

Rooted in Jesus



Rooted in Jesus is a group course in Christian discipleship written for use in Africa. It is the only material of its kind written especially for the use of ordinary African Christians, rather than translated from material developed for the West - where people face different problems and challenges in their Christian lives.



Now in use in many African countries, *Rooted in Jesus* was originally created as part of the link relationship between Holy Trinity in Leicester diocese and the Diocese of Mt Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, at the request of Stanley Hotay, then diocesan missionary and now the bishop. Written by a team of clergy and teachers from Leicester with experience of working in Africa, *Rooted in Jesus* is edited by Alison Morgan, and supported by The Mathetes Trust, a UK registered charity. It is normally introduced to a whole diocese or area, at the invitation of the bishop or denominational leader, by a team of ministers from the UK and Africa. Because *Rooted in Jesus* is as much a method as a course, this has proved the best way of establishing it effectively. Originally piloted in 2002 in Tanzania, it is currently in use in 80 dioceses or denominations in 16 African countries, where it has been translated into 28 languages. We estimate there are over 100,000 people meeting in *Rooted in Jesus* groups in these countries, and the number is growing all the time.

Groups are led by pastors, evangelists or catechists, and newly commissioned lay leaders, both men and women. Many of these groups have seen people becoming Christians, experiencing answered prayer, deepening their commitment to one another and to the church, and living changed lives. There is also now a *Rooted in Jesus* Junior course for use in Sunday Schools.

Rooted in Jesus is a practical and interactive course. The emphasis is on the active participation of each member of the group through the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit, so that together they may be built up into the body of Christ and equipped for ministry to others. The material is absorbed and practised orally, and only the group leader needs to be able to read and write. Each lesson is summarised by a memory verse, and members receive certificates when the group completes each of the four books of the course.

"I have no doubt that God has commissioned and anointed this course for Africa in much the same way as he is using Alpha in more urban and 'western' settings. We are already starting to see remarkable things in this Diocese as people and congregations are set on fire with the love of Jesus" -
Bishop Martin Breytenbach, Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist, South Africa.

Rooted in Jesus is used for:

- Small discipleship groups
- Confirmation classes
- Training of catechists, evangelists and lay leaders
- Sunday school and Youth groups
- Evangelism and church planting
- Follow-up for evangelistic crusades and Jesus film showings

Immediate aims:

- To equip leaders and potential leaders with teaching, inspiration and a living encounter with the Holy Spirit
 - To provide them with *Rooted in Jesus* as a tool with which they can teach others
 - To help build a local programme of support in each diocese for the new group leaders
- To keep in touch so that we can offer future support where needed

Long term aims:

- Changed lives, changed churches, changed communities
 - Ordinary lay Christians equipped for ministry as disciples of Jesus
 - Key people raised and trained for future leadership within the Church
- Political and social stability in a developing but suffering continent, through the growth of informed and committed Christian discipleship

"If the church would revisit the biblical teachings on discipleship it would revive its life and many of its problems would be rectified. Note that simply teaching the Word is not all there is to discipleship. There must be personal involvement, practical training, practical experience and positive role modelling" - **Revd Gaspar Kassanda**, Diocese of Mara, Tanzania, in his dissertation on the crisis of discipleship in East Africa

