

Taking the Gospel to the Deaf

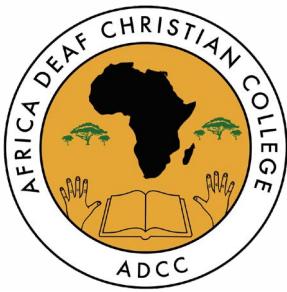


# Deaf Ministries International

USA EDITION | Issue 62 | February 2026



## Africa Deaf Christian College Opens!



DMI's Africa Deaf Christian College (ADCC) formally opened in Rwanda on Saturday January 24 to great acclaim and promise. It's hard to overstate how significant this development is. The ADCC is the first accredited Christian college for the Deaf not only in Africa but in the world (and only the second college exclusively for Deaf and signing

students in the world)! The College really is a monumental development of generational impact and we believe its influence amongst Deaf and hearing communities across the African continent will be profound.



The opening ceremony was attended by government ministers, denominational church leaders, theological institution heads, faith-based organisational representatives and media outlets, as well as DMI International Director Andrew Miller, International Advisor Gunnar Dehli, every DMI field director in east Africa, the whole Deaf Action Ministry Rwanda (DAMR) team headed by Director Patrick Tuyishimire, local dignitaries, and many curious neighbours (some climbing trees in the fields next door to get a better look!). The morning event was filled with prayer, speeches, ribbon-cutting, dancing and thousands of photos. The day's activities were reported in a 4-minute segment in the evening national TV news.



The College, beautifully designed and built, is the vision-child of DMI founder Neville Muir. One of his greatest desires was to see this institution built. He would have been overjoyed to see this. Capable of educating 350 students, the College stands on just under 2 hectares of land, about an hour's drive outside of Kigali city, and contains 9 classrooms, an admin block, a computer lab, a library, a prayer room, two dormitories and two guest houses. The primary goal of the College is to raise Deaf leaders from all over Africa who can, upon graduating, return to their home countries to plant new churches or strengthen existing ones. Yet beyond theology and Christian ministry, the College will also have faculties teaching signing, interpreting and other areas of disability inclusion.

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

[www.deafmin.org](http://www.deafmin.org)



The College will run two tracks of study: unaccredited certificate courses for those with a basic educational background, and accredited diploma/degree courses for those entering the College with a full high school diploma. Students studying in the unaccredited track will start on March 1. Students studying in the accredited track will start later in the year when full accreditation has been received from the Rwandan Ministry of Education. The ADCC board, consisting of four DMI leaders and three DAMR leaders, was pleased to hold its inaugural meeting – in person – on January 26.

Throughout the opening week, DMI's east African leaders took full advantage of their time together and participated in management and theological trainings, as well as valuable fellowship times together. Often isolated from other Deaf leaders, our directors find these gatherings precious.

We are excited to see the first classes start at the College and the succulent fruit it will produce.

We are aiming for the College to be fully self-sustainable within 4 years. In the meantime, operating costs are substantial, we still need around **USD30,000** to cover this first year. We are also seeking a donation of **USD15,000** to purchase rice fields which are a part of the self-sustainability program for the College. **Donations can be made through our website.**

## AFRICA DEAF CHRISTIAN COLLEGE OPENS!





## Christmas Around the Deaf World

### Egypt

Our Deaf families in Egypt were thrilled to each receive a special Christmas package, bringing them true joy and celebration. Each of the 20 families received 1kg of local meat, 2kg of sugar, 1kg of tea, 2kg of rice, 2kg of pasta, 1 litre of oil and 1kg of ghee.

Director Hany reports that the delight on their faces and the gratitude in their hearts was overwhelming. "The Deaf community experienced real happiness and the spirit of Christmas this morning, all because of your thoughtful generosity. Your support has truly made a difference, and we are deeply thankful for your dedication and love for the Deaf in Egypt."



### Tanzania

During the Christmas holidays, celebrations were held across all our churches. The season also provided opportunity for DAT (Deaf Action Tanzania) to continue with their evangelist exchange program. Evangelist Robert Mtani preached in Kigoma, Pastor Hiza in Ubaruku, and Pastor Umoja Kim in Mbeya.



### Philippines

Christmas was enjoyed boisterously across our 11 churches in the Philippines. The church in Ligao pastored by Arnel combined celebrations with their 25th anniversary on December 14. Arnel writes, "A lot of people around the world showed their love and support to us here. We praise God that the Deaf pastors and Deaf youths were able to attend the Bible study workshop with Rev. Heo In Yeong and we give thanks to Rev. Masago who blessed us with food packs to distribute to the Deaf members and their families providing aid from the typhoon that recently hit."



