



## Dear Sponsors and Supporters

I would like to pass on sincere thanks to all our Sponsors and Supporters from the students, teachers and parents at our schools. They are very grateful for the opportunity that you give the children to gain an education.

But I have recently learned of some of the hardships our schools face every day, and we rarely have enough funds to send them the finances for their basic needs each month. Damage to roofs is an ongoing problem in stormy tropical countries. Tables and chairs have to be carried up and down stairs because they don't have enough. Hot water in bathrooms is unknown and students learn to fill every corner of their books. Over 100 light globes are needed in our largest school each year.

We are attempting to establish self sustainable projects but these often need additional finance to get them started.

## DEAF MINISTRIES INSTITUTE at DAVAO in the PHILIPPINES

100 students from Kinder to College have just started their new school year at Davao. The schools in Asia use the USA school year. This school sets a very high standard and some students complete college and become pastors and teachers of the deaf themselves. This school is often visited by trainee teachers from other colleges to learn about education of the deaf. Students from the school give performances during Rehabilitation Month and many other local festivals, and are highly regarded in the community. There are many special celebrations at Davao and some students attend Girls and Boys Brigade at the weekend. About a dozen students at Davao are orphans and have no family to go to at holiday time, so they are 'family' to each other.

At Graduation in March, 6 students graduated from College, 8 graduated from High School and 3 from Kinder. They have worked very hard and are to be commended on their good results. Thank you to all our sponsors and supporters for your continued support of this school. Davao still has unfinished buildings, including the dining room that is open to the rain; and water pipes in the concrete flooring have been ruptured by earthquakes and a complete new water system is needed. Specific donations for these building works would be greatly appreciated. We are very thankful that the Piggery and Rubber Plantation at Cagayan de Oro on Mindanao Island are doing well and continue to employ deaf people.



## LIGAO in the PHILIPPINES

Ligao also celebrated their Graduation in March with 10 Secondary, 4 Primary and 4 Kinder graduates. Our deaf students work very hard to reach these standards. 'Commencement Exercises' were held in March before the school year ended so that students are eager and ready to start learning in June, before they go home for the holidays! Ligao is also very active in local celebrations and 3 students competed at the Regional Festival of Talents for Special Schools. Many ex students now attend the churches for the deaf that have been started in the area through Deaf Ministries International.

The new **Micro Enterprise Program** at Ligao is a big success already. Deaf students who have completed their education are given special Vocational Training and small loans so they can start small businesses and support themselves as adults. This is one of our aims for all our students. Their small businesses include road side stalls, selling of food they have cooked from food carts or baskets, and home calls to sell produce they have grown, manicure and pedicure at home, and on selling of mobile phone credit and kerosene.

## BACOLOD in the VISAYA ISLANDS in the PHILIPPINES

There are about 12 students attending primary or secondary school in Bacolod. The younger ones attend the Bacolod City SPED (Special Education) Centre and the older ones are studying at Bacolod National High School. The personal stories of these students are very touching. Most have started school quite late because their parents did not know there were deaf schools, or could not afford to pay for education. They just stayed home and looked after their younger siblings or even their own elderly grandparents. Some are orphans and some were expected to do the house or farm work. Education is making a huge difference to their lives and they are very grateful for sponsorship. Two deaf families are now supporting themselves in Bacolod with a pedicab business and a quail egg mini farm. The farm at Zamboanguita is going well and 2 deaf workers are supported by the piggery and the vegetable garden. Plans are being made to purchase land with a mango orchard and room for more piggeries, with support from Doug and Val from Canada.



## EGYPT

Employment for the deaf is difficult to find and life is not easy for deaf people in Egypt, but we support deaf communities in four cities in Egypt, and the welfare of our deaf friends there is the first consideration. Christmas and Mother's Day parties with prizes for the deaf brought joy to their lives. Dinner is provided on Sunday after deaf church at four centres. The deaf children have their exams and will graduate this month. The Carpentry project would like to start again but funding is needed to rent a workshop and buy materials. Specific donations for this would be greatly appreciated.

