

Deaf Ministries International

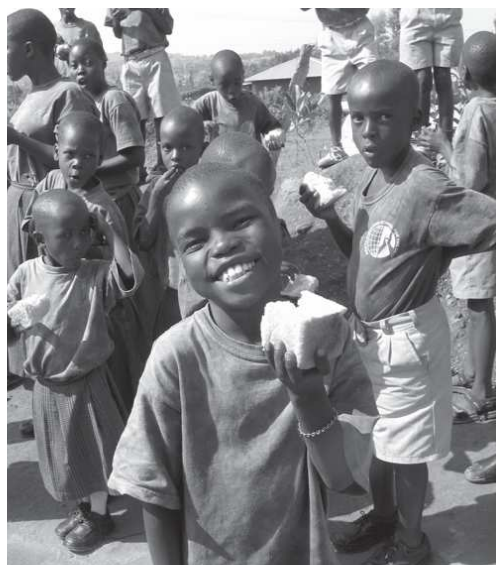
www.deafmin.org

September 2007



Prayer Points

- Give thanks for the safe arrival of Elissa Rose Muir
- Pray for the deaf children & their future schooling in Kenya
- Pray for the DMI conference in Egypt - October 2008
- Pray for David van Namen as he adjusts to his environment in Egypt
- Pray for Neville & Lill's travels as scheduled
- Pray for the MySign project in Thailand
- Pray for Dewayne's ministry opportunities in Colombia, Sth America



The Word of God, and bread. Life is good!

Dear Friends and Supporters,

One day I will add up how many beds I sleep in each year, how many hours spent in planes, airports, queues at immigration & customs counters; how many strange and exotic meals devoured from octopus still wriggling on a chop stick to sheep's testicles (I must admit I passed that one over!) and how many "please explains" when officials look at my passport with Burmese, Syrian, Egyptian, Thai and a variety of other suspicious looking destinations on the drug and terrorist route, that appear in my passport. Soon I'm going to add Colombia to that too, then my identity will be complete.

5 hours old!

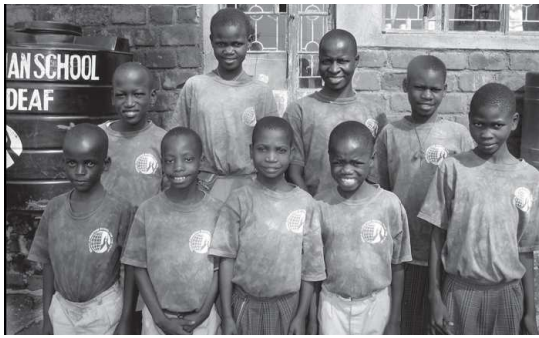
I am home at the moment, if only for a couple of weeks. It is just as well that I am, for had I not been here, I would have been 'skinned alive' by family for missing the birth of grand-daughter number two. I had promised to be here but I must admit I was getting a bit nervous trying to arrange a ticket from Kenya to be back on time. Some issues kept me longer than expected. I did make it however and am now enjoying Elissa Rose, daughter of Erik (2nd son) and Bec, born in Melbourne on 7th of August. Because she is number two



grand-daughter I can't say she is the most beautiful grand daughter in the world without offending the first one, but she is the most beautiful one that Erik and Bec have!

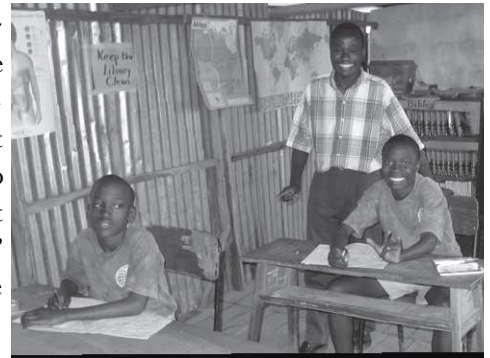
KENYA

My trip to Africa this time was not on the to do list until later this year, but a few pressing issues resulted in a speedy trip to Kenya, South Africa and Egypt. Some changes are in the air for our school in Kenya. Gloria from the Philippines will be finishing up at the end of the year and we will probably be closing the school then joining with another organization to commence a new school on a site some 20 kilometers from the current place. We will be informing you more about this as time goes on. God willing, this will result in a much better facility with more resources and the hope that it will become a model school for Kenya. Meanwhile the needs are ever with us and the ministry to these precious kids will continue. Because of a sensitive situation it was thought best to move off the current rented facilities and build a temporary structure that will last until we are able to move to the new place in a year or so.



