



TRANSFORMING  
BURUNDI  
& BEYOND  
[www.greatlakesoutreach.org](http://www.greatlakesoutreach.org)

# CHOOSE LIFE

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
GREAT LAKES OUTREACH  
(GLO)

Bosco's Story | From a Hut to a Home  
Simon Guillebaud on Light and Darkness

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## LIGHT AND DARKNESS

One of my heroes is a man called A.W.Milne. He felt called to a tribe of headhunters in the New Hebrides. Every previous missionary attempt to reach this tribe had ended in martyrdom, but that didn't stop Milne. God protected him, and in the end he spent 35 years living with that tribe, during which he never returned to his homeland. When the tribe buried him, they chose the following epitaph for his tombstone:

*"When he came there was no light.  
When he left there was no darkness."*

Isaiah 58:10 says that *"if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday."*

Well, 'the needs of the afflicted' in Burundi are endless. And GLO is all about the Good News in Word and deed.

Yes, Burundians remain amongst the world's hungriest, most miserable and most generally afflicted. So our temptation might be simply to give up. Or to feel overwhelmed by the problems. But no, instead of cursing the darkness, we continue to light lots of candles. I remember at a particularly dark time, my Great-aunt wrote to me many years ago:

**Look around, and be distressed**  
**Look within, and be depressed**  
**Look to Jesus, and be at rest**



"It's a great privilege to serve our amazing network of leaders and ministries as they pursue God's heart for our nation. Thank you for all your prayers for us and for Burundi; they make a huge difference."

**Onesphore Manirakiza,  
National Director**

I'm constantly challenged at how many of my brothers and sisters here keep looking to Jesus and being at rest. They experience a deep joy and maintain a steadfast hope in the face of extraordinary suffering and hardship. As a family, we've memorized Isaiah 26:3 which says of the Lord: *"You will keep in perfect peace (in Hebrew 'shalom shalom') those whose minds are steadfast because they trust in you."* I chose that verse because inner peace is often elusive, as is joy and hope.

So we're lighting those candles by feeding, educating and caring for several thousand children in various schools; by training pastors and evangelists to take the gospel throughout every province in the country; by engaging strategically with leaders in all spheres of society to prevent the nation's total disintegration; by insisting and living out our unshaking conviction that the Light of the World still shines brightly, even

though at times the darkest clouds suggest otherwise. Martin Luther King wrote: *"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."* A girl had a grenade and was on her way to blow up her family's killers. She heard our singing, came into the meeting, was convicted by the Spirit, repented, and didn't continue on that dark journey of hate. Light drove out the darkness, love drove out the hate.

That's just one of many stories of what the Lord's using us to do. Thanks for all your support so far. Please, please, keep on supporting our lighting of candles all over Burundi, one at a time, creating a critical mass of light in the name of Jesus. How many candles are you in for?!

**Simon Guillebaud,  
International Director**



# ALL ABOUT PEOPLE! KINGS CONFERENCE CENTRE (KCC)

*"The best place to stay in Bujumbura. Great facilities, especially appreciated the quiet air-con to the rooms - a superb stay for my wife, children & I. Helpful, accommodating staff and great service and food throughout our stay - clean facilities throughout."*

**Customer review from Tripadvisor**

*"If it weren't for KCC my family wouldn't be alive today."*

**Celestin, Hospitality Manager**



## GLO TRUSTEE CHARLOTTE HUTCHINSON REPORTS:

KCC is a fantastic social enterprise set up by highly motivated staff. They insist they don't want to rely on other people's hand-outs but fund their own work themselves and I love that. **We want to do all we can to avoid dependency.**

It's a symbol of hope and of light, and in dark and challenging circumstances that counts for a lot.

It's all about people! When it's at full capacity KCC employs 50 staff. With an average family being 8 people that means 400 Burundians have an income to live.

In a country where the vast majority are struggling to survive, this is phenomenal.

We are in the process of extending KCC to attract a wider client base and employ more staff. **That means more families will be fed.**

As GLO stands with KCC to raise funds for this next phase it sends an important message to our brothers and sisters in Burundi that we love them, they haven't been forgotten and we stand with them whatever they are facing. That's an exciting thing to be a part of.

