



Equipping pastors to abide in and feed their congregations from God's Word.

Church Graduation Ceremony
This year has brought with it a unique opportunity for creativity in continuing the RP mission of "Equipping pastors to abide in and feed their congregations from God's Word." One area of change has been in how we celebrate Romans Challenge completions. We have designed a Romans Challenge graduation that takes place "in the church, by the church, and for the church."

Reading Romans twenty times and writing it out is a big accomplishment. The completion of the Romans Challenge is celebrated with the awarding of a certificate and for those who regularly preach, a device with recorded sermons.

Previously, these were awarded in a conference setting. Now, this is happening in the local church. By doing the graduation in this way, the local congregation can be encouraged that their pastor is working hard to be equipped to preach the Word of God to them, and introduced to a unique challenge designed to help all the members of the local congregation become rooted in Scripture.

The first few graduations "in the church, by the church, and for the church" have started taking place in the past few weeks. For these graduations, a point person is equipped with a packet that gives them clear step-by-step guidelines for how to structure the ceremony. It is designed to take roughly 15 minutes of a church service. During this time, the Romans Challenge is explained, and those who have completed the challenge share how their lives have been impacted through the experience. They are awarded their certificates, and then the whole congregation is invited to participate in the Abide Challenge.

The Abide Challenge is a month long commitment to pray, read, meditate on, and write out a given passage of Scripture. In total, there are 30 passages, and we encourage those who participate to continue even after completing these first 30 days.

Our hope is that through this challenge, members of the local congregation will build a habit of spending time reading and meditating on Scripture daily.

Justin, our facilitator in Rwanda, recently wrote that he is taking part in the Abide Challenge himself.

"The Abide Challenge has significantly affected my life positively as I keep thinking on God's Word that I read every day. One day I was asked at the last minute to share a 15 minute devotional. The very passage that came in my mind that I should share with them was the passage I had read the previous day in the Abide Challenge. I really thank God for the Abide Challenge."

Justin has also translated the challenge into Kinyarwanda, the local language of his area, and is going through it with a team of eight people from his church.

Please pray for the transition to the new graduation ceremony; pray that the Abide Challenge will be a source of encouragement for the whole congregation.



A Kenyan Church

