

Rwanda Direct Newsletter

Early Winter 2022



Dear friends of Rwanda Direct,

I write this as the COP27 meeting is taking place. Famine in Somalia is in the news along with the Al-Shabaab insurrection. Meanwhile in Rwanda the forecast is for more failed rains in the east in particular, and we are hearing of people being worried. All prices are raised due to the Russian attack on Ukraine, now a shortage of food and further higher prices are threatening Rwanda. Our carbon is having a direct impact on the world's poorest, our family of Christians in Rwanda.

Byumba Diocese

Please pray for Bishop Emmanuel Ngendahayo who had a horrific accident near the Ugandan border. Thankfully his injuries were minor, but his good car that he depends on has been written off. Replacement is vital but way beyond the meagre resources of Byumba Diocese particularly in these times. Please pray for help.



Kigeme and Nyaruguru Dioceses



Vincent Habimfura was installed as Bishop of the new Diocese of Nyaruguru (carved out of Kigeme) on 28th August 2022. Bishop Assiel in Kigeme asks us to continue to pray for Bishop Vincent and for the new diocese. Bishop Assiel also writes on the 30th anniversary of the founding of Kigeme Diocese and says:-
'In the beginning it had 3 archdeaconries and consisted of 13 parishes. . . when it gave birth to the Diocese of Nyaruguru (in August this year Ed) it had 72 parishes over 6 archdeaconries . . . 330 chapel-churches, 1811 grass root home churches and fellow Christians were 81,133.'

Bishop Assiel writes of the 16 secondary schools, 46 primary schools, 8- nursery schools and 3 technical training schools founded by the diocese. It has developed a food security program, church based savings and credit group programs, and many other programs meeting local needs. He writes *'I am grateful to God, the owner of the work, that He has enabled the Church of Christ in which we have been able to do evangelism for all these 30 years, and that we hope that He will continue it by using us.'* Praise the Lord for this testimony!

East African Christian College

There has now been an appointment to the position of Principal of EACC. He is a Kenyan, Prof Diphus Chemorion. Please pray for him as he accustoms himself to Rwanda and this new strategic role. Knowing of RDs support for Pastor training, he writes - *'Indeed the Lord has blessed EACC in so many ways and we have had a lot of engagement with pastors enrolled in Church and Community mobilization process.'*

Scripture Union

Revd Dr Appolinaire Hakizimana, the new General Secretary of SU has already started some new developments. One is a project to educate SU and church leaders on the pastoral needs of those who suffer PTSD following the genocide of Tutsis. He did his PhD on this subject. He also has early-stage plans for a coffee shop on the SU site which could be a good income generator in this wealthy area of Kigali, as there is nothing similar nearby.



Gahini

Bishop Manasseh writes following his visit to the UK this summer:-

'Our relationship with friends in UK is working. From August 28th through 31st we had one Canon Jeff Williams visiting our schools to see how Winchester schools can partner with Gahini and the visit was successful. He is coming back with a team of Headmasters in February next year. On Monday next week, the students you sponsored are beginning the academic year.

The Lord is doing great work in the parishes. I am amazed at the way He is building our Church.

Christians are so responsive and everyone is taking ownership of all Church affairs. Praise be to God. I hope to hear from you soon my beloved family. Every blessing.'

Rwanda Direct Future

Rwanda Direct has now been operating for over 20 years. Since it became a charity, the core trustees have remained unchanged. We are now looking for new folk to join the management committee with a view to becoming trustees to help carry the work forward. Please be in touch with us if you sense the Lord calling you to this work or want more information.

PRAY FOR HIS PEOPLE IN RWANDA!

There are challenges and encouragements in this letter. As we approach Christmas in this time of need, let us be thankful that God is still very much at work in His Church in Rwanda. Do pray for the issues raised, but also join with us on our **Zoom prayer meetings** most 1st Friday evenings of the month at 8.00p.m. Barbara Willingham will send out the Zoom details and dates, once you have told us you are interested!

God never promised an easy life, indeed he promised through his writings troubles and sufferings, but he also promised hope and love and joy and peace and finally His presence in the New Earth for those who trust in Him - eternal life without suffering.

Let's celebrate His gifts this Christmas with thankfulness!

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.

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