

BP 1865  
Bujumbura  
Burundi  
East Africa

[thenahimanas@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thenahimanas@yahoo.co.uk)  
[www.hopeinburundi.org](http://www.hopeinburundi.org)  
Honda: + 257 76663500  
Libby: + 257 69137070

28<sup>th</sup> April 2025

## NAHIMANA'S NEWS

Dear Friends,

I'm happy to announce that Honda and I have survived our first 7 months living as empty nesters here in Burundi. We spent the first 15 months of married life living with 26 children and then only had a couple of months where I was super-sick before Bethany was born, so this is our first real time living together in almost 25 years, without little people. I'm glad to report that we actually like one another and doing life together is awesome – after almost a quarter of a century, we have finally found our happy place in marriage, and for that we are very grateful! We greatly miss our children but know we are where God has called us to be.

### Restoration of Hope:

**Christmas:** We are so grateful to God for the generosity of friends and family which enabled us to celebrate Christmas with so many from the community who would otherwise not have even marked the day. On Christmas Eve our 'Bless the neighbourhood' outreach gave treat bags to more than 900 children, and then on Christmas Day we served lunch to almost 300 people in 3 sites at our Mutakura Hope House, up-country in Kirundo and in Uvira (Democratic Republic of Congo).

We had to leave the lunch early to go visit Vanessa, one of the young women who grew up in our Hope House in Gitega. She had been struggling with abdominal pain on and off for months and was being treated for ovarian cysts. 4 days before Christmas Vanessa was rushed into hospital in agony and the doctor said she needed emergency surgery to remove her ovary. We were all very surprised when the surgeon opened her up and discovered that the problem was not her ovarian cyst, but rather her bowel had become twisted and a large section had necrotized and ruptured. If the surgery had delayed, Vanessa would have died, so we are very grateful to have had the finances available to cover the cost of all her treatment. In Burundi many people die because they cannot afford the medications or surgery required to save their lives.



**Women's Project:** In April, 9 young women graduated from our Women's Sewing project. The graduation ceremony was well attended by their friends and family, and by representatives of the local government and administration offices, who were very complementary about the work we are doing, which is changing people's lives and giving them the skills to set up their own small business. One young lady, Alice, was actually a university graduate, who had completed her degree but was unable to find work (unemployment is a huge problem in Bujumbura). A single mum with a small child, Alice asked Honda if she could come and get practical training which would enable her to make a living. Alice gave a heartfelt speech at the graduation saying how grateful she was to now have the skills

and supplies to be able to provide for her young son.

The next cohort of 10 women started their training mid-April and will train for a year.

**RoH Alumni:** We are pleased to announce that Willy and Dismas, 2 of our old RoH 'boys' are getting married this summer. Since Restoration of Hope put Willy through secondary school and university he has set up his own business and now works as a project writer. His company is doing well, and he has even managed to purchase a car. Willy will be married in August. After completing his secondary education, Dismas trained as a cook and pastry

chef. He has set up a small business making and selling donuts and aims to expand into cakes and pastries in the future. Dismas is getting married in June. It is such a blessing to see the long-term effects of helping kids, who were living on the streets, get to know Jesus and access an education... Your support is transforming lives! Egide's plans to study for a second Masters degree in South Korea did not work out as he had hoped. He did not adapt well to the culture and returned to the UK after a few months. Egide was granted a visa which enables him to work in England, and we look forward to catching up with him when we are next in the UK.

**Challenges:** Much as we love to talk about the successes we see in Restoration of Hope, there are also situations where we just have to trust God that He is still in control, even when what we see with our eyes looks like failure. After 17 years with Restoration of Hope, Deborah Mugisha has chosen to leave our care. She came to us as a baby only a few months old as her Mum Butoyi, a single girl with both physical handicaps and severe epilepsy, was neither able nor willing to care for her. Deborah lived in our Gitega Hope House and initially was a hard-working child who had ambitions to become a doctor. However, as she hit her teenage years, Deborah lost focus and was no longer interested in school. She had no desire to study and when the Gitega Hope House was closed and the family moved down to the city, would regularly skip classes and break curfew. After running away twice, Deborah made the decision to leave the Hope House and has gone to live with friends. It is hard to see someone squandering the opportunity to make something of their life, but all we can do is pray and trust God that He will bring a harvest for all the seed which was planted in her over many years.

## On-going challenges in East Africa:

A friend living in Kenya recently asked me if the fuel crisis in Burundi was over because she hadn't heard people speaking about it in months. Sadly, no – it's just that people have learnt that complaining changes nothing and can get you in trouble, so instead the country suffers in silence. Car owners have now been assigned 2 days a week when they are allowed to purchase fuel if fuel happens to be available on those days, and if they have permission to buy it provided through a telephone app which regularly stops working. Queueing for 12-72 hours is the norm, although it has been made illegal to queue and sometimes the police remove the number plates from cars that are queueing if the station is not already serving fuel. For a while the only way to get fuel was to buy it on the black-market at 4-5 times the regular pump price – much of this fuel came across the Rusizi river in jerry cans from the Democratic Republic of Congo, but the fighting which broke out there put an end to this trade.



