

Burundi Report – June 19 to July 6

This has been a packed two weeks. There has been great ministry, significant networking with Christian leaders and businessmen and growth in the vision and purpose of For His Glory here in Burundi.

Let me begin with the networking developments. God is so faithful! He has opened up such great doors to meet some wonderful men and women of God whose lives show the integrity that is so desperately needed here in all areas of the Burundian society.

Chris introduced me to Jean de Dieu. Jean is a wholesale dealer of petroleum fuels to local gasoline station owners. He and Jean Claude, who I met last year, are a part of a networking group of Christian business people who want to help develop and stabilize the business markets, especially between other Christian businesses. Their vision is great and I think it will prove to be a relationship that can open the way for American businessmen and women to be involved in the development of this nation and to have some unique investment opportunities. I will write a more detailed report on this later.

I met another friend of Chris named Everest. He was educated in Europe in agriculture. He is in the business of developing a stronger breed of cow from Tanzania that will produce greater quantities of milk than the breed common to Burundi. He is selling the cows to rural farmers. They pay for the cow with the milk it produces. He has also bought a lot of land in these rural areas for growing the grass the cows eat and many other varieties of vegetables and fruits. He wants to develop a small processing plant in the country where he can pasteurize milk for distribution down to Bujumbura and other major cities. He is also involved in an English speaking elementary school developed for orphans. Other families also send their kids there. It is apparently one of the better private schools in the city. Everest is a man of great vision and I believe will be a very good networking partner for developing business projects.

God continues to open doors for ministry. I am preaching in local churches, house meetings, small conferences and seminars and also in local business fellowships that often meet during the lunch break. In all of these I am greatly encouraged. God is moving by His Spirit. People are making decisions for Christ. We are also praying for the sick and ministering the Word of God while experiencing a true move of His Spirit among the people. We have ministered at Alberic's home church and again at Sylvain's home cell group which has nearly 60 people attending. We returned to the house meeting from last year that had the large group of young adults. The Spirit of God is really moving among them. They are a true inspiration and the future of this great nation. We also returned to the home cell meeting of Liberat. She is a Member of Parliament here in Burundi and also an outspoken leader for the Twa; herself being Twa. She cares for a number of Twa orphans and I was pleased to present to her the shipment of clothing for the orphans that was a gift from Phillip Macri of Macri's Sports in New Castle, PA. Thanks again, Phil! Their gratitude was overwhelming and brought tears to my eyes. Something so small can mean so much!

Chris also connected me with Pastor Paddy, a Ugandan minister that the Lord led to Burundi to start an outreach and church here in Bujumbura. This man is truly a wonderful man of God, full of integrity and also full of the Spirit of the Lord. He has asked me to share in a conference that his church is sponsoring this next week. Pray for God to pour out his Spirit at this conference. Paddy also invited me to minister with him in the local prison ministry. It was just amazing! This 'church' of over 500 met and praised God like 'free' men and women. They evangelize in the prison and have seen a steady growth of new believers. At our meeting about a dozen came forward for prayer.

Onesphore and I have continued to discuss future ministry opportunities and I believe that Harvest for Christ is going to be a major focus of the ministry of For His Glory in Burundi. I am truly looking forward to working more closely with Onesphore in the days ahead. In their annual summer outreach last August they witnessed in villages in all the provinces of Burundi, doing one on one evangelism and saw over 20,000 first time decisions for Christ. God is really moving in this group. I had a great opportunity to speak at a small leadership conference for the workers of Harvest for Christ. It was just Great!!

Onesphore has also organized a large outreach to the Twa. The Twa, as we have mentioned before, are a pigmy tribe that are indigenous to Burundi. However, they only represent a very small percentage of the total population of Burundi and have lived for many generations now as a significantly disenfranchised people. The government has given Harvest for Christ a large piece of land in the Moravia area. There they have been helping the Twa to build new 'mud brick' houses. They broke ground recently for a primary school and a housing facility for the teachers of the school. They will also build a secondary school and clinic in the near future, and if God supplies also a Bible School to train young leaders for the future of the Twa and all of Burundi. I went to this area last weekend with a group from South Carolina and we worked on three houses, carrying trees for roofing material and digging trenches for the foundations of these homes. It is hard for us as Americans to understand the poverty of these people. We are helping them to move into houses made with mud bricks! The one I dug trenches for was maybe 25' x 15'. When the father thanked us at the end of the day, you would have thought we had just helped build his family a mansion. For them it was. They had been living in a grass hut no bigger than a minivan. I cannot even write this story without crying.

If you consider that Burundi is one of the ten poorest countries in the world and that the Twa have been significantly neglected by the Burundian government, the world and even the Church, it will begin to put into perspective the poverty and deprivation these people live in. I consider it an honor to touch the lives of such a people for the Glory of His Name. He WILL have a people out of every TRIBE, tongue and nation. Rev 5:9

The city of Ngozi and the surrounding region suffered heavily from the long civil war. In this region are many orphans from all three tribes; the Hutu, Tutsi and Twa. Onesphore shared with me the vision of Harvest for Christ and their desire to reach out in this needy area. I am asking you to pray for For His Glory International. I am asking the Lord, "How can For His Glory help these poor orphans and all the people of Ngozi to find the

Love of Jesus?" I believe He will show us how! In Ps 81:10 the Lord declares himself to us. He is the One who brought us out of bondage. Then he says "...open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it." The mouth is an instrument of speech and of voice. It is the gate where the ideas, visions, imaginations and purposes of the heart pour forth. God wants us to open our mouths wide. He wants us to speak and express vision and purpose and will and imagination but in a dimension that is greater than our own; in a wide dimension; in His dimension. If we let Him, He will fill us with His voice, His purpose, His vision. And then through us He will declare Himself to the multitudes who do not know Him.

I have battled through some sickness and am much better. Thanks for your continued prayers. Even getting my visa extended was a 3 day process. There are spiritual forces at work here that do not want this work to go forward. In Ephesians 6 Paul tells us to fight a good fight and to pray that the opportunity to share the Gospel with boldness may be made available to us. Thanks for the prayers and for your continued financial support. The needs here are great and as God opens the doors for us we are expecting Him to provide an abundant supply of finances that will make it possible for us to bring into Burundi a source of great help for those in need.

The weeks ahead will be filled with more ministry opportunities. Pray that God will continue to pour our His Spirit on this people. Pray especially for the long and detailed process of being registered with the government of Burundi. Being registered as a Non-governmental organization is a difficult and tedious process. I am asking the Lord for his help and great favor. This will be the major focus of my last weeks here. Please pray for this process to go smoothly and that we can complete it before I return to the US.

Many thanks and greetings to all of you.
Your brother,
Andy

PS. Unfortunately, while my camera is taking some really great pictures (for a camera man like me) I cannot get it to upload to my laptop. If I can get this fixed I will send some pictures to those of you who receive reports via email.