

# Rooted in Jesus visit to the Diocese of Bondo, Kenya

## April 2015

Team: Revd Richard Morgan, Nicole Arthur, Jeff Moretzsohn, Lucy Mugwanja

### From the Team Leader's report by Richard Morgan

Bondo Diocese is in the South West corner of Kenya, near Lake Victoria and not far from Kenya's third city of Kisumu. The Bishop, Johannes Angela, welcomed us and was increasingly warm towards us as a team throughout our stay. Revd William Otieno Abungo was appointed Diocesan Coordinator - an excellent choice. He left his position as Cathedral dean to become the mission coordinator for the Diocese. He's clearly well loved by the diocese. In my session on pastoral care, when I asked people to tell me about someone who had been like a father to them in the faith, three separate people in three different workshops all gave William as an example. Before the second course began he had already got together his household and begun a *Rooted in Jesus* course with them. In a recent email from the bishop, the bishop reports that *Rooted in Jesus* has now become the main focus of what William is doing – so that is wonderful news.



The team was myself, Jeff Moretzsohn and Nicole Arthur from the parish here [Good Samaritan, Philadelphia], and Lucy Mugwanja from Kenya. The team did very well, had no tensions throughout and worked well together.

Richard Morgan, August 2015

## From the team blog

 [Bondo, Kenya](#)

Thursday, April 23, 2015

We have spent three days learning about how to lead a small group, how to pray, how to care for your group, the Holy Spirit, preparation as a leader, what to expect as a disciple maker.

The participants are like sponges, wanting more and more as the imperative of the great commission is real and tangible in their context. The issues concerning the spread of radical Islam are front and center in many conversations and the desire to share the gospel in effective and sustainable ways is palpable.



The fundamental idea of discipleship through multiplication versus simple addition is taking root here in Bondo. As I raise and train a disciple, they do the same and together we grow exponentially...simple yet powerful! Tomorrow is graduation for this class and next week we begin with a new group. Amazing place!!!

Saturday, April 25, 2015

Yesterday we finished our first conference handing out certificates to more than 47 pastors and lay leaders, whose smiles were an indication of the effect of the course.

Today we Heriberto to Kisumu to take a boat ride on the lake and then say good bye to Lucy as she heads back to Nairobi. Next week the three of us will travel to another conference for 4 days. Pray that we can divide the load among the three as Lucy had to return to Nairobi.

Sunday, April 26, 2015

Today we worshiped at the cathedral at two services. Richard preached at the English service which was filled with hundreds of young teens and adults. The music was a blend of contemporary Luo and English music along with a praise band of keyboard, drum kit and vocalists. Jeff preached at the Luo service which featured a women's choir which is also had a Djembe drummer, a man who was quite a good whistler and two women who would intersperse the songs with high pitched yells. Tomorrow we head out of Bondo to a different part of the diocese to begin a second conference. With Lucy back to Her communit, we've redistributed the presentations among the three of us. We have been well received and we're looking forward to the next few days.

Monday, April 27, 2015

Today we started a new course for 3 Arch Deaconries at the other side of the diocese of Bondo. Overlooking Lake Victoria we were welcomed into a small but pretty church by Rev David.



The morning started slowly because many people walked more than 3 hours in light rain to attend the course. Bishop Johannes gave a warm introduction and reiterated his commitment to the Rooted in Jesus course. By 10:30 we had close to 70 people who were willing to invest their time and their energy to learn and apply RIJ it's quite encouraging and exciting. While the people report that this is the rainiest season they have had in years, for the most part the days are clear and mostly sunny. The rain comes most late afternoons and rains hard for about an hour and the lightly though the night. The children are amazingly friendly. Whenever we go for a walk there is a constant refrain of "how are you?", followed almost immediately by "I am fine".

Kenya is a beautiful and proud country in the midst of significant transition (good and bad). There is a clear sense that the rise in extreme Islam is creating a concern in the church leadership. Moreover there is a desire to equip leaders with tools to stem the rising tide.

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Today we had a second day of teaching, singing, and fellowship. It's wonderful to see the apprehension turn into curiosity and then eager interest for more... Every session ends with questions asking for more...it's a blessing to watch it all unfold...it's a privilege to be a small part of the process. Conversations are already underway about follow up sessions, so there is a good sense that God is at work. Last day is tomorrow, which will be bittersweet. Wonderful people, beautiful country...great need and opportunity

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Today we completed the Rooted in Jesus course and graduated 80 pastors and lay leaders in the diocese of Bondo. Together with the 47 who graduated last week we are excited and giving thanks to God for what has, is, and will be happening in this part of Kenya. The Bishop presented certificates of completion to this first wave of more than 120 disciple-makers. Made up of clergy and lay leaders from the 48 parishes in the diocese, this has been a wonderful experience and we look forward to our next visit to train and equip the next wave!!!

