



Okunguro Pentecostal Assemblies of God Church

Twinned with Stoke Holy Cross Church

Greetings

Dear Friends at Stoke Holy Cross church in the UK

On behalf of Okunguro Pentecostal Assemblies of God church, I would like to convey our sincere greetings to you all. We send you our gratitude for the connection and the love you have for us. We hope you had a merry Christmas, that the grace of the Lord was upon you as you celebrated and we pray that you have a happy New Year. It is such a blessing for us to know that we are twinned with you as we learn to engage more fully in holistic mission in our community and it is a privilege for me to be able to share with you some of the highlights from last year.

Participatory Evaluation process in Okunguro

Last year we finished the first stage of the Participatory Evaluation Process (PEP), which is also known as the Church and Community Mobilisation Process (CCMP), we have now been inspired by the Bible to engage with holistic mission as one body, we have even started our own projects so that our wider community can see what excellent work this is.

As we start 2015 we are glad that we are moving through the second stage of the Participatory Evaluation Process (PEP). The aim of this stage is to help the church and the community work together so that they understand their situation better, we have been busy building relationships with the community and community leaders, we have held bible studies and led activities helping the community understand how we can all work together to solve problems and that we don't need to depend on outside support but can develop something ourselves. With the community we have mapped the areas where there is greater need in Okunguro and discussed the issues faced in those areas. We have also been describing our communities history is that together we understand where we are coming from spiritually, economically, socially and politically. Our community now understands the direction they want to travel in together and what resources and services we have access to which will help us achieve our goals.



Now the community is moving into the third part of this second stage of PEP, we will prepare a team to gather further information on our community's needs to inform decisions on what new projects will be started to help our community develop and free people from poverty.

Church transformation

The church has gone through great transformation in our ministry since we started doing PEP. We have new courage to witness for Christ as we have understood afresh what He has done in our lives. We have organised what we call a soul winning programme; a special team has been equipped to reach every household in the community with the love of Christ. We long to see people spiritually transformed as well as physically as part of our involvement in PEP.

The youth have gone through discipleship training and mentoring and have great fellowship and prayer meetings and we are encouraged by their new involvement as many have taken on new responsibilities in church.

Now that we understand much better our biblical mandate for holistic ministry, more and more people are getting involved in the life of our church and we have also seen an increase in people's generosity.

Of course, having gone through the first few stages of PEP our congregation have already started their own projects. We have been reaching out to the needy in our community, the disabled, widows, orphans and the. These vulnerable groups now have a sense of belonging and have confidence in participating in their own self-help initiatives along with everyone else.

We have also worked with the community to set up Okunguro community Nursery and Primary school which already has over 100 pupils with classes running from nursery to primary three. We are still building some of the classrooms with bricks we are making ourselves.

Traditionally people living in this area have been fisherman, but they have struggled in the last few years as there are now less fish. Thanks to PEP many of our members have now started growing new crops on their land, using some to improve their diet and selling any surplus at market, we are hopefully that more people in the community will be able to follow their example.

Prayer points:

- Please pray that PEP will continue to grow from strength to strength in Okunguro as we move into 2015.
- We long to see more of our community come to Christ, please pray that God will bless our renewed efforts to win people for him and that as we serve people in their physical need we will meet their spiritual need too.
- Thank God for the school we have been able to set up. Please pray for each of the children who attend and that the school will be able to provide them with an excellent education.

Once again, it is such a joy for us knowing that you are supporting us. Thank you for your wonderful generosity and for remembering us in your prayers. We pray that we will be able to meet you soon and that you all will have a blessed 2015.

Yours in His name

Pastor Robert Epianura

