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RinJ report by Amanda Ohlsson

Rooted in Jesus group Manenberg - A Celebration of things happening in the Diocese of Cape Town

Recently, I had a conversation with Fr. Donny, Rector of the Church of Reconciliation—Manenberg, about how Rooted in Jesus (RinJ) was doing in his parish. (In June, Growing the Church had a RinJ follow-up course at his parish, and I served on the training team.) Fr. Donny became excited and shared with me the following testimony:

As you know, the gangs were doing warfare and shooting innocent people. As a result, all of our schools in the area were closed. The people of my church, in particularly those leaders who were a part of the RinJ training and the RinJ groups, approached me to do something about the gang shootings. They decided to come together and pray. Then they were going to go out, with help from "The Warehouse," to distribute soup and bread, to talk to the gangs and to even pray with some gang members.

They took to the streets, demonstrating with placards, singing choruses and praying. The group went on to invite other clergy to join them; and eventually, along with Archbishop Thabo, they held talks with the gang leaders to work out a ceasefire. Now the schools have re-opened. People have the freedom and safety to walk in the community, and RinJ groups have started to meet again.

The day after my talk with Fr. Donny, I picked up "The Good Hope" newsletter and an article that he had written about all of this was on the front page!

To me, Fr. Donny's testimony is an awesome celebration of what God is able to do when He uses ordinary people to do extra-ordinary things when they are "Rooted in Jesus".

I cannot wait to share with others about the exciting things God can do in an impossible situation, using the lessons of Rooted in Jesus.

All the glory goes to God who is the author and finisher of our faith.

Amanda Ohlsson
RinJ Trainer/Facilitator

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