

# Vic Sekasi writes about her experiences on the team to Burundi & Rwanda

July 2013

## ***Preparation for the trip***

We had a great team preparation day in April. This was a key time for us as a team to get to know each other as most of us didn't know each other beforehand. One element of the day was the time of honest sharing about ourselves enabling the team to bond quickly. From my perspective the material was great, a good foundation to build on and easily adaptable. Kevin was and is an excellent team leader. Clemency is a great intercessor and most of the words that came through were spot on.

## ***A personal response***

I have never been on a RinJ conference before although I've heard of many amazing conferences as well as many difficult ones so my only expectation was trusting God that he was before us with all the difficult diocese problems in Bujumbura and the past difficulties in both of the countries. Personally it was a life changing experience and I have never felt so part of a team before that actually functioned as the body of Christ could. Each team member had a role before the trip and during the trip. Every team member was playing to their strengths and was led by the Holy Spirit. If any of the team members were missing either physically or spiritually the team suffered. In terms of feeding back from the conferences, I will feedback them separately as both conferences were completely different.

## ***Diocese of Rumonge***

Although there were lots of last minute changes with the organisation of the conference, there were many great things that happened during the conference. After the first day we were challenged by the image of a giraffe, the challenge not to focus on earthly things (looking down) but on things above (Col3.17), looking up and to pray Psalm 1 over the delegates and to be aware of cultural judgments. Here's a photo of one of the groups doing their memory verse :-



As the conference went on there were many moments of God using us as a team to share his heart for them and encourage them in their leadership. The worship became freer, the ministry times were more gentle and God was in charge. On the second day we had a word from the intercessors, "You are the God who makes things happen." We were also reminded of our purpose as a team to steward the presence, pray for the sick, hear God's voice, value and love the poor and lead with humility. We realised that God was doing new things in the delegates' lives. Four of the delegates shared testimony of what they learnt and what God did the previous day:

- "I was touched by all the people gathering from afar who laid hands on me in groups & prayed for me. I was healed of sickness." [Nikobahora](#)
- "I was challenged by the visual demonstration of the blind woman & the tied up woman & the importance of serving together & how we express love." [Eslon](#)
- "I felt refreshed by the teaching, testimonies, praying for one another & I'm excited about being strengthened for the future work & I'm expectant of more God." [Felix](#)
- "I was challenged by the sketch on leadership & not to be so harsh + unkind. I feel God is calling us to love one another more as we walk towards heaven." [Michael](#).

We were reminded of the verse "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord" and that is what God was doing, filling the delegates with more of his Spirit! The group times were led really well.

The new Bishop of Rumonge joined us for the afternoon and evening of Day 2 of the conference, which was great. In the evening Steve Muneza spoke and we shared communion together which was a beautiful experience and felt like the ground was broken. In the evening we had some healing ministry time and many came forward for prayer and some of the delegates



were physically healed.

On day 3 we started the day with testimonies of what God did the previous day.

- Emmanuel shared that he's not experienced the power of God since the east African revival in 1979. He received more of the Holy spirit and was given the gifts of prophecy and healing, which he looks forward to using in his context. He felt more confident in his ministry and excited about travelling back equipped with more of the Holy Spirit.
- Michael shared that he was healed of pain in his left side and was assured of the Holy Spirit's work in his life and the challenge to share the authentic power of the gospel in his context.
- Denis shared about his answers to prayers. The pain in his arm left so he could fully move and he felt less burdened as he shared his burdens with his group.
- Nathaniel shared a moving testimony of how God saved him during the civil war when men came to his house to kill him and his family. He prayed and saw God rescue himself and his family. He also shared about how his child was risen from the dead and that the conference reminded him of God being his rescuer.
- Edward shared about how God fully healed his leg so he can run again. He also shared a moving testimony of how God rescued him from alcoholism, which caused the original injury in his leg. Overall 14 testified to being physically healed the previous night.

The conference finished off by being reminded to keep their eyes fixed on Jesus and we had a moving commissioning prayer time.

