

The Diocesan Voice

Kibungo Anglican Diocese

2015

A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP



Dear Reader,

I am truly thankful to the Lord for His goodness, love, protection, provision, and faithfulness to His servants. As Paul said in Philippians, “I can do all in things in Christ who strengthens me.” I know this is true as I look back to when I first became Bishop of the Kibungo Diocese in 2012. What we have done, our current work, and planning for our future has been only possible by the grace of God. We cannot do anything without Him. God has already blessed us with very many things from 2012 to 2015. From grassroots level, congregations, parishes, and up to the diocesan level it is abundantly clear that God is with us. We want to thank God for the vision and wisdom He has given to us for His ministry. After establishing the direction of the diocese in July 2012, we were able to make the strategic plan which enabled us to achieve many things with God’s help. It is with this momentum that we look to the next five years and our prayer is that God will continue to bless us. The purpose of the newsletter is to update you on these works and our goals for the diocese by 2020.

I also want to thank God for guiding the pastors of the Kibungo Diocese and inspiring our members whom we appreciate for their contribution to the welling being of the diocese. For all of our leaders—including the pastors and their families, lay leaders, the church committee members—our individual members, and our partners in mission and friends of the Kibungo Diocese from all over the world, we cannot thank God enough for the support, hard work, and well wishes of all these people. We especially thank God for those who are able to fund the ministry of the Lord through contributions in both our parishes and by individuals.

I also need to thank God for my family and their works within the Diocese. My wife Joyce has been very helpful and I am thankful the Lord has blessed her with gifts of encouragement, support, prayers, and a faithful heart so that we can stand together even when the conditions are not favorable. Thank God for my children, they have also been a blessing to our family with their prayers and works. Finally thanks to God for the entire family that is the Kibungo my wife, children, and I are blessed to be a part of this community. Thank God for the brotherhood that is being seen between the bishops of the Anglican Church of Rwanda that we are together as real brothers in the Lord under the parental leadership of the Archbishop, whose wisdom and friendly manner make those who work with him feel loved and happy.

We should also thank God for the government of Rwanda for providing a conducive environment that allows for our church members to live better lives so that can contribute to their churches. We are especially thankful the ongoing and improving relationships with the local governments of where we work.

My prayer is that we continue to serve God with all our hearts, mind, and strength, love one another, and hold one another accountable for the Glory of His name. Let God Keep us striving for goodness with a goal in our hearts of achieving self-sustainability, professionalism, for the betterment of Christians in the community we serve as well as those beyond the boundaries of the diocese. May God continue to be with us in the future growth and sustainability of our church. May God bless the Kibungo Diocese, the pastors and their families, the technical team, our friends from different parts of the world, and all Christians of the Kibungo Diocese.

In the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

The Rt. Rev Emmanuel Ntazinda
Bishop of Kibungo Diocese

ROAD TO 2015



We have come a long way since 2012. When Bishop Ntazinda was installed in July 2012, one of his first tasks was to develop a plan for the future of this diocese. With the help of God, Kibungo Diocese has flourished in the last three years. We have seen our numbers grow from 33 parishes and 213 congregations to 36 parishes and 219 congregations. Additionally, we have been able to build ten church buildings and dedicate them to the glory of God.

The diocese itself has seen improvements as we undergo continuous construction. We have completed an extensions of the office, completed the primary school, expanded and renovated our training center and guest house, and we have renovated the Bishop's residence. Further, we have bought land in town to construct a comfort inn.

This construction has allowed us to grow in development projects, through which and with the Word of God we have been able to touch the lives and hearts of countless people. We have greatly increased our Savings and Accreditors Associations to our churches, which in addition to the Church Commu-

With God all things are possible

EDUCATION EFFORTS

The Diocese is proud of the ongoing efforts to support the educational pursuits of our church leaders. The Diocese is able to send 12 students each year to various universities. Because of contributions by people like you we now have graduates of theology, certificates, Bachelors of Education, bachelors of Theology, and Masters of Divinity,. Our goal is to continue to send more and more students so that all of our church leaders have at least two years of training in theology by 2020. This is so they may better serve their congregations in a professional manner. We ask that you continue to support this program and pray for these students' success.

nity Mobilization program has enabled our congregation members to better their lives and the lives of others . It is amazing the works that have been done in the name of Christ Jesus. We truly have enjoyed visiting with communities to hear how they solve social issues and assisting as possible with these efforts. We have also introduced a Fathers' Union to our programming to empower the fathers of our congregations to be active, Christian role models.