### Myanmar

Christmas decorations were made by the children at the school in Kalay, and one of the school pigs was prepared for the Christmas feast. It's always a special time of year for the students of the Muir School for the Deaf.

## DR CONGO

### Care for young mums in DR Congo

Two of our primary school students (aged 16 and 17) and one senior high student at our Beni school in DR Congo recently fell pregnant through sexual abuse. The two primary school students have now given birth to healthy baby boys.

Vuruka (blue and yellow clothing) gave birth to Schadreck in August and Mithemo (in white) gave birth to Inichir in September last year. Both mums and their babies are doing well and are being cared for by their families and by our Deaf churches in DAC (Deaf Action Congo). Both young ladies plan to return to the school and continue with their studies in two years' time. We are encouraging them in this.



In fact, education is key here. Rather than provide financial support, we are prioritising increased educational support to these ladies and all the female students in our schools and churches. Financial support will not stop the problem. Culturally, it can be complicated. Beni school Principal Alain writes, "One of the causes is that our ladies lack money, so they go to beg to some boys and those boys profit to abuse them". In their desperate poverty "they can be discouraged in life and can start begging other men to support them with money, and this is dangerous."

Our plan is to implement regular training for Deaf ladies on:

- *Avoiding sexual activity before marriage*
- *Gender-Based Violence (GBV)*
- *Personal responsibility and self-protection*
- *Poverty reduction and life skills*

This plan came into effect on December 4 when a conference was held for secondary school students to learn about gender equality and sexual abuse. DAC leaders, schools, and churches are being encouraged to take responsibility to train members regularly, including after Sunday services, and leaders are encouraged to act as good role models.

### Good days in bad times

Our ministry in DR Congo has seen some wonderful celebrations over the last few months. Eleven new believers were baptised at our Deaf church in Goma. And members Omer and Stephanie were married in our Beni church to the delight of both the Deaf and hearing communities.

Wonderful days like these don't just happen. Evangelistic outreach continues in Minova, Goma, Beni and other areas. It's encouraging to see Deaf outreach extending even to neighboring hearing churches, proclaiming the gospel, distributing clothes, visiting the sick and comforting families who have lost relatives. Weekly devotions are held every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday after services.

Our church in Butembo operates on the premises of a



hearing church after the hearing service is over. The hearing leaders have recently, however, told the Deaf church to leave as they want to extend their church activities. Join us in prayer for the Butembo church as they seek a new location to rent.

The carpentry workshop we funded in July last year in Goma has seen seven young Deaf men move toward financial independence. The workshop

produces chairs, beds, tables, shelves, and they also do upholstery work. Income for the last quarter was USD 1390 bringing in a profit of USD 431.

## ZAMBIA

### Prison ministry restarts

Newly appointed Director of Deaf Action Ministries Zambia (DAMZ) Bywell Thole has restarted our prison ministry to the Deaf in Zambia. His first visit with the DAMZ board chairman was to Maimbo Kombe at the Kamfinsa State Correctional Facility. Maimbo expressed deep gratitude for the visit – a welcome surprise after a long period without visitors. The lack of interaction in sign language was causing him to forget how to sign and he has received no visits from any relatives. Maimbo's situation is dire. Originally incarcerated for 15 years, an additional 10-year term was recently added, purely the result of a change in government. Maimbo maintains his innocence and has appealed for our assistance in securing his release.

During the visit, Bywell discovered another Deaf inmate, Sylvester Muzabe, who also maintains his innocence. He knows no sign language. Despite the communication challenge, they learned that he has served 9 years of a 15-year sentence. "We encouraged both inmates to trust in God and assured them that our organisation would advocate for their freedom," shares Bywell.

Jerry Lupiya, a previous contact and friend of Maimbo, had been moved to the Mwambewshi Correctional Service, a different prison some distance away. DAMZ Secretary Louis Mafo made the trip to visit Jerry who looked so happy to have a visitor and a Deaf one at that! He has been incarcerated for 15 years and no one has ever visited him. He didn't want to let Louis go! 8 years remain on his sentence.

The chaplains expressed gratitude to DAMZ for visiting and encouraging the young men, acknowledging the unique challenges faced by Deaf inmates. He encouraged Bywell to continue visiting, emphasising the importance of making them feel included in society despite their isolation.

Three years ago, Emmanuel Banda, a Deaf Zambian man, was pardoned and released from prison after Neville had worked hard for his release. We will be doing the same for these men where we can.

