

Rwanda Direct Newsletter

Spring 2023



Dear friends of Rwanda Direct,

RWANDA DIRECT FUTURE DIRECTION

Rwanda Direct has had a remarkable story of sustained growth over its 22 years of existence. Indeed the regular giving from our supporters is now at its highest level which enables the charity to plan and give longer term secure funding to our friends and partners in Rwanda. On top of that, the generosity through the time of Covid-19 has clearly helped our partners in the Church in Rwanda to survive the economic crisis and to recover well post the pandemic.

When we last wrote, we asked for people to consider coming on the committee/trustees. As I said then, we have largely had the same group of people holding the same key positions for the last 15 years. That has meant stability and continuity, but it does raise questions about the longer term viability of the Rwanda Direct as we all age! Sadly, we have had no offers of help since we last wrote, so the invitation is still there for you to prayerfully consider helping this work. Please do get in touch, if only to find out more.

At the same time we are appraising our work in Rwanda to ensure that what we do is still significant and valuable. Being a relatively small charity, this is not as easy as it may seem. However, the feedback we are getting from most of our partners is positive. The best appraisal is of course done by visiting. We had planned a trip this February, but we sensed the Lord saying no for that timing. Another visit is definitely one of our priorities, but probably not till next winter now.

SCRIPTURE UNION

We are hearing good news from Scripture Union in Kigali. The new General Secretary Appolinaire Hakizimana is reporting that their income is now paying for most of the SU work and covering their building debts safely. This is in part due to the grant we gave to employ a competent person to run their guesthouse. This is helping them become more self-sufficient – Praise God! In addition, as we reported last time, they have now raised funds locally to build a coffee shop on the site. This should generate further local income. SU started on a barren hillside in the 1980's on Kayciru hill. Now it's prime Kigali land with high value offices all around, but little local catering infrastructure at the right level. They prayed over the land as seen below left, and the main concrete structure is now up (right) and they are hoping to finish it within weeks!



For your prayers, they are also hoping to start two new projects (see below) in addition to the work of training leaders in post conflict trauma counselling.

1. In Muhanga (near Shyogwe) south west of Kigali, they are working with 14 female teenage street children. They hope to expand this work and build a youth centre. They need £21,000.
 2. In the far south-east in Kayonza District, they already have a plot of land and a building and have started a kindergarten for vulnerable children. They aim to buy more land and expand this work to have a Vulnerable Children Centre serving a wide age range. They need £24,000 for this.
- We have been asked to pray for these projects to happen.

EAST AFRICAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

We have had a good conversation with Revd Prof. Diphus Chemorion on a WhatsApp video call and have heard much more about what the college is doing. The news is very encouraging. Their main course is now a Graduate course, to comply with the government rule that all pastors must have a degree level qualification. The course has the usual syllabus and includes the community transformation training that is having such an impact across the country. This is a course for Rwanda. Not only are they training Anglican Pastors but also some from other denominations, thus making the College financially sustainable. In addition (as we reported last time) they are running a Postgraduate course in theology and pastoral studies for those who already hold a degree in another subject.



This year's grant of £5000 will be going to support two students from poor dioceses, one from Kivu Diocese, a new diocese on the east side of Lake Kivu, and the other from Nyaruguru Diocese, the new diocese that was created last year out of Kigeme Diocese. Effectively we are now supplying two full scholarships that the College will allocate.

BISHOP EMMANUEL ENGENDAHOYO – BYUMBA

In the last letter we shared that Bishop Emmanuel had had a really nasty car crash writing off his car. Please do pray for him as:-

1. He has continued to have head and back pains since the operation, and
2. They need to raise at least £25,000 to find a suitable car to last a minimum of five years. Byumba is a poor diocese so this money will have to come from outside.



GAHINI DIOCESE – BISHOP MANASSEH GAHIMA



Bishop Manasseh continues to be encouraged and writes – 'We are also doing well; God has been very faithful to us. A lot is happening in Gahini, many new Churches being built, Christians are happy and everyone is doing their best. I feel very encouraged'. He has also had a visit from a group of headteachers from Winchester Diocese, which is as a result of his visit last summer. The five students that Rwanda Direct has supported in their Post Graduate Theology studies at EACC are also doing well.

However, Bishop Manasseh has been unwell with *Helicobacter Pylori*, so will very much value prayer for healing. He works so very hard, as do many of the bishops. Rest is hard to come by.

Kigeme Diocese – Bishop Assiel Musabyimana

We have just had these prayer points in from Bishop Assiel:-

1. After giving birth to the new Diocese of Nyaruguru we remain 260 Churches in which 185 are open and working and 75 Churches are still suspended so we are praying to have enough funds to finish the improvements to the buildings and have all necessary to be reopened.
2. We still have the need of Pastors' training to the level of Bachelor's degree in Theology.
3. We want to resume our Bible School for Catechists.

Thank you very much for your love and support.

Rwanda Direct supported the first phase of the Catechists training so it would be good if we could help again!

PLEASE PRAY FOR HIS PEOPLE IN RWANDA AND FOR RWANDA DIRECT!

- As we seek God's future for Rwanda Direct
- Give praise that Scripture Union is growing well, pray for that growth to continue to be sustainable and for funds for the new projects.
- Praise God for the way EACC has developed. The vision has come of age! Pray for those studying there that they may grow in the wisdom and knowledge of Christ and lead His Church in growth and maturity.
- Pray for Bishop Emmanuel, for healing after the car crash and finance to replace the car.
- Pray for Bishop Manasseh for healing from his stomach complaint. Praise God for the transformation in Gahini Diocese and the enthusiasm for the Gospel
- That the churches can train adequate pastors to degree level
- That shut churches can find the means to make the required government improvements and re-open.
- For catechists training in Kigeme Diocese.

Do join with us on our **Zoom prayer meetings** most 1st 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 details below.

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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