

Burundi Bujumbura Thursday, 31 August 2023

Brother Onias Gumbo, the District Superintendent for Southern and Eastern Africa and his team left Tanzania for Burundi Friday 1st September 2023. After a three- and half-hour delay in Dar es Salaam they arrived in Bujumbura late in the afternoon. They joined Brother Zacchaeus (Zac) Oyedokun, District Superintendent for Namibia, who arrived in Bujumbura a day earlier on 31st August 2023. Brother Edouard, the District Superintendent for Burundi, his wife sister Maceline and some sisters and children welcomed the delegation at the airport.



Delegates receiving a warm welcome at the airport.

After the welcome at the airport by Brother Edouard, Brother Zac from Namibia proceeded straight to church to meet the eagerly waiting workers who had arrived from other branches waiting for the Worker's Conference that very Thursday night. The meeting was opened with songs and prayer after which Brother Zac was introduced. Brother Zac considered the topic "*Fit for the Master's Use*", based on the Bible text in 2 Timothy 2: 19-26, and Romans 12: 1- 21. The Key Verse was taken from 2 Timothy 2:20-21, "*20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. 21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.*"

Brother Zac stated that the theme of this study is extracted from the pastoral epistle of Paul the Apostle to Timothy his beloved son in the Lord. Paul took Timothy to the very foundation of service to God which is genuine repentance from sin and belief in Jesus unto salvation. Whosoever will serve God must first become His child before he becomes His servant, and that is the true foundation. He said, to be fit for service in the kingdom of God, you must, firstly, be made fit for the kingdom and remain fit. "*For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light*" (Ephesians 5:8). He said, the children of darkness cannot serve in the kingdom of light. If the light in a man becomes darkness, he ceases to be a servant of God's kingdom.

Friday, 1 September 2023

The workers' conference continued on Friday morning from 10 am. The first revival service was held at 7pm with the usual preliminaries and room was given for 3 testimonies, mainly from the workers. Reading from Mathew 11:27-30, Brother Zac spoke about surrendering your life to Jesus by accepting this great invitation to a walk with God. This invitation is to all who are living in sin because we are all sinners by birth, Psalms 51:5.



Saturday, 2 September 2023

The day started with a prayer room session where the visiting delegation was introduced by Brother Edouard. Brother Gumbo also gave his appreciation to God and the local church for receiving us and for their effort to spread this glorious Gospel in Burundi. He stressed that God is not a respecter of persons but, He is looking for men and women who will serve Him faithfully.





The service started with a choir rendition and congregational songs followed by prayer and announcements. During the announcement, Brother Edouard introduced the team to the church who in turn sang a “Welcome” chorus to us. The announcements were followed by 3 testimonies and a choir rendition before the day’s Bible Teaching which was given by Brother Boniface Banda. The topic was, “*Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness.*”

He anchored his teaching on Mathew 5:6, “*Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled*” and said that Jesus was ready to fill every hungry heart. He went on to teach about the story of the “*woman at the well*” from John 4:15. The woman was desiring they type of the water that the Lord can give her. He further read from 1 Peter 2:2-3 “*2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: 3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious*” and advised all to “*taste and see that the Lord is good*”, (Psalm34:8). The teaching was followed by a blessed altar service with all asking for this spiritual hunger and thirst.

Sunday School Conference.

A brief discussion was held where it was directed that Burundi should work toward moving to the new Sunday school curriculum. They will be supported by the regional manpower to train them on the discussion facilitation pedagogue now used in the Sunday school classes.

Visit to campground site at Tega

The delegation visited the new campground at Tega where the 1 million Bricks project is in progress, with almost two thirds of the bricks done now. We were led around the property by Brother Edouard who described the “red brick” making process which consists of digging the clay soil, molding and baking it in fire. He gave the brief history of the acquisition of the property and the condition of

retaining the plots which included the need to start building within the grace period and the inclusion of a community empowerment project together with the church auditorium.



Brother Gumbo expressed his gratitude to God for the project and told the brethren that all our efforts must be done for the glory of God. Brother Boniface Banda also thanked God for the project and assured brethren that God has resources to support any of His approved projects that will beautify His glory.



Brother Edouard used the opportunity to thank the delegation and also apologized for his errors of the past and assured respect in his relationship with superiors going forward. The visit was concluded with a prayer by Brother Gumbo.

Evening Service

The day ended with an Evangelistic service. After the songs and testimonies, Brother Confidence Nemaungani took his text from Hebrews 11 : 1, 6 and spoke about the importance of Faith as a hand to get from God.

