

# RinJ conferences in the Diocese of Kericho, Kenya Narok and Transmara

November 2011



## Mike Edson : Team Leader's Report

This was our third team visit to this region of Kenya, the SW Masai area of the country, but our first opportunity to work with the Anglican church, at the invitation of Bishop Jackson ole Sapit of the new Diocese of Kericho. Bishop Jackson is also the Chair of the cross denominational Masai Pastors' Association, and representatives from a number of different denominations attended the conferences, particularly in the second week at Kilgoris, in the Transmara.

## Team

Ven Mike Edson (leader); Revd Simon Brignall; Stephen Barbor; Chris Clark (all UK); Revd Michael Samuel (Tanzania). An excellent mixture, each playing his part.

## Context

Bishop Jackson is very impressive. He sees the local church as a successor to the 19<sup>th</sup> century one which established mission with church building, school, and clinic. Now it is the centre for gathering those organisations which work together to bring health, ecological concerns, agricultural needs, protection of crops from animals, and so on. His conference centres are used extensively for these purposes. It is kingdom stuff. However he knows without the change to the human hearts much of what they do will be to no avail, and he declared RinJ is exactly what he wants so peoples' values will become Christian.

Dominic is the diocesan mission coordinator, and he spoke to us about his work of what we in the UK called Regeneration through local consultation. He waxed warm and spoke well. This is his main focus of work, and I fancy where he gives his energy.

**Ven Moses Kamuren** is the pastor of Narok. He has oversight of 28 congregations in his parish which is 150km long. All the participants came from his parish, mostly the congregational leaders. He is a very impressive pastor.

**Rev Samuel Ole Naikumi** is the pastor of the Transmara parish, having oversight of 16 congregations, the furthest being 62km away from Kilgoris. He has excellent relationships with the Pentecostal pastors in Transmara, 6 of whom attended the conference. All the others were leaders from his churches.

## Conferences

There were 30 at the first and 25 at the second. The conferences and participants were excellent, wonderful times of praise and worship, and I saw the Lord moving in ways I had not seen for some time. I am very confident the participants have been inspired and equipped by the RinJ input, and by all accounts they have received



it with open arms. Plans were drawn up to approach nearly 400 people with invitations to join a group.

There were times of ministry and at least one woman, Rosemary, gave testimony to the removal of pain in her condition, if not complete healing. She had said in the group that she had severe back pain which the doctor diagnosed as resulting from problems with her uterus/ovaries and was being sent for a scan she could not easily afford. She gave witness at our commissioning service that the pain had gone.

The chairman of the Pentecostal churches in Transmara spoke at its commissioning service, and reflected on the unity of the church traditions in that area. He pointed out some challenges in the local congregations, namely in the weakness of good biblical teaching/preaching. He sees the need for some sort of Bible College to service that need. Pastor Samuel also reflected that usually the churches were only full when he came to minister, again reflecting that local weakness.

All Participants took their workbooks with enthusiasm.

We passed through Narok on our way back to Nairobi, and the office staff at the ACK guest house gleefully told us that they had already started.



## Groups

Participants at both conferences drew up lists of those they planned to invite to join their groups. If all goes to plan, some 400 people from 18 Transmara churches and 22 Narok area churches will begin groups in the near future, with one group meeting in each church.

The groups will be using the Masai, Swahili or English version of the course, as appropriate.

## Follow-up

Michael Samuel and I met with Bishop Jackson and Pastor Moses during the first conference, where I stressed the importance of the coordinator's work. Michael had prepared a paper of important points which we worked through.

**The coordinators** will be Pastor Moses and Pastor Samuel, who will meet with local leaders on a monthly basis. This makes sense since most of their leaders are in the congregations which they visit. Samuel has a good relationship with the Pentecostals, and the bishop believes they will accept his involvement. Subsequently, every three months Moses and Samuel will send reports to the Bishop's office, and he and Dominic will work together and send a report to Alison.

We met again in Transmara, at this visit Dominic and Samuel were present, and the above was confirmed.

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