



Komera Newsletter

Summer 2010

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Editorial.

Once again I have been enjoying the walk along the canal to Birmingham. On this third occasion I was more aware of my surroundings. The path had just been tidied and there was also that lovely smell of freshly cut grass. It gave me great pleasure to see the adult water fowl swimming around with their chicks - excitement as I watched to see if the Heron poised by the canal bank managed to catch breakfast. Along the route I took notice of the numerous points where a walker could leave the canal path and catch a bus or tram to Birmingham or back to Wolverhampton or indeed join the path. There is also the Coseley Tunnel to walk through and a number of majestic bridges to pass under before finally feeling the buzz of arrival. Life itself is a journey which we all make and that journey for each of us is unique.

From Teresa's article it is clear that she and her husband Rev Robert had a great experience in Rwanda and retain some wonderful memories. A group of young people will be going to Rwanda and will also have marvellous experiences. Bishop Samuel from Rwanda, who will once again be with us in July, will enjoy many fresh experiences here during his visit. The Chair's walk in the Autumn. They are all journeys and each one is unique to the traveller.

With the exception of my canal walk the other journeys are about us making a contribution to the community (see Acts 4:32-37). In this passage we can read that, in the heady earliest days of the Church the group were united in heart and soul about possessions and ownership. Our own "stewardship" involves the sharing of time, gifts, talents and all that God has given into our care. The obvious way we share is money or goods. But, as with Joseph Barnabas whose name means 'son of encouragement' our most effective sharing may be by affirmation, encouragement, support in times of distress. But sometimes the best option for the most of us is to give money - We need to continue our support for Rwanda, to support every activity that promotes and benefits our wider Church community in Rwanda. After all, in the words of the Communion Service -

'We all share in the one loaf' 'We all share in the one cup'

Every blessing Rev Lawrence Wallace

The last edition of the Komera Newsletter reported that Rev Robert Ely, with his wife Teresa, was going to visit Rwanda as part of his Sabbatical. He is still on Sabbatical, so Teresa has put together these thoughts on their visit.

Read her report and see more of the pictures on page 2.

The KOMERA Walk. 18th - 27th November 2010

As a major focus on KOMERA I am going to walk through each of the circuits of the District, forty churches and some 180 miles in the dark days of November.

The plan is to pray for Rwanda in each of the churches I pass, and do longer presentations on Rwanda in about twelve churches. I hope that many people will join with me walking a part of the route, and that sponsorship will raise a good sum for the projects we are supporting. More details will be coming later, but keep your eyes open for the route, which will be coming somewhere near to you!!!

John Howard



Members of the youth Group in Rwanda

How is your fund raising going?

Please keep up the efforts on fund raising. We have at present a complicated situation requiring funds. We are still working towards building the Centre for Peace and Reconciliation as a headquarters for PHARP. There is progress on planning but as yet we don't have all the necessary approvals to start building - and when we do we will need new quotes, so thought we have about £40,000 towards this project we could still need more.

While we are awaiting the planning permission we are trying to support the building of the Training Centre at Gikondo, Methodist Headquarters in Kigali. We have sent £10,000 so far and hope to send more when it has been raised. Please keep up the efforts, the need is great. We have also helped some key people to come to England to improve their English. With the development of the Eastern African Trading area, English is now the main language of business and government, and people like Bishop Samuel, who leads the Methodist Church in Rwanda and Dr Damion, the Director of Kibegora Hospital need good English to enable them to do their jobs well.

Teresa Ely's report.

The focus for the visit had changed from a link with schools (not possible because the visit fell during the holidays and the time of remembrance for the genocide) to the training programme for pastors.

Pastor Isaac, the Director of Training who is supported by funding from our district, asked Robert to deliver teaching on the New Testament and on the Wesleys at Kamembe and at Gitarama. That was how we found ourselves describing the impact of John and Charles Wesley on the conditions of 18th century industrial England to two dozen or so pastors from rural Rwanda.



All training was done through translators – Pastor Michael and Pastor Benjamin were very helpful in guiding us through the days. There were so many gaps to bridge - language, culture, experience, poverty – that we wondered sometimes whether we were any help. But if the whole KOMERA project is about standing alongside, then our visit showed our willingness to do that. We were humbled by the faith and commitment of the pastors especially when we remember Rwanda's recent history.



I was able to see the current PHARP centre in Kigali and appreciated the urgent need for a permanent site – another part of our District project. The sewing class that provides women with training and a means of support begins with a daily bible study – that made me think!



We also visited the other Komera link projects. We took two suitcases of baby clothes to Kibogora and visited the maternity unit. Julie sends a big thank you to all who responded to her requests. Still needed are all-in-ones in premature baby sizes, baby sweaters, small blankets (about 20" square), clothing for 1-5 and 10-15yrs, baby hats and baby clothes.

We also enjoyed the beauty and tranquillity of Lake Kivu. Everywhere we went we were aware of immense faith and commitment in the face of great need. We give thanks for the vision shown in our District's project. Teresa Ely

Youth Trip to Rwanda. 10th July to 6th August.

There are to be eighteen of us travelling to Rwanda from ten churches across the District. Please do support the fund raising effort of the group – we are raising money for the costs of the time we are there, including the costs of what we will be doing, (Most of the costs of the air tickets are being paid for by those who are going)). Running Vacation Bible Schools in three regions of the country – in the capital Kigali, in Kibogora, where the hospital is, and in Kibunge in the east of the country.



Members of the Youth Group

One of the visits I am most looking forward to is to a rural area about 20km from Gitorama, where a youth group, gathered together under PHARP's oversight, is building a training center. I went there last summer and saw the land they had bought and the bee hives being used there to raise some money. I challenged them to a game of football this year – which I realised was a mistake when I saw how well they play! They are working through the year baking bricks and building the shell of the building – I have promised that when we come we will buy £1,000 worth of corrugated iron, for the roof.

We will be meeting many church communities and contributing to acts of worship, three of us are preachers, and we have a worship bank put together for the trip.

We hope to keep the District Website up to date while we are out there, wsmeth.org.uk, so please do watch out for our progress.

Do keep us in your prayers.

John Howard

For further details on any of the above –

Contact the District Office

Tel 01902 332508

OR

Email your query to

bs@wsmeth.org.uk or moira@wsmeth.org.uk

OR

Speak to one of the project team, Brian Dawson, Paul Nzachahayo, Samuel Uwimana, Phil Hoar, Peter Clarke, and John Howard.