

The Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences [PIASS]

Teaching, learning and research that impact on people's lives. Dear readers, PIASS community, founding members, ecumenical partners, partners in Education it is a pleasant moment to share with you the good things that the Lord is doing in our Institution. PIASS News Letter Issue no 2 comes during the mourning period in Rwanda [7th April to 4th July] during which we all share in pain for the immense pain for more than 1 million of Rwanda who were killed in the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. The wounds and memories especially for survivors are still flesh. we also share with the pain of trauma for many among our society due to our tragic history. We remember all that and we convey a word of comfort to all those who have been affected. We are grateful that the President of Rwanda, H.E. Paul Kagame was in Huye to commemorate with the academic community on Sunday 12 April 2015. During his visit at the stadium of the University of Rwanda, we gathered in PIASS Hall later that afternoon where the president met the heads of institutions and community leaders. President Kagame challenged the academic community about doing research that impact and transform the lives of the populations. Research that impacts on the lives of many: here is the point in this issue.

PIASS REMEMBERS: COMMEMORATION OF THE GENOCIDE

PDuring this national 21st commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi, the community of Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences (PIASS) organized for the fifth time, a special remembrance of the staff and students who were killed during Genocide against Tutsi in 1994. The memorial ceremonies took place the evening of April 25 and continued to Sunday, April 26. The evening started by firing the wood that is traditionally interpreted as a symbol of life. Two minutes of silence, in memory of PIASS staff and students victims began the commemoration.

"PIASS will never stop remembering the family of **Rev Dr Rwagacuzi Faustin** (Rev Rwagacuzi Faustin, his wife and their four children was the Dean of the faculty of Theology (FTPB) which gave birth to PIASS. His efforts to develop the institution from a **school** of Theology to the **Faculty** of Theology are unforgettable". Also remembered were students at the Faculty of theology who were killed. Rev Prof Ndikumana Viateur, the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academics and one of FTPB alumni said. "It is impossible to erase the memories of moments we shared together with our classmates and colleagues: **Christophe Mudaheranwa, Obed Niyonshuti, Javan Ngirimana and Fidele Muhire!** May God provide them with eternal and peaceful rest" he added.



PIASS Community in Remembrance Walk [Photo credit: J N]

On commemoration eve, the mayor of Huye district delivered a public lecture on the parallelism of poor and good governances respectively in pre and post genocide periods. He said: “The pre-genocide governance was characterized by politics of divisionism, dehumanization and non-equal rights among 3 so called “ethnic groups”. This ideology was deeply taught and was swallowed by a big number of Rwandese and led to the genocide in 1994. He praised Rwanda today for rebuilding and pioneering good governance where citizens are taught to develop themselves and fight for self-reliance and dignity instead of divisionism”. The mayor encouraged students to fight against any ideology of divisionism and genocide denial for a sustainable development and unity.

The commemoration continued on Sunday with a remembrance walk by the staff, students, local government officials, survivors of victims’ families and friends in memory of the agony through which the Tutsi experienced during the genocide. The walk ended at PIASS memorial site where participants laid commemorative flowers. A church service was then held. Rev Prof Elisée Musemakweli, the dean of the faculty of Theology and Religious Studies preached that love always triumphs over death. (1John 3:14-15). In his remarks, Rev Dr Pascal Bataringaya, the president of EPR and deputy Legal Representative of PIASS, who was the guest of honour, reminded the audience that a lack of humanity, wisdom and strong Christianity were the main cause of the 1994 genocide. With the example of the Bonhoeffer’s legacy, he encouraged PIASS community to always tell the truth about the genocide against Tutsi: “Bonhoeffer stood and told the truth of genocide against the Jews by Nazi in Germany; we need to do the same”.



