

YOFOCHM'S BURUNDI CHARITY MISSION REPORT 11th – 13th APRIL - 2014

Burundi is one of the poorest & smallest countries in the African Great Lakes region of Southeast Africa. It is a landlocked country bordered by Rwanda to the north, Tanzania to the east and south and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west. It is also sometimes considered part of Central Africa. Burundi's capital is Bujumbura. Although the country is landlocked, much of the southwestern border is adjacent to Lake Tanganyika.

The prior preparation report;

A team incurred accommodation, transport costs, travel documents to those without passports, T-shirts, communication costs (airtime), announcements on radios, internet and donations. However, we faced a challenge of lack of enough finance due to costly expenses compared to Yofochm's financial ability. This embarked us to prayers and mobilisation of resources from well wishers to meet our mission. Thanks goes to all those who supported us spiritually and financially in that period.

The journey to Burundi;

We had a team of 16 missionaries who started the journey on the 10th April 2014. However, 2 members were left and joined the team on the following day. The journey was long and exhaustive that lasted for 15 hours before we arrived in the capital of Bujumbura. We were thereby welcomed by our Burundi lead team led by Bishop Joachim. And immediately the team was driven to Maramvya village which was a few kilometers away from the capital.

Maramvya village is a place known historically for the worst atrocities to have ever been committed during the Rwanda-Burundi ethnic clashes that occurred in 1993-94 (Rwandan genocide). The people in this village live in wretched poverty which determines their morality in life. Girls at every tender age find themselves introduced to early motherhood and boys get in marriage without even having the knowledge of what they are engaging themselves into. This is because they have nothing to do. A big percentage of the children are malnourished and don't go to school. This is owing to poverty and poor leadership. Only the nobles are the ones who can afford education especially in high learning institutions. With such challenges, the organization

thus had no choice but to intervene, working in support with our lead team in the country of Burundi.

The three days activities in Burundi;

On Friday 11th-April-2014, it was a time of meeting our hosts and introducing ourselves. It can be observed that there was a good publicity conducted by our lead mobilization team in Burundi prior to our arrival as old, young people and local authorities came from far and within to attend our empowerment seminar. The air of excitement and expectancy was electrifying. Later in the afternoon, we joined the community for our 1st day empowerment seminar with young people passionately singing and dancing to the lord. The speaker for that day was our lead member, Pastor Wilfred Komora from Nairobi-Kenya who travelled with the team. Scores of converts were realized at the altar call for salvation.

Saturday of 12th-April-2014(2nd Day), morning started with activities of preparation towards the great day ahead of us. Noting that each day morning was a devotional session for the team. We joined the local community in corporate responsibility (doing service to humanity). We well involved in cleaning the environment, digging, sweeping, distribution of food stuffs and basic necessities including clothes, shoes, soap, and matchboxes among others to the vulnerable people in the community.

During the social work, we were able to be captured live on media (National TV and Radio) as the Yofochm team and locals teamed up in the exercise. Due to the large number of people in need, we were forced to handover the remaining donations to the lead member Bishop Joachim (Burundi) so that he would organize to distribute them with the help of other local pastors.

In the evening, we went for the normal crusade (empowerment seminar) at the same venue. Throughout the days of our outreach, we observed that youth and children were actively involved in the success of the meetings. The teaching was done by Evangelists (Ronald and Opio) at alternate times though it was temporarily disrupted due to a heavy down pour. After the meeting, we had a brief meeting with the local church leaders emphasizing the need to work together as the body of Christ for a common goal and empowerment of their respective areas (proclaiming the love of Christ to the young and elders for a better life).

On Sunday 13th-April-2014, we wake up to a devotional prayer time prior the service started. It was an exciting experience as the lord used some of us to encourage a team and also tell what the lord was speaking to us during that time. We had an energy sapping service crowned by teachings from Pastor Wilfred leading the whole church in prayer and repentance for the whole nation of Burundi and the church of Christ there in. One person surrendered his life to Christ and brought out the charms given to him by a witch, all were burnt and prayers offered for the man.

In the afternoon, we went for our final empowerment seminar which was led by the Organizational President Stephen Kapere. Scores surrendered their lives to Christ. And the event was summed by amazing testimonies and great entertainment from young people. The team took a rest to be ready for the morning journey back home on 14th April 2014, and indeed God blessed us with His Journey mercies.

To crown it all, the team had a challenge of language barrier as the biggest percentage understood French and Kirundi, though we could interact in Kiswahili and English as some could be translated to by few individuals who understood English. However, the mission was successfully done, scores surrendered their lives to the lord, the needy were encouraged and the hopeless were refurbished.

Our Mission expenditure totaled to 3.3 million Ugandan shillings (\$1300) spent on accommodation (\$300), Transport (\$700), T-shirts (\$100), Donations (\$100), Preparations (\$100) i.e. Meetings, Communication (Announcements, internet etc).

Because of the great need from the community, the board agreed upon carrying out another Several Charity Mission Activities in Burundi (early 2015) where some of the old and needy persons shall be built homes, and the activities are proposed to work in partnership with Burundi Local Government, involving the President and his Cabinet. We thus ask for support in prayers, finances and those interested in physically getting involved as volunteers are encouraged to register with us.

You may willingly donate through Barclays Bank (U) Ltd in names of Yofochm- Uganda or Send items like clothes, Books, etc to our address in Uganda i.e. Youth for charity missions international, P.O. Box 8468 Kampala, Uganda, email: yofochm@yahoo.com, Tel: +256392849977

Compiled by:

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