



The Bethesda Project is part of  
The Keppleway Project,  
Cumbria, UK and is working in  
partnership with The  
Anglican Church of Burundi.



Confused? Disorientated? Feel like everything's upside down?!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW WORLD!

## Culture Shock!

Everyone tells you to expect **CULTURE SHOCK** but even "expecting" it did not quite prepare us for it!

For those who have lived abroad you will recognise the feelings of fear, loneliness, incompetency, dependence and a complete lack of control!

This hit us hard in the first few weeks as we realised we couldn't do even the simplest of things ourselves...make a cup of coffee, buy loo roll!, change a light bulb, buy a loaf of bread, post a letter etc etc...!

We have found this phase of moving to a new country difficult and have discovered that feeling unable to control our lives can make us irrationally and unreasonably angry about very minor things!

However...We have been so kindly looked after by Bishop Eraste and his wife Consolate, and by Evariste who lived with us at Keppleway for 2 months last year. They are providing for our every need and helping us as much as possible as we learn how to live in Burundi.



We also know that this phase will end! Every day we learn more and we appreciate each small achievement – like Steve buying eggs in the market (all by himself!), or Lucy managing to tell our worker in Kirundi that she didn't need to work tomorrow! The small successes feel large and we have been blessed with lots of kindness and lots of wise advice!

We appreciate being forced to depend more on God, we appreciate the opportunity to learn about and learn from another culture and we are looking forward to getting to know a people who have big smiles and warm hearts!



PICTURES  
OF OUR  
NEW  
HOME!



## A Shared Vision...

On our second day in Burundi we had our first official meeting of **The Bethesda Project in Burundi!** We met with Bishop Eraste and Evariste and discussed our dreams and expectations of the project.

It was an exciting meeting as we discussed the future of the project and began to look at the initial practicalities of achieving our end goal....

**To improve the status and quality of life for people who have disabilities in Burundi.**

A container full of equipment bought or donated by yourselves will be shipped from Northern Ireland by the Methodist Church Container Ministries towards the middle/end of March.

There is so much of value to the project in that container so we are relying on your prayers for the safe travel of our container by ship to Dar-es-Salaam and then by road to Bujumbura.

At Bujumbura port Bishop Eraste will deal with the customs officials and with transporting the container from Bujumbura to Musinga – please pray for low taxes at customs and for nothing to be stolen from the container.

We're hugely grateful to William Carson and the other volunteers who work for The Methodist Container Ministries. What they offer is an incredible service and has saved us a lot of work, a lot of money and a lot of headaches!

## Praying for us...

We are aware of so many people that are praying for us at the moment and we know that this has made a significant difference in the project so far...

We want to thank God for:

- His amazing provision of equipment and money

- Excellent communication between England and Burundi, despite many possible barriers

- Safety in all preparations and travel, UK and Burundi.

- Provision of a place for us to live and a cooker that works!

Please do continue to pray for us and for our co-workers in this next phase of the project.

Specific requests:

- **Safety for the container!**
- **Adjusting to the culture and learning the language**
- **Good working relationships within the team**
- **Wisdom as we research and plan how to go forward and in particular how to begin the project**

A common sight on the roads of Burundi!

## What's the next phase...?

**Short answer:** Language study, research and planning.

**Long answer:** The container of equipment will arrive in Burundi some time during June or July. Whilst this feels like a long time to wait for the equipment (not to mention our pillows!) we have been advised that these next 4-5 months are important times for us to adjust to the country, the culture and the language.

We will not be sitting soaking up the ambience however...apart from daily language study we will continue with fundraising, begin to develop links with other organisations; and we will research and then write a 5-10 year plan for the project.

This plan will include how to adapt Keppleway's activities into a Burundian culture, we will look at the needs, expectations and opportunities there are in Burundi to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities. We will also research the crucial question of how to make sure The Bethesda Project is sustainable?

## How are the finances going?!

**Your generosity has been incredible! This year there is enough money coming in monthly to cover what Steve and I need to live here in Burundi – thank you to all who contribute towards that.**

We are very grateful for the trust fund grant we received from The Anchor Foundation in November towards equipment for the project! We are also grateful for your personal commitment and giving which has accounted for a huge proportion of what has been raised so far.

**If you are interested in giving please do continue to give towards the project costs...**

Unfortunately it is too early to give an accurate idea of project costs over the next few months but we do still need money for travel, administration and training costs. Although Burundi is a terribly poor country it is also a relatively expensive one. For instance petrol for a return trip from Musinga to Bujumbura where a lot of our research and building of contacts will need to be done costs over £90.

We are working hard on making a budget and hope to send out a document in the near future which will give you a clear idea of the ongoing financial needs of the project.

**Thank you for your continued generosity!**

**The best way to continue sending donations is through Keppleway.**

Address: c/o Denise Elvy, The Keppleway Centre, Broughton-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA20 6HE

- o Cheques can be made payable to "The Keppleway Trust (Burundi)"
- o NOTE: We have moved from Justgiving to VirginMoneyGiving which is more cost effective for us. You can now give online at [www.virginmoneygiving.com](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com) Go to the main website and type in "The Bethesda Project".
- o You can also give regularly using a standing order form. (Please email Lucy if you are interested in doing this.)

**STEVE AND LUCY MCILHENNY:** c/o The Anglican Church of Musinga, PO Box 55, Musinga, Burundi

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