Rooted in Jesus : Testimonies



Conference feedback

- "This is the most joyous day in our Diocese; an important day. I didn't think this Conference would bring such blessing. For me it has been much more of a blessing than I expected and the seminars have been such a blessing to me through the power of the Holy Spirit. This Conference will have a big impact on the Diocese" – *Bishop Godfrey Sebaba, Diocese of Morogoro, Tanzania*
- "I have been blessed in the worship time; as we sang I felt my heart beating, and found myself singing with a joy in my heart which I had never previously experienced in my whole life" – *an evangelist, Diocese of Kiteto, Tanzania*
- "God bless you in a mighty way because you prayed for my son last year and God healed him. So give thanks to God, because he never underwent the operation" – *Lucy Mugwanja, group coordinator, Kirinyaga diocese, Kenya*
- "I hope all is well and that the Lord God is blessing your ministries mightily. It was nice meeting you and sharing the ministry with your team which ministered to us in a glorious way. My heart melts to see and reflect on the experience I had at Musonda Falls. I was blessed and refreshed spiritually and mentally" - *Ven Cornelius Chalwe, Luapula diocese, Zambia*
- "This seminar is different from other seminars. This is not a normal seminar" – *conference participant, Diocese of Mara, Tanzania*
- "Thank you priest for changing our lives" - *a woman participant, St Barnabas Church, Chipata, Eastern Zambia*
- "A historic week in the life of the church here" – *Jan van Stelten, interpreter, Diocese of Niassa, Mozambique*
- "Thank you to all these brothers and sister and also the bishop for being inspired to call us to this place. My heart is very much open now that I can see my direction. I am prepared to work for the Lord. We were trying to push others to work. But I am personally determined now that I myself will do the work. We will build God's church from now on. It is not our church" - *a priest, diocese of Niassa, Mozambique*
- "I want to thank you for the wonderful team that you sent to this year's conference. It was great and marvellous and charismatic, you should have seen how exciting it was!" *Martin Mlaka, Evangelism Coordinator, diocese of Southern Malawi*
- "I have been a priest for over 40 years and this is the most precious ministry I have received" – *a priest, Polokwane, South Africa*
- "There is a great sense of expectancy and confidence in participating. The afternoon session was inspiring. The Holy Spirit was powerfully present, the message was received with (again) great expectancy, praying for each other in pairs or in threes was intense and Spirit filled. Many many came for personal prayer at the end and the accompanying singing, quiet and reflective, gave a taste of heaven" - *Gill Brown, Chair of the Congo-Chester link, Diocese of Aru, DR Congo*
- "It was great to have you and the team. What a blessing for the Malagasy people and for us personally as individuals and as a couple. We look forward to your return. May the Lord bless you in a wonderful way. With love and thanksgiving to God for you," *Revd Patsy McGregor, Diocese of Toliara, Madagascar*
- "I believe God is doing a new thing and that we will see things of God we never thought we would see within the Anglican church"- *A Mother's Union leader, Blantyre, Malawi*
- "I came here feeling weak and discouraged; I now feel empowered and encouraged" – *an evangelist, Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania*
- "On behalf of all the participants I wish to thank you for giving us such excellent spiritual food, so that our roots, fully anchored in Christ Jesus, will never wilt, but be ever drawing water to sustain us throughout our



Christian journey. Rest assured that we shall preciously guard against losing the knowledge and new pastoral skills for church growth which we have obtained from here. With the help of the Holy Spirit we will deliver to the highest capacity of our strength, joyously, as this course has tremendously uplifted our spiritual wellbeing'. May the Able God profoundly bless you!" - *Fr Elias Mwale, Petauke, Eastern Zambia*

