



equipping local churches worldwide to demonstrate God's intentions in every area of life

Rwanda June 2010 Newsletter by Jacob

e-mail: jacndabaramiye@yahoo.fr, cell phone: +250-788569814

Thanksgiving

I praise the Lord Jesus for His continued love to us. It's now exactly one month since I'm back from the USA for the April 2010 Harvest Conference in Arizona. My last trips to and from the US were really good and more enjoyable than the rest of round trips made before, despite long waiting hours made in Washington and Addis, waiting for the following flight connections.

I again praise Him for the time spent with friends in Scottsdale/AZ and Orange County/California. It was so good to see them and spend time with friends and not only friends but actually brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Their care for me during my stay with them was really not ordinary!

We praise God for US Harvest Office Staff for their multiple services. God bless them!

After the Staff Conference

Ministry activities At my return, it was planned to hold a Vision Conference with Pastors in Rwamagana/Rwanda from May 11 through 15 in collaboration with African Evangelistic Enterprises (AEE) but, I was told by AEE that the conference was postponed for further dates.

On May 28th and 29th, we did hold a Vision Casting instead of a planned Vision Conference with the Anglican diocese of Butare in the Southern province of Rwanda. 20 people attended the Vision Casting conference but with an irregular attendance. At the end of the sessions, Pastor Lambert of the Cathedral in Butare was so sorry that they were not able to efficiently prepare for the conference because they didn't know how rich and important are our materials and committed to work on a second event before the end of the year 2010.

From June 1st through 4th we were so blessed to hold a Vision Conference in a remote village in the Akagera National Park area. It's a village of about 1,000 families who were refugees in Tanzania from the year 1959 or before and were deported by the government of Tanzania back to Rwanda in 2006. After their settlement, they started churches. 9 different denominational backgrounds are operating in that region including Roman Catholic and the 7th Adventist Church.

Akagera Vision Conference The conference was initiated by one of the local pastors; Pastor James Mugisha. James attended a 3 day training we had held in Kabarondo (Eastern of Rwanda) in March (16th -18th) 2010. Back home he first brought an idea of creating a forum of local churches that work in Akagera region. He met the agreement of 7 out of 9 local churches. After they had created the forum, they planned for the Vision conference and invited us to go for a- 4 day training. In total 70 people came for the conference and were so delighted to go through our materials.

Some highlights during the Akagera Conference

- 1.** The first thing in the region that was so remarkable during the sessions of the conference was that the number of ladies in the conference was far beyond the number of men. About 90% of participants were composed of ladies. We were told that men from the region are cattle keepers; they don't worry about the Church.
- 2.** People in that region are more hospitable than others I have met before during our vision conferences. I did experience an attitude of love that I could qualify as love of the "primitive Church". We were warmly welcomed and treated within the 5 days with so much care, love and kindness. Their wish was to stay longer with the training and asked us insistently to go back for another training event. We decided not go for just a training event but **we want to make this region our pilot site for community transformation** because of needs of training we noticed. To mention just some we include here below the following.
- 3. We did notice some lies in their culture.** They are so selective for what they eat. They have so many prohibitions: for example, they don't eat fish or any other kind of meat from a lake or a river. . . In the physical area (food), we did a practical act of love **on behavior change** by sharing meat of hippopotamus with a group of pastors and deacons. They appreciated the food although they didn't use to eat it because it was prohibited. We took that opportunity to encourage them to break Satan's chain of slavery in the area of food in order to adapt Luke 2:52(for the physical area).
- 4. About 60% of participants do not read or write.** Another percentage of people can only read but can't write properly. It was sad to see a village where even young people of about 20 years

old can't read or write. We urged the pastors to start a literacy program for adults and we also made a commitment to support that program. Pray for us!

5. Most of people include Christians don't work seriously on their land. They assume that their land can't produce enough for their living. There is a belief that their land was cursed by Nyirabiyora, a traditional princess royal. As result of that curse, there is so much sun and it doesn't rain enough sometimes in the region. In that area we took time to talk about Christian Time Management and how we are accountable to God for the land, the time and physical strength He had given us. Pray for the region and people of the region to be completely freed from lies.

Testimonies We were overwhelmed by testimonies. We sat in our lodging with more than 15 people from the church's leadership who wished to testify how they were impacted by the training. Their testimonies included the following: "Love your neighbor as yourself will lead my life since today", "falling into the hands of robbers means much today for us here, many people have fallen in the hands of poverty, diseases, hunger, they are naked. I'm committed to free people from the hands of robbers by being their good Samaritan", "The advancement of God's Kingdom starts by demonstrating God's love to all, I commit to it", "I will be helping a neighbor who doesn't clean her clothes and compound", "Luke 2:52 is a new revelation for me", "In our Church three pillars were missing to make it the Church God intended it to be, we will build them.", "I had got an idea to visit our Church members in their gardens but was hesitant because I wasn't able to have encouragement from other people, but now I'm convinced it was God's revelation. It's now confirmed that it was in God's plan for my ministry here, where people need badly a momentum to grow crops.", "Seed project will be a priority for our Church."

Let me be specific for two people because they have touched my heart.

1. Ruth Mukamazimpaka is an old mother. She testified how she was blessed to be in the training as follows: *"I'm very grateful to the Lord for being in this conference because I was able to discover that many people leave our churches because of poverty and lack of management of leadership, lack of tangible care from the Church. When they don't meet their basic needs, they feel discouraged because they don't see the relevance of the Church and decide to stay home. She said: "With God's grace, I commit to do a social ministry in my church and try to help those in needs."*
2. Butera, a young man of about 35 years old, one of the deacons who were taking care of us during the training said: *"People don't find real solutions to their multiple problems in the Sunday services. The Church needs to think how to work in the three remaining dimensions: social, physical and wisdom to help people see the relevance of the church in*

the Community. In addition to that he said that a Christian should work first on his family's needs before to go for a Crusade. According to him, most of Christians are so faster to go for a Crusade than working to meet their family's needs".



In the Akagera Vision Conference, participants looking in books at two different walls of the Church; one preventing people to see God's Intentions and the other with a Window where people can see God's Intentions for the Present and for the Future in all of life.

Family's news

We are all doing great. Huguette our first born is with us after a semester in the Rwanda National University. We are so thankful for the support for her to be able to afford the cost of studies at the National University. Tresor Ndayishimiye our fourth son is studying at a Congolese school in Kigali Rwanda. He just finished with examinations of the academic year end. He will be on vacation soon and will be helping his mother at home in her many tasks including taking care of our youngest boy, Bob Sam.

Appreciation

Dear Encouragers, we do appreciate sincerely your time for prayer and your continued supports. Keep praying for our Ministry here. God still expects many things from our ministry. The fulfillment of all those things will depend on your participation. God bless you.