Rev Prof Viateur Ndikumana, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academics leads a prayer

E cumenism and Partnership

EPR, one of the founding members of PIASS had a great celebration on March 29: the installation of its new President, Rev Dr Pascal Bataringaya and Vice President, Rev Julie Kandema coupled with the farewell of its outgoing president, Professor Elisee Musemakweli. PIASS attended the ceremony held in Kigali, Petit Stade, Amahoro Stadium, with a delegation led by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Rev Professor Viateur Ndikumumana and many other staff. All the three senior leaders of EPR are academic staff of PIASS, Dr Bataringaya as visiting lecturer; Rev Julie Kandema was academic secretary whilst Rev Professor Musemakweli has hold for long the position of Dean of the Faculty of theology and religious studies. PIASS wishes them all the best in God's work.

Voyage Interfaculty!

Currently PIASS has active three faculties: the Faculty of Theology and Religion studies, the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Development Studies. We have a multi intake practice throughout a year, and the office of the registrar is always open to provide any information related to registration.

Faculty of Theology and Religion studies

PIASS, the faculty of Theology and religion studies Became the First To Open Official Visit To Tumaini University, Makumira-Tanzania. The fun and learning experience is narrated below by students who took this experiential tour.

From 14th April-20th April, 2015, 23 students from FTRS, FED and FDS with two lecturers both from FTRS made a study trip to Tumaini University Makumira in Arusha Tanzania. The trip intended to fulfil two goals. Firstly, to implement the July, 2012 agreement of UEM member churches at Higher Learning Institutions on strengthening partnership through exchange of students, lecturers, resources and programs. Secondly to bring exposure for the students to the world outside Rwanda.

The trip started with a long travel from Butare to Kagera region in Tanzania. The following day was a proper exposure and learning moment because we saw natural vegetation, natural resources and waters of Lake Victoria as Mwanza region. The third day was also a day of exposure and learning moment, we entered the national parks of Ngorongoro and game reserves of Serengeti and Seronera. We saw all animals, one can think of. The challenge and scary moment was when big giants of the jungle namely Giraffe, Elephant and Buffalo blocked the way in interval of 2-5 minutes. Thank God that these animals were moving and giving us ago ahead. We arrived at Mkumira in the middle of the night.



At Makumira, we were welcomed by Vice Chancellor, Prof. Joseph Parslaw who gave the history of the University from beginning to the present day Tumaini University Makumira. PIASS's presentation was done by Rev. Juvenal Rwamunyana, a Lecturer in Pastoral Theology. He gave brief history of PIASS and the reason the changes that took her from, the faculty of theology to

present day institution, host of two more faculties and future prospectus of PIASS. Other presentations from both sides included:

1. *Worries and Hopes for African Christian Churches of the Future and the Future of the African Christian Churches*
2. *Ethical standards in post-modernity African Churches .*
3. *Critical consideration of “prosperity Gospel” to African Christianity.*

Students from both Makumira and PIASS find the project enriching. They however find that time given for presentations were short and recommended to having enough time for the next exchange. They recommended that the exchange take place annually with mutual visits from both sides. Members of the team benefitted from the trip and thank PIASS leadership for initiating the project. The dean of FTRS and the DVCA, we owe special thanks to them. In their report, the thanked Françoise Umarishavu, the VC’s secretary for being supportive of the team and ensuring that the communication is fluid for the good success of the project and by organizing the transport.



Faculty of Education [FED]

The faculty of Education is far the largest with many departments including the department of Education planning, the department of School Psychology, the department of Applied education in: History, Geography; Math’s and ICT; business and in Kinyarwanda. Moreover, it has been largely beneficiary of recent developments including the chartering of the Karongi campus. Hence it expanded its teaching package in the area.

FED: SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY: ITS RELEVANCE IN THE EDUCATION

In an effort to develop awareness on the need for school psychologists, PIASS’s Faculty of Education organized a day workshop on the role of School psychologists. Held on March 5th in PIASS conference hall, Huye campus, the conference was attended by Honorable Senator Laurent Nkusi, representative of the HLI in the Senate of Rwanda who was the guest of honor; educationists, principles of schools; officials of the ministry of Education and Rwanda Education Board; academic staff and students of PIASS. Professor Jean Pierre Dusingizemungu, clinical psychologist former dean of the faculty of Education PIASS and Catholic University, presently Rector of the East Africa University and president of IBUKA [the umbrella of the organizations of the survivors of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi] gave a keynote speech in which he underlined the necessity for Rwanda to invest human and material resources in this sector to heal huge wounds left by the genocide against the Tutsi.



