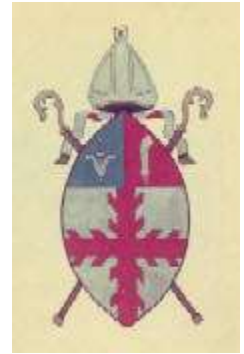


ANGLICAN CHURCH OF TANZANIA DIOCESE OF MASASI



PROGRESS REPORT ON POSITIVE IMPACT AND CHALLENGES OF THE ROOTED IN JESUS PROGRAMME IN MASASI DIOCESE

Fr Lukas Saidi, Diocesan Rooted in Jesus coordinator, March 2011 – report summary

1.0. Introduction

Mission - To make all Nations to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Disciples who walks to witness the love of God through active participation, consulting, sharing and sustainable to work together as stewardship. Mt 28:19-20.

Vision - To organize and encourage Christians to share, support and witness each other what we heard from our Lord Jesus Christ in respect of Great command as a dedicated spiritual family who will teach others. 2Tim 2:2.

Objectives

- To formulate bible study groups of 6 to 20 members in each parish and congregations
- To make Christians disciples of Jesus Christ
- To distribute Bible and other teaching materials to group leaders
- To conduct Christian teachings for study groups so as to empower them spiritually

2.0. Background Information

Rooted in Jesus is a project aimed at helping the ordinary christians to move from conversion to christian maturity, under the guidance group leaders. The group leaders' responsibility is to enable the christian groups in their repetitive localities to meet together and learn how to live with their relatives and neighbours around them. The emphasis is centred on active participation of the group members or even the household members who are involved in the project to promote the discipleship of each member, mentally and physically, through reading various christian books, praying, worshiping, christian teachings, and learning through bible devotion/studies. The sessions are, therefore, being carefully planned to encourage full participation of each group member.

3.0. Establishment of the Rooted in Jesus Project in Masasi Diocese

Following the limited opportunities and resources that would enable people in adopting a culture of reading the Bible and other christian books and become matured christians spiritually and physically, Bishop Patrick got an idea of communicating with Dr Alison Morgan who is the RinJ coordinator worldwide to introduce a program in Masasi Diocese. With that idea in mind, Bishop Patrick in collaboration with a team of priests worked on a Diocesan Rooted in Jesus Strategic plan of which comprises of five components: Christian education, Sunday school teachings, Primary and Secondary school teachings, trainings for confirmation, and baptism and marriage teachings.

The idea was highly and strongly accepted by the RinJ Coordinator and the project was officially commenced through a workshop on Rooted in Jesus, which was conducted in August, 2009. The workshop was held in Masasi and a total of 110 participants, who mostly were the Priests, Priests' wives and catechists were participated. Since then, the project is actively going on and some positive impacts have been realized as described below:

4.0. Positive Impact:

Activities planned to date are finalizing implementation of two major areas; the first one includes Anglican community mobilization, Christian teachings, focused group trainings (women, youth and children through Sunday schools), and Bible studies at family and youth groups; and conduct monitoring visits to track the degree of success and access to correct information and educational materials from the priests in all parishes.

5.0. Anglican community mobilization, Christian teachings, focused group trainings

The first plan was to train “Trainer of trainers” (TOTs) in each Parish in order to simplify the mobilization work as well as conducting Christian teachings and special trainings for focus groups such as women, youth and children. In that respect, Parish’s trainer of trainers (TOTs) were selected, trained and engaged in August 2009. This was achieved following the training of Parish priests, which was conducted last year in August 2010 at the Diocesan conference hall.

Thereafter, followed monitoring in their parish and special trainings of RinJ Junior conducted at Mkuti and Mkomaindo Parishes from July, 2010. Field work was conducted in December 2010 and January 2011, after which, data collection, community mobilization, and training of congregational animators was done.

The reports from the congregations and Parishes were presented to the Diocesan Coordinator for comments and further action and reporting to our partners (Rooted in Jesus) in the UK.

6.0. Review Programs

We are planning to conduct a review monitoring for priests and TOTs that will be held in Parishes from June 2011. The review is aimed at discussing project progress in general in relation to what was planned and analyze challenges faced in the course of implementing the project in the parishes and congregations. The output of the review and recommendations will obviously be geared to steer forward project implementation with effectiveness and efficiency.

The review is expected to be attended by a total of 135 participants (5 people in every parish) including parish priests, priests’ wives, and catechists. However, we are thinking of inviting Canon Michael Samwel of Kiteto Diocese and other fellow workers from RinJ UK to attend the workshop so as to share their experience.

7.0. Willingness of People to Participate in Bible studies & Christian Teachings

During the monitoring visits we noted that men and women as well as boys and girls participated effectively in the bible studies and Christian teachings. We also noted that all participants were very keen during the studies and teachings.

As regards to contribution in executing the project activities in various parishes, the priests met their obligations by making sure that the evangelists, Sunday school teachers and TOTs got the support to enable them carry out their responsibilities efficiently and effectively. This indicates that the sense of ownership to the project is building up. There are however few isolated cases where some TOTs’ contributions could not be made smoothly and some of them have left for other cities for search of paid jobs.

8.0. Achievements

- Among 37 adult people have been baptized in various parishes
- Attendance of church members in Sunday services is increasing

- 12 groups have completed book one of Rooted in Jesus and they are just revising and are now waiting for book two. During the June/July visits they will be given their certificates.
- Most of the group members have a capacity of remembering as many as memory verses and are able to testify the Holy Spirit power.
- Most group members are taking their time to pray together and the increase in offerings is now rising up in most churches.

S/N	Parishes/Churches Visited	# of groups	# of People Participating
1	Mtandi	5	35
2	Mkuti	3	24
3	Mkomaindo, Wapiwapi, Lisekese, Mbonde, Mtakuja	9	578
4	Mumbaka Marika, Namikunda	5	43
5	Chisegu/Mailisita	4	32
6	Mpindimbi. Majengo, Mkajamila, Muungano	5	57
7	Kanyimbi	3	21
8	Mwiti, Namwanga, Nakalola	5	47
9	Chiwata and Ngalinje	2	15
10	Liloya, Chikukwe, Namakongwa	5	52
11	Chikundi, Ndanda, Majengo	3	30
12	Lindi, Nyangao, Kiwalala, Mnazimmoja	7	67
13	Kilwa	1	12
14	Ruangwa,	2	25
15	Nachingwea, Namatula, Stesheni	10	75
16	Naipingo	5	41
17	Naipanga	2	17
18	Chikunja, Temekechini, Temekejuu, Magumuchila	4	35
19	Nanyindwa, Namatutwe, Chiwale	5	44
20	Sululu, Mlingula, Mkarakate	3	32
21	Chakama. Nandete, Kaloleni, Mtalikachau	5	45
22	Kamundi. Nangomba, Mikangaula, Nangaramo.	4	30
23	Mangaka, Nachura, Sengenya	5	55
24	Nanyumbu Lukula	2	16
25	Liwale	6	40
26	Nakapanya and Mindu	4	60
27	Tundururu, Muhuwesi, Majimaji, Matemanga	9	70
28	Michiga, Likokona, Napacho	7	56
Total		130	1,133