

about possibly donating land to us if we would open a Deaf Dorm in Villavicencio. If the local Government makes this donation, all we need to do is build, staff, and run the Dorm. Great opportunity, now Dale and I are just waiting for all those funds and people to be brought in by the Lord.

Dale and I took a trip to the outlying villages around Villavicencio. These villages are where Dale started his ministry years ago. That was back when it was safe to travel in these areas. This was Dale's first trip to these villages in about 15 years. We were very cautious everywhere we went and were constantly on the lookout for potential dangers.



In one village called Dena Marka, I met with two deaf children and their parents. One boy had never been to school and was 15, the girl was about 7 and was just beginning to receive some sign language training. Deaf children in these areas have almost **NO** hope or opportunity for an education. Thus the need for a Christian Dorm. When we returned to Villavicencio, we passed on this information to people in the hopes that help would reach these families. That is about all we could do at the time. So please pray that God will lead us in what to do in Villavicencio about the Christian Deaf Dorm, and mainstreaming deaf students at Colegio Piniel.



## DMI CONFERENCE IN EGYPT

The DMI International Conference date is drawing nearer day by day. (October 1-5, 2008) If you would like to join us please let us know as soon as possible. There is still room but you might have problems with air tickets if you wait much longer. Let Rod Chapman know by emailing him at [rod.chapman@deafmin.org](mailto:rod.chapman@deafmin.org) or contact us at the DMI office through the web page [www.deafmin.org](http://www.deafmin.org) where you can also apply on line.

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# Deaf Ministries International

[www.deafmin.org](http://www.deafmin.org)

January 2008

## Prayer Points

*Give thanks for the re-building progress being made in Uganda!*

*Pray for the vehicle funds needed in Uganda, and dormitory funds in Thailand!*

*Give thanks for the graduates from My Sign and God's covering as they enter deaf primary school!*

*Pray that the Sticky Rice business will be blessed by God to provide good employment!*

*Pray for the new church started in Bogotá, Colombia!*

*Pray for the DMI Conference in Egypt from October 1-5, 2008!*



Dear Friends and Supporters,



I have just returned from a busy but blessed time in Burma and Thailand and can now actually stay put in Australia for some months. This is very rare so I am hoping to make the best of it with as many speaking engagements as possible to present the needs and the blessings of DMI. Because of strange tax arrangements in Australia, we have been forced to start a sister organization called Deaf Action. Only certain parts of the work are eligible for tax receipts, in Australia and this does not effect any other country, so hence the need for this organization. It has been an awful lot of extra work especially for Brenda, the Australian DMI Secretary, who works in our international office that is now up and running.

## UGANDA REPAIRS UNDERWAY



Thanks to money left by a visiting team from Australia and now some more sent from Norway, repairs on the house, office, library, dining room-come-general pur-

pose building is well underway. This is our building in Kampala, Uganda which is used for all the above activities. It is hoped to have the roof fixed before the rains start. As you know from my last letter, the ceiling fell in due to water seeping in but that was not all. Every time a light was turned on sparks shot out as the wiring system was well passed its use-by date. Thank you on behalf of our Uganda team for this timely help.

# MYANMAR AND THAILAND

I always enjoy my trips to Myanmar and Thailand and this time was no exception. The church in Yangon celebrated its 9th anniversary while I was there and the trip up to the school in Kalay was the usual highlight. This time the plane flew both ways, so no need for 16-hour bus or river trips. However, one tends to pray more fervently when flying in Burma as the age and condition of the planes leaves much room for improvement! The change in the kids since they first arrived at the school is amazing. Our staff are wonderful and looking forward to the new school year starting in June when we hope to have 20 kids enrolled. All of this means new buildings to accommodate the growth but, I guess these are kind of good problems. A special donation this time also meant that we could add one more room, a new septic tank and deepen the well.



