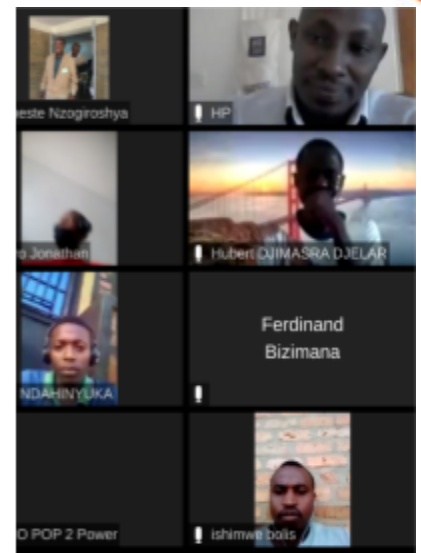




Ministry amidst COVID-19

As a continuation of the gospel movement in the student world of Rwanda, GBUR ministry relies heavily on human interactions. Unfortunately, the fight against the spread of COVID-19 requires the opposite, social distancing. At first, it was a big shock to hear that social gatherings including prayer and Bible study meetings are not allowed. It was a difficult time. With their leaders, students run to social media to comfort one another. While trying

to comfort one another with scripture, they realized that actually, people don't have to be in the same room to study a passage and to share their insights as the Holy Spirit guides them to apply them. The ministry continued using online platforms. This newsletter will use students and staff testimonies to give you a glimpse of what God has been doing through social media while campuses are under lockdown.



On the verge of the lockdown...



Like everyone else, the lockdown caught us unprepared. When all social gatherings got suspended, a number of activities were halted. Among the halted activities are two Discipleship Training Programs and a healing workshop. DTPs were scheduled to happen on 13-15 March at UR-Rwamagana and UR-Remera. Israel, the campus staff who had organized one of the DTPs, shared that though it was halted the few sessions that had been covered made a great difference in dealing with the uncertainty of life due to COVID-19. He said "Considering the questions they are asking in our regular discussions, their attitude towards God in this outbreak is recommendable because of a session we had on God's sovereignty"

Adapting to the new normal...

Turatsinze Bosco, the president of GBU-UR-Nyarugenge explains...



When social gatherings were first stopped, we used social media as a way to encourage one another hoping that it will be for a short time. We were wrong. A few weeks later we learnt that school won't resume until months later. That's when, as leaders, we started thinking about different ways to keep our members connected while also growing spiritually. For spiritual growth, we are growing in the word of God through Bible studies. Department leaders are the ones in charge of preparing and leading bible studies for the whole GBU on WhatsApp. Whereas, cells also organize themselves to do small group Bible studies and prayer on their own. I would say that in this time of covid-19, Gbu has remained active and small groups are still an effective way to

keep members strong in the faith. The only challenge is that now to have a fellowship requires airtime in a time when as students we have no money.

Jambo Jean Paul, the president of GBU-UNIK, adds...

For our small group meeting, because not all have WhatsApp, we use normal conference calls. However, they are normally expensive. They are only affordable during the weekend. Therefore, we had to reschedule small group meetings to meet on weekends. Unfortunately, it is still hard to get airtime but once we manage it is a great opportunity to sharpen one another.



Impacted by online ministry

Allianne gained interest in Christianity. She now interact with the scripture to prepare for Bible study while saving money to attend online.

I am Alliane Niyonizeye, a student at CUR Save Campus. The online program that we have in GBU of both Bible study and fellowship service in this period of COVID 19 has helped me a lot. First, it has helped me to keep fellowship with God and brethren since churches are closed. It has even helped me to keep in prayers. Secondly, it has taught me to save money so that I can attend the online service. Thirdly, it has strengthened my walk with God. Before, I was not much interested in Christianity but

now I have realized that God is the first in life. Fourthly, the bible study we did in Galatians helped me to have time to read the word of God and to remember that, I need to have time with God. Because of that, now I know some books of the Bible and I interact with them personally as I read them. Lastly, it also helped me to pray, now I understand that I have to pray for different people, friends, family, country and even the world at large that God's mercy and protection might be up on them. I am very thankful.