On January 25<sup>th</sup> the Rwandan-backed M23 rebel movement marched on Goma in the DRC and took control of the city. More than 3000 people were killed in fighting as the rebels moved through Goma and marched on towards Bukavu in the South Kivu region, which borders Burundi. Since August 2023 the Burundi army has deployed more than 15,000 troops in the DRC, and many have been injured or killed in the fighting. Since the start of February more than 70,000 refugees have fled over the border into Burundi and the country is struggling to provide them with basic food, water and shelter. Thousands have been placed into camps where their basic needs are not being met, and children are dying of malnutrition – some have said

they would prefer to return to Congo to die a quick death by bullet than die of starvation here.

In February a Protestant church in North Kivu, DRC, was attacked by Islamic forces. Following the violence, 70 bodies were found, many of whom had been bound and shot, others had been beheaded. The victims included women, children and the elderly. These are dangerous times where Christians are being singled out for persecution. Many people left Burundi due to fear that the conflict would spill over the border and once-again, Burundi was declared a 'none-family post' by many organisations. Thankfully since the start of April things seem to be calming down and on Friday the foreign ministers of Rwanda and DRC signed an agreement in Washington, which should hopefully help to bring peace to the region.

## Prayer Points:

1. Continue to pray for the peace of Burundi and that the government will re-open the border with Rwanda as soon as possible, which would help the economy and allow fuel to flow more freely into the country.
2. The young man I spoke of in our last newsletter, who was imprisoned for exposing corruption and falsely accused of grand theft, had his case heard in March and the judge ruled that he should be freed from prison. As I write, it has now been 61 days since the court ruling, yet he remains in prison! Please pray that he will soon be freed in accordance with the court ruling. His wife and 2 young sons are suffering without him. Although frustrated at his on-going imprisonment, the young man is choosing to count it all joy, and regularly preaches in the prison church service and was involved in the baptism service for inmates at Easter.
3. Pray for the government – as we head into the election season please pray that if anyone is in positions where they are hampering not helping the country to progress, they would be moved on to pastures new!
4. Pray for Honda and all the Restoration of Hope team to have wisdom to lead the work in these difficult days.

## Nahimana Family News:

**Bethany** has only a couple of months left to complete her Master's in dual registration Adult and Mental Health Nursing at the University of Birmingham. She has experienced huge challenges with her dissertation after the research data arrived 2 months late from Brazil, and then a large portion of it was in Portuguese not English! She is greatly looking forward to the end of June when she will complete her studies and will return to Burundi for 3 weeks to catch up on some much needed sunshine before starting the great employment hunt...



**Abigail** finishes her first year at OCU at the end of May. She is trusting God for provision of fees to enable her to continue on in her Bachelor of Psychology in August. Abi has chosen not to return home over the holidays but instead will be volunteering at Camp WOW (Walks on Water) – a Christian children's activity camp for 2.5 months. Due to the stipulations of her student visa she is not able to do paid work off campus, but the organisation running the camp will grant her a scholarship which goes straight to the university fees account, which is a huge blessing. Please pray that she has fun and fellowship during her time at Camp WOW and that she grows closer to God as a result of her time there.

**Josiah** is doing well at sixth form and we are regularly sent updates by the school, of awards and excellence cards he has received for his academics and for exemplifying the school spirit. The Brown's are the most amazing host family for Josiah, and we are so blessed for God's provision through them. Although Jos has settled in well, he is pretty homesick and greatly looking forward to coming back to Burundi for 5.5 weeks this summer.



Honda and I are doing well. I was dreading our first child-free Christmas, but because we were busy it wasn't too bad – New Year unexpectedly hit me like a dump truck and I got quite low, but choosing to give thanks in every circumstance helped turned my attitude around. We were greatly blessed by a visit from my parents in March – at 81 my Dad does phenomenally well to still be able to travel, and both my parents were such a blessing and encouragement to many here. We are already looking forward to December when we will return to the UK for Bethany's

graduation and then will experience our first cold Christmas in 19 years. If anyone would like to see us in December or January, please let us know.

Our day to day lives are pretty much the same as the last time I wrote – we start the day doing "Temple Maintenance" (some form of exercise!), then our days are taken up inputting into the lives of needy people – be

that on a physical, emotional or spiritual level. We are blessed to have the opportunity to reach so many, mainly young people, and give them advice or the tools needed to change their lives and become nation changers. Going from being the youngest missionary in Burundi, to one of the longest serving (I think there are a couple of Nuns from Mother Theresa's Sisters of Charity who have been here longer than me), means that we are often used as a resource and sounding board for others on the mission field here. Life is never boring!

Ever the entrepreneur, Honda has recently opened a take-away coffee shop near to our home in an attempt to generate income from within the country. He employs 2 of the young people we raised at CRIB, and Grace who was staying with us, has been instrumental in helping to train staff and implement procedures which will hopefully enable the business to thrive in the future. For now, just covering costs would be a great first step!

Thank you so much for your on-going prayers and support. This is definitely a joint venture and we could not do it without you. You may not see them this side of Glory, but when you arrive in heaven there will be a sea of chocolate brown faces, waiting to hug you and thank you for your generosity and all you did on their behalf. May God richly bless you and cause you to prosper in every way.

Much love,

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



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