Sunday 3 September 2023

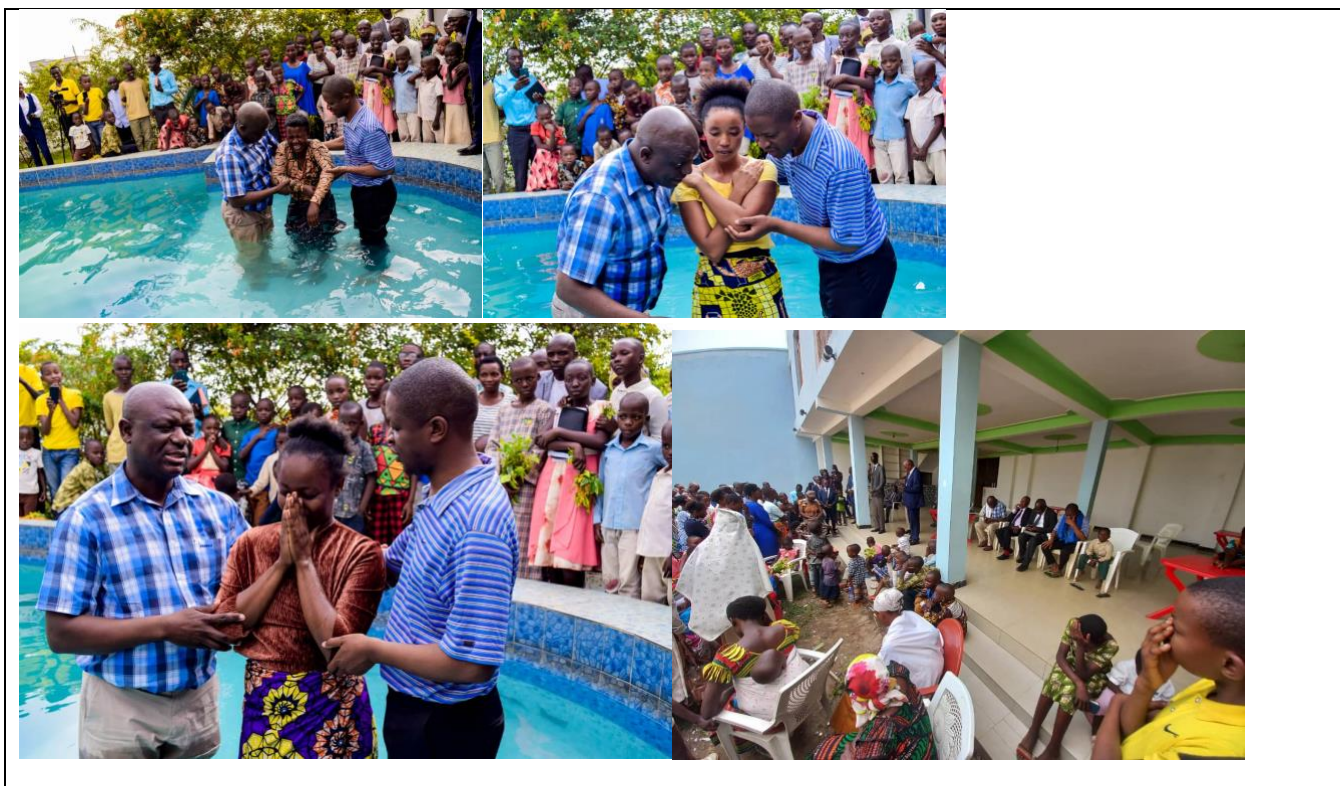
The day started with the Sunday School taught in the Local Language (Kirundu) and interpreted into English by a brother who was sitting with us. There was also a children class.



Devotional Service

The choir began the morning service with two congregational songs, prayer and announcements. A testimony service began with three testifying salvation and what God had done in their lives. After the scripture reading the choir gave a rendition which led to the word of God. Brother Onias Gumbo took his text from Proverbs 4:4 & 23, *“He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live. ²³Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”* His topic was, *“The Most Important Investment”* which he explained as a perfect heart. He said that this is the most important investment that anyone can ever have. Just as God guaranteed Abraham’s future anyone who also obeys God and walk with a perfect heart is also guaranteed a successful future in this world and in the world to come. Brother Gumbo said that many in the Bible times heard the word of God and obeyed it and kept God’s commandments with a pure heart and their lives were a success story all the way, because God was with them and working through them. He implored the listeners to get this perfect heart obtained by forgiveness of their sins through the blood of Jesus. At the end of the service, the congregants rushed for a place at the altar of prayer to seek for this investment.

Water Baptism



In the afternoon water Baptism was done at a nearby swimming pool, where 36 candidates including some who were saved during this revival partook of this ordinance. Brother Confidence Nemaungani and Brother Boniface Banda conducted the baptism and it also received the blessing of showers of rain from heaven. The candidates were praying as they walked into water to be baptized.

Evening Service

The last revival evening service was conducted in candlelight after an electricity blackout from the afternoon. The choir gave a rendition followed by congregational singing and prayer. Brother Newton Jaravani, read from Luke 4:18-19 and spoke about total deliverance from sin offered by Jesus Christ the Deliverer. He advised those in any bondage to take advantage of this last meeting to get all their request to the throne of Grace and “God will answer every sincere prayer”. Seekers sought their experiences at the altar at the close of this revival meeting.

