

Taking the Gospel to the Deaf



Deaf Ministries International

Issue 61 | December 2025



3 NEW CHURCHES! -PHILIPPINES-



DMI's mission is to bring the gospel, education and employment – in that order – to the Deaf all around the world. It's great to see this happening month after month, year after year, and we continue to see it with three new churches opening in the Bicol area of the Philippines. We rejoice in the opening of ICD Guinobatan in Albay led by Welfredo Reonal (Willy, who teaches K-4 at the Bicol Deaf Action school). The church currently has around 20 members. We rejoice in the opening of ICD Legaspi pastored by Cyrex Quidep which has now has 15 members. And we rejoice also with Jose Bangapat who is leading the ICD in Tabaco, Albay. Jose's church opened more recently and now has 25 members.



**DARAGA
CHURCH FOR
THE DEAF**

**GUINOBATAN
CHURCH FOR
THE DEAF**



**TOBACO
CHURCH FOR
THE DEAF**



*His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

The international and national boards, staff, representatives and volunteers of DMI together wish all our supporters a wonderful Christmas and a very safe, peaceful and blessed 2026. Thank you for your generous prayer, financial and physical support throughout the year. We look forward to serving again with you next year. Merry Christmas to you all!



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

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PHILIPPINES...Continued Developments underway at Bicol Deaf Action



New farm housing

Following fundraising efforts earlier in Australia, developments at the Bicol Deaf Action farm are underway. Housing for farm workers Lester and his family and Noel and his family are coming along nicely. The farm itself has been expanded, and the planting of those new fields has begun. The wall will be constructed as soon as the housing is completed. Bing expresses her gratitude to all those supporters who enabled these improvements.



Income from the farm, even before the expansion, was encouraging. The produce in Q3 brought in AUD1,700. Sales from poultry raised \$230 and from pigs \$1,000. The rice harvest in October produced almost \$1000 for the school. We look forward to seeing this income increase when the extra crops are harvested.

Typhoon aftermath



Super typhoon Uwan made its presence felt last month, knocking over trees and flooding whole communities. Our Ligao school kept students and local residents safe but there sure was a lot to clean up afterwards. The big tree outside the admin building was



blown over. Ronald and other ground staff got to work with a chainsaw cutting it up and clearing it away. It seems we now have firewood to last us for the best part of a decade. More typhoons are on the way. Pray that our people and their facilities would be kept safe.

Bacolod



On July 27, ICD Bacolod, led by Albert and Kim Mercado, celebrated its anniversary. The event was filled with joy, gratitude, and thanksgiving. The church was blessed to have the Seo family from Korea

visit for the celebration. Their presence and generosity truly touched everyone's hearts. They gave a wonderful donation that brought happiness and support to all in the dormitory and church community. The celebration was not only a time of fellowship but also a moment to look back on God's goodness and faithfulness. With songs, prayers, and smiles, the anniversary turned out to be both joyous and successful, leaving the congregation thankful for another year of blessings and growth.

Please continue to pray for Val Clutton and those who are caring for her daily. She has had less regular sleep in recent days but presses on with Huntington's disease the best she can.

Doug and Val Clutton



MYANMAR

Hardship in Myanmar

Myanmar Director Pa Lian is a model of stoicism and positivity in the midst of the terrible hardship and suffering of a largely forgotten war. He writes (unedited),

By the grace of God the Myanmar DA mission field is running well. Yangon Immanuel Church is active in outreach and mission work. We visited home-to-home our deaf members and supported and encouraged those who were sick and got some troubles. It was very sad some are struggling very hard for their daily life because of our country's political situation and so life is getting harder and harder but they are still eager to come to church every Sunday. When we visited their home they warmly welcome us but most of the families are Buddhists.

The Muir Deaf school is going well. For the time being, no internet connection, no phone line and no wifi and it is hard to contact to the school. Sometimes we got phone line but 1-2 minutes lost again. Other note, the banks are not at work. The biggest private bank in Myanmar – KBZ bank – is now closed in Kalay. One of the banks connected with army groups is open but we could transfer only 3 million Kyat. Even if the banks are not at work we can manage in another way. There are 32 children, 18 boys and 14 girls at Muir School for the Deaf, Kalay. By the grace of God things are going well with us.