[Participants at the March 5th Seminar on School psychologists share the idea that the discipline is highly needed in a society 30% affected by trauma as a result of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi]

Professor Innocent Nkundabatware, dean of the faculty of Education, PIASS gave a presentation on the existing program in the department of school psychology, the perspectives for programs in the department of school psychology and the needs to network and to lobby for the program to be among the priorities of the decision makers in education.

Both presenters noticed that the existing departments of school psychology or clinical psychology are the less attractive to students, hence face abandonment even closure. They appealed the decision makers in the domain of Education to face this huge responsibility through a cool reflection and analysis of the situation. The participants shared the thoughts that in post-genocide Rwanda, the needs for such a function in schools have increased. It is imperative, said the participants that institutions like PIASS which have schools or department of school psychologists conduct a study that can help to lobby the support of many other actors in education, decision makers and legislators.

It must be recalled that the Faculty of Education host a department of School Psychology whose aims are: Train the educational psychologists capable of contributing to finding solutions to individual problems facing learners and educators (parents and teachers), and to analyze school environments; Train educational and guidance advisers; Train the teachers of school psychology and Educational and vocational guidance; promote basic and applied research in the field of the school psychology education and professional guidance; Promote research in order to explain the causes of maladjustment, school failures and other difficulties of learning; provide service

to the community through the organization of the conferences, colloquiums and refresher courses, and dissemination of research results.

MPEQ II: Programs to Start by September 2015

International Master Program in Education Quality [IMPEQ], a joint program of the University of Bamberg and the Protestant University of Arts and Social Sciences [PIASS], second promotion plans are underway for the courses to start by September 2015. The 20 students of IMPEQ I are busy wiping up to meet the deadline of summer for the degree to be awarded. Meanwhile, the selection of the candidates for IMPEQ II and plans for lectures to start next September are under completion. It is expected that any candidates that meet the academic criteria but were not selected for scholarship can, if they want, pay their fee and be accepted. Places are limited to 30 maximum. Like IMPEQ I, the University of Bamberg will deliver the Master degrees for IMPEQ II. But unlike IMPEQ I, the good news is that the participation of PIASS in teaching activities will be increased to almost half and half.



Faculty of Development Studies [FDS]

The Faculty of Development Studies has been pleased and enjoying the vibration of the research centre which started in March 2015. As a first step, it is now doing consultation work with Good Neighbours, with promising more future activities. Furthermore, FDS is one of the faculties with very active students who have good promising initiatives. Some of them are described below.

Clubs and Societies

PIASS Peace Club is one of the students clubs in the Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences (PIASS); it was initiated in October 2013. The PIASS Peace Club's vision is to see Rwandans, Great Lakes Region, and the World live in a society free of violence by achieving positive peace with social justice. The mission of the club is to help people, especially Youth gain knowledge in conflict management and motivate people to participate in Peace activities. The club involve in many activities including drama and song (photo1); hosting students' visitors from abroad such as Japan, Burundi and DR Congo, PIASS open day where they explained to secondary students about what they are doing in the club to promote peace. Some club members also participated in different workshops within the country and outside the country. Two workshops were held in Kigali, Rwanda and in Beni, DRC. In Kigali the topic was freedom of expression whilst in Beni, they discussed "Encountering our neighbours".

Participants came from Uganda, Kenya, Burundi and Rwanda, North Kivu (DRC)". Three members of PIASS Peace clubs together with two Ugandan students, two Burundian students and a Congolese student from the Université Chrétienne Bilingue du Congo participated. The participants discussed issues that hinder peace and actions that can promote peace. The PIASS Peace club's initiatives include a peace education project hosted by a twelve years basic education's school [12YBE] located in Mukura sector, Huye district.

