

# Rooted in Jesus Prayer requests from the Diocese of Kiteto, Tanzania, January 2010



Kiteto, until recently the southern part of the Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro, is the place where, under the leadership of +John Hayden, *Rooted in Jesus* was pioneered. 156 groups completed the course and 330 new ones were formed in 2007. What follows is based on a recent report from Michael Samuel. The diocese has been going through a period of transition as it becomes independent and gains its own diocesan bishop, and it has also been, like the rest of E Africa, suffering from severe drought. These two factors mean that our prayers are particularly needed.

Please pray for :

The new bishop, **Isaiah Chambala** (formerly RinJ coordinator, Arusha deanery, Diocese of Mt Kilimanjaro, the diocese from which the Diocese of Kiteto was formed in 2009). Bishop Isaiah himself once referred to *Rooted in Jesus* as 'the Idea that has reshaped my ministry'. Please pray for wisdom, discernment and grace for Isaiah as he begins the new work to which God has called him.

The RinJ Diocesan coordinator Revd **Michael Samuel**. Pray for Michael as he visits the 7 deaneries and supports the new Rural Deans who coordinate the groups in their deaneries; and for him personally as he adjusts to being a full time diocesan officer with responsibility for RinJ (previously he had a parish as well, and is missing it!). Michael has recently lost his eldest daughter and he and Rehema are now bringing up his grandson in addition to their own younger children. Michael travels great distances by motorbike to visit the groups – please pray for safety in travelling, as he has experienced both accident and attempted robbery in the past.



The **Rural Deans** and the group leaders in each deanery. Due to the continued growth of the Church in Kiteto, the deanery boundaries have been redrawn and there are now 7 of these. The Rural Deans are responsible for supporting the group leaders. Recent lack of rainfall has had a great impact in Kiteto recently; it is a very dry area at best of times. This has made life horrifyingly difficult for many, as you will read below. Bear in mind that the group leaders are not paid for their work, and that each has to support his or her family. Many are Masai, and that means finding grass for their animals, sometimes over large areas. Most rely on what they can grow – maize, beans.

## **Kibaya: RD Elisha Challoh**

- Michael writes: *It has 42 teachers and 2 among them are now deacons. Most of them have finished book 2.*
- *We were going through all the names of group members to see if all members are there and we found that some of them are not there they have disappeared because of famine.*

## **Matui: RD Zechariah Mbijima**

- *This denary has 70 teachers and 2 of them are now deacons.. I found that, many of them are near completion of book 2.*

## **Magungu (new deanery): RD Peter Mwegoha**

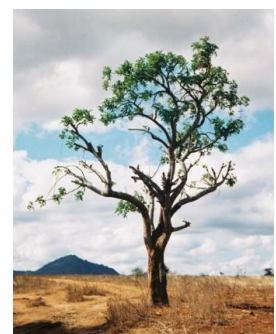
- *This Denary has 4 parishes and has a total of 39 teachers and 1 teacher among them has disappeared and also left his children because of famine.*
- *They are half way through book 2.*

## **Dongo: RD Peter Sewando**

- *This has a total of 49 groups and it is under a new Rural Dean*
- *I found that many teachers did very well and they are at the end of book 2.*

## **Sunya: RD Julius Matakala**

- *This Dinery has 39 teachers. 6 of them has disappeared and left their children because of the problem of famine.*



- *We found that there are some people who did very good and there are some people left behind; this is due to a delay to bring them book 2 at the time needed.*

#### **Kijungu: RD Yona Ngolana**

- *There are 27 teachers and 3 among them has become deacons and 3 of them have disappeared because of the problem of famine.*
- *I found that there was a problem of dryness and there was lack of food for cows, this is lead to many people to shift from one place to another seeking for grass. Even if there was this kind of problem but many of them have completed book 2 and few are in the middle of it.*

#### **Engusero: RD Michael Madeha – a new rural dean**

- *It has a total of 61 teachers and 6 among them are now deacons and 1 teacher had disappeared because of famine.*
- *We found that most teachers are in the first half of book 2. Here there was a problem of a delay to bring them book 2.*



### **Michael shares his heart:**

“Dear Alison, to be honest I am not proud myself when I meet with Pastors and teachers; I teach, encourage group members very well, and for that people became very eager to learn the word of God. There is no other work that I am very well pleased with than to teach people the word of God. And I see strange blessings from God. This is the only thing that is encouraging me and insists me to step forward in my ministry and forget all the suffering that I suffered on the way when it was raining and I become mad and wet all over my body. But I like to see people become firm in their faith and lift up their lives to Jesus , the only one people can trust and depend on. Several times I beg my fellow teachers not to teach people the word of God like political parties, instead they are to teach the word of God according to the Bible; the word of God has to be truth and life and teaches the needs of every people’s heart. Also it has to lead people to change their life, from sinfulness to the life that God pleases with. Let us remember those three keys/ three important things:

- The word of God has to strength a teacher himself and also to his group.
- Does the church has the power of the Holy Spirit and do people see that the Holy Spirit working within Christians?
- And how about the society understand the church and what does the society learn from those who are in the church, and how about those who at that time people around them were saying to them they are witchcraft, or robbers or liars or sinners and disobedience, do they changed life from those sinful life to holy life? Also I am reminding them very often about our plan and I thank God that they now understand me and I can see their fruits.”

To see Michael in action visit <http://www.alisonmorgan.co.uk/RinJ%20demo%20lesson%20Michael%20Samuel.AVI>

Michael is also supporting Fr Lucas Saidi, the RinJ coordinator in the Diocese of Masasi. Lucas hopes to visit Kiteto soon to travel round the groups there with Michael and learn from his experience.

### **The fruits of discipleship**

Michael is faithful in sending testimonies, stories and sometimes painful reports of the blessings and challenges of ministry. Recently he has asked us to pray for those who have gone on from the groups into ordination. There are 15 of these, 13 of whom had been RinJ leaders since the programme began. Michael writes: ‘These are the blessings and it shows that the church glorify God much more.’

For some personal testimonies from Kiteto please visit <http://www.alisonmorgan.co.uk/Rooted%20in%20Jesus%20testimonies.htm> .

