

Taking the Gospel to the Deaf



Deaf Ministries International

Issue 59 | August 2025

PHILIPPINES

The Garden STM in Ligao



wall painting and face painting, swimming, dancing and a foot race for a pair of used shoes were all part of an extraordinary first-time mission trip to Ligao for the Garden Church in Los Angeles. Oh, so were all salvations.

The mission team was comprised of 7 young members, led by Pastor Lois Kim and overseen by Senior Pastor David Kim (no relation). Andrew joined them on their maiden visit to introduce them to the school community and to officiate a wedding at the school. The team came well prepared to run several activities - artistic, sporting and spiritual - over their one-week stay and the students responded with enthusiasm.



Garden Church mission team with BDA staff

The front wall of the canteen/school was painted as was one of the classrooms. The students were given practical tutorials in IT production (creating videos and posting them online) which they loved, threw themselves into sporting contests, and joined dance-offs ('body worship') like nothing else mattered.

Laughter, fun, arts and crafts,

But it was the relationships that developed between the team and the staff and students which defined the visit. No-one wanted the activities to end, and the boisterous evenings would have continued till dawn had there not been interventions. The team's basic but thorough preparation with ASL/FSL paid off and the students' hospitality meant the Garden team are likely to visit on a regular basis.



The highlight of the mission was, without a doubt, the chapel time. BDA students led worship in dance and the Garden team dramatised stories of King David. The students literally leapt to their feet as one and cheered when Goliath (Ps David) was slain! (It was nothing personal!) Pastor David then shared a powerful gospel message which saw 10 students give their lives to Christ. This was simply awesome.



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

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And the footrace? Team speedster Jacob was left in the dust by local hero JR who won for himself a pair of Ellie's shoes. (It's a long story – running shoes not stilettos and they have the same shoe size.)

The team took the whole school to a water park on the last day and the students had a blast in the sun with each other and the team. It was a wonderful way to close out the trip. Some really promising seeds were sown on this mission trip both within the student community and within the mission team. We look forward to seeing a long and fruitful relationship develop between the two.

Noel and Analyn marry, Nathalia dedicated

On the Sunday of the mission team's visit, Bicol Deaf Action farm worker Noel married his sweetheart Analyn at a ceremony at the ICD Ligao church (on the school grounds). Officiated by Andrew, Pastor Arnel and a local hearing pastor, dozens of family members, friends, students and others came to celebrate their union.

The wedding had long been delayed for financial reasons. It was kind, and an act of grace, that many sponsors helped to cover the cost of the wedding, some flying in from overseas. After the wedding ceremony, a dedication was held for their beautiful daughter Nathalia. This was followed by a sumptuous feast. It was a beautiful day.



Lady Bing and Mam Anabelle are coming to Australia

Bing (Bicol Deaf Action Director) and Anabelle (Bicol Deaf Action Principal) will be visiting Australia on a 'thank you' tour sponsored by Australian supporters, thanks to the wonderful vision and kind (and hard!) work of Juanita Kimpton and co. Bing and Anabelle will be seeing the sights of Sydney and Melbourne, and speaking a number of places/events.

Please join us for one or more of the following events:

AUG 24 Sunday 10am: St Mark's Church, 17 Tunks St, Northbridge, Sydney, NSW

AUG 26 Tuesday 7-8:30pm: The Kimpton's Home
Contact DMI office for details

AUG 28 Thursday 7pm: The Brooke's Home
Contact DMI office for details

AUG 29 Friday 7pm: Community Church Warragul
Wills St, Warragul, VIC



Deaf Ministries International
Info@deafmin.org
+61 3 5940 5431
+61 0 487 209 811 (WhatsApp/Text)
www.deafmin.org

Bacolod - Marriage workshops

On April 13, the ICD-Bacolod church ran a marriage counselling session aimed at helping married couples recognize and resolve conflicts, improve communication, and strengthen their relationships. This event provided a safe space for couples to reflect on their marriages and gain valuable insights into maintaining a healthy and loving partnership.



