

Rwanda Direct Newsletter

Christmas 2018



Noheli Nziza - Umwaka Mushyu Muhire
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

This time our newsletter is full of information about issues needing your prayers. Please join us in praying for the Lord's work in Rwanda.

CHURCH CLOSURES

The Rwandan Government's inspections for Hygiene and Noise standards, has seen the closure of many churches, until they can be upgraded to meet the requirements. The impact has been huge right across the



country. In Kigeme Diocese, of the 39 main parish churches that were forced to close, 30 have been reopened. It is hoped that the remaining 9 will be open by Christmas but most of the chapels remain closed. Some poor parishes are really struggling to find the funding to make the required improvements. This means many Christians must travel long distances (many walk) to attend worship. Please pray that they will not be discouraged and that they will be able to find the money to open their churches soon.

Closed chapel, toilets on left

SCRIPTURE UNION

Of greatest concern is the repayment of the bank loan for the building of the **Conference Centre**. This currently stands at £3,100 per month, which equates to £37,000 per year for 5 years. The renovation of the kitchen has still not been completed, so when the government inspectors come, the Health and Safety certificate may not be issued. The kitchen could be closed which would mean the conference centre is likely to lose bookings and the much needed revenue lost. Please pray for the money to be found, so that the vision of a fully functioning centre can finally be realised. Their trust in God, that He is in control, is an inspiration to us all.



Bible Reading Literature – Jean Baptiste asks for prayer for the preparation of the Bible notes for 2019. Also pray for their distribution to churches and schools, that the readers will be inspired by the word of God.

KIGALI ANGLICAN TRAINING COLLEGE (KATC).

In 5 years' time, the government will require pastors to be trained to degree level. KATC is starting a degree level course in January 2019. Kigali Diocese is hoping to send 15 pastors on the course. Pray that the necessary funding will be found. We also pray that the building work at KATC can be completed.



HANNAH PROJECT

Please continue to pray for the Hannah Project that feeds and helps some of the most vulnerable widows and orphans in Byumba Diocese. Pray for sufficient funding and staff so that they can continue this vital work.

PAUL AND JEAN DALTRY ON THE MOVE

Paul is taking early retirement and will be relocating to Cumbria but they will maintain their involvement in Rwanda Direct by visits, email, telephone and skype. They would value your prayers as they settle into the North and try to build support for Rwanda Direct there as well!

SERVICE ON 30th SEPTEMBER AT TOLLESHUNT MAJOR

In our last newsletter you heard from the group from Paul's parishes in Essex who visited Rwanda in February 2018. At the service each member talked about an aspect which had a real effect on them. It brought back memories for those of us who had visited before. It was well received - pray that interest in Rwanda would grow in the area. Who knows? Maybe there could be another Rwanda Direct support group emerging?

An amusing anecdote: the plight of the churches in Rwanda which have had to close due to lack of toilet facilities was mentioned. We were then informed that Tolleshunt Major Church does not have a toilet but you could use the caravan loo in the churchyard!



HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT VISITING RWANDA?

You only have to talk to those of us who have been to hear about the impact it has had on them. There is the possibility of a trip early in 2020 so if you, or someone you know, may be interested do get in touch.

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