

Rooted in Jesus Conferences – Diocese of Morogoro

25th -28th September and 1st -4th October 2012

Team Members

Canon Edwin Mitchell, Jonathan Rendall, Revd Amanda Barraclough (UK) Canon Lukas Saidi, Canon Dunstan Mtoro, Canon Himily Lumambo (TZ)

A followup team, building on the introductory conferences held in 2011. Conference one - 25th -28th September. There were 26 participants: 18 returned from last year 8 of whom were meeting Rooted in Jesus for the first time. Conference two 1st -4th October 2012. There were 44 participants of whom 32 attended last time and 12 were there for the first time.



What news did you receive of the progress of the groups and the programme over the last year?

- ✓ A good number of groups had started on their return to the parishes following the initial conference in Berega in 2011.
 - 23 are now in meeting regularly and going well: 19 are on Book 2
 - Group members now praying for healing; members are being healed
 - Some members have given their lives to Christ
 - New enthusiasm for prayer & prayer becoming a central part of the group meetings
 - Memory Verses being memorised really well and one or two testimonies of these having an impact in daily life
 - Potential leaders being given roles of leadership within the weekly meeting
- ✓ Some groups met for only a few weeks and the ceased to function. Reasons given were:
 - farming and shamba demands, including famine
 - no money to travel to the church
 - people just stopped coming due to wrong times and wrong days
 - in two of the new groups the priest was moved to another parish
 - lack of desire and purpose (clearly the two leaders lost the will – glad for the honest response)



The coordinator was expecting 160 participants over the two conferences. In the end we had many fewer. We were told that many parishes were not able to send their clergy, due to drought causing crop failures in their areas. At the closing session for established leaders Himily reported that it had been difficult as Diocesan Secretary; he had got sidetracked by new demands. At the close, we gathered round Himily and prayed for him and he was visibly moved by their prayers and the Holy Spirit's coming – tears rolling down his cheeks. He was "greatly encouraged and refreshed" in his work for RinJ, at this moment (his words).



How did the conferences go?

There were some strong testimonies coming out of various sessions. The thing I felt needed most emphasis is the need to listen, especially in the case of healing and ministry. A number of testimonies of healing came from the sessions. I felt that both conferences ended on a very positive note. I came away believing that quite a number of groups were going to happen. The Diocese said to them, 'If you can, get started in the next couple of weeks'. From the first conference, new participants named 85 people to invite to their new groups, in the second new people named 235. (This included one member who named 105 people; he was encouraged to take things a little more slowly). I have no idea how many the others had in mind, but I believe that some of those who arrived feeling discouraged by their first attempts were at least returning home thinking positively and with the hope of starting groups again. Much of what happens will depend on how much Himily is able to give support.