

Report on Rooted in Jesus Junior Conference

Uganda August 2010

Alex Scott

Rooted in Jesus Junior is a new version of Rooted in Jesus designed for use with children aged 8-14. We anticipate that some of those who complete the adult course would then become Sunday School teachers and use Junior with the children. The purpose of these two conferences was to launch a pilot scheme for Junior through the Quality Discipleship Church network led by Bishop Jeremy Gichuru, building on previous work done with teachers and Sunday School teachers by Nicky Plumbley of Vibrant. Nicky was part of the team who worked on the adaptation of Junior from the first two books of the adult course, and was a member of the pilot team. The team leader, Alex Scott, formerly a teacher and now Associate Minister with responsibility for youth and children at Holy Trinity Leicester, writes:

"In August 2010 I led two conferences for the new RinJ Junior programme in Entebbe and in Namungoona, Kampala. The team consisted of myself, Nicky Plumbley, Rev Matt Barnes and Karen Wilkinson from the UK, and Julius Meoli from Tanzania. Karen is an experienced teacher who has previously worked in Uganda.

Both conferences were well received by the 160+delegates that attended them, and resulted in most delegates determining to initiate RinJ Junior programmes in their churches. To this end the local leadership arranged delegates into regional organisations and elected Co-ordinators and support teams as appropriate to facilitate this.

The children's leaders in Entebbe and Kampala were enthralled with the new Rooted in Jesus Junior course and material, and you could see a much wider vision for the children in their care being birthed in them through the conference. I have no doubt that the children in their care will go on to great things as they experience full discipleship in Jesus from an early age."

The conference was attended by Editar Kamusiine, an Anglican now leading GenUganda, a project aimed at empowering young people for life change - physically, socially, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. Editar writes: "Since that training, 2 key things have stayed with me strongly - 2 of the principles of the Rooted in Jesus course; reliance on the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit as we minister to the children! Up to today, it keeps ringing in my heart and I have been praying that God avails me opportunity to share with others."

Nicky Plumbley reflected afterwards: "I was thrilled to see Rooted in Jesus Junior lessons being taught by Ugandan children's leaders in workshops during the conferences once they had seen the Rooted in Jesus team demonstrate how to teach them during the conferences this summer. The teachers were evidently very excited at learning a new teaching technique - working in small groups and asking the children for their full participation in the lesson"- Nicky Plumbley (Uganda)

Coordinators were appointed in each geographical district, and Nicky Plumbley will lead a followup team in August 2011. Challenges to be ironed out as *Junior* develops include:

- The target age – many of those attending the conference were older teens and twenties, who would have been better served by the adult course
- *Junior* had been translated into Luganda, but some delegates work with children in English
- Atypically, the delegates were not part of an adult RinJ group, and many were keen to get hold of it
- The pilot training sessions need to be developed more fully, and to include modules on positive discipline and on the value of children's work in general

Rooted in Jesus Junior was developed with the help of a grant from Spring Harvest.

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