

# Burundi Report 2011



**The Team.** Four of us, Revd. Hugh Baker, Elizabeth Baker, Mike Preston and I travelled to Bujumbura, Burundi for a twelve day ministry trip. We got on well as a team and looking back it is amazing to see all the things God did through our time there.



**Burundi** is on various lists as the poorest country in the world. Yet the people we met were truly rich in God. We were challenged and inspired by their sincere, passionate worship and prayer life. Also the passion of the people to share the gospel is inspirational. Our host organisation, 'Harvest for Christ', sent out 600 evangelists to share the gospel in the summer. Their evangelists have one meal to last all day before going out in twos from 9-4 to share the gospel in homes, offices and even in the fields. If they meet someone who is working, one evangelist will do their work for them, while the other shares the gospel. In the evening crowds of up to 3,000 attend to hear more or watch the Jesus film. They documented 32,000 decisions for Christ in this year alone! A majority of these join local churches but also 35 churches have been planted in recent years.

**The Prayer Ministry Appointments (PMA's).** We were so aware of your prayers! There was a great flow of the Holy Spirit in all the PMA's and people were deeply touched by God's love and set free from what held them. Here are some of the testimonies at the end of the course: 'Before the course I did not realise I had wounds, I thought it was my personality', '[I feel lighter. I am beginning to see things with different eyes. I feel holy](#)'. 'During the PMA I felt that something heavy on my heart was leaving step by step'. (After the PMA her husband saw the change in her attitude and phoned up to ask for his own PMA)! '[This country and this church need this ministry](#)'.

**Incidents.** The time there was not without its struggles. Some had illnesses, but they quickly passed. On most days there was no electricity and often no water. This hampered our ability to correspond with you, but God made a way through. On another day a rock struck Alison's windscreen. It almost went through and would have caused injury. The next day her head gasket blew and awaits repair. These were temporary trials for us, but ongoing ones for Alison who lives in Bujumbura. Please pray for her.

**The Way Forward.** At the end of our visit we had significant discussions to consider the way ahead. There is a need for the gospel to go deeper into people's hearts and lives and this is where Prayer Ministry can be very effective. In order to help Burundians to develop their own ministry we concluded the following: 1. Those on the course can start to use this ministry. (Some have been on two courses now and also assisted in the PMA's). 2. Chas will send out a quarterly email to all the participants to keep everyone involved in the ministry and supported from the UK. 3. We will also seek to resource them with good materials to ensure the quality of the ministry. 4. Later on Chas will visit again to bring encouragement and assessment of how they are doing. 5. Chas will also recommend if another course is required. This is exciting progress and very much an 'effective open door for ministry'.

We thank you so much for your prayers. We felt 'carried along' by them. Praise the Lord for all he has done! *On behalf of the team & with thanks for your prayers, Chas.*