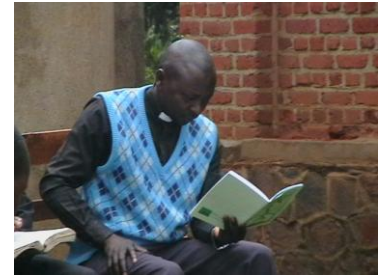
Changing lives



- Comments from group leaders on completion of the course, Diocese of Kiteto, Kibaya 2007
 - 'The people who are growing the fastest in my group are those who cannot read or write, because they are the ones who have received the memory verses into their hearts'
 - '6 were saved from drunkenness'
 - 'All are becoming Christians'
 - 'The men are beating their wives only occasionally'
 - 'People have learnt to pray for themselves for the first time'
 - 'People have stopped using drugs and cigarettes'
 - 'People have changed their tribal practices'
 - 'People are breaking the habit of going to the witchdoctor'
 - 'People have stopped worshipping the wrong God'
 - 'People are praying and casting out evil spirits'
 - 'Some members have been inspired to learn to read and write'
 - 'People have changed in the way they care for their family'
 - 'People now pray first when they are in difficulty'
 - 'I was a Muslim and now I am here to train as a group leader'
 - 'The memory verse Galatians 5.22-23 helped me get peace in my home life'
 - 'The verse Jeremiah 40.4 was like a door opening in my life helping me to be free'
 - 'The memory verse Mark 11.25 transformed an angry person in the group into a forgiving one'
 - 'When we were learning the memory verse James 1.2-4 it was very challenging because we had a time of famine, and we only had enough food to eat once a day. But the more I meditated on this verse, the more I found the Lord gave me peace.'
 - 'Group members now really understand who Jesus is'
- "Before to receive my life to Jesus I had one big problem, my problem was anger. Every day I was quarrel with others and my wives, but since I started to learn the Word of God and to repent this sin I feel free. Now I have peace and joy to all and my friends they wonder as well and my wives trust that real Jesus has power and all of them are in a group" - *Simon Msonde, Diocese of Kiteto, Tanzania*
- "More than five years I live with my husband without to get a baby. But when I started to learn the Word of God, I don't feel well because always I was feeling about baby. One day I ask my group members to pray for my problem. I remember very much the time of my group members were pray for me, from that time I conceived and now I have a baby. I thank God and I thank to all who made preparation of this lesson. John 16: 24"- *Leah Yakobo, Diocese of Kiteto, Tanzania*
- "This *Rooted in Jesus* course has changed my life. I thought I was in a comfort zone before, and I relaxed. But when the *Rooted in Jesus* course came to our diocese, we changed," *Ven Jack Kudumela, Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist, South Africa*
- "The encouragement that I could give to the young people out there is, find a group and join it and experience it for yourself, because this experience is one in a lifetime, you can't find anything like it!" - *Renae, group leader, Diocese of St Mark diocese, South Africa*
- "*Rooted in Jesus* has helped me know the Bible and stand firm in my faith. I work for a Muslim factory owner and the Muslims in my factory try and get the Christians to convert. Before *Rooted in Jesus* I didn't know how to cope with this but now I can teach the other Christians in the factory the memory verse and help them to stand firm in their faith" - *Group leader, Diocese of S Malawi*
- "Before *Rooted in Jesus* I wasn't interested in reading the Bible or prayer – now I read the Bible and trust God every day" - *Group leader, Diocese of S Malawi*
- "I have seen a great change in my personal life and of other Christians around me since I joined the *Rooted in Jesus* course" - *Pastor Nahashon Ntusero, Kajiado, Kenya*