Deaf AIDS orphans at our school

The move commenced after I left the country so I have not seen the temporary facilities but I imagine that they are ghastly. I have to keep reminding myself that this is only for a year or “so” and can only hope that the “so” will not be too long.



Deaf students preparing for final exam

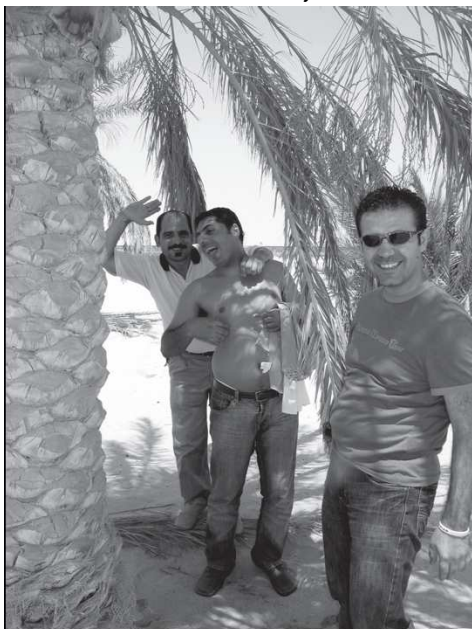
The temporary facility is up on a hill with a glorious view but is a real pain in the neck to get to. The road in is a dirt track, there is no running water, no power and (no nothing actually) except a lovely view! Please pray for the school during this difficult time that it will be shortened and the permanent facility financed and built as soon as possible. Meals at the school are usually pretty boring. Ugali, made from maize, is the staple but with the bakery on site, an occasional treat of home made bread breaks the monotony. I was able to purchase a lot of sweet potatoes cheaply so by the time these are all eaten up the kids will probably be glad to get back to Ugali!



Sweet potatoes - tonight, tomorrow night, the next night

EGYPT

Remember our conference coming up in Alexandria Egypt next year from 1st to 5th October! I keep reminding people to get their names in if they are thinking of coming as the main facility is almost full already. We sent out brochures some time ago and may do so again, as many think that next year is a long way off, but in fact is just around the corner and will be upon us before we know it. Welcome to Alexandria but please let us know even if you are only thinking of coming. Check the web page: www.deafmin.org for the application form and mail it or e-mail it to us to reserve your bed!

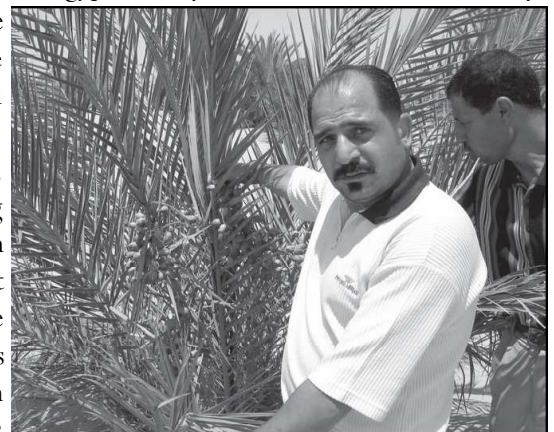


Sobhy, Fadi & Nedal take to the shade

Last year we looked at land out of Cairo and got excited about a plot and was about to buy it when Sobhy our director noticed a crunching sound as he walked. On first inspection we did not notice it but, on checking further, found the land to be full of salt! So much for that plot. Recently a much better one became available, 4 acres of lovely golden sand!! Actually it supports 350 date palms that are already bearing fruit so a source of immediate income. It is planned to build a work center for the deaf as well as use it for whatever agricultural purposes it will support. Mind you it felt like it was about 150 degrees in the shade out there, but the Egyptians didn't seem to mind. Nedal and Fadi were with us this time and they are from Syria. Syria is not as hot as Egypt so they found it a bit much too. My first reaction was that before anything else is put on the land, a swimming pool comes first!

Pray for David Van Namen, the Australian deaf young man serving for a year in Egypt. He is doing a great

job with sports evangelism, helping in the workshop, the DMI office and the church meeting in Cairo. Things get a bit rough at times dealing with another culture and some personality clashes occur from time to time. Pray that he will have grace and patience as he deals with these issues.



