

Rwanda Direct Newsletter

Thanks C19 May 2020



COVID-19 APPEAL - THANKS

Thank you to everyone who has so generously supported the Church in Rwanda through Rwanda Direct. We have been able to send out initial donations totalling £16,500, one of the largest donations we have ever managed to send. This was £2500 each to Scripture Union and Kigali Anglican Theological College, enabling both to keep the institutions and core staff employed. We were able to send a further £1500 (on top of the £2000 he had sent at the end of March) to Hannah Ministries in Byumba supporting vulnerable children. We also sent £2500 each to our four partner dioceses of Kigeme, Kigali, Byumba and Gahini to help support those without food, particularly pastors who had lost all their income, have no fields and were threatened with starvation. **THANK YOU!** We were thus able to follow Archbishop Mbanda's priorities:-

- (1) Basic food supplies to pastor's families
- (2) Food to most vulnerable families in need
- (3) Funds to keep key staff to allow things to tick over (at least one or two people at KATC, diocesan offices, Provincial office). Where no funds for salaries are available, at least be able to provide them food and rent where rent is a must.

Thanks from our Partners

Bishop Assiel Musabyimana, Kigeme Diocese – 'Dear friends, this is food distribution at Kabeza Parish, Muse and Gasarenda Parishes. Your gift has helped us to do this distribution to the starving people. Once again, we do appreciate your love and support. May God continue to protect and bless you and the whole team of Rwanda Direct.'



Bishop Manasseh Gahima of Gahini Diocese – The following was said by one of our pastors when he received the donation:- 'I have come to believe that our Lord is always awake on our behalf. This is the time in my life I felt fear seeing all my children at home yet when there is no food. I have for sure known that our God cares for his servants especially at the best time of need.' Bishop Manasseh continues 'This support has pushed us further and with it we are able to keep the candle lighting. On behalf of those who received your support of US\$ 3025, I say we are so grateful to God almighty and to you our friends in Rwanda Direct for the wonderful support you gave to our ministry. May the Lord bless you abundantly.'

KATC/EACC Vice Chancellor Viateur Ndikumana – ‘I am delighted to let you know that the 3028 USD you transferred on KATC bank account were well received. It is a significant support that will enable our staff members to find food in May and June 2020. Thank you so much for your support, prayer, love and compassion to KATC community. Even though since Monday 4th May 2020, the Government eased the lock-down for economic activities. However, the schools are still closed and will resume in September 2020. It means that KATC staff is still under partial unemployment until that time. We keep praying for each other. May the Lord bless all Rwanda Direct Members, Viateur’

Scripture Union, Gen. Sec. Jean Baptiste Bugiruwenda – ‘We thank you very much for the donation of £2,500. On behalf of SU Rwanda staff team and Board members, we are very grateful for this support we receive when it is very needed. We thank you for your generosity and your love. I guess that the summer camps will not be run according to the COVID-19 threatening the whole world. Definitely we will send the report in due time. We continue praying for you, for your country, and for the world, so that God stop this pandemic. We know that you too don't forget us when you pray. God bless all of you and keep you away from corona virus.’

Hannah Ministry, Byumba Diocese – ‘We would wish to greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, may the grace of God be upon you. We are pleased to write to you appreciating on behalf of the children of Hannah Ministry upon the donation that was offered to them in a way of helping them fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. Most of these children having been living for a long time with HIV/AIDS under your support are receiving different kinds of meals that provide a balanced diet and which can help them to take their medicine with no further side effect towards their body. This however is different from how it was previously before the lockdown where some meals would be prepared at the Hannah Ministry office/home, they are now being offered to them and taken to be prepared from



their homes where each child receives his/her own package. The process of giving to them is still on going until the lockdown is totally over. Thank you on behalf of the entire Diocese for supporting our future strong people under Hannah Ministry. May God bless you. Tayebwa Robert - Executive Secretary office of the Bishop

Bishop Nathan Amooti, Kigali Diocese - Greetings from Rwanda in Jesus name. This is to greatly thank Rwanda Direct for the gift of love and life that you're giving to us as Kigali diocese. This will really go a long way in helping our people in the diocese and we will also keep you updated with photos when food is being distributed. Again, thank you so much for your love and generosity to Kigali diocese. We so happy and proud that we belong to such an extended family in God.
+Nathan

Current Situation

Rwanda has been very forward and aggressive in its dealing with the Coronavirus threat and this has proved a very successful policy. They have found just under 300 cases through rigorous testing, and it seems that all the cases came in from other countries and there hasn't been any community transmission beyond those cases.

The rigorous Lockdown has now been eased twice but institutions such as SU and KATC have no income, so they are still at high risk. Churches are not yet allowed to open, and schools aren't expected to reopen till September, so it could be the same for the churches. So pastors are still at risk of starvation as they have no income and many have no fields nearby to cultivate. It seems that some low waged people may now be able to work, but we are still finding out what is happening.

Rwanda Direct has been able to move swiftly to help our seven partners, KATC, SU, Hannah Ministry, and the dioceses of Kigeme, Byumba, Kigali and Gahini. It looks highly likely that they will need more help to bridge through this period. So can we ask you to consider further help to support our Christian family and those they serve in Rwanda?

PLEASE CONTINUE TO GIVE AND PRAY

We will allocate **all** money given to our existing partners, following the Archbishop Mbanda's priorities. At this stage we cannot give beyond those partners unless we have specific gifts from new sources. Then we may be able to support others such as the Provincial Office of the Anglican Church of Rwanda or other Dioceses.

We appeal to you to go on in your acts of love

Please contact us either through the website ('Pray Give Visit' tab), email, phone, PayPal donations on Facebook if you feel God is calling you to help. 100% of donations go direct to the Church in Rwanda. Admin costs are covered by trustees.

Bank details for gifts:-

Lloyds Bank, Sort code 30-94-55, Account No. 69843168, Account Name - Rwanda Direct

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

Email – info@rwandadirect.org.uk or phone 07941 916205

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