

Rongo Grace Pentecostal Church (GPC) in Migori County is a young (hardly 3 years since inception) with membership of less than 100 but among the fast growing churches. Rongo town is 252km to the south of Kimilili about 5-6 hours' drive with a population of about 125,000 people according to the August 2019 Census. Children under the age of 18 years form more than 60% of this population. Children Worldwide Kenya team comprising of Michael, Godfrey, Mercy and Nathan went to GPC from Sunday 3<sup>th</sup> to Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to facilitate one week children camp and training for Children ministers. It was also amazing coming along with Michael's children to support our ministry by helping with songs, dances, puppetry and games. For us, every child counts. Our passion is to reach children with the gospel of Christ through partnership with churches and families.



**Fig 3: Michael doing puppetry during one of the session with the kids**

If the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 19-20) is the ultimate goal of missions, then children cannot be left out. It is important that those who

minister to our children don't just survive Sunday school class but purpose to build spiritual depth by teaching them the entire word of God so that they can obey it. Our host Pastor Sam and his wife Anjela shared their greatest challenge of putting together volunteer children workers that are ready, committed and well equipped to disciple children. Their desire is to have effective and sustainable team by God's grace to do children ministry in their church. Therefore, our task during the camp was to recruit children workers, train them and assist them access resources that can help them do their work better.



**Fig 1: Pastor Sam, facilitators and children teachers after children Sunday service**

While our aim was to develop program that meet the immediate needs of children and children workers, we also factored in long term sustainable goals of children ministry in the church. Teachers' training is the most important for both long term and immediate results. We had hands on 3hours training sessions every day from 1000hrs-1300hrs for Sunday school teachers who were already in or aspiring to serve in children ministry. We thank God for the 14 teachers recruited, trained and ready to make children

disciples. During training we laid more emphasis on prayer, importance of children ministry, characteristics of a good children minister, child psychology, preparation/presenting entire bible truth to children using creative methods For us to proceed with the good work, we value your prayers and support. We use such functions as a forum to mobilize for participation in our annual conferences slotted in August every year. You are more than welcomed to assist train them in different areas of training needs. You may contact Michael as you for travel among other logistics.

Camp theme was 'Everybody follow Jesus' and Bible story was Joseph (Genesis 37, 39-46). God was always with Joseph. God helped him to do the right thing even when it was hard. It is important for children to know God is always with us. Lessons adapted from Max 7.com to our local conditions guided through the bible study for the 3 age categories (Morning stars – under 5, Zion – 6 to 11 and teens/youths – 12 to 19). We made learning for the children simple, more so interesting with lots of fun by actively engaging them in puppetry, songs, dances and games that suits their ages, each afternoon from Monday to Friday. We set aside Saturday mainly for practice to prepare children to meaningfully participate in the Sunday service next day. So after a bible trivia in the morning hours, afternoon was for honing skills acquired in the week.



**Fig 2: Children and some of their teachers during children Sunday service**

The climax was Children Sunday service where children were given opportunity to run the service as they do various presentations in the form of action songs, dances based on what they learned during the camp. At the end of the camp, we gave out lesson pamphlets and booklets to teachers to start them off. All children received different gifts as rewards for their attendance and participation. Michael pledged to ensure the certificates for all the participants are prepared and sent to them at a later date. We winded up Rongo mission on live broad casting at Rameny 88.3MHz (local Radio station.) This was quite an experience for us as this was the very first time being we were live on Radio station talking about CWK and children ministry.



**Figure 3: Michael's children presenting a song live at Rameny 88.3MHz (local station) from 6-7pm**

The greatest challenge in our context is the overwhelming lack of resources. We are grateful to God for connecting us with Pastor Sam and wife Anjela who hosted us. The total cost of running the camp was borne by the Pastor and the wife. We are touched by their commitment and sacrificial giving to support our programs throughout the week. Appreciation also goes to the CWK for their dedicated service, sacrifice and resilience despite the many challenges we are

especially working with very limited resources. Finally thanks to our partners in Children Worldwide United Kingdom, for your continued prayers and support. We cannot forget the children, teachers and the members of the church for their gifts and ensuring the camp was

successful. They were a blessing.

God bless you, God bless all

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