

FRIENDS OF BURUNDI

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 NOVEMBER 2008 IN THE CHAPEL AT THE HAYES CONFERENCE CENTRE, SWANWICK

Present: Trustees: Keith Anderson (Treasurer), William Challis (Chairman) and Hugh James (Hon Sec). (3) plus
Committee members: Sue Finlayson (Minutes Sec), Pat and Pam Brooks, Georgette Butera and Alison Gill (5)
plus 22 members, 4 people requesting membership and 7 non-members

The Chairman opened the meeting with prayer

Apologies were received from Andrew Maclay (Trustee), Margaret Leverment, Geoff and Jackie Bishop, Richard Dickson, (CORD), Harold Adeney, Janet Greenland, Ruth & David Shillitoe
Harold Adeney specifically sent Greetings.

1. The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2007
It was PROPOSED BY Keith Anderson and SECONDED by Pam Brooks with all in favour that the Minutes be signed as a correct copy by the Chairman.
2. Matters Arising There were none.
5. Questions on the Annual Report (Previously sent to members by email)
William Challis drew attention to the distributions made to projects, the number of visits made to Burundi and the positive CMS Burundi Bishops' meeting in Oxford. On behalf of the meeting William thanked Hugh for his work in preparing the Report. It was PROPOSED by Pat Brooks and SECONDED by Georgette Butera with all members in agreement that the Annual Report be adopted.
6. Questions on the Financial Statement (attached to the Annual Report)
 - i. Keith Anderson commented that we had received £766 from Gift Aid and there is more to come.
 - ii. Mary Sharp thanked FoB for the donation to support the printing & subsequent distribution of an additional 1000 Dr Len Sharp's "Great Truths of the Bible"
 - iii. A report had been received from the Goat Project. (Available on request)
 - iv. The gift from the Sussex Police Choir was gratefully acknowledged.
It was PROPOSED by Vivien James and SECONDED by Ralph Hangar with all in favour that the 2007-8 Report and Accounts be adopted.
7. Election of Officers and Committee
It was PROPOSED by Marion Wright and SECONDED by Ian Leakey with all members in agreement that the Chairman, Hon Secretary and Treasurer be re-elected. It was PROPOSED by Ralph Hangar and SECONDED by Vivien James with all members in agreement that the current Committee Members be re-elected and that Roger and Miranda Bowen be co-opted.

8. Communication
Hugh James asked if members were receiving their e-mails and requested them to inform him of any problems.
9. Visits to Burundi
 - i. Jane Hill: CORD (Christian Outreach Relief and Development), Rutana, Burundi.
CORD is based in Leamington Spa and operates in post-conflict situations in Burundi, Chad, N. Uganda and SE Asia and possibly in DR Congo and Sierra Leone at a later stage. Their aim is peace building for communities specifically - homebuilding for returning refugees; providing sanitation and water points; building schools (4 to date) with the one at Kubingo having 400 children attending; encouraging girls to attend schools; and creating school gardens to grow veg. They are funded by two large organizations and several churches and schools.
 - ii. Peter Sanders : Bethesda Project, Muyinga
Peter runs Keppleway, an Outward Bound Centre, near Broughton in Cumbria, combining facilities for impaired and non-impaired people. Bishop Eraste, Muyinga Diocese visited the Centre and invited Peter to set up a similar project in Muyinga, feeling that as yet, Burundi did not value disabled people. Peter, with Steve McIlhenny, met with Archbishop Bernard and four Bishops in Burundi in June when it was decided to pilot the scheme in Muyinga. From November 2009 Stephen and Lucy McIlhenny will work with staff there, and Evariste, the Project Co-ordinator will work at Keppleway from June 2009. There will be a regular exchange of staff and volunteers over the next 5 years. Praise to God that an architect has designed the Centre complex free of charge. The Centre will include a range of outdoor activities intended to encourage impaired and non-impaired to work together.
 - iii. Geoffrey and Georgette Butera: Herridge Technical School, Karusi
Herridge School was opened in September 2007 and there are now 80 children attending. The School is a good local Christian witness. It has a strong student Bible group and choir. Each child is provided with a meal a day. There are financial difficulties, causing the second intake to be reduced in number. The financial state has been relieved to some extent by the giving, encouragement, and prayer from friends. A YWAM team with Alison Gill visited the school and a team of 8 from UK encouraged the school with their visits. Geoffrey and Georgette give praise to God that the vision has been realized.
 - iv. Jane and Ralph Hangar: African Pastors Fellowship
Ralph said that in 1999 while Burundi was still at war, Pastor Nicodemus had only six Christian books (including his Bible, Hymn Book and Prayer Book) and yet had been a Pastor for 35 years. Now, commentaries for the whole NT are available in Kirundi, mainly translated from Swahili. Pray that they get into churches. CEPRODILLIC, the Burundi Christian Literature Committee, intend running a course at their Conference for potential writers in Kirundi. Pray for more Burundi to write their own books. Ralph

emphasized the need to be careful how and what we give to nationals and to encourage them to contribute to the cost.

v. **Alison Gill, Bujumbura**

Alison gave several highlights of her visit to Burundi with YWAM. The group visited Herridge School and widows at the Karuzi Displaced Persons Camp with Georgette and the Buhiga Pastors' Conference with Rema Ministries. This covered issues of healing, forgiveness, reconciliation, peacebuilding and repatriation. **Pray for those who have lived in conflict situations, like Belfast, who want to work in other conflict situations.**

They visited Kayanza to share at the commune, noticing an amazing response of people wanting to learn from other countries. Burundi is not yet where it wants to be but there is real change. The Stordys' projects are being blessed and providing income. **Pray for Alison as she goes out to Burundi on 21 January and as she learns Kirundi and improves her French for the first 2 months – also for her networking, including meeting SAN, an organisation which works in partnership with Rhiannon Lloyd.**

vi. **Roger and Miranda Bowen**

The Burundi Encounter trip to Matana was a positive and rewarding time. **Pray for Archbishop Bernard at the peacekeeping meeting in Kigali.**

vii. **Sally Botteley**

Francois and Theo who started Rema Ministries were refugees, but now live in Burundi. They support those in Displaced Person (DP) Camps with HIV/Aids and assist returning refugees with repatriation. They teach mission and evangelism to Pastors who have been in Tanzania and missed out on training while in the Camps. **Pray that these Pastors will be accepted as equals in this complex situation.**

William Challis mentioned the possibility of funding this work from a FoB donation

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i. William reminded the meeting that Alison goes out to Bujumbura on 21 Jan; Pat and Pam Brooks to Matana on 27 January and he goes on the 29th. **Please pray for them.**
- ii. Pat Brooks mentioned that the African Bible Commentary is available.
- iii. William encouraged people to join as new members of FoB. Keith Anderson said that the £10 annual subscription remains the same for the next year.

There being no other business William thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting in prayer.