Deaf Ministries Update

Bringing the Gospel to the Deaf

July 2006

Dear Friends and Supporters,
Thank you all again for your support and care.

This is my first letter after a few months without putting pen to paper - I have been on the road as you know.

Oh Young Ja with family

Prayer Points

- *Give thanks for the 40 who came to the Lord at Deaf Conference, Egypt; for wonderful response while traveling in US; the growth of DCCC, Melbourne*
- *Pray for new Egyptian believers*
- *Pray for increase in giving to meet ever-increasing needs*

Lill kindly wrote our last newsletter for me as I was in northern Uganda or somewhere, and was unable to get anything written. I am now safely back shivering in Melbourne.

US Trip

A special thank you to all in the US who helped make my stay there so wonderful. I flitted back and forth across the country using mileage points for the most part and was able to share in churches, homes, dinners, committee meetings, small groups, men's lunches and breakfasts and service clubs. I was getting a bit sick of hearing my own voice by the time I finished. I also managed to get to Canada twice as well. Thank you to Peter and Liz, Martha and Dan and Bob and Lou for hosting dinners and for so many others who gave me hospitality and showed many other kindnesses.

Every one was special, but an extra special treat was to be able to visit Oh Young Ja and family in Terrace, British Colombia. For those of you who have been involved in this ministry for a long time, you might remember Oh Chip Sa, as we called her then, and her two children Yoon Song and Tae Hyong. They lived with us for years in Korea. Some of you who visited us in those days would have shared in one of her delicious dinners and I was treated to the same again this trip. She now has three grandchildren also living in Terrace.

Bible School students with American visitors

In North Carolina I was able visit with Lardner and Mollie Moore, of Japan days, as well as catch up with Beth and Georgia who served on our DMI board, so faithfully for many years, in Japan. Thank you to all of you and many others not named here.

Kenya and Uganda

The next month of my travels was spent in Africa. A group of four from Huntington Beach Christian Church in California, Dan and Martha and Scott and Kelsie travelled with me to Western Kenya and on to Uganda, including the north of the country as far as Gulu. They were a great blessing to us all and I hope that we were to them too. It was also a lot of fun. Thanks to their generosity many of our deaf folk were blessed.

Kids from KCSD in Oyugis, with Gloria on the left

The kids at the school in Oyugis were all given brightly coloured school bags and supplies and our ministry in general has been very much blessed by the Huntington Beach Church.

Some of the Egyptian attendees

Egypt

After spending time in Kenya and Uganda the plan was to fly on to Egypt, with Josephat of our Nairobi Church, for the first DMI conference for the deaf to be held in that country.

Rod Chapman, from DCCC in Melbourne, was to be the main speaker and we were to be joined by Mac & Lorraine Adam, also from

DCCC, plus three others from Jordan. Unfortunately I thought that our flight left at 5:00pm when in fact it left at 5:00am - so we missed it. I had to buy a ticket on another airline only to miss that flight too, because of a communication mix up. Yes, I know people in Kenya speak English but sometimes it is not quite the same as our Aussie stuff! We did manage to finally get to the conference for the last day!

I was getting a bit frantic as I was supposed to be interpreting for Rod. During all the frustrations of trying to get a ticket, I received an SMS message from Egypt to say that 40 of the 70 attendees at the conference had received the Lord. I wondered how that could happen as Rod does not sign in Arabic. Praise God that Glau Vermue from Brazil (via Jordan) was there and she knows ASL as does Rod. So the message got across with the final interpreting being done by Sobhy, DMI's director for Egypt. Life does get a bit complicated at times. My flight mess-ups did work out for the best as I was able to deal with a rather pressing issue in Kenya, so the Lord did work it all out for the best.

Mac & Lorraine Adam, Rod in the background

I thought Rod was supposed to be preaching, not playing UNO

Some of the Egyptian campers

Other Matters

Myanmar - Esther in Myanmar is making a miraculous recovery that is even amazing the doctors. By the time this letter reaches you she will be back teaching again. Thank you for your prayers and some extra gifts that helped with the hospital bills.

