

**Deafness:** From infancy. Unknown cause

**Year started in ministry:** 2025

**Greatest challenge:** If I can double-dip: the government and a lack of transport.

**Greatest joy:** Reaching the lost.

**Greatest need:** A van to pick people up for church.

**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!!*

### Beni wall

Pray that the construction of the Beni school wall would continue without problem and the wall would be completed on schedule.

### Kinyarwanda Bibles

Give thanks for Kinyarwanda Bibles which were recently purchased and distributed amongst the Deaf in Rwanda. Pray that the Kinyarwanda Word of God would penetrate soul and spirit and bring new life to its readers.

### Egypt

Give thanks for the wonderful visit to Egypt for Matthijs and team last week. Pray that the numerous connections made would bloom into fruitful partnerships, and for the well-being and faith of the Egyptian Deaf.

### African Bible School

Pray for the ongoing construction of the African Deaf Bible College, and its promotion to partners and students. Pray for an enthusiastic response.

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



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



## DMI DONATIONS:

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Account: 145833539



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[www.deafmin.org/deaf-action](http://www.deafmin.org/deaf-action)

## DA DONATIONS:

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Deaf Action



Details for bank Transfer:  
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Account: 145834263



Credit Card facility available through  
PayPal (secure) on our website.  
[www.deafmin.org/donate](http://www.deafmin.org/donate)

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