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NAHIMANA'S NEWS

Dear Friends,

What a different world I am writing to...after many people thought that the Coronavirus Pandemic would be a thing of the past by September, it seems strange to be writing to so many of you who are now experiencing a second lockdown and have been unable to resume normal life for almost 11 months. These are strange times – but our hope has to rest on the fact that God knew about Covid-19 in advance and He will take us through this valley to the other side!

We want to start by thanking all of you who have continued to stand with us financially and in prayer, even in the midst of the pandemic. We don't take your generosity lightly, knowing that many of you have experienced a change in your income and employment in the last few months. We have been reading Genesis 26 and our prayer for all of you is that, just like Isaac in verses 12-13, that even in the midst of famine, God would bless you and cause you to reap a hundredfold of all the seeds you have planted! God is able...

2020 - where do you put your focus? As for many people the world over, this year has been a huge challenge for us. As the Director of Restoration of Hope, Honda has struggled to stay motivated and move forwards in the midst of the pandemic, in a country that seems to challenge and oppose every step he tries to take. Sometimes here it definitely feels like everything is working against you, and Honda got to the place where he knew he needed to get away to spend a couple of days with God. Whilst on retreat, God challenged Honda and reminded him of all the things He had accomplished through him in the past year, reminding him to "stop complaining and be thankful". He also challenged Honda on how watching the news and focusing on the problems, clouds his vision and destroys hope – not being able to see Bethany for probably 18 months, not visiting family in Rwanda due to the closure of the airport and borders since March, rising prices of food items etc is a challenge, but remembering the goodness of God and being thankful, renews hope. We have to choose where we put our focus, because whatever we focus on gets magnified in our lives...problems, or the goodness of God – we choose...

So, what do we have to be thankful for in the last 6 months...

Restoration of Hope News...

Growth: Three of our 'old boys', Jean-Marie, Samuel and Claude have all seen their families expand, after their wives gave birth to sons. This is also a fruitful year for Jean and Ami, who used to head up our 2 Hope Houses in Jabe and Kanyosha and continue to work with RoH, as their families are also growing. Jean's wife Jean recently gave birth to their third son, and Ami's wife Claire is expecting a baby in April 2021.



Marriages: 2 of the RoH family are planning to get married – Madudu, one of the original 5 boys who followed me home begging for food and became the first members of the RoH family, is getting married in December. He now works with local churches doing evangelism and is looking forward to being married. Alexis went to America in 2013 and now lives and works in Canada. He is returning in January, to get married to his fiancé, who will then hopefully accompany back to Montreal.

Via and Family: In Kirundo, Via and her extended family are greatly enjoying life in their new home. Neither Via, nor her mother have great health, which can make life a challenge, but having a safe, secure house where the roof doesn't leak, the doors can be locked at night and the family have beds to sleep on, means that life is so much happier than it was in previous years. Thanks to your kind donations, we are able to continue supporting the family with money for food each month.

Graduations: In June, 5 of those we support through Hope in Burundi, our educational support charity, finished High School after graduating from Year 13. We are now waiting for the results of the National Exams to be released, to see if any have scored high enough to be able to attend university in the future.



New (to us) Car: In July, Honda was blessed to take ownership of a wonderful Kia Sorrento, which was paid for by very generous friends and family, who had heard of the struggles he had been having for a few years with the work car, a little Hyundai, which regularly broke down and left him stranded in various places. How amazing it is for him to drive out of our gate, knowing that he will be returning in the same car, not on the back of a tow-truck. Also, with temperatures that regularly hit 35 degrees all year round, having air conditioning is a major

blessing! Thank you so much to those of you who generously gave towards this.

Car for Congo: The flooding in Uvira, Congo, last April, washed away the motorbike taxi, used as an income generator for the orphans we support under the care of Pastor Joel. Because of the generosity of various church friends, we were able to contribute to buy Pastor Joel a car, which he now uses to run a small business delivering drinking water. This is a real blessing to so many people.



Education: In September we were able to send 136 children and young people back to school for the start of the new term. We also have 14 who are attending university. These are the ones who will bring change

to our nation in the future – neither Honda nor myself attended university due to God having different plans for our lives, so it is wonderful to see so many of our extended family going further than we did, education-wise.



Professional Qualifications: In October, Honda was so happy to attend a graduation ceremony for Dieudonne, who attended school and then graduated from university a couple of years ago thanks to Restoration of Hope. He got a job working at the Port and was able to support himself to get further qualifications. In the ceremony, he qualified as an East African Customs Officer, and so now can work in Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya or Tanzania as a Customs Officer. Dieudonne is married with 2 daughters, and it is great to see how the help he received from people like you, has transformed not only his life, but now that of his wife and children too.