- “It’s never a dull moment when you are in class or discussion. You can feel the presence of God and that people are being touched” – *Fr Godwin Manganani, Musonda Falls, Luapula*
- “The thing that is different about this course is that now we can have a real relationship with God, instead of just learning about him” – *group leader, Chipata, Eastern Zambia*
- “Some of them say ‘When we give witness and tell others about Jesus we are more empowered to overcome our old life, peace and joy flourish in us.’ Thomas Singano a worst drunkard in the village who is newly converted, he is from Magungu parish propounded in a seminar lead by the rural deans, ‘I cannot stop sharing this good news I am a happy man now’” – *Revd Michael Madeha, rural dean, Diocese of Kiteto, Tanzania*
- “I visited Kambwata area where we have planted two Life! Groups with Dignity. During my visit I met a woman who has been attending the Life! Group, which is using the Rooted in Jesus resource. She told me her story. Months ago she was a drunkard, she would insult many people and was a troublesome person in the village. The Life! Group in her village took her in and allowed her to participate in the group. In short, through the Rooted in Jesus course, the Lord transformed her life. She is now not a drunkard. She told me, that rather than being a bad mother to her children, and a terrible wife, she is now a good mother and a good wife. Her life has changed completely. She now calls herself a committed Christian and is much, much happier as a person. As a result of the startling change in her life, many people have been attracted to the groups and they are growing at a faster rate.” *Augustine, working with Dignity International in Luapula, Zambia*
- “The work of God through 'the family of one heart and one mind in rooted in Jesus' has been challenging the life of our Christians in the Diocese of Mara. We have been meeting with interested life stories. The new way people meets with God and change their lives. I was told by one of man who have been alcoholic addict, and rude. He has left his family and took somebody's wife and ran away. He came to a village where he met with the group of the family of one heart and one mind. He started to attend the group meeting and through testimonies and reading and discussing theological issues arises from the Bible, he felt guilt. He felt that, there is no way to life unless he confess his sin to God. One day he went to the group leader and confess all the sins he has been doing and the group pronounced to him God's forgiveness. He felt free and started a new journey with the Lord” - *Jacob Oyange, Dean of the Cathedral of Mara and Diocesan Coordinator for the Rooted in Jesus programme in the Diocese*
- “This is how the Family of one heart and one mind has been working in our Diocese. The situation in the Diocese is the same everywhere in many groups. They tell the story of how wonderful the Family of one heart and one one mind has helped to change their lives. These helps the church to grow as never been in the History of the Church here in the Diocese of Mara and many people have been receiving the Gospel everywhere in our Diocese” - *Jacob Oyange, Diocese of Mara, Tanzania*
- “A lady who had come last year, and was very diffident at the time, came again this year and was a changed person. She was the first to offer to lead a practice group and was full of life. When, in the first workshop, I asked people for their experiences, she said that when she started to lead a group she was challenged to look at her own conduct. She had been brewing and selling maize beer, and decided at the first meeting that this was incompatible with her new role, so she immediately stopped doing it. This prompted a lot of surprise and consternation in her community and many people were challenged and began to express an interest in the new RinJ group” – *Alan Bing, Team Leader, Diocese of Muyinga, Burundi*
- “If you want to know the value of this book, start yourself, with your family. I can tell you I also have followed this book with my family. So I have seen how this book has helped me myself and my family. When we were starting to pray in my family, my children, who are happy to sing and dance, when we come to the Word of God, all of them go to sleep. But this is the devil! My wife and myself we pray for our children and rebuke the evil spirits. We were sitting there, and one of our sons who is very funny, when he starts to sleep, he puts his hand on his head to keep his eyes open, but he sleeps! When he started to use this book, we discovered we had few Bibles in the house for the number of people, and they were all competing to be first to get the Bibles and read the verses. I am always hiding my Bible, because they can even tear the page out! We have been thinking of having some more Bibles, now they like to read it themselves. We are no longer forcing them. They still like to praise and to sing, but now they have started to be ambitious to read the Bible. This would be my challenge; that you start with yourselves.” *Revd Isaiah Chambala, Deanery coordinator, Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro, now Bishop of the Dicoese of Kiteto*
- “I cannot forget the testimony of one brother from a group in the parish of Logoeti. His testimony is that he had bad habits, but now he really thanks God. Before he started hearing the teachings of Rooted in Jesus he left his



wife to be with another woman. He really tormented his wife and gave her no money and abandoned his children so that they were no longer able to go to school. But after learning about the word of God he cried and decided to return to them and to take back his wife and to totally leave the other woman behind. Now they live with great joy because Jesus has turned their lives around and he reigns and is the shepherd in their lives” - *Revd Jacob Lihhima, Deanery coordinator, Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania*

- “In Mocuba I felt and saw the action of the Holy Spirit; many participants were touched and presented their preoccupations in the midst of brothers, being delivered as Christ cut all cords uniting them with Satan. Some had problems with their neighbours, not speaking with each other but being catechists; many brought themselves to Christ, renouncing drunkenness, smoking tobacco and their involvement in black magic. We had cries and tears, but finished by all being renewed and strengthened through the Holy Spirit. In Morrumbala, again we encountered miracles! God is powerful! We had 30 participants. Even more remarkable things happened: one catechist who had led a congregation for 3 years, dedicated to Christ, revealed that he had been a witch doctor and presented all his instruments of divination, superstitious healing and black magic (3 tails of wild animals, 3 earthenware pots with drugs, 6 gourds and a kind of small cushion) and all this he brought to be burnt and he remained liberated receiving Jesus Christ as his Saviour. Other catechists brought their problems with drink, smoking, worship of ancestors, involvement with magic ceremonies and other superstitious things. Since I began my ministry, I have never seen such marvels that I have seen during this seminar journey; these studies are a blessing and the Holy Spirit is working.” *Revd Amorim Rocha, Diocesan Coordinator, Diocese of Niassa, Mozambique.*