That project aims to create a culture of peace in schools and its community among teachers, students and parents.



Group discussion at Beni



Radio show program at RTB of UCBC in Beni, DRC.



Planting a tree of peace at UCBC



Group of students who partnered with PIASS's

FDS - Department of peace and conflict studies workshops

The department of Peace and Conflict studies conducted a workshop on Alternative to Violence Program (AVP), with the aim to equip student to live and transform violence in our communities. Alternative to Violence Program (AVP) is an approach that enables participants to

deal with potential violent conflict situation in a creative way. Participants in AVP are equipped with skills for inter-personal conflict management. AVP workshop covers six sessions which in turn make up five pillars of AVP; *affirmation and listening, communication, community building, cooperation and community building as well as transformation and management of conflict*. 18 peace and conflict students (from Level II and Level V) had great practical learning experiences.



Cooperation and community building exercise

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Research Activities : Highlights

Research Activity agenda underway in this academic year 2014/2015 includes many collaborative projects: the annual scientific Week Research; the ARIPES Colloquium; the study on Church governance; Pastors' training project; Research on low fee schools and the planning underway for the organization of a symposium on African theology in February 2016; studies on new programs to be launched in PIASS. In the last Issue we presented two schemes: the Pastors' Training Project consisting in capacity building for pastors and leaders of communities with hand books edited and published in Kinyarwanda; and the study on Church governance. In this issue we briefly recall the thrust of the Pastor's Training project before focusing on the activities of the Scientific Week 2015 and on the ARIPES Colloquium.

Capacity Building known in PIASS as Pastor's Training Project. Sponsored by Churches Helping Churches, Brot Fur Die Welt, this project aims at writing and publishing in Kinyarwanda on major topics of people's concern in Rwandan society today; then organize

seminars for pastors to interact on those issues when hand books are available. For 2015 activities underway include work on three volumes: Trauma healing and reconciliation; Conflict management and Resolution; and finally a volume on Church history in Rwanda. An editing seminar is scheduled on June 25; the publication of the volumes is planned for October followed by capacity building seminars in November and throughout 2016.



Above two academic staff of PIASS working on the project Prof. Tharcisse Gatwa [black jacket] and Mr Emmanuel Niyibizi. Many more members of the staff and external experts are involved. The printer and a laptop were hired by the project.

Work is well underway for: a. writing up a volume on trauma healing and reconciliation by experts in the area; b. translation in Kinyarwanda of texts of PIASS Scientific Week on conflict management and, c. Church History.

Scientific Week 2015. The Senate opted for the following theme: ***Conflict and violence management in families and communities: Factors contributing to failure or successes in Rwandan traditions and modern approaches.*** As habitually individual faculties have nominated teams that are conducting research from the perspective of their

discipline. The culmination of the study is a three days weekend from 17-19 July during which the findings will be presented to the entire PIASS community and visitors. Four papers are expected: the team of the faculty of Development studies comprising Dr Penine Uwimbabazi; Mr Gerard Bikorimana and Mrs Gloriose Umuziranenge will present a paper on: *Traditional Approaches to Domestic Violence and Poverty reduction in Rwandan modern Society: A Case Study of Huye, Gisagara and Nyanza Districts*. Mrs Josephine Mukabera, a lecturer in the same faculty but who is pursuing her doctoral studies in Seoul South Korea, will present a paper titled: *Effects of the 1994 Rwanda Genocide on Women: A Social Change in Gender Roles*; the team of the Faculty of Education comprising professor Eustache Munyantwali, Mr Emmanuel Niyibizi and Edouard Ntakirutimana will present a paper on the topic: *Domestic Violence and School Children Care: mechanisms and Strategies*. And finally, the Faculty of theology and religious studies comprising Rev Dr Faith Lugazia and Rev Olivier Munyansanga will present a paper on the following topic: *The Dynamics of the Practices of Church Discipline in Protestant Churches in Rwanda: A Source of Koinonia or of Disruption?*

