

Rooted in Jesus : Morogoro Diocese : compilation of Commissioning speeches by Bishop Godfrey Sehaba in May 2011 at Berega

“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. These have been very blessed seminars to the glory of God.

Last year I met Bishop John Inge in Worcester, our link Diocese in England. He told me of his prayers for our Diocese and I have seen those prayers being fulfilled. I also thank Rev Alison Morgan, the Director of Rooted in Jesus. I send her my greetings. Thank you Bishop John Hayden (retired Bishop of Diocese of Kiteto, Tanzania) and the Team from the UK for what you have done in these seminars. I thank God for blessing this diocese.



This Rooted in Jesus Conference is the evidence that God called us to this work. These seminars equip us with the power to strengthen us in our work. This work now starts with you. What is inside your heart? We now have a new instrument for our ministry in our Diocese; Rooted in Jesus is our best weapon - we have a new jembe to use to take big opportunities in the parishes. You will make sorrow in my heart if you do not take this opportunity you have. If your churches do not grow spiritually they are like a political party. I do not want to lead a political party.

I am a farmer and I understand the use of tools. Rooted in Jesus is good instrument for us to use in our ministry. If you have a hand hoe for the farm and you learn there is a better tool you will not get far by keeping the hand hoe. This is a small tool and we now have a big tool for our work in the parishes. If I hear that people are not using this new tool I shall not be happy. In the spiritual battle we are now in let us use this new tool, this new weapon. Let us ask God to help us with prayer and fasting to bring more people into Christ. We have had a chance to repent, to be strengthened, so we shall bring many people to God.

Rooted in Jesus is the answer to our questions: what should we do to bring people to Jesus and how do we develop new converts to Christ? We have received the answer. A lot of people used to read the Bible yet not use it at all but now they will dust it down and read it and use it. This instrument is especially for us to strengthen our converts.

How do I see the use of this tool? You can use this in confirmation classes, in the Mother’s Union, in youth groups, in your prayer groups and maybe community groups can be involved in the programme too. Our role is to bring people to Christ and this programme is a great tool. We must encourage people to come to our churches not leave for other places. I am sure God will renew the spiritual life in our churches. For this work we must receive the blessing of God. I will pray the Holy Spirit to bless you and equip you.

You have been challenged to start groups in ten days; let us do so immediately. It is like food that can go cold; there is no taste in cold food. So start immediately! When I come to your parishes I want to hear testimonies. Let us have testimonies that will be like good food to us, food to feed us. So we shall also start this course for our confirmation classes.

I have spoken about revival often and that our spiritual health is not good. So I want to hear from you what God is doing, how the Christians are growing and using their gifts in our churches. We have heard that sick people go to the Pentecostal church: what is this? We must enable people to use their gifts and Rooted in Jesus will help us to accomplish this. This morning I was reading Nehemiah. He was a good leader. He invited other people to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem with him. He brought people together but among those were people who refused to join in. We must pray for people who refuse to join in your groups.

As you go from here, may God bless you. Start your groups immediately. The devil does not want this; so I shall pray for you. May God give you the chance to see great blessing. There is no salary for us like seeing people being saved and come to perfection in Jesus.

God bless you. I am praying for you.

Bishop Godfrey attended the first Conference; returning to the second Conference for the commissioning. This amalgamation of two speeches is made with his permission by Jonathan Rendall, Thursday, 1st June 2011