

Dioceses of Masasi and Newala, Tanzania

Rooted in Jesus Team Leader Report 30 Nov 2010

Matthew Grayshon

This two stage short term mission had the dates:

Masasi seminar: Tuesday November 9th to Friday 12th

Newala seminar: Tuesday November 16th to Thursday 18th

The team

Revd Matthew Grayshon, leader, rector St Mary Hanwell, W7

Mr Jonathan Rendall,

Ven Mike Edson, retired clergyman; Mrs Frances Edson, his wife

Mrs Sheila Moore, parishioner of Matthew

Mr David Tweedie, parishioner of Matthew

Revd Michael Samuel, of Diocese of Kiteto

Intercessors

We are grateful beyond words for the support and hard work of many intercessors. It was good to send daily texts of Thanksgiving and Requests to the two coordinators. We are particularly grateful to Clemency Fox and Mark Cosstick.

Clemency kindly and assiduously informed the national team of intercessors.

Mark in his turn informed the St Mary, Hanwell team and also the personal intercessors of team members.

Funding

We are grateful to the TCPA and to Matthew's parish of Hanwell for helping to fund the seminars, including food, travel, medical and accommodation costs of those participating.

Masasi Seminar

This was held at the invitation of Bishop Patrick Mwachiko. It is a solemn privilege to be entrusted with the training and spiritual nurture of the leadership of a diocese, and we thank Bishop Patrick for his confidence in us and support of us.

We also thank Canon Luka Saidi, senior cleric of the Diocese who did much to enable and facilitate the seminar.

We are also hugely grateful to Jonathan Rendall, whose local knowledge and long standing relationships within the diocese were important to the smooth running and success of the seminar.

There were 54 attendees: 22 priests and 32 catechists.

20 were leading RiJ groups (14 were catechists)

The programme was as attached.

Frances accompanied Sheila, and Mike accompanied David.

It was rewarding to watch Mike, Sheila and David begin to acquire the perspectives, insights and skills needed for teaching the modestly educated whilst at the same time being translated.

Michael Samuel was vital to the Making of Disciples in Small Groups; and also for offering feedback on how the seminar was going, especially the work of the translators.

Several of the morning and afternoon sessions began with testimony from those with successful groups in their churches. It took some time to learn how to help them find the vocabulary and content needed for relevant and exciting reports.

There was some tension between Catechists and Priests, which on exploration was owned and dealt with: priests have less time for running groups and yet desire the rewards that come from successful leadership. An issue of parochial priorities.

Outcomes

1. renewed vision for RiJ in those not running groups
2. an insight into how vital running the groups was for the continuing spiritual formation of the catechists – their training is minimal: teaching the material builds their biblical and doctrinal foundations and understanding
3. clear commitment from Bishop Patrick to the provision of RiJ in his diocese
4. the bishop also made it clear he intends to considerably modify the job description of Luka Saidi so that he can give full effect to his work as Co-ordinator
5. a donation of TSh1,100,000 £475 from Matthew's parish for the travel costs of Luka (and of the Newala Diocesan Co-ordinator). The money is held by Sr Bertha for distribution when required.

The UK team members with Bishop Patrick and his wife.

L to R: David, Matthew, Mike, Sheila, Frances



Michael Samuel



Jonathan and Luka

Newala Seminar

This was held at the invitation of Bishop Oscar Mnung'a. Once more we observe that it is a privilege to be entrusted with the training and spiritual nurture of the leadership of a diocese, and we thank Bishop Oscar for his confidence in us and support of us.

We are very grateful to Rev Jerome Mshamu who was the hard working and completely dependable administrator of the conference.

All the diocesan clergy (20) and catechists (24) were in attendance. Six were running groups.

We were grateful that Lukas Saidi was able to attend full time to work alongside Michael Samuel, and to mentor Samuel Luhuna his co-ordinator colleague.

The programme is attached – on the penultimate morning we discovered there could not be a fourth day so days 3 and 4 were merged.

The first day was found to be spiritually very heavy, with some senior clergy being curmudgeonly and catechists restless. We were so grateful to intercessors that the second day saw a complete change in 'feel' with ministry in the last session, and spontaneous dancing outside afterwards.

The conference was expensive because most delegates were in hotels in town. Matthew's parish funded this.

There is no criticism of Rev Jerome, he was an excellent administrator and managed the funds scrupulously – it was an issue of a new diocese not yet having structures in place.

There was an issue over expenses, resolved well, see confidential attachment.

Outcomes

1. renewed vision for RiJ in those not running groups
2. an insight once more into how vital running the groups was for the continuing spiritual formation of the catechists – their training is minimal: teaching the material builds their biblical and doctrinal foundations and understanding
3. clear commitment from Bishop Oscar to the provision of RiJ in his diocese

4. the bishop also made it clear he supports Samuel Luhuna as co-ordinator and is pleased that Luka can support and supervise him
5. a house of clergy and catechists in greater harmony and greater vision for their new diocese



An appreciation from Luka Saidi

When reviewing the two weeks as a team, Luka was eager to speak first, and spoke in a way which moved and impressed the Europeans:

1. I thank God for the opportunity of the seminars
2. I thank God for RinJ and Rev Dr Alison Morgan
3. "I thank God that the teaching has been very well"
4. I thank God for the money given for support for RinJ (ie his travelling expenses as co-ordinator)
5. I want to say that you have shown us that forgiveness can be real
6. I also want to say that the team have given a wonderful example, in how to work together, how to pray together, you have been a good example to us
7. You have been an example of humility to us. By this I mean you have honoured local culture
8. I want to say sorry for what has not been good (by which he meant lack of water and poor food – neither of which were issues for the Team) and please greet everyone when you return

Later he observed that it had been good to give out the Certificates in a random order: this was "a favour to the catechists and a blessing to the priests. The week had started in a bad position (Matthew: ie cramped by issues of status) but mixing them up said they were for the same work".