

November/December 2016

Dear Prayer Partner,

I owe you many thanks for your support. I am happy to report that I am now back home safely, after two intensive weeks of service in central Africa.

It is no doubt that God is sending me to this region at this time, most especially to Burundi. I have deep love and burden for Burundi. Burundi is one of the poorest countries of the World, with protracted tribal conflicts. but close to my heart.



### ***Isaac travels to Burundi and Congo***

I do not know exactly what God wants to accomplish through me in Burundi, but for now, I am running formal Bible Training in the capital City Bujumbura. I have a little more than two dozen in number who are eager to learn and make adjustments in their lives and ministries (Discipleship). I have successfully completed two course units; Doctrines of Redemption and the Church. I have tailored the course to accommodate people with little secular education, yet active in ministry.

In the first visit, my host made a wrong choice of the Hotel to accommodate me. This second time, I was placed in Anglican Community Center Guest House in the center of Bujumbura City. It is separated by fence from the President's office on the East, and on the South, across the Street of the French Embassy. It is costly, but safety is paramount.

Because the poverty of my students, I offer this course free of cost, besides picking my own bills for transportation, accommodation and food. Besides that, I have to provide for my translator, Linda, a Kenyan lecturer in Swahili Language in the University Uganda. She helps with translating course modules, examining, and Marking scripts. Burundi is a French-speaking country, and Swahili is widely used as a national language. I am conversant with neither of the two languages.

Apart from Bible teaching, I am compassionately concerned about the challenges faced by people, most especially the children. It is in the center of my heart to intervene as God would lead.

## **Students Doing Examinations**

I was able to do some work in Rwanda and Congo as well during this second visit. All the three countries are spiritually needy, and French, and Swahili speaking. The Leaders in Rwanda have asked for a two-day workshop on leadership. In Congo, the youth have requested for a conference with me.

I do not know how to respond to these additional ministry openings, especially given my limited and uncertain resources. However, I have planned to be again in Burundi for the third course unit from 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> January 2017. If God gives extra provision, then I am more than willing to meet the needs of Rwanda and Congo. As of now, I have a pledge of only USD \$400 (only 40%).

Lastly, I need your prayer support for personal financial break-through as well. We are struggling to keep our son Gad in the University. For that matter, I am indebted. The book business was not as I had anticipated: It is extremely slow.

Another challenge is that my car was towed to Kampala for repairs, and it needs an equivalent of USD \$900 to reconstruct the engine after the engine was gutted by fire. It is the first time in 17 years for us to have Christmas without a car. We live on the hill 11 kms from Jinja city, so shopping is a challenge. Many of the girls we help also come to our house for the holidays. We expect 8 girls to join us and spend holidays with us from end of next week.

The Sponsors only give tuition fees and school upkeep for some. The burden falls on Christine and myself for holiday expenses. With the use of a car, it is cheaper to take our students to school. With the absence of a vehicle, we have to use 'special hire,' which is very costly.

I tried to plead with the sponsors for a top up of 10% on top of tuition for each, but in vain, yet there are inevitable costs such as medical and undeclared school trips etc.

Thank you for supporting us. Thank you very much!

Rev. Isaac Peter Oyako