

Taking the Gospel to the Deaf



# Deaf Ministries International

Issue 63 | April 2026



## BURUNDI

### Big plans for Burundi Home Center!

Our team in Burundi have shown incredible resolve and initiative in using the success of their sustainability projects to expand their ministry, educational and employment capabilities.

In January 2024, DAB (Deaf Action Burundi) received an organisational loan of US\$10,000 from DMI. This capital was used to purchase two bajaj (three-wheeled vehicles) to generate sustainable revenue. The project was inspired by the successful example of two DAB members who used similar loans (for bajaj vehicles) to build their own homes.

DAB has applied this model to fund a new DAB Home Center. The Home Center will be a multi-purpose campus featuring an administration office for management of DAB's growing ministry

- a spiritual home and church for worship and community gathering
- a facility to provide job skills and bridge the communication gap with the hearing community
- a secure residence for those serving the ministry (missionary and pastoral housing)
- a home for discipleship and Bible training
- a cafe to support staff and trainers and serve as an IGA

- a media center and studio for Bible translation into the local sign language, ensuring equitable access to the Word of God for every Deaf Christian in Burundi

Between April 2024 and September 2025, DAB carefully managed its bajaj revenue, to produce a profit of almost US\$9,000! In October 2025, the first step of this grand vision was reached by purchasing a plot of land just 10 minutes from the Bujumbura International Airport. The plot currently measures 40m x 100m.

Boundary markers have been installed, and the official land certificate is currently being processed with the government. The total cost of the land and legal fees was \$9,495 USD. To finalise the purchase, DAB borrowed US\$1,400 from the DMI-financed farm project fund. This was fully reimbursed using bajaj income over a three-month period.



Land for future Home Centre

The future of this project is exciting. DAB's dream is to expand the current plot to 60m or 80m x 100m by purchasing adjacent land. Once a fence has been built to protect the property, the foundations for the office, church and missionary house will be laid as the first phase of construction. The remaining land will be used to grow mangoes, providing fresh juice for Deaf children in schools.

We're so proud of our team in Burundi. We believe this centre will become not only a highly productive facility but a beacon of hope and life for the Deaf of Burundi for decades to come.

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

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



## Sewing Workshops going global



Our five sewing workshops in Burundi have been flagship operations for the sustainability projects across all our fields. The ladies there have consistently produced not only high-quality work but brought in a steady profit.

We are now working with renowned Sydney fashion designer Fiona

Sinclair for these workshops to produce items that we can sell globally. The brand name is *Ineza* (Burundian for 'kindness') and will produce shirts, gowns, slippers, bags and other items. We are connecting now with high-end safari resorts in East Africa to obtain orders. The longer-term goal is to sell globally online. Shipping the products out of Burundi remains our greatest hurdle. Please pray for the success of this expansion.

## BURUNDI PRODUCT SAMPLES



## Thank you for the bikes!

Our pastors and evangelists in Burundi express their profound gratitude to DMI and its partners for supporting the purchase of three motorbikes for our evangelists. These vehicles are essential tools that allow our workers to reach remote areas and support Deaf Christians across the region. Two motorbikes were purchased in December. However, due to a current national shortage of licence plates in Burundi, we are still waiting for the government to issue the licence plates and registration cards! To ensure full compliance with local laws, the motorbikes are not yet being used but as soon as they are ready to ride, we have workers only too keen to put them to good use.



## EGYPT

### Teach the Teacher Program

Our Teach the Teacher program in Egypt is currently running three active classes, serving approximately 60 children, both Deaf and hearing. Class sizes range from 15 to 20 students, and classes are supported by a team of four teachers, six Deaf leaders and six hearing teachers fluent in sign language. This structure promotes inclusion, enabling hearing children and families to understand sign language and fosters communication between Deaf and hearing communities.

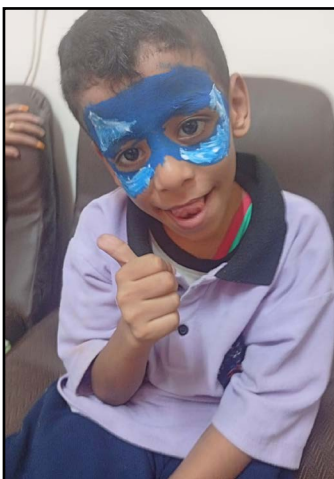
The program's impact is evident: children are now sharing Bible stories they have learned, demonstrating clear spiritual growth and understanding. Students are developing leadership



skills and deepening their knowledge of Scripture, equipping them to become future leaders who can serve both their communities and the wider church. Classes are currently held in Minya,

Upper Egypt, and Cairo, with plans to expand to additional provinces, addressing the critical need for accessible Bible education in Egypt which many children lack.

