

Greetings from 1066 land, hoping you are keeping well during this pandemic. By the grace of God we are well for our age and Aggressive Cancer, and fully jabbed! I haven't been able to go to Rwanda, but wanted to give an update of the situation. Kigali is still in lockdown, but Charles says there is much blessing among God's people in the capital and in the groups of Christians who meet in homes around the country.

We are grateful to those who have helped us cope with the emergency in Cyangugu Diocese, by sending donations, where the school at the parish of Nyabigoma was smashed by a massive landslide. We have paid John most of the £60,000 bill for rebuilding the school, which is finished and the kids are back, but we still owe him £23,468.

I would love to try and describe a situation related to the parish, Nyabigoma, where the damaged school is. Nyabigoma was a 'plant' from the parish of Bweyeye and the road branches off to it. Beyond Bweyeye is a Border Post with Burundi.

When I took over the Diocese of Cyangugu, in 1992, Bweyeye was one of the only three churches that made up the diocese! The pastor there now, Pastor Thomas, was one I ordained in 1995. It was a three hour journey as



we fought our way over rocks and dodgy bridges from Cyangugu town to Bweyeye. The road was cut through the Natural Forest of Nyungwe, where there are thirteen types of monkey, including chimpanzees, and many exotic birds and orchids. While we have been shut away in Lockdown, a quite extraordinary thing has happened! The Rwanda government has taken in heavy machinery and graded the road and tarmacked it, and included street lights! One of our projects was to build a guest house there. Up till then, on every visit, I had to sleep in the mud-built pastor's house. The toilet was a filthy hole in the ground and very smelly! To get to it we had to negotiate a rocky path, which was tricky at night! In the small town of Bweyeye there was

not a single house which had running water and a flush toilet! It is hard to describe what an enormous change has taken place. The new guest house has eight en-suite rooms with hot & cold showers and a flush toilet! Now builder John tells me the tarmac road has been taken right through to the Border Post, with a branch off right up to our new guest house! While most hotels have been shut in Lockdown, this one has remained open and receiving guests. In particular the Mayor of the District and his team have been there while doing a programme of seed distribution and teaching about terracing the hillsides. Our last project was in fact to build a Dining Room and Kitchen. It is hard for me to picture driving through Tarzan's forest, with street lights! I haven't seen Tarzan there but I have seen his 'ropes' on the trees!

When we eventually finish paying for Nyabigoma replacement school, where the buildings are finished and the children are back, we will start to build a pastor's house. That will be our next project and we'll work and pray at finding the £14,000, while John gets on and builds it. Bishop Francis has given us the name of the first one, at the new parish of Nyagatongo. He says there are still eight other parishes where the pastor has to rent a house and it is mostly a distance from the church and expensive. Cyangugu Diocese now has 45 ordained clergy, 17 theological students at the East African Christian College in Kigali and one doing his Masters at the Bishop Barham University College in Uganda. There are 30 parishes with another 30 satellite churches planted from them. There are 19 Church schools, including 5 technical schools. Covid shut down the churches, but God went on working and there has been much blessing.

Cyangugu is the most remote of the ten dioceses in the Anglican Church of Rwanda, led by Archbishop Laurent Mbanda, but not remote when across the lake is Bukavu in the DRC, formerly a large flourishing town called Costermansville under the Belgians. The Bishop of Bukavu and his band always came to big functions in Cyangugu cathedral when I was Bishop.

We were invited by the management of the Powdermills Hotel in Battle to have a 'fund-raising lunch and we are waiting for them to give us a date.

Blessings

Ken & Jill