

# Rwanda Direct Newsletter

## Autumn/Winter 2021



### 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rwanda Direct

Barbara Willingham our Treasurer writes:-

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October Rwanda Direct returned to its roots at St Luke's Church Ipswich to celebrate the formation of the charity in 2001. It was great to welcome back the two former vicars, Rev Geoff Price who set up Rwanda Direct under the auspices of St Luke's PCC in 2001 to support friends in Rwanda and Rev Paul Daltry who took over the Chair of Rwanda Direct in 2005 and who moved the focus of the charity to supporting Christian institutions providing theological training and education. Rwanda Direct has also become an independent charity registered with the Charity Commissioners since that time.

Geoff and Hope Price gave a talk about the setting up of Rwanda Direct and Paul Daltry gave the sermon including a PowerPoint presentation showing the work supported by Rwanda Direct today. Barbara Willingham led the prayers focussed on the work and people we support in Rwanda. After the celebratory service we gathered for a shared meal which gave people a chance to catch up with each other and also to share news and experiences about Rwanda.

We give thanks to God for all that Rwanda Direct has achieved over the past twenty years and we trust him for our future work.



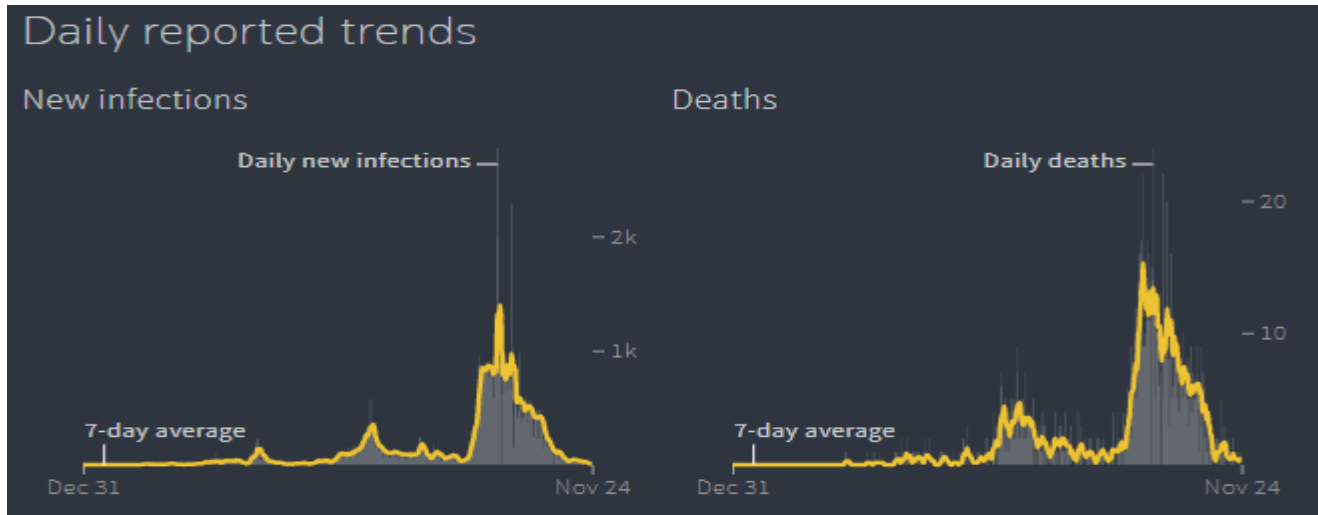
Jean-Baptiste Bugiruwenda, General Secretary of Scripture Union wrote-

