

# DEAF MINISTRIES UPDATE

Dear Friends,

I am writing this sitting in a North West Airliner flying over a snow covered landscape somewhere between Raleigh North Carolina and Memphis on my way to Houston before heading for Missouri, Iowa and my final destination in the US, Los Angeles, where I will be working on setting up and legalizing in the US our new mission, Deaf Ministries International. I am trying desperately not to spill a glass of cranberry juice all over the computer keyboard!

If I forgot to wish you all a very happy new year as this is my first letter for the year 2000. Happy New Year! All the hype and carryings on over the Y2K business see ancient history now. What an anticlimax that was. We spent a quiet New Years eve at the Union Church in



20 years of ministry in Korea



I am trying out this new razor

Kobe then at midnight waited for all the lights to go off, stars to fall from the skies, the earth to open up but absolutely nothing happened. There followed a pathetic fireworks displays somewhere near the port and then we went home to bed!

We had a lovely Christmas celebration and were blessed again to have the whole family with us for our last Christmas in Japan. No date yet has been set for our departure but it will be around the end of June sometime. We will give you our itinerary as soon as we know what we are doing ourselves. I received his first shaver for Christmas and after a lot of coaxing finally put the razor to the stubble on his chin and upper lip. No way was he going to have any of that foam stuff on his face.

1999 ended with some great highlights. In Korea we of the 20 years since the commencement of the mission for us and we were so happy to have Jack Marshall, Pa Lian from Burma join us for the occasion. Our dear Kumiko and Doo Hyong had gone to so much trouble for something we will always remember. We were presented with a garland of flowers that made us feel a bit like horses at the end of a race, but we certainly don't feel that our race is over yet.

joined in the celebration try there. It was a great time the Madores from Japan and af folk there, especially r the occasion. It will be

Much of the work in Africa finished off 1999 on a high note. Some 21 folk were baptized in Gulu in Northern Uganda and 8 more in Lira in Central Uganda. The first conference for the deaf was held in Burundi and resulted in 12 coming to the Lord and a church being established in that land. A deaf Ugandan was sent as a missionary to Rwanda and Daniel from Kenya has gone as a missionary to Tanzania. It is all rather amazing.



The baptism candidates in Uganda

## PRAYER POINTS

Pray for:

- the 29 who were baptised in Uganda
- the new work in Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania
- funds to buy a house in Kampala and the Philippines

I wonder what 2000 will bring, lotsofchangesforsurenonlyfor the Muirs, but for the organization, our direction and ministry in general too. In March, 4 of the young people from Davao will graduate from College to return to our work there and God willing commence 3 or 4 new centers within a hour or two's radius of Davao City. Antonio who graduated last year has already started a new work in Suragao some 11 hours by bus from Davao. The planned centers will be a little more accessible to Davao proper than in Suragao.



The 20th Anniversary of the work in Korea

We are still hoping to survey Manado in Indonesian. We planned to do it just as anti-Chinese riots commenced. After that quieted down, anti-Australian ones started following the East Timor incident and now Christian/Moslem ones are in full swing, so there has always been some excuse not to go. Anyway we hoped during this year to get there in spite of war, fire, flood or famine.

Pa Lian in Yangon in Myanmar reported that 180 deaf folk turned up for the Christmas service and celebration at our newly formed fellowship there. About 30 attend regularly so they were not prepared for such a large turnout. However there was a kind of feeding of the 5000 miracle which occurred and not only was there enough food but there was some left over as well. A block of land which we had hoped to buy in a suburb of Yangon to build our own church and center was sold before we were able to make an offer so the hunt goes on.

Talking of property, the opportunity again has come up to buy the house in Kampala that we tried to get a couple of years ago and at the same price too. We still have half the money for it in the bank that we as raised last time and we now need the other half as soon as possible. Please pray as we try to raise the \$15,000 necessary for this purchase which will host our Bible School, center, offices and be a fellowship center for the deaf there.

Another purchase is planned too for the Philippines, God willing. A property has become available in Tabaco Albay to house our branch school there. The current rented facilities are appalling as any of you who have visited will know. Praise the Lord we were booted out of the place so that a s forced us to look for alternative accommodation which has just been found. All we need is a mere \$25,000... gulp! As someone once said "the Lord down the cat's paws on a thousand hills but what we need is for Him to sell a few off and send us the proceeds." Please pray with us as we search for these funds.

Back to the home front again we were all thrilled when Erik got word that he had been admitted to Monash University in Melbourne to commence a course in computing. Erik has battled with dyslexia all his life and the battle will commence again as he begins these courses. He heads to Australia in February.



One of the deaf being baptised in Uganda

God bless for now,

Neville



**DEAF MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL**

Please visit us at:  
[www.deafmin.org](http://www.deafmin.org)