

BP 1865

Bujumbura

Burundi

East Africa

thenahimanas@yahoo.co.uk

www.hopeinburundi.org

Honda: + 257 76663500

Libby: + 257 69137070

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NAHIMANA'S NEWS

Dear Friends,

In 3 months, we will be heading back to the UK (and popping to America), to settle Josiah and Abigail into the next stage of their lives and also to visit supporting churches, friends and family. In August we are pretty much tied up with family things and travelling, but for the month of September, Honda and I would love to come and share with anyone who is interested in hearing more about the work we are doing in Burundi. We have 4 Sundays free in September and are also available for midweek meetings, or just for meeting up to eat yummy food! If anyone would like us to come and share with your church during that time, please let us know asap. Thanks.

Restoration of Hope:

Christmas: On Christmas Day, thanks to the generosity of friends and supporters of Restoration of Hope, we were blessed to be able to provide a Christmas meal for over 300 people in 4 different sites – the Mutakura and Gitega Hope Houses, Via's house in Kirundo and for Pastor Joel and the young people he cares for in Uvira, DRC. For the first time in over a decade, we were unable to do the 'Bless the neighbourhood' outreach on Christmas Eve, due to financial constraints...times are pretty challenging, but we thank God we could feed and give gifts (clothing) to all those who are supported by RoH.

Education: The students supported through Hope in Burundi are now starting the third term of their academic year – please pray for them as they head into exam season. In Burundi, if you don't pass your exams you have to repeat the year which can prove very costly. It would be wonderful if all of our students passed and could move on in their education.



Women's Project: Thanks to the generosity of a church in London we were able to train the second cohort of 10 women at the Women's Sewing Project based in the Mutakura Hope House. The 10 ladies graduated in February and have left to set up their own small businesses which will provide each with an income to feed their family.

We are very blessed that a small charity from Canada has given a gift which should keep the sewing project running for the next couple of years, enabling us to train more women and give them the skills and confidence to change their lives and those of their families. The third cohort began their training on April 21st.

Uvira: In the middle of March, we received heartbreaking pictures from Pastor Joel of his church, 'The City of David', on fire. An electrical fault caused the blaze which razed the church to the ground. Praise Jesus no one was killed in the fire, but to lose the property was a big blow. For now, the church is meeting under tarpaulin sheets strung up to provide shade from the sun. During rainy season however, things become very challenging! To rebuild the church out of locally sourced materials would cost approximately \$1600/£1300.



Buhinyewza Church: For the last 16 years Honda and RoH have supported a small local church in a very poor area of the city called Buhinyewza. From 2008-2013 Honda helped finance, construct and equip a church building for his friend Pastor Giles and the 150 people in his congregation. We also help to pay for school fees for some of the poorest families in the church. At the end of March, the church was broken into and all instruments, speakers, the sound system, and microphones were stolen. The economic situation in the country means that crime levels are increasing – starving people will stoop to desperate measures to feed their families. Praise God we have been able to purchase 2 speakers and microphones so services can continue, and their acappella worship sounds amazing!



Egide: You may remember me sharing about Egide, one of the oldest in our RoH family, who was awarded a government scholarship to go to the UK to complete his master's degree. After returning to Burundi in Jan 2023, Egide looked for work, but was unable to find a position that would utilize the skills and qualifications he holds. Last month Egide travelled to South Korea where he will be working part time whilst he completes a second master's degree, this time in Business and Finance. Thank you to all of you who have donated through Hope in Burundi over the years to enable us, through education, to put tools in the hands of young people, which enable them to reach for the stars. I trust one day Egide will stop studying and get a good job which will enable him to help many others in the future. Whilst in Korea, he continues to run the small association he started a number of years ago in Burundi, and through that is enabling 17 children to go to school and get an education.

Challenges:

The economic situation in Burundi is the worst I have seen it in my 26.5 years here. The Burundi Franc has fallen to a record low against the dollar and so inflation is sky high. Wages have not increased in line with inflation and for the majority of people their wages have remained static. People who used to be able to pay rent, cover bills, food, and children's school fees with their salary, now find that their wages do not even cover the rent. Sugar has been absent for more than two years, electricity and water are

regularly missing (last week we had 4 days of no power and 3 without water, with no warning, in addition to the regular power cuts we usually experience), and don't get me started on fuel! Fuel has not been readily available since November 2021. Neither Honda nor I have been able to get fuel for 2 weeks – his car spent 3 days and nights at the petrol station this week but received nothing. On the plus side, without fuel I am now definitely getting my 10,000 steps in a day!

Flooding: For the last 3 years the level of water in Lake Tanganyika has been steadily increasing. The lake level did drop for a short while but since December flooding has become a huge problem here in the capital. The lake is rising at an alarming rate – more than 20,000 people have been made homeless so far in 2024, with another 200,000 affected by the flooding. In the last 3 years more than 100,000 people have been displaced due to the rising lake waters.



A fortnight ago, heavy rain also caused 2 rivers in the capital to burst their banks leading to a loss of life and property. Babies and children were washed away and never found, and others were killed when their homes collapsed. Reports say at least 5 people have been killed by hippos and crocodiles who have ventured from their usual habitat into the flood waters.

