

Taking the Gospel to the Deaf



Deaf Ministries International

Issue 60 | October 2025

New Life in a Dying Land **D.R. CONGO**



People wage war, steal, burn, destroy, butcher and bring death. God heralds peace, security, salve, order, comfort, healing and brings new life. Nowhere are these contrasts clearer than in DR Congo. The war continues; so do God's mercies.

Over the last few months, our churches in Beni, Butembo and Oicha baptised 7 people into a new life in Christ. Our church in Goma conducted a training in trauma healing. It also organised an evangelical campaign in conjunction with a hearing church in which, according to Director Papy, "many lives were restored and a big number of people took engagement to follow Jesus, both Deaf and hearing."



Our evangelists in Rutshuru have planted a new church in the Kiringa area. Many Deaf in Kiringa were unable to cover the 15kms to get to services in Rutshuru so the church went to them. Members of the new church raised money themselves to rent a

house to meet for worship.

Jacob has completed his mission in Bunia and has now been called on to serve in Beni with Alain. As a result of faithfully training church members from Monday to Thursday each week since 2021, ministers are able to preach and conduct Sunday services and other church gatherings. It's wonderful to see healthy maturing and fruitfulness, especially in such hostile environments.

And the environment is truly hostile. Papy expresses his deepest gratitude to DMI supporters on behalf of our Congolese brothers and sisters for the emergency food support they received during this ongoing crisis. "By God's grace," he says, "the assistance brought great joy and relief to many of our people." Food relief was distributed to dozens of Deaf and their families in all our churches across the following locations: Bunia, Rutshuru, Beni, Oicha, Butembo, Minova, Bulengo, Bukavu, Goma, Uvira.

Thank you once again to all who contributed to this life-saving effort.



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

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RWANDA

Tons of rice!

Rwanda's self sustainability project has got off to a spectacular start with just under 1.5 tons of rice harvested in June. This is more than even DAMR Director Patrick can eat so the harvested rice is currently stored in the warehouse of the local cooperative where it is waiting to be sold. Once sold, the cooperative will transfer the proceeds to DAMR's bank account.



We're looking to expand this project. In August, we seeded the current land for a second harvest, as well as a neighbouring lot, which was recently purchased with support from Wycliffe Associates. Our trusted field worker and church leader Fulgence is helping to oversee the process.

We thank God for the blessings of the first two rice lots, which now help sustain the operations of DAMR. Looking ahead, we are expanding to the third, fourth, and fifth lots—each 5 hectares and costing USD 8,800 each lot—to support the ongoing needs of the African Deaf Bible College. These new fields will strengthen the College's capacity to provide food for staff and students and generate income for daily operations, helping move us closer to long-term sustainability.



We warmly invite you to stand with us in this journey. Your gift toward the next rice lots will plant seeds that grow into lasting hope and opportunity for Deaf leaders across Africa. To support this project, donations can be made to DMI's account with the note "Rice Field Project – Rwanda." (Non-Tax Deductible)

ADBC Update - Student Sponsorship needed



The African Deaf Bible College is progressing nicely. We remain very excited about this huge step in our mission expansion. Construction is now about 90% complete and a lot of the behind-the-scenes preparation – employment, documentation, promotion – is well under way. The College will have the capacity to train as many as 350 Deaf and signing people in certificate, diploma, and degree courses.

Of course, with development of this size, unforeseen challenges arise. Building inspectors have added a raft of fire and other safety measures which need to be included. These have added AUD30,000 to the cost of completion, and grey hair to those of us trying to bring it all together. The opening is still scheduled for January, 2026 and we look forward to many of our field directors in Africa joining us for that occasion.

Our biggest need right now is for student sponsorships for the College. We have received many expressions of interest from potential students across Africa, but few can afford the annual US \$1000 fee to study and stay at the dorm. So we are asking individuals, churches, and organisations to consider sponsoring students for this purpose. Please contact Andrew at andrew.miller@deafmin.org if you can help.



China

China Cherished

In early September, 'H' - one of DMI's senior staff members - visited our churches for the Deaf in China. Churches in China are divided into government-approved churches and unregistered house churches. The house churches usually gather secretly in homes, moving from one house to another to avoid persecution. DMI's churches for the Deaf are amongst these.

H's visit to China started by meeting Pastor J, who was ordained by the late missionary C who founded the ministry there in 2009. Together, they visited the church in T city and encouraged the members, many of whom are elderly and struggling with health issues. Some newcomers also joined the gathering.