Adrien started to have a daily quiet time while Tabitha's friends & family from a distance help her to keep studying the Bible



My name is Adrien Ngoga. I am the president of GBU-ULK Gisenyi. During this time of covid-19, as GBU-ULK Gisenyi we share the word of God through a group we created on WhatsApp. On this platform we learn many things in the word of God and they are bringing change in our life.

We gain a lot of wisdom from God's word. Personally, during this period of covid-19, the word of God we studied has changed me. I have started having a quiet time which is helping me to become closer to God by praying and reading the word daily. I am also sharing the word of God with my friends on social media.

My name is Tabitha

Ukwishaka, a student at UR Huye campus. In this period of Covid-19, in our GBU we are using the online program for both Bible study and service.

Personally, this program is helping me to keep studying the word of God as I did while at school and to keep communing with God. It is also helping me to feel that I have friends and family whom we are together though we are in different places but we are still in touch.



Discipleship continues...

From the Gospel of John, Jean de Dieu has discovered who he is in Christ while Anthony is being nurtured through different spiritual discipline



I am Nsanzeyezu Jean de Dieu, a student in UR-Nyagatare. I got saved in DTP in January. Before the lockdown, we were being disciplined in a discipleship class. In this lockdown, I have started to read the Gospel of John, it was not my first time to read it, but, I was really amazed as I understood this Christ who entered in my life and who I am in him! Yes, I am still struggling with my sinful nature. But I thank God that I now know I have victory in Christ.

I am Ishimwe Anthony, a student in UR-Busogo campus year 1. I was saved in a DTP at Busogo in January. Before the lockdown, we had weekly, fellowships, Bible studies, discipleship groups, discipleship class, training and all kinds of gatherings that I enjoyed greatly. When confinement started it was very hard for me. There were no more gatherings. However, I thank God because he continued to teach me in many ways. First, through the Bible study with others in GBU on our WhatsApp group. Second, through personal quiet time, Bible reading and the spiritual disciplines of solitude and silence, especially during the

time I had nowhere to go due to lockdown. I thank God that I have become a lover of his word that it is becoming an important part of my life as I train myself to obey it.



The impact goes beyond students...

while empowered students are reaching their families with the Gospel
Graduates were encouraged to continue with the work of an evangelist



I am Kayitare, a student at IPRC Huye. In this time of Covid-19, our GBU's online program has

helped me to have time to read the Bible by myself and to understand more from the word of God. It has also given me the courage to share with my siblings at home. I share with them what I learn from the online Bible discussion and personal quiet time. More importantly, this has brought in me the quietness to hear from God's word.

In an anonymous survey we did after the online seminar on rethinking our mission amidst covid-19 one graduate shared: "I like that we are reminded the task to be done. The event awakened my heart about home evangelism. The event encouraged me by seeing that some believers are working hard for every home to get reached by all means"

NOW LET'S WORK TOGETHER FOR MORE IMPACT...

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:37-37

PRAY:

- For students to prioritize their time with God now that lockdown in no longer much are fighting for their attention.
- For students to find a way to earn money to pay for internet access to continue their online ministry programs.
- For GBUR staff to have the courage and wisdom to serve students effectively.
- For God's provision, support raising is much difficult now that many people have lost their job due to lockdown.

SERVE

- Be part of different online programs organized by GBUR, you can stay updated by following our social media accounts search **gburwanda** on facebook, twitter or instagram
- Take time to encourage student leaders especially those in STEM program, a phone call, a dinner, or surprise gift would be highly appreciated.

GIVE

- On the normal ways of supporting GBUR we have recently added MoMo pay. **Dial *182*8*1*028038#**



In Christ,



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