

Taking the Gospel to the Deaf



Deaf Ministries International

Issue 65 | August 2026



Alison Visits Fiji

DMI UK representative Alison Hayes visited Fiji with her husband Paul in June on a trip to 'spy out the land' and discover the needs of the Deaf in the Pacific Islands. She did an outstanding job and the groundbreaking work that she has done will form the basis of our ministry to the Deaf in the Pacific Islands in the months and years ahead.

There are tens of thousands of Deaf and hard of hearing people in the Pacific Islands – 4,000 in Fiji alone – and not a single Deaf Church among them! What a travesty! We must address this. Alison reports that there is a dire need for Deaf people in the Pacific Islands to know the Christian faith but the infrastructure to hear the gospel, receive an education or prepare for employment has been poorly, if at all, developed.

Alison was thorough in her work. She visited the Bible Society of the South Pacific in Suva, the Fiji Association of the Deaf and the Gospel School for the Deaf, giving presentations, getting to know key people and mixing with the marginalised. The Bible Society has been doing excellent work translating the Bible into Fijian sign language, and there remains a great need for the Bible to be translated into sign language for the Solomon Islands, Kiribati and other countries and territories.

Our vision is to work in a complementary fashion with the Bible Society of the South Pacific and other missionary organisations. As they translate the Bible for the Deaf, we aim to train the local Deaf in Christian ministry and plant churches.

There is an ache for this. Alison visited one church in Suva which provided Deaf interpretation. She said the whole service was more than two hours long and extremely boring for all the Deaf. The interpreter missed out much of what was being preached. Alison went upstairs to visit the Sunday school children, but they were only colouring pictures. She asked them if they were receiving any gospel teaching or activities or were able to understand the signing in the service. They said no.



Fiji Bible Society

Alison reports, "One of the most touching moments from this visit came from the San Isidro School for the Deaf in the Solomon Islands. A volunteer visited the school and showed the students and teachers a sample of the newly translated Scripture video in Sign Language. The response was emotional and deeply encouraging. Students and teachers shared how clear, engaging, and easy the video was to understand. For many of them, it was the very first time they had ever seen the Word of God presented in their own sign language."

We believe these developments, coupled with the Christian teaching and fellowship of the Deaf churches we

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

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intend to plant, will see untold gospel growth in the Pacific Islands. Working with local Deaf organisations, we have identified four Deaf Fijians who are eager to receive Christian ministry training and pursue pastoral leadership.

Alison concludes that there are many Deaf people in the Pacific Islands who are interested in DMI and keen to meet more of us. Andrew is planning a follow-up visit in 2027. Their hearts are resolute in wanting to establish churches and secure employment for themselves and their families. We must rise to this challenge. (See 'New Zealand' article on P7)



PHILIPPINES

Garden Church Mission Trip



our Bicol Deaf Action school in the Philippines and it was wonderful!

This was the second mission trip the Garden Church has made to the school, and their impact again this year was tremendous. The team led the students in dance choreography, sports, art and craft, games, baking, and more. And as enjoyable as all these activities were, it's the 'more' that really delivered the value of the trip.

Team members led staff devotions each morning, preached and gave their testimonies in the chapel time, and offered more testimonies in a structured share-and-prayer session with students later in the week. These avenues of ministry proved to be deeply impactful. It was also the unstructured times that saw relationships develop in meaningful ways. Whether it was eating ice creams with the kids, playing games with them until late at night, having dance-offs or enjoying quiet signing sessions, it was, as Paul writes, "because we loved you so much, [that] we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well." Faith in action. Truth shared in love.



The team rolled up their sleeves to give the canteen a fresh coat of paint and the guard house at the farm its first coat of paint. They took all the staff to an appreciation dinner at Jollibee and for many, it

might have been their first experience of gluttony! A full day at a waterpark was also a highlight for many of the students.

The team – and the whole Garden Church – were generous with their time and resources. On top of providing the above activities and all the paint, baking and sporting good supplies, the team financed a full replacement of Antoinette's leaky classroom roof and the completion of Arnel and Antoinette's new house* on the BDA farmland.

It's worth coming back to that dance choreography. Led by team members David Araujo (choreography) and Josh Doh (filming and editing), the students learned and recorded a new gospel dance, and they were *good*! The speed, talent and enthusiasm with which the students learn these dances never ceases to amaze me. See the final product here and rejoice: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNbR39PcfHI>



Our sincere thanks to the Garden Church and the members of the mission team for their incredible contributions to the school.

