

# Leadership Development Partnership report

Africa Oct-Dec 2015

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Our ministry on this trip began in **RWANDA**, as we undertook biblical training for several groups of leaders with whom we had made contact in our visit in May. During our first week we led two 2 day training sessions around Gicumbi, which is about 1 hour's drive north of Kigali, for a national network of churches known as Church of Faith. We had visited this area in May, and the leaders with whom we met felt that training in biblical study would be very helpful to them, so the overseer in that area arranged for two locations to enable two leaders from each of some 25 churches to attend. We were very well received, particularly in the more remote of the locations, which required an half hour journey on earthen roads down into a secluded tea-plantation valley where there are quite a number of churches located. As a result, we were invited the day after we concluded, by the regional overseer with whom we had worked, to meet with him and the network's bishop in Kigali, to discuss future training, potentially for all the network's church leaders (suggested to involve up to 200 churches)!

Our second week of training began in a location south of Kigali, Runda, again where we had visited earlier. We shared the same 2 day training, but were also asked to bring exhortation to their first three nights of 40 days of prayer and fasting. There were 30 - 35 leaders gathered at a very rural location for the training, about 30 mins drive further on than Runda, and there appeared to be quite a hunger for what we were bringing; we did not appreciate until afterwards that there were leaders present from five different networks.

Our third week was in Ngoma, where a crusade led by Jonathan Conrathe was being planned for the second week in December; and for two days we had some 30 - 35 leaders from five of the denominations involved in the crusade with us in preparation for them handling the converts from the crusade. They were very receptive and eager to learn more, promising to show us how much progress they had made in Bible study, if we would return at a later date. We offered this group, as we had done to the others, to supply them with a NIV Study Bible in Kinyarwanda with a 50% subsidy to enable them to afford such a resource; and within minutes 12 people had registered their interest.

We left Rwanda feeling that we had progressed further than we could possibly have anticipated before our visit; the fact that 28 leaders had requested subsidised Study Bibles, which we purchased before leaving, and that we had also agreed to a similar subsidy on ordinary Kinyarwanda Bibles for church members, was a new development for rural churches in Rwanda. We have agreed in principle to return in June 2016 for 4 - 5 days of teaching in each of three locations which have been identified, and following that we will make decisions on rolling the training out to other further locations.

On our arrival back in **KENYA**, we joined up with David and Lorraine Gibson from Bedford, and made the final preparations for training 'Rooted in Jesus' leaders in four different locations. In two of these locations we were introducing 'RinJ' for the first time, and in two were building on work we had commenced some 18 months earlier. Our first launch conference was in Ruiru, north district of Nairobi, where we had 35 delegates from five different church networks. We later conducted a second launch conference in Murang'a district where we had 80+ delegates from some 6 different church networks.



Murang'a leaders receive RinJ certificates

We spent two weeks in Bungoma and Kombewa leading follow-up 'RinJ' conferences, where we were able to hear some of the testimonies from those we trained 18 months ago - there were some incredible accounts! Stories of what has happened as 'RinJ' has begun to be used included: 'RinJ group doubling in number attending each week during first four weeks', 'church growing from 20 to 50', 'discovery and release of teachers, intercessors and evangelists in several churches', 'went through Book 1 with family, and helped lead children to Jesus', 'group members became hungry and enthusiastic about Word of God' and 'a very essential programme for both new believers and those Christians who only know Christ on the surface level'. We also trained additional leaders to begin their own 'RinJ' discipleship groups, so we now have leaders working through both Books 1 and Books 2! In each of the four 'RinJ' conferences we witnessed the healing power of God at work in the lives of those being trained; 'words of knowledge' highlighted particular illnesses, and as delegates responded there were some significant healings, some instant and some over a period of few days; for which we and the recipients give immense thanks to God. As a result of 'RinJ' being used in areas where Bible ownership is low, there have been

requests for us to supply local language Bibles, as more Christians now desire their own copy of the scriptures, and local shops have none left.