Yours

Pa Lian



Sadly, one of the students at the school recently lost her father. The family were refugees to Kalay after their village was bombed and they had to escape. Her father passed away after having issues with his liver.

Please pray for Htoo Chia Su and her mother as they grieve the loss of their father/husband, and that they find comfort in the arms of Jesus.

BURUNDI

New life in Burundi

Despite the ongoing crisis in neighbouring DR Congo where the M23 rebellion has created fear and instability, our brothers and sisters in Buganda, right on



Anne-Marie translated Bible video

the border of DRC, remain faithful. A team from Bujumbura, including the DAB Director and two Bible translators, felt called to travel there to offer encouragement and fellowship, in response to local leader Egide Ndayishimiye's request for support for his fellowship.

The team went prepared to share God's word, demonstrate translated Bible stories in sign language, and encourage the community through sports activities. One of the translators presented a translated video of Jesus and the prostitute from the Gospel of John under the theme, "Jesus gives us a second chance". One young man, who had felt lost and without purpose, wept as he watched the video. After the service, he shared through a translator that he had always believed his past mistakes meant that he was beyond God's reach. He said, "I thought my life was over. But today, I saw that Jesus gives us a second chance, no matter what we have done." This moment affirmed the importance of our ministry's work and the profound impact of seeing God's love in their own language.



Our team is also excited to report on the spiritual growth happening in Kayanza. Director Fabien reports that over the last few months, "We have seen new faces in the Deaf fellowship, including two Deaf brothers in the same family and a young girl who quickly found a home with us. Their faith grew and they asked to be baptized. Initially, a baptism program was scheduled for August, with over 15 deaf people from four different provinces expressing their desire to commit to a new life in Christ. Unfortunately, a severe transport crisis in the country forced us to postpone the

larger event. However, in Kayanza our local leader Thomas was ready to proceed. While three people were ready to be baptized, one felt it was better to wait and be baptized with the others at a later date. Thomas joyfully baptized the two brothers and the young girl, celebrating their new life in Christ. The group traveled by bus for 30 minutes to reach the designated spot, a beautiful small river that forms the border between Kanyaru Rwanda, and Kanyaru, Burundi. The journey to a location far from their local fellowship demonstrated their desire to follow Jesus, and it was a moment of profound significance for everyone present."

RWANDA

Dozens of goats - no kidding!



In October, DMI provided RWF4,000,000 (AUD4,200) to DAMR to provide goats to dozens of Deaf people from vulnerable families across Rwanda. To date, 67 goats have been gifted, including 21 goats in Gatsibo, 13 to families

in Kamonyi, 7 in Nyanza, 15 in Muhanga and 11 in Musanze. Goats, sometimes referred to as 'the poor person's cow', are valued in developing countries because they are a sustainable and versatile source of nutrition and income. They require little care and are remarkably resilient in harsh environments. Thank you to our donors who enabled this support.

African Deaf Christian College

At the recommendation of our board in Rwanda, DMI's International Board has approved a change of name from the African Deaf Bible College (ADBC) to the African Deaf Christian College (ADCC). The new name allows for a broader scope of subjects to be studied at the College within Christian ministry and should expedite the accreditation of the College.

Construction of the College is nearly finished. The entire project was expected to be fully completed by September 2025.



However, during a visit to the ADCC site, a government inspector from the District Office recommended additional works to ensure compliance, quality, and that the College building meets the required construction standards in Rwanda. Because of these additional works, the project is now expected to be fully completed around the time this newsletter is published.

The formal opening of the college will be on Saturday, January 24, 2026. It will be attended by Gunnar, In Yeong and Andrew from DMI International, by other mission organisation partners, all African DMI directors, and all local (Rwandan) board members, staff, pastors, evangelists and church members. Those flying in for the event will stay for a week for various trainings and for fellowship. We are still waiting to receive accreditation for the College, so while we hope to receive this in time for the official opening, it's possible that classes won't start until a couple of months later.



Can you help?



