



International Newsletter – April 2013

How can you help build integrity in Africa?...

Fraud, corruption and governance are now centre-stage in the world press. Corruption is a global problem, affecting even UK (MPs' expenses, payments to police), USA (ex-Governor of Illinois), France (Chirac), Germany (Siemens), and so on... But in Africa it is endemic, touching all, blighting the lives of the majority. In the words of Kofi Annan:

“Corruption is an insidious plague that has a wide range of corrosive effects on societies. It undermines democracy and the rule of law, leads to violations of human rights, distorts markets, erodes the quality of life, and allows organized crime, terrorism and other threats to human security to flourish.”

(quoted by Frank Vogel in *Waging War on Corruption*)

Since the founding of Transparency International 20 years ago, there has been some progress. TI has spread its message and its tools, exposing corruption in many countries. Other organisations followed. Conventions and laws were made. But laws only work if they are implemented and obeyed – often they are not.

IGI is part of that battle against the evil of corruption, but IGI is DIFFERENT. IGI is a Christian organization, motivated by God's law. It is not an organization of grand statements and global statistics, but a partnership between Christians in UK and in countries of Africa, mobilizing ordinary people to cleanse their own communities. As John Githongo is quoted:

“Corruption cannot be tackled from the top. It has to be confronted from the grassroots.”
(quoted in *Daily Nation* (online), 24 April 2013)

You can help this partnership by praying for, or otherwise supporting, IGI projects such as those below. For more information, please see our website: www.igi-integrity.com . Or visit our Facebook group (114264381979403).

Rwanda

Rwandan Initiative for Governance, led by Hilaire Muhire, is the newest FIT to be established in the IGI Family. They are trying to find the finance to set up an office that will help them to gain wider support for projects such as promoting honesty and integrity in schools.

Countries such as Rwanda have high populations of young people – the urgent task is to instill integrity at an early age, before corrupt ways become assumed.

Cameroon

FITCAM, led by Stephen Asek, has been building on the successful projects in University of Buea which trained staff in the identification and elimination of fraud. They have been tracking the use of over 1.2 billion FCFA committed by the Ministry of Higher Education to the University of Buea. They ensured that the money was used on what it was intended for – e.g. construction of a new laboratory and teaching block for Health Sciences.

FITCAM needs a sponsor to extend this work to other universities. Otherwise, money for education will end up in private bank accounts.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Martin Zadig Nzabara and IGI DRC are sponsoring a Seminar on “How to create and strengthen non-violent youth movements, peace building, and local governance in the city of Bukavu on April 26-27. This will build on their successful workshops on corruption in higher education, and enable them to develop support for the next stage of this project.



Kenya



Members of the Community Taxpayers' Association in Korogocho (Nairobi) and others served as accredited observers in the recent Kenyan presidential elections. Observer training was provided beforehand, with a view to ensuring the elections passed off fairly and peacefully. The work was done in collaboration with Sentinel Project on Genocide Prevention.

Of course, this is all in addition to the enthusiastic anti-corruption work by CTAs such as Korogocho and Kawangware, as they monitor local government spending to see that it reaches those who need it. They tremendous work mobilizing the local people to take responsibility for their communities.

These CTAs in Nairobi are two of the most active of 12 CTAs overseen by our General Secretary, Sakwa Buliba, often in desperately poor urban areas. IGI UK provides limited support, but very few of them have any substantial funding, and often struggle to train or resource their members.

Points for Prayer

- Christians in all these countries to be committed to integrity in their own lives
- Safety for these IGI activists challenging vested interests
- Success in gaining grants to enable these projects to take place
- Those in Nigeria and Ghana who are keen to start their own IGI groups
- Increased awareness and support by Christians in UK and Africa

and

- Thank God for a generally peaceful election in Kenya!

Don't forget to tell us if you are changing your email address