Whilst in Bungoma we had the opportunity to connect with church leaders far into the interior, which usually involved us travelling on earth roads for an average of ½ hour once we had left the tarmac road. We spoke to some 200 leaders in 5 different locations; these church leaders were from numerous different networks, but desire to be together for the sake of the kingdom, and are beginning to gather on a regular basis. Their biblical understanding is quite low, as for many of them their knowledge is what they have acquired from others, who have also not received any teaching. We have so far supplied 300 Kiswahili Bibles to these leaders at a 50% subsidy to enable them to get hold of the full Bible; and hope to supply more as and when funds allow.

Learning about the Holy Spirit with RinJ in Ruiru



In total we spent some 2½ weeks in Nairobi Pentecostal Bible College, either based there whilst we worked elsewhere or preparing a further 10 libraries (now having some 45 books in each) for the Leadership Resource Centres. While there we attended the celebration for some of those students in and within travelling distance of the college who have completed a section or all of their studies; and the following week the prize giving one evening and the graduation the following day. The outreach programme, with which we partner, has just completed its first three years so there were some 57 students graduating from it with a diploma in theology; a further 108 students have completed their second year on the course, and also received certificates.

The programme is now being extended to enable them to go for a fourth year and study for a degree in the centres, without the need for joining the college campus; we believe this to be another significant step forward. We learned that the centres now number in excess of 70, with over 100 classes currently running, now involving over 2,000 students. We count it a high privilege to have the opportunity and resources to be involved in this unique programme; knowing that once there are somewhere in the region of 100 centres in Kenya, consideration will be given to extending it across other parts of East Africa, with Uganda and Rwanda already being considered. Their target in the next five years is to train 10,000 students in their localities!

This has been the longest period we have spent in Africa to date, but we have never considered it lengthy, due to the amount of work we knew had to be undertaken. We have tentatively agreed to the possibility of doing further work amongst the pastors in the interior in Bungoma County in May 2016, prior to travelling on to Rwanda. We are already giving serious consideration to 'Rooted in Jesus Junior' possibly in November 2016, as well as some other locations for the adult version. The openings for a wide-reaching impact across Kenya and Rwanda are evident; we simply need more workers to assist in this great harvest [Matt 9 v 37-38].

To all those who have stood with us in prayer, and those who through their donations have made these essential resources available, enabling so much to have taken place, a very big 'thank you' - you are truly shareholders with us in this magnificent harvest!

#### Matters for prayer focus:

1. For all those who received biblical training in Rwanda, that their desire for biblical truth will continue to grow and develop.
2. In Rwanda for those 28 church leaders who are now in possession of a NIV Study Bible in their own language; that nothing will hinder or prevent them from making meaningful progress with their study of God's Word.
3. For the planning associated with longer periods of training in mid 2016 in Gicumbi and Ngoma, Rwanda.
4. For our ongoing involvement with NPBC in the Leadership Resource Centres, with further books being required for year 3, and the additional books for the extensions to include degree courses.
5. For ongoing impact of the 'Rooted in Jesus' launch and follow-on conferences; and the developing groups led by those we trained. The number of those we have trained and equipped to lead a 'RinJ' group now totals in excess of 350!!!
6. Further 'RinJ' training opportunities to extend the influence of this unique discipleship course, particularly introducing the material for children.
7. For the large amount of NIV Study Bibles we were able to leave with Dan Makecho for his study training programme with pastors in the interior in his county.
8. For the means to supply further local language Bibles to pastors who are located in the interior of Bungoma County who do not have a full Bible - believed to possibly number several thousand! Also requests for supply to church members in Central Province and other parts of Nyanza.
9. For additional team members for what we believe will be required in 2016 - in various aspects of leadership training, and in equipping small group leaders to facilitate 'Rooted in Jesus' - both adult and children's versions.