

Taking the Gospel to the Deaf



Deaf Ministries International

Issue 64 | June 2026



Cebu Conference overcomes challenges to bring DMI community together

"It's all part of the adventure"

Cancelled flights, bungled visas, broken down vehicles and illness could not stop DMI's 9th International Conference from being a great success! Held at the Bayfront Hotel in Cebu, the conference brought together over 100 participants from over 20 countries for teaching sessions, country reports, worship and the richest of fellowship.

Pastor Yongwhan Kim from South Korea and DMI's International Development Coordinator Matthijs Terpstra from Norway were our keynote speakers, giving inspiring talks under the theme, "Being at the center of God's will" (based on Romans 12:1-2). Pastor Minatozaki from Japan had also originally been scheduled to speak but illness kept him from coming. Many participants said that the teaching sessions were a highlight of their conference and for many coming from countries where good teaching is hard to come by, it was a spiritual lifeline.

It was especially encouraging to see some of our field workers from Myanmar – Pa lian, Ps Naing Naing Kyow and Kalay school teacher Saw Monday – and five of our brothers and sisters from China attend the conference. For political reasons, we hadn't

seen them for many years so there was great Christian affection and fellowship upon meeting them again. It was no small miracle that they were able to make it and our thanks to supporters who gave specifically to enable their participation.

Throughout the conference, DMI country directors encouraged us with reports on their developments and activities, while other members led our worship times. We heard about the needs and desires of many fields and the vision they have for reaching the Deaf for Christ across their countries. It was especially uplifting to hear about the new classes at our Africa Deaf Christian College and the future we see there. We were also pleased to have Deaf workers from potential partnering organisations in Angola, Cambodia, Vietnam, Guam, Hong Kong and Cameroon join us as well as current partners like Wycliffe and SIL.

On the last night of the conference, students and staff from our school in Ligao and boarding house in Bacolod thrilled everyone by performing beautiful traditional dances. The costumes were magnificent –

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

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DMI

magnificent – made by the students themselves – and the choreography stunning. It was such a beautiful and heart-warming conclusion to a wonderful conference.

The joy of the conference and the final night's performances was not diminished by the logistical challenges of transporting and coordinating over 100 attendees and their luggage, or by distant wars having local impact. As we got in the habit of saying, 'It's all part of the adventure'. Yet the obstacles were not insignificant. Four of our national directors in Africa had their flights cancelled and could not attend at all. Hany, our director from Egypt did not receive his visa until the first day of the conference despite applying weeks in advance. His connecting flight was then delayed a full day, so he wasn't able to arrive until the last day of the conference! Several of our African brothers had their return flights cancelled, leading to long airport waits and a frantic rebooking of flights at considerable expense. And one returned home to be hospitalised with malaria. All part of the adventure!

Many of the conference attendees chose to join after-conference tours. Swimming with turtles and whale sharks, while others explored the wonders of neighboring Bohol Island, were experiences we will always treasure.

Our sincere thanks to Albert and Kim who did a stellar job organising the conference amidst trying circumstances beyond their control. Proposals for the 2029 conference, likely to be held in Rwanda or Tanzania, are being prepared now. Stay tuned adventure fans.



CHINA

DMI China Celebrates 20 years of ministry to the Deaf

Earlier this month, one of DMI's teaching pastors visited China to equip and encourage the local pastors and evangelists, and join with them as they celebrated 20 years of ministry to the Deaf.

To commemorate this milestone, dozens gathered from June 3-5 for Bible study and fellowship, focusing on topics such as spiritual gifts, faith, baptism, prayer, the church, and the Bible.

The late Korean Missionary Choi devoted himself to sharing the gospel and reaching lost souls in 3 cities. He left his homeland and faithfully served the Deaf of China with great dedication. During this gathering, all were reminded once again of his sacrifice and commitment, and reflected on his legacy with deep gratitude and respect.

Attendees also gave thanks to God for His faithfulness in sustaining and guiding the church over the past 20 years. To celebrate such a special event, an entire restaurant was rented out! The first session consisted of a thanksgiving worship service, followed by various performances and a time of fellowship. Members then shared a meal together and enjoyed meaningful fellowship with one another.

After the celebration, five individuals were baptised in the guesthouse washroom, and the Lord's Supper was observed together. It was a meaningful and blessed time as God's abundant grace was experienced by all.



