

# Rwanda Direct Newsletter

## Winter 2023



Dear friends of Rwanda Direct,

This newsletter is a little late than normal, it's been a rather busy time for the authors! However, it's good to be able to share with you a little bit of good news from Rwanda when all our news seems to be decidedly challenging, particularly in the 'Holy Land' this Advent and Christmas.

### **KIGEME DIOCESE**

The focus for this newsletter is the Diocese of Kigeme down in the southwest of Rwanda. This is a poor area, but one that has seen sustained church growth both under the previous Bishop Augustine Mvunabandi and now under Bishop Assiel Musabyimana. Then last year the diocese split into two and Nyaruguru diocese was created. Each diocese is now co-terminus with a civic District.

Bishop Assiel has given a high priority to training both the pastors and catechists, and Rwanda Direct has helped support that training over the years. This well trained, vibrant leadership has then led to the growth of the church. Here are some recent pictures that give a feel of what God is doing. Bishop Assiel writes:-

'This year, Kigeme Diocese has been involved in different activities through Evangelization, Education, Home and family, and Community Development.'



*Boys and Girls Brigade in Training*



*Mothers Union project for single and teenage mothers*



*Confirmation Services*



*Alcohol fighting Crusade at Kirara Parish*



*Building of new parish Church Nkorwe*



*Diocesan Education Meeting – Governance!*



*Father's Union – new members*



*Diocesan Youth Crusade and youth in worship*



*Full Church Services*



*Church Commercial building being built in Gasarenda for income generation for the diocese*

The vitality of God's Church under inspired leadership is an encouragement to us all. May we see this applied discipleship in the west, a gospel that's not just 'spiritual', but that sees lives transformed holistically.

### **PASTOR QUALIFICATIONS**

As you already know, the Rwandan Government issued a demand in 2018 that every pastor in all denominations must have a degree qualification in five years' time. This is now being implemented. Much has been done to train new pastors and there are many more with degrees. Rwanda Direct has funded some of these over the last 5 years. However, there are still those who either haven't had the opportunity to get a degree or who don't speak English adequately to study at that level. The dioceses will be looking to support these folk as the degree trained pastors take the lead, and they are re-posted to effectively lower-level posts. This isn't easy, and much grace and wisdom will be needed.

## VISIT 2024

5 of us are heading to Rwanda at the end of January through to mid-February. We have a full programme planned, visiting our partners and picking up on all our relationships and projects. We should be able to report more fully upon our return. As ever, we will be based at Scripture Union in Kigali, and will tour out to Kigeme, Byumba and Gahini as well as visiting Kigali Diocese and EACC.

## GIFTS

Please considering giving towards the work of Rwanda Direct. Our overall regular income has gone up, which we thank God for, but there is much that we can do to further support God's Church in Rwanda. Please remember that the priorities for our support are set by the Church in Rwanda, not by us! We simply respond to their needs and 100% of your donations will go to Rwanda.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE IN RWANDA AND FOR RWANDA DIRECT!

- That pastors without degrees will be able to continue their ministry under supervision
- Pray for Bishop Louis Muvunyi at the East African Christian College in his role as Chaplain and lecturer. Pray for the gospel to be at the front of all the faculties in the college
- Praise the Lord for the provision of a new car for Bishop Emmanuel in Byumba, and for his marriage to Justine.
- Praise God for the great convention at Gahini in August. Over 8000 people came and hundreds came to faith
- For Scripture Unions' new projects that need support, the income generating coffee shop in Kigali and the project for poor families in Kayonza, Eastern Province
- As we continue to seek God's future for Rwanda Direct

## PRAYER TIME

Do join with us on our **Zoom prayer meetings** most 1<sup>st</sup> Friday evenings of the month at 8.00p.m. Barbara Willingham will send you the Zoom details and dates, once you have told us you are interested! Contact email details below.

*Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year!*

## 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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