Andrew Miller
International Director



**Arnel and Antoinette's house is the property of DMI and BDA.*

BDA 5-year plan of transition

The leadership team and board of DMI International have approved a five-year plan to transition the BDA school in the Philippines from a K-12 facility to an adult education facility and seminary for the Deaf.

Student numbers at the school are dropping. Owing to the increase in special education classes in public schools and a natural decline in the number of deaf people in the region, student numbers have dropped from over 100 just 10 years ago to 40+ now. Nearly all of those 40 students are in the middle and senior schools. If the current trend continues (which we expect it will) in five years' time when those students have graduated, we will no longer have a school.

While this is devastating in some respects, it gives us the opportunity for some exciting development. We plan to develop BDA in two capacities. The first is an adult education facility which will provide adult Deaf students with signing courses and vocational training in baking, hairdressing, sewing, massage, hospitality and technology. The school is already largely set up to teach these courses.

The other facility planned is a second seminary for the Deaf. Neville's vision was to see three seminaries for the Deaf established on three different continents.

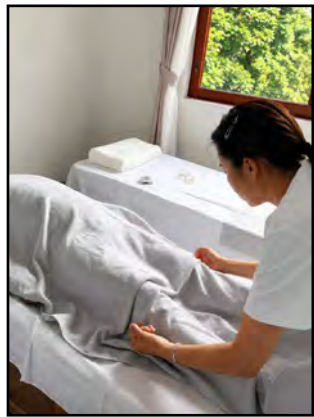
We opened our first in Rwanda in January this year – the Africa Deaf Christian College – and are pleased to see the first cohort of students doing well. We would like to see BDA host the Asian Deaf Christian College right there on its campus. With that, we hope to draw students from all over Asia to study in Christian ministry before returning to their home countries to plant new Deaf churches or strengthen existing ones.

This is another huge project which will require a lot of funding and a lot of faith! But we believe it's the right way to go. We are not alone in this. Discussing it with the current BDA staff, director Bing believes this is not only a good option for the school now but is the *only* option. We look forward to working with the current Deaf staff to train them so they are in a position to not only work in the new faculties but to lead them.

Our goal is for the new BDA adult education centre to be as self-sustainable as possible by continuing with and expanding the current income generating activities at the school. We are aiming to complete the transition and open the centre and seminary in 2031.

CHINA

Massage Business Opens



Our team in China has borrowed US\$15,000 from DMI to start a sustainable massage business which will employ Deaf workers and generate income for missional work. The business will offer standard foot therapy, essential oil massages, as well as full body massages in the comfort of newly refurbished premises. Hmm. A visit to China, anyone?

Our Chinese director Ms A has been working tirelessly to find the right premises, get it renovated, liaise with other Deaf who have been in the industry for many years, answer Susi's many financial questions, and prepare budgets and cash flows to ensure realistic projections and wise

management.

The business anticipates serving over 50 customers a day and turning a profit in its second month. Ms A writes, "The massage and wellness industry enjoys a strong daily market demand with low economic fluctuations. After the opening phase, we expect to enjoy a high monthly revenue, low fixed monthly costs, an abundant cash flow and large profits. From the second half of the first year to the third year, the business should maintain strong profitability and a sufficient ability to repay the 15,000 USD loan plus interest on time."

DMI supporters on busy tourist schedules in China will no doubt require some rest and relaxation and now know the very place to find it. Contact the office for itinerary advice.



MYANMAR

Yangon Church Abundant, Pyindaw Oo Church Abandoned

Myanmar Director Pa lian writes to us with his usual candor and optimism, bringing words of hope in a country that is deeply hurting. We include his words here almost verbatim:

We thank DMI for the support of rice and oil to the school for six months in advance which we had been most concerned about. We also have gratitude to DMI for inviting us to attend the DMI conference at Cebu, Philippines. We were very happy on this; we met our DMI friends and see many examples of the works in DMI fields around the world.



Pa Lian Thein, Naing Naing Kyow, Saw Monday In Yeong, Soe Htet Aung at the conference.

By the grace of God, everything going well with us. I went to Muir Deaf School in Kalay in the 3rd week of May. We extended a new building 20' x 15' room for hanging and drying clothes in rainy season for boys and 7' x 26' for girls. Then went to Pyindaw Oo Deaf church, because of war that village is still like a dumped village. Most of the villagers still live in their farm and the jungle.



