DMI
Deaf Ministries International

School & Project News

USA EDITION
February 2026

MYANMAR

Our Muir School for the Deaf in Kalay is a model of excellence and resilience. Even during challenging times, our school is doing so much more than just getting by—it is truly blossoming. While the world outside faces heavy trials, our school remains a gentle "safe harbour"—a place where learning never stops and the spirits of our children shine brighter than ever.

We joined forces with local support groups for a wonderful Disability Day celebration. Our students took to the stage in full, vibrant costumes, delivering a heart-felt performance

that moved the entire community.

The school was filled with laughter and light during a wonderful Christmas celebration. Students made their own Christmas decorations and one of the school pigs was prepared for the Christmas feast. It's always a special time of the year for the students at Muir School for the Deaf.

It is true that the journey can be difficult. With local harvests being smaller and the cost of food rising, things have been tough. Our students and staff continue to persevere, carrying true courage through with quiet strength every single day.

We have some huge news on the infrastructure front. As the summer heat approaches, our brand-new classrooms were in danger of becoming too hot for the children as the roof is just corrugated iron with no insulation.

Thanks to the kindness of DA's supporters, we were able to step in and help.

<u>The Mission:</u> Installing vital insulated ceilings to beat the summer heat & keep out the monsoonal rains.
<u>The Goal:</u> $800 USD.
<u>The Result:</u> Fully funded and sent!

We officially sent the funds this month to complete this work. Very soon, our students will have the cool, peaceful space to comfortably do their studies.

PHILIPPINES

Bicol Deaf Action

Our students know that behind every great learner is an even greater teacher. To celebrate Teachers' Day, the students organised a party that left our staff feeling very loved and appreciated. Thanks to the kindness of a wonderful DA sponsor, every teacher also received a special cash treat. It was such a thoughtful way to say "thank you" for their quiet dedication before everyone headed off into a joyful Christmas break to wrap up 2025.

Refuge from the Typhoon

When a typhoon recently passed through the region, BDA opened its arms to become a peaceful sanctuary. The school was transformed into a safe haven, providing a warm and secure place for local families to stay.

The farm quarters have been beautifully renovated into a cozy duplex, creating brand-new homes for our Deaf farmworkers and their families. These accommodations offer two private, peaceful living spaces where families can feel right at home. It is all ready for moving in and is just waiting for its very first coat of paint to make it complete!

Farm quarters nearly finished

Along with the renovations of the house, the farm fence has also been given some much-needed attention. We've replaced the old, tired fencing with new concrete posts and barbed wire. This new boundary is not only reliable and practical, but it's also kind to the environment. It leaves plenty of room for the beautiful greenery nearby to climb and grow all around it. Thank you to DA supporters for supporting this farm and fence project!

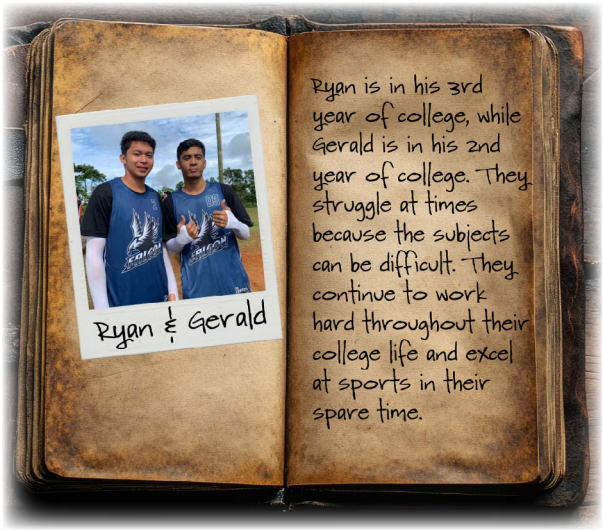
Farm quarters kitchen

Bacolod Boarding House

This month, our Deaf students participated in the beautiful celebration of National Language Month.

Our students dressed in stunning traditional costumes, and they looked wonderful. Every outfit was a quiet, powerful tribute to the Philippines rich history. It was a beautiful reminder that the Filipino identity is something to be cherished and carried forward with love for generations to come.

