

Greetings from Battle which Hastings is near! We issued an open invitation to the lunch at the Brickwall Hotel on 22nd September 2018. We want to thank all those paid the £25 for the lunch. Our treasurer Tony Isaac paid the hotel for 85 people. We took the opportunity to celebrate Jill's 80th birthday and she wants to thank those who sent birthday cards and flowers and Harry for the birthday cake. We thank the staff of the hotel for the superb way they changed the furniture from guest breakfast to auction and sale room! Also for the hot meal served quickly on hot plates and the care with special diets, and the lovely pud! For those who bought craft, elderflower cordial, marmalade or honey, thank you and for all who participated in the silent auction, thank you. Altogether it was wonderful meeting so many friends from far (Exeter and Sway, Sittingbourne and Chatham) and near, from theological college (56 years ago), previous parishes and current ones. We are sorry that the guest speaker we had advertised failed to make it. Her letter is attached.

I have three things to share with you.

1. Closed churches. After the Rwanda genocide of 1994 all sorts of good people rushed into the country to help the recovery. Over the years hundreds of churches were set up, mostly of Pentecostal nature. However, at the time and in their hurry to do their 'rescue' work, church buildings were poorly built without proper sanitation, parking (in the towns) or trained leaders. So the Rwanda government announced that unless they had the proper hygiene, strong building, a water source, they would be closed until those requirements were met. 700 churches in the capital, Kigali, with a population of 1.2 million, were closed. Slowly they are being opened again for worship as they produce what is required. A few years ago an earthquake struck the area near Cyangugu. Many people rushed out of the building, but the tower broke, fell on them and killed many. Early this year, lightning struck an Adventist church and many were killed. So church and other public buildings must be properly built to resist earthquakes, and have a lightning conductor, in addition to the other requirements. This law applies to all churches of all denominations, mosques and temples. Rwanda is 90% Christian, 5% Muslim. Leaders are currently being sent off to relevant theological colleges for training.

2. In Cyangugu the Diocese has built many new churches, well built for resisting earthquakes. Those that were closed are currently working hard to produce the necessary requirements so they can be reopened by the local authorities. Here with the Lawrence Barham Memorial Trust we have been working to send money to our builder John to build strong houses by the new churches. These four bedroom, one sitting room houses with separate kitchen and toilet building, act, not only as a family house for the pastor of the church, but as a prayer centre and a meeting place for visitors. We have paid for 16 of them at £17,000 each. Bishop Nathan wants four more in a fast growing town called Bweyeye, on the Burundi border. It is said that the road, winding through the natural forest, will be tarmacked and a new border post will be built. The four houses mentioned are to be for churches in this town. So our project will be houses and church land, which is getting more and more expensive (see the Bishop's letter attached). We will also want to help with clergy training, especially at the Bishop Barham University College across the border in Uganda, which my father started in 1934 as a Bible school.

3. The funds from the lunch on September 22nd, including ticket sales, craft sales, elderflower, marmalade and honey sales, the auction and donations will all be used for those items in the Bishop's letter. The total is £16,338. Thank you for your help. Please don't wait for another lunch, there may not be one! Just keep supporting us all you can and we'll see what God can do. Our friends in Cyangugu love you and pray for you, our supporters. I am

booked to join all the eleven serving and several retired Rwanda Bishop in January for the official opening of the new Cyanguu Cathedral, replacing the 1997 one which became too small for the growing congregation.

With our love and best wishes

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Dear Bishop Ken,

Greetings from Rwanda in Jesus name.

I am sorry that I have taken few days without writing back, I am not sure if you were told. Revds Ephraim and Berth got a problem, a fast car from Congo hit their son Enoch on Gashonga road and the boy died instantly.

So, we have been busy the whole of this week organizing and doing burial for the boy. The parents are extremely heart broken but also strong because the Church has surrounded them with alot of love.

I am really glad that you're coming in January, this is indeed going to be very impressive to the Archbishop because he is the one who came up with the idea of having you during the cathedral opening in January, I have already sent a message to the Archbishop about your coming.

I am also glad that you're coming with your granddaughter, I think its important for your family to see where your heart lives, it will be our joy to have her in the land of a thousand hills.

Praise the Lord for Jill, that God has allowed her to see her 80th birthday, God has indeed challenged the Doctors' verdict they had given her in 2013.

Yes and yes, God is very good indeed my Bishop, I am happy that you have sent the money to finish the 16th Pastor's house. The miracle we have is that just last few minutes ago is when we got a permission to build the house and Church at Nyakabingo Parish. As you remember the leadership of Nyamasheke has been hard for us over these past years, but by God's grace they are breaking slowly and hopefully soon they will even be more softer. So John is starting on the Nyakabingo House over this weekend as well. We will start on Gashirabwoba house soon as well.

About our priority as a Diocese during this time is as follows:

1) Lands: Buying lands for the closed Churches in the Diocese, we have about 70 Churches that are closed down.

2) 4 More Pastors house for Bweyeye

- Nyamuzi, this church is in Bweyeye, its already built but they have no church.
- Bweyeye, They are almost finished with there Church building but they say their house is to old and they would love a new one.
- Nyabitimbo, is a place where we have a big school with a closed Church and no Pastor's house.
- Bweyeye's Bishop's house, this is the house that we did talk about, Bweyeye is far and all people who go there have no where to stay.

3) Supporting new Up coming Parishes in 2019, we will ask Synod to allow us have more Parishes and these are

- Gabiro - Nyamuzi
- Nyagura -Nyabitimbo

- Nyanza - Muyugiri
Nathan

On Mon, 10 Sep 2018 at 21:57, Ken Barham <bishopken@btinternet.com> wrote:
Dear Bishop of Cyangugu

Greetings from Rosewood. For a long time we have had a leak in the conservatory, which I have tried to mend. Water has an amazing way of finding a route! Yesterday I spent three hours on the roof laying black adhesive and laying 15 metres of roofing felt. It was all bending and my legs are still sore! We are waiting for rain now to test out my felting!

When I was with you a year ago and you were showing me new churches you said there were 16 parishes where the diocese was paying rent for a pastor. This week we will be sending John the money for Gashirabwoba, being number 16 on the list. Praise be to God! At the same time we will send the money for the laboratory which I had agreed with John as a debt. Tukutendereza Yesu!

I wonder what is the next priority for our fund raising? Jonathan has applied to the States of Guernsey for a grant for St Matthews Dining room. Let's be praying that he might be successful. I suppose we ought to try and build the girls' dormitory for St Matthews? **Would that be your priority?**

Jill's leg is slowly recovering, but the place on her thigh where they took the skin graft is still giving trouble. It doesn't stop her working as we prepare for the hotel lunch on 22nd September. We will celebrate the 5 extra years God has given her since the surgeons were inside her and tested the cancer. They predicted it would kill her in 6 months. That was on 1st March 2013. We will also celebrate her 80th birthday. I have ordered a birthday cake for the 83 people coming and a big bunch of flowers for Jill! We hope the Rwandan High Commissioner will turn up as promised!

When I come to Kigali on 16th January I will bring my granddaughter Hannah, Sue's daughter. She graduated from Tulsa University in USA and will be looking for a job. A brief look at Rwanda will be a break. On 16th afternoon we will visit the genocide memorial. On 17th we will drive to Cyangugu via Butare to pick up Manasse. Before dark she could see the Health Centre and PGH. Maybe on 18th and 19th she could see Bweyeye and Nkombo? Any thoughts?

Blessings

Ken and Jill