



GILGAL CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Greeting and Update to Connected Church from Gilgal Evangelical church.

Greetings from Rev. Bunini and Gilgal Congregation.

To our brothers and sisters from Bloomfield Presbyterian church, "Happy Easter to you and your families as we celebrate Our Father's greatest sacrifice through his Son, Jesus Christ. May the miracle of Easter bring you renewed hope, faith, love and joy. Have a delicious Easter.

April to July is a special time to all Rwandans where we remember our beloved families, friends who died during the genocide against Tutsi in 1994. We thank God for being with us in this time and thank you for your prayers.

Rev Dr Bunini

Senior Pastor, Gilgal Evangelical Church.

Highlights of the last 3 months January to March 2019

1: Formation and trained New Self Help Groups.

A Self-Help Group (SHG) is a group of people, preferably from the same socio-economic background. They come together for the purpose of solving their common problems. Through these groups people not only find financial support, but also social, mutual, emotional and spiritual support.

The groups usually start small savings and loans initiatives so that members can share the benefits from a combined pot of money. Through this they are able to do a number of things, including investing in and expanding their businesses.

From January to March, 11 self-help groups of 208 people, (167 women and 41 men) from Local churches were formed and trained on the CCT approach (church and community transformation) focussing on Self-help group life cycle. The total savings were 71,7324 Rwf and Total loan were estimated to 282,500 Rwf taken by 22 Group members to start small business of ,(sewing, basket weaving , bought livestock, selling fruits, vegetables,) for Paying mutual Health insurance school fees and scholastic materials ,used loans for Home basic needs..

As outcome, there are improvements in family conditions, access to health services easily and less costly. Each SHG elected a leading committee, have a vision statement and Setting up bylaws.

With bible reference, the integral transformation is well described in the Bible, Thessalonians 5:23 God said: "Now that the God of peace himself sanctifies you completely, and your spirit, your soul, and your whole body are preserved". We linked this to the three pillars of CCT which are:

Spiritual pillar " we talk about building our relationship with God"

Social pillar and " how to live with our neighbours , social connections"

Economic pillar " how to develop our life economically"

2: Training of Street vendors on entrepreneurship

To continue strengthening the capacities of street vendors groups, after identifying 37 women from Nyamirambo sector, mobilizing, grouping them into 2 SHGs and train them on the CCT approach (how to be transformed spiritually, socially and economically).

Street selling is against the law in Rwanda, the government entities also has a mandate of mobilizing the sellers to join the markets. The challenges faced by the vendors are:

Small capital

Renting a market stand

Inaccessible to the financial services

Less skilled on how to start and manage the stable business.

The vendors are not able to invest lot of money (capital) for their business, because they have no enough income.

Problems with site allocation systems: Some vendors are occupying the area in early morning and it leads to quarrel between the vendors.

To overcome the listed issues, we find that working as self-help groups help to increase the savings which all members are allowed to access a certain amount of loan to start any kind of business and even solve family issues.



3: Street children event

40 children (35 boys and 5 girls.) who have been identified by Gilgal church , and grouped together for easy follow-up, in this quarter AESD and Gilgal's staff have made a review on the profile for each child, recording their names, age, gender and the causes of their their problems and came up with good findings where really positive ,80% of the children attend the school regularly and returned to home and helped their parents some family duties at home, have time to revise their study at home and doing homework which impacted their education positively.

Another good impact is that, the whole Gilgal church congregation have really understood the work of supporting the street children for changing their bad behaviours through prayers, parent care.

In this quarter, children gathered to celebrate the New Year, it was a good time to make goals for the year for each of them, mainly on:

- Behaviour change
- Education
- Spirituality

Before starting the school, we meet again during the holidays and assess how they are doing in their households. Each one received a dozen of notebooks and pen for improving their education.



4: Quarterly meeting with facilitators

In order to benefit more from the selected facilitators, we meet them on a quarterly basis and share with them the progress of the project implementation and look at the impact of project achievement.

During this quarter, 8 facilitators attended the training on the facilitator role and Networking, it was a good time also to share with others what they learnt.

Facilitators also benefited from a session on Tear fund Quality standards and how to communicate and share information's.

- Behaviours
- Impartiality and targeting
- Accountability
- Gender
- Empowerment
- Technical quality
- Resilience
- Protection

This will help them to facilitate and report the CCT work in an easy manner.



5: Field visits and monitoring's

In the last quarter, we made field visits with purpose of monitoring the impact of the project and encouraging the beneficiaries to own the sustainability. In collaboration with facilitators we collected information's from self-help groups.

We have been assured that, groups formed in the different church give a significant image of what transformed people looked like.

The total savings were 8,006,460 Rwf and Total loan were estimated to 4,866,530 Rwf taken by 317 Group members to start small business of, (sewing, basket weaving, bought livestock, selling fruits, vegetables,) for Paying mutual Health insurance school fees and scholastic materials, used loans for Home basic needs..

As outcome, there are improvements in family conditions, access to health services easily and less costly.

Prayer request for future planning

- Pray for our country during this time of remembering our beloved families, friends who died during the genocide against Tutsi in 1994.
 - Pray for Gilgal church and Bloomfield church partnership to last and be productive
 - Pray for Our youth, choirs to get music instruments (piano, Guitars, laptop, camera, and projector) to improve their manner of worship and praise.
 - Pray for Gilgal Bible College, the new government policy require people who preach, pastors to have theological skills.
 - Children at risk
 - Widows (some are genocide survivors)
 - HIV Positive group (Loved ones is a group of 22 people living with HIV/AIDS , who really need care and support for their daily life)
 - Refugees (one of our local church located in refugee camp)
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Success stories

Christine *, now 31 year old, is the member of a local Presbyterian Church where she sings in a choir and acts as a secretary for ABAKUNDAGUSENGA local Self Help Group.



Christine and her husband are orphans, they lost their parents in the Genocide against Tutsi in 1994, the Self Help Group became a family to me.

Here Christine shares her story...

Am MUKANDAYIGIRA Christine , married and mother 3 children, 2 girls and one boy. It was not easy to grow up as orphan, I thought to get again the parents (in law) when I get married, God gave me the husband who is also like me.

My husband and myself did not get chance to go to university, this caused to us to suffer for having jobs to do. My husband try her best to feed the family and respond to many basic needs in difficult conditions.

After being mobilized to join the group for saving for our development, I was really so sad in my heart, I thought not to get money to save. One of my church members encouraged me to join the group and participating in the training.

After the training, I share with my husband how am I going to change my life by putting my faith into action as the bible says.

We started the activities of ABAKUNDAGUSENGA SHG, our main ambition is to support each other spiritually, socially and economically, on my side, am benefiting a lot because, before I used to shy and shamed because of our living conditions. When we meet as group, I feel happy to talk and make comments.

“I thank God, I have never lose my weekly saving of 200 Rwf and any other needed contribution to the group.

I ask loan of 10,000 for buy Goat I wanted to have manure for making my kitchen Garden more productive , my goat delivered 2 goats , today they give much manure for my garden cultivate tomatoes, vegetables , today we consume like others after to harvest tomatoes and vegetables we eat and we supplying to the market . I have a place of selling my product in market place. Am now proud of how my life changed through the work of CCT.

Jules RUHUMURIZA

CCT Coordinator

23rd April 2019
