

September 2019

A New School Year Has Begun

The schools in the Philippines and Myanmar started their new school year in June. 380 deaf students are studying at our DMI schools. All our schools use signing and spoken language. The deaf sign languages are different in most countries! Some countries use a 1 handed alphabet and others a 2 handed alphabet. The sign alphabet and signs in the Philippines and Myanmar and Kenya are not the same! Some deaf signs are similar but many are different. But the important thing is that young children are learning to communicate including deaf signs and many are finding a deaf friend for the first time in their lives!

Myanmar



Although Neville is in the middle of his chemo treatment he was very happy to be well enough to visit Myanmar. His visit was a great encouragement for the workers and all deaf friends and students there.

The little children at Muir School for the Deaf in Kalay like to line up and shake hands when visitors arrive, as in this photo. There are 40 deaf children this year, including 5 new Grade 1 children. Most children come from towns in the Chin area. School gives them education and deaf friends and they learn that God loves them.



Biak - past student

The school now has a lady Principal. She is wearing her

Look shirt to remind the students to watch the teacher. The government insists that our 9 high school students attend classes at the government high school, but the teachers at the government school do not sign! So our caring teachers sign the notes to our deaf students and help them understand the lessons after school.

Deaf supporters from Korea visited the school and the deaf church in the village. They fixed the roof and donated 2 new TVs, a refrigerator and tools.

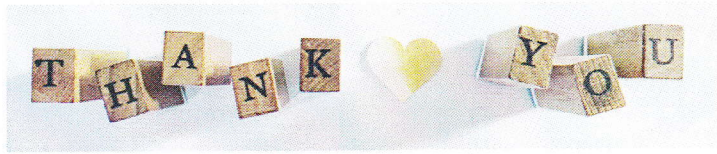
Biak, one of our past students is only the 2nd deaf student in the whole of Myanmar to finish the full 6 years of High school. He has now been employed as a teacher at our school. What a successful young man! The deaf people at the DMI church in Yangon were given training about "the rights of disabled people and the need to decrease gender based violence" by the 'Myanmar Deaf Development Community'.



Principal Zung Hlawn Tial

KENYA - Immanuel Christian School for the Deaf

Kenya Water Appeal - Sufficient funds raised!!



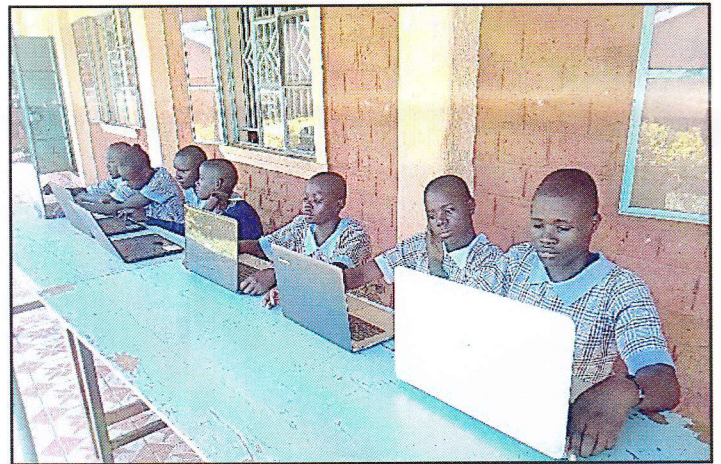
I am so pleased to thank all our supporters for donations for the "Water for Kenya" appeal in the last newsletter. We have raised enough to cover the cost for bore water to be brought 2 kilometres by pipeline

to the school. The local Education Board have helped us arrange this. The water will come from another school and through 4 private properties by pipeline. The District Water Engineer is helping to plan the route the pipeline will follow.

More tanks for storage and plumbing will be needed at our school. This water supply will make a huge difference to the comfort of students and teachers.

Learning new skills

The school has introduced new skills students need to learn before starting secondary education. The older students learn to use computers and the girls are learning sewing. Thank you to those who have donated extra for the purchase of computers and sewing machines. The graduates from this school continue to have the highest exam results of all schools (including hearing) in this part of Kenya. 8 graduate students gained very good results in the Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education and are now studying at Kuja High school. 9 other students are combining practical training and study at Sikri Vocational College.



PHILIPPINES

Bacolod Dormitory

This dormitory has 12 students now staying every week. The students live at the Bacolod Dormitory and attend primary and secondary schools in Bacolod. They achieved very good results in their end of year exams. Some of the older students have now left our Dormitory. They are teenagers now and have gained enough confidence to travel independently to a school closer to home. Other students who graduated have now started on-the-Job training with a restaurant.