New Students

On April 14, Realyn Villarin proudly graduated from senior high school, marking a significant milestone in her academic journey. Her dedication and hard work were celebrated by her family and friends. In addition, Althea Parangan, 17, (intellectually challenged) also graduated, but from kindergarten. (See Mary Jane's blog: <https://interviews.deafmin.org/mary-jane/>) It was a heartfelt and joyous occasion for the young learner and her proud family.



Realyn Villarin



Althea Parangan

As the month of June rolled around, several exciting developments took place within our student dormitory. Students enrolled in the next grade level, and four new students joined us from San Carlos. Chrissabeth Pio and Jenesel Hentil have entered Grade 11, while Cindy Mae Florendo and Zaren Concardas began their journey in Grade 7. The new students quickly adapted to their new environment, becoming part of our dormitory family. Their arrival has brought a fresh energy and enthusiasm and we are excited to see them thrive in their academic pursuits and personal growth.



CHINA

Great Work of China

A workshop was held for Deaf church leaders in 'D' city which taught about the five love languages. This was incredibly insightful and helpful for many of the Deaf who have struggled with a limited knowledge of love towards family, children and others. Many Deaf have not received sex education so can be abused in relationships and in the work place. Some Deaf work in massage parlours where they can be taken advantage of by customers and employers. The workshop has given them an understanding of human relationships, boundaries and godly sexuality.



The church was also invited to a cinema to see a movie called 'Mumu' about the life of Deaf and CODA people. They were so touched and thankful to be given the opportunity to join in an activity like this together. For many, it was the first time to watch a movie in a cinema!



Miss J stayed in 'Y' city for three months teaching in the church and encouraging other non-Christian Deaf in their workplaces about God in God's gentle way. She also led the church in celebrating its 19th anniversary using lots of dramas which everyone enjoyed so much. In 'T' city, Miss J taught Deaf church members from the Bible and encouraged them to grow in their spiritual life. Easter was celebrated and taught so the church members were truly happy.

The Deaf truly cherish their times of fellowship and worship together, and have asked that we continue to pray for God's blessing on them as they meet and live their lives.



KENYA



Baby dedications

vocationally. It's reported that the ICD congregations are doing well and continue to spread the gospel amongst the Deaf.

Land has recently been surveyed in a step toward DAK (Deaf Action Kenya) constructing our first church building for the Deaf in Kenya.

The MREDF small group micro-loans will finally be starting in Kenya. The Deaf there have been crying out for years for these loans to be made available to them. The painfully slow banking system in Kenya has delayed our start but we are now ready to provide the loans. These will provide business opportunities which will bring a much needed economic boost for many of our evangelists and church members.

An additional boost to our operations in Kenya comes with the full-time employment of Anne Kounda as DAK Office Manager. Anne is a dynamo and a welcome inclusion as Josephat moves further into pastoral work in the churches, Father-heart schools and other areas of ministry.



Kenya baptisms

DAK pastors and evangelists have expressed the need for a youth camp. They fondly remember the days when they held these, meeting with fellow brothers and sisters in fellowship. We will be working with DAK to see these camps running once again.

BURUNDI

Sewing workshops going global?

Deaf Action Burundi has five sewing workshops which produce superb items of clothing while supporting dozens of Deaf ladies and their families. The workshops also generate an income for local Deaf communities. We're looking at turning this local business into a global enterprise.

We have the artisans in Burundi, we have acquired the services of a well-known fashion designer in Australia, and we have the support of a businessman who is keen to help us manage this expanding market. The tricky thing at this point is the transport and distribution of goods from Burundi to outlets (online as well as brick and mortar) around the world.

We are talking to logistics companies now but if anyone has expertise in this field we would love to hear from you.



UGANDA

Students excelling

Students and staff at the Neville Muir Comprehensive School are celebrating excellent exam results from last year which have just come out. Our students performed the



best among many students from regional schools who sat the same examination papers. All of our students passed

with flying colours! Our current students, after hearing about the results, were so happy they began thanking the teachers for their hard work on behalf of those students who graduated last year! They also expressed thanks to DMI for its financial support and encouragement. The city authorities delivering the exam results also spoke uplifting words to the current students and encouraged them to work hard and perform even better this year.

