

## **Hello Friends & Family,**

There's actually a number of places in the Bible where God tells us He goes BEFORE us, preparing the way. And He has shown this a few times in the past weeks, probably to prepare me for a journey I begin 1 week from today - A solo 3 week visit to Burundi to meet everyone behind and inside of Imuhira Heza, the "Home for Widows & Orphans No More."

Let me explain...

### **DIVINE APPOINTMENTS**

Earlier this month I attended an international conference of the ["Fellowship of Christian Assemblies - FCA."](#) To be honest I had no specific reason why I was going except that I had been encouraged to go. So I went, knowing no one, & having no idea what to expect when I got there. Thinking perhaps this was a group I should join, I asked God, "If this is Your idea, please set up some significant meetings for me here. And He did just that...He went BEFORE me to set up some very particular encounters with certain people I had to meet.

I bumped into this young man from Papua New Guinea (not a part of the conference), to encourage him on his journey with God. He's all alone, seeking asylum in Canada & was shocked & delighted to meet someone from PNG who could speak his language.

I met Avril Vander Merwe, the South African author who teaches in our online Create Seeds Writing Course. We have only ever met previously over ZOOM, and neither of us had any idea the other would be here!

After feeling the nudge to bring Scripture to the children in Burundi, I bumped into this man from Canadian Bible Society who had felt to bring 30 French/English bibles with him. He gave them all as a free gift!

I met a man, the head of a Tanzanian school who's been hoping for someone to work with one of their artistic teachers to help them develop their curriculum to include more Creativity - exactly what I was doing when we were living in Tanzania!

And now, just a few hours ago I got to meet with an incredibly humble, yet spiritually powerful pastor from Cranbrook, BC, who is inviting/welcoming me into the FCA Family (more on that to come...)

### GETTING TO FINALLY MEET "FAMILY" A IN BURUNDI

**On Dec 11, 2020 I met Boneko Bonaventure online** during the global COVID shutdown, while Becky and I were in quarantine. Little did we know that in the midst of so much division, separation, & brokenness, God would join us together as father and son to begin building a new community in the nation of Burundi. **Now 3 ½ years later, we will finally meet in person!**

The newly constructed Imuhira Heza Family Dwelling is nearing completion.

The boys' home is almost finished and I might be present for when they finally move in.

One of the 3 gardens Boneko planted for the home which we hope to harvest together.

Bujumbura continues to suffer from flooding so this may change some of our plans.

**Here is a list of some things we hope to do together:**

- Spend time with Boneko, Sarah, & Darin just getting to know them better in person. (There is a chance I may be present for the birth of their second child). Also spend time visiting the 2 mamas & playing with the 15 children who live in the home.
- Paint a mural of the Logo on the compound wall with the children, using the symbolism to help them understand their role as children of God and Brides of the Son.
- Do some art projects with the children such as making things out of clay, cardboard, wire, etc. and perhaps even build a kiln so they can bake their clay creations.
- Purchase a laptop computer for Boneko, so together we can learn how he can use it to do all the administration work. (He currently manages somehow to do it all with just his phone.)

*PS - if you wish to donate to the purchase of this computer, please reach out to me.*

- Visit other ministries in Burundi & Congo who are also working with widows & orphans to learn about how to prepare them for interdependent adulthood.
- Harvest some of the gardens for the home.
- Visit Boneko's home village and meet his family.
- Anything else that God has in mind but has not told us yet...

Thank you so much for journeying with us as we continue to discern & follow God's Leading. We really covet your prayers for Provision & Protection during these next weeks of separation.

Making His Kingdom Visible,  
Rick (on behalf of Becky and the boys)

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