## EGYPT

### Teach the Teacher program

Last year we began a new program in Egypt to train up Deaf youths in Sunday School ministry to Deaf children. The program, known as the 'Teach the Teacher' program, sees DMI, through its Director Hany, coordinating with Sahel Ababseh of Peace Dove for the Deaf (based in Jordan) and Jacklin Boshra of the Queen Foundation (based in Egypt).



The genesis of new programs is not always easy but the three have shown wonderful initiative and Christian maturity in bringing this together. We are currently working with six Deaf teachers and hearing assistants who can sign. The students attending the program can be as

many as 60 across the various locations.

Jacklin shares, "Wishing you all a happy holiday season on the occasion of the Glorious Nativity and Christmas. On today's trip with our Deaf children, we were talking about how, when Jesus enters our hearts, He transforms them into pure white hearts and carried all our sins on the cross for us. Please keep our children and this ministry in your prayers."

## MYANMAR

### A flower amongst thorns

How pleased we are to report that the Muir School for the Deaf in Kalay is running well. In other areas of Kalay it's a battleground but our school has been operating under 'normal' conditions recently. Neither side has been fighting near the school and we are grateful for the peace the staff and students are enjoying.



*Dressed in tradition costume for Disability day*

This is not to say we are unaffected by the war. Many nearby villagers have had to leave their homes and move near the school for safety. But it's harvest time and many farms are unable to reap any crops. So we have to deal with hunger and high food prices. Many of the churches in Kalay are doing the heavy lifting, caring for the homeless and hungry. In some ways, Pa Lian reports, "Kalay is like a 'house jail': many routes in and out of the town are blocked and there are many land mines. One of our children, Han Lin Thanh's aunt, also stepped on one and died. Amongst such difficulties and challenges of life, by the grace of God and by the support of DMI and some others who help us by praying, our school is standing peacefully. It is like the flower amongst the thorns. We praise God and thank God. The school had a happy Christmas celebration and also participated with other groups in the celebration of Disability day."

Our church in Yangon is also blossoming. Regular attendees to a Sunday service are around 60. On Saturdays the church conducts outreach missions - going house to house - to encourage church members. Sometimes members go as far as 30 miles to Hleku town where some members live and to visit one of our elderly members who is now 87. Two of our aged members passed away in the last few months and the church has done well to support the families.





**Yangon Church celebrating Christmas**

we are grateful for the chance to share the Gospel with them."

Workshops were held at our church in October with a Deaf Bible Translation team. Attendees discussed new signs for the names of some people in the Bible and how to make the gospel more easily understood when it is shared.

## TANZANIA Mighty Ministry

Our ministry in Tanzania continues to grow in the broadest possible sense. Joseph Hiza, Umoja Kim, Ben Buyinza, John Kaswalala and Frida Mkumbo facilitated training sessions on marriage, relationships, and baptism in Mbeya, Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, and Kagera. The sessions were anointed; the

outcomes wonderful. Three marriages resulted in Mbeya. Six baptisms were also held which in themselves led to an increase in people giving their lives to Christ. More than 30 DAT (Deaf Action Tanzania) pastors and evangelists have been

participating in monthly DMI/DAT online training sessions, primarily workers in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, and Mbeya.

DAT Director Joseph says that the online trainings work so well because they allow leaders in diverse regions (Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Mbeya) to participate without travel costs, accommodating their busy schedules and family commitments. The meetings foster online groups for prayer

and discussion, maintaining support for congregants who may be physically distant or in remote areas. These sessions also offer opportunities for Tanzanian religious leaders to connect with global practitioners for ongoing coaching and encouragement.

Our congregations in Mwanza, Morogoro, Kigoma, and Ubaruku have reported successes with the SUN program (a work of Wycliffe with whom DMI closely works). The program has increased church attendance, notably through the integration of fifteen illiterate Deaf individuals into congregations in these regions. It has also had a significant impact on Deaf children and adults by facilitating communication, particularly for those who have not received formal education or who have multiple disabilities.

Bible study programs in schools in the regions we are present have continued.

Some schools invited our evangelists to lead end-of-year meetings for parents.

The evangelists shared their testimonies, helping parents and teachers better understand their own children's needs and talents, and serving as role models for Deaf children.



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"Some have asked us to visit and pray for them," says Pa Lian "even though they are not Christian - they are Buddhist. Some families warmly welcome us when we share the gospel, some ignore us. Either way,

ignore us. Either way,

## Testimony from Tanzania

Maria Marijani is a deaf woman from a Muslim family. Poverty and the lack of healthcare in her village meant she had no access to legitimate treatments after contracting meningitis. Catholic missionaries later arrived bringing the Catholic faith and medical help. Although it was too late for Maria's hearing, it sparked an interest for her in Christianity.