Changing churches

- "The course has had a major influence on our work in Tanzania, bringing many nominal members into a deep commitment to Christ" - *Bishop John Hayden, Diocese of Kiteto, Tanzania.*
- “There has been an eruption of spiritual growth and strong faith amongst many Christians in the parishes I visited which have been practising the *Rooted in Jesus* course. I discovered that the Bible has started to be sweet to some of the members of these groups. The fear that it is a supernatural book that has to be dealt carefully by those who are only skilled as to how to deal with such kind of supernatural powers is now getting to be eliminated. They read the Bible not only as a book but they have discovered that this book teaches them the way of 'how to live' and the way of 'how to be right with God'. The verses they have put in their hearts have started to speak to them, such that now, "we hear the voice of God talking to us", one of them commented. They say that the Bible has transformed their lives. They confess that the word of God contains powers that give them confidence in the Holy Spirit to share with others about their new experience in the Lord. They have the courage to say verses from the Bible to prove what they believe. Church growth in some parishes is a good sign that there have been fruits from the course." – *Revd Isaiah Chambala, Deanery Coordinator, Arusha, Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro*
- “I haven’t the words to tell of the many blessings people have received through this programme. There is wonderful revival in the Church now the Christians know the word of God, and they have power to tell anybody what he trust it and who is Jesus, and what he did in his/ her life. The community saw many things from our groups that they change their life completely. Some of them tried to say really God is great because some people change completely their life from sins, like drink, worship of idols, and witchcraft, and so on” – *Revd Michael Samuel, Diocese of Kiteto, Tanzania*
- "Members of groups in different areas witness to me how they have been blessed. One said: 'At the present time I have the power of the Holy Spirit. I can stand anywhere to share with other people the good news of Jesus. I can go even to youth groups without a Bible and have dialogue with them, because in my brain I have a lot of verses.' One said: 'I was unable to walk but after starting to study the Bible together and pray I am what you can see now.' So many people are cured of their diseases through studying and praying together. The opportunity to know the Bible, encourage, pray, share with each other in the Parish and in the Church, it is



harmonizing us. Some group members went to preach and others were baptized." *Canon Lukas Saidi, diocesan coordinator, Diocese of Masasi, Tanzania*

- Comments from group leaders on completion of the course, Diocese of Kiteto, Kibaya 2007
 - 'Group members made commitments to Jesus for the first time after M1 L4, although they had been churchgoers'
 - 'My church is now full, and power is present'
 - 'People are beginning to teach one another'
 - 'Group members have begun to pray individually and for others outside the group'
 - 'People are helping to build a new church building'
 - 'Some are preaching from the memory verses although they remain illiterate'
 - 'The Christians were saved after reading the book'
 - 'People are now reading their Bibles'
 - 'People are coming to the church to seek healing'
 - 'People have a changed attitude to church – it is no longer just for Sundays'
 - "Members of my group are enjoying being able to share their faith with one another and to witness to one another in a way they have never previously had the opportunity for"
 - 'Everyone is now involved in church life and is sharing the work'
 - 'People have the confidence to pray for themselves rather than seeking prayer from the pastor'
 - 'Members of my group hold a Q & A session in the church on the memory verses'
 - 'Group members have become church elders, evangelists, and read lessons or take services. They pray for healing (and it happens)'
 - 'Group members now preach in the church, pray for the sick, visit them and collect money to send them to hospital, and are active in evangelism'
 - 'One man used to do everything in the church but now he can't get a word in edgeways'
 - 'I am proud that I am going to be one of the first women leaders in the church'
 - 'More men are coming to church'
 - 'church members are coming to the group for help'



