



Burundi

Gitega Diocese
Matana Diocese

April 2019



CMSI Global Update

Dear Burundi supporters...

Thank you for your concern, interest, prayers and giving which enables our local partner churches in Burundi to carry out the ministry to which God has called them. I hope this news update from Matana and Gitega Dioceses will inspire you!

Matana

Bishop Seth is delighted with his new Land Cruiser part funded with gifts through CMS Ireland. This has facilitated visiting the rural parishes and carrying out the diocesan confirmations. He says,

'Many of the confirmation candidates are still young, we ask you to pray that the Lord will take care of them'

The Land Cruiser has also been a great blessing for the frequent journeys that Bishop Seth has to make to the capital Bujumbura for processing paperwork, banking and for provincial business. The road is very hilly with many hazardous hairpin bends to negotiate and his old vehicle was unroadworthy and prone to brakes failure. Please pray for safety for all who travel on the narrow windy roads by bicycle or in vehicles.



Standing together as one family in Christ

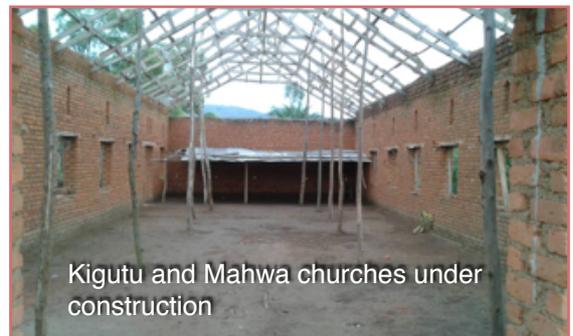
The agricultural cooperatives are providing opportunities for communities to work together to provide for their families. The long dry season followed by very heavy rains has been difficult for farmers to manage. Give thanks for the cooperatives at Vitezi and Batutsi that help improve community resilience.

Matana project news:

Purchase of land for new church construction – there is some response to this request, but there are 6 congregations meeting in borrowed buildings or places far from their homes. More support for these land purchases is needed and this is urgent with the pressure on land acquisition.

Roofing of churches – 2 parishes have built churches but are in need of support for the roofing materials, Kigutu and Mahwa.

Training of pastors – developing strong leadership for the church is a priority for CMS Ireland and so we encourage parishes to consider sponsoring theological students.



Kigutu and Mahwa churches under construction



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Gitega

Give thanks with Bishop Aimé Joseph for church growth in the rural parishes. The investment in the road network across Burundi has greatly facilitated access to rural areas. This improves opportunities for trade and development with small townships springing up. As these new communities establish the Christians meet together for worship. Many of the newly formed congregations are making bricks in preparation for building their own places of worship.

CMS Ireland recently passed on a gift for purchasing a church plot at Mataho parish. Bishop Aimé Joseph writes:

'Thank you so much for the good news for the funds to purchase the church land at Mutaho. The purchase of the land of Mutaho was one of the burning issues on my heart'.

This generosity is a tangible expression of our relationship with one another in God's worldwide family and a great encouragement to the growing church in Mutaho.

Gitega project news:

Training of 2 new students at Bujumbura Christian University for 3 year degree in theology – thank you for responding to this request. 2 students are now engaged in their studies with support for the duration of their courses – a fantastic answer to prayer. Both Arsene and Evariste have a deep sense of call to full-time ministry.



Arsene Mafurebe



Evariste Nahimana

Motorcycles for each of 4 Archdeacons – another fantastic answer to prayer as Bishops' Appeal granted the funds to cover the costs of the 4 motorcycles, helmets and some road safety instruction for the Archdeacons. These motorcycles will be a great

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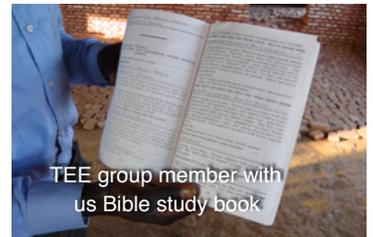
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assistance in pastoral ministry to the clergy in scattered rural parishes as well as in supervision of the TEE groups in different corners of the diocese.



TEE group member with us Bible study book

Building a church at Muriza parish – the funds for this are still being sought. The local congregation have made bricks but funds are required for cement and roofing.

Burundi

Thank you for your continuing prayers and support for these 2 global partners. News from both dioceses is very encouraging in terms of mission and discipleship with growing congregations and new churches under construction. However the context in which our partners minister continues to be challenging with ongoing economic problems, environmental vulnerability, deep hurts and a fragile political situation. In March the United Nations Human Rights Office in Burundi was closed at the insistence of the government, a worrying development. Our partners are committed to working across all divides to bring God's reconciling love to a broken world.

In Isaiah 58:10 we read

'...if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.'

Please continue to pray for our partners as they spend themselves in God's service. Pray that they will know God's strengthening power and His wisdom as they seek to make Him known in word and deed.

As Bishop Seth writes:

'Pray with us and stand with us and become one as we are one in Christ. We do pray for you'

Thank you,

Jenny

Jenny Smyth
CMSI Mission Director



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