

### 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER, 2016 NEWS UPDATE FROM PASTOR ISAAC PETER OYAKO *Burundi Bumps & Blessings*

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Dear friends and payer partners,

Special greetings in the wonderful name our Lord Jesus Christ!

I am now enjoying a much deserved rest at home after a successful mission trip to Burundi, where a Bible School is fully initiated.

On my way to Bujumbura, the capital city of Burundi, close friends had requested that I do some work for them in Kigali, the capital city of Rwanda.

I had also two trips to Kenya; Bungoma and Migori; where I spoke in a National Women's Conference, and general regional meeting respectively. In Migori, I had the privilege to be accompanied by my wife, Christine.

You are all acquainted with the difficulties we had been going through; the difficulties of frequent accidents, financial hardships, persecutions etc. These were for a purpose, and I can now say as king David said, "It **is good that I was afflicted that I may learn your Statutes**" (**Psalms 119:71**). Through these difficult times, we learned to rely on God, learned the value of human relation-ships and sought wisdom and discernment in all situations. These have been so helpful to me of late.



*Pastor Isaac Peter Oyako and Interpreter, Jacqui in Kigali Rwanda*

The assignment in Rwanda was a tough one. When I sought the Lord, **He told me that He has granted me wisdom and all sufficiency to deal with any assignments.** I thank God that it turned out as God had spoken.

Early this year, I felt God talking of giving me higher calling. I did not seem to understand it then, till the doors to minister in my own church began to narrow down. It had skewed so much that any attempt to press forward brought unnecessary friction. My wife advised me to relax and wait for another opening.

*Isaac and Christine Oyako in Migori Kenya after the conference*

Kenya provided the widest door and with much appreciation and value for my work.

While in Kenya, Burundi opened the entrance for me to run a training program for pastors and church leaders. To me, it looked like God closing the door to Apostle Paul in Asia, then, in a vision of a man from Macedonia, calling him to go and help them.

We have had the first course unit with 27 students and it was wonderful. The school was hosted by Maranatha Faith Assemblies free of cost. It was in Kamenge slum in Bujumbura city. We have taken off though, and look forward to its success. With God, nothing is impossible.

It is not safe in Burundi, as they say, "life is cheap in Burundi." However, God kept me safe, and He will always do so. To appreciate God's protections I would like to narrate one incident and also give you the security background of Burundi.



The first few hours was scary for me: Five minutes after checking into my hotel room, two gun men forced their way into my room, demanding for my pass-port and reasons as to why I was in Burundi. They ransacked my baggage and found only clothes and teaching materials translated in Swahili. I was told that is a normal practice in any hotel in Bujumbura. They did not take anything. If I had been a Rwandan citizen, that would probably have marked the end of my life. Rwandan citizens are not welcome in Burundi, at least for now.

Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world. It has been at war for over a decade rendering no development for all that period. Three presidents had been assassinated in a row. The people are extremely poor with hardly enough to eat.

Burundi has sour political relation with her neighbor; Rwanda. Direct road travel is not allowed between the two capital cities of Kigali and Bujumbura, yet it is only four hours by bus and 25 minutes by air: Buses and commuter taxis just stop at the common borders and return.

The government of Burundi is suspicious of Rwanda harboring dissidents trying to bring down the government in Bujumbura. There are stories of rampant extra-judicial killings in Burundi mainly for people with Rwandan identification documents.

#### *The Bible Class on session with 27 students*



The next class is scheduled to take place from 27<sup>th</sup> November to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016. I proposed that we change the training venue to the city center, and would cost USD 100 for one week. The school will start with a test before proceeding to the next course unit.



#### *Isaac Boards Kigali Bujumbura 25 minutes flight*



### PRAYER POINTS

(i). Praise God with me that my travel costs for my next teaching trip is already promised. However - there is MUCH suffering and poverty in Burundi. A group women asked me for an equivalent of USD 1,300 so that they can learn tailoring and support their families. Most of the women are single mothers whose men may have been killed in a war that has lasted for decades! Pray for these funds!

(ii) Pray for school fees for my children. We had expected book sales in Kenya, but it did not happen. Gad Oyako, our third child is in University first year, first semester. He needs USD \$600.

(iii) My wife's complete healing: she was recently involved in a road accident. The healing seems to be slow, or she has developed a complication needing thorough medical attention

(iv) My vehicle is now being worked upon by an expert in Kampala. An equivalent of USD \$950 is required as soon as possible. Thank very much for loving, and praying with us.

Pastor Isaac Peter Oyako