Baptism



Communion

In T Region, foot massage training continues to help Deaf individuals establish a means of livelihood and become self-supporting. As a result, several Deaf believers have opened their own massage businesses. Through their workplaces, they have also shared the gospel with Deaf employees, and some have come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Currently, three Deaf massage business owners serve as key leaders, gathering regularly with Deaf employees for worship and fellowship. This ministry has become a valuable model of combining economic self-reliance, gospel outreach, and the building of a church community.

Massage business starts

Thanks to support from DMI's MREDF micro loan fund, and other kind supporters, our team in China were able to open a new massage business. This is an organisational loan (as opposed to an individual loan) and we plan for the business to not only employ numerous Deaf workers but from its profits to fund much of the training that local leaders have been calling for.



Praying over the massage business

Home visits continue

Our leaders in China noticed a decline in the health of 'W', an elderly sister in the church, who had been eating less and become much thinner. Evangelist 'J' reports that "When we went to visit her, she was always joyful every time she saw us. During our last visit, she sincerely said, 'I thank the Lord for you coming to see me. I believe in Jesus and am grateful for His love.'" A month later she went home to be with the Lord. She was 81 years old.

Prayer request for China



- Pray that doors will open for Chinese Sign Language Bible translation ministry so that this work may continue effectively and faithfully.
- Pray that the Deaf people in T Region

will not only enjoy economic stability but also continue to grow spiritually and be disciplined in their faith.

- Pray that DMI China will establish a sustainable foundation and become self-supporting within the next three to five years.

DR CONGO

Ebola

The outbreak of Ebola in DR Congo has made life even more difficult for a war-torn country that can never seem to get a break. None of our workers, students or congregants have been affected, but Beni school Principal Alain was trapped in Goma after attending a DAC meeting there. The roads were closed mid-meeting so Alain was living with DAC Director Papy for a while! We pray for an end to the outbreak and for peace in the region.

Trainings

The following trainings were held to increase spiritual knowledge and moral and economic education amongst the Deaf of Congo:

- Another training for Deaf women in Beni in January to address gender-based sexual violence and reproduction. The training was led by the school director.



- A training for Deaf men in Beni in January on the responsibility of men in household leadership and the economy. Training was led by the school director.
- A training of evangelists and pastors from Butembo, Beni and Oicha in March on church leadership, ministry and the loan project by Papy.
- A youth training at our Goma church in March to bring awareness of drug abuse and alcoholism. More than 15 youths made a commitment to abandon alcohol consumption and drug use.
- A training for Deaf women in Oicha by the wife of Bwanandeke, encouraging the women to be strong and focus on work to earn their own living to avoid fall into sin

Glory and grief



It's always wonderful to see new lives in Christ. In March, Jacob and Katembo baptised Aristote Kasusula at our Beni church. Yet in Butembo, our church was recently turfed out by a growing hearing congregation after a long tenure. The congregation is now meeting in an open field until they can find another premises.

Projects prospering

The carpentry workshop we started last year in Goma has been doing well. The seven Deaf who work there have been achieving financial independence by producing chairs, beds, tables, shelves and upholstery work, as well as bringing profit into the business. This profit will enable other apprentices to start working in the joinery.

The water fountain that was built at the Beni school 18 months ago continues to serve the school and surrounding areas well. Although the water supply can fluctuate depending on the weather, the project still provides clean water for 12,000 people when running at full capacity.



TANZANIA

Tanzania goes from strength to strength

Quarterly reports from our team in Tanzania never fail to inspire. Earlier this year in Kagera, Justinian successfully facilitated baptism training for 12 new believers (9 female, 3 male) while in Mwanza, Ben and Robert conducted marriage and baptismal preparation for 24 attendees.



In Dar es Salaam, our evangelists launched a bi-monthly Saturday gathering. This program is designed to foster professional and spiritual development, focusing on Biblical stewardship, deepening theological understanding, and cultivating a "shepherd's heart" to effectively serve the Deaf community with diligence,

integrity, and apostolic zeal. This program brings together more than 25 Dar es Salaam evangelists from three or sometimes four congregations.

DAT maintains regular services across all 15 ICDT congregations and fellowships, including Sunday worship, fellowship, and prayer nights. To ensure sustainable growth, DAT Director Joseph Hiza has been running a church leadership outreach initiative in Morogoro and Dar es Salaam. Additionally, the Mwanza ICDT church hosted an inspiring youth camp focussing on Christian leadership and discipleship. In celebration of International Women's Day, our congregations hosted special gatherings that fostered unity, fellowship, and collective prayer. And a recruitment drive commenced for new evangelists and students for our 3-year Bible course held in Dar es Salaam, alongside preparations for candidates to study in Rwanda.



