



REPORT OF GROUP 7 MEMBERS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

DEACONESS REPORT FROM KENYA.

Receive lots of greetings from Kenya in the mighty name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We have had a little bit a challenging time in our Church Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya due to leadership storms which have affected the Church in the past 10 years but the last five years have been the worst. The Deaconesses work is almost at a standstill because the system is not working and we cannot coordinate our work well due to regional political balkanization, threats and lack of financial support in their work.

However we thank the Lord that through a friend we got some funds that helped organize a seminar which gave us the opportunity to discuss about our diaconal work. We agreed that we will continue to pray for the Church since the Church belongs to God and we will unite and work together, put ideas together on how we can strengthen the work of Diakonia in our respective Parishes and in Kenya as a whole. We also discussed about different ways to look for funding to support income generating activities that will help the Deaconesses in their diaconal work.

All the Deaconesses need support for the work to continue since they work in distant remote places whereby transport is a challenge. Therefore the most important need is means of transport either by public transport in which they need funds. A motorcycle/motorbike would be a welcome relieve. The Deaconesses are involved in several activities mostly in evangelism and social activities including;

1. Teach the Sunday school children, youth and women in the respective Parishes
2. Education support and care to Orphans and vulnerable Children
3. Encouraging, assisting and building the capacity of Poor Families by helping to start income generating engagements
4. Home based care support to the sick and the elderly
5. Support in with the HIV&AIDS/Post Test Clubs

6. Rescue and Support to the marginalized communities especially the girl child from early marriage and FGM. Also working with boys who now at very high risk

To carry out the above responsibilities the Deaconesses needs to be empowered to be able to work as desired.

We are appealing for prayers for God to open ways so that the work of Diakonia will continue and the light of Jesus and will be seen in many ways that the Deaconesses are involved. Because of the care and Love that is seen through His acts of mercy in Diakonia.

Much thanks to Sr. Kerstie who has worked with me in Diakonal work in Nairobi, helping support the needy and vulnerable children and girls in rescue program, God Bless,

ORDER OF DEACONESSES METHODIST CHURCH NIGERIA

PERSONNEL: every two years there are major changes among Ministers on Itinerary duty and so some of our Sisters were moved from their stations. Deaconess Aniema Udofia who used to be the at the Women's Desk at the Headquarters of Methodist Church Nigeria was moved out and is yet to be replaced. Hopefully this will be done before the of march 2016.

EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

Order of Deaconesses, Methodist Church Nigeria celebrated 35 years of existence in May 2016. There were various programmes and lectures on Women's health, empowerment and community. During the year the Church proposed to start a new Ministry-**Ordination of Deacons** and the present group of Deaconesses who are willing to move to the Deacon Order will be considered. This is still being discussed. For now the position of a Deacon in Methodist Church Nigeria is transitory. Deacons move on to become Priests.

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

- There was a general meeting of Deaconesses in the South West Zone of Methodist Church Nigeria.
- Deaconesses in Kenya also met during the year to deliberate on their work.
- No news from the Sisters in Egypt and Rwanda.

NEW APPLICATION

With joy I report about a new application in my region and from my Country.

A new application from **Order of Deaconesses Lagos**, a group from Order of Deaconesses, Methodist Church Nigeria has been submitted. They have applied to join both **DRAE** and **DIAKONIA WORLD**. Hopefully the application will be discussed at this meeting.

CHALLENGES

The common challenges among Deacons and Deaconesses are not peculiar to the region alone.