

Burundi Report 7/27 to 8/9

These past two weeks have been filled with Peace and the Presence of God. One of the reasons for this has been some great prayer meetings both here and in the US. With you praying back home and also experiencing a great ‘shaking’ in the heavenlies here in Burundi, I just know God is ‘preparing’ some mighty results. In fact, I Cor 2:9 says even before we have prayed He has already been preparing the blessing He will give and it will be unlike anything we have seen, heard or even imagined. Even so, let it be Lord!

In addition to much prayer I have spent a large amount of time working on some teaching segments that we will use in the Burundi Christian Training Institute. No formal name has actually been given as yet, so for the moment that is how I am referring to it. I am trusting the Lord for the development of the curriculum. Onesphore and I have had some good conversation on what types of subjects should be taught and we believe we are getting a clearer picture of how the Lord wants us to structure the training. I will give a full report later on the proposed structure of the training. We will want all of you to pray that God will use it to provide a unique training opportunity and for a time when He will give a great outpouring of His Spirit on the young Christian leaders here in Burundi.

Thank you also for your continued prayers as we press forward with our request for NGO (non-governmental organization) status here in Burundi. Chris has been diligently working with our consultant to make sure that all our documents are properly translated and submitted. Due to the fact that For His Glory International, Inc. is a ‘young’ organization (we incorporated in the US in 2007) the Burundian government wanted me to provide a full resume of my own experience as a minister having done missionary work in foreign countries. Wow! Talk about a memory shake up! I sat down one day and worked on as much detail as I could recall of the many opportunities the Lord has given to me over these last 30 years. Can you say with me – God is Faithful! May the Lord give us thirty more years with “exponential” outpourings of His Spirit and blessing!

Networking opportunities continue. I met two young men with Hope Outreach Ministries. They are very young, early twenties, and wanted to connect and pray and discuss their ministry and how FHGI might help and advise in the future. They are an evangelism group similar in some ways to Harvest for Christ. They go into communities and hold open meetings and do one-on-one evangelism. They are truly ‘anointed’ for this type ministry. As an example, they recently were in Kabezi, a community not far from Bujumbura. After spending 4 days doing one-on-one evangelism, their team saw 395 people come to Christ!

With so many young adults out there doing the ground work of evangelism and seeing so many come to Christ, I think you can begin to see why the Lord has so clearly spoken to us to assist with training and discipleship. In fact this was the main point of discussion with these two young men during our meeting.

I also had another opportunity to visit with Gildas Ndiokubwayo. I met Gildas last year at Hope Radio. We talked this week at length about how to use radio as a tool for

providing the nation access to the training segments of the Burundi Christian Training Institute. I genuinely believe that the radio will be a great 'weapon' in our warfare! I hope to also see us have a radio segment that will mirror Good Morning Pittsburgh! – Good Morning Burundi!

On Sunday morning 8/2 I ministered at Minevam Church in Gatumba and at a home meeting near Chris' office in the evening. Both meetings were just awesome. God met us by His Spirit. We had many opportunities to pray for the sick and to minister in word of knowledge and prophecy. God's Word is so Good! It is a pleasure to see God at work here among the people of Burundi.

This past Sunday 8/9 I had no scheduled preaching appointments so I decided to visit Trinity Tabernacle and get a chance to hear my dear brother Pastor Paddy Musoke preach and minister. "I tell you"; that man can preach! He invited me to take a few minutes and greet the congregation. Before church that morning I had been meditating on Psalm 29 where David describes the majesty of the voice of the Lord. I shared with them about my first visit to the Niagara River and Niagara Falls. When you stand on the deck of the 'little boat' that takes you to the foot of that great waterfall, the sound of the water is deafening. All other sounds are completely drowned out. May it be ever so in our lives Lord. May your voice, even when it is a whisper, drown out all other voices. May we hear you and know you in your great majesty! Wouldn't you know it! Paddy preached that morning from Ezek 47 about the River of the Spirit that flows from the temple of God. I want to be in that Water of Life that is "deep enough to swim in – a river that no one can cross."

At a social level I was also quite busy. Chris invited me to attend a special party with his family to acknowledge the secondary school graduation of one of his cousins. It was special in part because I also had opportunity to meet Chris' only living uncle. The war and sickness have taken its toll on Burundi and all families have felt the impact of it in one form or another. These type gatherings are special for them – to connect and appreciate loved ones is always special.

My dear friend Liberate, who sits in the Parliament, invited me to attend her eldest son's secondary school graduation celebration. Since the tragic death of her husband some years ago, she has been very influential as an encouragement to other members of the Twa to accept the challenge from God to rise up and serve as best they can in the Burundian society. It was a special day for her and her son, Jesus Florian. He not only was graduating (something that many Twa do not do) but he had the highest academic record of anyone in his graduating class. When he stepped forward to be recognized for this special honor and also receive his diploma a fellow student shouted out that he was a Twa and upon hearing that the whole crowd of people stood to their feet and applauded this young man. It was an historic day for Jesus Florian, for the Twa and for Burundi - a true sign of their progress. Jesus Florian stood up at the celebration at his home and gave glory to Jesus for all that He had done in his life and asked everyone to pray for him as he goes forward with his intentions to attend university. Please pray for him.

I felt truly honored to be invited to this celebration. There were many members of Parliament, as well as a host of friends and family. I was then surprised. Jesus Florian and Liberate asked me to speak and share from God's Word with all their guests. My heart was overwhelmed. I asked the Lord what I could share in just a few words and my spirit was filled with Paul's words in Philippians 1:6 "He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion in the day of Jesus Christ."

The Twa have been very special for Amy and I and this trip has only confirmed a special call from God to reach out to them. I consider their friendship an honor. Sometime before they asked me to speak I turned to my friend Olivier who was seated next to me and said to him, "Olivier, I am a blessed man. I have traveled over the face of this earth and now here I am again on the other side of the world from my home and my family and I am seated among a noble people. I feel honored to be here."

After returning to my 'house' I 'walked' in the living room and prayed. I was asking the Lord very simply to confirm to me His calling concerning our outreach to the Twa. These development projects like the one in Busiga are 'significant' and I wanted to just ask once more that He would provide clear confirmation for all of us that this is in fact His direction for us. I am sure you all understand how your heart can be pulled by the needs of others. I just wanted for Him to confirm that it was not just genuine compassion for the Twa, but in fact His leading. This was my prayer.

I then went into my office to get my Bible. I have been reading through the Psalms while here in Burundi and it has been my habit to read them before bed and when I get up each day that I am here. I have often read the Psalms, five chapters per day; just a simple method to take you through them in one month of reading. It was Sunday the 9th; time to read chapters 41 - 45. I opened to the 41st Psalm and began to read: "Blessed is he who considers the poor..." I don't know about you, but nothing is coincidence to me. I know my life is in His Great Hand and my day; my moments are filled with His Spirit. I just sat there and wept. Could he have answered my prayer any quicker than that?!

Many thanks to all of you who stand with us in prayer and in financial support. I pray even now that the God of the whole earth will bless you and meet you right where you are; to pour His Spirit and His Blessings into your life.