



# Rwanda

Kibungo Diocese

Shyogwe Diocese

May 2020



CMSI Global Update

Dear Friends,

Just as Rwanda began its country-wide lockdown to prevent the spread of coronavirus, the nation was beginning its annual 100 days of mourning to commemorate the 1994 genocide that tore this small country apart.

At the time of writing (4<sup>th</sup> May), Rwanda has confirmed 147 cases of the COVID-19 virus with no reported deaths to date.

*(Editor's note: On 15th May, there were 287 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Rwanda and no reported deaths).*

Bishop Jered Kalimba of Shyogwe Diocese writes:



*"First of all, we thank Almighty God for His protection; He has not abandoned us indeed. Even in this scary time of Covid-19, we still feel the love and presence of God in our midst."*

*Many people around us are suffering due to the consequences of the severe lockdown - individuals have lost their jobs. People are going hungry because of food shortages and a peak in prices for necessities.*

*The Rwandan government is attempting to help the most vulnerable through food distribution, but this is only a drop in the ocean. The government has called on churches, NGOs, charities and institutions to join hands in helping to feed the hungry in dealing with the repercussions of C-19."*

It's been encouraging that the Church in Rwanda is seeking to be at the forefront of fulfilling the biblical mandate of caring for the widow, the fatherless and the poor. But they too are facing their own challenges as many people who work for the Church (ministers, lay readers, teachers, administrators, and healthcare workers) have seen their own sources of income dwindle, as places of worship are also in lockdown.

Both our partners in Shyogwe and Kibungo Dioceses are working hard to find solutions for the many who are going hungry and have no hand washing facilities or supply of reusable face masks. Over the next two months Bishop Jered and Bishop Emmanuel want to offer basic food packages which include beans, maize flour, rice, soap and some personal protective equipment to over **500 hundred** vulnerable families. But they need our help.



Bishop Emmanuel

While the Church is not a development organisation, it's very difficult to stand back and watch members of their community starve. Therefore the Church in Rwanda wants to continue to engage in holistic mission through both proclamation and demonstration. Please continue to stand with our partners in Rwanda in these difficult days, as they seek to share the love of God in both word and deed.

We were delighted in March to learn about Archdeacon Jean-Pierre's Methode's appointment as bishop to the newly created missionary diocese of Karongi. It is located in the Western Province of Rwanda and is a neighbour to Shyogwe Diocese (bordering DR Congo near Lake Kivu).



Bishop Elect Jean Pierre and his wife, Jeanne D'Arc

This new Diocese has been established to enable church planting and fulfil the Great Commission of making disciples in an area where there is currently only one Anglican parish and very few other denominations.

Bishop Elect Jean Pierre, his wife Jeanne D'Arc, and their family, are being commissioned with the huge task of developing a ministry team - which will involve training future Church leaders, catechists and lay readers. It will also require the building of Church infrastructure - constructing an official Diocesan office and residence for the Bishop. Bishop Elect Jean Pierre is well equipped for the task ahead and has been working as a pastor since 2000. He is also in the final stages of finalising his Ph.D in Theology & Development from NEGST, Nairobi, Kenya.

The consecration and enthronement was supposed to take place on the 31st May, but has had to be postponed to 26th July, due to Covid-19. Pray for Bishop Elect Jean Pierre in the task ahead, that He will know God's enablement and provision, as He seeks to share the love of God throughout Karongi.

### Points for prayer:

- ✦ Pray for our partners as they seek to help the most vulnerable within their communities, with limited resources. Pray that God would richly provide for all their needs.
- ✦ Pray that through weekly radio services and online broadcasts, the Church will be able to help their people to stand firm in their faith and encourage listeners to share generously with those in need.

Thanks for your faithful friendship and prayerful concern for your partners in Rwanda. Please consider supporting them financially at this time through CMSI's Covid-19 Response Appeal.

### Gillian Maganda

#### Personnel Manager

*Gillian is overseeing the Rwanda partnership links while Roger Thompson is on furlough, as part of the UK Government's Coronavirus Retention Scheme.*

### News on Rwanda Covid-19 Response

Since Gillian wrote this update, she and Anne Buckley (Finance Coordinator) have transferred £1000 from CMSI to both Kibungo and Shyogwe Dioceses to support them in their Covid-19 response. The funds are being used by both dioceses to provide food relief and hand washing programmes.

We hope to send more money to Rwanda in late May/early June.



### CMSI Covid-19 Response Appeal

Help the global Church respond to the crisis

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