There was a Filipino Food Cooking Contest, which our students were encouraged to participate in. They were able to show their creativity and appreciation of Filipino culture through cooking.



DR CONGO

Our Beni Secondary School students recently took part in an intensive, one day conference dedicated to two of the most critical issues facing them today: gender equality and sexual abuse. It was a safe space for students to learn how to look out for one another, stand up against abuse, and build a community rooted in safety and respect.

We also want to share a big, warm thank you to Deaf Child Hope. Thanks to their kind and ongoing support, we can provide regular, nutritious lunches for our students.

In addition to their support, the school garden is currently thriving, growing spinach, maize and taro.

KENYA

It is such a joy to see our students in such well-equipped labs. Through hands-on learning, they are discovering how to follow along with care while letting their curious minds experiment and create.

Our extensive reading programs continue to raise the students' literacy skills through comprehension, critical thinking and a love of reading.

We believe farming is a key component of the integrated curriculum. Students actively participate in agricultural projects, where they acquire practical skills, learn responsibility, and develop an understanding of sustainability. This program continues to teach self-reliance, teamwork and the appreciation of productive labour.

IICS proudly hosted its graduation ceremony, marking a special milestone for our wonderful students. These celebrations reflect the school's success in preparing students for further education and responsible citizenship.

IICS graduation

UGANDA

A year of hard work has paid off for the students of the Ugandan National Association for the Deaf (UNAD). We've got some incredible results to share.

First, we want to offer a big, warm congratulations to Mary Kyosimire! After many years of hardship and then dedicating herself to her studies last year, she is all set to graduate this year. In the meantime, Mary has been busy perfecting her craft, creating a stunning collection of knitted pieces that truly show her eye for detail and design. We are so proud of her as she begins this exciting new chapter!

We also have some wonderful news about graduate Jordan Giita, who is officially starting his own business! With a kind gift of professional carpentry tools from Deaf Action Uganda, Jordan is launching his venture right in his hometown. He will be working alongside his hearing friends, demonstrating how skills and teamwork can bring people together regardless of differences or disabilities.

World Pioneering ADCC Opens!

DMI's Africa Deaf Christian College (ADCC) officially opened in Rwanda on January 24, marking a historic landmark in DMI's mission. It is the first accredited Christian college for Deaf students not only in Africa, but worldwide—and just the second college anywhere dedicated exclusively to Deaf and signing students. The launch represents a milestone with the potential to shape generations, influencing both Deaf and hearing communities across the continent.

The opening ceremony drew an impressive crowd, including government ministers, church leaders from various denominations, heads of theological institutions, representatives of faith-based organisations, media outlets, and DMI leadership. The entire Deaf Action Ministry Rwanda (DAMR) team was present, along with local officials, friends, and curious neighbours—some even climbing nearby trees to catch a glimpse! The morning featured prayers, speeches, ribbon-cutting, dancing, and countless photos. That evening, the event was highlighted in a four-minute segment on national television.

The College was envisioned by DMI founder Neville Muir, who long hoped to see such an institution established. Situated on nearly two hectares of land about an hour outside Kigali, the campus can accommodate up to 350 students. It includes nine classrooms, an administration building, a computer lab, a library, a prayer room, two dormitories, and two guest houses.

ADCC will begin with two faculties. The Faculty of Theology will train Deaf and signing students for Christian ministry. The Faculty of Special Needs and Inclusion will equip students to contribute meaningfully to society while also supporting the College's long-term financial sustainability through income-generating initiatives.

During opening week, DMI's East African leaders gathered for management and theological training, as well as fellowship. Because Deaf leaders often work in isolation, this time together was especially valuable.

Excitement is building as the first classes prepare to begin on March 1 and the long-term impact of the College begins to unfold. The goal is for ADCC to become fully self-sustaining within four years. Until then, annual operating costs are estimated at US$30,000. An additional US$15,000 is also being sought to purchase rice fields, which will support the College's sustainability plans. Donations are non-tax deductible and can be made on our website: https://deafmin.org/donate/

Thanks to your generous support of our 2025 Christmas Catalogue, more than $6,500 AUD has been raised.

This funding will make a meaningful impact in DMI's communities around the world. Your contributions are already being directed toward key initiatives, including strengthening small businesses, expanding access to education, and providing essential support where it is needed most.

