

## **SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS IN MAKAMBA**

The countrymen of Makamba Diocese have been flooded with showers of blessings from 26-29 August 2011 during the traditional thanksgiving crusade that the Presidential family organizes at the end of each year of his rule. For the very first time Makamba region was hosting thousands of visitors who have come from far and near to attend the crusade. Special guests had come from the USA, South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Belgium and Rwanda.

Both choirs (The Ebenezer Cathedral Choir and Gatwe parochial choir) were invited to entertain the guests through songs of praises while the Bishop of Makamba was appointed as one of the intercessors.

The first Lady Denise Nkurunziza (recently ordained as a pastor) opened the crusade with a powerful sermon emphasizing on self-evaluation starting from the Head of State to the lower citizen. The church leadership was also challenged. The whole week end has witnessed the real presence of God to whom many hundreds of people opened their hearts.

At the closing ceremonies at Kayogoro stadium all the participants to the crusade gathered around the national flag and raised their voices to pray for peace in Burundi. One of the church leaders commented:

“We were living in terrestrial paradise flooded with showers of blessings.”

## **EMBRACING A NEW SCHOOL YEAR IN BURUNDI**

The East African Community has not yet embraced a same school calendar. Some countries start the school year in January while others begin the year in September like Burundi. It is estimated that over 1 million young people have put on the school uniforms since September 12<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately there are big numbers of children who feel themselves alienated because they are poor enough and unable to purchase school required items by them. Some generous volunteers have assisted of course, but we still have over 3500 children among the repatriates who need a second hand.

Another category of school goes graduate from different institutions but opportunities of getting employments are very limited. In a country with a fragile peace availing jobs to graduated young people would one of the many ways to build lasting peace.

## **YOUTH FOR CHRIST FOR EVER**

The death has occurred to Mr Irakoze Lionnel (14 years old), a member of the Anglican youth church at Saint John's Chapel after a very short sickness on Thursday the first of September. He has left great sorrows to his parents who had him as a unique child.

The death has claimed also the life of Miss Julienne (21 years old) an active member of Ebenezer Choir in Makamba Cathedral who has been struck by an overspeeding bicycle on Friday 9<sup>th</sup>. The Bishop himself led the funeral services to encourage and comfort the bereaved families. The Universal Chastity Education wishes to use this opportunity to express to the above families the hearty condolences.