The School has just begun its second term of the year with 121 students, 53 of those being Deaf, and 68 disabled or vulnerable.



Thanks to a generous donation from DMI Norway, the school is building a house for school director Dennis. (He had earlier given away his house to the school for its use.) There is a lot of excitement around the construction. The students are working together with the engineers and professional builders to help build Dennis's house. This explains why it's being constructed so quickly!

The students have been busy with other endeavours outside the classroom as well. They have been planting maize and sweet potatoes for their own consumption next term and express gratitude to DMI supporters for looking after their well-being and health as well as their studies.

Back in the classroom, they have been working hard on their general subjects and their electives. General subjects include English, ICT, CRE and sign language. The sign language classes ensure that the hearing students are able to communicate well with those who are Deaf.

In their elective subjects the students train in design, hairdressing, carpentry, and construction. The ongoing challenge is the lack of tools and materials to practice with. The mannequins, the girls are using to train in hairdressing also so old and used that there really isn't much hair left on them to practice with! We are working to provide more training materials for the school for this term. Anyone who would like to assist with this please give at <https://deafmin.org/donate/> and designate "NMCS".



ZAMBIA

Zambia rising again

It's been a challenging season for our brothers and sisters in Zambia. A change in leadership, while absolutely necessary, has been challenging. Pruning can be painful! Yet the new team under board Chairman Mambwe and new Director Bywell have been making wonderful inroads. Our new organization, DAMZ (Deaf Action Ministries Zambia) is now registered and functioning well. Authorization to visit the Deaf in prison has been granted. Two Zambian students have gone to the Bible school in Uganda without any problems. And Janet's sponsorship has resumed and she is doing superbly at school. We are still trying to locate Maliza. We rejoice in these new developments and pray for our new team there that they will continue to fulfill DMI's mission in Zambia to take the gospel, education and employment to the Deaf all over the country.



RWANDA

ADBC



Development of our African Deaf Bible College is progressing nicely. We are on schedule to complete construction by the end of September. It's exciting to physically see the College take shape. We are also working hard behind the scenes to ensure that operations will be ready by the College opening which has been scheduled for January 24, 2026.

The College Principal has now been hired and we are currently interviewing for the Dean of academic affairs as well as other teaching and auxiliary staff positions.

We are truly grateful to some very generous donors who have committed to cover operating costs for the first few years of the College (amounting to approximately AUD50,000 per year). Fundraising is now focused on scholarships to enable as many Deaf and signing people as possible to study at the college. DMI supporters would be most welcome to provide US700 (DMI students) or US1800 (non-DMI students) annual scholarships for students to study at the College.



This College is at the heart of DMI's mission. With the capacity to educate up to 350 Deaf and signing people in certificate diploma and degree courses, the College is paramount to gospel expansion amongst the Deaf throughout the African continent. For more information on the College, please see our prospectus:

<https://deafmin.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/ADBC-Prospectus-WEB2.pdf>

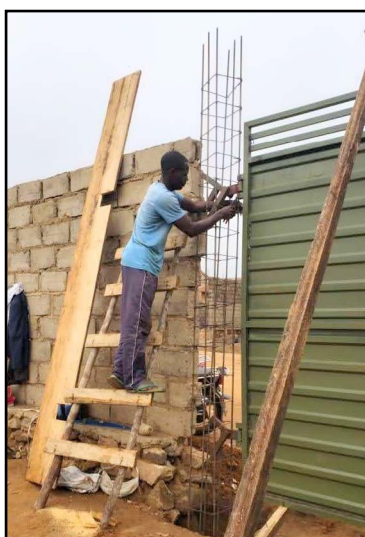


DR CONGO

Beni School Security wall finished!



We are pleased to announce that the security wall at our school in Beni, DR Congo, has finally been completed. This has come to fruition after many years of need, thanks to the generous gifts of DMI supporters in Australia and Japan. With the deteriorating circumstances in DRC, the security wall was becoming an ever-greater necessity to protect our students against the overflow of war. The wall was completed on July 26, and the ceremony to mark the completion of the wall will be held on September 1. We are truly grateful to those who made it happen, and the staff and students at the Beni school send their most profound thanks and heart-felt love.