*Frankly speaking, from the bottom of my heart, I am grateful for the support we got from all of you in Rwanda Direct. When I met Geoff & Hope for the first time, I think in 2003, I did not know that I am meeting a family which will bless SU Rwanda, praying for the mission in Rwanda. Since then, SU Rwanda has been blessed to be part of your vision. Your monthly meetings for prayer gave us the opportunity to share with you how God is sustaining us in the Ministry. Not only you prayed for us, but also we were honoured to receive your financial support, contributing to children, youth and adults camps. Furthermore, we got your support that helped us to improve the standards of our Guest House. Together we can. This support helped us to improve the standard of our Centre. Now it looks better compared to the past and is a fulfilment of our dream: To have our own place where our members and other Christians can join their hands and their voice to worship God, study the Bible and build their capacity in leadership, so that they commit themselves to proclaiming the Gospel in different corners of the country, expanding the kingdom of God.*

## Covid-19 in Rwanda

Let's thank the Lord that the summer wave of Covid-19 has largely gone and many of the restrictions have been eased. We heard of many people being very worried about the wave of infections and following deaths, but that has now dropped right away. What a relief. Meanwhile, the government has been vaccinating hard and has vaccinated enough to cover 35% of the population with 2 doses. Quite an achievement! Let's pray that the new variant discovered in South Africa can be prevented from causing further chaos, and for the Church to have the resources to recover its mission.

Below are the graphs from Reuters Covid-19 Tracker.



## Kigeme Diocese



Thanks to the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, Kigeme Diocese has been able to start training sessions for all their Catechists (Lay Church Leaders). Bishop Assiel sees this as his top priority to train and re-invigorate these dedicated leaders after the pandemic. They carry the frontline load in growing and supporting the Church across the hills of Rwanda.

**Bishop Assiel** writes - *From Monday 25th October to 6th November 2021 we have 30 Catechists in their training who are from different Parishes of the Diocese. After two weeks we will have another of 30 people. We praise God for that and may God bless you for your support to this training.*

Rwanda Direct were able to give a grant of £7000 to enable this work, and it had been held for many months waiting for the opportunity to start the training.

## Kigali Diocese

**Bishop Nathan Amooti** reports about the new Missionary Archdeaconry –

*Through the support of Rwanda direct and moving of Archdeacon Gasarasi and his family to live in the area and starting vigorous evangelistic campaigns, local Rwandan artists and musicians visiting frequently other Christians locally giving food support, all these different efforts are helping the Archdeacon who is fully focused to identifying the most urgent needs and leading the church growth and Church planting in the area. The Rwanda Direct support has helped the Archdeacon to set up an office and rent a house for his family's residence in the middle of the community to steer the evangelism and mission work.*

*We would like to conclude this report with a vote of thanks to those who have empowered us to do what is being done especially the finances that have been sent to Kigali diocese through Rwanda Direct.*

*We value your partnership and generous financial contribution and hope to continue together in building the work of the Church of Christ.*

## **East African Christian College (EACC formerly KATC)**

With the easing of the pandemic restrictions EACC re-started its training in June. Three faculties are now opening in addition to Theology. **Rev. Prof. Viateur Ndikumana**, Principal of the College sent an encouraging report of how Rwanda Direct's grant of £5000 is being used -

*Thanks to the support from Rwanda Direct, 42 pastors and catechists from 9 Dioceses of the Anglican Church of Rwanda who do not meet the requirements for a Bachelor program were trained for the first session in June 2021. The second Session will commence from November 2021. The Rwanda Direct funds have covered the tuition, meals and accommodation while the students have covered the cost of their didactic materials and transportation.*



*This report cannot end without first and foremost giving thanks to God for his Grace and Mercy upon us and to Rwanda Direct Members for their prayers and love in action. They have been loyal partners and have done a lot to support the KATC/EACC Community especially during these times of its transformation and extraordinary times when the whole world is dealing with COVID 19 pandemic consequences.*

*"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain." I Cor.15:58.*

*May Almighty God bless all abundantly.*

With those words of Prof. Viateur's may you all be blessed this Christmas and in the new year. We rejoice at all that God has done through this little charity and continue to seek God for what he wants as we work and pray together with our partners in the Gospel in Rwanda.

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

### **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](http://www.rwandadirect.org.uk)

Email – [info@rwandadirect.org.uk](mailto:info@rwandadirect.org.uk) or phone 07941 916205

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