## RWANDA and ZAMBIA

Hastings and Maliza are doing well in residential schools for the deaf in Zambia, and Alphonsine at High School in Rwanda is achieving very good results in her studies. We hope she will lead the deaf in Rwanda. But their school fees are expensive and we are very grateful to the sponsors of these students.



## MUIR SCHOOL for the DEAF at KALAY in MYANMAR

Please note that this school's name has been changed. The school asked for this because 'muir' means 'happy place' in Burmese. Neville and Lill Muir, our Founding Directors have reluctantly agreed, because the school is a very happy place for the deaf children. One boy at Kalay has been diagnosed with Usher's Syndrome and the school is looking to cater for his learning so he can continue while he has some sight. Several students in our schools have this extra problem.

The bathroom is now completed and has an automatic pump so the children don't have to pump water up from the well with the old fashioned hand pump. The new building is a wonderful asset to the school and the large room upstairs is also used for church meetings of the deaf community as well as school sport (table tennis especially) during the wet season when the school grounds turn to mud. Vocational Training has not commenced here yet because the students are continuing academic studies at secondary school level. We hope they will be leaders of the deaf community in the future. Another 'camp' was held upstairs in April this year and the deaf people from Pintaw Oo village are becoming more skilful at signing and communicating. Their lives have been changed greatly over the 5 years since we started work in their village.

## IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL for the DEAF in KENYA

All students passed the end of year exams and were promoted to the next grade. This is an excellent result again. Three students passed the government secondary entrance exam and one girl will go to Kuja High School. One of the boys will go to the Polytechnic School next door to ICSD and learn Vocational skills of woodworking, mechanics or welding. This is a new aspect of education that is needed so that students can learn Vocational Skills that will help them gain employment or learn to support themselves from home.

Some of the students with enough residual hearing have been fitted with hearing aids by another organisation and a hard of hearing Volunteer Teacher is working at the school. She is a big inspiration to the kids and the teachers as a whole, and they are very thankful for her work as a volunteer. The school competed in the regular schools Music Festival with the boys presenting a Cultural Dance and the girls a Scottish Dance. 24 students qualified to compete in the National Music Festival but the cost was too much for the school to afford. This was also the case with Interschool Sports even though the students had practised very hard at school and won sporting competitions and represented the Province in the past.



Two big bulls were purchased for the farm so the fields can be thoroughly ploughed. Corn, beans and sweet potatoes are some of the crops now growing. A second dairy cow was purchased and the school hopes to have plenty of fresh milk by July. The chickens supply eggs and altogether the students have excellent fresh food grown on our farm, which is also a saving for the school.

Extra beds have been purchased and the students are very glad to have a bed each now rather than share. The bricks left over from the dormitory have been used to start building the teachers' staffroom. This school and farm has progressed a long way over the 5 years since it was established, and what a happy school it is!

## UGANDA



Hakim and Absalom (congratulating a prefect below) are two of our older students who have been sponsored for many years. They have completed training, recently passed the vigorous interviews and are now working as teachers of the deaf themselves. What a wonderful achievement! Ruth and Simon have also gained teaching positions. Sponsorship has enabled them to live their dream! This is an example of what deaf people can achieve if they are given the chance of education. Three students are studying courses in Carpentry, Home Economics and Tailoring at Tertiary Training Centres, and another is the only deaf student training at the Malaika School of Hair and Beauty. Three young deaf men are studying at Kyambogo University. Joseph continues to excel in his studies at Michelangelo School of Creative Arts and has had 2 exhibitions already. He has proved to be very creative and visitors to Uganda love his work.

Wakiso Secondary School was recently allocated 40 computers and sports equipment by the Ministry of Education and Sports. The students are thrilled with these resources and Wakiso has been established as a school to promote sport in the area. They held a Sports Gala that attracted 6 Primary and Secondary schools in the area. We now have 6 students attending Wakiso and 2 recent graduates are waiting for the next intake for Primary Teachers College.

The younger students at St Marys school at Mityana and at St Mark VII school at Masaka are also doing well in their studies. We are grateful to all sponsors and supporters of these dear children.

## THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP AND SUPPORT.

Please be assured that our schools use your donations very economically and are very thankful for your support.