

# The Bethesda Project

...Connecting Keppleway with Burundi



Dear

**N'AMAKI? May 09**

*Thank you for your support!*

In **November 2009** we are going to Burundi, Central Africa, to help Bishop Eraste Bigirimana set up an outdoor activity centre for disabled people.



We want to share God's love with the poor, the weak and the marginalised  
Matt 25:40

Burundian society views disabled people as worthless – through the project we want to change the way the society views those with disabilities

Burundi has many disabled people due to its recent civil war in which over 300,000 were killed

WHY?  
**WHY?**

Bishop Eraste has asked for help setting up this project and we believe this is where God is asking us to go and what he has given us the skills to do.

We want to help those who are seen as worthless to find their self-worth and build up their self-esteem through enabling them to do more than they ever thought was possible

We aim to be a part of the process of reconciliation by accepting all people as equal and teaching individuals how to work together

**Keppleway** is an outdoor activity centre in the South Lake District. Its vision is to enable anyone to do outdoor activities, whatever their disability or ability. Keppleway has been asked by Bishop Eraste of Musinga Diocese in Burundi to help set up a centre similar to Keppleway in Musinga.

**We** are going on behalf of Keppleway to help set up what will be called The Bethesda Project. Once it has been set up Bethesda will be run by Burundians but will retain a link with Keppleway involving regular training and a staff exchange program.



**More details** of the project and how you can support us are on the back of this letter.



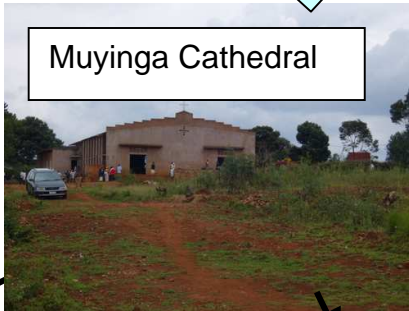
Keppleway is a registered Charity No 1015762

# More about The Bethesda Project

**The Ultimate Aim** is to set up a centre similar to Keppleway with a residential building, a climbing wall, low rope activities, canoes, team building challenges etc.

**To begin with** we will use easily set up activities and team building challenges which can be used in Muyinga and also taken to different disabled centres around Burundi.

**The building** will be fundraised for and built after the activities have been set up and the project established.



Site of The Bethesda Project (Currently a pig sty!)

Small Bible College

## Timeline

### NOW:

**Steve** is working as an outdoor activities instructor for Keppleway running activities (such as climbing, abseiling, ghyll scrambling, canoeing, archery etc) and continuing to learn how to adapt activities to enable people of varying disabilities to take part.

**Lucy** is receiving more on-the-job training as an outdoor activity instructor whilst also doing fundraising and administration for the Bethesda project.

We have both started learning **KIRUNDI**

### MAY 2009:

**Evariste Hatungimana** comes to Keppleway from Burundi to learn about how an outdoor centre works. (Once in Burundi Evariste and Steve will work together as Project Coordinators to start The Bethesda Project)

### NOVEMBER 2009 - 2011:

**Steve and Lucy** fly to Muyinga, Burundi to help Bishop Eraste and Evariste set up the Bethesda project. We will stay in Burundi until the project is set up – we expect this to take approximately 2 years.

## Supporting us

We have been accepted onto the CMS (Church Mission Society) "SALT" program which means that CMS provide us with prayer support, training and practical advice but **we need to raise our own money for ourselves and for the project.**

We currently need to raise money for the following things:



To send us out for one year  
(Please ask us if you would be interested to see a more detailed breakdown of the budget)



Project Transport



Bethesda Project Staff costs



Equipment for the project

If you would like to support The Bethesda Project financially you can give money securely **online** at [www.keppleway.org.uk/new/support](http://www.keppleway.org.uk/new/support) (**Please specify Burundi**) or send a **cheque** to:

"The Keppleway Trust (Burundi)". **Gift aid forms** can be downloaded from the above website.

## Prayer

- ★ For wisdom for Bishop Eraste who is in charge of the project.
- ★ For good communication between Keppleway and Burundi.
- ★ Language skills as we learn Kirundi – we're finding it hard!
- ★ Evariste to get a visa to come and that his 3 month stay at Keppleway will be useful and enjoyable for him.
- ★ For us to trust God with a project which is exciting, scary and unknown!

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