

Greetings in the Wonderful Name of Our Lord Jesus!

This report, as you can see from the dates above, is for almost three weeks instead of two. I did this in order to include testimony of the Revival Festival Conference sponsored by Trinity Tabernacle and Pastor Paddy Musoke, and a report also on the commissioning service of the Harvest for Christ evangelistic workers.

Let me begin though with saying how important your prayers have been to this outreach. When I think on all the things that the Lord has done so far I can only say thank you Lord for people who are faithful to pray. As you read this report, I ask that the Lord will encourage you to continue to pray. As you see what has happened I want you to realize how much you have been a part of these great events. During these weeks, I have been hit with some unpleasant sicknesses, but the Lord was faithful to heal me and deliver me out of them. Thanks so much and please keep praying.

This time period started with another visit to one of my favorite home cell meetings. I have told you before of this young adult group. There is such fire and hunger for God in their lives. I honestly just love to be among them. Sonia and her mom host this meeting in their home and it is truly a great blessing – a place where God is pouring in and pouring out of His Wonderful Holy Spirit!

I mentioned in the last report of some teachings I gave to some of the staff and leaders of the Harvest for Christ ministry which is under the direction of Onesphore. There was an additional session during this conference and I was given an opportunity to speak on the subject of deliverance and casting out demons. That's right! Casting out demons. The last few years that Harvest for Christ has sent out these teams, they have seen many people come to Jesus and many others who were delivered from the oppression of demon spirits. Witchdoctors and others involved in witchcraft were delivered and burned their fetishes and black magic paraphernalia. I consider it a real privilege and blessing that WE (all of us at FHGI and all of our friends) were able to have a small part in 'sending' this amazing group of young people.

They also had a commissioning service this past Saturday afternoon and I was asked to speak a word of encouragement to them as they prepare to depart and take on their various assignments throughout each of the provinces of Burundi. Standing before nearly 250 young adults (another 150 were meeting in another city) who are on fire for God and ready to go out into the highways and byways for Jesus just absolutely thrilled my heart. I wish each of you could have been there with me and seen the faces of this eager group of young adults who are truly laying their lives down for Jesus.

I assure you that when you hear the testimonies you will not only be amazed but also blessed when you consider that your prayers are helping to make this evangelistic outreach possible. One of our future reports will include a big section on the AMAZING testimonies of this group of over 400 when they return from the two weeks of outreach.

God continues to confirm some great relationships and I believe these are going to be a real benefit as we press on toward the purposes and vision that the Lord has for FHGI here in Burundi. I ministered again at the home of Sylvain and Rita. What a precious couple they are and what a great meeting they host in their home. People are really hungry for God, His Spirit and His Word. And God is meeting them as they gather in homes across this nation.

I ministered again for two Sundays at Minevam-Kigobe Church with Pastor Aime. This church is so amazing. Over half the congregation is under the age of 25. Their potential is awesome and their openness to the Holy Spirit is just so sweet. Pastor Aime is a very humble man of God and I expect to hear more amazing things from this young church in the future. I also spoke again at the BCB business luncheon in Bujumbura.

This past week I attended the conference sponsored by Trinity Tabernacle and Pastor Paddy and his lovely wife Polly. The ministers were from Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Ghana, Kenya and one guy you all know from the U.S. It was a real wonderful time of encouragement for the Body of Christ here in the city of Bujumbura. It was a true privilege for me to attend these meetings and to be included as a conference speaker. I believe that God is going to truly use Pastor Paddy to strengthen the Body of Christ here in Burundi and I believe that God is going to continue to solidify our relationship so that together we might truly impact the nation of Burundi. Pray for Paddy and his wife Polly. Ask God to pour out a great blessing on them and make their ministry here even more fruitful.

On Monday July 20, Chris and I made a trip with Onesphore to the city of Ngozi and to a small community called Busiga. In 2008 during the summer evangelism outreach, Harvest for Christ saw many people come to Jesus in Busiga and the result was that a small church was planted. During this past year the church grew from around 15 to 100. One of the converts was an elderly man named Mark. His story is unique because he is over 60 and a member of the Twa (the pygmies of Burundi). Mark then promptly led his entire family to Jesus and they began to attend the church. This is in itself an amazing thing considering how the Twa do not generally 'mix' well with other Burundians. The long unfortunate history of the Twa has made them very distrustful of anyone and this only enhances their marginalized condition. Mark is absolutely one of the most bubbly and joyful men you will ever see. I have some great photos of him that I hope to share with you later from our website. The church in Busiga is still growing and among them is a growing number of the Twa.

Mark invited us to come to his village and to his home. His "village" is scattered all over the steep hillsides of several rolling hills. You cannot image what I saw. 92 families with lots of needs. My heart just wept. Mark's house almost defies description. If I tell you it was made of sticks, leaves, grass and some mud you may not be surprised. But what is staggering is that his house was smaller than the size of a six passenger minivan and he, his wife and four grown children live there and sleep there. The "bed" his wife and he sleep in was made of bamboo like sticks. It was off the floor about two feet in one corner and the children all sleep on the ground beneath them. And there was still 'room'

for the small spot where they cooked their rice and potatoes campfire style. I took pictures but no amount of photos or film can begin to describe the destitute conditions the Twa live in. My heart and my eyes wept.

Stephen Kuert, the missionary who assisted us last year in our outreach to Burundi told me recently about a friend of his who worked in Burundi for some years with an agency that assisted the nation with agricultural developments. This man's research of the Twa and other disenfranchised peoples led him to believe that the Twa may in fact be the most marginalized and deeply disenfranchised people in the whole earth. I have seen poverty and some marginalized people in other parts of the world, but I can tell you I have not seen anything like the Twa. And it is more than their poverty. As pygmies, they have been viewed as the outcasts of the Burundian society for generations. Many Christians here in Burundi want to help them, but societal as well as financial conditions make it difficult for this to work well.

As many of you know already, Amy and I have been praying for the Twa even before I came to Burundi last year. Having read and done a small amount of research about the Twa we had asked the Lord to please give us an opportunity to reach them for Jesus and for the Glory of His Kingdom. A few weeks ago, you will recall that the Lord gave us another opportunity to meet some of the Twa in another outreach with Onesphore. We were with a team from Charleston SC and we were involved with helping the Twa to build mud brick houses. This outreach was in the area of Murahmvia.

I believe that God is leading us to develop an outreach project in this Busiga area and while we pray that it will reach many Burundians, we pray that it will especially impact the lives of the Twa of this area. In the next weeks/months we will communicate with you more on this project and how we can each help to reach the Twa with the Love of Jesus.

Over these next five weeks please pray that the Lord will help us to finalize all of the paperwork for the filing of our NGO (non-governmental organization) status with the government here in Burundi. This is a big need and we are trusting the Lord for the completion of these details.

During these first 7 weeks God has truly blessed us. It would not be possible to have completed all this work without the assistance of my dear friend and translator Chris Ndikumana. As you pray, give thanks to the Lord for Chris and pray that the Lord will continue to bless this wonderful man of God. And I will add a big PTL for Chris since he just got engaged to a wonderful young lady named Nadia. Our prayers and blessings go out to them both.