In the following days, Bible studies were planned for the house churches in T city yet on the second day rumours of a police raid led to the study being cancelled and replaced with local travel. H moved on to S city to teach and encourage the believers there. However, after COVID-19 and the passing of Pastor C, the church experienced division and the remaining believers were left wandering. This visit was aimed to encourage and comfort them. Pastor J shared a word on 'Unity in Christ' in an effort to reconcile the divided members, but sadly, the wounds were deep and difficult to heal. The following day H and J met with some members of the church who expressed regret over the division and said that time was needed for reconciliation. This was strongly encouraged.



In the following days, meetings were held at other house churches and on the final day of the visit, H taught all day on the theme of the redemptive work of Moses and Jesus. Throughout the trip, H witnessed a strong hunger for God's Word among Chinese Deaf believers, who had not heard it for a long time. He also saw the deep wounds caused by division. There remains a great need to raise up more Deaf leaders who can spread the gospel to the Deaf across China. DMI will be prayerfully working towards this.

TANZANIA

Flourishing and nourishing

Our workers in Tanzania (DAT) continue to produce extraordinary results under the diligent leadership of Director Joseph Hiza. After several months of baptismal training, 26 Deaf believers, mainly from secondary schools, were baptised.



Congregations in Morogoro, Dar es Salaam, and Mbeya have been holding three-hour workshops on the last Sunday of each month, shortly after worship, to help married couples improve their spiritual relationships. Christian Leadership workshops were held in our congregations in Tanga, Kigoma, Ifakara, and

Morogoro to equip young leaders with the skills and knowledge to lead effectively in Christian contexts. More than 20 leaders benefited from this program. Similarly, Deaf women from all congregations held meetings in their respective churches to discuss the creation of a ministry to unite and improve them spiritually and socially.

The ICDT (Immanuel Church of the Deaf Tanzania) in Dar es Salaam and Mbeya, which comprises six congregations, organised an evangelism capacity building workshop. More than 72 participants learned how to dialogue effectively with others, dispel doubts, and present the message of salvation. In a similar initiative, evangelists in Kigoma conducted a special evangelistic campaign over two months, working with over 40 believers.



Significant developments enhance potential

Significant facility developments are laying a foundation for an ever-expanding ministry to Deaf communities across Tanzania.

Morogoro church

Construction of this new church building is nearing completion. There was a brief interruption to the work following the local council's orders to change the building permit from residential to religious – which is understandable! The sanctuary should be ready for use by the end of the year.



Morogoro church nearly completed.

Kunduchi church

We acquired a plot of land for TSH135,000,000 (AUD83,000), which currently comprises three shaky houses. The two shakiest will be demolished to make room for construction of the new church building while the least-shakiest house will be renovated into offices for pastors and other church leaders.

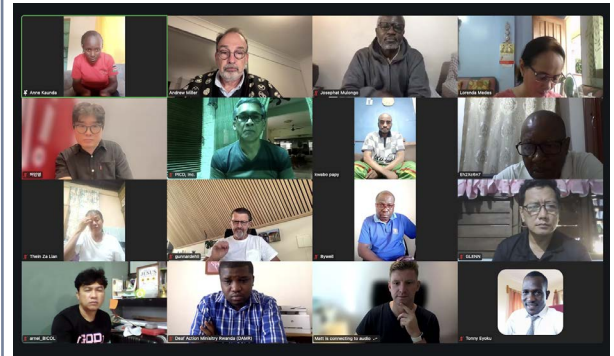
Buguruni church

The acquisition of the third plot in Buguruni will enable the expansion of DAT's operations and the ICDT church area. We have already paid TSH 40,000,000 (75%) toward this and plan to complete the final payment of TSH 20,000,000 after legal documents have been completed.

ONLINE TRAININGS

Directors' Forums Fruitful

Our commitment to ongoing training in management, ministry and life skills continues with monthly online meetings, as well as in-person trainings where possible. Starting this year, we have been holding two online meetings every month.



The first is our Directors' Online Forum. This meeting enables our field directors from all around the world to gather together to share testimonies, challenges, successes and failures; to learn from one another, support one another, and to share in fellowship. Our most recent meeting looked at how to best apply the wisdom of the Proverbs to difficult circumstances in the field, and the ensuing discussion was excellent.

The second meeting is our Pastors and Evangelists' Training. This is open to all the many dozens of ministers in our fields and typically sees twenty or thirty people join each month. This is more of a teaching time than a discussion. We follow a roster in which Matthijs, In Yeong and Josephat rotate teaching spots with a fourth guest speaker. Our most recent meeting saw Matthijs speak on 'Staying Salty' (based on Matthew 5:13) in which he encouraged participants to guard their hearts and to allow God to be strong in their weakness.

