

Healing the Wounds of Trauma: How the Church Can Help

Initial workshop in Bubanza, Burundi, 18-22 August 2014

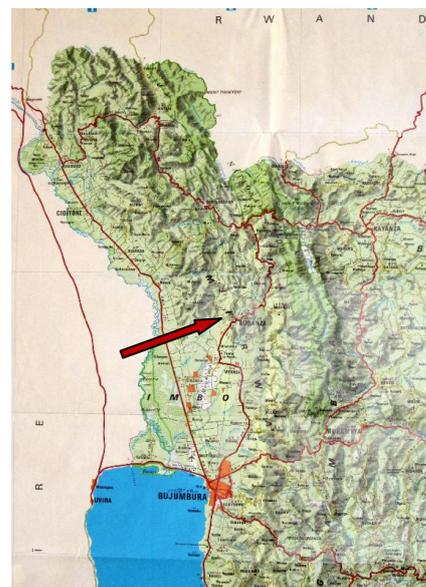
Dear friends and family

The Bible Society of Burundi is now about half way through a 5-year programme of Bible-based trauma healing and reconciliation training. The advanced workshop I helped to facilitate in Gitega in April went very well indeed – thank you for your prayers. Such was the enthusiasm that more participants than expected turned up; we were only just able to fit everyone in. The extra material in the new advanced manual is extremely helpful and was much appreciated. It was an encouraging time: existing teams were built up and new ones set up. The materials I took on alcohol abuse were also very well received. In fact the authors of the manual have now produced a supplementary lesson on addictions (English only as yet) that can be used with the book.

Margaret, who I worked with last time, has just returned from running a very encouraging initial workshop for children’s trauma healing, working with 67 children and training 22 leaders.

My next assignment is in Bubanza, about 25 miles north of Bujumbura, close to the borders with Rwanda and DR Congo. This area was very badly affected during the civil war. An information day took place on July 16 to give local church leaders a flavour of the workshop and to invite them to send or bring suitable people for the training. Previously we have only had two delegates from the north west of Burundi, so there is much to be done there.

The week’s workshop is to be held in a Catholic centre and is residential. This gives extra time for fellowship and healing prayer. We have reached the stage in training where the staff team will all be Burundian except for me as lead facilitator. The other 3 facilitators all started with us in July 2012. It will be good to be working with them. The programme will be in the usual mix of French (whenever I am involved, directly or indirectly!) and Kirundi.



August Programme	For approximately 30 participants
Thurs 14	Train to Birmingham and overnight at airport hotel
Fri 15	Flight to Bujumbura via Brussels
Sat 16	Meet friends In Bujumbura; planning.
Sun 17	Worship in Bujumbura; go to Bubanza in the afternoon; workshop preparations.
Mon 18 – Fri 22 Workshop 8.00- 5.30, then staff meeting, preparations and prayer	There are 4 main teaching and practical sessions each day, with 2 evening gatherings – one where we take our pain to the cross, and then a fun evening filled with sketches based around the topics covered.
Sat 23	Debrief; meet up with other contacts; attend graduation celebration for the medical student our church has sponsored
Sun 24	Worship and church visit, relax, friends; night flight via Nairobi and Brussels
Mon 25	Arrive Birmingham 09.55

Points to pray for:

- God to be at the heart of our relationships and team work
- God’s healing touch on each person
- Growth for all in love, understanding and skills for helping those affected by trauma
- Good health, stamina and sleep

Thank you - I value your prayers highly ☺

Hilary