

Rwanda Direct Newsletter

Covid-19 April 2020



COVID-19 APPEAL

We in the west are hoping that we are coming over the peak number of Coronavirus cases. Rwanda is battling to prevent this disease from getting a hold and decimating the population. Now the number of new cases has declined to only very few each day. More people are recovering than are falling ill. Lockdown has been extended till the end of April.

However, the impact of the lockdown on those with only daily wages has been severe. They live literally hand to mouth; the wage they earn in a day pays for the food that night. Many are starving. The government is trying to help, as are those who still have salaries, but (particularly in the cities and larger towns) there just aren't the resources available.

Likewise, the impact on God's Church is also severe. There are no services therefore all income has stopped. Every diocese has laid off their diocesan staff, and, unlike in the UK, there is no government support for those who have lost their jobs. Further, pastors have also lost all their income. Some will have local fields that will provide food, but many don't. Even their homes, where rented, are at risk of re-possession particularly in the towns.

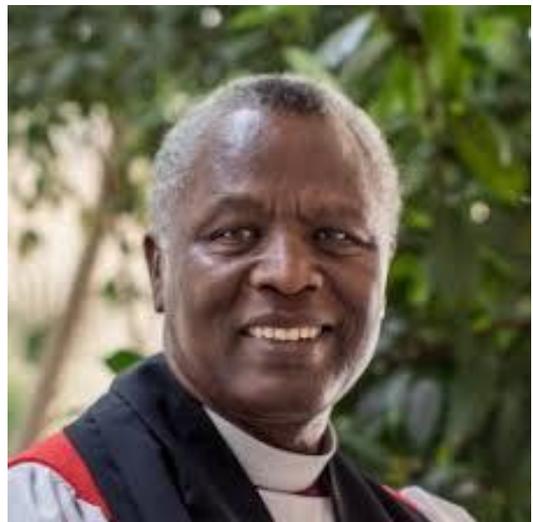
Rwanda Direct has been in touch with our partner Bishops in the Dioceses of Kigeme, Byumba, Kigali and Gahini as well as the leaders of Scripture Union (SU) and Kigali Anglican Theological College (KATC). We have also had an email conversation with Archbishop Laurent Mbanda and he has been very clear about the current priorities for the Anglican Church of Rwanda. He writes:-

Yes, the situation is as you have heard it, and we expect it to worsen. Priorities are:

(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.



We know that all staff at KATC, including the Vice-Chancellor Revd Prof. Viateur Ndikumana have had their contracts suspended and that Canon Jean-Baptiste Bugiruwenda, Director of SU is considering the same for SU staff.

PLEASE GIVE AND PRAY

Rwanda Direct is about to send all funds currently available as an emergency donation. This will total over £12,000. However, we need more support as this money will be spread thinly over all our partners. Key support will also go to the Hannah Ministries in Byumba to help vulnerable children, 75% of whom have HIV/Aids.

We will allocate **all** money given to our existing partners following the Archbishop'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 to the Provincial Office of the Anglican Church of Rwanda or other Dioceses.

PRAYER

Bishop Nathan Amooti of Kigali asks us for us to pray:-

I think my prayer requests are:

1) praying for this strange disease to go away as soon as possible so that our people can live normal life.

2) Praying for the poor families who are finding it very hard to feed their families. The government of Rwanda came up with a heroic activity of feeding the poorest of the poor and the church has joined hands with the government but it's not enough and it can't be sustainable in a long run.

3) Praying for our church staff whose contracts have been suspended.

We also continue to pray for you and your loved ones that God will protect you and keep you safe.

We appeal to you to PRAY and now GIVE

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.

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