

DEAF MINISTRIES UPDATE



Dear Friends,

Greetings at last! Sorry for the lack of communication these past months. I am writing now from Melbourne in Australia. Of course everyone who lives in Australia knows that Melbourne is in this country, but as this letter goes to many lands I thought that I had better clarify it!!!! I do get around a bit so I didn't want anyone thinking that I was in Melbourne, Florida. It has been lovely and warm here, 40 degrees this week and end but Lill reported from Norway where she is with Ian and David until June, that it was minus 19 deg. I am happy to be back in Melbourne.

Lynne Graham, one of our board members here, was commissioned this past weekend at her church and will commence working in our DMI Melbourne office next week. We are so happy to have Lynne on board. Lynne is a teacher of the deaf and will get a bit of income through part time teaching, her Church at Crossways will give her some monthly support and DMI will make up the lack of help very much and your prayers for her as she finds her niche and also raises some more support.

I am back to living out of suitcases again but God willing, this will come to an end this week when we move into our new house and office in the Berwick area, southeast of the city. Everything is almost ready and by the time this reaches you we should have moved in. Come and visit us. We are at:

19 Sanctuary Way
Beaconsfield
Victoria 3807

Despite the new address, please continue to send mail to our PO Box. We also have new telephone and fax numbers:

House 0397697097
Office 0397689844
Fax 0397689855

I have a few overseas trips this year but most of the time will be concentrated in Australia making new contacts and trying to catch up with as many of you as possible in your country so please get in touch if possible. My home number is also on this letter. No group is too small and no place is too far, so get in touch with us.

Our DMI family continues to grow but some places are suffering quite a bit too. Our Kampala Uganda church reported 9 baptisms just before Christmas but at the same time the church of the deaf meeting in Gulu in northern Uganda had to temporarily suspend meeting together. In my e-mail update I think that I mentioned that Gulu was in the middle of the Ebola epidemic area. We were so sorry to hear that over the last month, one died from Ebola, 3 died of other diseases, two were shot by soldiers in the ongoing skirmishes in that area and one boy fell off the roof of his house and died as a result of his injuries. Please pray for the little group of believers in Gulu who have undergone such discouragement.

On the way back to Australia I visited

PRAYER POINTS

- *Money for a new dormitory in Davao.*
- *Thank God for the workgroup that is going to help repair the school in Legaspi.*
- *The church in Gulu who have lost many of their members.*



The Muir family all wearing their Norwegian sweaters.

Dewayne and Jackie Liebrandt in Chiang Mai in northern Thailand. We are planning to amalgamate with them and their work during the year. They are rejoicing at 6 recent baptisms and 4 more in the weeks ahead. Chiang Mai is where we are planning to have our Second International Conference in August of 2002 and possibly where we will move to for our next period of service. It is really premature to mention such things yet but we are praying as to where the Lord would have us after this year of furlough and Chiang Mai is high on the list.



Some deaf in Myanmar that Neville was able to meet in a coffee shop.

Dewayne and I then headed off to Myanmar. 80 gathered in the apartment in Yangon where our church meets for the Sunday service there and it was with him whom I travelled with to Thailand. The most jerky and jolty 16 hour train trip brought us to that town on the northern plains of Myanmar where the deaf there for possible future outreach to the deaf school but we met with a group of deaf folks. Many folks in Myanmar love to chew beetle-nut. This chew with it spits out streams of red juice. The juice is like one has been punched in the teeth. We sat around the table while hoping that I wouldn't get hit in the sock by a squirt of beetle-nut juice being spat into a collection of spittoons under the table. It was a memorable trip and I look forward to going again and following up on the contacts made.

Thein Za Lian is our evangelist in Mandalay after Dewayne returned to Myanmar. The purpose was to contact him in the evening in a coffee shop. It is a kind of narcotic I think. People also colour their mouths red so it looks like a table trying to share the Gospel as a squirt of beetle-nut juice being spat was a memorable trip and I look forward to going again.

We are still battling on to raise the money for the land and we need \$30,000 for the initial purchase of the current property but are still holding our breath until one is found we are safe. An application has been made in Norway for funding.

Davao land. About \$6000 is on hand. We are under threat of eviction from that land as no suitable buyer has been found as been made in Norway for funding.

At the beginning of March, Barry Cutchie is leading a team from Berwick Church of Christ to Legaspi to do repair work on the roof and other parts of the campus. A dentist will also accompany them. The locals are looking forward to their coming. I follow on a bit later with Jeff Weston from the OMB in Adelaide. Jeff will be speaking at our graduation, camps and teachers' retreat.

Jack and Keiko Marshall arrive on the 26th of Feb for a 4 week visit. Jack was the founding pastor of the Osaka International Church where we attended for many years. He was responsible for us going out with immediate boss, advisor, confidant and substitute father for me and uncle for our boys.



The DMI sign in Myanmar

World Opportunities International and became my immediate boss, advisor, confidant and substitute father for me and uncle for our boys. Jack and Keiko will be teaching basic Christian truths in seminars and encouraging mission in many churches in Victoria and Queensland while in this country. Yours truly is guide, driver and chief cook and bottle washer. Your prayers for an effective minister in Australia would do once again be appreciated.

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Well that's all for the moment,

God bless,

Neville, Lill, Brent, Erik, David and Ian



DEAF MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Please visit us at: www.deafmin.org