



**Eglise Presbytérienne
au Rwanda (EPR)
Gitarama Presbytery**

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, Rejoice (Philippians 4, 4)!



The Delegates of Gitarama Presbytery Synod in the Plenary Session on 18/11/2016.

Phone (office): (+250)782244660/0727775069

Mobile phone: (+250)788620232/0727182819

E-mail: gitaramapresbytery@gmail.com

Website: www.gitarama.epr.rw

P.O. Box 30 Gitarama

1. Message of the General Synod of Gitarama Presbytery to its sister churches and partners

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ, first of all we are sending our greetings in the name of Jesus our Lord and Savior.

Gitarama Presbytery holds its fourth ordinary session at Gitarama Parish on 18th November 2016. This Synod was guided by the theme found in Psalm 84: 6-8: “Blessed is the man whose strength is in you, whose heart is set on pilgrimage to wards Zion [....]” (NKJV). This message called Church members to put their trust in the Lord and to be nurtured by the Holy Scriptures in their daily life so that they will grow stronger as they move forward.

Fellow Partners, we would like to inform you that with great pleasure, the synod welcomed the new Communication Officer of Gitarama presbytery Mrs.NaomeMukambabazi for the sake of enhancing regular contact with national and international partners. Regarding finance, the General Synod found the per capita has been achieved at 70% and decided to reach an average of at least 85% in the upcoming year by empowering individuals and families.

Indeed, the Presbytery Synod approved the shift from the diakonia of subsidence to the sustainable one which is capable of releasing vulnerable people from extreme poverty. In this regard, the synod approve the project “Save 100” in which each member will save Rwf 100 per/day for strengthening families and congregations through grassroots Saving and Credit Groups. This project aims at restoring inclusive development for each member can be loaned two times of his/ her saving amount to start income generating projects. Furthermore, this loan can be multiplied based on the support from the presbytery, national and international partners.

In terms of church growth, the synod approved 4 new parishes (Ntonde, Gitwe, Nyamagabe and Ndiza) and 17 new sub-parishes (Nyarusange, Rwamakara, Buha, Mucubira, Kirwa A, Musange, Kiganda, Bethel, Cyegera, Kabeza, Nyarushara, Gisiza, Kibaya, Murambi, Bweramvura, Mugombwa, and Matyazo).Thus, the number of parishes increased from 16up to20 and sub-parishes increases from 6 up to 19.

In a nutshell, the Presbytery Synod recognizes the role played by sister churches and partner organizations in helping Gitarama Presbytery to fulfill its mission and hopes the collaboration will continue and be strengthened for the Lord Glory.

Beloved in the Lord, through this message, we would like to express our best wishes for the imminent Christmas celebration and Happy New Year 2017 (By **Rev. Celestin Nsengimana, President of Gitarama Presbytery**)

2. Gitwe sub-parish became a full parish



After 16 years of its existence, EPR Gitwe shifted from the status of sub-parish to that of a full parish. That ceremony which took place on the Sunday of 18th December 2016 was led by Rev. Celestin Nsengimana, President and Legal representative of Gitarama Presbytery who emphasized on the main responsibility of church members in the holistic growth and gave a new stamp to the leader of Gitwe parish .

The sermon of the day was delivered by Rev. Esther Mukambuguje on Philippians 4,4 : “ *May you always be joyful in your union with the Lord. I say it again: rejoice.*”

The leader of Gitwe parish, Andre Ahishakiye had the opportunity to recognize the contribution of their Sister church called “Graystone church”. He also mentioned that the former chapels of Gitwe Parish namely Mucubira and Buha became autonomous sub-parishes, and Kabuga became the chapel of Buha sub-parish as approved by the Synod of Gitarama Presbytery held on 18 November 2016. During that ceremony, 5 people were baptized by Rev. Christophe Rukundo, the minister of

Munanira parish (Kirinda Presbytery) and one received from another church by the President of Gitarama Presbytery (By ***Mrs. Naome MUKAMBABAZI***).

3.The service of Thanksgiving in Gitarama Parish

On 4 December 2016, there was a special service of thanksgiving in Gitarama parish. The President of the Presbyterian Church in Rwanda, Rev.Dr Pascal Bataringaya and his family attended the event. He positively appreciated the role played by different categories of church members in different activities their accomplished including assistance to needy people, implantation of new communities and construction of a guest house. Kabeza chapel of Gitarama parish became an autonomous subparish composed by new chapels of Kabeza, Ruhina and Kivumu while the former chapel of Rukamiro parish called Kabingo was annexed to Gitarama parish.



Some of The Participants in the Ceremony of Thanksgiving in Gitarama Parish

3. Musange and Ngiryi chapels became Musange sub-parish

Musange and Ngiryi, both former chapels of Kabadaha parish have been combined to form an autonomous sub-parish approved by the 4th Synod of Gitarama presbytery held on 18th November 2016. This new sub-parish called Musange is now led by Ev. Gilbert Mwambitsimpeta.



During the conversation with the communication officer of Gitarama presbytery Mrs Naome Mukambabazi; the leader of Musange sub-parish Ev Gilbert said that Musange chapel is preparing to start to build a church, as the new sub-parish is currently using the sanctuary of Ngiryi Chapel. Gilbert expressed his gratitude to members of Marion Center who keep on praying for them

and willing to foster the relationship between both congregations.

On behalf of Musange chapel, the leader wished a Merry Christmas and a happy new year 2017 to its sister church and all other friends (**By Mrs. Naome MUKAMBABAZI**).

4. Topics for Intercessions

1. Let's pray for the four new parishes and 17 new sub-parishes of Gitarama Presbytery which need to grow holistically.
4. Let us continue to pray for different countries going through violent conflicts
5. Keep on praying for ongoing partnership projects between Kiskiminetas and Gitarama Presbytery to make the Kingdom of God shining in the World
6. Lets pray for the project "Save 100" which will start in 2017 in Gitarama Presbytery with the aim assuring inclusive development.