- "Our groups are in Kirinyaga diocese. Through our groups in the different churches we have come up with an Evangelistic Team which was officially launched and prayed for by our Bishop on 23rd Oct 2005. What I know is that God will enable me spread this Good News of Rooted in Christ in the whole Diocese. I know God is going to be manifested in Africa through Rooted in Jesus. God bless you all" - *Lucy Mugwanja, Kerugoya, Kenya*
- "Evangelist Mathayo of Mmazame Parish gave a testimony on how, the group of the family of one heart and one mind, has helped the church to grow in number in his parish, He said to me that, many people have been attracted by the group and decides to join the group with the aim of studying the Bible, through the group, they join the church'. He continues to emphasise that, from May-July/2011, the number of Christians in my parish has increased from 40 to 89 Christians and the attitude of Christians toward the church activities has changed, now days people wants to come to church even in the midweek days" – *Jacob Oyange, Diocese of Mara, Tanzania*
- ""RinJ is the basis for all our ministry and mission training, supporting as it does our diocesan vision to 'become a communion of communities in Jesus', ie small groups studying, discipling one another, church planting and rooting, growing in faith and changed lives together. RinJ is used as the primary study in our PCCs (Small Christian Communities – midweek family groups of 20 or so people who pray, study and support each other – and groups where we are currently seeing great growth in terms of both participants, healing prayer, new leadership). We estimate that there could be at least 600 of these groups around the diocese now. RinJ Book 1 is used for confirmation candidates, alongside the Catechism, and I have used all four books with training catechists, our community workers and community priests." *Helen Van Koevering, Director of Mission and Ministry, Diocese of Niassa, Mozambique*
- "Dear Bishop I have never known that I can also teach and apply practically what is said in (1Tim 3:16), after following closely the course and closely attend the group participation, I am now a pastor. I have been a pastor for 10 years but I am now transformed to do real the ministry. One of our fellow ruraldean acknowledged this amazing course material. He is not the only inspired but most of us are very much moved" – *Michael Madeha, Dean of the cathedral, Diocese of Kiteto, Tanzania*
- "Very encouraging is the Lucy Parish. When I left there were only 3 groups. Now there are 16 groups. 13 groups out of 16 are Maasai groups. It was thrilling to see illiterate women enjoying and trying to recite the verses in their own language. When I saw a number of women that day coming and



testifying that the Lord has saved them I was full of joy” - *Revd Isaiah Chambala, Diocese of Mt Kilimanjaro, Tanzania*

- “Many pastors confessed that the course material has been a blessing to the groups. They find that group members grow up spiritually. I was told at St Mary’s that a reconciliation took place between two relatives. Those who meet together they are getting united. They pray for each other as they share their personal problems” – *Revd Isaiah Chambala, Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro*
- “We used this course in a very needy place called Michanhelas. We trained the catechists in *Rooted in Jesus*; they are the leaders of the rapidly and increasing growing church there. The padre who is in charge cannot keep up with the demands, therefore the church struggles to uphold its doctrines and fundamental beliefs. The task is so great that it leaves many of these leaders in a state of paralysis because they do not know how to respond to the spiritual needs around them. We are very excited about *Rooted in Jesus* and we hope that we will continue to use it” - *Revd Ronald Kock, Diocese of Niassa, Mozambique*

- “On all levels and in all church organizations, we are encouraging participation in 'Rooted in Jesus' for discipling, and the priests are much more actively involved now too. The excitement of being church is palpable, quite different to when we came back in 2003. Even a visiting South African Bishop commented on the change. Getting together, whether in small groups or large Diocesan events, has made all the difference” - *Revd Helen Van Koevering, Niassa, Mozambique*



- “The opportunity to know the Bible, encourage, pray, share with each other in the Parish and in the Church, it is harmonizing us. So many people are cured of their diseases through studying and praying together. Some group members went to preach and others were baptized” – *Lukas Saidi, Diocese of Masasi, Tanzania*
- “We are doing well at Mkuti with the rooting in Jesus as we meet two days per week into two groups. We do thank God, that one of the first fruits, is to have two young people who preached during the service on the last two Sundays. They were great, great in Jesus and I learn that the congregations were moved and so interested in their sermons. I am looking for the way we can help these to send to Bible Colleges so that they can be equipped very well so they can be good evangelists not in the parish but much in the Diocese” – *Fr James Almasi, Diocese of Masasi, Tanzania*

- "I have no doubt that God has commissioned and anointed this course for Africa in much the same way as he is using Alpha in more urban and 'western' settings. We are already starting to see remarkable things in this Diocese as people and congregations are set on fire with the love of Jesus" - *Bishop Martin Breytenbach, Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist, South Africa.*

