

MPANDA, TANZANIA,
Subject: Thank you, dear friends!

Date: 10 Nov 2022

To HOLY TRINITY RIPON

Dear friends,

I have been blessed with many wonderful years as Bishop of Lake Rukwa in Tanzania, and I have seen many hundreds of people starting to trust and obey the Lord Jesus as their Friend and Saviour. It has been such a privilege for me, to watch them grow in their Christian faith, and begin to share their faith with their friends and neighbours.

Now, as I prepare to retire next March (2023), I write to thank you, with my whole heart, for your prayers and gifts for the people of Lake Rukwa, over all these years. Your support has been vital to God's work here, because the people of this Diocese are among the poorest in the whole of East Africa (not least because God has led them to welcome thousands of refugees here).

Looking ahead, I ask you to continue to pray for us, in the transition from one very tired (but joyful) Bishop, to a new (equally joyful) Bishop, brimming over with energy!

During December and January, I shall be travelling around our huge Diocese, saying good-bye to the Christians in each one our parishes, giving them some final teaching and encouragement.

Please pray for our safety as we travel, because this will be the season of the Greater Rains. At the moment, we have not enough money for the petrol, but we trust the Lord to provide what we need, when we need it.

Shortly after we return to Mpanda, the day will come when I must

retire. Then will begin the process of choosing a new Bishop of Lake Rukwa. Please pray that the selection will be made peacefully and prayerfully, so that God may choose his own servant for the task. May the consecration of God's servant be a time of reconciliation and blessing and rejoicing!

Some of you, dear friends, have kindly enquired how I will manage financially when I retire. The Diocese of Lake Rukwa is far too poor to be able to provide any help towards a house or a pension for retired clergy.

For a house, I hope to return to the same village where I grew up - the village of Bwanga. There I have been trying to build a little house. So far I have finished the walls and the corrugated iron roof; but I have no money for the ceiling board and flooring, or for the windows, doors and paint. I trust God to touch the heart of whomever He wishes to help, whether with much or with little, that the house may be completed.

For an income after I retire, I ask you to pray that the Lord will give me some task to do, which will bring in a little money. However humble the task may be, I pray that God will give me the Grace, to carry out the task to the best of my ability, and to His Own Glory!

God Bless You.

Your brother in Jesus,

+Mathayo Kasagara.