

Rooted in Jesus Junior Uganda Report

Nicky Plumbley, June 2011

The Rooted in Jesus Junior discipleship programme was piloted in Uganda through two conferences held in August 2010, to train children's leaders how to use the programme to teach the children in their churches, orphanages, mid week clubs etc. These conferences were hosted by Bishop Gichuru Jeremy of the Quality Discipleship Churches. 104 children's leaders attended the Rooted in Jesus Junior training conference at Entebbe Pentecostal Church and 118 at Bishop Gichuru's church Namungoona Cathedral, in the large village of Namungoona, situated NW of Kampala. Most of the leaders were from Pentecostal churches and there were also delegates from Scripture Union Uganda, Watoto and VIVA.



Alex Scott and Pastor Moses teaching at Entebbe

The team was led by Alex Scott, Associate Minister with responsibility for youth and children from Holy Trinity Leicester, who was part of the original writing team for the Rooted in Jesus adult programme. In previous years, Alex has travelled to both Uganda and Tanzania with Rooted in Jesus teams to train leaders to teach the programme to adults. Other Rooted in Jesus Junior team members were Karen Wilkinson, Church Administrator and PA to the vicar at Holy Trinity Leicester and Rev Matt Barnes of St. Thomas Brampton and St. Peter's Holymoorside, Chesterfield. Julius Lucas, an experienced Rooted in Jesus teacher from Mount Kilimanjaro Diocese, Tanzania and Nicky Plumbley who worked on adapting the Rooted in Jesus adult programme with Alison Morgan, to produce Rooted in Jesus Junior.

The Rooted in Jesus Junior conferences were taught at the Vibrant Pastors and Sunday school teachers Institute in Uganda, which is overseen by Bishop Gichuru Jeremy and Nicky Plumbley. The delegates at the conference came from different districts of Uganda and co-ordinators were put in place to oversee the Rooted in Jesus Junior groups that would be piloting the programme in their area. Below are examples of how the pilot has been impacting children's ministry in different areas of Uganda.

Feedback from the District Coordinators 9 months after the conferences

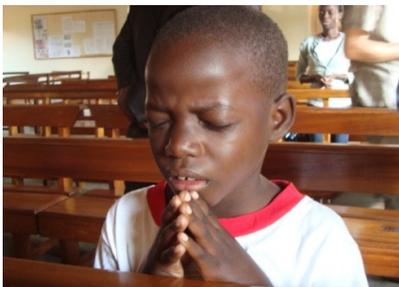
Nansana Coordinator - Walter Jjingo:

'I teach the programme with my at our church, Hope and Revival Church and other groups in my area are doing very well, working their way through the different books in the programme.'

Kasubi Coordinator - Eddy Mutyaba:

'Right now children are happy with the ministry. They are enjoying it. We have organised party for young children in area called Ssemuto. I expect happiness & joy on that day.'

Kansanga Coordinator - Edwin Sengooba:



'Rooted in Jesus helps teachers stay focussed. It uses more creativity in its teaching style than we are used to which helps the teachers and the children learn and own the message. The programme has helped me keep the fire of Jesus burning among the kids in my neighbourhood.'

When the children's hearts are ministered to, they resolve to change and choose good behaviour. Before using this programme, kids were fighting, bad mouthing one another and others were crying a lot in my classes. They are now gentler towards each other than they were before we started using Rooted in Jesus Junior.'

Namungoona, Lugala and Lubya Coordinator - Pastor Andrew Mukisa:

'At my church (Dove Church) Disciples of Christ Church, and Antioch Believers Church Lugala are all teaching the Rooted in Jesus Junior programme and these churches joined together with Bishop Gichuru's Church Namungoona Cathedral to hold a children's crusade in January. During the crusade, children led the worship, preached in the village and saw children and adults coming to faith in Christ.'

Namungoona Cathedral - Pastor Freddie Musisi (Bishop Gichuru's Senior Pastor):

'In our area, Chief Corner Stone Church is moving on with the RIJ programs. Other churches in the area like Free Spirit Faith Church, Christian of Faith Church, National Pentecostal Church, Christ is the King Church have picked interest after we told them about Vibrant and Rooted in Jesus Junior and they are now on board. We are planning to fix regular meetings with the Rooted in Jesus Junior

coordinator Pastor Andrew Mukisa, so that Sunday school teachers come together to encourage each other and exchange skills and ideas.'

Rose Basmera – (Bishop Gichuru's secretary and Sunday school teacher):

'Both the teachers and the children are enjoying using the programme. The children are learning well and remembering the memory verses.'

Jinja – Pastor Ali Mukembo:

'I am happy to inform you that Rooted in Jesus Junior worked for us so much while at NEW LIFE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH JINJA. From the time we adopted those materials, we experienced vibrant exiting Sunday school meetings with the children. The five Sunday school teachers that I trained using Rooted in Jesus materials have become very good teachers. They are now more practical during every meeting with the children. This has improved much of the children's zeal and love for Christ plus the church. A lot of spiritual gifts were realised like evangelism, worship, preaching, prayer, storytelling, drama, scripture memory verses etc. among the children. Some of these children lead worship during the main service and other church meetings. The number of the children which was about 25 at our church, it has now has grown to 150+.'

Other leaders who are using the Rooted in Jesus Junior Programme

Pastor Moses – Leader at the New Lease of Life Children's Village :

(Pastor Moses was an interpreter and worship leader at the Rooted in Jesus Junior conferences 2010)

'Our ministry is lead by the boys and girls. Ibrahim and Kennedy are teaching the programme in our orphanage. They tell me they have seen a great change in the way the word is received by the children and there is a great joy and fun in the meetings. There is growth in the Word of God in their lives.'

Editar Kamusiime – Scripture Union/GEN Uganda :

'I am starting a project with children in Kitgum in Northern Uganda in 2011. I will be using the programme there, but will need to translate it into the local language to use in the village setting. Two principles have stayed with me from the conference – reliance on the Holy Spirit and using the gifts of the Holy Spirit in children's ministry.'

Rooted in Jesus Junior Follow Up Conferences at Entebbe and Namungoona, August 2011



Rooted in Jesus Junior follow up conferences will be held in Entebbe and Namungoona in August 2011. This year the team will be led by Nicky Plumbley, who will be joined from the UK by her daughter Nina (age 16) and her friend Grace Crowther (age 17.)

The other team members are all based in Uganda: Editar Kamusiime from Scripture Union/GEN Uganda, and Deb and Dug Benn and Chris Tabu from the children's department of the Baptist Missionary Society based in Kampala. These are all experienced children's leaders in Uganda and it will be a joy to have several denominations working together on the team.

Team leader Alex Scott, Rev Matt Barnes and Karen Wilkinson praying at the Namungoona conference August 2010

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