We have prepared a financial plan for the College to be fully self-sustainable within 3 years. This involves the wise use of two lots of rice fields currently owned by the College and highly productive (purchased this year) and the purchase of two more lots as soon as possible. For the remaining lots, we need US\$8,800 (AUD13,650) per lot. Please prayerfully consider giving toward these lots. Donations can be made at:

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

Bible Translation

Our DAMR (Deaf Action Ministries Rwanda) team recently received generous support from Wycliffe Associates (WA) to conduct a Bible translation workshop as a part of the Deaf Owned Translation (DOT) program. Three chapters of the Book of Matthew (chapters 10, 11, and 14) were translated into Rwandan Sign Language. Eleven Deaf participants attended the workshop, engaging with the Word of God over a two week period. Participants not only worked on translating the above chapters but also immersed themselves in reading and experiencing the Scripture. DMI and DAMR are grateful to WA for their ongoing support of our Deaf fields. It's a pleasure to be collaborating so effectively.



JAMBO AFRIKA!

I had the pleasure of visiting Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda over three weeks in October and spending some quality time with our field leaders, workers, and students. It was a precious time, not without its challenges – not least of all issues with food! –but produced some wonderful outcomes and strengthened relationships with our partnering organisations. I was pleased to share the journey with Stacy Bourland of Wycliffe with whom we enjoy a strong working relationship in our fields and with long-time DMI supporter, Kathi Kitao.

Kenya

Our visit to Africa began at our Immanuel Integrated Christian school in Oyugis, to the northwest of Kenya. This school transitioned from a Deaf school to an integrated school a few years



ago and by all measures, the integration has been successful. There are around 85 deaf students to 120 hearing students so there has been concern about maintaining the Deaf identity of the school. Yet the integration between students, both formally in the classroom and informally in the playground seems to be very positive.

I was struck by the poverty



Staff and visitors

seems to be one of gratitude to be receiving an education and joy to be receiving it under such competent and caring tutelage. Messages were shared with the student body and trainings were held for the staff. These have been few and far between so were warmly welcomed by all at the school.

One of the most significant potential developments at the school is the completion of the senior high school. The school currently educates students up to the end of middle school (year 9) and graduating

students go on to high schools in the local area. Yet we have become concerned about the decline of students' academic performance at the high schools after performing so well in national tests at our IICS middle school. This has heightened the need to finish construction of the middle school/senior high school block, completing the school as a K-12 institution. (The middle school classrooms have been constructed to allow for the senior school classrooms to be built directly above.) We will be applying for grants to complete the construction of the senior school classrooms. Supporters interested in this project are welcome to contact Andrew at andrew.miller@deafmin.org

Back in Nairobi, where we wrestled with what I thought must be the worst traffic in the world until we went to Dar es Salaam, we joined a DAK board meeting, held trainings for the staff and were blessed to join and contribute to the Sunday morning service of our Emmanuel Church of the Deaf Nairobi. It was there that I discovered what interpreters do afterwards to preachers who speak too quickly. (See photo to the right)



Tanzania



Andrew, Stacy & Kathi with carpentry workshop members.

Virtually everything about our operations in Tanzania is encouraging. Joseph Hiza's leadership is outstanding and he has a good team of workers, serving in unity, producing good results. We visited a carpentry workshop in Kulangwa which employs six Deaf carpenters, all of whom belong to the local Deaf church. We noticed that most of them were working either barefoot or in flip-flops which is not ideal on a worksite so Kathi kindly donated work boots for each of them. The carpentry

project still requires development so we are looking to raise around AUD\$2000 to ensure its future.

The visit to our new Bagamoyo Farm was quite the adventure. We spent four hours in the car to get there and five hours to get back. The local road to and from the farm was muddy and flooded because of torrential downpours. One four-wheel-drive vehicle broke down and had to be left behind. (We were able



to get it going again on our way back.) The trek was precarious and at one point we suggested we turn back but we were told that we must push on and get there that day! At times, one car needed to tow another, and at other times we had to get out and, with muddied bare feet, push the cars through the sludge. We are grateful that we eventually made it. Church ladies who had arrived ahead of us, washed our feet which was humbling.

