

# A Report on Her Visit to Burundi With Flame International May 2011

*By Lucie Bell*

## Thankyou:

1. for your prayers which were crucial for the effectiveness of our prayer ministry to the traumatised victims of both the recent war of 1994 – 2004 and the earlier genocides of 1961 in Rwanda and 1965 and 1972 in Burundi;
2. for your financial support for the trip. I thank the PCC, the church mission fund, the Monday missionary group fund, Faith, Hope and Charity shop, and individuals for their generosity, which not only funded my expenses, but also paid for food and lodging for the delegates who attended, about 120 church leaders, both Anglican and other denominations.



## How did I come to go?

Alison Gill mentioned the need in her prayer letter, and my husband, Paul, told me rather pointedly to go! I resisted until his needs were taken care of by our son`s family and the vicarage family. That gave me 3 weeks to prepare. The LORD overruled in so many

details which convinced me that He wanted me to go rather like Abram setting out from Haran at 75years old!

## The aim of Flame International is Isaiah 61 verse1:

To bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives, to release prisoners from darkness, and to bestow on them the oil of gladness.

The LORD has called Flame to go and heal trauma victims. They have ministered in the Sudan, in Rwanda, and different dioceses in Burundi at the invitation of the local church leaders. This trip, we went to two dioceses:

Matana, a rural location in the south, where Paul and I worked from 1969 to 1981. We had news of the theological college, and women`s work when the Bowens and the Brooks visited Totland.



## The Journey

Thankyou for your prayers for safety. I travelled on a Friday,

the day of THE (ROYAL) WEDDING! John Baldwin kindly took me to Redjet at Cowes, at which time the screen showed Kate arriving at the Abbey In THE DRESS. Then at Southampton we heard the Abbey`s beautiful choral music. The team met up at Heathrow and we had seats in the plane to sprawl across so I managed to doze a little overnight. During the break between changing planes at Nairobi we saw the news showing the wedding party on the palace balcony, so everyone was happy.



At Bujumbura we got our visas and Alison took us home to change currency and have lunch. We met our African

translators and went up to Matana in the minibus, rising from 3,500 (1100m) to 6,500 feet (2000m), so it became much cooler. In fact it rained heavily every day and I was glad of warmer clothes.

## Changes after 30 years

Tarmac roads, beautifully constructed by the Chinese, so no skiddy mud and no dust.  
Electric pylons carrying electricity mains although cuts could be frequent.  
More trees and less grassland, so fewer cows and more tea plantations.  
Everyone seems to have a mobile phone.  
Similar to the Isle of Wight, lots of constructions, upgrading of church buildings and roadside ribbon development.



## Accommodation

At Matana we lived in a charming guesthouse and the food was cooked by a professional chef. Midday meals at both centres were given by the Mothers' Union (M.U.). Many of our friends had died in the 30 years since we'd left, but I did meet 2 hospital colleagues, our old gardener, and an elderly Archdeacon. It was interesting recognising children too! I took gifts of headshades to both M.U. groups, and funds for their charities with AIDS orphans and widows, and they danced their joy!

## Sundays

We joined in the usual Sunday worship and gave our testimonies. Thankyou for praying for my Kirundi. It was a joy to speak it again and was surprising that words just came! They did appreciate the fact that our first son who was born in Burundi had 5 children, like a true Murundi! Music was a big thing and several choirs sang at all church services, with electric guitars, sets of drums, cymbals, trumpet, and keyboards. The team ministered healing after repentance to the hordes who came for prayer. Services were 3 to 4 hours long.



## Our specialised ministry

Started at 4 pm on the Sundays and went on till midday the following Friday. We were privileged to see the LORD heal every delegate's old wounds, and there was much praising at their newfound

freedom of spirit – some had been bound from the 60's as well as the 72 genocide, and the 10 year war from 94.

All our teaching was based on scripture, particularly generational sin as spelled out in Exodus 20 verse 4. In Mark's gospel, we read how the LORD sent out the 12 disciples, not only to preach repentance, but also, as in verse 7, they had authority over evil spirits, and verse 13, in His Name, to drive out demons, and anoint the sick with oil who were healed. And that's what we saw the LORD do. Hallelujah!



Each delegate who was a pastor or non-Anglican leader, was given a pack containing the lessons and cards we have used, to help them carry on the ministry themselves in their own parishes. Please continue to pray for them and for those of us on the team. The LORD fulfilled all His promises to us and was proved faithful again and again. Once more we realised the amazing power of His precious blood as the enemy was put to flight and prisoners were released from fears, and wounded hearts were healed.

There is power, power, wonder working power, in the blood of the Lamb, and we are reminded of that at every service of Holy Communion.

AMEN