One remarkable story is that of Abram, a young boy previously abandoned and neglected by his family. Abram faced severe challenges, including abuse and neglect. Through the program, he is learning sign language, reading, writing, and Bible study for the first time. The transformation has been profound: he now recites Scripture, understands God's love, and experiences the joy of belonging. Abram's journey highlights the life-changing potential of the program and the heart of DMI's ministry, showing how education combined with spiritual care can bring healing and empowerment.



The program continues to face challenges, including travel and logistical costs for teachers and staff, yet the results are inspiring. With continued support, DMI can reach more children across Egypt, nurturing a generation that understands God's Word and is prepared to lead with faith, compassion, and knowledge.

### Sewing Project

During the last quarter, we continued to train Deaf women in sewing and handcraft skills, enabling them to start small home-based projects that provide sustainable income and dignity. Our goal is to expand this program from one local training centre to a mobile sewing training program running across all of Egypt. This will enable us to reach many Deaf women who would otherwise never be able to come and receive training at our current centre. Again, additional funding is needed to enable this expansion, but we see this as an important outreach project.

### MREDF program



In February, our MREDF micro-loan program expanded to Egypt with the distribution of \$2,500 equally to 5 Deaf people. Businesses started are mainly agricultural (cows and sheep). We are excited to see these businesses enjoy early success as the Egyptian economy is not strong and Deaf Christians have for such

a long time struggled terribly with poverty in the strict Islamic country.

## RWANDA

### First classes start at ADCC!

With a buzz of excitement and hope in their hearts, the first cohort of students started at our new Africa Deaf Christian College in the first week of April. A grand total of 20 students - 6 from Uganda, 3 from Congo, 3 from Kenya, 2 from Zambia, 5 from Rwanda and 1 from Tanzania - are studying across 3 years of the curriculum (some transferred in, mid-course, from our school in Uganda). We have 8 first-year students, 5 second-year students, and 5 third-year students. The very first class of the College was part of the first-year "Introduction to



the Bible" course. All students are also studying Rwandan Sign Language.

Please pray for the students and for ADCC, that the Holy Spirit would enable them to understand their studies deeply, prepare them for a life of ministry, and keep them healthy.



### Student testimony

I'm overwhelmed with gratitude for the warm welcome to Bible College! Your hospitality has made me feel at home. I'm truly excited to be part of this community and eager to dive into learning. To DMI, thank you for this incredible opportunity. I promise to work hard, stay committed, and make you proud. I'll strive to be a shining light for God's kingdom. God bless you all abundantly!

- Jackson Chisongela, Zambia





The cost for students to study at the college is, while very reasonable, not insignificant. We are looking for sponsors to help send the students through our college.

### Would you be willing to sponsor a student?

\$100 a month covers:  
\*Board \*Food \*Materials

Please contact our office if you're interested in supporting a bible college student.

## CHINA

### Trainings break and make

*\*All personal and place names have been changed or initialised.*

Recent trainings in China had a profound impact on our leadership there. Starved of training for many years, this workshop both broke our leaders and then brought a much-needed restoration.



Our team leader 'Alita' writes, "We are so grateful for this latest workshop. Through some special circumstances, we got in touch with some well-known gospel teachers and were absolutely overjoyed, cherishing the chance to learn from them—especially since all the teachers knew sign language. To be honest, the teachers were a little unsure at first because their materials were for new life discipleship training, more suited to new believers, and our team are all Deaf Church pastors and leaders who have been believers for over 20 years.

But over the last 10 years or so, our team has had almost no shepherding or spiritual food. This has had a devastating impact. The

very first question the teachers asked stumped them all: "Do you have daily devotions?" Only one pastor from Tengchong had kept up with daily devotions. None of the others had continued. "Then the lessons on new life broke us even more," Alita continues. "Shockingly, not even one pastor or leader could clearly explain what the gospel really is. Back when our church was thriving, we studied this repeatedly, and everyone could share the full core of the gospel fluently. But now, we couldn't even explain the most basic meaning of the gospel. Along with shock and heartache, we felt immense gratitude. We thanked God for this wonderful, unexpected provision. This seemingly sudden, last-minute teaching opened our eyes to God's love and His perfect plan."