The diocese has also taken efforts to promote education within our communities. This has been done in several ways through retreats, scholarships (see left), conventions, and the creation of booklets for some of our programs. We managed to conduct refresher courses to enable our lay leaders and pastors to serve god in a professional manner. We were assisted by people from Uganda and by the sister parishes of St. Patrick church in Lexington, KY., Holy Trinity Church in Colorado Springs, CO., and Church of Apostles in Columbia SC. Within our Department of Evangelism have held Youth Camps in 2012; 2013; and 2014, Mothers' Union Retreat in 2014, and three Pastors' Retreats. These retreats allowed for development of Christian understanding as well as self development. We pray that the works of these retreats has already blessed the congregations in profound ways.

One of our crowing achievements was the Kibungo Diocese Spiritual Convention held this year. Over a thousand faithful people gathered together to become a stronger church and stronger Christians. We were pleased to see members from all provinces and we were joined by 6 bishops and the archbishop. Preachers from Uganda's World Shine Ministries and several districts added to the knowledge shared.

There is still a journey ahead of us at the Kibungo Anglican Diocese but we are confident that by trusting in God and continual support all things are possible. May the grace and blessings God has poured onto the Kibungo Diocese continue and expand to all of Rwanda and the world.

Evangelism and Youth

Pastor Muriri Samson is now in charge of our new department of Youth, Evangelism, and Training. This department was created in 2014 and has seen a remarkable improvement in these areas in its short existence.

This department was created when we noticed that many of our church members were lacking understanding of our doctrine, Bible knowledge, and basics of Christian theology. As church leaders, it troubled us that our community could not express to others their faith and decided that education and investment in our young people was needed.

Our solution to the problem was to create training with a system of grass root movements partnered with institutional level education. We wanted to be able to reach as many of our parishioners as possible. These trainings include a focus on the Bible, Religious Practices, Spiritual Development so that our community can develop a deeper faith and connection to God on a personal level.

We have also started a Youth Union, with youth leaders in all parishes we are working to strengthen this generation. We are excited to see our young people take charge of their faith and put it into action. All of these efforts are in hopes to increase our member's abilities to express their faith and spread the Word of God.

We ask for prayers and support as we continue to train and educate our members, it is our hope that these systems continue to flourish reach all of our church members.

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CCMP

This program has been operating since 2013, it currently engages 11 provinces and is supported by Samaritan Purse from the U.K. The mission of CCMP is to empower the church and community to improve lives of most vulnerable families. This is done through bible studies, capacity building, women and gender equality, saving and credit, health, livelihood, water and sanitation, environment protection, and modern agriculture.

The Kibungo Diocese CCMP engages 10 parishes, 50 local churches, and more than 1,000 families. Our impact is three-fold: Spiritual integration, household development, and development of agriculture and community. The spiritual development allows for church to grow as it increases attendance. This is done by mobilizing the word of God accompanied with good works. The help received brings people back to church. The new members and those who find their way back are dedicated and give back to the church.

In household development, we train people new ways to accumulate income while increasing their knowledge of savings. By this we are working towards eradicating poverty. The programs help to pay for food, school fees, and clothing. It also includes training on health and sanitation, nutrition, hygiene, and family planning.

Within agriculture and community we pay attention to the environment by encouraging families to plant trees and gardens. This includes education on modern agriculture and giving domestic animals to families to allow for the best farming practices. We also focus on strengthening the community by encouraging gender equality. It is part of our mission to provide training on building Christ centered relationships that empower all parties of the family. The community is also building unity and reconciliation with weekly meetings with devotions.

Our goal is to increase to 36 parishes by 2017 which means we would be serving more than 5,000 families. We ask for your continued prayers, support, and involvement so that this work can continue and grow.



