

ROOTED in JESUS Diocesan Conference in the diocese of Maseno South, Kenya

September 26th - October 7th 2014

Report from Revd John Guest, team leader

It has been an immense privilege to lead a RinJ team to the diocese of Maseno South and to see God working in the lives of individuals and churches in the area. I have greatly enjoyed the trip and particularly building new relationships with Tudor, Margaret and John as well as with Joshua, Mary and so many of the other Kenyan leaders.

As usual the RinJ preparatory material is very good and helpful in getting ready for most aspects of the trip. I was surprised and honoured to lead a team of such mature and able people and feel sure any one of them could have led us at least as well.

Our welcome in Kisumu was very warm: Joshua and Shadrach (the vicar general) met us at the airport. We were afforded wonderful hospitality by Joshua and Asha and also by Rev Samuel and his family. Kenya is very different from South Africa (my previous RinJ) though much closer to Tanzania. I was greatly humbled to see the poor circumstances of our brothers and sisters in the developing world and this has caused me no small amount of reflection upon my own discipleship and leadership.



The four-day conference (hosted by the Church of God of Prophecy conference centre) was attended by 37 delegates of which 12 were clergy. Of these 37, just 34 completed the course. Those who were there were enthusiastic and keen to learn and it was delightful to see a large number of women taking part and also a high proportion of young people. Our ministry was obviously much appreciated.

The Lord was greatly glorified during our conference and there were many miracles of grace, healing and renewal. Worship was ably led by a small team of young people and Joshua gave a strong lead to his colleagues. There is enormous potential for growth and development if those who attended get the right encouragement.

Finally, I must end on the most positive note by commending the prayer and intercession ministry that bore us up though our ten days in Africa. Clemency Fox and her team, co-ordinating with our own local networks, were the hidden members of the RinJ team. Their kneeling kept us standing! At one point in the conference I was taken ill – I could literally feel the battle taking place in my body as the intercessors wrestled the powers of darkness to enable me to win though and continue leading my sessions that day. A glorious victory was won and Jesus was glorified!



All in all – a wonderful privilege to be involved and to have the chance to make a difference for the local church in Kenya. Thank you! Bwana asifiwe.
John Guest

Team member Tudor Roberts reflects:

High Points

- I loved giving talks and then seeing the Healing prayer ministry flow out of that and it was great to see lives transformed and words of Knowledge that seemed to go straight home to the people I prayed for.
- I loved actually using the R in J books Part 1 with a group and seeing the Kenyans grapple with the issues, this was where training at All Nations really seemed to come back into play.
- I loved going out on Lake Victoria.
- I loved being with children and with the Curates and youth Leaders who have so much energy.
- I loved being amongst poor people and seeing them respond to the love of God.
- I loved taking a motorbike taxi and feeling I didn't have a care in the world.

- I loved singing and dancing with the Kenyans.
- I loved praying as a team and wished we could have done more of this.
- I really liked our Kenyan Hosts Joshua and Asher.
- I got on with the team members and John 1 was a real leader.



Learning points to bring home

- More confidence in preaching
- More readiness to say Come Holy Spirit and watch what happens
- Be less materialistic
- Renewed will to care pastorally with more planning and compassion
- My gift is in teaching and I returned to teach the Diocesan course Exploring Christianity for the next 2 years.

Team member John Eldridge reflects:

The organisation and hospitality by the 'Rooted in Jesus' co-ordinator Joshua Opondo was first-rate. Nothing was too much trouble for him to sort out, and the kindness with which he and his wife freely gave to us was quite humbling to receive. The food was also first-rate and sensitive to the Westerner's palate! The Conference went well. Each of the sessions were explained and very ably led by each of the team members. It was good to have the experience of Margaret and John having been on teams before.

Diocesan Mission Coordinator Joshua Opondo wrote:

Dear Friends in the Lord,

Peace of the Lord be with you! May I take this time on behalf of my family to pass my sincere thanks to you all for having accepted and humbly did fit in Our house as if we were one family. You never looked down upon us as much as we are such a young family. Thanks for your humility as I believe we are so much apart in terms of age, environment, food but with all these, you did fit so well with us. Your sense of Humour was just of great healing to us, God just did His best to choose the best for us and everyone still talks about all of you.

I would want to say that you left a mark to all my family and Rev Samwel's where Margaret stayed and we thank God for you all. I am sure you might have struggled with a number of things, bathing with cold water being one of them, Tudor fearing the Lions and the Mosquitos and the Lizards but you touched my heart in the manner to which you handled everything, yourselves amongst the people down here.

May I also thank you on behalf of the Diocese, TEE and all participants that attended the Conference. Everyone is still asking how this team was formed and how I came to know you, not realising that I was meeting you for the first time apart from Margaret whom we met with 12 Years ago and all of us not knowing that we could meet again. From Every Congregation you ministered at, they are all grateful and thankful. You were really equipped for His Ministry. I must say that you wee a real blessing to the delegate ,myself and even the Bishop in as much as He never had much time with you but He really appreciate for He has had from many who attended the Conference.

Having been part of the organization of the conference, taking much time in prayer, I believe its this group that God wanted. After the Conference, word has spread all over of this course and people are just waiting to see its impact. We are meeting today in the afternoon as TEE committee to chat a way forward. We are going to agree on the date the delegates to meet with the Bishop and as well knowing how each is planning to start a group and as well praying together. All I would want to say that all are enthusiastic with the course and as you pray with us, Am sure God will see u through and this becomes part of our discipleship tool in this Diocese.

I must appreciate this peace of Work of Revd Dr Alison (the book rooted in Jesus) and She must have really prayed for God to give Her the right team for Our Diocese. Our expectation was a great number but it turned out a small number, but with real zeal and I want to believe and its my prayer that the seed will bear abundant fruit. You know it all depends on the type of the soil a seed is planted, you might have a big farm, but dry, no fertilizer, not well tended, unprepared and you plant as many seeds, no better yield but you can have a small farm which is prepared well, with good and fertile soil, well tendered but will give you better yield. I believe this is what happened in Our Diocese. The priests who never come are asking a lot about the course and even Christians who sent their representatives. God bless you all for having left all, your families, Tudor even risking to be in Africa for the first time and you all after a number of years. Its God's doing. You are blessed for having accepted to be the other hand of the Lord.

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