This workshop was such

a blessing. We humbly learned and began practicing daily devotions and the new-life lessons. We also received the sign-language version of the new-life discipleship materials, as well as practical ways to share the gospel. And we all practiced how to have devotions and teach the New Life curriculum firsthand. -> This workshop was such a blessing. Our leaders humbly learned and began practicing daily devotions and the new-life lessons once again. They also received



the sign-language version of the new-life discipleship materials, as well as practical ways to share the gospel. They have been holding devotions and teaching the New Life curriculum firsthand ever since.

Alita continues, "After the teachers finished ministering to us, our core team gathered to pray together with one heart—confessing, repenting, weeping as we examined our failures. We asked God to completely break us so that He might rebuild us. We are starting over with the very foundations of our faith: basic devotions, Bible reading, and the new-life truths. We will hold onto the memories of when our church flourished, but now we are beginning again, rebuilding our faith and our church, moving toward health and God's truth.

If it hadn't been for this training, we would never have realized how serious things were. If we had kept going like this, our church would have dwindled and withered away. We thank God for His mercy in restoring and rebuilding us."

## PHILIPPINES

### Unsung heroes

Our pastors in the Philippines are our quiet achievers, faithfully and skilfully preaching the Word and pastoring the Deaf under their care. Despite having very limited means, they never complain, and go about their ministries quietly, humbly, and with perseverance. Here are a few of the many we honour...



Glenn Yray preaches to the Davao Deaf community every Sunday morning - now in the cool joy of air conditioning! The Deaf continue to enjoy fellowship in and after church every Sunday. We hope the church will grow and more people will come to hear the gospel.

Roldan Pajo pastors many Deaf people in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental. San Carlos has other places in the mountains nearby with Deaf adults, but preaching to them is difficult as they have no schooling and poor, if any, signing skills. There is a new ministry located in Buluanan, where many Deaf people who cannot afford transportation live. Roldan is looking to preach in the afternoons there after the morning service in San Carlos.





Liezl Costorio continues to preach the word of God to many Deaf people in Bago City, Negros Occidental. She has faced many challenges because few hearing churches are open to sharing their premises with a Deaf ministry. But since January, her church has moved to a new church premises which allows her to preach and teach. There are many unreached Deaf people in Bago City waiting to hear the gospel.

Alan E. Ebona preaches the word of God to his modest multitude in Silay and cares for them in his gentle way. Most are desperately poor and some struggle with health issues. Alan also lives simply yet always cares for others who have no money for food. He recently took one member to the hospital who had been having stomach pains for 3 days.



Rodel Manila, who is DeafBlind, and his wife, Dina, continue to serve the church in Zamboangita and also manage the chicken layer project nearby. They get by largely on subsistence farming, planting vegetables in their yard for food.

Unsung heroes, every one of them. Remember them and lift them in prayer.

## KENYA New opportunities



It's wonderful – but not at all surprising – how the offer of a good meal can increase attendance at church! Our churches in Kenya are rediscovering this truth when DMI provided funding for post-service lunches. Services have been going well and the following meals have only helped to increase both numbers and the joy of fellowship.

It's only taken just over a year but the bank in Kenya has finally approved the opening of our DAK (Deaf Action Kenya) account! The opening of this account allows DAK to receive MREDF micro-loan funds which were immediately sent. DAK now has US\$10,000 to distribute

to approved recipients. We look forward to seeing our Deaf pastors, evangelists and church members start their own businesses and move toward self-sufficiency.



## ZAMBIA Prison ministry

It's been 4 years since Emmanuel Banda was pardoned and released from prison in Zambia. He had been falsely accused of murder and given no legal representation or interpreter in court. Since being released, Emmanuel has been studying at our Bible school in Uganda and is now looking to learn welding at a vocational school.

But there are others. Currently 3 Deaf men - Maimbo, Sylvester and Jerry - are unjustly serving prison sentences in Zambia. Bywell, our director in Zambia, and Mambwe, our Zambian Board chair, have been reaching out to the prisoners to provide support and legal representation. For now, efforts are being made to bring the 3 men into the same prison. This will allow the men to have fellowship together and will make it easier for us to minister to them.