We're grateful to the very talented Anne Kaunda in Kenya who is our main interpreter using an internationalised version of ASL, while those using more unique sign languages arrange their own interpreter. We also use live English captioning which is proving to be helpful.

UGANDA

Faithfully persevering

Ministry in Uganda is divided into seven regions which DAU (Deaf Action Uganda) works hard to reach with limited resources. The ICDU (Immanuel Church of the Deaf Uganda) has recently received three parcels of land for church construction in Lira, Bugiri and Napak for which we are very grateful.

The head church in Makerere, Kampala, is currently being led by David Muleme, Charles Ojok and Simon Marwas. These servants are active in ministering to the Deaf on multiple levels. Last quarter 7 Deaf were saved after 'hearing' the gospel in their own sign language during services. Sign language training is held at the church every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Fellowship meetings are held every Wednesday and Bible studies every Friday. Counselling is provided at the office for those in need.

Uganda continued...



DAU Director Tonny

DAU Director Tonny might be an aspiring media personality and that's not just because he looks like Dwayne Johnson. Bukudde TV came to the Good Friday service and filmed his sermon along with a drama of the crucifixion by members of the drama team.

In other parts of the country, evangelist Onyat Emmanuel travels between Ngora, Kumi and Soroti in the north, preaching in the churches and in home visits to Deaf adults. The Ngora church in particular, is growing stronger with 17 attendees and regular fellowship attendance. In the east, lives are being transformed through the preaching of Francis Soniti and others, aided by the use of motorbikes for transport. Our field workers also work hard to teach sign language to Deaf children attending local government schools. In the southern regions, a lack of funding and facilities means that church services are held outside under trees, yet zeal from local leaders has seen a number of Deaf who had withdrawn from church return, and numbers grow to fifteen. Church members gather in larger numbers in the Karamoja region in the east, yet dire poverty and marginalization of the Deaf in those villages make life very difficult for them. The church ministers to them through the teaching of the word and the provision of food.

DAU strives to meet the needs of as many Deaf across Uganda as possible with a limited budget. Currently, 12 evangelists are supported financially, and eight motorbikes have been provided for transport, while another 12 evangelists serve on a volunteer basis.



MREDF Group Loan project update

Encouraging Self-sustainability

The MREDF (MENNO & RUTH EDIGER DEVELOPMENT FUND) was gifted to DMI through supporter Kathi Kitao and started in 2018. The fund enables our field workers to receive an easily accessible and low-threshold loan for the purpose of starting a small business and, in so doing, help the Deaf in our fields to achieve a significant measure of self-sufficiency.

Since its inception, we have seen not only the creation of hundreds of new employment opportunities, but a tangible increase in the standard of living for those who have received the loans. The loan fund is a beautiful compliment to our overarching mission of bringing the gospel, education and employment to Deaf people in developing countries.

The fund currently provides business opportunities for the Deaf in Burundi, DR Congo, Kenya, the Philippines, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. Here is a snapshot (\$ in US currency):

MREDF group loans status: 2025- Q2

DR Congo			
Sum of funds received	\$10 000	Total Groups	11
Amount of funds disbursed as loans	\$9 500		
Total funds repaid by borrowers	\$6 951		
Remaining funds available for lending	\$26 451	Total Participants	41
Interest earned on the loans	\$277		
Repayment %	73 %		

Uganda			
Sum of funds received	\$10,000	Total Groups	9
Amount of funds disbursed as loans	\$12,850		
Total funds repaid by borrowers	\$8.80		
Remaining funds available for lending	\$31,000	Total Participants	27
Interest earned on the loans	\$470		
Repayment %	69 %		

Rwanda			
Sum of funds received	\$23,186	Total Groups	11
Amount of funds disbursed as loans	\$39,748*		
Total funds repaid by borrowers	\$19,332		
Remaining funds available for lending	\$1,846	Total Person	38
Interest earned on the loans	\$1,016		
Repayment %	41 %		

Burundi			
Sum of funds received	\$10,000	Total Groups	7
Amount of funds disbursed as loans	\$14,200		
Total funds repaid by borrowers	\$12,164		
Remaining funds available for lending	\$2,000	Total Person	21
Interest earned on the loans	\$540		
Repayment %	86 %		

