

Rwanda Direct Newsletter

Summer 2022



Dear friends of Rwanda Direct,

What a turbulent time we are living through! Human sin seems to be producing a storm of suffering that is harming, as so often, the poorest and un-represented. We feel that here in this country, but how much more in the 2/3rds world?

Gahini

Thanks to much prayer, Bishop Manasseh Gahima of Gahini was able to visit the UK for a week at the end of June and beginning of July. The UK visa process was a nightmare, and with the help of the Rwandan diplomatic corps he received his passport and visa back from South Africa the day before he flew! He was then pulled out of the immigration queue at Heathrow twice for more security checks, in addition to the normal desk. Not good!

His visit has been valuable. It gave us time to get to know him well and to hear about the needs in Gahini and Rwanda. He met with former missionaries (most from Gahini), near Solihull as he sought ideas for the celebration of 100 years of the Anglican Church in Rwanda. He also spent precious time with Bishop David Williams and the staff team in Winchester Diocese that partners with the Province of Rwanda. Lastly, he met with Bishop Paul Butler, the Bishop of Durham over tea at the House of Lords. The meeting was very valuable as Rwanda will not be attending this year's Lambeth Conference.



Rwanda, like many developing countries is being hit hard by inflation. Fuel and food prices have risen rapidly and following the economic downturn caused by Covid, this is a severe blow and impacting on the poorest. In addition, many of the churches are still not allowed to open, despite all the bars, schools and other gathering places now fully functioning. This means that diocesan incomes have not been restored. This is not a specific attack on the churches but a product of slow bureaucratic response and the issue of modernisation of the buildings to very high standards that we have mentioned before. Please pray!

Next year all Pastors running parishes must have a degree. This is a law that the government is bringing in due to ignorance and dangerous preaching in several denominations. Gahini only had 8 Pastors with degrees. They managed to ordain 4 more last year who already had a degree though not in theology.

Now Rwanda Direct is sending a grant of £3000 to help enable postgraduate theological studies for a further 7 Pastors. These are known to be good Christian leaders who came all the way through the Compassion Child Education programme run in partnership with the Church. The 277 churches in the diocese (only 89 are open) will have to be reorganised and Pastored by these 19 graduate pastors, with the non-graduate pastors serving under them. Pray for wisdom and grace!

Byumba Diocese and Hannah Ministry

We had a WhatsApp message from Bishop Emmanuel Ngendahayo towards the end of June saying that the diocese was unable to pay the June and July wages of its much-depleted staff. Rwanda Direct doesn't usually support this form of giving but given the current economic situation and the further local challenges that Byumba area has, we are giving an extra grant of £2000 for the diocese and a further £1000 for the Hannah Ministry as they will be very hard up!

Their report from a previous diocesan grant of £1000 we sent them shows what they achieved:-

Food relief

The Diocese offered some kind of food relief to the people especially those who approached the Bishop where some would be given in terms of Cash and the rest were given in terms of money so that they after the Bishop's Counselling would purchase according to their personal needs. This time we did not consider giving to each respective parish due to the available funds. FRw300,000

Health Insurance.

Because we have always had various needy Christians within our Diocese who have always gotten medication challenges due to failure to pay for Health insurance, we decided to select 50 most needy amongst them and paid for their health insurance for the year 2022/23 which shall this time assist them even though we were unable to pay for all of them but at least hopefully when we get the ability in any ways paved by God, we shall be able to pay for the rest. FRw150,000

Iron sheets.

As you may have noticed in the news, in Rwanda we received heavy rainfall since early March that destroyed people's property and even took away some people's lives. Many gardens of crops were washed away, and this created hunger whereas those that were not washed away had rot due to much water in the underground. The Diocese would however not be able to cater for all these challenges but at least it provided some few iron sheets as a contribution to re-build their fallen houses and at least get some shelter as you will witness on the photos in the attachment. FRw350,000

Visiting the sick at Byumba District Hospital.

There are so many patients at the hospital who have always stayed there without someone to take care of them where by surviving is always hard and so after receiving the fund from Rwanda Direct, the Bishop also suggested that the team should also reserve something for them and in order to serve many people at once, we had to prepare porridge with ingredients and bought some bread where we served more than two hundred people on that same day. This act motivated the sick even after the Reverends message from the word of God that comforted them. FRw280,000



Kigeme and Nyaruguru Dioceses

Please pray for new Bishop Vincent Habimfura as he is installed as Bishop of the new Diocese of Nyaruguru on 28th August 2022. This diocese has been carved out of Kigeme Diocese and is tribute to the great mission work in that diocese over many years.

Scripture Union

A new General Secretary, the Revd Doctor Appolinaire Hakizimana has been appointed, replacing our dear friend Jean-Baptiste Bugiruwenda who has now retired, though he continues as the Pastor of Runda parish. Appolinaire is from Gahini and has been serving recently in a new missionary diocese in the west of Rwanda, Karongi. Bishop Manasseh knows him and is confident he will lead SU well.

East African Christian College

Earlier this year, the Revd Professor Viateur Ndikumana left the post of Vice-Chancellor of the College and is now being led by his deputy in an acting capacity. The College is continuing to be built and now has three further faculties in addition to Theology. It also has several new buildings in the commercial parts of Kigali which will provide a funding stream to enable the long-term viability of the College. This is wise stewardship of the very generous gifts that have come from the USA to build these facilities.

Visit 2023

The team for our visit to Rwanda in February 2023 is coming together, and there are 6 people interested in addition to Paul and Jean Daltry. There may be space for 1 or 2 more but please get in touch as soon as possible! Those currently interested come from Cumbria, Suffolk and Essex. Many of those on previous visits have found the trip to be very valuable: they have learnt not just about God's work in Rwanda but also about themselves and God's work in their lives. The visit will be for about 2 weeks – let us know if you would like to come!

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

Indeed, let's pray for God's Church in Rwanda. Join with us on our Zoom prayer meetings nearly every 1st Friday evening of the month at 8.00p.m. Barbara Willingham will send out the Zoom details, once you have told us you are interested! We have seen the power of prayer in action over Bishop Manasseh's visit, and indeed many, many times. Prayer changes things, not least us! It is the most valuable thing that Rwanda Direct does. Do join us!

So, amid the world's turbulence let's take Paul's words from the 4th chapter of his letter to the Philippians verses 6 and 7:

'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'

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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