Dates palms will provide a source of income

12 LITTLE PIGS

At a recent school assembly of the Rosanna Golf Links Primary school here in Melbourne, a cheque was presented to Jenny Reid and myself for DMI's school in Ligao, Philippines. Under the guidance of Jan Wigley, director of the Deaf Unit at the school, the kids creatively made and painted 12 papier-mache pigs, which were used to collect the money. Our sponsor a pig project, and subsequent typhoon damage, inspired the theme. Each week silver coins were collected in the piggy banks and by the end of the project a staggering \$1,400.00 was collected in 5c, 10c, 20c and 50c coins. There was quite a logistics problem getting the money to the bank as it was so heavy. Thank you to Jan, staff at the school, parents and children who put in so much effort resulting in such a successful outcome.



Turquoise, blue, orange, cerise, green, purple & red pigs stand to attention



Jenny, Neville, student representatives with Jan Wigley

US TRAVELS ETC.

God willing, Lill and I will be in the US from August 30th until October 7th or so. We will be in Oregon, Colorado Springs; Bolivar, Missouri and Conway, Arkansas. Lill returns home while I go to Hilton Head, South Carolina and Colombia, South America. On my return I'll possibly go to the North East (US), then Toronto, LA and Korea, then home again. It is not set in concrete yet but that is the proposed routing.



God bless,
Neville and Lill

THAILAND

The My Sign dormitory is now complete. There are 14 deaf children anxiously awaiting for this project to be completed so they can move in. Once that is done, they will be able to not only continue their education, but will also be getting daily Christian teaching.



Ready & waiting for the children



Can you spot Dewayne on the screen?

Tomm told me that with increasing costs in Thailand, it will cost DMI \$130 per child per month to continue this ministry. DMI's Child Sponsorship program is for \$35 per month, we are needing extra sponsors for these children. Please pray that we can find the funds to continue this essential ministry outreach!

I talked with the Chiang Mai Deaf Church recently on SKYPE. Skype is an internet video chat service that is free. I was able to meet some of the new members of the church, and share some encouraging words with everyone. All this from 10,000 miles away. We are discussing the possibility of me preaching to the Deaf Church one Sunday via Skype. It will be challenging,

and we will keep you posted on how it goes. Please pray for this church as they are growing and stretching themselves for Christ in Thailand!



Practice, practice, practice! That is what the DMI Handicapped Olympic team is doing. There are over 30 members on this team, and they are all practicing their sport to give a good showing for DMI. This is the first time that DMI has ever had a sponsored team at an Olympic event. So we pray that all of you will lend your prayerful support and financial help. Mike Caton of Rosemary Church of Christ in Washington, NC will be accompanying me in October to root for our deaf Olympians. The team is still short on cash for the trip though. Tomm has already paid \$1,600 out of his own pocket to keep things going. I pray donations will come in quickly so that we can reimburse him soon.

COLOMBIA

Wow, what a trip to Colombia in July! Every time I go down and work with Dale Meade, I am amazed at how smoothly we work together. So much was accomplished. Especially when you consider the fact that 60% of what I was going down to do, was cancelled just before I left the US. Dale and I talked via SKYPE just before I left the US and we decided to continue with the trip and see what the Lord would do with this time. Boy, were we both amazed. Sign Language classes at the Normandia church in Bogota are finishing their second level. I will be attending the graduation service in September. We will begin teaching a new sign language class in Villavencio in September. This will provide another church for the deaf to attend in another part of Colombia. Sign language classes are just one step in reaching the deaf with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Where will we go from here? Our prayer is that a Deaf Church will come from both of these outreaches. We are also praying to open a deaf dorm and potential deaf school in Villavencio. Property next to the Colombia Christian Mission school is available to purchase for this. Now all we need to do is raise the \$40,000 to buy it. Any donaters out there?

A big thrill for me was when the Filidelphia School for the Deaf took delivery of the new school supplies that were purchased with VBS funds from Rosemary Church of Christ in NC. A simple VBS donation may not seem like it can do a lot, but when you look at the faces of these students in the pictures, you will understand why we enjoy doing VBS's. Everything you do makes a difference for God's kingdom.

The school was also the beneficiary of a flannel graph set donated by Debbie Klahn and Vicky Drumond of In His Sign. This flannel graph will help the teachers bring the stories of the bible to life.



Thanks In His Sign!
Dewayne & Jackie Liebrandt



Desired property is behind this wall

Furlough address, support, inquiries and address changes:

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