We were also able to travel to Mytkyina in the north east up near the border of China, where we found dozens of deaf kids with no education, nor prospects of such. Once again, pleas for help and so much to do. From Africa to Asia the needs are so great and our resources so limited. Mytkyina (pronounced Michina) is about 2 1/2 hours plane flight from Yangon. Two airlines fly the route, the ghastly Myanmar Airways and another nicer airline Air Bagan. We tried to change our flight to return by Air Bagan but were told it had been cancelled. Later we found out why - it had crashed on the way to Mytkyina. When I got back to the hotel in Yangon the lady at reception was so relieved to see us. "Jesus really loves you" was her comment!

# STICKY RICE AND FRIED PORK

The whole of DMI is suffering at the moment due to decline in the US dollar and rising costs. Thailand alone has lost \$625 a month just in the exchange rate transactions. This is putting serious strain on our budget. Tomm, our director in Thailand came up with a good idea. Well we think it is. We are going to set up a series of carts around Chiangmai selling sticky rice and pork which the Thais like for breakfast. Tomm is a great cook and has some secret recipes for sauces. We hope to set up a franchise with deaf people owning their own carts and selling the food prepared by DMI! Who knows with Tomm's secret sauce recipe we might end up like KFC!

Each cart costs about \$500 to set up. The deaf will have to pay back this money to DMI and then they will own the cart themselves. Already someone has offered the first \$500 loan for the pilot program. We will keep you informed.



# MY SIGN GRADUATION

Our first two kids graduated from MY Sign nursery school and will head off next school year to the local deaf school. It was really cute as they received their "Diploma" and a teddy bear. I don't think they really had a clue what was going on but it was fun. God willing, we hope to accept 10 new little ones at the end of May. This requires two new dormitories to be built in local bamboo house Thai style at a cost of some \$5000.



# VEHICLES

Thanks to our Korean folk, the work in Bacolod has been blessed by a vehicle for church and DMI work. Our Davao folk have also been blessed by another vehicle thanks to money left to us in a will, by a lady in Norway. Now it is the Japanese who are trying to raise money for a vehicle for Uganda. Some money has been added to their efforts from a church here in Melbourne. If you would like to help with the Uganda Vehicle project please let me know.



# DEAF CHURCH BEGINS IN COLOMBIA



March 9, 2008 was the beginning of the DMI Deaf Church in Bogotá, Colombia. Hallelujah! On March 7, Jackie sent an email to many of you asking that you pray for this historic event. We appreciate all of those prayers as they did produce fruit. That Sunday was a success! You are never sure how an attempt at a new ministry will turn out, but you trust in the Lord and lean not on your own understanding. God was gracious! One deaf couple did come, and from our research this was the first all Deaf Worship Services lead by a deaf minister ever in Colombia. There is still a lot of work to do. William Mora is focusing mainly on reaching the unevangelized in Bogotá. The goal is to reach out to the thousands of unreached souls for Christ, and we know it will take time and a lot of effort. To attain that goal, we will be seeking dedicated Christian people who are willing to sacrifice to support this evangelistic effort. We believe the timing is right for William to enter the ministry full time.



His current employment situation is bleak, and his family income is suffering because of it. Another \$700 per month will be needed to employ William as a full time deaf minister. Two churches together have committed \$250 per month. Please pray that these financial needs will be met here soon! William Mora, his family, and the deaf in Colombia thank you for your efforts!



William, Dale, and I made a trip to the Fileldelfia School for the Deaf in Bogotá and talked with the students. I shared with them information about the DMI deaf ministries around the world. William also invited them to our new Deaf Church. William travels to the Deaf School periodically to counsel with the students. He is well known in the deaf community and is highly respected.

Dale and I also made the bone crushing drive down to Villavicencio. We visited the Colombia Christian Mission's School called Colegio Piniel, and the Villavicencio Deaf School. While at the Deaf School we met with a Government Minister who works in the Education Department. By the end of our meeting he was talking