Deceived by a man who had promised to help her, she had two children with him before he disappeared. Faced with an increasingly precarious situation due to unemployment and the burden of raising her two children alone, she began selling rice, soap, and various other items on the street. Five years ago, while continuing her work, she developed edema in her feet and paralysis. This problem, compounded by numerous difficulties, including a profound sense of abandonment, rendered her unable to manage businesses to support herself and her two children. Her life became increasingly difficult. She feared for her future. "I grew up in fear," Mari explains. "I was afraid of Allah and I didn't understand how He could love, especially Deaf women. Women have no place in Islam. Allah created them for men, so that their husbands could enjoy themselves. Islam allows men to beat women, as my Muslim husband did to me before he left us. It's been ten years since I last saw him."

Maria's life began to turn around when she encountered members of one of the ICDT (Immanuel Church of the Deaf Tanzania) churches. She was deeply impressed by the teachings, delivered in sign language, which she understood. "Your life will change," were the first words I heard from an evangelist after I told her about my experience." What she discovered astonished her: "I met many Deaf people, men and women when I visited this church in town. They were talking and laughing. I was surprised by the respect they had for one another," she said. For someone who had spent her entire life being ignored and excluded, this glimpse of a true community was irresistible. There, Deaf people weren't considered cursed or shameful, but rather God's beloved children. "I felt the difference, so I chose Jesus."

**In July 2025, Maria accepted Jesus Christ into her life.**

"I learned a lot about the Bible and Christianity," she recalls, "and I felt God touching my heart, prompting



me to give my life to Jesus. I had been exposed to Christianity for many years, but it is through ICDT that I had directly experienced God's love. I quickly understood the importance of baptism in my journey with God. So I approached the leaders of the ICDT in Mbeya and asked to be baptized and so I was," she says smiling! "My family noticed a change in me and accepted it. Several of them, especially the women, converted to Christianity. They saw my face radiate peace and my behavior transformed. The words I spoke were different. I was different."

## UGANDA

### Deaf experience the Father's love



In December, about 50 Deaf gathered near Jinja at a beautiful riverbank of the Nile. For 6 days they received the good news about a Father who had always loved them, and who always would love them, and who loved them right now. For some of them, this was a lifechanging revelation. Grateful hearts thanked Jesus who had opened the way for them to come home to Father God.

The team who led this Fatherheart School came from Uganda (Tonny Eyoku), Malaysia (Rani Supperamaniam), Australia (Samuel Begumisa), and Norway (Matthijs Terpstra, Ingrid and Gunnar Dehli).

The venue for this event was a youth centre called The Wave. Actually, it was here several years ago that the very first Fatherheart School for the Deaf in the whole world was held. Some of the participants had been here before and were very happy to be back.

Once again, attendees found that the teaching about forgiving their father and mother from their hearts was to have a deep impact. Being neglected, oppressed,

and even abandoned was a common reality among them. Tears and testimonies showed that many were able to forgive from their hearts for

the first time. Many expressed also that writing a letter to their parents, asking forgiveness for having closed their hearts to them, caused a big change in themselves. We are grateful to be witnesses of the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the Deaf.

Gunnar Dehli



*Fatherheart Leadership team and special guests: Left: Rani (Malaysia), Tonny (Uganda), Ingrid (The Netherlands/Uganda), Papy, Matthijs, Samuel, Moreen, Gunnar & Ingrid.*

## Notice Board

9th INTERNATIONAL  
DMI CONFERENCE  
PHILIPPINES  
MAY 4-8 2026

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

Details and registrations are now available  
on our website!  
<https://deafmin.org/conference/>

NOTE: Conference pricing  
has been updated.

## Wish List 2026

We are so grateful to our supporters for helping us to bless the Deaf in our fields. Below is our wish list for 2026. Please prayerfully consider how you can help us with this.

<input type="checkbox"/> Immanuel Integrated Christian School (KEN)	AUD55,000
- Senior high building	AUD55,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Africa Deaf Christian College (RWA)	AUD22,000
- Rice fields	AUD22,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Bicol Deaf Action (PHI)	AUD2,000
- Farmhouse utilities	AUD2,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Motorbikes	AUD10,000

## New Logos!

We have updated our logos to freshen them up. The new logos elevate the DMI and DA names, and better connect the two entities while still maintaining a familiar look.

