

06 June 2012

Dear Alison,
Greetings in our incarnate, crucified, risen, ascended, Holy-Spirit-giving, coming-again Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

Reflections

Firstly, thank you for trusting a South African to lead the team! I think this must have been the first RinJ team outside South Africa to be made up of mainly non-UK people. The team members were:

- ✦ †Martin Breytenbach (Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist, Team Leader)
- ✦ Archdeacon Jack Kudumela (Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist)
- ✦ Revd Trevor Pearce (Director: Growing the Church, ACSA)
- ✦ Revd Sheila Bridge (Deacon, Diocese of Coventry).



Itinerary

It worked well to meet at the ACK Guesthouse in Nairobi on Monday 9th April. We had a chance to pray together, get to know each other and clarify what was expected of each one before we got to Mara. We flew to Mwanza early on Tuesday 10th April. We met Jacob Oyange in Mara and he helped us sort our money etc before we drove to Bunda, where the RinJ Conference took place. The Diocese of Mara is developing a Bible College on land they have in Bunda (about 100km south of Musoma). Although building is still very much underway it proved to be a good venue for the conferences. The team was accommodated very comfortably in a local guest house where we were made to feel very welcome (“Karibu!”).

Our time in Mara was organized into three parts:

1) Introductory RinJ Conference: 11th-13th April

2) Weekend Activities: 14th-15th April

- Visits to various parishes where RinJ is taking place – to hand out certificates and encourage groups; as well as lunch with †Hilkiah at the Cathedral in Musoma.
- Preaching at various churches in and around Bunda. At †Hilkiah’s request I was privileged to conduct Confirmations.

3) Follow-Up Conference: 16th-18th April.

Ministry

The team worked well:

- Each member was well prepared and more than competent with their talks and in ministry time;
- We found it very easy to get along, were sensitive to each others’ needs and different cultural backgrounds;
- I felt that we did not manage to spend as much time praying together as I would have liked, as there were not many opportunities to be alone as a team. However this proved not to be a problem.



As we experienced last year, the participants in both conferences were keen to learn and active participants. We found that it took some time for people to “catch” the dynamics of presenting RinJ

lessons in small groups. As a result, we developed the following questions to use in evaluating a RinJ Lesson. The participants seemed to find them helpful and I commend it to you for future conferences.:

- 1) Did the groups learn the **memory verse**? (Here we got people to recite it. This became quite a game as groups checked up on each other)
- 2) Was there **interaction** between the group leader and the people in the group?
- 3) Did **everyone participate** and what was done to encourage this participation?
- 4) Did the group **stick to the subject** and not get distracted by other issues arising from it?
- 5) What was the **main point** of the lesson? (Here we asked participants to summarise it in their own words)



As always seems to be the case in Africa, the participants were open and receptive during the ministry times. Clearly there has been a lot of conflicting teaching around Tanzania regarding the work of the Holy Spirit. So, ideas like “you are not filled with the Holy Spirit unless you speak in tongues”, and “free prayer is better than prayers from the Anglican Prayer Book” abound. We hope we were able to bring some balance and sound teaching in these areas.

We also found that people need to be taught different ways of ministering to one another. The “standard” pattern is for everyone to pray at the same time, including the one receiving prayer. This is fine, but sometimes prevents agreement in prayer, and makes it difficult to listen to what God is saying. So we tried to encourage some ministry times when those praying for another would pray one at a time; and those receiving prayer would be quiet and receive what God has for them. But clearly this was not easy to learn. Nevertheless, we had a number of testimonies of answers to prayer.

Conclusion

Thank you again for the wonderful opportunity to lead this team to Mara. It was a great experience for me to work with the people of Mara again, and to serve in a team with Jack, Trevor and Sheila. Not only has it been a good experience for the team and me, but it has also helped bring back to life the link between the Dioceses of Mara and St Mark the Evangelist.

Yours in Christ,

†Martin

†Martin: St Mark the Evangelist

Coordinator Jacob Oyange wrote a few weeks later:

“These [groups] help the church to grow as never been in the History of the Church here in the Diocese of Mara and many people have been receiving the Gospel everywhere in our Diocese. The challenge which we have been facing is how to reach these people with the family of one heart and one mind?”