

Rooted in Jesus Junior: Regional Conference in Morogoro

Tanzania, June 2013

43 Sunday School teachers and 3 Rooted in Jesus Junior coordinators from 5 dioceses gathered at the Adult Education Institute in Morogoro for a regional Rooted in Jesus Junior Conference. 32 came from Morogoro, 10 from Mpwapawa, 2 from Mount Kilimanjaro (a Junior Conference was held there in May), 1 from Kiteto (a Junior Conference was held there in October 2012) and 2 from Masasi (the pilot and first Junior conference was in Masasi in 2010/2011, where over 100 children are now being disciplined in the pilot parish).

From the very opening of the conference there was a great togetherness and fellowship; the presence of God brought a unity of purpose and a great sense of community and bonding in the Spirit - a gathering of God's people, here with a purpose: to worship, to learn, to be equipped and to return to serve the children in the parishes. We experienced great joy and vibrancy in worship with dance and beautiful harmony in the singing combined with passionate prayer; we were blessed throughout each day. We enjoyed much laughter, valued the rich fellowship and the energetic and passionate prayer times.



We knew the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in the ministry times: God was powerfully at work amongst the delegates. The creative activities within the training gave opportunity for much laughter and joy throughout the four days, in excellent accommodation in the foothills of the Uluguru Mountains – accompanied on some days by the local troop of monkeys!

All the delegates were very receptive to the teaching and training opportunities – perhaps at a greater depth than we realised, until the opportunities for questions were given. This was a good and rewarding week with a bright and alert group of attendees. RinJ Junior certainly excited and enthused the delegates; this became abundantly clear in the practice groups when conference divided into small groups to lead the lessons using the course books, as if in Sunday School with children. There was a confidence in this new way of teaching and new learning that is Junior.

The preparation day and the first day of conference involved significant challenges due to the spiritual battle over the conference: a picture and prophetic word into the situation came from the RinJ intercessors in the UK. We were greatly encouraged by this, and thank God for the intercessors as God spoke directly into our situation bringing great blessing.



The diocesan RinJ Junior leaders from Morogoro, Masasi, Kiteto and Mpwapawa Dioceses indicated their great excitement and enthusiasm for Junior, committing to give further training and leadership in their dioceses. One of the translators, Revd Godson Madibi, gave testimony to the transformation of his ministry as priest for children as disciples and serving as members of the body of Christ, saying, "now I am a new person who wants children to be given room to perform or practise 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 (to children) for the glory of the Lord. Amen' (for the full testimony click [here](#)).

The Conference ended with a commissioning speech from the Vicar General of the Diocese of Morogoro; to him and to Canon Himily Lumambo, Rooted in Jesus coordinator in Morogoro, we give our thanks. Two words given on the final day for the conference summed up these four days: "you have been given a new song to sing for the Lord's children" (Psalm 96.1) and "you are now carrying something beautiful for God: it is good news for your children" (Romans 10. 14&15).

The team: Revd Grace Daudi (Mara Diocese), Nicole Corlew (GtC South Africa), Capt Joshua Opondo (Maseno South, Kenya), Val Challis, Sandy Hewit, Dave Smith and Jonathan Rendall (team leader).

Jonathan Rendall

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