A **RIPES Colloquium**. The annually colloquium of the Association of Rwandan Private Institutions of High Learning, a forum of 14 High Learning Institutions, will be held in PIASS in August 14th. This year topic is: **Governance and Quality Service Delivery**. During the one day conference a good number of academic papers presented by researchers from member institutions are presented to the public. Of the 14 papers that have been accepted PIASS will present 5 papers as follows: a collaboration paper by Mr Abel Dufitumukiza of the faculty of Education and Rev Celesting Nsengimana of the Faculty of Development studies on the topic: *Effectiveness Assessment of the Role played by Churches in the Management of their Educational Institutions. Case of selected Government-subsidized schools*; a paper by Rev Dr Obed Niyikiza on the topic: *Quality Service Delivery through participative and Active Pedagogy*; the third paper is also a collaborative paper by Dr Penine Uwimbabazi of the Faculty of Development studies and Emmanuel Niyibizi of the Faculty of Education on the topic: *Quality Teaching and Research in the Context of limited Resources in Private Higher Learning Education*. The fourth paper by Rev Dr Faith Lugazia is called: *Gender Mainstreaming in Higher Learning Institutions*. Last but not the least, the fifth paper by Mrs Josephine Mukabera is titled: *Empowerment of Learners for Quality Course Delivery in Higher Education. From Traditional to Modern Teaching Strategies*. We wish all the best to our colleagues who are busy collecting data and writing up their papers.

Research, Collaboration & Public Conference**R**

Researchers hold a one day seminar of experts on Psychotraumatology on May 21. The participants assessed the studies, programs and resources needed to train and equip Rwandans in Trauma healing.

African Theology and the Reformation Symposium. A two day planning seminar of head of theological institutions in the Great Lakes region and PIASS Rectorate met from 24 to 26 May and worked on the details, planning and organization of the February 2016 Symposium on African theology. Deans of the Faculties of Theology: ULPGL, Goma, Prof. Muteho Kasongo; UEA, Bukavu, Rev.Prof Nyembo Imbanga; Hope Bujumbura, Rev Ferdinand Haberimana; PIASS Butare, rev. prof Elisee Musemakweli, joined by the Director of Research, the Deputy Vice Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor PIASS interacted on the aims, expected outcomes, participation, the overall program and technical organization of the symposium. Organized by PIASS in collaboration with the University of Bochum and the Church of Westphalia, Germany the symposium will bring together scholars and young theologians to assess the state of African theologies and the impact of Reformation in this era of celebration of 500 years of the Reformation.

Public Conference. The one in three months tradition of Public Conference in PIASS took place on Friday 22 May in the Conference Hall. Two speakers shared the talk on the topic *Islam and the culture of Democracy*, Sheik Moussa Sindayigaya the Imam of Kigali, the capital city of Rwanda, and Professor Benoit Girardin, the Vice Chancellor of PIASS. First to speak; Imam Moussa, a second year PhD student on Governance and Leadership at Jomo Kenyatta University, Kigali Campus in a hugely eloquent talk presented Islam, the submission to one God as an integrative way of life combining at once religious, military, judiciary and political systems shaped in the Medina Constitution. Having experienced persecutions, exclusion even expelled from Mecca and drawing from the Quran' sayings, the prophet' followers set up principles of democracy, peace, tolerance and respect of the right to opinion. Hence Islam has been proclaiming democratic principles for more than 14 centuries; condemned violence far before the "so-called modern and democratic world". Islam cannot be blamed for whatever happens under the Islamic states even endorsed by the politico-religious leaders: "the failure of man is not the failure of the system". There are always many interwoven motives and interests behind. In the end; he added, these leaders and the Islamic states are themselves victims of the violence perpetrated by extremists groups which cannot claim to represent Islam.

In his talk professor Girardin clarified the fact that the structure of the government was the Caliph [the ruler], religious, political and military successor of the prophet, selected by the Shura, a consultative council [Quran II,30]. He assumed that such a combination can be a risk

and that the mainstream of Islamic philosophy after the prophet focused on the ruler opting for the platonic, elitist system as opposed to a more Aristotelian practical, consensual, open and responsible leadership and institutions. He wondered if the rule that bans a Muslim to convert can be relaxed because it is a provision that hurts democratic values and freedom of religion.

