

Rooted in Jesus Conference in the Diocese of Kibondo, Tanzania

18-21st June 2013

Team: Canon James Almasi, Canon Joseph Masimosya, Revd David Macha, Revd Ian Smale, Mrs Sue Smale, Mrs Clare Coppen.

At the invitation of Bishop Sospeter Ndenza, a team led by James Almasi of the Diocese of Masasi ran an introductory four day Rooted in Jesus conference in the Diocese of Kibondo. Revd Amoni Masabile was appointed as the Diocesan Coordinator.



The diocese

Kibondo is a new diocese, created from the Diocese of Western Tanganyika in 2012, and Bishop Sospeter Ndenza is the first bishop. The new diocese is the result of rapid church growth; prior to its independence Bishop Sadock Makaya of Western Tanganyika had confirmed 654 candidates in seven days in the Kibondo area, mostly young adults.

The conference

The conference was held at Nabuhima, Kibondo Anglican Training Center about four km from the town. There were 93 participants (33 clergy, 43 evangelists, 3 clergy wives, 3 deacons and 11 lay people). Bishop Sospeter and his wife were present at every session. Bishop Sospeter wrote afterwards: "The seminar was so good, and rich. The pastors and all delegates were so pleased, encouraged, strengthened, and renewed. The team was excellent, and every thing went very well."

Team Leader James Almasi writes:

"The participants including Bishop Sospeter himself attended every day and the classes started on time. Breakfast, lunch and supper were prepared in time and the timetable was followed properly. The team members worked not only very hard, but the life as a whole was communal life not only during conference session but also even when we went back to the hotel."

"One of the statements given by the diocesan bishop during his closing address was that, he as a bishop did not attend the conference to watch the team with his clergies, but more to learn how he should be rooted in Jesus. 'I am born again since thirty five years ago and despite that I have been a bishop for seven years, but Rooted in Jesus Conference has done something in my ministry, not only as a bishop, but as a Christian and believer', said Bishop SosPeter.

Team members report:

"At Kibondo there was a time of ministry following one of the talks when Fr James invited the Holy Spirit to come and minister to us individually. There was a palpable sense of the presence of God working amongst all of us for several minutes, some were quietly weeping, all were aware of God doing business with us at an individual level."

"At the end the delegates were called forward by name, to shake hands with the Bishop (formally dressed in robes) and have their picture taken as they received their certificate and book. They then went along the line shaking hands with the team. After this they all sat waving their certificates, then spontaneous worship broke out with them standing up and wildly waving their certificates in the air. This all spoke of how much they valued the training. Having been to many very dismal diocesan training programmes, I was overjoyed at the exuberance and their commitment and determination to try this new approach to discipleship."



Watch a [video](#) of the closing worship

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