



INDIGENOUS TRAINING MINISTRIES, INC.

REVC'S NEWS & VIEWS

by
RevC

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TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

Burundi & Pygmies & We're Moving



Burundi! "Where is that?" you might ask. Well, it is a tiny land-locked country located next to the small country of Rwanda to its north, Tanzania to the east and

south, and the DR of Congo to the west. It is home to Lake Tanganyika, the deepest fresh water lake in Africa and second only to a lake in Siberia as the deepest in the world. As one of the world's poorest countries, Burundi has been ravaged by civil war and outside forces.



As to security, Burundi is unstable, with fighting between ethnic factions and death in the streets as recently as the week before I arrived. One of our students reported to me that one man had been killed and another sent to the hospital while I was teaching. Yet with beautiful Lake Tanganyika on one side and mountains on the other, Bujumbura, the capital, is ideally located.

We have two CTC locations in Burundi. Students came from both locations to Bujumbura to meet together and learn. Other students came from Uganda and Rwanda. They all wanted to take part in the week of studies as I was teaching "Pastoral Theology". We also invited area pastors who were not actually part of the CTC program. Many of the pastors in Burundi have no training, and false teachings and beliefs abound. At times nearly 50 people crowded the small room with a constant group of between 35 and 40.

Dr. George Kurenji, our CTC director in Burundi and several other African countries, had invited me to come and teach. He introduced me to Apostle Aloys and his family. Apostle Aloys was a commander in the army when God called him into ministry. Like many who are called, he struggled with the decision for some time but could not escape the fact that he was

called to ministry. God led him to a widow whose husband had died and left a small congregation without a pastor. He felt led to help her for a season and sought to get some Bible training. Dr. Kurenji invited him to enroll in the CTC program, and he has graduated. Since then, God has led him to help oversee some 39 churches that have come under his guidance.



Dr. Kurenji & Apostle Aloy's Family

Pastor Aloy's desire is to train other pastors and bring encouragement to their ministries. He also has a heart to reach the lost, which I will talk more about in a moment. Before I left, Apostle Aloy, along with his board of directors, sat down with me to discuss their vision and desire to build a permanent Bible school location.

I had arrived on a Saturday and was asked to preach on Sunday at one of the local ministries where Apostle Aloy was involved. It was a lively service, nothing like our quiet and often unemotional experiences in the US. I must admit that one thing I enjoy about being in Africa is the praise and worship. In all my travels, I've yet to see anyone get as physically involved in a time of praise as these brothers and sisters. I am not one given to dancing in church, but there is something about the way they sing and give themselves wholeheartedly and unreservedly to the Lord that moves you to join in. I preached



my favorite message on faith like I usually do when I am with a group for the first time. They were extremely responsive with a row of pastors sitting in the very front. When it came time for the congregation to respond to the message, many hands went up, asking God to increase their faith. It was a good day in God's house.



Monday morning, we started the CTC classes. The students were very quiet the first half of the day. It was so quiet that I felt a bit uneasy. I am accus-

tomed to having students ask questions, especially when there are many pastors present and I am teaching Pastoral Theology. At one point, I actually stopped to remind them that it was OK to ask questions, but my suggestion seemed to fall on deaf ears. It was not until lunchtime that one student finally did ask a question. From then on, the floodgate was wide open. I could not get them to stop asking. From every corner of the room, on every topic that I covered, they had serious questions. Many of the practices that were common in their churches were quite different from what the Bible teaches. It is easy to understand why the Scripture says "My people perish for a lack of knowledge." To say that I enjoyed this week of teaching is an understatement. It is a wonderful experience to shine light where darkness has prevailed. Their hunger for truth and to correctly practice the Scripture was a teacher's dream, come true. The students remarked almost daily that I had taught them things that would forever change their churches and their personal lives before the Lord. Thank you, Jesus,



and thank you, Holy Spirit, for your anointing to teach! Thank you for partners who help make this possible by their giving!

Burundi is also home to one ethnic group that is perhaps one of the least regarded people groups in Africa, the Pygmies. These largely primitive people have had little exposure to the gospel, something that our CTC students are trying to change. Some time back, Dr. Kurenji had shared with me that we had a student from among the Pygmies. That student, now a CTC graduate, had come to participate in the class. I was happy to have the opportunity to meet him! Two years ago, he walked around scantily clothed with no shoes. Today, he was dressed in a sport coat outfit with shoes! The government in Burundi recently selected him to be the representative of his people. I remember that when Dr. Kurenji first told me about the man, I asked God to give us a door into these people. That door seems to be this brother, pictured here in the pink shirt. Please pray with us for God's guidance as we seek to reach out to this people group. Also pictured below are those that took notes and stayed to take the final exam.



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On a personal level we want you to know that Vicky, Sarah and I are moving. We felt led to downsize and get rid of much of the "stuff" we don't really need. Our new address is: 1644 Orchard Grove Ave., New Port Richey, FL 34655 The PO Box address will remain the same for now. Always, we need your help, both personally and for projects. Praying for God to bless you to be a blessing! **TOGETHER WE'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! To support RevC or a particular project you can either donate online at www.rev.org by clicking the "RevC Support" button or the "Project Support" button, or send your gift to **Indigenous Training Ministries, Inc. (ITM, Inc.) and mail to P.O. Box 958 Oldsmar, FL 34677** and put "Preference Project Support" or "Preference RevC" on the memo line. The IRS does not allow donors to designate a gift, but you can indicate your "preference" for its use. Questions?? contact RevC at: RevC@rev.org **THANK YOU!!!**

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