WORLD VISION-RWANDA AND PIASS: CLOSE RELATIONS!

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between PIASS and World Vision-Rwanda was signed on Tuesday 26th of May, 2015 in Kigali.



L-R: George Gitau, World Vision-Rwanda Country Director and Prof Benoit GIRARDIN, PIASS Vice Chancellor

Both WVR and PIASS are Christian and ethical values based organizations; they are keen for holistic development of human being and consider education as key building block for the future of a nation. This shared commitment to join forces will strengthen the promotion of the quality of services delivered to the community; the service rendered to Churches and Societies through educational activities will be dramatically enhanced.

Library: modern Library' Construction Works Kick Started

L The existing library was built in the 1990s to host students of the Faculty of theology and Religious studies which never hosted more 100 students. The ancient library had a capacity of more or less 100 seated places. Since 2010, the institution has been transformed into a High learning institution, the Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences [PIASS] with two more faculties [Education and Development studies. PIASS is now home to more than a thousand student seats to increase with the expected opening of two new faculties under planning in the current strategic plan 2013-2017. Though one of the best libraries of the HLI in Rwanda [more than 35000 volumes] enjoying a proactive policy of acquisition of new books, the building was increasingly becoming too small for the huge mission invested in a university library. The two levels new building will have more than 500 seated places; spaces for children and spaces for community services and reading.



Above: Old library reading hall: too small for an increasing academic community



PIASS New Library under construction thanks to financial support from Brot Fur Die Welt. New premises are expected to be operational by the beginning of next academic year.

P Prospect and Prayer Request

PIASS to keep its vision of transforming people’s lives in knowledge and spiritually; PIASS expects to increase the number of students enrolling in different programs; pray for the upcoming SW and ARPES; pray for the faculty of Development Studies 2 new programs (Natural resources management & Urban Management to start soon this year 2015); pray for the faculty of Theology to start Masters Programs by the academic year 2015/2016; Directorate of Research for May seminar on African Symposium and June’s seminar on Pastor’s Training Program.

Food for Soul

God is good all the time!

Abel Dufitumukiza

It takes the grace of God to see the goodness of our God in our lives. I testify this from the four years of sickness when I was in secondary school, it was difficult to match and understand God’s love. Besides, it was difficult to believe that I can succeed the national examination due that sickness. I hardly attended class twice a week and other days I was either at hospital or home. What I cannot forget is the comfort I had gotten from fellow Christians through class notes taking and time they spent explaining to me what teachers taught during lectures. Through that help, I was supposed to be comforted but it was not the case because of the suffering. Several times I thought that God had abandoned my life.

“I waited **patiently** for the Lord, and He inclined to me, and heard my cry” (Psalm 40.1)

Patiently! I totally failed. I had many times to disagree with my Creator accusing Him to go far from my life. The power of compassion, love and help I received from colleagues was swallowed by the suffering and hopelessness. Sometimes life had no meaning. This kind of situation seems to be normal when we are in troubles/problems. We often forget what God has done for us and how His mercy and love flow on us through people who are nearby us. The sorrow and hopelessness is devil’s weapons that he uses to swallow what we should experience as good things. After I got my secondary education certificate, I came to realize that God has been in control! I was not deserved to successfully pass the national examination and got government scholarship if God was not in control. Sometimes, us Christians, get tired of problems in life, struggling for life we think God has abandoned us. Through this short testimony, I want to ensure you that “God who supported and strengthened me through His people is still present. He is carefully watching over our ways.” Don’t be afraid and hopeless, you will overcome by His mercy and love. Note that what you are asked for is to believe in Him and do your responsibility. God is still in control. Truly God is good all the time even in the time of sorrow, God is good. I hope you enjoy the testimony!

“How did I save my marriage?” Don’t miss it next time