Restoration of Hope Prayer Points:

In mid-October we received a phone call from Pastor Joel in Congo, to let us know that he was in hospital having a double hernia operation. The next day he called again with terrible news – the night after he had the operation, whilst he was still in hospital, thieves tried to break into his house. Thankfully they didn't manage to break in, but instead smashed the windscreen and side window of the car we had helped to purchase, and stole the battery, radio and spare wheel! Some days it can just seem like one challenge after another...



Since the flooding in Uvira last April, which killed so many people and destroyed 3500 homes, Pastor Joel has been responsible for 45 displaced people. 20 have moved into the 3-bedroom home he shares with his wife and their 5 children, and another 25 sleep in the church building. As you can imagine, providing for all these extra mouths is a challenge. Please be praying for extra grace for Pastor Joel and his wife in these difficult times, and that God would

provide for all their needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

If anyone would like to contribute financially towards providing a Christmas Celebration for Pastor Joel and his extended family, or for the 150 children and young people supported by Restoration of Hope, that would be fabulous. We are at present having to change banks so our RoH account number will not work after 10th December. For this reason, any donations should be sent to the following account, which we have designated purely for RoH at this time:

Name: Mr Donatien Nahimana and Mrs Elizabeth Joy Nahimana

Sort Code: 40-43-30 Account Number: 91175955

Nahimana Family News

August was a special month for us as a family. Firstly, Bethany received her A-level results (somewhat traumatic due to the random government results predicting algorithm, but all's well that ends well!) and scored all A grades. Coronavirus has prevented her from travelling home which is difficult for all of us, but she is now doing a DNA Year Out, which is a Pioneer internship program with a Church in Petersfield. We thank God that she has a fabulous host family who treat her as one of the family, and this gives us a real sense of peace. Next year Bethany plans to start a 4 year combined Degree and Master's in Nursing.



On August 19th, we celebrated 20 years of marriage! Gosh, that makes us middle aged... As with many couples, with the lockdowns and restrictions on our lives, this year has (not surprisingly) put strain on our marriage, but we thank God that we are still together and still committed to each other. You would imagine that after 20 years working at something, you would become an expert...not so with marriage...there are always challenges and opportunities to die to self and learn to live for Him. We are still learning and are committed to staying together, come hell or high water...

Abigail also graduated from Year 11 and received her IGCSE results in August. She did amazingly well scoring A*s, A's and a B (the term spent homeschooling obviously paid off...hee...hee!). Abigail really enjoyed learning at home and is now studying Sociology & Psychology GCSE and A-Level Geography online. She is very committed and self-motivated, which is wonderful to see. Abi will sit for these GCSE exams next year in June, in the UK...providing exams go ahead!



Josiah is very happy to be back in regular school, mainly because he gets to play basketball with his friends every day. He is growing like a weed, and although only 12 years old is 5ft 9 tall and has men's size 11/45 feet! Our biggest challenge now is getting school shoes to fit him here...methinks he might end up a giant (which will definitely help him with basketball!).

I am kept busy running the Freedom in Christ ministry at our church. We have just started 5 new groups and have 50 people signed up, with others already asking to be put on the waiting list. Seeing how people's lives are being transformed is so encouraging. Much of my time is spent facilitating FiC, doing discipleship, mentoring and counseling people, as well as still being involved at CRIB helping the young people there transition from youth to adulthood, with all the challenges that presents. I am on the leadership team of Christian Life Ministries church plant in Muha, and we are getting ready to celebrate our first anniversary in a weeks' time. The church has grown and we regularly have over 200 people for worship on Sunday mornings, which is fantastic to see.

As well as overseeing RoH, Honda continues to run his watch shop. The Pandemic has brought challenges in this area - he used to purchase watches online and have them sent in, but since March the airport and land borders have been closed, so his stock is running very low. The airport officially reopened this week, so we wait to see how long it takes for parcels to begin to arrive again. It would be fabulous if the ones he has already ordered could arrive in time to be sold at Christmas...

So, as we head into Advent, the season of remembering Christ's first coming and anticipating His triumphal return, let us remember to give thanks for all the blessings we have received. Because of the Covid-19 Pandemic, this Christmas may be different from one's past, but there is always a reason to give thanks. This year we are thankful for each and every one of you and the difference we are able to make to so many children and young people out here, because of your generosity. This year may have been a challenge and may not have gone the way you would have liked...you may have lost the ability to go out, lost your job, tragically even lost friends and family members, but this year you have transformed lives, and for this we are truly grateful.

May God richly bless you and cause you to prosper in every good thing!

Much love

Honda, Libby, Bethany, Abigail, Josiah and all our extended RoH Family

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