

# Rwanda Direct Newsletter

## Summer 2024



Dear friends of Rwanda Direct,

Our visit to Rwanda back in January to February now seems a long time ago, yet we have continued to maintain our contact with our partners there.

### Prayer

One outcome is that due to the rapid increase in internet availability and Zoom, we have now been able to invite partners from Rwanda to join us in our times of prayer (usually first Friday of each month). This has been truly wonderful; we were joined by Bishop Louis Muvunyi now Chaplain at EACC, and then two months later by Bishop Manasseh Gahima of Gahini Diocese. We are hoping that we will be able to maintain that pattern of having someone every other month. However, once we leave British Summer Time there will be a two-hour difference and that will mean it will be 10.00pm their time, which is getting late for many in Rwanda. Meanwhile here are some recent prayer points from our partners:-

### Election

The next election for the President is on 15<sup>th</sup> July. There are three candidates. Everyone is praying for peace through this process. It is believed that President Kagame will be easily re-elected.

### Bishop Louis Muvunyi – EACC

“Yes we continue to see the college growing bigger with new staff especially in sciences increasing. Three more lecturers have joined us I think since you visited. Cyangugu diocese now has a bishop elect. Nathan Muhutu (my former student at KATC)! Consecration is first Sunday in December this year. Waiting for the election of a new bishop for Shyogwe this December as well.”

### Bishop Emmanuel Ngendahayo – Byumba Diocese

“Yes, we do wish friends to pray with us for -

1. Hannah Ministry: Now the stock of food is almost empty, and it's time to pay for health insurance.
2. In the Diocese, we need to train pastors to an increased number to respond to the government requirements and also to replace those ready for their retirement.”

### Bishop Assiel Musabyimana – Kigeme Diocese

“Our specific prayer points are:

1. Church planting because we planned to plant 3 churches where we are not. We need funds to buy land and building churches there.
2. Enough funds to pay scholarship at EACC where we send our Pastors for training.
3. Wellbeing of our Pastors in different parishes
4. Reopening of our 47 church buildings of chapels still closed due to government regulations.
5. The training of 120 new catechists in our Bible school.

Thank you so much for your love and concern.”

### Rev Dr Appolinaire Hakizimana - SU

“My family: Please, pray for my mother who is suffering sick by cancer.

SU, please pray for getting Missionaries, one who is in charge of education advisor, and a second in charge of vulnerable children.”

## **Bishop Manasseh Gahima – Gahini Diocese**

“We launched our 8yr strategic plan last Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> May. Pray for us so that the Lord will be our provider and strength.

Pray for us for continued provision for our Pastors training. On 24th May, the other cohort of 5 post graduate pastors Rwanda Direct sponsored in 2022 graduated. We thank you immensely“.

***Bishop Manasseh  
right***



## **Report Following our Trip**

### **- Kigali Missionary Archdeaconry**

Rwanda Direct has been supporting the Missionary Archdeaconry in Kigali Diocese since 2018. It has been truly inspiring to see how the dedicated mission work has born fruit over the years. Here is what we found earlier this year.

Bishop Nathan and Odel, Diocesan Secretary, took us on a visit to meet the current church leaders, about 1½ hrs out from Kigali. We sat on blue plastic chairs in the middle of a ¾ built church, on the top of a hill at Rusiga Parish, surrounded by rubble on the floor and with builders working around us applying plaster or mortar to walls and windows! They have some funding from America but also from other churches in Kigali diocese e.g. Remera. Another 3 churches in the Archdeaconry still need to be finished. Only 2 have pastors houses, so others are living in rented houses which means travelling longer distances.



***Rusiga Church above,  
Bishop Nathan meeting inside below***



The staff are Archdeacon Anastasia + 3 Pastors + 1 still studying at EACC and Catechists. Now have 1500 members in the churches plus a school. They are working hard to establish congregations -

teaching using basic guides for different age groups and videos for those who don't read. A good number of Grass Roots Churches are meeting in homes. There is a large population to evangelise. Christians are worshipping and working for people in the area which includes praying with the sick and demon possessed. The churches are growing. Church plants have to be self-sufficient as they are far away. Pray for them to have energy for the task.

Bishop Nathan wants to start Church and Community Transformation in the area soon. The Pastors used the last grant from Rwanda Direct to start a Rotating Fund for projects to help their income. They take out a loan of 500,000fr and work to repay it (e.g. use to plant coffee and sell the crop to repay) so keeping the fund going for church planting in more areas. Bishop Nathan indicated Rwanda Direct support will only be needed for this year (£2500 already sent) and 2025.

### **PRAY for the Missionary Archdeaconry:**

Pastors were praising the Lord and were generally upbeat, but they particularly ask us to pray for them in their calling, especially for protection from the evil one. “It is a hard and lonely calling, but Jesus does care.” They need the gentleness of a dove and the wisdom of a serpent. They meet together to share joys and difficulties and to encourage one another.



