



PRAYERLINES

MID-AFRICA EDITION | MAY 2007



| *sharing Jesus, changing lives*

1**UGANDA**

Joan Hall at Rushere hospital writes that building has begun on a multi-purpose hall/chapel and the Guest House is near to completion. As she retires, Joan asks prayer for Christian leadership in the hospital.

2

Two English girls who were returning to the UK after doing an elective at Kisiizi Hospital were in a coach crash on the Kampala–Masaka Road and one of the girls was killed instantly. The other one escaped injury but of course was badly shaken.

3

A ‘phytologist’ (traditional herbalist) has set up a clinic in Kabale town. He is giving public lectures and going on the radio opposing western medicine and unfortunately advising people that fluoride toothpaste damages teeth and that fillings are bad for them.

4

Newly graduated dental officer Christine Owobusingye has been appointed to set up community outreach dental services in Buhoma, an area where Batwa (Pygmies) are being settled. Her husband is doing further studies, her two children are in boarding school.

5

Jenny Green asks us to pray for the follow-up work with the 1,350 ‘young’ people who came to the youth camp in Kisoro in January (they expected 700). “God empowered them and they witnessed many conversions and many triumphs over Satan.”

6

Thank God for Paul Darrall's visit to Kisiizi Hospital to finalise the design of the electrical distribution from the hydroelectric scheme, which Charles Swainson is building. Paul's company, SSE Energy, sponsored his flight and donated equipment.

7

Rukungiri Growers ('the chilli project') needs the Lord's provision for services like club-foot treatment (Jones visits children to apply plaster, changing it weekly to alter the feet gradually) and school fees for deaf children who need a specialist teacher.

8

Remember Liz Traill teaching Conservation and the Environment at Bishop Barham Christian University College, Kabale, praying that Christian students may go out well taught in caring for God's creation, and able to influence others on a local and national scale.

9

BURUNDI

A useful meeting was held at the Provincial Office to review theological education curricula and the selection and training of pastors and church teachers. Pray for the ongoing discussions and implementation.

10

Mission partner nurse Sheena McBain, in agreement with the Diocese, is planning to move to Shombo (where she works) to live. The house needs some work doing on it before she can move in. Pray it will be completed by the time she returns from leave.

11

Simon Guillebaud took a group of visitors to speak at a secondary school. Curiosity about the white visitors drew 1,000 youth instead of the usual 200. “A couple of hundred responded to the call (not a soft sell) to take up their cross. Follow-up, as always, is crucial.”

12

Simon continues: “We at Scripture Union are buying a substantial plot of land to build a school in the next few years. I am very excited, as it will secure a Christian presence and education for future generations of Burundians. Do pray for wisdom.”

13

Lift up in prayer Bishop Sixbert Macumi of Buye Diocese, who recently visited Britain. His clergy numbers have been reduced by one-third, due to defections to another denomination. His area was also hit by the devastating floods.

14

As a result of the floods 60,000 are homeless and 800,000 facing hunger. In the past, large areas of forest have been cut down, which may be responsible for the damage. The President has initiated a short-term income tax to support victims.

15

The leader of the Government’s majority political party, the CNDD-FDD, has been discredited, removed from office and replaced. The second Vice President, who was implicated with the former leader, has also been replaced.

16

Observers from Europe and the US oversaw this transition: praise God this fledgling democracy has managed a major political upheaval without loss of life. Pray that the rebel group which is still holding out may now be willing to negotiate an agreement.

17

Remember the work done by Mothers' Union groups in Burundi, Rwanda, Congo and Uganda, including parenting classes, Bible study, adult literacy, income generating schemes, nutrition, childcare and hygiene. Pastors' wives have a vital role.

18

D R CONGO

In Kindu Diocese, the Rev Anyasi leads training of adult literacy workers, working with Louise Wright. Pray that reading and writing skills will transform the lives of many people, and the Bible 'come alive'.

19

There have been 288 cases of meningitis in Aru district and so far there have been 44 deaths. Community health workers are ministering throughout the area, often through rural health centres not equipped to deal with such an outbreak.

20

Reflective times in Kindu diocese: it celebrates its 10th anniversary in August and Bishop Masimango hopes to visit many parts of the diocese; Louise Wright is preparing to retire in 2008 and her neighbour Archdeacon Mwenyemali has just turned 50.

21

Meetings have taken place between all Anglican Bishops in DR Congo and UK donors to discuss priorities for the future. Pray for Steve Burgess, regional manager, as he follows up on these meetings and the rest of his visit of 16–23 April.

22

Bishop Enoch Kayeeye tells of the stark situation of North Kivu Diocese when he arrived from Uganda: “One student returned to Bishop Barham University College, leaving one behind due to the shortage of money. The Diocesan staff did not have their salaries”

23

RWANDA

Caroline Seed at Kigali Anglican Theological College thanks God for new staff: The Bishop of Byumba ‘lent’ a clergyman to teach Greek three hours a week and they found an experienced English teacher.

24

There is more good news: “We have employed a capable bursar part-time. Of course, this has considerably increased our expenditure on staff salaries. We would appreciate your prayers that we would be able to meet these expenses.”

25

Caroline continues: “There is really a lot to give thanks for. The college is alive and buzzing. It is beginning to develop a momentum of its own without Dick (principal) and I having to motivate everything. There is still a long way to go, but progress is encouraging.”

26

On a more sober note, the Seeds ask prayer for “the health needs of staff and students. This is the malaria season and students and staff have begun to fall sick. They sleep under nets but it is difficult to avoid every bite when out in the evenings.”

27

Ian Whiteford in Cyangugu writes: “Our managers’ and headteachers’ training got off to a good start, the fourth sessions will be in May. Please pray for us to be culturally relevant, to communicate well across language barriers and help put theory into practice.”

28

In Kigeme, finding school fees is now a big problem for many families due to bad harvests. The last bean crop failed because of too much rain. Many pupils arrived weeks late at the secondary school here because they had been unable to find fees.

29

The Bible School at Kigeme has not yet resumed courses this year. The Director, Pastor James, has been completing his degree thesis and his assistant, Pastor Manasseh, is ill. There has been a lot of illness among clergy and diocesan staff recently.

30

In parishes in Kigeme Diocese new neighbourhood Bible study groups are proving a real blessing. As well as increasing understanding of basic Christian doctrine, the groups are promoting better relationships and some are considering outreach.

31

Pray for all those involved in Rural Development Interdiocesan Services, which supports projects like the co-operative farming programme in Shyogwe Diocese, with pineapple production, including juice-making to increase the value of this crop.

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Cover image: Women refugees from Burundi looking into the Bible after receiving glasses through Rema Ministries. (Photo: François Nitunga, Rema)