Our church is still closed only 3 deaf left in the village and I visited to them and encouraged them. Their mind are loaded with heavy burden for their daily life but I could help them nothing. Along the way to Pyindaw Oo we crossed 5-6 some big villages but 2-3 villages were gone because most of the houses and huge churches were burnt. 2-3 army gates and 2 guerillas gates but they did not make us problem when they saw our car that we wrote Muir School for the Deaf in Burmese and English. No checking. The school has two small pigs and there are 35 children.

Yangon Deaf Church is running well. This time is rainy season and many of church members got flu and sick. Our country is still in not grow up/still sick and so our daily life is getting harder and harder.

We need much your prayers and support:

- 1. Our country can step up in prosperity and peacefully.*
- 2. The school could run peacefully*
- 3. Our Church can grow up in Spiritual and physical strength*

Thank you to Chair Christian School - Drouin East campus (Australia)

We are incredibly grateful to Chair Christian School Drouin East for supporting the construction of an undercover clothesline at our school in Myanmar through a special fundraising event.

Students came to school wearing bright-coloured shirts and gave gold coin donations to help fund the project. Many were surprised to learn that students at our Myanmar school often have only two sets of clothes. Moved by this reality, they enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to make a practical difference, and we are deeply thankful for their generosity.



Perhaps this could inspire a fundraising event at your own school, church, or community group. We'd love to help you make it happen! If you'd like ideas or resources for fundraising, please don't hesitate to contact our office at info@deafmin.org.



RWANDA

Massive Fatherheart school held at ADCC

In late June and early July, a one-week Fatherheart school was held on our Africa Deaf Christian College campus with over 60 people attending, including many students enrolled at the college. The Fatherheart schools aim to give participants not only a knowledge of the love of God but a personal experience of that love. And it's powerful. At the end of the week many shared how the teaching had deeply touched their hearts, bringing healing, freedom and a fresh revelation of the Father's love. Here are just a few of the testimonies:

"Before attending Fatherheart A School, I believed that God could not speak directly to any person through revelation, perhaps He speaks to only Church leaders. But during Father A Heart School, I came to understand that God's love is for everyone, and that the revelation can happen to each of us." (Eric)

"Here in Fatherheart A School, I experienced God's love and found comfort in Him." (Glian)

"I left school because of someone who had been against me for many years. Today, through Fatherheart A School, I have chosen to forgive this person." (Phais)

"Every day, the teachings touched my heart. The teaching on forgiveness especially transformed me. I lost my both my parents, I carried pain for many years, but through the teachings I found healing and learned to forgive." (Thole)

"Throughout my life, many people have insulted and hurt me. But during this Fatherheart A School, I chose to forgive them. Now I feel free." (Susan)

"I grew up believing I was an orphan because I lost both parents, and the other who raised me did not care for me well and did not show me love. Because of this, I carried trauma in my heart. This Fatherheart A School healed me and helped me to know that I have a loving Heavenly Father." (Name withheld)

"I grew up making mistakes, believing I was strong enough on my own, and looking down on others. Through the teaching about the Heart of Sonship transformed me, from now I will love others and live as a true son of our Heavenly Father." (Kasusula)

"I attended the Fatherheart School 2026 for the first time, and I was deeply impressed by its content. The sessions encouraged me to reflect on my understanding of God as our Heavenly Father and how my relationship with my earthly father has shaped that understanding. During the training, I reflected on my own experience of growing up without knowing my father, who passed away when I was only one month old. As a result, I was raised by my single mother, who did everything she could to surround me with love and care. Even so, I always felt the absence of a father in my life. Because of this, I struggled to understand why God is often described as a Father and wondered why God could not also be understood as a Mother, since God does not have a human gender. One of the aspects that touched me most during the Fatherheart School was learning about the concept of the Mother Heart of God. I greatly appreciated the trainers for introducing this perspective, which helped me recognize the nurturing, compassionate, and caring nature of God's love. At the same time, I also came to understand more deeply the significance of God's love as a Father, even though I never had the opportunity to know my own father. This experience helped me appreciate both mothers and fathers who reflect God's love through their lives. They become living examples of God's compassion, care, protection, and unconditional love. My prayer is that everyone may encounter this open and loving heart of God and experience the fullness of His love, regardless of their personal family background."

