

DEAF MINISTRIES UPDATE

Dear Friends and Supporters.

Our hearts and minds are still full of all the goings on these past couple of months with the conference in Davao, its preparation, its follow up, the trip through Korea with the conference speaker Bob McFarland, his interpreter Gill Stediford, Jimmy Steadman from Ireland and David Bulime from Uganda plus their visit here to Japan too. We are still riding a high even as I write and am so thankful to God for his blessings at this time and very thankful to many of you who make this conference

such a blessing to so many. Thank you to those who who could not afford to come were able to do so. They prayed so hard for this gathering and the safety of long distances. Our college students travelled three boat to get there, our Ligao people two days each we mention those who came from Europe, Australia and North America, Africa and other places in Asia. As far as safely home again.

Our theme was "Passing on the faith into the next millennium" and we feel that the spark experienced at the conference was going. The New Zealanders went home with the desire to base for the work in that country, home board people desire to work even harder to get the gospel out to participants were encouraged and blessed by each other were encouraged by meeting deaf believers from abroad and well trained.

We are looking to the Lord for guidance in the days



Bob McFarland (fourth from right) together with some of the delegates.

gave so that some thank you to those who those travelling such days each way on a ay in a jeep, not to ew Zealand, North I know all have arrived

millennium" and we will really get the fire going. To open a support returned home with the deaf, our deaf partner and our local people ad who were so capable

to come, to the

PRAYER POINTS

- Praise God for the wonderful response to the conference
- Pray for a new support group in New Zealand



The delegates from 17 different countries

possible setting up of a new ministry to the deaf, expansion into three new countries and being joined by new missionaries from Austria and Romania. It is all so exciting and we thank God for it all.

There are many to thank too who worked so hard. Joshua and Jocelyn Asuela carried the bulk of the work and our grateful thanks goes to them, their family and coworkers in Davao. Doug and Val Clutton looked after the Manila arrangements with accommodation and the like. Chi Luna, Buddy Cu



The Asuela family who helped out tremendously

entertained so many visitors before and after the closing and Febe and Aslaugin Daraga who did the same all for your hard work and sacrifice.

I would like to share with you a few excerpts from reports written by a couple of people who attended the conference. If you would like to receive full copies of the reports let me know and we will be happy to send them to you plus a very comprehensive one written by one of our Australian board members who attended.

Marit Aamodt who is a hearing person and has never had much to do with the deaf before writes:

are, Hayde and the team at the school conference both feeding and accommodating, thank you very much. God bless you

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Impressions from a grateful participant...

Palm trees — beautiful flowers — beaches by azure waters — burning sun — tropical rain — jungle — a mighty volcano — masses of people — poverty —. The impression to the Philippines are strong, wonderful and a little heartbreaking.

Sitting at the waiting hall at the Manila airport watching the exuberant joy of about 50 deaf participants from various countries as they met each other, as they met up with Neville and Lill, with glowing eyes and cheering as they met old friends — watching hands that talk incessantly — fellowship and unity. What an incredible sight! It must also have been quite a testimony to the curious onlookers and fellow passengers around us.

My heart is filled with thanksgiving to God that I was able to experience the following:

- never have I been at a Christian gathering where I have felt unity in Christ and the fellowship in the Holy Spirit as I felt there
- never have I been at a gathering where I have felt so handicapped as I did here. Not knowing sign-language has taught me a little of what it must be like for the deaf in a hear-



Delegates from Uganda giving a report on their country

ing setting.

- never have I been able to communicate so well by me here.
- never have I ever been to a conference with such a (especially for a laid back easy going Norwegian). groups at 6 am followed by 4-5 gatherings or meetings listened to reports about deaf Christian endeavours
- never before have I been able to watch strong, inspired by the British deaf pastor Bob McFarland. It is inspiring in words. It must be seen!
- I learnt that China has 20 million deaf people and Christian work among them has barely been started
- South Korea has sent a deaf missionary to Taiwan and he could baptise a deaf person from the latter
- experience the "singing" and the radiance from the
- watching deaf Filipino school children perform colorful
- have the opportunity to watch the baptism of 8 young

ans of body-language as

fully packed program
The day started with prayers throughout the day as we in various countries. Inspiring and challenging messages possible to convey his preaching

800 deaf public schools, but
China, and at the conference mentioned country.

young Korean Christians.
colorful traditional dances
g deaf people who previously to the Conference had said "Yes" to Jesus and received Bible-instruction.

- experience the fellowship of Christians from 17 nations around the Lord's table. It is incredible how faith in Jesus can create such oneness and love among complete strangers.

Marit also wrote a lot about the people that she met at the conference and schools but space prohibits anymore. Gill Stedford is a worker with the deaf in the U.K. and accompanied Bob to the Philippines as an interpreter. She writes:

Coming from Europe to the first WOII International Conference in the Farland and myself in Asia. First morning starts -4 or 5 am (!), first time for breakfast, first time to eat colorful fruits whose names we'd never

are a sense of unity, love and care. The theme song for the conference from the deaf dorm in Davao on the there.

all those around can warm up in you've experienced it; You spread

together as we experienced the from 17 different countries, from materially, but we were all bound to have at the end of the conference.

to the day when we could



Baptisms were performed in the resort's pool

Philippines was the first of many firsts for Bob Mc time in Asia, first time to have so many early morning to experience Asian traffic, first time to eat rice nuts straight from the trees, first time to eat won heard of.

The conference itself was wonderful, and there was joy among the deaf and hearing people who were there. The conference was beautifully presented by the children first night and it set the scene for the whole time

It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon it's glowing. That's how it is with God's love, once His love touches everyone, you want to pass it on.

That spark was seen from the beginning of our time love of God in so many different ways. People came rich countries and those that are not so well off together in Christ's love and most did not want to

The early morning Prayer meetings were a good start



The Korean and Japanese delegates

join together in language groups to commit the day to the Lord before going to 4 or 5 meetings through the day. Prayer was carried on through the conference and it was a blessing to hear the fervent prayers of our deaf brothers and sisters from different parts of the world.

time to hear such a clear report about the work also so encouraging to know that there are those who see country. Reports from other countries were also given more of a sense of urgency to spread His love to the next generation of deaf people. Eight Filipino deaf people went through the waters of baptism. This was the first time for the two Filipino

It was the first time for the two Filipino deaf people in China and among the lost deaf in that vast country during the conference which we and to pass it on to the next generation of deaf people from China.

There are many memories from the conference which will stay in my mind for a long time. The love and care of Joshua & Jocelyn and the deaf dorm who sat so quietly through the meeting no matter what country we came from or whether we were of God working His purposes out in the different countries and all the hard work Neville put in before, we experienced the warmth of God's love in so many ways to pass it on. The overriding feeling we had from the time we shared in Christ as we put Him first in our lives.

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Our time in the Philippines was very humbling and with God for the opportunity in attending the conference some of the work first hand. The spark at the beginning is going and my prayer is that it will be passed on to the next generation of deaf people. You may not be able to give in the Philippines, but your giving and especially your prayer makes a difference.

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Gill Stedford
Hands Together Deaf Christian Network Britain

The vote was unanimous, we want to do it again!! 2002 in Chang Mai Thailand should be the Lord's territory. Starts saving now.

2002 in Chang Mai

Also, thank you so much to those who have given to Jeremiah's medical expenses. All expenses have been covered and they are doing well.

Josephat and

God Bless,

Neville, Lill and family



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DEAF MINISTRIES

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