2024 Deep Roots Report : new beginnings and continuing value

Having made the decision to be a completely independent CBO (Community Based Organisation), and not be based on diocesan land, the Deep Roots team have continued

- to support NWAS groups in schools
- to broadcast radio programmes on Radio Ngeya station which covers the whole of Kasese District, parts of Bundibugyo District, Parts of Bushenyi District and the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- to train Key NWAS leaders * (see quotes below) and have also innovated by
 - gifting the Deep Roots office to the Diocese
 - setting up a new office in town
 - starting to train Ambassadors to record Deep Roots material for radio broadcasts



The team has also changed in that Joseph, having been ordained, was sent by the diocese to a more distant area, out of Kasese. He is no longer a full time member of the team. However, he has made great use of his new position and has been supporting NWAS groups in the schools in his area.

A new person, trained as an Ambassador and already having proved good at teaching in training sessions, Gidion, has been supporting NWAS groups in his area.

Between them, Joseph and Gidion are covering what they are calling the East and the West zones.

In the process of all this change the team have been able to give the reasons for the new situation. At a meeting with key trained Ambassadors, Asanasio explained about needing to decide either to be under Anglican direction (due to the Bishop's ultimatum) and so not be interdenominational the way they always have been, or to become fully independent and continue being interdenominational. The Ambassadors were very pleased with the team's decision to remain interdenominational.

Annet in a school where she introduced



*Quotes from Key NWAS leaders on their training day:

Jovia, a teacher and chapel mistress at Garama said "I was a member of NWAS while I was in secondary school about 7 years back. I then joined a teacher training college for two years which has now given me an opportunity to be a secondary school teacher. I very much value the teachings I received from NWAS meetings which has shaped my Christian life to now. I will continue being supportive to the work of Deep Roots / NWAS wherever I will be and I also encourage my fellow teachers present to strongly embrace the NWAS programme in their schools as it helps Christians both young and old in their Christian walk"

Mr. Kiima, a head teacher from Garam had this to say ." I am happy for you choosing my school to host this training. I have been hearing of NWAS but have never had an opportunity to share in its teachings or know more about the aim of the programme. I am happy with the information I have received on NWAS being such a helpful programme in nurturing youths in Schools and out. My request is that you should always inform me whenever there is such training and also should try to involve more head teachers so the programme can get roots in schools"

Mr. James, a teacher from Karambi SS, had this to say "I am one of the very first Ambassadors and one of those youths on whom a pilot survey was done during the start of Deep Roots programme. Above all, I am really happy with the vision of Deep Roots being an interdenominational programme. It has given me the joy of interacting together as children of God despite the different denominations we all come from. Also as a secondary school teacher, I have been equipped with skills to respond and advise youths in their challenges of youth age. Again, with the teaching received from Deep Roots programmes in general I have by the grace of God lifted to serve in my local Church as a pastor even when I have not gone to any Bible college other than the Training from Deep Roots programmes including NWAS. Finally, I want to encourage my fellow teachers to never treat the NWAS programme to be only for students in their schools. It has a lot for Christians of all ages."

Godfrey, a teacher and chapel master at Midvaley who is also a lay reader, testified that Deep Roots had helped him to freely and happily interact with leaders of other denominations, something he clearly said was hard for most of the church leaders to freely do.

Meanwhile **Canon Josephat Bwalhuma**, who has long been supportive of Deep Roots, has very recently suggested using some of the NWAS books in a ministry he has among young people, called "Stress Reduction and Counselling". He works with 8 schools in the community. Having read the Deep Roots booklets, especially the series of "LIVING TOGETHER AS BOYS AND GIRLS IN A WAY PLEASING TO GOD", he has asked if Deep Roots would consider extending the NWAS programme to these schools and that he would play the role to link them to the schools he works with. So, this may herald the re-introduction of NWAS into some Anglican schools.