Carpentry Workshop

At the request of DAC (Deaf Action Congo) director Papy, DMI was able to fund a carpentry workshop for unemployed Deaf men in DR Congo. Unlike recipients of the small group loan fund, these seven men will work in the carpentry workshop effectively as employees of DAC, which will oversee the program. So the men have no loan to repay, and can earn a living while ideally helping to generate extra income for the Deaf community as well.

This is a lifesaver for a people whose lives have been upended by war and loss. The carpentry initiative will not only equip them with valuable skills but also enable them to contribute meaningfully to their families and society. Financial transparency is a key aspect of the project along with demonstrating the project's sustainability. We are aiming for this to become self-sustainable within its first year of operations.



Papy praying a blessing over the workshop



NEWS FROM SUPPORTING COUNTRIES

AUSTRALIA

Australian Members needed

The Australian Board met in July and was pleased to elect Laurence Hough as its 9th director. Laurence is Deaf and brings strong skills in leadership, accounting, business and pastorship. We are excited to have him join us. The Australian Board currently consists of the following (majority Deaf) directors: David van Namen (Chair, Deaf), Peter Miller (Secretary, hearing), Mac Adam (Deaf), Lorraine Adam (Deaf), Young-Joo Park (Deaf), Laurence Hough (Deaf), Grace Broadbent (hearing), Pete Shaw (hearing) and Andrew Miller (hearing).

It has also come to the board's attention that we need to have more DMI members. To be clear, members are not directors and do not sit on the board (which can be confusing because we also refer to directors as 'board members'!). Members are in a wonderful position - they are important but they don't actually have much to do. Members have the right to attend the AGM, may attend remotely, and their vote is required for some key things under the Corporations Act – such as any amendment to the constitution – and they do have an important role in the appointment of directors, and in making sure that directors operate in accordance with the organisation's mission and vision.

If anyone would like to know more or is interested in being a member, please contact David van Namen at dvan9@hotmail.com



Laptops and Phones

Andrew will be going to Africa in October, visiting our fields in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Directors from other countries will travel in to meet with him and their African colleagues. Most directors and field workers in these countries 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 anyone in Sydney, Melbourne or Los Angeles has good quality, used laptops, tablets or phones or would like to donate new ones, please contact Andrew at andrew.miller@deafmin.org



In our last newsletter we appealed for \$1,400 to repair the school van in Ligao, and \$20,000 to complete the agricultural project in Tanzania. We are so thankful to the two supporters who so generously gave to these projects. It's truly humbling to see such responses to our appeals. We thank you and our staff in the field thank you.

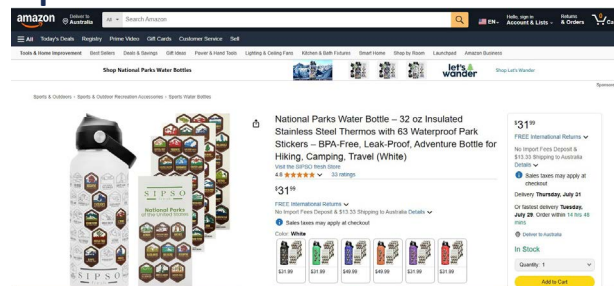
Sydney Trivia Night

On a chilly June night in Sydney, 80 DMI supporters gathered to answer meaningless questions, overeat and support DMI's work amongst the Deaf. A lot of fun was had and over \$2,000 was raised along with an awareness of DMI's ministry efforts around the world. Congratulations to the winning table and thanks to our very kind sponsors (see below).

Our next Trivia Night will be held in **Melbourne on August 30** with special guests Bing and Anabelle from our school in Ligao. Huge prizes up for grabs, a silent auction to enjoy, and more gluttonous behaviour to indulge in. (See the Noticeboard on p7 for details.)



USA Sipso Fresh



The business is Sipso Fresh National Parks Water bottles. If you're in need of a fun, high quality water bottle or are looking for the perfect gift, please buy one of these - and then leave a big thank you in the Amazon reviews for supporting DEAF MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL! (Only available on Amazon US at this stage.)