Daniel is the Diocesan CCMP coordinator since February, 2015. Daniel's passion is uplifting the lives of the most vulnerable people in his beautiful country. Daniel holds a Bachelor's Degree of Business Administration with specialization in Finance from the College of Business and Economics in Kigali and he is pursuing CPA. He has a three years' experience in community work as he joined the Diocese after volunteering with Dell Social Innovation Challenge and Livestrong Foundation. Daniel is the second born of fourteen children of his parents. Daniel is single and lives in Kibungo with his cat, Boby.

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My Personal Background and Vision for the Savings and credit Program

I am Mr. Munyemana Ezechiel, 33 years old Rwandan citizen, married with one wife called Mrs. Munyemana Jeannette with whom we have three children (two girls and one boy) a graduate of accounting domain and currently working as the savings and credit program coordinator at Kibungo Diocese.

As a dedicated Christian worker my vision is to fully achieve in the areas that contributes to the holistic transformation of the vulnerable communities I work with through savings and credit association empowerment based on the Biblical principles of physical, spiritual and social sustainable development.



SAVINGS AND ACCREDITORS ASSOCIATIONS

This program started in 2007 and after only one year we created 114 groups with a total of 2,400 members. Now, in less than ten years, we have grown to 410 groups with over 9,000 members. Of these 9,000 member, 65 percent are women. We are extremely thankful to God for this growth and all the work that was possible because of it. Our associations are built on three pillars of focus: spiritual, social, and physical. It is with these three pillars that all of our associations work from to create stronger families, churches, communities, and faiths. This is all based on a mission to restore unity between members and God and build cooperation within the communities.

The impact we have through these programs starts with spiritual development. The groups meet and share the Word of God before anything else. This time of Bible Study and prayer then leads to fellowship time. By visiting with other members our groups are able to work together to discuss important issues. They also tend to the sick and vulnerable with their visiting. But the groups do not stop with the social time, there is physical work and effort to put an end to the social issues they see. By giving start up income to create small businesses and support families, the associations create a physical and lasting, positive impact on vulnerable families. This includes paying for school fees, medical insurance, and sustainable housing costs.

Beyond our members, the church as a whole is benefited by our savings and accretor associations. There has been an increase in church membership as the groups convert new Christians and bring back members who have been away. These new church members than contribute back themselves to the church so that it can increase its works in the community.

Our goal is to keep increasing numbers of associations and members within. We also hope keep the association focused on being Christ centered by doing His work here on earth. Please keep our associations in your prayers and continue to give your support and hard work to these groups.

CONSTRUCTION AT KIBUNGO DIOCESE

We are currently in the midst of construction here at the Kibungo Diocese. By opening new facilities and by renovating and improving already existing ones, we believe we will be better able to serve God and the needs of diocese. We have already completed some of the construction in the expansion of the office, finishing the primary school that is located behind the office, renovation of our guest house and training center, and finally renovations of the bishop's residence.

Currently we are working to pave the grounds of the diocese to allow for better access to our buildings and to give the Kibungo Diocese a finished look. We thank God for our tireless workers who have already put much time and effort into this work project. It is our hope that we will see an increase of visitors to our office, church, and guest house/training center.

We are also constructing a Boys and Girls Brigade House on our campus. This is just one more way we are investing in our young people. We hope by creating an official place for band practices and meetings that our Boys and Girls Brigade will continue to be more successful. The ability to bring together our young people from all over the Kibungo Diocese continues to be one of top priorities.

All of this construction will continue to allow us to improve our service to our churches, members, and most of all our service to God. We ask that you continue to support these efforts and pray for the workers as well as the projects. We are truly blessed by a gracious God who allows for such things to be possible.



Some of the current construction taking place at the Diocese.



The model of the Boys and Girls Brigade House, the current construction of the house is pictured above



FUTURE DREAMS

We thank God for all that we have been able to accomplish. It is with His strength and guidance that we dream of the future of the Kibungo Diocese. In addition to the construction noted in the article to the left, we have other building hopes. We are currently having ten church buildings under construction, we are hoping to have them open and be able to dedicate them in 2016. We also have started to build a health center and a graining mill house; in addition to the comfort inn mentioned in a previous article. These projects will be able to better support our ministry and our community. We also hope to better serve our church staff by constructing staff quarters by means of constructing duplexes.

