

# **MAKAMBA DIOCESE SPECIAL TIDINGS, MAY 2009**

## **(By Rt Rev. Martin Blaise NYABOHO)**

### **Introduction**

There is a special programme launched in Sept 06 by the Anglican Diocese of Makamba: that is Universal Chastity Education (UCE). The main objective is:

To promote a style of life related to the respect of sexuality, preserve sex for marriage and sexual self-control through abstinence and faithfulness in marriage to avoid sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS.

The UCE intends to reach out everybody with a message of abstinence to the youth and faithfulness among the couples. Various activities are carried out through messages on Radio Star FM, Seminars and meetings in schools, Bible camps, Films, Video and CDs, Xian literature etc.

Most of the schools located within the Diocese of Makamba have been visited by the UCE team, over 8000 students have heard the UCE message, many thousands have signed the commitment cards and over 1960 couples have benefited from the UCE teachings.

In March and April 09, the UCE team has visited Kiremba High School (Bururi Province), a school sponsored by the Pentecostal Church where 484 students had responded positively to the UCE message.

I invite you now to read more stories in the following pages:

### **1. UCE – BURUNDI OUTREACHES THE NORTH**

Palm Sunday was celebrated in a hurry in Makamba Cathedral. The UCE team came to the Church worship service with their luggages aiming to save time and drive over 400 miles in the afternoon to reach the Diocese of Buye in the Northern part of Burundi (only 6miles away from Rwanda) where two events were scheduled: The training of 36 trainers and the UCE message to 484 students from various secondary schools of the northern region.

#### **The training of 36 Trainers**



Family snaps with the participants, Bishop of Buye Diocese the First from the left

The Bishop of Buye Diocese Rt Rev Sixbert Macumi has invited the UCE team to visit his Diocese and not only share the UCE programme but also train at least 36 trainers who will launch the programme within the Diocese. The UCE team was honoured to have him for a whole day despite his busy schedule. At the end of the day,

Bishop Macumi commented:

“We are proud of the UCE programme.

We encourage the 36 participants to own it and spread it in their parishes and schools. We thank the Diocese of Makamba for this initiative which will help people to live healthy lives. Long live UCE Burundi”.

The three days seminar was entertained by the whole UCE team. Be reminded that two special artists are now incorporated as part time members.



Students in Buye listening attentively Mr Gerard while presenting his song.

Those are Mr Gérard Nkurikiye, the guitarist, who entertained the participants with his special songs. One of the students Miss Jeanine Niragira could not stop her tears flowing out of her eyes when the message was penetrating into her heart.

The other person is Miss Evelyne an employee of Radio Star FM, who was there to record some programmes and to report daily to over 250000 listeners of our local Radio Star FM.

The seminar was very successful, run as it was scheduled, and concluded in a spiritual atmosphere. All the 36 participants signed the commitment cards. They were left with some materials to be used in their outreaches.

The second event was the address to the 484 students who were gathered in Buye Cathedral for their Bible camps. The UCE team was allowed to share its programme for two hours. Most of them wished to sign the commitment cards but only 253 have done it because we had less cards. We keep receiving telephone calls and letters inviting us to go and rescue them. I'm personally persuaded that this is the right time for UCE to do right things in this country.

NB: More UCE – Burundi activities in snaps.



Rev Gatoto Hermes, a UCE team member, addressing the couples during our visit to Murinda Parish



Mrs Claire Hategekimana addressing to the students in Kiremba south



Couples signing the commitment cards



Students from Dr Rowan College meditating on the commitment card



Mrs Claire Hategekimana addressing to 484 students.



Bishop Nyaboho writing his notes on the black board



Mrs Annonciate conducting the plenary session in Buye



From left to the Right : Bishop Sixbert of Buye Diocese, Bishop Nyaboho UCE National Director, Mr Gerard with his guitar, Mrs Claire Hategekimana, Rev Hermes and Evelyne,

## II. UCE BURUNDI RECENT NEWS, MAY 2009



The Bishop addressing to the community

Friday 15<sup>th</sup>, May, 09 was a very special day for fishermen communities alongside Lake Tanganyika. The UCE team spent a whole day to talk, share and discuss with those communities about those communities about the spread of HIV/AIDS and the best way to prevent its spread. Sixty four people both married and singles gave a meaningful attention to the UCE Burundi Director (seen from the back with a Diocese of Makamba T-shirt under the shade of a green tree).

We discovered that we were the first people to reach out those fishermen communities with



No support for condoms, said one of the participants



A young fisherman giving a testimony of his abstained life

the message either of abstinence or faithfulness in marriages. The promiscuity is too high here. Young girls (from 12 years old onwards) witnessed to be active and committed prostitutes as their way of getting money to survive. We've noticed that some of them are hopeless and (not the real UCE team and business if I don't income source? Burundi francs for and it help me to



I will stop with prostitution if I get a generating income activity-said Miss Angela to Radio Star

As you read this compassion for support the that we soon sent to have other generating income activities.

helpless orphans. Miss Angela name) whispered to one of said: How can I stop this have any other generating Sometimes I get 300 – 500 one single sexual intercourse survive.

news, be moved with those perishing young girls and generating income proposals to you. Help those generation

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>, 09 was set apart for priests and some lay leaders. The UCE National Director kept reminding them that we need



The UCE National Director addressing to the priests on UCE programme in Summer



A well attended UCE seminar on 20th May,09

to minister in parish exempt of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS and to preach to people who live a healthy life both physical and spiritual.

Saturday - Sunday 23 -24 May 09, a week end with the youth around the main theme which is abstinence and fidelity in marriage. The students from some secondary school around



The Bishop speaks to the students



Sharing of a meal

Makamba Urban Center were very attentive to the message. The two day seminar was entertained by various songs poems and testimonies from students who have already committed themselves to the teaching of UCE. They promised that they will share the message with other youths during their summer vacation. Remember that the priests are ready to cooperate with them.

We praise the Lord that people keep calling us to reach them whenever they hear our message from Radio star FM twice a week. So many lives are changing in Burundi because of the UCE programme keep supporting it.

### **III. FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

1. Makamba High School will host a youth Bible Camp in July which will be attended by 480 students. The UCE team will be one of the main speakers.
2. Nyabigina Technical School will host 3 weeks later a youth crusade for 300 students. The UCE will co- finance this evangelistic rally. We expect to record more lives being changed with the UCE message.
3. Two couples' seminar will be held in summer where over 200 married people will spend three days together discussing on faithfulness in marriages and other family matters.
4. Dr Kim/ Ken Dernovesk, the main sponsor for UCE will visit Burundi in July to witness the growth and development of the programme.

For more information: visit our website: [www.uceglobal.org](http://www.uceglobal.org)