### ***Diocese of Kigali***

I really appreciated the 3 day gap inbetween conferences as the RINJ in Kigali was very different. The first difficulty we encountered was visiting the Rwanda genocide museum, which was difficult to process. We were all struck by how friends and family could kill each other and how much the country was abandoned by the West. There were some amazing testimonies in the museum of people who hid and saved people from death, which helped to keep me going through all the tragic stories. In my quiet time on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July I prayed that God would rescue this country from the past, give the years back that the locusts stole and heal the nation, which began to be a theme throughout the conference. I also prayed that I would serve, encourage, release and empower those leaders I was going to meet, which I felt God do through us as a team. We started the conference with the team sharing testimony, which all had a theme to do with the importance of being part of God's family and the truth that the father has not abandoned us. We later received a text about the father heart of God being key, which led to an amazing ministry time in the evening where 50% of the conference shared that they were orphans. The men prayed for everyone there who wanted to experience the Father's heart and gave hugs and prayed for 75% of the conference. The message in the evening was all about "unless you meet the father you will never know what it means to be his son or daughter." It was a powerful ministry time and the father heart of God touched many of the delegates.

The prayer workshop in the afternoon was moving with many of the delegates experiencing true peace as they sacrificed themselves afresh to God. We prayed for 2 individuals, Jeanette who felt called to full time leadership and Isaac, who lost many possessions after a recent robbery and was going to go home but ended up staying for the whole conference. We had ample interpreters so the groups worked really well and there were great discussions. On day 2 of the conference I read Ps 68:5-6 and felt this was the word for the for us as team members and for everyone on the conference and felt that God has put the lonely in families and led out the prisoners with singing. 3 people shared testimonies of their lives which were moving but weren't quite what we were asking for. One of them stated "there is no bad place that God can't rescue you from."

Day 2 seemed to be a difficult start as all the team were emotionally exhausted, many were doubting and one of team members was really struggling with some deep issues. It reminded me of 1 Cor 12:26 "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it." We all were suffering together as we supported one another. I was also reminded of 1Cor 15:58 "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." This encouraged me and the team to keep going and it felt like as the day progressed it went from darkness to light. In the group time, my chosen leader led excellently and followed the example I showed him the day before of working in groups. Here's a photo of the group time:-

The second prayer workshop went well and God brought a real sense of hope into the delegates and reminded them of the truth that God's plans will not be thwarted and that his plans are to prosper and not to harm them. After dinner Steve spoke powerfully about repentance and we saw God set a lot of people free from the darkness of their lives and receive more of God's mercy and grace. In the evening we as a team had our last evening together, we ministered to one another and one of our team members experienced true freedom from their past. On the third day of the conference we were reminded to keep giving more and that our unity would be taken to another level. There were 5 moving testimonies of people who were impacted by the conference in life changing ways.



- Daniel, who was a catechist, shared that he was very sick and had pain in the stomach that the doctor tried to treat but the medication didn't work. After prayer all his sickness went away and all he can now do is praise and surrender everything to God.
- Damisan, who was also a catechist, shared that he felt the Holy Spirit strengthen him and fill him with more power. Before the conference he felt like a dry sponge but after the Holy Spirit session, he felt like he was filled and needed to keep being filled.
- Samuel, who was also a catechist, came to the conference angry at his children for killing his cow, which was a gift he was given. He forgave his children and was freed from the bondages of unforgiveness and was strengthened by the love of Jesus. He was also reminded to keep serving faithfully and to trust God for another gift.
- Oliver was ill from chest pains before he came and the Holy Spirit strengthened him and healed him as he was hugged on the first evening.
- Immanuel was reminded in the prayer workshop to forgive those who killed his family during the genocide and as he did this he received a new grace and forgiveness for them. He wished to meet them, embrace them and show them he has forgiven them.

As a team we were reminded of Lamentations 3:22-26 by the intercessors and experienced God's compassion for each other as well as for the delegates especially during the powerful ministry time after the rewards and difficulties session. We prayed for three main categories of delegates; those who had not experienced any fruit, those who felt like they wanted to give up and those who felt opposed in their ministry. I prayed with a girl called Alice who was such a beautiful woman of God, a worshipper who wanted to experience fruit in her ministry.

After the ministry time I had a beautiful time of prayer with a prophetic catechist who spoke prophetic truth into my life and I felt God's compassion for me afresh. The last group session went well; the leader led beautifully, had prepared well and was flexible given the time pressures. He got everyone involved in leading the group.



The last prayer workshop was difficult due to the heat and energy levels but many were filled with joy and strengthened. In the afternoon after the break we had the most joyful experience of worship I've ever experienced and so I left the conference on a high. After the worship I shared a bit of my heart

for them to keep persevering, to not let their past define their future and that they are the hope for Rwanda. The delegates then prayed for me and thanked me, which was really special. I was reminded of the 4 key messages of the fortnight; that nothing thwarts God's plans; to keep fixing our eyes on Jesus; God is a God that makes things happen and that God has set the lonely in families and will lead out the prisoners in singing.



Vic Sekasi, July 2013  
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