

# Rooted in Jesus Followup Conference

## Diocese of Mityana, Uganda

### October 2017

**Team:** Revd Tim Carter (TL), Revd Ian Smale, Dawn James, Nicholas James, Ruth Williams, Revd Capt William Musisi

Rooted in Jesus was first introduced to the Diocese of Mityana in 2015, and Coordinators Canon John Musaasizi and Jethro Ssebulime have been working hard to support the group leaders, of whom 127 had established groups in their parishes. Previous reports can be accessed [here](#).

Tim Carter reports:

#### The conferences

The team led two conferences, attended by a total of 150 people - existing leaders, new leaders in training, theological college students, lay readers and ordinands. Of the previously trained delegates almost all had started a group at some point. About three quarters of them were currently running groups. The coordinator John (and sidekick, Jethro) are very encouraging and obviously deeply loved by the people that they work with. They have a good understanding of the spiritual principles that are foundational in Rooted in Jesus.



The coordinator John (and Jethro) are very encouraging and obviously deeply loved by the people that they work with. They have a good understanding of the spiritual principles that are foundational in Rooted in Jesus. The Bishop visited the conference and with some energy encouraged the delegates to engage fully with Rooted in Jesus. Following his visit it was announced by the Diocesan Secretary that new Bibles would be given to all delegates. This news was received with much rejoicing. The ministry sessions in the evenings were powerful, and many people were prayed for two people made professions of faith for the first time. At the end of both conferences parish and archdeaconary coordinators were appointed by their peers to lead the organisation of RinJ in their areas. These will provide a good local backup for John and Jethro.



I found the trip to be both challenging and fulfilling. As my first conference as team leader, I couldn't have wished for a more cohesive and willing team, which was a real blessing. I was encouraged by going to a context where RinJ had been previously and for the first time hearing and seeing the impact the RinJ groups had on peoples' lives first hand.



#### Testimonies

Every *Rooted in Jesus* conference includes time for prayer for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of participants. These are some of the testimonies that were given:

- A gentleman described being disturbed by feeling lonely and unloved. Nick and Ian laid hands on him and prayed – he reported afterwards that he felt restored.
- Rev E sought out Ian to tell him that Ian had prayed for healing for him and his family at the last conference in 2015. He was eager to report that he and his children were healed and continue to enjoy good health.

- A lady described how she came to the conference with a heart full of sadness. However after the teaching sessions and being prayed for her heart is happy. When she prayed she cried as she remembered everything that she had gone through, but now she gives thanks to God that she is happy.
- A lady explained how when she came on the conference she was feeling sick with malaria and oppressed in her spirit. But the teaching and prayer had started to make her feel better. Then she went on to relate how the previous night she had regained her strength and woke normally giving thanks to God (previously she had woken unrested).
- A lady told us that although she was saved she had never prayed for the Holy Spirit to come, but the previous night she did so and he came.
- E, who had been at the last conference in 2015, shared how the advice to pray short prayers had transformed the way he prayed, making it more effective.

## A Prophecy

Team member Nick James received and shared a prophetic word during each conference.

“I know you feel weak and despised in the eyes of the world  
 Many of you feel poor  
 However, I assure you that what I have sown into you and am sowing into you will yield a great harvest  
 It will be more than can be achieved by big money, big machines or big schemes!  
 The seed I have sown into your hearts is precious  
 Nurture it, tend it, guard your hearts!  
 I promise, you will see a great harvest, beyond your wildest expectations, more than the world could ever give you  
 Indeed, the world will come to you, wanting desperately to receive some of your joy!”

“There is strength here  
 There is experience  
 There is depth  
 But beware of pride and complacency  
 You must maintain the spirit of discipleship  
 I do not look on the external appearance but on the heart  
 Listen to me  
 Some of you have realised that you need to rekindle your first love for me  
 Allow me to set fire to your hearts again and reignite the passion you had when you first decided to follow me  
 Look and listen  
 See what I am saying to the church of Mityana diocese  
 It is time to wake up!  
 It is time to step up into all that I have called you to be!  
 I no longer call you servants but I call you *friends*  
 Keep close to me  
 Listen to me and do what I say  
 I will lead you in cleansing your land of its spiritual roots of evil  
 Your battle is not against people but against spiritual forces which have become established here  
 Let me show you their roots; we can clean them out together  
 Then you can stand up strong and fruitful, an encouraging example to others in Uganda and Africa  
 You can work with me to heal your land and open the heavens here, so that eyes and ears which have been blind and deaf to the Gospel can be opened and a great harvest of souls can be reaped!”

These words bear a striking similarity to a prophecy received many years ago in Engusero, a town in the Diocese of Kiteto, Tanzania, where it was fully embraced, and great spiritual and numerical growth occurred across the diocese in the years which followed. We are confident that the Lord will fulfil his promises here as he did there.

**Coordinator John Musaasizi** writes: “Jethro and I have started post conference follow up ministry. We are indeed thrilled to be part of this great event which is the very core of the Church which our Lord Jesus left on Earth.”