

'Rooted in Jesus' Report: Diocese of Morogoro, Tanzania

May 2011, by Richard Zair

TEAM: Bishop John Hayden (TL), Canon Michael Samuel, Canon Lukas Saidi, Jonathan Rendall, Revd Margaret Smallman, Revd Richard Zair.

CONFERENCE 1: May 10-13

Attendance: 73 clergy and catechists, 2 of whom were women, plus Bishop Godfrey.

The start was hampered by heavy rains, which meant a number of delegates were late arriving. The conference facilities were good and the diocesan hospitality excellent. The teaching was well received, though a number of delegates struggled with the way small groups should be led. The end of day ministry talks were appreciated and responded to with enthusiasm. The worship times were superbly led by an evangelist (Johannes) from Morogoro Cathedral. Bishop Godfrey gave a stirring address at the final commissioning service. He said that when he visited parishes for confirmations he would ask for testimonies from those in RinJ groups. During this service the delegates were asked to present a list of names of those they would invite to join their initial RiJ groups – there were 745 names put forward.

CONFERENCE 2: May 16 – 19

Attendance: 76+ clergy and catechists, including 1 woman.

The Monday morning start was delayed by an hour due to delegates' late arrival, but by mid afternoon most had arrived. This week had a different feel to the first week – not quite so 'warm', and also Bishop Godfrey was not present until the final day. However, the teaching was well received, and again the ministry talks were warmly appreciated. In order to facilitate the teaching about small groups, and enable more demonstration / practice time, the conference schedule was adjusted. This appeared to work well, though it was clear that delegates struggled with both principles and practice. At the end of the week, Bishop Godfrey returned and again gave a heart-felt and clear challenge to those present. It is very clear that he sees RinJ becoming a very important 'building block' in his vision for the whole diocese. As a result of this second conference, 80 RinJ groups were being planned by those who attended.

In both conferences we were very ably supported and served by the Diocesan Secretary (Fred), and by from his counterpart in Masasi Diocese and RinJ coordinator there, Canon Lukas Saidi. Canon Michael Samuel, and the Revd Isaac Mgego (the Principal of Berega Hospital), the Vicar General, and the Principal of Morogoro Bible School (Joseph) were on hand to help with interpreting. The Diocesan Co-ordinator for RinJ – Canon Himily Lumambo – attended both conferences.

"This is the most joyous day in our Diocese; an important day. I didn't think this Conference would bring such blessing. For me it has been much more of a blessing than I expected and the seminars have been such a blessing to me through the power of the Holy Spirit. This Conference will have a big impact on the Diocese" – Bishop Godfrey Sebaba



Conference 1 delegates, proudly displaying their certificates

Delegates in prayer during one of the ministry sessions.



Bishop Godfrey and the Diocesan Co-ordinator for RinJ, Canon Himily Lumambo