

The importance of working with children

Rooted in Jesus Junior Regional Conference in Morogoro, June 2013

Revd Godson Madibi from the Diocese of Morogoro gave testimony to this move of the Holy Spirit in his life and a new focus in his ministry:

“After I finished my Diploma in Theology at St Paul’s Limuru, Kenya, I was ordained (2008) deacon in the diocese of Mbeere, Kenya and served there as Assistant Pastor for one year. Then I was taken back to Tanzania and given a parish at Mahenge District in Morogoro (2009). I worked here for two years than I got a chance to go to St John’s University where I finished my BA in Applied Theology (5.6.2013).

“When I came back I met a seminar of Rooted in Jesus Junior and the General Secretary of the Diocese invited me to attend and be a translator. On the first day there was a Workshop where we were divided into groups. In my group we heard a testimony about the workshop leader’s daughter who started to prophesy and share God’s message to others, and other children also received Christ as their personal Saviour, when she was the age of seven years. This and other many testimonies from other participants on how they witnessed children being good followers who are making disciples touched my heart, challenging me and flashing back to how I was handling children’s ministry.

“Then I came to realise that in many cases as a pastor I didn’t have any concern with children, even if there was a Sunday School team in my parish; I was taking them as children who are like an empty (white)board where one writes things then the board is cleaned which means they are always playing only, they can’t get anything at their age nor send the message to others. So for me I saw children always they are coming to church for fun and nothing else. For that reason I didn’t give them room to participate or do anything because I saw them as coming for fun. But after I received the course, now I am regretting my past because in one way or another I was a stumbling block for the children to see, know and test the love of God and to make others to be followers. Always I depended on adults only. Not only that but also I didn’t include children as one of my works of Christian mission. This is why even for their teachers I was just choosing people who have no qualification and sometimes I was leaving them outside from the church to play, sing then dismiss them to their parents.

“My dear friends in Christ, I believe many pastors and other church leaders they have done or are still doing the same. Please my friends it is a sin before the Lord. To my side I repented before the Lord and now I am a new person who wants children to be given room to perform or practice their gifts in the church and before the Lord. They are God’s creatures as you who has the duty of making others to be followers. Please let us change these attitudes for the glory of the Lord. Amen.”

Revd Godson Madibi



Children in Tanzania