Members of our Deaf Carpentry Group received a donation of woodworking tools from DAT Chairman Nicholaus Mpingwa. These tools were made possible by a \$160 contribution from Kathi Kitao, who visited Tanzania in early October 2025.



KENYA

Developing a reading culture at IICS

Immanuel Integrated Christian School (IICS) has had a wonderful start to the year! The academic year was officially launched with an opening ceremony involving both students and staff. We are pleased to report that student attendance rates have improved compared to previous terms.

There has been a noticeable improvement in literacy and numeracy across the lower year levels. To support our diverse learners, IICS introduced differentiated

instruction strategies, alongside an increased use of teaching aids and technology. The successful implementation of structured lesson plans across all grades has led to measurable growth in student comprehension, problem-solving, and active participation. Continuous assessment results show steady progress, particularly in reading fluency and basic mathematics, as students become more confident and independent in their work.

To foster a love of books, IICS has promoted a vibrant reading culture through daily scheduled reading times, classroom reading corners, and full library access for all students. Reading competitions and storytelling sessions have been built on the foundation of the extended reading program that was introduced and nurtured by DMI supporter Kathi Kitao. These initiatives, along with our Literacy Week celebrations, have greatly contributed to improved reading fluency and comprehension.



Farming Activities have also played a key role in practical learning and teaching the students about sustainability through the cultivation of vegetables such as maize, beans, and leafy greens; student participation in planting, weeding, and harvesting activities; use of farm produce to support school feeding programs; and the integration of agriculture into the curriculum.



PHILIPPINES

Developments bearing fruit - literally!

Congratulations to our students at Bicol Deaf Action who recently graduated or moved up. Our 42nd graduation saw nine students graduate from grade 12. The school has seen a number of other developments which have significantly improved the functionality and sustainability of the school. Teacher and dorm mum Sarah Jane has had a small room built for her in the dorm to give her some privacy. Thanks to the supporter who gifted the construction of the room.



The farmhouses are finally complete! Our farm workers, Lester and Noel, and their families now have much more comfortable abodes to call home. The farm's upgraded fence, framing the entire farmland, has been completed. This will protect the property from theft and enable us to expand our crops. As a result, we have planted more coconuts and vegetables.



We've expanded our chili farm which is now bearing fruit – a good sign that our new chilly oil production project is about to start. We've just completed our first harvest of rice for the year, dressed 45 chickens and produced six piglets.

(Unfortunately, our other sow had a miscarriage and lost 10 piglets! That was a big blow.) Other fundraising activities include dishwashing liquid production, the sale of farm produce, rice milling, coconut grading, food sales at the canteen, the self-service car wash, and more.

Completed farmhouse



Arnel's house

Arnel and Antoinette, pastor and teacher (respectively) at the Bicol Deaf Action school were most unfortunately swindled out of their house (it's a long story). As such

WE NEED A HAND

IICS middle school building is falling into terrible disrepair and desperately needs renovation. Initially built as the first stage of construction for a middle school and high school (to be built above the middle school classrooms), a proper roof was never put in place. As a result rain has made holes in the ceiling and is damaging the classrooms at an alarming rate.

We need AUD60,000 to repair the damage and construct the high school classrooms above. This will not only finish the building but enable us to complete the school as a K-12 educational institution, maintaining the highest standard of education that our students are receiving right through to the end of their secondary schooling.

If you're able to help, please contact:
andrew.miller@deafmin.org



they've been living in the school church for the last 12 months – far from ideal for a family of six. We have arranged for a new house to be built for them (BDA owned) on the far end of the farm property. Construction of the basic house should be finished by July although more is needed to complete the construction as planned. Supporters who would like to contribute to this can contact Andrew at andrew.miller@deafmin.org



Bacolod - Chess Champion

Students from our Bacolod dormitory in the Philippines went to Cadiz City for a sports day for disabled athletes. While we might debate whether chess is a sport or a game, there's no denying that our very own Mona Jean Fulgar was the chess champion! She took home the trophy and honoured her school, our boarding house, and herself in the process. Congratulations Mona Jean!

Congratulations also to our students at Bacolod City National High School who passed their school grades with honours: Jenesel Hentil (Grade 7), Mona Jean Fulgar (Grade 8), and Mary Jane Montero, and Hannah Mae Lawas (Grade 9).



