



Rooted in Jesus Annual Report 2013

making disciples... who will teach others also

2013 has been a milestone year for Rooted in Jesus, which has continued to expand exponentially. The RinJ programme is now in use in 59 dioceses or denominational groupings in 15 African countries.

- This year from the UK we sent 13 teams to work in 17 dioceses, including our first visit to Rwanda. 58 people from the UK, Africa and the USA were involved in these teams; 12 were led by UK and 5 by Tanzanian leaders.
- Rooted in Jesus has continued to expand in South Africa, where it is overseen by Trevor Pearce of Growing the Church; they ran a further 8 conferences, training leaders from an additional 5 dioceses.
- We ran the first RinJ national conference in Tanzania, where 13 of the 27 Anglican dioceses now use RinJ. This was a conference hosted by Bishop Stanley Hotay and attended by coordinators from 8 dioceses, with Bishop James Newcome of Carlisle as guest speaker. Stanley is now National Director of RinJ in Tanzania, working with Ven Jacob Robert (Mara) and Canon James Almasi (Masasi) as Regional Coordinators; teams will continue to have Tanzanian and UK members but RinJ will be fully administered and supported from Stanley's office in Arusha.
- It's been a significant year for Rooted in Jesus Junior, now in use in Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and South Africa; this year we ran the first regional training conference for Junior in Tanzania, with delegates from 5 dioceses. Junior is receiving an enthusiastic reception from Sunday School teachers – in the Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro alone there are already 1841 children in Junior groups, with 102 teachers and 50 assistants working in every parish in the diocese.
- 178 people have now taken part in RinJ teams, 134 from the UK and 44 from Africa. RinJ is being translated into new languages – 35 at present. In total we have trained 8500 RinJ leaders and 1500 Junior leaders; and we know that others have been trained locally; it's impossible to tell how many people have participated in RinJ groups but it's probably somewhere between 50 and 100 thousand. RinJ book 1 is standard for confirmation preparation in many dioceses; in some the complete course is used as foundational training for lay ministers and community clergy; in others it's now part of the syllabus in the diocesan Bible College.

The details

Introductory RinJ conferences were held this year in the Anglican dioceses of Bujumbura (Burundi), Kigali (Rwanda), George, Natal (South Africa), Wau, Yambio (South Sudan), Shinyanga, Western Tanganyika, Zanzibar, Tabora, Kibondo (Tanzania), and Kajiado (Kenya). Followup conferences were held in Nzara (South Sudan), Toliara and Fianarantsoa (Madagascar), St Mark's (South Africa), Mpwapwa (Tanzania) and Kericho (Kenya).

Two of the conferences were sponsored and facilitated by teams with existing links – the conferences in the Diocese of Wau were sponsored and staffed by Poole Deanery in the Diocese of Salisbury, and the conference in Kericho was supported and led by Tim Grew with a team from Trinity Cheltenham. Both Poole and Trinity Cheltenham will continue to support the RinJ programme in these areas. We are hoping increasingly to work through existing partnerships of this kind where we can.

Rooted in Jesus Junior conferences were held in the Dioceses of Morogoro, Mara and Mount Kilimanjaro (the latter also led by a team from the link diocese of Leicester).

Detailed reports for all these visits can be found on the Rooted in Jesus [website](http://www.rootedinjesus.net).



www.rootedinjesus.net
www.resource-arm.net

The UK team

Rooted in Jesus continues to be directed by Alison Morgan. Frances Hazell has grown into her role as the RinJ administrator, and her hours have increased as demand for Rooted in Jesus grows. Jonathan Rendall focusses now on RinJ Junior; the English books are nearing completion, the Team Manual is written and Jonathan is working on getting the books translated and on leading and training Junior teams. Nicky Clark has provided invaluable financial oversight this year, and Clemency Fox continues to lead the thirty or so intercessors who provide essential prayer support for the conferences. And we are delighted to welcome Revd Dr Linnet Smith, who has offered to give up to 4 months of her time each year to supporting the development of RinJ in Tanzania; she will be working on secondment to the Arusha office, starting in January.

Looking ahead

RinJ UK has so far received invitations to run *Rooted in Jesus* conferences in 15 dioceses during 2014, of which 8 will be new. Three new dioceses in Tanzania have also requested RinJ, and there will be up to 8 followup conferences in existing dioceses as well (finance permitting). Growing the Church has been invited to launch RinJ in three new countries – Swaziland, Namibia and Lesotho – and they plan new and followup conferences in a number of South African dioceses as well. And Helen Van Koevering from the Diocese of Niassa in Mozambique, where up to 12000 people are now in RinJ groups, will lead a refresher conference in the neighbouring Diocese of Southern Malawi. Junior conferences are planned for Eastern Zambia; Zululand, St Mark's (South Africa), Mara (Tanzania) and South Rwenzori (Uganda). Alison is again to be one of the speakers at the second Anglicans Ablaze Conference in Johannesburg next summer. So all in all it looks as if RinJ conferences will be held in something like 38 dioceses in 2014...

Feedback

People have continued to write to us sharing their experiences of *Rooted in Jesus*. We have had reports of people being overwhelmed by the presence of God, healed and transformed in their personal lives through the conferences. Children are coming to faith through the Junior groups, sometimes from the home backgrounds of great suffering – such as one boy who had watched his father kill his mother, then discovering through his uncle's RinJ group that Jesus died for him. Leaders in remote areas have led hundreds to faith in Christ, often from active involvement in traditional religious practices. 'I was a bad man,' said one catechist from Madagascar, 'but now I am rooted in Christ' – since when he had led 124 people to faith through using Book 1 in his village. One community priest alone in Mozambique has taken 1800 people through the first 3 books. Individual groups have adopted orphans, cared for the poor and the sick and, in Cape Town, stood up to local violent gang leaders and brought peace to their community. Through the ministry of such groups many have been healed and many saved. A favourite story this year is of the group in Zambia which disbanded; of the ten members, all previously prostitutes, 2 have got married and 5 have returned home to farm. And there's a blessing for us in all this too: UK team members have come back envisioned, renewed, encouraged and inspired. This work is not easy, and there are plenty of hitches and disappointments. But "there is no doubt that God is using this course in a remarkable way throughout Africa," as Bishop Martin Breytenbach concludes. And so we pray; and we persist.

Thanks

Our thanks are due to the many people, churches and organisations who have once again given sacrificially of their time and resources to *Rooted in Jesus*. Without you none of this would be possible!

Revd Dr Alison Morgan, Director, Rooted in Jesus.

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