

RinJ reports - Kenya Oct-Nov 2016

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The prime focus of our trip on this occasion was to launch 'Rooted in Jesus Junior' in Kenya, and we began by facilitating our first training conference in **Bungoma**, where we had launched the adult course some 2½ years previously. We were surprised to see only 10 people attending on the first day, but this doubled for the rest of the week. I think this made us realise something of the *battle* there is for the hearts of children particularly on the continent of Africa. There are many children in Africa, with some countries having almost half of the entire population comprised of children and young people, and yet there are very few Christian believers who have a vision for the salvation of children, and hence have a desire to get involved in any form of church-based children's ministry. We had encountered this on occasions in the past, but began to realise that perhaps it is a greater *cancer* than we had realised. However, we received very encouraging comments from those attending the first day, which encouraged us greatly. On the second day the numbers attending doubled, as word got round that the training was 'worth attending'.

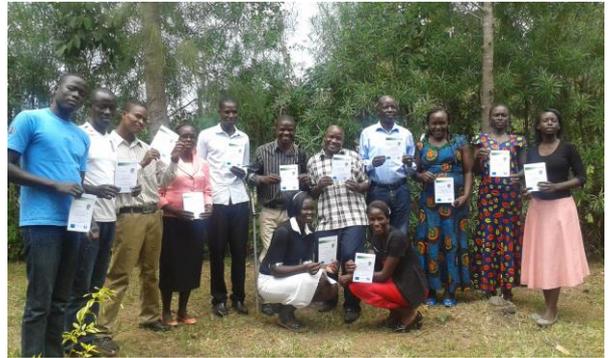
On Day 3 the main subject is the Holy Spirit; Sheila did the teaching and then she opened up the meeting for those who were not baptised in the Holy Spirit, to come forward for prayer; to which at least four people responded. They were prayed for, and began speaking in tongues as they broke through into a new relationship with the Holy Spirit. We later heard that another lady with a young baby, who was feeding her on the back row, also began speaking in other tongues as she opened her life to the Holy Spirit and welcomed Him into her life. Words of knowledge followed, the first concerning a back injury with pain that prevented normal bending; and a man on the front row stepped forward immediately, and after prayer showed the gathering how he could bend to touch his toes without pain. The second word concerned 'spiritual cataracts' caused through witchcraft in the family line, which hindered their reading or retention of the word of God, to which some five or six people responded; and were consequently set free through prayer. Another word was given that someone had severe pains down their leg, to which a lady quickly responded; she later testified to have complete freedom from the pain.



We concluded our last day of training in Bungoma with 23 people attending, being very excited about taking 'Rooted in Jesus Junior' forward in their churches and communities. For those who had completed all four days of training we presented work books and certificates, and for those who had missed one or more days of the training, 'catch-up' sessions are being planned over the next few weeks; so we left sufficient resources to equip them once they had completed their training. There was another word given regarding *pain in the leg* and a lady came forward, who had been unable to attend the previous day, when the same word had initially been released, as she was visiting the hospital who were unable to help her. After prayed she testified of having no pain. The bishop overseeing the churches with which we were involved, and also one of the coordinators, travelled 2 hours in order to make contact with us 10 days after we had completed the training, in order to share with us that the previous day he had taken the children's meeting in his church. This is something that he does not usually do, but felt he wanted to do so on that occasion; he began to share with the children from lesson 1 about having a relationship with God. At the conclusion he shared about the Holy Spirit, and asked if any of the children wished to be baptised in the Holy Spirit - 20 were filled with the Holy Spirit, and continued speaking in tongues for quite a while, so that adults came into the church building in order to find out what was going on.

The leaders in **Kombewa** had been expectantly waiting for 'RinJ' for some time, having seen quite an impact from the adult version which had been released. The training was eagerly received by the delegates, majority of whom were experienced Sunday School teachers, and the group practice sessions showed good potential; the only hindrance being the mindset caused by previously being Sunday School teachers. As the days progressed we began to see the new teaching models emerging, with a new understanding of the potential of 'RinJ'. The Holy Spirit day saw several baptised in the Holy Spirit, and several people miraculously healed from neck injuries and long-standing headaches, as the result of words of knowledge.

We had previously asked a couple who are both church pastors and school teachers to take on the role of RinJJ coordinators for this region. It was great to have them on board, and after the first day to have them doing some of the teaching, and emphasising some of the main points which we had made. On our closing day we had 24 people attending, and had already asked Josphat and Rose, the coordinators, to each lead one of the practice groups to show the highlights and the essential parts required in each RinJJ group - they were excellent role models. At the close of the day we were able to commission 13 of them to begin immediately, with the rest having their training completed in the following weeks. We also discovered that 8 of those attending were also school teachers who intended to use the course in their 6 different day schools, representing over 2,000 children, as well as their church children's work. We calculated that from this group there was the potential to reach several thousand children in the first year alone, with the number multiplying as subsequent books were introduced to the teaching programme and new groups started. We have also been hearing of young people who have been involved with 'Rooted in Jesus', and are now attending college or university and have introduced 'RinJ' into their Student Unions with great positive results.



Our third training location was in **Ruiru** where initially we had planned to hold just a 'RinJ' follow-up conference, but due to the amount of interest being shown by Sunday School teachers, we agreed to include 'RinJ Junior' in a combined conference. We were glad we took this decision as there were very few able to attend who had been part of the 'RinJ' launch some 11 months earlier. However, we were reliably informed that on Day 1 there were attendees from some 12 churches in the locality. For 3 days we highlighted vital aspects of the adult course for those who had been making use of it, and sought to train potential 'RinJJ' leaders who would begin groups for children both in their local Sunday Schools and some in day schools as well, as most of those attending were wanting training on 'RinJ Junior'. On the final day we were able to present certificates to 20 who had completed the course, with others receiving 'top-up' training from the Bishop and his wife, who are the coordinators, in the coming weeks. Amongst the delegates on the final day there were 8 who were also day school teachers, and we encouraged them to pray and consider what opportunities they had to take 'RinJ' into the schools where they worked.

So in 3 weeks, we were able to launch 'Rooted in Jesus Junior' in three locations in Kenya, training some 70 people, most of whom were already involved in Sunday School work. Amongst these delegates there were possibly some 20 who were also involved in day school teaching. We have left behind 3 coordinator husband/wife couples, who are all pastors in their own right, and expect the training to continue; we have also discussed the possibility of some of us returning for a '*refresher day*' in each locality when next in the region. There are also another 3 or 4 locations where the same training might be required in the next twelve months; so we give thanks to God for His enabling and empowering making all of this possible, and look forward to hearing of rich and abundant fruit as the harvest becomes apparent.

Brian Keel
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