We are being well supported in our efforts by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security in Zambia. They are encouraging us to provide some physical comforts to the men and to visit them regularly for friendship and counselling. They're also allowing us to teach the prison guards sign language so that they can better communicate with the prisoners. And of course, we will be working with the legal system to bring pardon and release where it is due.

This is wonderful progress, yet we need additional funding for this vital ministry. The cost for the above efforts will cost is AUD850. Please prayerfully consider supporting this need.

*\*Please be sure that any giving to special needs is not funding that is directed away from our general fund.*

## MYANMAR Remembering the gospel in a forgotten country

Our leaders in Myanmar continue to do phenomenal work amidst the tragedy of a forgotten war.



Last month Pa Lian, our director in Myanmar and Naing Naing Kyaw, the pastor of our church in Yangon, went on a mission trip to Mandalay, the second largest

city in Myanmar, with a friend from Fiji. Mandalay is the Buddhist center of Myanmar and there are no Deaf Christians that we know of in the city. The team stayed for two days, fellowshiping with some Deaf who expressed great interest in Jesus and Christianity. We hope that the seeds planted on this trip will produce wonderful fruit.

Following the trip to Mandalay, our church in Yangon held a Bible seminar over three days. Around 35



people attended each day, asking lots of questions and making thoughtful comments. The seminar brought a deeper understanding of the God we worship and strengthened the participants' faith.

### Pa Lian requests prayer for the following concerns:

- For our country to return to its normal peace-time condition
- To expand DMI's field in Myanmar
- To grow the Immanuel Church of the Deaf in Yangon
- Spiritual wisdom for us pastors so that we can share powerfully. We really need your prayers and support.

## DR CONGO

### Church burns down

Our Deaf church in Bukavu burned to the ground last month following an electrical fault. While we are grateful that no one was injured in the blaze, the whole construction and all furniture and equipment were destroyed.



The church is now looking to rent elsewhere and replace the lost equipment. The estimate for this is:

- DRUM KIT X 1 \$350
- PLASTIC CHAIRS (50 X \$10) \$500
- PULPIT X 1 \$200
- FRENCH BIBLES (3 X \$10) \$30
- SWAHILI BIBLES (2 X \$15) \$30
- BLACK BOARD X 1 \$50
- CURTAIN X 1 \$25
- RENT (12 MONTHS X \$55) \$660

**TOTAL US\$1,845**

We would be grateful for your donations. Please give at <https://deafmin.org/donate/> and reference 'Bukavu Church'.

*\*Please be sure that any giving to special needs is not funding that is directed away from our general fund.*



## Notice Board

### 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:

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

**JULY 25 (SAT)**  
**SYDNEY 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)

### 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 **AUD60,000**
- Africa Deaf Christian College (RWA)
  - Rice fields **AUD22,000**
- Bicol Deaf Action (PHI)
  - Farmhouse utilities **AUD2,000**
- Motorbikes **AUD10,000**

9th INTERNATIONAL DMI CONFERENCE

**REGISTRATIONS CLOSED**

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

## With Sympathy

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Jan Tausen Zachariassen. Jan passed away on March 1. He was DMI's representative in Denmark, faithfully handling our newsletter distribution, sponsorships and PR matters. He was a lovely man, an eloquent signer, and served in the Deaf Free Church in Denmark with his nephew Benny. Benny has kindly agreed to take over Jan's work with DMI. We extend our sincerest condolences to Jan's wife and family.



## NEWS FROM SUPPORTING COUNTRIES

### JAPAN Mini Online Conference

A mini online conference was held for Japanese churches in January and hosted by the Mustard Seed Church in Kyoto, Japan. Andrew gave a presentation introducing DMI after which Antoinette from our school in the Philippines spoke on "Deafness and poverty in the Philippines", Miss A from China spoke on "Growing up as a CODA – The challenges of being both Deaf and a Christian in China", and In Yeong, our teaching pastor from South Korea, gave a presentation on "The importance of Deaf missions and the successes and challenges they bring". The meeting was well received and a good starter. We hope to have more such meetings in the future with hopefully a growing number of people joining.



