

# ROOTED IN JESUS REPORT, Diocese of Kigali

November 2014

Rooted in Jesus teachings have been a blessing to Kigali Diocese where parishes sent youth to these trainings that later on new groups were started.

- According to the last year 2013 reports 85 people came into the training among which 15 were catechists and the rest were youth. They were able to start 32 groups with 252 members.
- In July 2014 when it was second time conference 103 people were trained among who 17 were returners. 17 returners gave reports that some groups are no longer working due to shifting of group leaders and group members seeking for jobs and constant shifting due to climatic changes leading to starvation and the existing members of groups reduced to 235.

Youth staff at the Diocese discussed with group leaders to narrate their challenges, strength and weakness where group leaders requested that there should be constant follow up and visits to the started groups. Following their request which we also support, in 2014 we selected 5 pilot parishes basing on geographical location and groups that have started and decided to constantly visit them, advise them and do follow up to newly formed groups. The rest of the groups will be visited by the archdeaconry youth leaders and youth leaders at parish level.

*The main challenge is that these groups meet late in evenings which become impossible to meet them and the geographical location that involves long distances does not allow.*

While visiting Rooted in Jesus groups, we shared the word of God in Colossians 3:16, Psalm 119:105, Psalm 119:11. We also made the group leaders recall some of the Bible verses and presentations made during the Rooted in Jesus conference and it was so amazing to see them remember the memorized verses, hear some of their testimonies, and this encouraged new members.

**We selected 5 of them as Pilots and we visited their different groups and the following are their testimonies:**

## 1. Musave

This is a local church of Ndera parish where there are two existing working groups: **Ubumwe** group and **Abasaruzi** group.

One of the youth leaders, Niyigena, who attended the conference worked hard to start Rooted in Jesus groups where according to the testimony given by their pastor not only group members increased but also church members at this new local church increased. The two

groups now have 42 members.

A catechist in his testimony gave out Bible verses he memorized. He said that the Rooted in Jesus' teachings have become a blessing to him in knowing the word of God.

Peninah from Ndera Parish said that she also started a new group with 14 members. They meet and study the word of God. She also said that they encouraged other groups like choirs, cells, saving groups who are now using these teachings and they expect the groups and group members to increase. She testified that Rooted in Jesus teachings helped them to stand firm and teach without fear, to know the word of God, they learnt sharing ideas, hence there has been spiritual growth.



5 Members who could not afford to buy Bibles received them in each of the visited parishes.

## 2. Gahanga Parish

This is also one of the selected parishes where we visited Rooted in Jesus groups. There are 3 existing working groups with a total of 43 members. They testified that Rooted in Jesus helped them know many verses, found out the word of God sweet and also helped their groups to increase. They are expecting to increase the groups including children graduating from Sunday school.



## 3. Ntarama Parish

In this parish there are two existing working groups with 30 members. One is a football team where youth meet for the word of God before they play football. They told that Rooted in Jesus groups helped them know the word of God. We discussed with them how these groups should be strengthened and other new groups start too.

Visiting all Rooted in Jesus groups is not an easy work to be done by youth department due to time constraints and also geographical set ups of parishes where youth meet late in evenings. We asked archdeaconry youth committees more especially those in charge of spiritual growth and development to visit them advise them how to manage time, share life experience and help each other. We prayed for them and asked them to constantly give reports to youth department and seek for advice where they feel they need it. With the help of these committees we expect to move forward and strengthen Rooted in Jesus groups.



### Some of the general problems they face:

- Time for meeting become limited more especially when it is rainy season when people are busy in cultivations.
- Only group leaders lead the groups and when they shift the groups collapse.
- Some youth do not have Bibles and the ones given are few.
- Other parish activities conflict their time tables for their lessons.

Eric Habyarimana, Youth & Children Department, Diocese of Kigali  
17.11.2014

For more information see [www.rootedinjesus.net](http://www.rootedinjesus.net)