

Rooted in Jesus Junior Follow up Conferences Uganda - August 2011

Rooted in Jesus Junior was piloted in Uganda in August 2010 at two conferences for children's leaders held at Entebbe and Namungoona (a suburb of Kampala.) The team was led by Alex Scott, associate Minister with responsibility for youth and children, Holy Trinity Church Leicester, part of the original writing team for Rooted in Jesus. Over 150 delegates were trained to use the programme, drawn mainly from Pentecostal churches as well as representatives from children's ministries VIVA, Scripture Union and Watoto.

Follow up conferences were held in both locations in August 2011 led by Nicky Plumbley, a member of the 2010 Ugandan pilot team, who adapted the adult discipleship programme for use with children with Lauren Wicks and Rooted in Jesus editor Rev. Dr. Alison Morgan. A total of 146 people attended all or part of these conferences.

Team members from UK

Nicky and Nina Plumbley - Hampton Baptist Church - and **Grace Crowther** - Teddington Baptist Church, SW London.



Nina and Grace with headmistress Lillian Kayiira, outside Quality Foundation school, where we taught workshops during the Namungoona Conference.

Team members from Uganda

Deb and Dug Benn of the Baptist Missionary Society and their Ugandan partner **Chris Tabu**. They work together as the Children's Department of the Baptist Union in Uganda and train children's leaders in Baptist churches across Uganda. **Editar Kamusiime**, freelance Ugandan children's worker for VIVA, SU and other organisations.

Nicky Plumbley (L) and Deb and Dug Benn. Both Hampton and Teddington Baptist Churches sponsor Deb and Dug as missionaries in Uganda.



The conferences were hosted by **Bishop Gichuru Jeremy** of Namungoona Cathedral. His oldest son **Seth Gichuru** was also a member of the Rooted in Jesus Junior teaching team.

Conference teaching materials

The conference teaching programme was based on the model used for follow up conferences for the adult version of Rooted in Jesus. Workshops were added that focussed on working with children, which included managing children's behaviour, how do children learn and children and the Holy Spirit.

Many delegates who attended the Rooted in Jesus Junior follow up conferences had been teaching the Rooted in Jesus programme during its pilot year in Uganda. The team was able to ask them a series of questions during workshops to find out if they were finding the programme useful and also how they considered it could be improved.

Bishop Gichuru Jeremy and his wife Pastor Eunice, outside their home in Namungoona which is also run as a guest house for missionaries.



Delegates responded enthusiastically about the teaching style of Rooted in Jesus Junior, which was new to them. Many also reported that they had found that the children's behaviour had improved in Sunday school because they were so engaged and active during the lessons. Children were growing in confidence in prayer, sharing what they had been learning with friends at school and becoming more involved in the life of the church.

Church leaders have been giving children opportunities to recite the memory verses, lead worship during church services and Sunday schools attendance is growing. 'Junior' has also been taught in schools in Entebbe and Kampala as well as in homes in both districts. Please pray for the leaders who teach Rooted in Jesus Junior and the children in their care in Uganda.

Feedback from teachers who have been using RinJ Junior

RinJ Junior is used in Sunday Schools, in day schools during the lunch break or in the holidays, in boarding schools and in a children's village where 3 of the older children trained at the 2010 conferences were commissioned to teach it to the others. One teacher visits the islands in Lake Victoria and uses it as the basis of what she does with the children there; one school has embedded it in the syllabus and teaches it to all 158 pupils.

Esther Olweny (Living Hope Revival Church) – "4 children have become Christians. In our church we have been given time for the children to sing and present the memory verses from their lessons. Children are now given the opportunity to participate and they are growing in confidence in doing this. They are now active in praying in church – they have prayed for healing in Sunday School and seen this happen."

Godfrey Waidhuba (Calvary Chapel): "The memory verses work! 40 children have become Christians!"

Jane Nanyonjo (islands in Wakiso district): "Parents saw their children change as a result of being taught the programme and have given thanks to the teachers. The children are now involved and very active in the lessons; they want to put into practice what they have been learning. Now they are smiling and praying all the time. Before we used this programme, praying was a problem and we did not know how to do it with the children. Now they all want to lead the prayer time and serve others, also to read the Bible."

Peace Kanjyesho (Calvary Chapel): "I started teaching the programme first with my own family. I taught them about the tree and how we are supposed to grow spiritually like a tree. The children have been asking how they can grow like that – and bear fruit with their roots deep down in Jesus. We are enjoying the fruits as a family and the gospel has become sweet to us. We love God's word and walk in it and share it with others. Some of my children are sharing what they have learned with their friends at church."

