



Report on Church Leaders seminar in Cankuzo Province

Dear Sally,

Christian greetings from Burundi

We praise the Lord for a Church Leaders seminar we held in Cankuzo Province. Cankuzo is located in eastern part of Burundi bordering with Tanzania.

Participants: A number of 28 leaders took part in that seminar. Among them were: pastors, evangelists, catechists, women and youth leaders and Church elders as well.

Dates: From January 31st to February 3rd 2011.



Facilitators: Rema team and Ian Mayer, a friend from the UK who was visiting Burundi when the mission took place.

Objectives of the seminar: The seminar /workshop had two objectives

- To train church leaders to read their Bible, understand its message and be able to explain that message clearly in order to respond to the context of their audiences.
- To try to equip and mobilize church leaders of local churches so that they may be able to contextualize the Bible to fit the needs of the people, strategy and practical experience in ministry to find solutions to the spiritual, physical and social needs of their neighbours and of themselves.



Topics

In order to achieve our objectives, three major topics were developed:

- The Book that is a Library: How to read it, to understand it, to explain it and communicate the message to the audience
- The Bible view on Entrepreneurship
- Stewardship





- Servanthood: how a church leader can be a good servant leader

The seminar was successful, though it was for a very short period.

Participants were excited with lots of enthusiasm to learn a lot within that period of time, that there was no any spare time they wasted.

Observation

It was encouraging to see people hungering for the word and thirsting after the word of God. Indeed, they have not been exposed to the Bible since most of those church leaders have never got any opportunity to attend a formal training, yet they have been called by God to serve him. They badly need training and this was one opportunity they had been yearning for. That was why they expressed an enthusiasm.



These people wanted to at least gain some knowledge which will help them when they are preaching. During the training we encountered some major problems. One is that many of those church leaders don't have a full Bible.

Their Bibles are torn and many pages are missing. It should be noticed that Burundi is the poorest country in the world and most people live under the poverty line and can not afford to buy a Bible which costs 4 pounds.

Another issue is that they need Bible Commentaries to help them understand the Bible when they read it and try to explain well to their audiences.

We were so much encouraged and thank God for the participants because they were willing to be trained, and wanted to know more, ready to learn in the future.

In fact, they did thank us and those people who made this seminar possible.



Find here their deep and heartfelt gratitude. They expressed the willingness to organize so many such trainings for them to be able to learn and apply what they learned in their daily lives and in their congregations. On Rema side, we took it as a challenge.





We felt that there is a need to help to train these church leaders of Cankuzo. Our willingness to go back to this region is that many of them are returnees/ repatriates from the refugee camps in Tanzania. Most all of them don't have any theological/biblical training. They found themselves called by God to serve him as leaders while in exile.

We wish to continue to help training

these church leaders in Cankuzo because they really need to be trained if their ministry is to continue in this changing world. They need to learn how to contextualize the Bible and use it to transform the communities around them.

Testimony

Rev. Bugusu Mathieu, the Superintendent of the United Methodist Church in Cankuzo Province said:

"Thank you so much brothers of Rema for taking this initiative to come to train our pastors. This is a great support more important than money itself. You did not give us fish rather you taught us to fish it for ourselves. Among these 28 leaders you are training here only one went through a TEE course, and another one went through some short course in Biblical exposition in the camps. You are helping our pastors to understand the Bible and to be able to present its message in the context of the people. In order to help our today's congregations we need to present the gospel which can speak to us, in our situation, and transform our lives as well as our entire society. Trained people can achieve that. We are not able to send them to Bible Colleges. In-service trainings are more important since there we deal with challenges encountered while in service. You have come to us. We can not tell you how many times we had been praying for such an opportunity to see the day. We are happy because of you. Please don't stop here, come again. Plan for at least a full course which will help them to have a strong Bible knowledge, Leadership/ servant leader, discipleship and a message which respond to today's spiritual needs and the needs of the whole community in general. Let me thank also those who provided the financial support to enable you to come to this end. God bless you all".

Budget

- Friends of Burundi donated £700, while In order for this mission to be successful, Rema had to contribute BIF 231,900.

Rema Ministries on behalf of the participants to the seminar and in its own name wants to reiterate our gratitude for the support Friends of Burundi sent to us to enable us attain our Objectives. Together, we build the kingdom of God.