<https://www.amazon.com/SIPSO-fresh-National-Parks-Bottle/dp/B0DWXM8GWN/ref>

Mehdi Nasiri pastors the Persian community within the C3 Carlingford Church in Sydney. God has put it in his heart to start a side-business and direct all proceeds to DMI! What a wonderful support and what wonderful faithful-

NORWAY

Fatherheart school held in Norway



The Fatherheart school held for three weeks in Norway in June-July had a powerful impact on participants. The testimonies on the last day confirmed this with the 44 attendees from 9 different countries experiencing spiritual growth, receiving new insights and receiving healing in their hearts. DMI Senior Advisor Gunnar said that he had never seen a stronger fellowship develop between Deaf and hearing people than what he witnessed at this gathering.

DAU (Deaf Action Uganda) field director Tonny and DAK (Deaf Action Kenya) field director Josephat were key leaders in the school and were themselves strongly affected by the gathering. "Through Fatherheart Ministries, I received deep comfort from the Father. I've been facing many personal challenges, pressure, and pain in my life. But during the times of fellowship and prayer, I felt the Father's healing love touching my heart," Josephat said.



Tonny's experience was similar. "Coming into the conference I had so many challenges. I felt like I had been under constant attack, but at the conference, inside my head was full of joy and happiness. I was like a baby receiving milk from its mother. I experienced so much cheer in my heart. I give all the glory to God for how far he has brought me." Josephat will be travelling with his wife Claire to Ethiopia and the Ivory Coast for Fatherheart schools in August and September. Matthijs will join them as second speaker at the conference in Ethiopia. Ruth Njihia or Sam Begumisa will likely join them on the Ivory Coast. The Fatherhood schools continue to make a profound difference in the lives of the Deaf as they learn about and experience the love of their Father God.

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 AUG 13 2025
deaf ACTION 6PM-10PM
Fundraising Dinner TICKETS \$125
Auslan Friendly!

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

MELBOURNE
DEAF MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL
TRIVIA NIGHT
SILENT AUCTION Fundraising for DMI
\$20 PP
\$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 Ligan, Philippines
Anabelle & Big

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!



Find details on our website!



Evangelist Profile

Name: David Muleme

Location: ICD Makerere, Uganda

Deafness: Born Deaf in Kampala, Uganda

Year started in ministry: 2003

Greatest challenge: Reaching the many deaf scattered around the country with the gospel is a challenge due to limited resources.

Greatest joy: When the Deaf believe in Jesus Christ and are baptised, this is a big joy for me. It's like harvesting lost souls, gathering God's profit.

Greatest need: Establishing new fellowship centres and churches in the unreached areas.

Prayer request: For God to give me strength and wisdom to continue this work in the ministry, to be ordained and anointed as a pastor.

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!!

Baptisms

Give thanks for the 14 people recently baptised and 14 babies dedicated to the Lord in Kenya! Praise God and pray for growth to maturity in spirit and in body.

Fundraisers

Pray for the upcoming fundraisers; Sydney Dinner and Melbourne trivia night. Pray that a multitude will come and that they will be fruitful events.

Mission trip to Philippines

Give thanks for the Garden Church (LA) mission trip just returned from our Ligao school in the Philippines. A wonderful time of fellowship and teaching. 10 students at the school gave their lives to Christ!

ADBC

Give thanks for the provisions that have funded the beginnings of the new African Deaf Bible College. Pray for wisdom and guidance as staff are being interviewed and appointed. We pray that the remaining funds will be provided.

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:

Christian Ministry + School,
Employment and Aid Projects
(*non tax deductible in Australia*)



Please make cheques payable to:
Deaf Ministries International



Details for bank Transfer:
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Account: 145833539



Credit Card facility available
through Australian office or
PayPal (secure) on website.
www.deafmin.org/donate



www.deafmin.org/deaf-action

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



Please make cheques payable to:
Deaf Action



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Account: 145834263



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DMI Australian Office



Deaf Ministries International
P.O.Box 395, Beaconsfield,
Victoria, Australia, 3807



03 5940 5431



(SMS/WhatsApp)
0487 209 881



info@deafmin.org