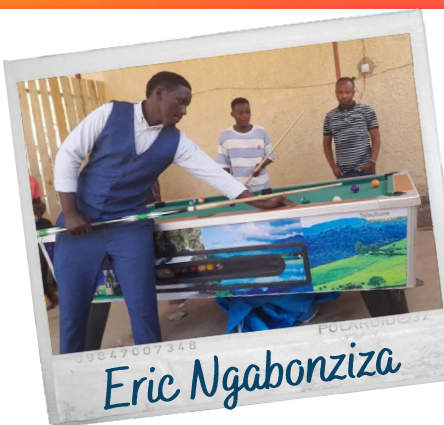
Tanzania			
Sum of funds received	\$10,000	Total Groups	8
Amount of funds disbursed as loans	\$18,500		
Total funds repaid by borrowers	\$14,700		
Remaining funds available for lending	\$34,000	Total Person	37
Interest earned on the loans	\$745		
Repayment %	80 %		

Philippines			
Amount of funds disbursed as loans	\$6,500	Total Groups	3
Total funds repaid by borrowers	\$5,060.00		
Remaining funds available for lending	\$1,520		
Interest earned on the loans	\$0	Total Person	13
Repayment %	77 %		

Kenya

Just starting this quarter! US\$10,000 received.

* The amount of funds disbursed as loans exceeds the original sum of funds received because repaid loans get redistributed to new borrowers.



Name: Eric NGABONZIZA
 Business type: Billiard parlour
 Group name: God win
 Location: Kigali
 Loan amount: RWF 1,000,000
 Loan received (date): 28 December 2022
 Loan fully repaid (date): 31 March 2025

Eric is a university student. He balanced his studies and business effectively. During times when he was unavailable, he hired another Deaf person to manage the billiard parlour. Eric's business has proven profitable and also created employment opportunities for other Deaf people.

Name: Jean De La Croix Mukeshimana
 Business type: Photography
 Group name: Focus Workforce (team leader)
 Location: Kigali
 Loan amount: RWF 1,000,000
 Loan received (date): January 07, 2023
 Loan fully repaid (date): May 31, 2025



Jean used the loan to purchase photography equipment. Although he was already working as a photographer, he lacked essential materials, such as camera lenses and a laptop for photo and video editing. The loan enabled him to acquire the equipment he needed.

Many people like his photography and are hiring him for their events, weddings, and ceremonies.

Student Follow up

Last year, two students - Didier from Rwanda and No Tuan from Myanmar - attended a seven month ministry training program at the Deaf International Institute in the Philippines. The students returned to their respective home countries in March this year.



From left: Abraham, No Tuan, Heo, Didier

Didier - DAMR member Didier Sinakubeshya, returned to Rwanda in March and is now an active volunteer, going from home to home to visit Deaf people and share the Gospel with them. He assists our pastors and evangelists in their ministry work.

No Tuan - No Tuan is working as a teacher's assistant at the school in Kalay. He leads worship programs every morning and after dinner at the school. He is also doing a great job repairing motor bikes, the water pump and other electrical issues.

Father Heart Schools

The Fatherheart Schools teach Deaf participants not just about knowing the love of God as a child of God, but experiencing the love of God as a child of God. Fatherheart schools are held in both DMI fields and potential DMI fields as a means of ministering to the Deaf and making connections for future partnerships.

A Fatherheart 'A' School was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from August 25-29. Led by Josephat with his wife Claire and Matthijs in support, the school made a strong impact. For many, it was their first time to hear about the Father's love - something, it seems, rarely taught in their churches. The revelation to them of being a son or daughter of God transformed their hearts, healed their wounds, and brought them hope. They learned the difference between having a spirit of sonship(/daughtership) and an orphan spirit. The difference is wholly transforming, leading to forgiveness and healing.



Fatherheart Ethiopia



A second Fatherheart 'A' school was held in Anyama on the Ivory Coast from September 1-5. Again led by Josephat, this time with his wife Claire and Gunnar in support. Unfortunately, Claire struggled with sickness throughout the week, so Josephat carried most of the teaching duties. Again, the impact was striking, although some participants, shocked to hear this teaching for the first time, took a little longer to respond than others. Yet the teachings on forgiveness struck a deep cord with many, particularly where there had been strained or broken parental relationships, leading to reconciliation.



Fatherheart Ivory Coast

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



Details are now available on our website!