Therese Mukamakuza,
ADCC Principal



Fatherheart Rwanda



Whole group



Gunnar speaking



Matthijs speaking

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 and senior high school (with the high school classrooms 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

TANZANIA

Spiritual breakthroughs

One of our greatest spiritual victories in Tanzania is the story of a sister named Vaileth. In a profound move of God, she not only chose to turn away from her past life in prostitution, repenting openly before the Deaf congregation at the Buguruni Cathedral but also chose our church instead of a hearing church despite being a hearing person. As she shared the powerful testimony of everything she has been through, Vaileth expressed her decision to join our church family. She deeply believes that here, she will find true spiritual friends who will counsel her with love, help her stand strong against temptation, and support her as she strives to independently provide for herself and the children who depend on her. After being prayed for in front of the congregation, a powerful symbolic act took place: her former 'working clothes' were set on fire, and she was clothed in brand-new garments—a beautiful sign of being born again in Christ. Sister Vaileth has now been placed under the care of the Women's Section and is looking forward to her upcoming baptism. For now, let us lift her up in prayer: may she stand firm and never look back, and may the Lord open doors for a dignified job or a lawful business to sustain her family.

Economic developments

The Mbalali Rice Project in Mbeya has not produced the expected yield, yet has still managed to produce enough rice to earn a net revenue of TZS11 million (over US\$4100). This money has been channeled back into local ministries to the Deaf and continues to provide employment and training for those involved.

Majebele Marco is the leader and supervisor of our Mbalali Rice Project team. He shares his uplifting report:

"Before this project, finding employment as a Deaf person in Dar es Salaam was incredibly difficult. Being involved in the retail distribution of our rice from Mbeya has changed everything. Selling these 100kg bags has given me formal business skills, customer relations experience, and a reliable income. For the first time, I can confidently support my family."

Taifa Ramsi is a senior evangelist and Deaf Farm Group representative working at the farm: "Working on the 10-acre farm has taught us a lot about modern agriculture, from weeding to dealing with challenges like the recent livestock damage. Even when challenges happen, we learn how to manage them together and collaborate with those living near the farm. Seeing the crop we planted now ready for harvest at the end of June fills the Deaf community here with pride. We are proving that our disability is not inability, and we are vital contributors to food security."



KENYA

New Church facilities in Kenya.

It's been a long time coming. Exactly 40 years ago this year, Neville began ministry to the Deaf in Kenya and since then our brothers and sisters in Nairobi have dreamt of having their own church and facilities for the Deaf. Last month that dream started to become a reality. DMI was able to send funds to enable the purchase of a 3-acre lot in an area called Isinya, about a 90-minute drive outside Nairobi. There we plan to build a church for the Deaf as well as a vocational training centre and other facilities. There is a lot of excitement about this development, and we look forward to seeing God bless this initiative over the coming months and years.



Wedding bells in Congo!

We were pleased to support DAC (Deaf Action Congo) director Papy and a whole team of supporters including the DAC chairman, secretary, interpreters, and a full choir traveling in a convoy of three vehicles and two motorcycles to attend the wedding of DAC evangelist Elisee and his bride Nicole!

Papy officiated while other members of the team preached, shared, and danced. It was a wonderful and memorable occasion, and our Congolese brothers and sisters are grateful that they were able to participate so wholeheartedly in the wedding.

Our sincere congratulations to Elisee and Nicole.

CLASSIC CAR COLLECTION

2026

OCT.16 — 6PM - 8:30PM

ENTRY DONATION: \$125

FUNDRAISING FOR: **DEAF ACTION**

LOWER NORTH SHORE SYDNEY

COCKTAIL RECEPTION

DRESS: BUSINESS CASUAL

GUEST SPEAKER: Sidonie - DMI Burundi Vocational Training Manager

A renown Sydney businessman and philanthropist is opening his private collection of exotic, classic and super cars to be viewed by invitation only.

All proceeds from the evening will go towards building a community centre for the Deaf in Burundi.