We toured the 15 acre farm which will be growing pineapples, corn, and other crops, as well as manage a piggery and raise other animals. As soon as the well is drilled, the farm will take two years to become fully

operational and at that point they will accept trainees to come and stay for three months at a time to learn at this agricultural training centre. Individual self-sustainability is the goal.

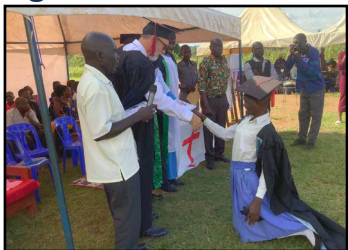
The centre is a fully run and owned DAT project. Church members will learn for free and outsiders will pay a small fee. Training was provided by Echo and financially supported by Wycliffe. Again, it's a marvelous example of what progress can be made when mission organisations coordinate with each other. A plaque unveiling was conducted with that day's date literally carved in stone - which is why we were urged not to turn back despite the condition of the road! At the unveiling of the plaque, I was hoping - really hoping - that they wouldn't have my name on it - it should just be DMI - but alas...(See photo to the above right)



Our visit to the new church building in Morogoro combined the opening of the new church premises, a graduation ceremony for Bible school students, a DMI training and a SUN presentation given by Stacy. All went extremely well. Television and radio media were there to cover the Church opening and graduation ceremony, fulfilling the wish of every true believer: to appear on Tanzanian TV. The opening of the church was festive and wonderful with dancing, preaching, speeches, and a ceremony. You can view the news report on our Facebook page.



Uganda



receive just a certificate of completion, but a recognised qualification.

I was deeply moved on my visit to the ICD-Lira church. 50 Deaf congregants crammed into a small, dimly lit, stiflingly hot room, worshipped their hearts out and received the Word enthusiastically. ICD-Lira is a beautiful congregation asking for nothing more than pastoral support, which we are providing. The Lira Disability Association has arranged for ICD-Lira to receive a block of land on which to construct a



church building. We inspected this land and are excited about the future of the church there. It would be good for them to have their own church building. This is



something we are hoping to provide in the near future. The DAU board continues to struggle with issues regarding the management and vision of the ministry

in Uganda. We were able to join a board meeting and offer some guidance and encouragement. We continue to pray for the leadership and operations of our Deaf ministry in Uganda.

We ran a training for our pastors and evangelists, not only from Uganda but for a busload of others who came over from DR Congo! The training was very well received and provided a lot of much-needed oversight for our field workers. I was particularly encouraged by the small group prayer time. It was wonderful to see our pastors and evangelists fervently praying over one another and for their ministries.



Andrew with the newly engaged couple.

The Sunday service at ICD-Makerere in Kampala was our final engagement. I had to laugh when DAU director Tonny texted me to say he would pick us up from the hotel at 10 AM. I asked, "doesn't the service start at 10 AM?". He simply responded, "This is Africa!" I was honoured to share the Word with the congregation, and we were all delighted to witness and participate in some of the most uplifting Deaf worship.

The church has a strong team of interpreters who contribute beautifully to the running of the church and its services. The service concluded with a surprise public proposal - which was accepted! -so our DAU accountant Rebecca will be marrying later this month.

My thanks to Kathi and Stacy for their daily debriefing conversations and kind support throughout.

Andrew Miller
International
Director



Kathi, Andrew and Stacy



Pastor Profile

Name: John Kazwala

Location: ICD Mwanza, Tanzania

Deafness: Age 5, Sudden deafness

Greatest Challenges:

Raising my family and raising the church at the same time.

Greatest Joy: Leading people to believe the Word of God and seeing the Deaf being born again.

Greatest need: Raising young Deaf leaders in the 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!!

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.

Philippines Typhoon

Give thanks for safety for all our people in the Philippines following the massive typhoon last week. Pray for the clean-up operations and for opportunities to outreach.

Revival

As requested by many of the pastors across our fields, pray for revival in our churches.

Myanmar Student

Please pray for Htoo Chia Su (Muir School for the Deaf, Myanmar) as she grieves the loss of her father and that she finds comfort in the arms of Jesus.

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
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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

9th INTERNATIONAL
DMI CONFERENCE
PHILIPPINES
MAY 4-8 2026



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



Details are now available on
our website!

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