- “In Phalaborwa, some of the clergy have had their love of the Lord rekindled – and this has had an impact on their preaching. Several of the people participating in their RinJ group have already been transformed by God’s grace. In Sibasa, they decided to start with 1 small group of 5 people. But they went and told others about it, who in turn told others – and they started coming. As one of the priests said: ‘How could we turn them away when they came to learn about Jesus?’ Now they have 30 people coming and have decided to multiply their original group of 5 into 3 groups of 10 each" - *Bishop Martin Breytenbach, Diocese of St Mark's, South Africa*



- “When we had our first RinJ conference 5 people came from one particular parish. They said they weren’t confident enough to start groups alone, so they decided to start a single group for the 5 of them. They did lesson 1. They were so excited by the lesson that when they went home they found they could not keep quiet; they told their families and friends all about it. The next week they found that 10 other people had come to join them. One said, when people come to learn about Jesus, you can’t turn them away. So they were 15. But those 15 couldn’t keep quiet either, and the next week there were 30 people. They said God is pushing us faster than we want to go! So they formed 3 groups, and God blessed them. The parish has begun to be transformed. Instead of churchgoers, they have disciples,” *Bishop Martin Breytenbach, Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist, S Africa*
- “I again thank God for you because your coming to us has been a blessing to our church in a way that Christians' spiritual life styles have been revived through that method of 'Get rooted in Christ'. Since your visit to us, some Christians have strengthened their relationships with their God through group discussions like Rwensande, Kyabarungira and Kirabaho churches. It’s a new method of preaching and teaching through which many people are fished, and commit their lives to Christ” - *Ven Japheth Rvmbathonda, Diocese of S Rwenzori, Uganda*

- “*Rooted in Jesus [Junior]* has transformed our work with children; it is changing our church; teachers and children are enthusiastic for Jesus”; “We value the syllabus for the church that Junior has given us. We had no syllabus before now. This is a new experience for us and it is good for us. Rooted in Jesus has given us a curriculum” – *Canon James Almasi and Revd Carlos Marcus, Diocese of Masasi, Tanzania*
- Rooted in Jesus Junior “has taught us how to teach our faith to our children”
 - “Children want to pray now; we give them chance to pray and we can’t stop them praying”
 - “I am growing in my faith as I learn about Jesus in the preparing and teaching times. The children’s questions are making me learn more”
 - “Rooted in Jesus has transformed our work with children; it is changing our church; teachers and children are enthusiastic for Jesus”
 - “Christian parents are very pleased now as children have proper Christian education like the Muslims at the madrassahs”
- “I am happy to inform you that Rooted in Jesus Junior worked for us so much while at NEW LIFE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH JINJA. From the time we adopted those materials, we experienced vibrant exiting Sunday school meetings with the children. The five Sunday school teachers that I trained using Rooted in Jesus materials have become very good teachers. They are now more practical during every meeting with the children. This has improved much of the children’s zeal and love for Christ plus the church. A lot of spiritual gifts were realised like evangelism, worship, preaching, prayer, storytelling, drama, scripture memory verses etc. among the children. Some of these children lead worship during the main service and other church meetings. The number of the children which was about 25 at our church, it has now has grown to 150+” – *Pastor Ali Mukembo, Jinja, Uganda*
- “Rooted in Jesus helps teachers stay focussed. It uses more creativity in its teaching style than we are used to which helps the teachers and the children learn and own the message. The programme has helped me keep the fire of Jesus burning among the kids in my neighbourhood. When the children’s hearts are ministered to, they resolve to change and choose good behaviour. Before using this programme, kids were fighting, bad mouthing one another and others were crying a lot in my classes. They are now gentler towards each other than they were before we started using Rooted in Jesus Junior.” *Edwin Sengooba, RinJ Junior coordinator, Kansanga Uganda*



