

These past two weeks have been filled with both the ordinary and the extraordinary. God is such a God of variety!

Our main target has been the finalization of all paperwork needed for filing with the government to obtain the NGO status. We can happily say that all the papers are now with the Director of that bureau and we are trusting the Lord for a smooth approval process. Please continue to pray for this NGO status request. We will be asked to come in to meet with the Director before I leave Burundi and answer any final questions related to our request. We will then open a bank account here in Burundi as this is one of the final requirements for the status. Over the next several months after my return to the US, we will outline for all of you the complete details of our formal proposal to the Burundian government. We have a large vision but we also have a BIG GOD!

Our ministry opportunities started off at Hope Radio. Some of you may remember that I visited Hope Radio last year as well. I did a 30 minute English interview with one of the young radio announcers named Gildas. Gildas hosts this program each week as a part of Hope Radio's English language segment. In addition to this program, Chris and I also recorded another 30 minute Bible teaching segment. I preached and Chris interpreted to Kirundi. They broadcast the segment later that week.

I was honored to speak at the final session of a youth conference held by the Kigobe Minevam Church. This church is a wonderful fellowship filled with many youth and young adults. We had a great meeting to cap off their three day conference. We finished off the evening with a wonderful time of praise and worship.

Chris and I continue to meet on Saturday mornings for prayer, specifically for the vision and direction for FHGI in Burundi. These times of prayer have been truly great and I appreciate all of you back home who also continue to lift up the ministry of FHGI. We are trusting the Lord for great things here in Burundi.

We also ministered again this past week at the home cell meeting of Sylvain and Rita. This was our fourth time with them and they are truly like family to us. We are praying that God will continue to use this meeting as a great source of blessing to many believers. This past Sunday we preached again at Gatumba Minevam Church and the experience was just fantastic. In addition to the warm welcome of the people and their excellent heart-felt worship we also saw four more people come to Christ at the conclusion of the service. I cannot begin to tell you what a joy it is for me to see people come to the Lord and also find a good place to fellowship and grow in the Lord.

This past weekend also presented a great highlight for our trip as we attended the Harvest for Christ testimony service. This meeting was filled with a large portion of the 400 plus 'Harvesters' who spent two weeks earlier this month going into village by village throughout the various provinces of Burundi. In each village they shared the gospel one on one with literally thousands of people. They met them in the marketplace, in their

homes, in the fields working. It was just the most amazing time of testimony. I hope to have some more details of this outreach for you in some later reports. But let me just mention a few points from this great outreach.

First of all, these young people shared one on one with over 50,000 people in just two weeks. Over 26,000 people made a decision to accept Jesus Christ as Savior! In addition they saw many others recommit their lives to Jesus. They saw whole families come to Christ. They saw husbands and wives getting saved and marriages being restored. They saw the lame walk, the deaf hear, the dumb speak and many other remarkable healings. Many were delivered from demonic powers.

In the face of threats on their lives, they boldly witnessed to several hundred witchdoctors as well as witnessing in Muslim communities. One group was even beaten by the servants of a witchdoctor. But after the local authorities arrested the offenders, the Harvesters simply said they wished not to bring judgment against them, but only asked the local authorities for permission to continue to witness to others within that community. God honored them with many others who accepted Christ in that region. In response to these efforts the Harvest for Christ teams saw over 100 witchdoctors and several hundred Muslims converted to Jesus Christ.

This outreach was a testimony of all that God is truly doing in Burundi. It was an answer to many prayers. It lit a fire in these 400 young adults that I am sure will burn in them all the days of their lives. Can you imagine how changed your Christian walk would become if you had laid your hands on a young man who had been deaf and dumb all his life and hear him then speak his first words to his mother while standing in the middle of a potato field. I am telling you, you would never be the same again. Or see a witchdoctor, who had used powerful black magic to rule over the lives of people with fear, now be overcome by the love of Jesus and surrender their life to Him. And then see the witchdoctor take all the fetishes and idols and burn them for everyone to see! I am telling you, you would never be the same again! Burundi has over 400 new ministers, young men and women, who have seen what God can do when you yield yourself to Him. All this was done in a two week span. Of course God has been working on these people for a long time, and now this work of Harvest for Christ during these two weeks will show fruit for eternity. Praise be to God! I am thrilled for the connection which the Lord has given us with Onesphore and Harvest for Christ.

The Lord provided more wonderful opportunities for visiting with Christian friends. The month of August is a time when many Burundians who live out of the country travel back to Burundi for graduation ceremonies, weddings and vacation with family. I was blessed to be invited to several such occasions. I am touched by the hearts and generosity of the people of Burundi. Family means so much to them. I even had a chance to help move our friends Evariste and Annick and their family to a new home. Packing and unpacking! It's the same no matter where in the world you do it.

Two final highlights of these past two weeks deserve special note. I was very blessed to attend the wedding of Olivier and Natalie Hakizimana. Many of you will remember that

Olivier was my translator last year. It was a joy to attend a Burundian wedding and especially this one. What a time of joy and celebration. Some of you may know about the drummers of Burundi. Burundian drummers are some of the most famous and well known in all of Africa. In fact, the national drummers travel worldwide. What a special treat to see the performance of these drummers at the wedding. I caught some of it on video and I hope to upload it to our website as soon as I return. You will truly enjoy the 'entertainment'.

From August 14<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> the Lord gave me a special treat. A wonderful couple from Time Square Church in New York City came and stayed with me at my home here in Burundi. David and Akram Tubian were more than visitors for me. They were a true blessing from God. Their fellowship on a daily basis was very refreshing. God has been using this couple in outreaches to Burundi since 2007. I was so blessed to have them here. Chris, Alberic and I and several other friends were just daily touched by them. In a word, they are just 'sweetness'. To meet them and be with them these past 10 days was a real treat. Time Square Church as many of you may know was started by David Wilkerson some years ago in a theatre on Broadway. It is now a church of over 7000 members. Continue to pray for David and Akram. Their testimony is very powerful and I know the Lord is going to continue to use them for His Kingdom.

This will be my last report before returning home. I leave on August 31 and will arrive back home in Pittsburgh on Sept 1. Please continue to pray as this final week is still very critical and we do not want to miss any of the opportunities that the Lord has for us. After returning home I will write a final report to give you details of my final week here. Again many blessings to all of you for your prayers. Keep them going! And for all of you who continue to support our ministry financially, I just want to say thank you again. Without all of you praying and giving we would not be here in Burundi. We are all For His Glory!

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