



Komera Newsletter

November 2009

Beckminster Methodist Church
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Editorial.

At this time of the year it seems fitting to think about the season of Advent and what the message can be for us today, especially in relation to Rwanda.

In Isaiah 25:6-10 we have a reflection on the world of confusion where God's people are having a difficult time. This passage declares God's final victory over all that makes life so hard and a great gathering for all those loyal to God.

Putting an end to death, God is declaring that weeping and recriminations are a matter of the past. Those on Zion will experience security, for God's hand rests there.

This message begs the question, in what form will our God address the needs or problems in families, and communities here and now? We can ask the same question about Rwanda? The answer can only be that this God will only respond to such needs through the actions of believers.

In Matthew 15:29-37 the compassion of Jesus is highlighted through his ministry of healing and the feeding of the four thousand. The disciples' question about their inability to feed such a multitude serves to heighten Jesus' concern for the people's needs.

These passages must be springboards for our concern and tangible support.

John says, "I am very conscious of the small amount that we can do to help, but always conscious of the deep appreciation of the people..."

In such a short period we have managed to achieve so much. We have provided valuable funds to support the healing ministry at Kibogora Hospital. We have money set aside for the ministry of PHARP dealing with the healing of minds and communities.

Following the visit of Revs Peter Clarke and Phil Hoar we now believe the time is right to think about a healing ministry of the heart and soul. There is a great need of training for Rwandan Ministers, and other church workers. The Training Centre at Gikongo will be a great asset.

The KOMERA Project has become a highway along which God's purpose in using us is being fulfilled in Rwanda.

Advent is a time of preparation. Let us think how glorious it will be when the Centre is open and students, in a more study-friendly facility, with access to a better library, receive biblical teaching and pastoral training, which will allow them to be more ready to go out and eloquently make the call to prepare the way of the Lord!

If every Church member was to make a £5.00 Christmas gift towards the Training Centre what a wonderful Christmas it would be for each donor and for Christ's birthday.

With Every Christmas Blessing.

A brief visit to Rwanda.

John Howard Chair of District

During August I paid a brief visit to Kigali in order to speak to the leaders of PHARP and the Free Methodist Church, our District partners in Rwanda about where they saw the priorities for our work together. I was again surprised by the amount of development in Kigali but also by the contrasts that always amaze me. The U.S. Embassy has been built on the top of one of the hills that forms the city – it is well lit all night and visible from almost all of the capital, and yet just a short distance from it, while I was walking, I saw a man trying to wash his clothes in the effluent from a gully pouring out into a nearby field. Kigali is developing but you only have to go a short distance into the country and you see the grinding poverty that is the daily experience of most Rwandans. I am very conscious of the small amount that we can do to help, but always conscious of the deep appreciation of the people I meet for our interest, our prayers, and our support.

Please do remember our friends in Rwanda in your prayers. If you haven't yet discovered "On the Eighth Day", do get a copy - it's a great resource.

Thank you again for your support for KOMERA.

John Howard



Above:

Anastase, one of the PHARP leaders, on the land bought for the Centre for the new building.

The Proposed New Centre for PHARP

We have agreed to pay for the building of the office block and seminar rooms. The latest estimate we have for the cost is now some time out of date, but it was £37,000. The last year has seen delay after delay on the planning process – with differing explanations from the Department for Land as to why the delay is happening. All concerned are very frustrated by it. When the planning does finally come through, we will need a new building estimate and with the fall in the pound it is likely to be considerably higher. We do now have £54,000 raised for KOMERA, a wonderful achievement - many thanks to all who have raised this money.

We don't want to leave that money simply in a bank earning very little interest. As a result we have decided to move on to our next fund raising project – as described elsewhere in this newsletter. We will continue working with PHARP towards obtaining planning permissions and, when we get it, we will be able to obtain the revised price and begin the funding of the building.

In the meantime we move in a big way into support for training in the Free Methodist Church in Rwanda. This comes directly out of my visit to Kigali in August – and Bishop Samuel's great concern to increase the scope of training in the Church.

John Howard

“Focus on Training.”



The picture above shows work on the centre for Training at Gikongo, the “Cathedral of Methodism” in Kigali.

We have sent £20,000 towards this work, and are challenging our Churches and Circuits. Can we raise the funds to build this centre from which the Director of Training can develop training across the Church? (This challenge goes alongside the “Centre for Peace and Reconciliation” we are funding for PHARP.)

We need to raise a further £25,000 as quickly as we can. The KOMERA Calendars for 2010 will go towards this.

The picture below shows the main training room under construction.



Further details on any of the above – either contact the District Office on 01902 332508 or email bs@wsmeth.org.uk or speak to one of the project team, Brian Dawson, Paul Nzachahayo, Samuel Uwimana, Phil Hoar, Peter Clarke, and John Howard.

“Focus on Training.”

A 50,000\$ grant awarded from the Nationals in Mission Fund

At the Wolverhampton Conference the Grants Committee agreed to fund a “Director of Training” for the Free Methodist Church of Rwanda. It is a part of the developing relationship with the church there and supports all the work we are doing. This is a five year appointment of a local person in Rwanda to do this work in the Church. It is also a part of our **“Focus on Training.”**

Bishop Samuel's Visit.

This Autumn Bishop Samuel spent three months based at Queen's where he spent time improving his English and visiting Churches in the District.

More on this next time.

R U, or do U no someone 16 -21 who would like to b a part of the youth group trip 2 Rwanda next summer?

If U do, contact the District Office 01902 332508 or brenda@wsmeth.org.uk