

News from 'ABAJA BA Kristo' Rubengera, Rwanda

There is regular contact between the Sisters in Rubengera, and the Sisters in Amerongen (Netherlands). Visitors have been received from the Netherlands and Germany.

The Sisters

Five young women have started their probation and are doing well. They feel at home and take part in the community life. They are given lessons connected to the life as a Deaconess. Their accommodation is in a house in the former orphan's village, and Sister Domitille takes care of them.

There are concerns for the ongoing health problems of Sister Evodie; she endures her illness bravely and is nursed by the Sisters.

Several of the Sisters have undertaken studies and achieved good results. Good education is seen as significant.

Sister Anysie and Sister Emerthe have been seconded by the Anglican Church to support some young women in their call to diaconal work. The new community's name is 'Esther Sisters'. The sisters pray that more young women will join this service.

The Orphan's Village

The Orphan's village operated for 21 years, but since March 2016, the houses in the Orphan's village have been empty. The children are now being cared for by relatives or have been adopted into families. The foster families are under the supervision of Sister Emilienne, who visits the children regularly and monitors their well-being. Most children have settled in well to their new situation. With the support of the Dutch 'Godparents', they are able to continue their schooling or their professional training. The official closing of the Orphan's village will take place during a visit by Sister Doren and Janny Oorebeek on November 16th, 2016. It will be holiday time in Rwanda, enabling many children to participate in the celebrations, including former residents.

New Project

In the coming months, a new project will be initiated: the Family Centre. This project will support the poorest families in the neighbourhood close to the Sisters. About 40 families have been selected to form self-help groups, in order to improve living conditions for their families. As well, a day care centre will be opened for children between 3 and 6 years, to prepare them for elementary school. The now empty buildings of the Orphan's village will be used for the new project. It is anticipated the opening of the project will be January 2017.

Rubengera Technical Secondary Schools (RTSS)

In March, certificates were presented to the first group of schoolboys trained at RTSS. The great news is that every graduate gained employment, and that is extremely unusual for young people in Rwanda. The rate of unemployment is high in the country, but there is a big need for craftsmen and artisans. In this way, the school plays an important role!

Agriculture project

In July, a new group of farmers, men and women, started a theoretical and practical training course.

Please uphold the work of the Sisters of 'ABAJA BA Kristo' Rubengera in Rwanda.

Photos and more information on the website: <http://www.abaja-ba-kristo.nl/>

(The original report was prepared by Sister Dorien, Amerongen)