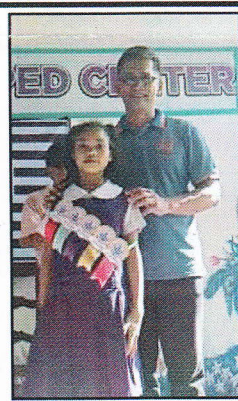
Realyn

Graduated from Grade 6 and received Honours and Academic Excellence Awards for Co-operation, Patience and Perseverance



Regine

Completed Grade 4 and received Academic Awards for Best in Art, Penmanship, and Dancer of the Year



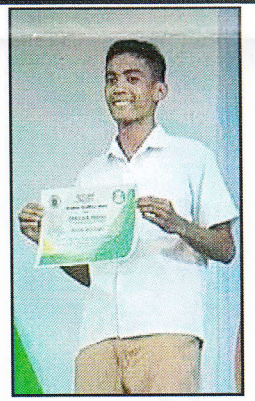
Mary Jane

Completed Grade 2 and received the Extra Miler, Happy helper, Cheerful Soul, and Eager Beaver Awards!



Rhean

Graduated from Grade 6 and received Honours and Academic Excellence Awards in Art and Reading



Gerald

Completed Grade 7 (Year 1) High School and received Honours and Academic Awards

LIGAO - Fishermen of Christ Learning Center



Nutrition Week is celebrated in schools in the Philippines each year and the students cook and learn about the importance of eating fresh and nourishing food. The school sets a good example because the farm grows many tropical fruits, and farm products are sold to the public in the school shop.

Neville Muir, our Founding Director visited Ligao in August with a group of young people from America.

The students enjoyed teaching the visitors to sign in Philippine sign language and everyone likes playing games.

The visitors toured the school rice fields and tree plantations, made friends with the pigs and inspected the poultry farm and rice mill.



Drinking fresh coconut juice was a new experience for them and tree planting is one of the tasks they enjoyed while there. They also visited the Mayon Volcano viewing site and other local sights.

There are 77 students now attending this school with classes for Kindergarten to Senior High School, and more young ones will start as they are ready throughout the year.

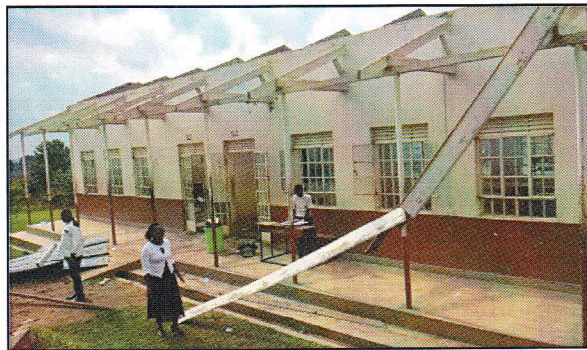


DAVAO - Deaf Ministries Institute

The students have returned to school after their holidays and are settled into their new grades. The graduates who completed a College degree have studied for more than 16 years, and those who graduated from High School have worked hard for at least 13 years. They are all to be commended for their perseverance in achieving this level of education. The 3 College Graduates are shown here.



UGANDA



There was a heavy storm through the Wakiso Secondary School area about a month ago and the roof was ripped off the 2 classrooms where the Senior 1 and Senior 2 students were sitting their exam.

The news from Uganda reads: "The roof went flying, cutting

down two trees in the compound and finally landed about 50 metres from the classroom block. All this happened without the knowledge of the deaf students but they were alerted by their hearing teachers. At first the rain was kept from wetting the students by the ceiling boards, and the teachers planned an evacuation of the students into the neighbouring blocks. No sooner had they left the rooms than the ceiling boards gave way and sank due to the weight of water!" As well as damage to the building many school books were ruined by the rain and will need to be replaced.



Simon K with Rachel (left) & her Mother (centre)

Simon K. in Uganda has commenced a training course in shoe repairing at a Vocational School that caters for deaf students. Vocational Training is very important for our older students so they have a skill to use to support themselves through life. Simon has been cared for by the family of another deaf student. The deaf who have little themselves try to help each other.

St. Marys School for the Deaf at Mityana

Mityana is about 70 km from the capital city, Kampala. Four students are sponsored there. They are orphans or from very poor homes and are very thankful to be able to attend school. The school also teaches girls sewing and boys craft work that can lead to work when older.



Their progress is monitored by our Student Sponsorship Coordinator in Uganda who visits them and encourages them to study hard. This sewing room shows older girls learning how to use sewing machines.

Unfortunately I am unable to write this newsletter in German or Danish.

We are very grateful to all our loyal sponsors. A special thank you to our supporters who give extra donations during these 'later' months of the year when our income drops, yet the costs of the schools are ongoing.



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