## RWANDA Salvation in Gatsibo



In a hilltop village named Gatisbo in Rwanda, a church for the Deaf was started by Fulgence about two years ago. That church has now grown to be our largest church in the country. The congregation is largely uneducated, illiterate and has learned few life skills so, before services, Fulgence teaches sign language, literacy and sexual health. The Deaf come faithfully from all over the region to partake in this.

Earlier this month, Andrew visited the church and, together with Fulgence, shared the gospel with them: carefully, slowly, gently, clearly. Fourteen responded, committing to turn from their sin and give their lives to Christ. Such a beautiful day. So much joy. Salvation had come!



*Hands up if you choose to receive Christ!*

## NEWS FROM SUPPORTING COUNTRIES

### Andrew meets Miss Australia!



On a routine deputation to rural Victoria, Andrew was pleasantly surprised to meet Tahlia Edmonds - Miss Australia 2024 and daughter of Doreen Baptist Church pastor John Edmonds. Tahlia is a model, national

gymnast, actress, farm girl, and advocate for natural disasters. She has also more recently shown, along with other church members, support for DMI. Doreen Baptist is a small gathering of dedicated believers who received Andrew, the gospel and news of DMI's activities so warmly. They sacrificially gave \$1,372 towards our new Bible College in Rwanda. Beautiful people. Thank you, Doreen Baptist!



# Booops!

In our December newsletter we reported that Kalay school student Htoo Chia Su was orphaned after her father passed away from liver disease. We later received news that her mother is still alive. A mistake that we are very glad to correct!

Last year, thanks to very generous giving from DMI supporters, we were able to bless our fields with numerous new facilities and support, including new church buildings, new classrooms, security walls and fences, several farm expansions to increase sustainability, and houses, as well as provide food support in war-affected countries. **Thank you so very much for this.**

Please remember our general fund in your giving. We are looking at a projected deficit of AUD60,000 this year for our monthly budgets.

Your prayerful consideration of regular giving to our general fund is appreciated.



## UPCOMING EVENTS!

### AUSTRALIA FUNDRAISING DATES

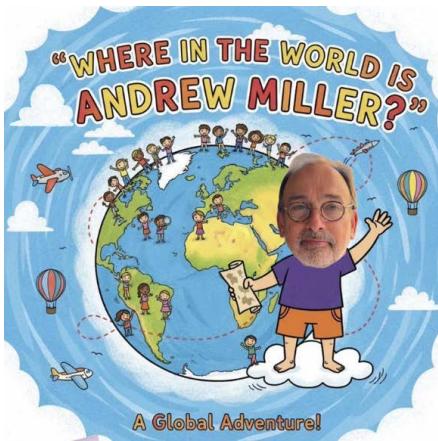
Australian donors, mark your calendars and start your engines. Event dates for the year have been set. Please join us at any and all of the following fundraising events:

**JULY 25 (SAT)  
SYDNEY TRIVIA  
NIGHT**

**AUGUST 15 (SAT)  
MELBOURNE  
TRIVIA NIGHT**

**OCTOBER 16 (FRI)  
SYDNEY FUNDRAISING  
DINNER**

(to be held in a venue hosting one of Australia's most exclusive private collections of exotic, classic and super cars)



Andrew's travel schedule has been drawn up for this year and once again he has been overly enthusiastic. Therefore, we encourage supporters to make the most of his inordinate scheduling. Please note where and when Andrew will be and contact us to make room for a church, school or community group visit so we can share about DMI's work.



## 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!!

### 2026

We pray that as we enter a new year that the work of DMI is not only fruitful, but above all, reflect the goodness and glory of God in everything we do.

### Africa Deaf Christian College

Give thanks for the wonderful opening of the College, the first meeting of the college board and for the wise and wonderful resolutions made to overcome remaining challenges. Pray for many students to enrol and for wise and faithful oversight of the college.

### Praise for new believers

Give thanks for the 14 Deaf who gave their lives to Christ at the Gatsibo Deaf church in Rwanda on Sunday. Pray that they would grow to be '4th seed' Christians.

### Struggling countries

Let's pray for our brothers and sisters in Myanmar and DR Congo where warfare continues to decimate communities, and for China where oppression against Christians continues to worsen.

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/>



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[www.deafmin.org](http://www.deafmin.org)



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

## DMI DONATIONS:

Christian Ministry + School,  
Employment and Aid Projects



For US bank details please  
contact Esther Yoo  
(email below)



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

### Please note:

We cannot receive funds from US supporters for Syria, Myanmar or China as the US government has sanctioned these countries. Please donate to other fields, or to the general fund with an email to Susi indicating which field(s) funds are intended for.  
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