Every gift selected through the catalogue helps build a stronger, more sustainable future for the Deaf in our fields. Because of your support, 2026 begins with renewed opportunity and hope.

Thank you for your generosity and partnership in this Christmas campaign.

Building Hope, Sustaining Futures: The DA General Fund

Last year, because of your generosity, we were able to begin or continue our life changing projects for the Deaf. From the protective walls keeping students safe at Beni School for the Deaf in DR Congo to brand new classrooms in Myanmar and comfortable homes for farm workers in the Philippines, your kindness goes a long way.

While a new building is a victory we can all see and celebrate, we often think about what happens the day after the ribbon is cut.

- Our teachers need a steady income to rely on for their wages.
- Classrooms need electricity and regular maintenance.
- Every program needs continued support to keep running effectively.

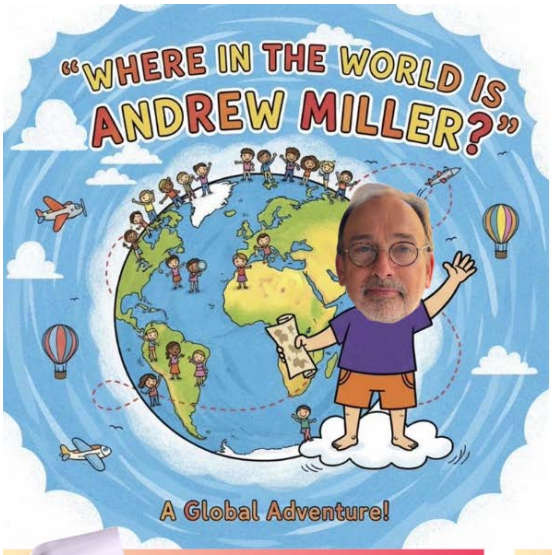
This is where our General Fund comes in. It might not have the same "sparkle" as a brand-new roof, but it truly is the heartbeat of everything we do. It is the quiet, steady force that allows us to help our students move past poverty and toward a life of dignity every single day.

For five years now, we have reached a magnificent milestone: sending 100% of our field budgets exactly where they are needed most. It isn't always easy—it can feel like a mountain we have to climb each month. But ensuring our Deaf students, teachers, and staff have everything they need to flourish is a mountain that is always worth the effort.

How You Can Help?

To keep this momentum going, we would love your general fund support. Whether it's a one-time gift or a small monthly commitment, your contribution to the General Fund ensures that every classroom remains a place of learning and every student feels seen and supported.

You can find all the details on the back of this newsletter. Every gift, no matter how small, makes a world of difference to us.



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 and Deaf Action's work.

FEB AUSTRALIA	UNITED STATES SEP
UNITED STATES MAR	OCT AUSTRALIA
APR/MAY JAPAN/PHILIPPINES UNITED STATES	JAPAN NOV
UNITED STATES /PHILIPPINES MAY/JUN JUL	DEC AUSTRALIA
JUL/AUG AUSTRALIA	andrew.miller@deafmin.org

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.

- ☐ Immanuel Integrated Christian School (KEN)
  - Senior high building AUD55,000
- ☐ Africa Deaf Christian College (RWA)
  - Rice fields AUD22,000
- ☑ Bicol Deaf Action (PHI)
  - Farmhouse utilities AUD2,000
- ☐ Motorbikes AUD10,000

Andrew Miller
International Director

Matthijs Terpstra
International Development Coordinator

Susi Tjhai
Finance Coordinator

Amy Jack
Communications Coordinator

Kay van Namen
Sponsorship & Administration Coordinator

Thank you for continuing to support our school students, teachers and self-sustainabilty projects.
Warm regards,
Kay (Sponsorship Coordinator)

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www.deafmin.org
BLOG
https://interviews.deafmin.org/
https://testimonies.deafmin.org/

DMI DONATIONS:

Christian Ministry + School, Employment and Aid Projects

Details for bank Transfer:
SWIFT CODE: BENDAU3B
BSB: 633-000
Account: 145833539

Credit Card facility available through Australian office or PayPal (secure) on website.
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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DMI & DA Founders