Changing communities



- “One woman from Nchelenge became a Christian in her village group. Her group had been using the Rooted in Jesus material, which helps villagers whatever their education level to embrace Christ individually and corporately. At some point this woman noticed the number of orphans in her village, even though she had lived there many years. ‘They are all God’s children,’ she declared, and promptly took some children into her own home at her own expense. The gravity of that action is staggering. She has taken responsibility not only for herself, but for people around her as well” *Jon Paul Witt, working with RinJ through Dignity International in Zambia*
- “St Andrew’s Church exists in the very heart of extreme right wing Afrikaner nationalism – some of the strongest resistance to the New South Africa has been in that area. They have formed one group comprising people from the (formerly white) church in Modimolle and the (black) church in Phagameng. The RinJ material is helping them to find each other and share deeply,” *Bishop Martin Breytenbach, Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist, South Africa*
- “We have seen Christ doing miracles in our lives. I urge you, if you take this message positively, it will change you, change the society round you, change the church. Don’t take it just as a seminar – take it as a turning point” - *Lucy Mugwanja, speaking in Kajiado, Kenya*
- “I convinced ten girls who are prostitutes who want to join the program. The challenge is they need help to sustain themselves. They want to change, to start a new life. We meet every day at 5 am to 6 am. They propose to do business since others have an idea in business, to start small”, *Susan Chulu, Canon Missioner,*



Diocese of Eastern Zambia

- “I want to share with you a testimony of what happened that day; you remember praying shortly with me over the phone? Ten minutes after that prayer there was calm and immediately we got a letter of transfer of the officer in-charge who was actually the cause of the problems in this station. The testimony is we have an open door not only in Narok prison but also in all the prisons in Rift Valley. Before we introduced this programme, we were not able to sincerely fellowship but today we study, pray and fellowship” - *Merus ole Sagana, prison chaplain, Narok prison, Kenya*
- ‘Many witchdoctors were saved’, *group leader, Kibaya, Tanzania*
- “Ramine is an evangelist who started working near Morrumbala in January this year. 22 year old Ramine is supported by a church in Malaysia who made contact with us last September. By June, Ramine had seen 15 congregations grow (with between 30 and 80 or so adults each). His church planting strategy includes using RinJ with a group of ‘people of peace’ who are now working with their own 15 groups. Yes, churches in Biblical terms, with baptized learning-together believers, not yet organized in ordained Anglican ways. We are in awe of God’s work at the margins of our diocese!” - *Revd Helen Van Koevering, Diocese of Niassa, Mozambique*
- “Going so well. See the guys at the back of this photo at the Family Day celebration in our local basketball stadium? The green caps are 'adeptos' for the Equipa da Vida teams - growing at a great rate. There are now 325 teams in our 504 congregations (an adepto will look after several groups), and each member of a group looks after 10 families in their community in terms of orphan support, water provision, health, HIV awareness and support of long term sick, etc. One of their jobs as adeptos is to teach RinJ where they are. Even muslims have joined in with the community activities in places, and 2 churches have been planted by these teams! RinJ is also being taught in MU groups, and those have grown amazingly too: under 1000 members in 2004, now approaching 3000. We aim for each MU group to have a young girls' group (St Agnes), RinJ groups, bible study and Sunday School, and we are getting there slowly but surely, with more than 30 RinJ groups taught by MU around the diocese. And RinJ, alongside a traditional catechist course to learn Lord's Prayer and Creed etc, is the basis for the confirmation classes in every parish now. Really quite amazing.” *Helen Van Koevering, Director of Mission & Ministry, Diocese of Niassa, Mozambique*
- “I am proud in Jesus’ name to inform you that our group has started charity work in the community after learning the word of God on “ salt and Light.” After the lesson members of the group contributed financially and materially. The group raised 24kg maize grain, 6 bars of soap, salt, and second hand cloths. The committed members of the group have been transformed physically and spiritually in their lives due to the completion of the course. In August 2012 our group went for one day outreach meeting to share the word of God with St Pauls Anglican Church which is about 35 Km from Mansa town. The theme for the meeting was “individual relationship with God.” Lessons covered were: introduction to Rooted in Jesus, salt and light, how to receive blessings from God and spiritual healing. I am proud that many Christians surrendered their lives to Jesus as Lord, demons, evil spirits were cast out in many people during the altar call healing prayer time. I thank the power of God by releasing many people from the power of darkness to light. The group has planned to reach 8 congregations before December 2012; we are going to start with St Andrews 45 km from Mansa town” – *Robert Katandula, team leader, All Saints Mansa, Diocese of Luapula,*



Rooted in Jesus – www.rootedinjesus.net

Director – Alison Morgan

Contact – office@rootedinjesus.net

Rooted in Jesus is a project of The Mathetes Trust, reg charity no 1169869.