Weddings in Ligao



Long-term Bicol Deaf Action teacher - and former student of the school - Aser Milarpes married his sweetheart, Sheila, at the school chapel on the morning of May 12 with Pastor Arnel, local Pastor Jun and Andrew Miller officiating. It was a beautiful ceremony and the whole school came out to witness the event.



In the afternoon another Deaf couple Archie and Rachelle also married in a simple yet lovely ceremony at the school chapel. It's wonderful to be able to provide means for Deaf couples to experience the joy and dignity of Christian marriage.

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**

China has received an organizational loan from this fund (see separate article) and Kenya and Egypt have received funding for individual loans distributed through the small group program.

FIJI
Exploring Fiji

***"If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us
up from here." Exodus 33:15***

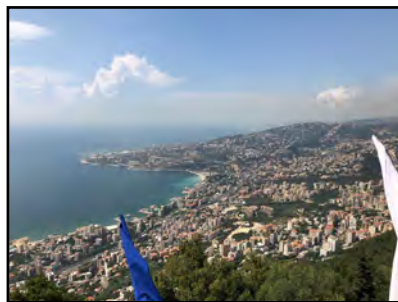


SYRIA

Sahel Visits Syria

In Homs, the Deaf have only been meeting once a month and seemingly without much purpose. Sahel encouraged them to meet weekly – there are dozens of them in two locations – and to have more focused

In Damascus, Sahel met with Pastor Edward with whom we have worked with previously. We have begun to plan a number of activities with the Deaf including camps and day activities. Sahel preached to 37 people in Damascus which brought great joy and hope. The deaf Christians of Syria send their greetings to everyone at DMI.



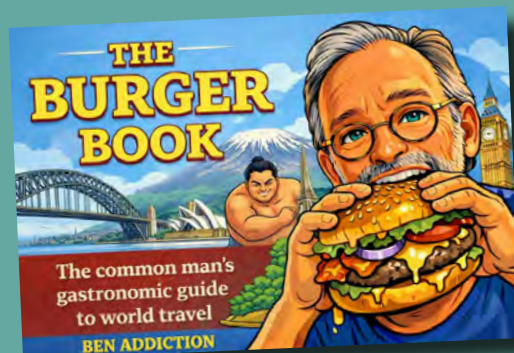
NEWS FROM SUPPORTING COUNTRIES

Visiting Yamagata Deaf Church

A group of students and teachers in a classroom, many making peace signs, with a TV screen showing a colorful landscape.

Andrew shared from the Word and gave an update on DMI's developments. It was a very rich and warm time of fellowship and sharing. We remain grateful to YDC for their faithful support.

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR COPY?

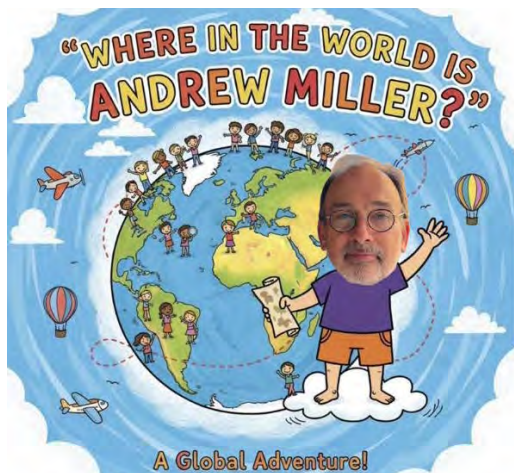


Ben Addiction takes you on a journey – 40 burgers in 40 weeks over 5 continents – to find the best (and worst) burgers on the planet – sampling them, reviewing them, cursing them and licking his fingers. It's all here. Your flight leaves now...

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!





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

PLEASE NOTE that the vast majority of my many flights, travel and accommodation costs are funded by my own family. There is little expense to DMI, and with a few more sales of the Burger Book, most of that might be recouped, too... Andrew Miller - International Director

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 our teaching pastor In Yeong's visit to China and pray that the impact of his teaching will be long and powerful. Pray for the new massage business they are opening in China - that it would be a highly successful IGA (Income Generating Activity).

Alison in Fiji

Pray for our UK representative Alison Hayes as she goes to Fiji this week to do a lot of groundwork for DMI's potential outreach in the Pacific Islands. Pray that every encounter, every day, would be profitable. Pray also for good health as Alison travels.

EOFY gifts

Pray for our End Of Financial Year gifts. Several of our fields have desperate needs and our general fund is always light.

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/>



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