

ROOTED IN JESUS CONFERENCES AT RORYA AND KIBONDO DIOCESES

8TH - 16TH JULY 2014

Revd Canon Jacob Robert, team leader

Team: Canon Jacob Robert, Canon James Almasi, Revd Charles Unjiro, Revd Dr Linnet Smith

1. INTRODUCTION

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I thank you all RinJ members who committed their time praying for me, Rev Canon Jacob Robert during that hard time when our beloved son passed away.

Let me take this opportunity to compile to you this report which intends to highlight whole what have been happening during our two conferences at Rorya and Kibondo Dioceses.

After Revd Canon James Almasi and Revd Dr Linnet Smith heard that my beloved son Anthony had passed away, knowing that I was the team leader for these two conferences (Rorya and Kibondo Dioceses), they decided to attend the burial which took place on Monday 7/7/2014 at Buhemba, Tarani Village. Despite the distance between Mwanza and Buhemba, Musoma where the team spent the night, they managed to attend the Burial at 12.00 o'clock. My family was very much comforted and encouraged by their presence and by the words of encouragement they spoke.

2. THE DIOCESE OF RORYA INTRODUCTORY CONFERENCE

Bishop John Adiema, the Bishop of the Diocese of Rorya also attended the burial. This helped the team to leave me at home and travelled with Rt Revd John to his Diocese.

Geographically, the Diocese of Rorya is situated at a remote area where the distance from the nearest town Utegi to the office of the Diocese is almost 7 km and from Tarime town is almost 48 kms and from the border between Tanzania and Kenya is almost 20 km.

3. THE BEGINNING OF RORYA CONFERENCE

The conference at Rorya Diocese kicked off on Tuesday 8/7/2014 with some few participants; most of them were coming just around the Diocesan offices, but later in the mid day the number of participants increased to a maximum of 25-30 participants. The second day the number increased a bit but was constant of 35-38 till the end of the conference.

I want to say that this was a **successful conference** because though the participants were few, they encouraged us by the way they were listening and asking questions. Bishop John Adiema attended in all sessions. At the end of conference Revd Canon James Almasi commented that 'we have planted a small seed of faith that the Lord will water into it and next time we come back it will be a big fig tree.' Of course, Bp John affirmed this by choosing a senior clergyman, Revd Tom Lando, to be Diocesan RinJ coordinator.

The local plan was planned very well, that the Diocesan coordinator will link with other parishes and Deanery coordinators. They will be answerable to the Diocesan Bishop and they will give report to Diocesan council.

4. FACILITATION

The Facilitators presented their lessons very well, Revd Charles Unjiro led a demonstration lesson on how to lead a RinJ group; on the third day he led devotions (becoming like salt and light, Matthew 5), and the ministry session on Asking God for more (Lk 18).

I want to thank God for Dr Linnet Smith, who even though the situation was somehow difficult in terms of culture, weather, food, and other things yet, Linnet went along with the situation as we went on. She taught on Knowing God's Love; the rewards and difficulties of ministry; and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Revd Canon James Almasi taught on Repentance and renewal, and Asking God for more. 38 participants received a certificate.

5. COMMENTS

- Sessions went very well.
- We hope that the seed that we planted will grow
- Follow-up conference must be planned well for next year.
- They need great support from Zonal coordinator even after conference, through visits.

The conference closed at 1.30 pm with the word of thanks from the Bishop John Adieme.

Thanks be to God because we left Rorya to Musoma at 2.15 where we spent the night, and the following day we started our journey to Kibondo Diocese.

KIBONDO DIOCESE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE

1. INTRODUCTION

It was a long journey than we ever seen, it took us 13 hours from Musoma to Kibondo and everyone was tired and exhausted.

Let's thank God for Isack who drove us for almost 750 kms from Musoma to Kibondo. We arrived at Kibondo at 7.00 pm. Bishop Ndenza, the Bishop of the Diocese welcomed us for supper in his home and we enjoyed so much. The following day was Sunday; Linnet and I worshipped at the Cathedral. Dr Linnet preached the sermon on 'bearing fruits'. James and Charles went to different churches.



2. THE CONFERENCE

On Monday the conference kicked off at the Bible School. We started with 34 participants. The conference was warm and the faces of participants shown God's presence. On the following day on the way to the conference, one of the participants said to us that 'Now they got a tool', that is, Rooted in Jesus will be a tool for making the church move ahead.

The time of feedback. We were worried that since the introductory conference last year progress had been slow. But after a long discussion, we found that they did a lot and progress was good. They gave testimonies on how the programme has helped them. One of the clergy said 'Now they can preach without worrying.' Another said, 'After receiving the Holy Spirit, they can pray for a sick person' and another participant said that, 'Now Christians can read the Bible by themselves.'

I would like to thank God for all of us facilitators who worked hard to satisfied the participants needs. I would like also to thank Bp Ndenza for how he played his part by attending every session and contributing at any time he was needed to give way forward. I also thank all Diocesan workers who also attended the conference.

3. PRACTICAL SESSIONS

The last day we formed 4 **practical session** groups, it worked very well. The Bishop gave certificates to 49 participants and this was a sign of the end of the follow-up conference at Kibondo Diocese. I would like to comment that in these two conferences, the Lord and the power of the Holy Spirit guided and empowered us during the conference. We thank God for all that He has done for us.

4. COMMENTS

- Kibondo soil proves that RinJ will prosper
- They have A stable Bishop who will be able to stand firm for the growth of RinJ

Revd Canon Jacob Robert, Rooted in Jesus Regional Coordinator, Tanzania

