

# 8. The RinJ Coordinator: Role and responsibilities

Each diocese should appoint an overall *Rooted in Jesus* Coordinator who can oversee the programme. Where the group leaders are actively supported, *Rooted in Jesus* brings spiritual, numerical and financial growth both to the local church and to the diocese itself. If group leaders are not supported, they are likely to give up when they meet difficulties, and the programme will not reach its full potential. As part of its strategy for growth, the diocese should set aside a small budget to cover the Coordinator's expenses.

The diocese may appoint additional local coordinators who will assist the Diocesan Coordinator – for example, one for each archdeaconry or deanery. In this case it should be clear what is expected of the local coordinator and how often he should report to the centre. It is important that the Bishop should know how the programme is developing in all parts of the diocese, so the Diocesan Coordinator should keep in regular touch with the Bishop's office.

The task of the *Rooted in Jesus* Coordinator is to provide encouragement and support to the clergy and lay leaders who are leading *Rooted in Jesus* groups. We suggest that this should be done in the following ways:

## 1. By keeping in touch

The Coordinator may meet with group leaders three times a year. This could be done in a number of ways; the Coordinator should choose the way which he thinks will work best. Possible methods are:

- The Coordinator travels to meet with an individual leader
- The Coordinator travels to meet with the leaders in a particular parish or deanery/archdeaconry
- The Coordinator invites all the group leaders to come together for a training day

Sometimes there is an existing pattern of meetings which can be adapted to include *Rooted in Jesus*. If there is no existing pattern, and if distance or finance prevent the coordinator from travelling in this way, he should keep in regular touch by cell phone or through local coordinators, and by travelling with the bishop or other diocesan officers when they visit parishes for confirmations or in connection with other programmes.

## 2. By writing reports

The Coordinator will keep in touch with the development of the groups. He can do this by keeping a register listing the names of group leaders, with location and number of group members. Once a month he should check how the groups are progressing and make a note in the register of the date and the lesson reached. A Visit Evaluation form can be found on p109; it can also be downloaded from the *Rooted in Jesus* website.

The Coordinator will write regular reports for the Bishop. We in the UK will ask for an overall progress report at least once a year, so that we can pray for the diocese and know how best to support you as the programme develops. An Annual Report Form can be found on p 111, or downloaded from the *Rooted in Jesus* website.

## 3. By providing training and support

The Coordinator should support the group leaders by providing them with help and advice concerning the running of their group. In particular he should ensure that:

- Each group leader owns a Bible
- Group members are committed to the group and serious in their desire to grow in faith and discipleship
- The group is moving through the book at a rate of 1 lesson each 2 weeks

- All members of the group are participating by asking questions, praying and sharing their experiences
- The practical demonstrations are being done thoroughly (they are there to be acted out, not merely discussed)
- The leader is able to make sure that the group sticks to the topic of the lesson when the group meets
- The memory verse is learnt each week
- There is time for prayer and worship at each meeting

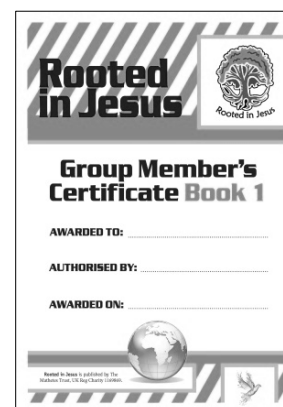
Group leaders should be encouraged to share their experiences and pray together for their groups.

## 4. By awarding certificates and providing books

The Coordinator should inform the group leaders that there will be certificates to congratulate group members and leaders on their achievements. When a group is getting near to the end of a book, the Coordinator should make arrangements for certificates to be presented and the next book to be given to the group leader. It is important that there should not be a long delay between finishing one book and starting the next – delays are discouraging for group members.

A certificate may be given:

- To each individual group member who has completed a book and can recite the memory verses and give a short personal testimony about what they have learned
- To each group leader who has taken a group through a book of the course



Groups should be asked to club together to buy the next book of the course, and churches invited to hold a collection to support the ministry of *Rooted in Jesus* within the diocese. This will ensure that the ministry becomes self-sustaining.

It is important to realise that the full benefit of the course comes when a group completes Book 4 – this is when the fruit appears on the *Rooted in Jesus* tree! The Coordinator should encourage group leaders to aim to complete the programme, and not simply to repeat Book 1 with a different group of people.

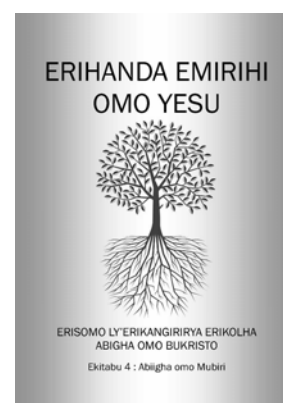
## 5. By looking ahead

The Coordinator should make sure that all the *Rooted in Jesus* leader's booklets have been translated and sent to the *Rooted in Jesus* office for formatting. This will ensure that groups do not have to stop while they wait for the next book. He should also consider whether the books need to be translated into additional local languages.

We normally send a return team one year after our first visit to run a follow-up conference, and again after 3 years to introduce the *Rooted in Jesus Junior* programme. It is best to begin planning for the second conference about 3 months after the team have gone home.

Finally, the Coordinator should pray for the groups and group leaders. Prayer requests may also be sent to the *Rooted in Jesus* office so that we may include them in our regular prayer bulletins.

We wish you every blessing as you undertake this role.



*Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Ephesians 3.20-21*