

# Rooted in Jesus Conferences in the Diocese of Tabora, Tanzania

June 2013

**Team:** Bishop Stanley Hotay, Revd Charles Unjiro, Revd David Macha, Revd Ian Smale, Mrs Sue Smale, Mrs Clare Coppen



At the invitation of Bishop Elias Chakupewa, a team led by +Stanley Hotay ran an introductory three day Rooted in Jesus conference in the Diocese of Tabora. The conference was attended by 83 pastors and evangelists, from all except three of the parishes in the diocese. Participants plan to invite 373 named individuals to join groups in their parishes; groups are also planned for the secondary school and for the various departments within the diocesan office. 54 groups are planned in all. Emmanuel Rubuye was appointed as the Diocesan Coordinator, and he will keep in touch with group leaders by mobile, email or in person.

## The Diocese

The Diocese of Tabora was formed in 1989. It now has 27 parishes with more than 120 congregations, and covers an area of 96,000 sq km of rural western Tanzania – about a tenth of the area of mainland Tanzania. Approximately 2 million people live in the region. Most are involved in subsistence agriculture, but there are some cash crops - tobacco, rice and maize. The region is very poor and has suffered several years of failed or poor harvests. The main priorities of the diocese are in Evangelism, Training and Development.

## From Bishop Chakupewa:

“The seminar was well organised and worked on. All the clergy with exceptional of two and their spouses attended and enjoyed the seminar. The *Rooted in Jesus* material were very much helpful and we encouraged the participants to put into practice all the knowledge acquired. I have been receiving news from our coordinator that the participants have started small groups and people are enjoying the courses. Thank you very much and let me take this opportunity to invite you again for the follow up.”



## Comments from the UK team members:

“It was amazing to see how much the delegates appreciated the conference. In Tabora there was a very good number of pastors wives and other women from the diocese. It was good to see how they were encouraged and built up by being there, especially after Bishop Stanley spoke strong words of encouragement to them all in one of the sessions. The delegates at Tabora took great pride in receiving their books and certificates and spontaneous praise and dancing burst out. Having been to many very dismal diocesan training programmes, I was overjoyed at the exuberance and their commitment and determination to try this new approach to discipleship.

“For my own ministry, I am hoping that the African concept of 'fully living in the moment' will help me to be more effective engaging with people and giving them time, without conveying that I am too busy, or needing to rush off to someone or some other place. Letting go and letting God will also, I hope, be a change in the way I operate. I would like to think I won't be so much task driven, with importance attached to getting a job done!”