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

9th INTERNATIONAL
DMI CONFERENCE
PHILIPPINES
MAY 4-8 2026



Theme: "Be at the Center of God's will" - Romans 12:2

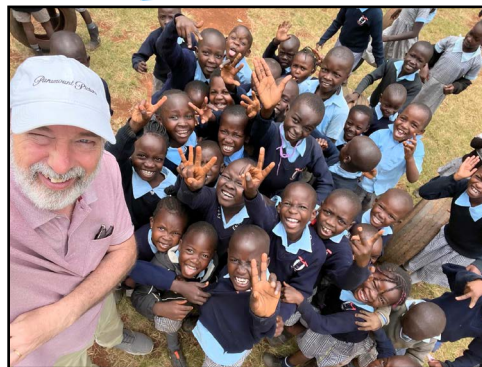
NEWS FROM SUPPORTING COUNTRIES

Andrew's Adventures

The most common greeting I get from family and friends when they call is, "Where are you now?" Indeed, there has been a lot of travel. Having three children living on three different continents is not ideal for family bonding but it does encourage travel between three of DMI's most supportive countries (Australia, Japan and the US) - and almost unlimited opportunities to engage with old and new supporters (individuals and churches/organisations) - in each of those countries, at minimal cost to DMI.

After the whirlwind fundraising efforts in Australia in August, I spent

September in the US visiting and speaking at the Garden, Union and Shepherd churches in LA. I attended a fantastic conference at the Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York which was



Andrew with students at IICS in Kenya

not only personally uplifting but an awesome opportunity for networking. I spent most of October in east Africa, visiting our schools, churches and projects in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda as well as attending the graduation ceremonies at Dennis's vocational school in Lira and our Bible school in Kampala. Training our staff and evangelists in each of these fields was a central part of my visit. (Details in our next newsletter.) Thank you to all those who donated used laptops and phones. 6 laptops and 9 smartphones have now been distributed to grateful field workers.

As this goes to print, I will be in Japan through to the end of November, speaking in churches, schools and universities on DMI's work, and meeting up with our Japan board. "I'll be home for Christmas" I think the song goes. As I travel, I've come to appreciate melatonin, cherish the beautiful relationships we have with supporters and field workers around the world, and marvel at the hand of God, who time and time again, delivers, provides, protects and pours His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.



Andrew at woodworking shop in Tanzania

FUNDRAISERS!

FUNDRAISING EVENTS RAISE \$24,320.66!

SYDNEY DINNER

A Deaf Action fundraising dinner in Sydney last month saw 73 supporters come to hear former Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson (and our own Andrew Miller on the undercard) speak and enjoy some sumptuous food and warm fellowship. Through donations on the evening, \$16,581 was raised. Our stretch-goal was \$25,000, needed to expand our farm in Ligao, Philippines as well as build a security fence around it and provide decent housing for our farm workers Lester, Noel and their families. The Garden Church in the US provided \$6,500, and the remaining \$2,000 needed was provided by our Self-sustainability fund. So the farm projects at our Ligao school are now all funded! We are very grateful to our generous donors for supporting us with this.



MELBOURNE TRIVIA NIGHT

What an incredible evening we had at our Melbourne trivia night! It was so wonderful to see 160 supporters fill St. James, all united for a great cause. Special guests Bing and Anabelle helped make the evening truly memorable.

The night was a fantastic mix of fun trivia questions, great fellowship, and a chance to bid on some wonderful items in our silent auction. Thanks to your kind generosity, we were able to raise \$8,000 for our new Bible College in Rwanda. We couldn't have done it without you. Thank you for being a part of this special evening and for your commitment to our mission. Special thanks to the businesses which supported the evenings (see below). And huge thanks to Amy, Kay and Susi who worked tirelessly to make the evenings successful.



SILENT AUCTION

WINNERS



TRIVIA



BING & ANABELLE



Please see the last page to take note of all our amazing sponsors.





Pastor Profile

Name: Naing Naing Kyaw

Location: ICD, Yangon, Myanmar

Deafness: Born Deaf

Greatest Challenges:

1. When we visited the Deaf in their homes they welcome us and show interest in the Gospel but their families do not accept us because most of them are Buddhists.
2. Most of them live in suburban areas so opportunities to reach them with the Gospel are very limited. Most places have no bus access.

Greatest Joy: When they accept Jesus Christ as their saviour and their Lord.

Greatest need: For God to send out more workers for our Deaf mission.

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!!

Churches

Give thanks for each of the 180 Deaf churches ministering each week under DMI's umbrella. Pray for the encouragement of our church leaders and the growth of each of the churches.

China

Pray for the safety and vitality of our brothers and sisters in China who continue to worship and meet in the face of persecution.

Self-sustainability Projects

Pray for the many sustainability projects - individual and communal - across our fields, that they would be productive and truly lead our Deaf toward economic self-sustainability.

ADBC

Pray that the accreditation process of the African Deaf Bible College will be completed swiftly, and that other operational matters will also be completed in time for the college opening in January.

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



www.deafmin.org



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



DMI DONATIONS:

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



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Account: 145833539



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