Burundi is a nation on its knees – a friend was sharing how an impoverished woman who comes to their project was saying she just wanted to die - she couldn't cope with the cries of her starving children anymore. People have lost hope, and the government says nothing in response to the crisis on every front...

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for the peace of Burundi. There are rumours circulating, both substantiated and unsubstantiated, which are very troubling. We do not desire to see Burundi plunged back into genocide or civil conflict.
2. Pray for the government however God leads you to... I am out of ideas!
3. Pray for Honda to have divine wisdom to lead RoH in these difficult days.
4. Pray for provision as we head towards summer and need to equip almost 140 children and young people with everything they will need to be able to go to school in September.

Answered Prayers:

Thank you so much for your prayers over the last 6 months – we serve a God who answers prayer:

- We received enough funding to be able to celebrate Christmas with all those under the care of RoH.
- We received provision to run the women's sewing project for the next couple of years.

Nahimana Family News:

Honda and I are doing well, contemplating our future with no children left at home. I don't imagine our nest will stay empty for long – in my almost 27 years in Burundi, I have only had 2.5 months living in a child-free household, when I was pregnant with Bethany and was very ill. God knows I am a people person and although I'm not sure what the coming year will look like, I know His plans are always for our good



and for His glory. Honda continues to be kept busy heading up RoH and running his watch shop, as well as doing many other sideline projects to generate income needed to keep things afloat in these challenging economic times. Life is not easy, but if we put God first, He ensures that the grace we need to keep going is there. We are both working out at the same gym early in the mornings – when you are in your late 40's and early

50's your body doesn't do what it used to, or if it does, the next morning you surely know about it! Knowing we have so many children and young people to take care of keeps us pushing to keep our bodies as fit as possible...

My work in church is growing and I'm now preaching once a month, as well as running the Freedom in Christ ministry, heading up prayer and running an ex-pat women's bible study. The babies and children I came out to Burundi to work with in CRIB, are all now young adults, and although no longer living on-site, they still need on-going support as they face the challenges of life. Once a Mum...always a Mum!

Josiah starts his IGCSE exams in just under 2 weeks. This is quite a challenging time for him as he is trying to revise, as well as process the fact that in less than 3 months he will be leaving Burundi for the foreseeable future. African friendships are different to those in the West and the thought of leaving behind friends he has had all his life is pretty daunting. Please pray that God will already be lining up people for him to share life with, in the UK, and that he gets to do his 'Goodbyes' here, well.



Abigail has just been to the US Embassy here for her visa interview to enable her to take up a place at Oklahoma Christian University, studying Psychology. Unlike visa applications for the UK, where success is based on paperwork, paperwork and more paperwork, applications at the US Embassy are in person interviews and are based on your ability to sell yourself and persuade the visa officer why you should be granted a visa. Those of you who know Abi well, will know that she is a great communicator, and thankfully she was granted the student visa on her first application. Unlike Jos, who is in some ways not looking forward to leaving Burundi, Abigail can't wait! The majority of her friends left to go to university last year, so she has been more alone this year.



Since she returned to Burundi last September Abi has overhauled her health and these days if you can't find her, she is probably in her room, working out. At the minute she is busy hunting for flight tickets to get her to Oklahoma. Prices are crazy, but we know that God is faithful. This whole university application process has been a real faith walk for Abigail and, as her parents, it has been an honour to see her faith and trust in God growing over the last year. She is at present praying to have a roommate who is good fun, pretty tidy and if possible, can drive a car!

Bethany is doing really well in her university course and on her last 2 placements was told that if she was looking for work after graduating, they would definitely take her on. During a cardiology practical session, the students were asked to hook one member of each group up to the heart monitor so that they could see what a normal heart tracing should be like. Bethany was chosen and was somewhat surprised when her fellow students called the Cardiology Professor over to check out her heart tracing, which was

anything but normal. She was advised to go to the doctors and has had 2 tests, including being hooked up to an ECG for 24 hours. She is still waiting for conclusive results but carries on with life as normal...a life that includes periods of heart arrhythmia, nausea and breathlessness. Please pray that she gets answers soon.

Since moving to the UK and getting locked down during Covid, Bethany took up painting and discovered it was something that brought her joy. She has recently started selling some of her artwork, so if anyone would like to check it out, she is on Instagram @hopeisshere.



It was wonderful to have Bethany out with us in Burundi over the Christmas period. After a very challenging year as a family in 2023, we have been amazed to see the restoration that God has brought about – truly He does all things well and restores that which seems broken beyond repair!

Once again, thank you so much for all your prayers and financial support. You are a vital part of all that we are able to accomplish here, and we thank God for your partnership in extending His Kingdom here in Burundi.

May God richly bless you in every way and may He cause you to prosper in every good thing.

Much love,

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



If anyone would like to support the work of Restoration of Hope, our charity bank account details are as follows:

Bank: Metro Bank

Sort Code: 23-05-80

Account Name: HOPE IN BURUNDI (HIB)

Account Number: 47530970

If your gift is designated for something specific, please let us know so that the money is used correctly.

If anyone would like to help Abigail with her university expenses, flights etc, the account specifically for that is:

Account name: Laurene Ford

Sort code: 09-01-29

Account Number: 88022473