Monday, 4 September 2023

The team went to Murwi situated about 100km from the second city, Bujumbura and 90km of the road is a good asphalt surface truck road while the last 10km is a single carriage dirt road. The road meanders through a sparsely populated mountainous farmlands, The major crops cultivated are, banana, cassava and pineapple. Murwi village is situated on a mountain, about 10 km off the main road connecting Bujumbura. The road is a gravel single carriage road that rises gently to it's peak, where our church is situated.



The team arrived to a warm welcome by the brethren, made up of mainly women and children including brethren who also came from Bujumbura to give their support. The church is built with the Burundi type of burnt brick with brilliant brown coloration, through direct labor supplied by the brethren and occasionally by the enthusiastic community members. It is not yet completed but much progress has been made.

The delegation proceeded to the prayer room where some local and other ministers from Bujumbura had gathered in prayer. Brother Edouard introduced the delegation and expressed his great delight in this visit to the "birthplace" of Apostolic Faith Mission of Portland Oregon in Burundi. This branch survived the "close-down operation" of the churches that did not meet its requirement. It was the launching pad for new efforts to put the church in proper footing (after failure of previous efforts)



In his address to the workers in the prayer room, Brother Onias Gumbo expressed gratitude for the reception and appreciated the Spirit of God in the group that is producing the cooperative achievements noticed. Quoting from Act 10:15 he said, God is not a respecter of persons and He can always use surrendered humble vessels, no matter how poor or disadvantaged they may be. The spirit

of God had no boundary and does not need any visa to penetrate the remotest location and to operate. Our obedience, faithfulness and consecration are the only spiritual attraction for the Holy Spirit to operate. He assured them that with a proper godly attitude, they can be sure that God will supply all their needs according to His riches in Glory by Christ Jesus.

Service at Murwi

The service started with the choir rendition, a congregational song and prayer. The prayer was given by the lady who survived the previous group and stood firm for the truth and is now assisting the branch pastor. The delegation was then introduced and welcomed by the congregation. Brother Onias Gumbo gave a brief acceptance and thanked the congregation. He also introduced the delegates and underscored the fact that our church is an international organization in pursuit of holiness.

The sermon was preceded by 3 testimonies from local community including the branch pastor and his daughter.



In the word of admonition given by Brother Gumbo, he stressed the importance of living in the spirit. Taking his opening text from John 3:8, he emphasized the last part of the verse which reads “*so is every one that is born of the Spirit*” and stated that people need to be born of the spirit in order to have the ability to live spiritual lives. He considered the topic “God’s Relationship with Man” again reading John 3:6, he said we are made children of God by being born again by the Spirit. He told the congregation that no one chooses to be born into the families where we were born, but to be born into the family of God, one must make a choice. God being a Spirit gives birth to spiritual children who will worship him in spirit and truth, (John 4:24). He said that Jesus prayed for spiritual followers who are made children of God. They are now God’s property living together in oneness brought by sanctified hearts. He said divine unity should be mirrored by Jesus followers brought by holiness; you can’t hate yourself. He told the congregation that there is no Burundi in heaven, but a place for saved Burundians is found there.

Visit by Local Authorities

The Administrator for the constituency was informed of our visit as required by law, and he promised to grace the occasion but was unavoidably absent at the beginning, but however sent his lieutenant, called Chief Rural, who is in charge of the area where the church is located to represent him. He also gave a welcoming address, on behalf of the Administrator. He assured the delegation that community will continue to support and work with church.

To which the delegation responded with appreciation and use the opportunity to thank the local political leaders for support of our church and ask for assistance in securing more land for our community empowerment project such as a school.

The delegation took a walk down the hill and up the village reception center which also houses the office of the Constituency Administrator where lunch was provided. As the delegation was finishing the lunch together with the Chief Rural, the Constituency Administrator arrived with his wife and joined the table. He used the opportunity to thank the delegation for the visit and solicited for community empowerment project by the church that will benefit the population.

The delegation responded in the same way by thanking the Constituency Administrator for gracing our visit and for supporting the church. While also assuring him of the international nature of our organization committed to spiritual development of the country as our primary focus, we also support the same with educational and skill-based programs. We also pray that he will avail the church land for community empowerment projects. He was also invited to our annual camp meeting convention in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe in December as a guest of the RDS.

The delegation departed on 5 September to their various countries.

Blessing	Number of people
Saved	7
Sanctified	4
Baptism of the Holy Spirit	3
Re-anointing	4
Healed	7
Other forms of blessings	4
Water Baptism	36

*Summary of attendance of Revival programs/water Baptism/Commission of AFM
Tenga:(September 1- 4)*

Service	Total Number of Attendees
Friday Evening	150
Saturday Morning Teaching	203
Saturday Evening Revival	155
Sunday School	200
Sunday Service	220
Sunday Water Baptism	80
Sunday Evening Revival	100
Saturday AFM Tenga Commissioned	42
Thursday Workers Conference	35
GROSS TOTAL	1 185