Andrew Antoinette Miss A In Yeong

### NORTHERN IRELAND Congratulations Samuel and Judith

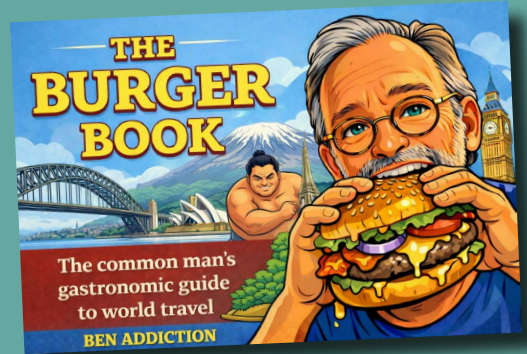
Long-time DMI Northern Ireland supporter Samuel Young and his fiancé Judith entered holy matrimony last month. Our sincere congratulations to you both!



What makes this celebration even more special is the fact that Samuel and Judith decided that rather than receive presents, they asked guests to make a donation to DMI! What a wonderful and very kind

gesture! The \$7,400 received was directed towards the accreditation costs of our new Africa Deaf Christian College in Rwanda. We are grateful to Samuel, Judith, and all their guests for their very generous giving.

## HOT OFF THE PRESS!



An unnamed senior manager in DMI's ranks, tired from constant travel and the misery of foreign food, has just published the consummate food guide to world travel. Writing under the name Ben Addiction, The Burger Book has hit the market running:

*Ben Addiction takes you on a journey – 40 burgers in 40 weeks over 5 continents – to find the best (and worst) burgers on the planet – sampling them, reviewing them, cursing them and licking his fingers. It's all here. Your flight leaves now...*

A fun book, all profits of the book sales go to DMI. So buy up in bulk as these make great gifts and it will help tremendously with DMI's struggling general fund coffers.

Purchases can be made directly from the publisher. Search

online for Lulu Publishing or go to

<https://www.lulu.com/shop>, type in 'burger book' in the search bar, then go crazy!



## Share and Prayer

Prayer is the backbone of our work. Please partner with us in this valuable share and prayer ministry. Come and learn about the work DMI is doing with the Deaf across the globe.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Third Sunday - alternate months

Next meeting June 21st

3PM - 5PM

For more information and meeting location contact:  
Rhonda Stockbridge [rhonda.stockbridge@outlook.com](mailto:rhonda.stockbridge@outlook.com)

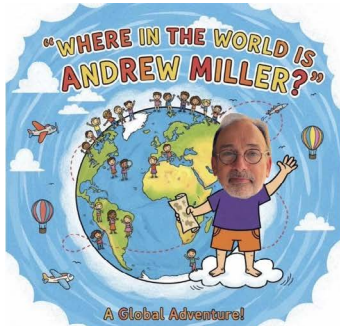
## USA

### Uni Visits in the USA

Andrew was able to give two 90-minute presentations in ASL classes at Colorado Christian University and man a table in the student centre over two days. This visit produced a summer internship at our Ligao school (and possibly a second at our school in Kenya). Special thanks to supporter Bill Nagel for arranging the visit.



He also visited Biola University in Los Angeles for their missions week. This was a successful awareness raiser with dozens of students signing up for prayer support and newsletters. Special thanks to supporter Mehdi Nasiri for donating 100 quality water bottles which drew hundreds of people to our table, and to Biola campus rep Ellie Wu who labored tirelessly on the DMI table on the second day.



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/ NEW ZEALAND	andrew.miller@deafmin.org	

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 the work of DMI and Deaf Action.

## 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!!*

### China

Give thanks for the extra support that has come in for China. Pray for more! Pray also for the safety and motivation of our church and fellowship leaders. Pray for fresh revelations of God's word to them.

### Cebu Conference

Pray for the upcoming DMI conference in Cebu. Pray for safe travel for all those attending, for a wonderful time of fellowship and encouragement between supporting countries and the field workers.

### Myanmar Seminar

Give thanks for the 3-day Bible seminar held in Yangon. Give thanks for the dozens who attended, and pray that their hearts would be receptive to the gospel and that – not just individuals – but whole families would receive salvation.

*Weekly prayer points can be found on our website or sign up to be a prayer partner and receive them directly by 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



Deaf Ministries International

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



<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](http://www.deafmin.org/donate)



[www.deafmin.org/deaf-action](http://www.deafmin.org/deaf-action)

## DA DONATIONS:

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



Please make cheques payable to:  
Deaf Action



Details for bank Transfer:  
BSB: 633-000  
Account: 145834263



Credit Card facility available through  
PayPal (secure) on our website.  
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