

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF BURUNDI

EGLISE ANGLICANE DU BURUNDI

EAB PRESS
APRIL 2021

LAST FAREWELL TO BISHOP JOHN WESLEY NDUWAYO



Family members, the House of Bishops, clergy, representatives from other Churches, a delegation from the Administrative Board and friends were among those who gathered on Thursday 29th April 2021 at St Luke's Cathedral in Gitega for the funeral of the Rt. Revd John Wesley NDUWAYO, the former Bishop of Gitega.

Bishop John Wesley Nduwayo served as Bishop of the Diocese since its creation in 1985 as the third diocese of the Anglican Church of Burundi. He also served as Dean of the Province and worked for the creation of two more dioceses, Muyinga and Buhiga.

He was actively committed to preaching the Good News of Christ and to peace and reconciliation particularly during times of national crisis.

In the sermon delivered on the occasion, Archbishop Emeritus Bernard Ntahoturi stressed the long and hard journey Bishop John had had while still holding to the call to be a shepherd of God's people despite the hardships and challenging circumstances he went through.

"Many crises that have put his faith to the test have occurred, times of discouragement have happened, but still he has remained true to the Bible-based Good News of love and reconciliation in a fragmented society", he said.

Bishop John Wesley retired in 2019 after serving 33 years. The love of Christ and true, uncompromised Christian values are part of the legacy he leaves for the Anglican Church, the next generation and the entire community of Burundi.

SHARING EXPERIENCE FROM A LIFE CHANGING PROGRAMME

Mothers' Union through the Provincial Coordinator was recently able to facilitate a training of trainers for the Literacy and Financial Education Programme held in Ethiopia.

The Literacy and Financial Education Programme has enabled thousands of women and men to acquire skills in literacy, numeracy, business and finance. Through its circles participants have been able to set up income generating projects that have impacted not just the participants themselves but also their families and communities. The programme has been like a small seed capable of bringing life and much fruit.

Describing the programme on their website, www.mothersunion.org/projects/literacy-and-financial-education, Mothers' Union write,

“Beginning in 2000 our Literacy and Financial Education Programme (LFEP) was designed to give a holistic approach to empowering some of the most marginalised communities in the world whilst meeting the Millennium Development Goals. The programme uses participatory methods to enable communities to acquire basic literacy and numeracy skills whilst discussing and planning action on their daily issues and challenges.

In Burundi and Sudan/South Sudan Mothers' Union members have brought literacy learning to over 20,000 women and men in just over a decade. Thanks to generous funding from Comic Relief and a strong working relationship with Five Talents, our LFEP groups are stabilising family and community life.”

Speaking of the privilege of sharing the programme's potential with other parts of the world Mrs. Claudette Kigeme, the Provincial Coordinator said: “It's an honour for Mothers' Union Burundi to share our experience with our fellow Mothers' Union members across the world particularly in Africa because we go through similar challenges as women and families and we believe that the needs are common for all of our members. The lack of some skills and the need for empowerment is still the main motivation for our actions and the results we see throughout Mothers' Union give us strength and happiness to share what we have”.

ONLINE LEARNING AS AN ALTERNATIVE IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

Bujumbura Christian University organised a two days conference to discuss the adaptation of lecturing and learning in the context of Covid-19. The conference gathered together lecturers and students and was an occasion to share the opportunities for maintaining academic progress and excellence.

Bujumbura Christian University has lecturers from different countries that have not been able to visit to lecture during the pandemic due to restrictions of movement.

Online learning using modern information and communication technologies required immediate consideration when Covid-19 started to cause disruption to studies.

The Rev. Dr. Pascal Bigirimana, Vice-Chancellor of BCU stressed that the current situation is forcing academic institutions to change or adapt the classical classroom methods for virtual ones. This will obviously raise challenges in terms of technical skills and other requirements.



BCU is rethinking education in the age of technology and has made some steps forward in collaboration with Christliche Fachkräfte International (CFI) from Germany. BCU has taken the lead in introducing a Student Information and University Management System which is an online system of daily university tasks management. In addition the University has adopted an online Library Management System to facilitate student with multiple resources.

This conference was challenging to students and lecturers alike as they looked at the need for change and adaptation.

The Vice-Chancellor of BCU thanked the Love Burundi Association for having supported the conference and for initiatives from different partners that are helping to shape the future of this young academic institution.