

# LUNGUJJA CATHOLIC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION BIBLE GROUP

By Mrs. AMULINDWA, spokesperson

## Background

This Association has been in existence for over 15 years. It was started by a few married women in this Sub-Parish and grew over time.

## Its objectives

- To come together and learn how to instill or inculcate basic Christian values in fellow women to bring up their children to be good citizens.
- To eliminate illiteracy by promoting Adult Education among women.
- To encourage participation of women in economic activities in a bid to eradicate poverty and improve on the welfare of their families because of the mirage income of their husbands.
- To secure loans or grants for small scale businesses, this would place women on the right path for sustainable economic growth to enable their children get proper education. These are just to mention a few.
- Becoming a member was voluntary but with the approval of the husband in writing

The Association operated with the knowledge of a Parish Priest at that time Fr. John Wynand Katende of Lubaga Parish, and he was our Patron because it was registered under the Catholic Women's Guild. When he realized that we were an organized association he introduced the Bible classes to us. We underwent training of how to go about these classes.

He told us to listen attentively while he read for us the Word of God, and slowly by slowly with time this empowered us to develop an attitude of listening to the Word of God and learnt to internalize it, then started participating.

## Order of Service

We normally meet on Tuesday fortnightly, a leader is always chosen for the next meeting. We meet in member's homes rotating in those small five Christian communities (Obubondo) in Lungujja which is a sub-parish.

The leader will tell the congregation the chapter for the reading from the Bible and we chose to deliberate in our mother language because that's what we understand best, and it enables all of us to participate fully.

He / she will start with a song of the Holy Spirit so that the Holy Spirit will come to each one of us to change our hearts and making us ready for the encounter with the Lord.

He / she reads the chapter which he/she chose for us and we listen attentively, this is done twice as we continue listening. After that we observe silence for a few a minutes then members start participating by

choosing from the very reading verses / small lines or words that may have touched one's heart and will read it loudly for others to hear.

Four or five will do the same then observe silence for a few minutes, starting from the first person to the last one, we meditate like one would be talking to the Lord openly. Through this act of openness of one's heart, mind and soul, the Word of God works internally to the reader and all those listening, by the time the last person starts his / her meditation, all the people's hearts are already broken down, repentance has already taken place internally and the Lord has already taken his position in the hearts of the participants and they have developed and deepen their attitude of appreciating the presence of the Holy Spirit.

In other words hearing and listening attentively to the Word of God causes inner transformation and cause an impact in one's life, this empowers the participations to go out and proclaim it with commitments.

### **What impacts has this made in our Lives?**

By nature women are found of talking too much they gossip on many issues, sometimes waste time back biting others but not making any good point out of this. When we had just started we were different from any other women but ever since the Word of God took possession of our hearts, our character and attitudes changed tremendously. We are no longer "to whom it may concern" women, we are now sisters, we talk and act intimately, we advise each other instead of back biting.

- When one of us has some joy we share her joy, celebrate over it and whenever there is some thing to sadden us, we share the sadness e.g when we lose our relative e.g husbands, parents and children.
- We assist one another materially, morally and spiritually.
- We have hearts to heart discussion towards each other.
- Our presence is always felt wherever we go because they have admired our togetherness and love for one another.

### **Activities**

- Apart from reading and understanding the Word of God – we try so much. To make other people join us.
- So far we have started many groups among Christians who love the Word, we teach them how to form groups and read the Word of God, meditate and internalize it.
- Because other people are not in associations like we were – we are targeting Christians who already belong to other groups like Regio of Mary and others.
- Right now we are soon going to Mwererwe Parish where we were invited to start a Bible class.

### **Challenges**

- We have failed to convince male Christians to join us, the few we have are those exceptional strong believers.
- We have not visited any Moslem home or community for the fear of being assaulted by Moslems since they cannot tolerate people of different beliefs because they always believe in confrontations.

### **Way forward**

We feel that if we use our culture which is rich in hospitality tendencies we shall be able to reach out many during this Pauline year.

We are happy to report that our Association is already a registered member (collectively) of the International Bible Society at the same time individuals who are members participate in the day to day business to see that more Bibles are printed in different languages so that every person can get access to it.

**Conclusion**

On a closing note you are most welcome to this Country particularly Lungujja Sub Parish – Lubaga Parish and look forward to learn more from your versed experience in proclamation of the Word of God.