

# Rwanda Direct Newsletter

## Summer 2021



### Delta Variant of Covid-19 spreading through Rwanda

This is a shorter letter to bring you, our prayer partners, up to date with the situation in Rwanda. Sadly, the Delta variant that has caused the third wave in the UK, is spreading fast across Africa and few have been vaccinated. Despite all the precautions Rwanda has taken, it is now spreading widely. In response the government has brought in local lockdowns. Firstly, our partners in Kigali and Byumba were locked down. This meant:-

- The **East African Christian College (EACC)**, with its newly started courses, has had to close. They are looking to see what they can do through online training to keep the students studying.
- The **Scripture Union** Guesthouse is again closed meaning that they have no income. The construction debts are still there, and staff have been laid off.
- **Diocese of Byumba** had bad floods and winds, destroying homes and churches in April/May, and now the lockdown means the poorest who only have day wages will be in trouble. The Hannah Project continues to provide support where it can, to the children in poverty with HIV/Aids.

Now, 50 sectors have been locked down as the virus spreads. These include our other two diocesan partners in Gahini and Kigeme. **Bishop Assiel of Kigeme** wrote:-

*Yes many other areas, almost 50 sectors have also entered lockdown. Not really many people who are dying but there are many people infected. The Country economic and of the people are most affected that's why many people have lost their jobs hence food shortages to the people especially in the towns but in the rural areas people are harvesting their crops. Some pastors have started facing food shortages. Some local authorities have started calling upon churches to intervene in food supplying to those that their jobs have stopped. Thank you so much for your prayers support. Let's continue praying and have hope that this situation will be over.*

**Revd Prof Viateur Ndikumana, Vice-Chancellor of EACC** wrote:-

*Due to the lockdown all universities have had to shut. However, some institutions are teaching online. These last 2 days a workshop on e-learning was organised for EACC Academic staff to equip them with required skills for online teaching in coming months. Comparing to the last year, the situation of covid is becoming worst! The average of recorded deaths in Rwanda are now 16/day. We still join our fingers in prayer in these extraordinary times. Blessings*

Rwanda Direct's last support went to Byumba Diocese to support both the Diocese and the Hannah Ministry. **Robert Tayebwa, the Executive Secretary of the Diocese** wrote:-

*During that period, we had received some heavy rains during the days before we received the fund where that rain destroyed different places and most of the property, crops were destroyed and some places slid which include Manyagiro Parish, Mulindi Parish, and Nyande Church. With the money we received from you therefore, we were able to help Nyande Sub church which was In its*



*process of re innovating so that it could be re-opened because ever since COVID-19, it had been closed.*

*The Help Fund also assisted the Diocese in supporting the retired Pastors and those with certain Parishes which are unable to support them. They were given some little money each that would help them buy something small for their families.*

*With this help, the Diocese also supported Hannah Ministry with some funds to assist them to purchase meals and also be able to perform all the activities that were required during this period including paying health insurances to the different families.*

*The remaining amount was dispatched to support different Christians through different Parishes and those who approached the Diocesan Office of the Bishop for help as there are a plenty of people that usually come for that assistance. Some of these people received Cash whereas others received food relief through their respective Pastors with which some people were able to purchase health insurance for their families since this was the period of paying annual health insurance.*



Pictures show recipients of support to Byumba Diocese and Hannah Ministries

## **What Now?**

Boldly put - Rwanda Direct currently has no funds to help. The amazing income of last year has been given, and our usual regular income is already spoken for. So we cannot help our 7 partners any further, the four dioceses of Kigali, Byumba, Gahini and Kigeme, the Hannah Project in Byumba, SU and EACC in Kigali. Please pray for support to come in, whether it's through Rwanda Direct or through other sources, so that the poorest can be fed, those with HIV/Aids get the food they need so that they can continue their antiretroviral treatment that keeps them alive, pastors can be helped where necessary and the two larger institutions can keep functioning for the future.

**LET'S PRAY AND SEEK GOD FOR HIS PEOPLE IN RWANDA!**

## **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

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