

Hello Friends & Family,

It has been way too long since I returned from my trip to **Burundi**, but today I finally have time to share with you about my wonderful adventure of seeing how this passage is true in the poorest nation on earth.

Let me share with you...

First, it was an absolute delight to finally meet *mon fils*, Boneko, and his family: Sarah, Bosco, & Darin, after knowing them only online till now. This trip confirmed **everything** I had felt - Boneko & Sarah are truly humble, honest, sincere, hard-working, discerning, and

passionate. They do live with the same fearful stresses as other Burundians, but I watched Boneko respond to his difficult life by continually leading his own family & the Imuhira Heza family in faithful prayer, trusting in the promises of his Heavenly Father.

Finally meeting each other in person for the first time ever.

Attending a wedding together

Bosco showing Darin a mouse he caught in the water bucket

Daring helping to prepare a rooster for dinner

Having lived in Tanzania for a year, I was not prepared for what my experience in Burundi would be like. Burundians now live with civil rest, yet many of the things we take for granted just do not exist there - regular income, proper roads, fuel for vehicles, regular electricity & water, etc. As Boneko showed me the homes & lives of the people around him, I did not feel any sense of Hope....

...that is until I saw God working through Boneko's interactions with the people. And when he brought me to Imuhira Heza, and I was able to spend time there with Mama Janvier & Mama Jeanette, Calixte (the watchman/ tutor), and the 20 children, I witnessed and enjoyed the fruit of the Healing that God is doing in & through these widows & orphans. They are no longer to me, just faces in photos, they have become dear family to me.

As you look at these photos and read the captions, remember that each of them have lived through traumatic lives before Boneko brought them together to live as a family in Imuhira Heza, and realize the miracles God is doing...

MEET OUR "FAMILY" IN BURUNDI

The New Home so far (this photo has panoramic distortion)

The whole family together in their new home!

Every arrival at the home begins with joyful greetings.

with Boneko, in front of the new mural we painted with the children

with Calixte: the watchman & tutor

with Mama Janvier

with Mama Jeanette

I think maybe one of the signs of healed trauma

is when kids are just being kids again.

They had so much fun striking poses for the camera.

Here is a list of some things we did together (see the photos below):

- Painted 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.
- Purchased a laptop computer for Boneko, and taught him how to use it to do all the administration work.
- Harvested the taro and yams in one of the gardens for the home.
- Because of the lack of fuel; the flooding at the Congo border, some civil unrest, and serious engine troubles with the car, we chose not to visit other ministries. (this also prevented us from visiting Boneko's home village) Instead we focused on spending time with the mamas & children, praying, worshipping, teaching some basic woodworking & art skills, and also encouraging them about the gifts and talents God has given them.

The children did a fantastic job painting the mural

...and then they painted their own murals.

Harvesting Yams and Taro

Some locals had never before seen a live "Mzungu" (white foreigner)

A Fruitful Harvest



With some donated tools and scrap wood we were able to teach the children basic woodworking skills. Be sure to scroll through all 4 photos here.

A Gift of Art Supplies from an artist friend

Some artists in our city gave a gift of school bags that the children could draw & paint on. They were a big hit.

Some French Bible gifted from the Canadian Bible Society

Children eagerly awaiting some new clothes

A home with 20 children is a busy home

Boneko, Calixte, and the Mamas lead the children in regular prayer times

The children built a fort from their own homemade bricks

Mama Jeanette & Mama Janvier preparing dinner for the family

Jesus Take the Wheel in Kirundi



I will end off my update with a video of the children teaching me a Kirundi song/dance which translated is titled: "Jesus, Take the Wheel."

This New Home is a HUGE Blessing and will house up to about 4 - 6 widows & 40 - 50 orphaned children, but before we can invite more in (and they are asking), we need:

- **to build the kitchen/classroom and**
- **more regular monthly supporters to cover the daily living & education costs**

Want to join God as He rescues & champions the lowest of the poorest nation on earth? Reach out to us at: **imuhiraheza7@gmail.org** click the link below:

<https://imuhiraheza.org/en/get-involved>