

2 January 2010

Prayer points:

- Praise for excellent time with my parents. Pray they will continue to be touched by what they experienced and saw in Burundi.

- A good holiday and rest with Sheron in Kenya.

- Wisdom and Holy Spirit revelation as I prepare training materials.

- For God's help for Churches in Burundi to speak His message about the elections.

- My brother and his fiancée, protection in Afghanistan (Sarah returns to UK on 7 Jan.)

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Alison's Articles

New Year, new challenges

Happy New Year! May 2010 be a wonderful year where we see more of the Kingdom of heaven coming on earth!

I hope you've had a good Christmas. Mine was different but special. We had a great service at Church, seeing lots of people in their new clothes, followed by a picnic lunch on the beach for the Church children which



was brilliant. In a culture where children are not considered much it seemed very special the picnic was for the children. Later on we had 13 expat Christians over for a bring and share meal at our house which was also fun. We didn't have any turkey or trimmings but chicken casserole, pizza and an Egyptian pasta dish! We had however

been given some Christmas puddings and a Christmas cake which was a real treat.



It's been so special having my parents here in Burundi since 27th Dec. Somehow having them see and experience my life here makes such a difference. They have enjoyed Burundian hospitality and good weather. We fly together to Nairobi tonight - they then fly onto UK - as my Church in London has very generously raised funds for me to see my lovely friend Sheron there, also from our Church. Sheron and I are going to have a few days at the coast, then I'll spend a couple of nights in Nairobi at Sheron's, also meeting up

with Hugh who comes from our Church. It is such a huge blessing. Thank you to all who have given!

I'll be back in Burundi on 13th Jan. I shall then be working on training materials' preparation until February when I hope I will be going out to Churches to train pastoral workers etc.

Kirundi continues to move forward slowly. I think I will need to stick at it the whole time I live here! I can do some different tenses now though which is encouraging.

On 21st Jan it is 1 year since I moved to Burundi. I am so grateful to God for all He has done. Would you pray with me that over this next year I will be empowered and anointed to help bring some significant trauma healing training in churches here and that they will make use of it in their Church life?

Churches praying for peaceful elections

Some Christian organisations have recently held meetings for Church and other Christian leaders to encourage them to preach a message of peace and teach about how to pray for the forthcoming elections, being held from the end of May to September.

Before, during and after the genocide in 1972 and similarly in 1993, around the first democratic elections, subsequent assassination of

Burundi's first Hutu President and mass ethnic based killings which followed, the Church was silent. Involvement in politics was seen as a dirty thing. This must never happen again.

My Burundian friends here seem to be encouraged that the Church is being urged to use its prophetic voice this time. There are still however Churches which refuse to even attend such meetings

and who tell their members that even to go and vote is ungodly. Pray for a revelation of God's heart!



The S African peacekeepers who were protecting the leader of the final rebel group, the FNL, finally left Burundi on 31st December. Pray for continued security and stability.