



PUBLICATIONS Story

(Title): Wholistic ministry within Kigeme Diocese of the Anglican Church

Ministry type: Project

Area of impact: Physical, Social, Wisdom and Spiritual

Country: Rwanda

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In Kigeme diocese wholistic training took place three times in 2008. Two times, it was organized for Pastors and spouses and once the training was held for lay leaders and for a very small number of pastors who were not able to attend the training during the Pastors' training event. About 60 local churches in total were represented to the training.

One and half year after the training, we paid a visit to the ground to see how the Kingdom of God is advancing in the communities of the diocese as result of the teachings. On October 22nd, we met a group of pastors for a follow up meeting. One thing that was most important for the Ministry is that they duplicated the teaching into their Cell groups for sustainability purpose. They also changed Seed project to be Seed Actions.

Testimonies from pastors were many. We had to select which one to visit. By observation we chose to visit one parish; Kitabi parish. The following is what we saw and heard during our visit in one of the cell groups of Kitabi parish.

Self support group in Rugogwe Cell prayer group

Niyonsaba Charles and Ndimubakunzi Van Dester, respectively the chairman and the secretary of the cell group said: *"We use to meet for prayer but people were not attending regularly. But later we had to copy the Church of the New Testament as it's written in Acts 4: 32 because our community had so many poor families and also unreached people, people with conflicts among themselves..."* After they had understood the problems of their community, they worked strategically to **Resolve** conflicts, **Inviting** other families to join the group, **Reviving** those who were discouraged and **Creating** Funds for mutual support.

The group was able to put together an amount of Rwandan francs 5,200 every month and that amount was given to buy clothing for one family every month starting by the most vulnerable.

As they encouraged one another, they continued to contribute for the mutual support for clothing but realized they had also to have another fund that will help them to have livestock. They created that fund and were able to buy got, sheep or pig to each member of the group depending on the preference of each one.

The last fund they created is called Prevention and Fighting against Disaster Fund. They now have Rwandan Francs 58,000 (equivalent of \$100). With that fund they help not only

people of their group but any person from their community who has lost his house due to rain or any other problems.

We had time to talk to the Pastor Vianney Ndamage, the Archdeacon in charge of the Parish and heard wonderful testimonies. The cell group has multiplied from one to four groups from 2008. They meet regularly in their homes but also gather some times in the homes of their neighbors regardless their church background. They visit sick people and help them with small items, cultivate their fields and support in a special way families with students.

With the livestock, they are able to have manure to use in their small garden to grow vegetables.

To mention just two families, Nyirandikubwimana Fordinata (on the picture) is mother of six children. She witnessed on how she was brought back to her faith and church thanks to the cell group and how she had become drunkard and didn't have even cloth. She was spending her money for beer but after she had started with the group, she now saves her money, buys clothing, attends the Church and the cell group, contributes for the mutual



support funds and has two sheep and one cow.

The family of Charles Niyonsaba (here below); the chairman of the cell group has worked to generate income and serves as example for the rest of the cell group members. He was



able to buy a cow, pig, sheep and goat. The family has a good garden at home serving as example to demonstrate to each member of the community how to grow small but healthy garden at home.

Praise the Lord Jesus for how people in a very remote village, not educated people use the Biblical principles and apply them to develop all areas of life within their community.