CARS ON SHOW: Mercedes 300SEL 6.3, JAGUAR E-TYPE SERIES 3 V12 ROADSTER, Rolls Royce Silver Spirit, 2015 MERCEDES BENZ S65 AM & ONE OF THE FINEST RANGES OF MORGAN CARS IN AUSTRALIA (INCLUDES A 3 WHEELER)

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DMI DEAF ACTION

Notice Board

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**

NEWS FROM SUPPORTING COUNTRIES

NEW ZEALAND

Andrew and David in New Zealand



In direct response to the need for Christian outreach to the Deaf in the Pacific Islands, Andrew and DMI Australian Board Chairman David van Namen (Deaf) visited churches in New Zealand to seek support for this endeavour. Together they visited the Dunedin City Baptist Church, the Grace Vineyard Church in Christchurch, and Andrew also spoke at the Wellington Hills Christian College, Maranatha Christian School and to members of the Destiny Church in Wellington.

Each of these churches and schools received us warmly and responded with enthusiasm for this mission to reach the Pacific Islands. The Grace Vineyard Church

has a sizeable Deaf congregation. The Deaf there have expressed a strong interest in supporting us in our work. A number of students sponsorships were begun, and expressions of interest were received from people willing to step into volunteer/representative positions in New Zealand.

We are grateful to God for his blessing over our visit to New Zealand and appreciate the budding partnerships we are enjoying.



FUNDRAISING - AUSTRALIA

TRIVIA NIGHTS IN SYDNEY & MELBOURNE

Which fish is the most popular on sushi? In Scrabble, which two letters have the highest value of 10? How many strings does a standard violin have?

If you know the answer to these questions, you just might have won the grand prize at the fundraising trivia nights held recently in Sydney and Melbourne. If you don't know the answers to these questions, you still would have enjoyed the games, snacks and fellowship!

These trivia nights raised over AUD16,000 between them! We are so grateful to our supporters – over 100 attended each event – who came and so generously gave while contributing to a truly fun atmosphere. We would also like to express our appreciation to the many businesses (see end of newsletter) which provided silent auction items and food and drink on the evenings, and to St Marks Anglican Church, Northbridge (Sydney) and the Beaconsfield Baptist Church (Melbourne) for so graciously hosting these events. All profits will go toward the Burundi community centre for the Deaf which we hope to start building in the coming months.

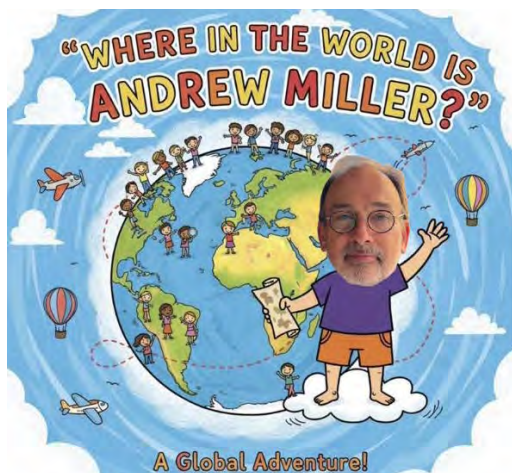
SYDNEY

WINNERS!

MELBOURNE

WINNERS!





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	JAPAN/ UNITED STATES	SEP
UNITED STATES	MAR	OCT	AUSTRALIA
APR/ MAY	JAPAN/PHILIPPINES UNITED STATES	JAPAN/ UNITED STATES	NOV
UNITED STATES /PHILIPPINES	MAY/JUN JUL	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 own strength, but with God, nothing is impossible!!

Provision

We have a serious financial challenge in the ongoing development of our Africa Deaf Christian College in Rwanda. Pray for provision on our side and that the Rwandan government would be reasonable in its requests on the other side.

Andrew and David in NZ

Give thanks for the very warm response that Andrew and David received in New Zealand and pray that the connections that were made there will grow into strong partnerships.

Fundraisers

Give thanks for the success of the trivia nights in Sydney and Melbourne. For the generosity and support of those that attended and the blessing of funds to go towards the new Community Centre for the Deaf in Burundi.

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
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<https://interviews.deafmin.org/>
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DMI DONATIONS:

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Deaf Action



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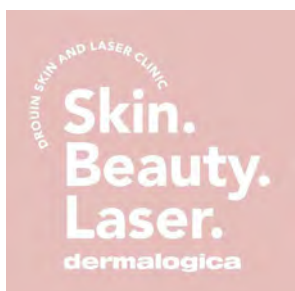


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Thank you to our sponsors!





TYRRELL'S



Special thanks to:

- Rosie Fairfull
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