US Scene - Dewayne and Jackie Liebrandt are available for meetings in the US. If you would like them to share the vision of DMI and their part in it, especially the Thailand and Colombia aspects of our work, give them a call on 317 326 5419 or email them at dl76jl@insightbb.com

Australian Scene

Deaf Community Christian Church (DCCC) meeting at Monash City Church of Christ in Glen Waverley is

going along well. If you are in the Melbourne area, come visit us or if you live here and want to attend at any time, you are more than welcome. We meet at 10:00am in the Coffee shop at the church. Many of our Members are finding they have gifts and talents they didn't know about as they get called on to help in the church in various ways. Kids of deaf parents are able to join with the hearing Sunday School and the fellowship time is spent with the hearing congregation. Come and worship with us. **Liz Philips** is one of our members - here is her testimony.

Tax Deductibility

Changes are afoot in our ability to issue tax deductible receipts. We will be explaining more about this in the days to come. Some of our projects are tax deductible and others not, so it is a bit confusing. Bear with us as we work through these issues. Currently receipts issued by OMB are not tax deductible as they were in the past but some of this will be rectified soon. We will keep you posted.

God Bless,
Neville and Lill

Please Note that all donations & correspondence should now be sent directly to Deaf Ministries International, PO Box 395, Beaconsfield, Victoria, 3807.

I was born deaf because my mother had rubella when she was pregnant with me. I went to a Catholic girls' boarding school in Waratah, NSW from 3 - 13yrs then went to hearing school for 2 years. I married a hearing South African man and have two beautiful grown up kids who are studying at university.

I expected 2000 to be a great year - the Olympic Games, my school reunion and my parents' 50th wedding anniversary in Wollongong. While I was there I became very sick and went to see physiotherapist, doctors, and had a brain scan at the hospital. No-one picked up what was wrong with me. Mum got very angry and upset; we didn't know what to do. I was supposed to go back to Melbourne but I felt too weak.

A few days later I collapsed. Mum called for an ambulance to take me to hospital where the doctor said "*why are you coming back here?*" and ordered another test. Still can't find what's wrong so next had to see the specialist. He found out that I had Guillian Barre Syndrome (GBS) virus, which paralyses nerves and muscles. In my case that meant my whole body; kidney, bowel, liver & lungs; only my brain and heart were working. The Specialist said that was very rare 1 in 100,000 people. If the doctors had realised it was GB virus, they could have stopped it getting worse, but it was too late. He thought there was an 80% chance that GBS resulted from a flu injection. I am allergic to these.

I was In Wollongong hospital for two weeks, but had to be transferred to Peter James Rehab Centre, Burwood by air ambulance. 3 days later doctor discovered that my lung had collapsed and because I couldn't breath, rushed me to Austin hospital's intensive care to undergo a tracheotomy. Doctor advised family of only 1% chance to survive! 3 days in coma followed by another 2 weeks intensive care. After 3 months at Austin hospital I was then transferred back to Rehab Centre where they gave me no hope to walk again, which of course was very upsetting, but they did not know about my determination. . .

I proved them wrong by working very, very hard exercising; speech therapy, physiotherapy, swimming, even practising writing on the computer - I kept thinking positive and wanted to improve myself for my children's sake. After 6 weeks there was a great improvement and 4 months later I started to walk!! Doctors thought I was a miracle - body had to start from scratch to build up strength in muscles and nerves - she could not explain how I got better. I told her how I prayed, but she didn't say anything.

I am glad that I remained determined while I was sick and through praying I could keep fighting this virus. God knew how much I prayed, He knew I could not read the Bible, but He still answered my prayer by keeping me strong and then by healing me. Mum always thought I would end up in nursing home for the rest of my life, she could not believe what I managed to do.

There is power in prayer and now my kids can see the result, they also have a strong faith.

Liz Phillips

DEAF MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL
www.deafmin.org

Furlough address, support, inquiries and address changes:
Deaf Ministries International
P O Box 395
Beaconsfield Vic. 3807
Ph: 03 9768 9844
Fax: 03 9768 9855
e-mail: info@deafmin.org

Tax-deductible donations:
Please make cheques payable to: DMI

Details for electronic payments:
Bendigo Bank - Berwick Branch
BSB #: 633-000
Account #: 112653498