



Deaf Ministries Update

Bringing the Gospel to the Deaf

August 2005

*Getting ready for the
official photo*



Dear Friends and Supporters,
After three years of planning, praying and anticipation, DMI's 3rd International Conference is now history.

ing. Delegates gave reports of what the Lord is doing in their countries. Because of government and religious pressure some have to work very quietly in very trying

Prayer Points

- *Wisdom in knowing where to expand to next*
- *Building needs*
- *Bible school students for 2006*

It seems no time at all since the 2nd one in Chiangmai and now we are looking forward to the 4th to be held in Australia in 2008. Start saving and planning now. We will keep reminding you over the next three years!!

It was so exciting to see hundreds of deaf people from 20 different countries worshiping and praying together in their local sign languages. Choirs as far away as Germany and as close as Uganda inspired us with their praise. We were entertained by dramas both funny and thought provok-



*Thomm & Boyd arriving
with all the video equipment*



Fred, Lull & Susan on the banks of the Nile



Some of the Nairobi crowd



Student handicraft

and difficult circumstances while others are free to worship, evangelize and see spectacular results. Uganda is one such country where DMI fellowships number some 36, where a deaf member of parliament represents handicapped people and where the President's wife accepted an invitation to attend the conference. This did not eventuate in the end due to a period of mourning declared by the Uganda government following the death of a Sudanese leader following a visit to Uganda.

We were inundated with unregistered delegates, some of whom came prepared, others came with hardly anything and still others with less than nothing - not even enough money to get home on. But Praise God all needs were met and at the time of writing I believe that everyone has returned home safely. Some took a bit longer than expected due to the BA strike. Three days waiting in Entebbe no doubt tried their patience!

There were some things that we would have loved to have seen better handled but we kept reminding ourselves that this was Africa and their first time to organize such a conference. All in all though it went very well. The official photograph however was a disaster as were most of the photographs the official guy took.

People's heads were cut off, light was exposed onto the film and a close up of his finger appeared from time to time. Oh well, it could have been worse but I hope some of the delegates have some good shots for the records! Thank you to all who worked so hard before, during and after the conference. Thomm and Boyd, thank you for coming from Thailand to video the whole conference. They worked non stop.

Thanks to the speakers; Rod Chapman from Melbourne; Daniel from Tanzania; Colin from Geelong; Peter from Canada and David from Uganda. Thanks to the committee, the drivers, interpreters, the hotel management, and others who worked behind the scenes in many ways. Thank you to all who attended without whom we would have had no conference at all.

Where do we go from here?

Our aim was to encourage the DMI family world wide, seek opportunities to expand into new areas, and get to know each other better. All of these aims were met. I don't know anyone who came away discouraged. We now are looking into expansion into the Sudan, the Congo and Egypt. The Rwanda connection has been revived, and new possibilities for cooperation in the Middle East are open to us. My mind goes dizzy considering the opportunities before us and the doors that are open. Pray for wisdom to know what to do next.

Building Opportunities

DMI's Secondary School in Kampala hopes to move into new accommodation in the new year. The government has commenced building a new facility some 30kms from Kampala. This will be a great improvement over the wooden shack buildings currently being used on our land in Kampala. We need still though to support the students, many of whom are from war camps in the north and are in great need. Only 5 out of 12 teachers are receiving any salary at all. DMI is currently giving a small allowance until government funds kick in, if they ever do!

The church in Lira, northern Uganda hopes to build its own



The desired plot of land in Ikinu



Ikinu's tin shed church with visitors



Eager students

building and pastor's residence on land that has been donated. This is a \$60,000 plus project.

Immanuel Church for the Deaf Kampala hopes to commence on the new building and Bible school facilities within the next year. Once the Secondary School has moved off our land we will be free to start constructing. Well, we won't really be free to do so as we do not have a penny, but we hope to start the process in the new year. The church is far too big now to fit into the borrowed facilities and has actually had to split into 10 fellowships in the Kampala area to cope with the numbers.

The Nairobi church is splitting at the seams too. The room in down-town Nairobi seats 60 at a squash but Sundays are seeing some 150 jamming into the room, standing along the corridor and looking in through the windows. We have been able to rent an adjoining room so after the wall is torn down a lot more will be able to fit in.

Kenya Christian School for the Deaf in Oyugis, Kenya hopes to start building on land recently secured. Gloria is now bashing on the door of every Embassy in Nairobi looking for help. The Japanese Embassy has kind of promised a building, the Australian Embassy water tanks and furniture, but we are yet to see the cash!

Ntenda Immanuel Church for the Deaf, another Kampala church, has been promised a half completed building at St Lukes Anglican Church on the other side of Kampala from our main church. This is actually an old water storage facility but can be modified into a nice church building. About \$3,000 is necessary to complete the modifications.

Ikinu Immanuel Church for the Deaf near Nairobi is also hoping to

build. The church has land out of town and some money was raised in Norway to help with the building.



Enjoying the signing - Ntenda, Uganda



Secondary school - only one in Uganda

The land has proven to be unsuitable due to the distance from town and the cost of building a wall to contain it, so we looked at another plot right in town which is much better. We need \$7,000 for this block. We then plan to sell the other plot and use the money, with that donated from Norway, to build the church.

We have so much to do, with too few resources but with a God who is able. I guess that there is really nothing to be concerned about. I hope you are all as excited as I am over what God is going to do in the days to come.

God bless
Neville, Lill and family



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