



Komera Newsletter

February 2010

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Editorial.

The start of a New Year is the time when we hold our Covenant services. In this covenant we are reminded that God promises us new life in Christ. For our part we promise to live no longer for ourselves but for God.

Towards the end of January we heard about Jeremiah's call to be a prophet and about Jesus' visit as a prophet to his home synagogue. We too have been called to be his prophets. We were given this calling in Baptism and, as was the case with Jeremiah and Jesus, it is a calling that demands courage.

Prophecy in Israel has had a chequered history. Its high point was probably in the period prior to the exile. During the Exile period an unknown prophet left us the abiding message of social justice and criticism of religious practices, found in the second and third parts of Isaiah, that fall short of the demands of God's covenant.

As we go through life none of us really know in what ways our words and actions affect others. We can however be certain that if our values are Christian values, if our dealings with others reflect Christ's caring, support and concern, we are agents of God:

We all know the story of Zacchaeus, a wealthy tax collector. Zacchaeus happened to be spotted by Jesus. It could have been someone else. But it was not. Grace is always at work in our lives. Tiny things drop into our hands. Every day brings small opportunities and God makes his overtures to us. In the great journey of life we must choose whether to grasp these opportunities or not.

The PHARP ministry in Rwanda needs a lot of prayer support, and more tangibly, financial support. Our District Chair, John Howard, with clear vision and unwavering commitment, has inspired us, as a District, to be courageous and a powerful tangible Christian witness in Rwanda.

Now, at the beginning of another New Year, let us put our small drops of support together to help bring about a comprehensive renewal in Rwanda that will make manifest the reality of the resurrection. Happy New Year.

Youth Trip to Rwanda.

The dates for the trip are now confirmed as 10th July - 6th August, and we are in the process of booking the tickets. The numbers of the trip are a little lower than we had hoped. If anyone reading this would like to join the group then we would do our best to add them to the group but it would depend upon Kenya Airways who are carrying us there.

The programme for the trip is developing – we are going to be based in Kigali, but travel both to the West – to Kibogora for about a week and hope also to have a few days in the East. We are hoping to take with us a number of gifts – football kit, the contents of the “shoe boxes” collected by the John Fletcher School for Rwanda, various knitted goods and some knitting machines! How we will keep to our weight limits who knows!

The training weekend is taking place in March and that will be our first chance to get together as a group.



The group that visited Rwanda in 2008 with young people from PHARP.

Rwanda Training Visit Update

Since last year's training visit to Rwanda a number of opportunities to share the news of the Rwanda Partnership have been taken.

Rev Peter Clarke has recently lead a World Church Sunday Service at Trinity, Kidderminster and a World Church Supper at Kinver

There continues to be a great deal of interest in the partnership with the Free Methodist Church in Rwanda and any churches wishing to organise special events should contact some-one who has been to Rwanda. They will certainly welcome ALL opportunities to share news of their experiences.

Sabbatical Visit to Kibogora.

Just after Easter, Revd. Robert Ely of the Wolverhampton Circuit and his wife Teresa, who is a lay worker at Beckminster, are going to Rwanda to spend some time sharing in English teaching at a school near Kibogora.

As explained in earlier editions of this newsletter, we are now funding a “Director of Training” for the Free Methodist Church of Rwanda and it is likely that Robert and Teresa will also be asked to be involved in some training work.

← *The sign outside one of the junior schools in Kibogora.*



MEMORABLE VISIT

Bishop Samuel - of the Free Methodist Church in Rwanda and Rwandan minister

Rev. Dr. Paul Nzachahayo - serving in the District.

Bishop Samuel was able to visit St John's Bloxwich on several occasions. One morning he spoke at a special service about the church's twinning arrangement with a Free Methodist Church on the Shara Peninsula.

Members are raising funds to help this church rebuild. At lunch he met up with members of the youth group who had been to Rwanda. There was a special celebration cake and a copy of the stained glass Holy Spirit symbol made by one of the teenagers.

Bishop Samuel told how moved he was as he viewed his homeland at a special Wednesday evening gathering. This event raised £200/- for The Rwanda project.

More poignant was participating in a memorial service on All Saints Day for those families grieving for loved ones where candles were lit and roses given out - always a moving occasion but more so because of the presence of a survivor of the Rwandan Genocide.

Copies of "On the Eighth Day" - a series of stories to prompt prayer - are still available from Rev Peter Clarke. (Minimum donation 30p).

Visit To Elmore Green Primary School Twinned with Nyabinaga Primary Schools.

Pupils in Years 3 and 4 at Elmore Green Primary School in Bloxwich were excited to welcome Bishop Samuel and Rev Paul Nzachahayo for a morning. The guests were shown round the school and attended an assembly.

They saw pictures of Nyabinaga School taken during Rev Phil Hoar's and Rev Peter Clarke's visit to Rwanda in May last year. They heard stories of Rev Paul Nzachahayo's childhood in the school, and were taught some songs and dances. (See the Web Site for pics)

This was followed by personal messages received from the pupils in Rwanda with pictures of their games and classes.

Since Christmas Elmore Green held a special week on Rwanda and raised the magnificent sum of £300 for basic school equipment to send with their replies. The cheque was presented at St John's Methodist Church on a class visit followed by a party.

Discussions and enquiries are now taking place around the possibility of the teachers making a visit to Rwanda to share ideas on teaching methods.

(If you would like to support the teachers in any way please contact Rev Phil Hoar.)

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, Moira Simpson and John Howard.

FACTS ON FINANCE

(from the Treasurer's desk)

It was a cold dark night in February 2007, when we met at Donnington to launch our new District Project. The target was £25,000 to build an isolation ward in Kibogora. I confess to doubts about achieving this figure, but 3 years on I have to congratulate you all on a great effort, which is, of course, still continuing. Donations came in the first 15 months in great wads and when the cost of the ward rose to £32,000 the money kept coming. In July 2008 we paid for the isolation ward and the plaque which has since been erected can be seen on the page of this year's calendar.

DID YOU KNOW?

- We have so far raised £112,865.
- Of this, £23,240 has been gift aided
- Amounts given range from a 50p sponsor to an individual donation of £5,000
- The sum of £44,000 was also raised for the youth visit in 2008.
- Cheques should be made out to "The Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District" and sent to me.

Moira Simpson (*District Treasurer*)

From the Chair.

Many thanks to all who have worked so hard to raise money for the "Centre for Peace and Reconciliation" that will be a headquarters for PHARP. The good news over the last month is that permission has now been given for the building to be built - the bad news is that we have now been told that PHARP will need to get an "Environmental Impact Certificate" before commencing building! It seems as bad as schedules to Manchester!! As you will know from previous newsletters we believe that we have raised the money needed for this project - but as there might well be money needed soon now for this work we have agreed to reduce what we said in the last newsletter and send at present £10,000 toward our next project - the Training Centre at Gicondo in Kigali.

The sales of the calendars has again gone very well - we have just a few left and hope soon to know how much we have raised through these.

Please do keep up all the fund raising efforts. I have the privilege of seeing the results of all this work - both upon the buildings that are being built and upon the people of the Methodist Church in Rwanda who are so encouraged by our support.

I have heard a lot of appreciation for "On the eighth Day" please do keep the people of Rwanda in your prayers



Gicondo the "Cathedral of Methodism" in Rwanda