## Byumba Diocese and Bishop Emmanuel Ngendahayo

We met with Bishop Emmanuel in Kigali as he would be away by the time we visited the diocese. He shared with us many of his thoughts. He spoke of the social issues resulting from the genocide trauma - high incidence of Domestic Abuse, killings, mental ill health, broken marriages all having impact on the younger generation. And the evil spirit world still very much present. Post covid and the therapeutic input after the genocide has sadly slowed.



The Diocese has new aims focussed around **Evangelism, Mission and Revival**. He spoke of the spiritual emptiness which needs relevant teaching and structured social relationships. He is asking people to meet in groups - children, youth, Mothers Union and Fathers Union, choirs etc. They have updated the Discipleship Training course for these groups to use.

He described some of the physical needs – increasing poverty and decreasing employment opportunities. There is no spare land for the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation hence the need to move to a service/commercial/ manufacturing economy which can generate new jobs which are not there yet. This leaves young people feeling hopeless, some becoming dangerous, so for example, robberies are up.



*Stephanie's new Roof with Pastor and Robert Tayebwa, Bishop Emmanuel's right hand man (in orange)*

Later in our trip to Byumba, we visited Kitabi Parish where emergency grants from Rwanda Direct (during the time of Covid) helped re-roof a number of homes of poor people after violent storms due to climate change. They said "Rwanda Direct gave roofing and kindness helped change people's lives". We heard how the parish has grown, starting in 2010. There are now 915 Christians with 5 chapels and 20 Home Churches! They asked for prayer that people will learn/be able to be self-sufficient. Mindset change is needed. They also have plans for a new church building.

One of the recurring issues on our trip was the issue of teenage pregnancies and young people at a loss in their lives. The Diocese has major plans nearby to try and stem this tide of issues. They are building the **Kibali Integrated Community Thriving Centre** currently a large ½ built circular roofed hall, but with plans for many more buildings as well as a football pitch which is already in use for the young men. The intention is to reach the vulnerable young who are already crossing the border to Uganda to buy drugs and alcohol, girls who get pregnant and so on. The aim is to draw them in through sports activities and offer teaching, counselling, and



skills training. This is being directed by the dynamic Director of an existing Trade School the other side of Byumba (see photo - up in the clouds!).

### **Hannah Ministry (H.M.)**

Currently 80 children on their books, some are the second generation in H.M. Children attend every day, holidays included, so that they can have their vital meals enabling the antiretroviral medicines (currently free) to work protecting them against HIV/Aids. We were told that the government stopped providing free Health Insurance to the lowest social class in July 2023. They argue that the poor are now able to provide for themselves! H.M. is now trying to provide Health Insurance for all the children of each family – it is payable per individual. H.M. is now breeding rabbits to sell for meat to try and develop a new funding stream. This is also part of their development at H.M., teaching the children to have productive projects/ ideas, and about savings groups. They dream for the children to become self-sufficient. They also teach about sex education, how to avoid rape, Christian life and behaviour and safety.

Here's Alena's story – she has been with H.M. from the age 8. She's now 24. H.M. got her off the street, into school, uniform, books, Health Insurance. Couldn't survive without this help. Now she is grown up. She expressed her thanks for all this help and said that she has HIV drugs which she could not take without the 2 meals a day. She now helps at H.M.

Here are their key prayer points:-

- Pray for a permanent volunteer leader, and other volunteers to help
- Finances always challengingly low
- Pray re regular income for the meals – some days it's only porridge.
- Pray – how can H.M. become financially independent.
- Pray for wisdom as H.M. make these plans. They used to have some sponsoring families but not anymore. More children need support but they have to limit their numbers due to lack of finance.

### **PRAYER TIME**

Do join our **Zoom prayer meetings** most 1<sup>st</sup> Friday evenings of the month at 8.00pm. Rwandan Partners join us from time to time so that we can hear directly from them. Barbara Willingham will send you the Zoom details and dates, once you have told us you are interested! Contact email details below.



***Rabbit Hutches (above)  
and sharing a meal (below)***



### **Newsletter Circulation – Spread the News Further!**

If you know of others who may be interested in helping the Church in Rwanda, do share this Newsletter with them and suggest they get in contact with us as below.

All data is stored with due regard to GDPR legislation, so we will not share contact details with anyone without permission.

Website – [www.rwandadirect.org.uk](http://www.rwandadirect.org.uk)

Email – [info@rwandadirect.org.uk](mailto:info@rwandadirect.org.uk) or phone 07941 916205

Visit Facebook [www.facebook.com/rwandadirect](https://www.facebook.com/rwandadirect)

Rwanda Direct Ltd Company No 08137530, Registered Charity No 1150065