As we dream and create future plans for our five years, we too have a 2020 vision. We would like to be able to send even more students in colleges and continue strengthen professionalism. It is one of our main objectives to have educated leaders within our church so that they can guide our members and spread their wisdom. We also want to increase and continue our church growth. This includes opening four new parishes with new local churches within. We also want to see a cathedral built for the Kibungo

As we dream and create future plans ...we too have a 2020 vision.

Diocese. We are in the process of looking for land and then will be looking for support for it's construction.

Other educational efforts we hope to make includes constructing a vocational School. We want to continue to strengthen our youth program so that our young people can be successful and be able to give back to the church and their communities. We hope by teaching youth professional skills for future employment we can accomplish this goal. In additional we hope to build two more schools. The first being another primary school and then we also hope to build a secondary school for just female students. We want to make a great investment in our young girls to continue our search for gender equality. We are still looking for land for both of these schools. But we hope with the strength of God and continued support the land will be found and construction will start soon.

We also have a vision to strengthen our international relations in these next five years. Our vision is to continue to visit and build relations and partnerships within Africa, the United Kingdom, the United states of America, and expand into Asia and beyond. Our hope is to build relationships that are two-way, we want to be able to not just take support from others but be able to give it as well. This ability to share wisdom, resources, support, and faith with others will help in the Christianly mission of bringing God's Kingdom closer. We hope to be able to continue to strengthen our support of new churches everywhere as they continue to spread the word of God as we establish churches of our own. Building partnerships with organizations —local and international—is another priority in the next five years.

We hope to continue to hold our Spiritual Convention annually, it is our prayer to be able to host it without missing even a year these next five years. We want to be able to strengthen other programs, as well, including the Fathers' Union, Youth's Union, Sunday School, and the new department of Evangelism and Discipleship.

We ask that you support our dreams through prayer and support. We know that all of our dreams are possible only through God who blesses us. Whatever we can accomplish will be for His glory alone.



We welcome you to stay with us



One of our beautiful and cozy rooms



One of our two rental halls

GUEST HOUSE

The Kibungo Diocese is equipped with a guest house than can serve the needs of all. We offer services from individuals needing rooms, to groups wanting to host a retreat or training session, to even hosting your wedding. We have a wide range of rooms, two halls, a restaurant, all surrounded by beautiful, green gardens with a view of some of Rwanda's thousands of hills.

Rooms range from 5,000 to 10,000 RWF a night all come with linens and mosquito nets. We also have dormitories for 2,000 RWF a night for those wanting a communal space for larger groups. Our rental halls range between 40,000 – 50,000 RWF a day. They can be arranged as needed for your meeting or celebration.

For further inquires or to reserve a space please contact: +250784258882



Our restaurant

Airy corridors await you



Enjoy time in our garden



MEET STEPHANIE ENGEL

The Kibungo Diocese is excited to work with a volunteer from America from September 2015 to July 2016. Stephanie is in Rwanda through the program Young Adults in Global Mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. She brings experience of program planning, communication publications, and youth programming.

Stephanie is the eldest of four children to Tim and Donna Engel. She does not own any cows but does have two dogs. When she returns to America, Stephanie plans to attend seminary to get a Masters in Youth and Family Ministry. When she isn't at the office, Stephanie also volunteers with a secondary school in Kibungo and the Lutheran Church of Rwanda. Stephanie is trying very hard to learn Kinyarwanda and enjoys learning to cook Rwandan dishes with her host Mama. She is excited to visit congregations, work with the primary school, help plan new programs, and work in the office.

The Kibungo Diocese of the Anglican church is excited to announce the development of a new website. Our hope is that we will be able to keep you better updated of our activities, offer devotionals, and offer a monthly e-newsletter to share stories.

Visit the website here:

<http://kibungoanglicandiocese.weebly.com>

If you would like to submit a story, prayer request, church event, etcetera please email us at:

kibungoanglican@gmail.com

