

Report on RinJ conference

conducted from November 8th to 11th 2017

Revd John Onyao, Diocesan Rooted in Jesus Coordinator

Dear Dr. Alison Morgan

Christian Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is a narrative and financial report from Karamoja Diocese for The RinJ Conference November 2017. I am pleased to share with you this report on how the RinJ training was and how it ended as we embarked upon our plan to engage Christians to live and develop into holistic and productive Christian lives.

Group photo of the members that attended the RinJ training



Like a lot of churches, Karamoja Diocese has a number of people who have been Christians for a long time, are faithful servants of Christ and his Church, are members of congregations, and so on, but are in danger of always 'being empty' spiritually. As we were planning the RinJ programme and what to do next in different Parishes, we decided that we needed to do something which would rekindle our first love of Christ. Out of this was RinJ follow up programme, launched over the week led by Rev. Michael and the team. One member of neighbouring church PAG joined us for a four day Conference, led by Rev. Mike, who showed us that the RinJ is active in the most unexpected situations. 84 participants attended the conference, who come from and all around the whole diocese. Some had traveled 200 kilometers away from the diocesan headquarters.

The conference started very well with full attendance and later it was interrupted by the music that was playing at the trade show grounds a distance of 50 meters. The noise affected the conference and listening to teaching became extremely difficult, this made the conference hall to be moved to be conducted under the trees, which was then named "church at the jungle". The shades were very cool and comfortable. Mike will testify about this. Below Mike teaching in the new conference which was under the trees.



The conference ended very well with participants making a commitment to lead RinJ groups and to grow the groups.



Team praying together with the participants.



Rev'd Mike in prayer moment

Sometimes it is in our periods of struggle that our engagement with God goes deeper, as evidenced by Jacob's overnight encounter with an angel. The teaching led into an unhurried time of worship and prayer, with prayer words being given both to individuals and to the group as a whole. At the main church service the following Sunday morning, we were joined by a large 'Baptism Party' as we looked at the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing

us to new birth. In successive week, we have seen (both through Sunday teaching and midweek conference) that the RinJ renews and equips us to grow the Church and reach out in mission. The journey continues.

Rev'd Mike, thank you so much for all you did in leading teaching ministry. You and the team both led and spoke with a great sensitivity and openness and listened and heard people's questions. Mike, Ben, Captain James and Lucy in the conference in Karamoja were loving, gentle in presentation, encouraging in message and clear in teaching. They allowed the Holy Spirit to use them in a powerful way. During this time of the teaching some of the participants testified, understanding of how RinJ groups are lead, both in vocabulary and in its overall direction. The assumption was that daily discipleship, and church ministry, requires participation in the church, rather than simply seeking the Spirit's blessing on our ministry.

Testimonies

Alfred Lokiru testified:

RinJ was so amazing to life and the lives of the group members I used to meet. As we kept on meeting, one of the participants in my group who comes from the mountain asked me to visit him on the top of the mountain. I accepted to go up on the mountain, the first day I held the meeting 45 people gave their lives to Christ. As time went as kept on meeting these people 112 got baptized in the church. His appeal was RinJ is a very good programme as result it should continue.

Rev'd James Chegem testified:

RinJ has done a lot in the church I am leading, I used to struggle a lot from the time the church started but when introduced RinJ it has helped me to grow the church numerically and spiritually. He testified of a woman called Lucia who had never gone to school in her time but as she kept on coming to attend RinJ meeting, Lucia learnt how to memorize verses and now she is good evangelist and quotes scriptures in the bible which she used to memorize. Three of the members of his group had come to attend the training led by Rev'd Mike. James testified that many of the members who attended RinJ meetings in his church are now committed to church programmes. The church now has 300 members in attendance of which due to the usual challenges of Karamoja 100 of them born again attend church regularly. He appealed that RinJ should not stop.

Poebe Akol a teacher by profession:

It was her first time to attend RinJ conference during the time of evening fellowship Mike shared from the book of John 5: 1 – 15, the message touched her and she came for prayers. At the time of testifying she said after the death of her father and later 2 of her brothers died within the same month she had wrong thoughts in her heart, she thought God had left her and the family and that is why she is suffering, she decided to abandoned the church and to develop the spirit of hatred towards the church and the people. She said she had unforgiving heart and she was ready to revenge. She was happy that God had good plan for her to come to attend the RinJ conference where she has met with the healing of her wounded heart. She confessed that she was free like that man who received his healing at the pool.

We live in unpredictable times and face challenges. RinJ's vocation is located at the crossroads where renewal and mission meet. Renewal without mission quickly becomes self indulgence. Mission without renewal often results in disillusion. Renewal for mission lies at the heart of the Spirit's activity in the church. Unpredictable times and discontinuous change make discernment the Church's most critical capacity for our day. Discernment takes place where word and Spirit meet, not this time at a crossroads but at a junction, the junction between past and the future.

Our next Plan

The RinJ leaders who came for the training resolved

- a. That the RinJ groups be started by the end of November
- b. 1st reports to be sent to the RinJ coordinator after one Month from the time groups have been started and later quarterly report to written or communicated on phone.

- c. Each RinJ group leader has to draw his own work plan that will help him to lead his group effectively.

Participants take a picture after receiving certificates.

At the end of the training each participant received a certificate, introduction to leaders guide and Book 1. Book 2, 3, 4 will be given later when a group leaders finishes Bk 1. This will avoid wastage of materials.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

1. As Karamoja Diocese, and the participants that attended the RinJ training humbly appeal to your office to send back Rev'd Mike, Rev. Ben and Lucy to come back for the next training. We shall be happy if our request is considered. This is very important for the growth of any programme.
2. Karamoja Diocese, would like to thank you for your generosity, financial and spiritual support you have offered to us and other dioceses.
3. Our deep heart appreciation goes to The Mathetes Trust who supported the training and monitoring of the programme in the diocese.
4. Our love goes to the country director, Dr. Alison Morgan and others who have us in their hearts. May God bless you!!!
5. Thank you being part of the Karamoja soul harvesting, great things will continue to happen!!
6. For the successful RinJ Conference for 2017, it was all about your prayers and financial support.

PRAY FOR

1. The RinJ Leaders in Karamoja Diocese that 2018 many will continue to have an encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Pray for the youth, children as our focus is on them for tomorrow's church. Will want to do a training for the school teachers, children's leaders and Sunday school teachers.
3. A means of transport facilitation, that I will be able to funds to help to do monitoring of the RinJ programme. It is very difficult to monitor the work since the congregations are far from each other and when it rains it very difficult to reach remote place for monitoring.
4. For Pastor John Onyao and family that God will grant more wisdom to do the work of God, pray that God provides for my needs.
5. Children's retreat/conference planned for each School holiday 2016
6. Salvation of the entire church congregations in Karamoja Diocese.
7. The group leaders and their groups in the parishes.

Revd John Onyao, 20.11.17

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