When my husband Mark and I first visited Burundi in May 2009 we brought a suitcase full of shower curtains in readiness for KCC's grand opening later that month. It has been exciting to be a part of the KCC journey since then.

Each time I visit Burundi I have the privilege of spending time with Goretti (KCC's manager). Her faith and her resolve blow me away.

In 2015 there was severe civil unrest. I saw Goretti on the day she had heard

that members of her own family had been caught up in a shooting. I was able to pray with her. Her reaction was astonishing. Crying, she looked me straight in the eye and said "Isn't God good to have sent you to me on a morning such as this!" Goretti says of the staff team, "We are a family".

All staff sign up to a pledge of honesty and not taking bribes, an extraordinary approach in Burundi. KCC is a light showing that honesty in business can work even here.

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## KEY FACTS

KCC is just minutes away from the hustle and bustle of Bujumbura's downtown and sandy waterfront, yet out of the way so guests can relax. Impressive views of the Congolese mountains, Lake Tanganyika and gardens surround it. 30 spacious rooms with baths and showers offer top quality and comfort.

Every job at KCC provides a lifeline for an average of eight precious men, women and children.

The completion of Phase II will provide jobs for another 20 staff. That's dignity, hope and a future for another 160 men, women and children!

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Safety and wellbeing of the team and those who will come and work at KCC in future
- Bookings to flourish
- Provision for the early completion of Phase II





## BACK TO SCHOOL BONANZA

GLO was amazingly able to support over 1000 children to return to school in September, providing for the fees, a pencil and uniform! Thank you, thank you, thank you for investing in these young lives, children of those serving in Burundi who couldn't go to school without your support.

## BURUNDI TODAY

The political situation remains tense with police on every street. Jobs are scarce. Inflation is about 14% but more like an average of 30% for food (111% for sweet potatoes and 57% for cassava flour, key staples). Access to fuel remains difficult, making life a challenge for those who live and work here. People are still fleeing the country, whilst others are returning.

## BOSCO'S STORY:

## FROM A HUT TO A HOME

"I have had a heart for widows and orphans since 2010 after I completed a two-year program on social justice in the UK. When I returned to Burundi my heart would break whenever I would see vulnerable children and women begging in the street. I continued to pray about it and the Lord led me to start discipling widows out of poverty and discipling orphans out of poverty through J-Life Burundi." So says Jean Bosco, leader of J-Life Burundi.

"I felt the Lord laying it on my heart to serve orphans and widows especially in Bubanza province and the Musigati commune in Ciya village. During the war, rebels would

hide themselves in the forest and visit the neighbouring Ciya village to kill and destroy. Women and children fled when the rebels attacked. When they returned to the village, they had no homes to stay in and their men were dead.

"I had never heard about this area before. In J-Life Burundi we have a philosophy of working with the local church. We started to visit the pastor and his church. Afterwards we asked if there were orphans and widows who needed support. We started with eight orphans and two widows. Now we are discipling 60 orphans and 15 widows, helping them out of poverty.



"For example, we work with one widow who used to sell illegal drinks and lived in drunkenness and immorality. Her life was changed by the Gospel when she gave up alcohol. We are witnessing God's hand at work through the programmes we run.

"Thanks to generous supporters, we are in the process of building houses for six widows in Ciya. "The widows are very, very happy to have a decent home for them and their children. For five years, they've had no hope of decent shelter. They used to be very cold and often became ill.

"Building houses together serves as an excellent platform for sharing the Gospel. As we work alongside others we are able to engage in conversation with the purpose of winning them over to Jesus."



This family had very poor shelter made of vegetation



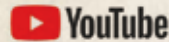
Lovely new home for a widow and her children

## PRAYER POINTS:

- For the widows and orphans J-Life serves
- Thanks for the provision of these homes
- For Jean Bosco and all his team



## MORE THAN CONQUERORS VIDEO SERIES ON



Check out **MrSimonGuillebaud** on YouTube for a series of inspirational five minute videos.



## THE AFRICAN GLO TOUR 2018 MAY 26TH TO JUNE 1ST

777km in aid of Burundi - one of the world's hungriest, unhappiest and poorest nations.

Cycling an average of 110km a day for 7 days in aid of the GLO's lifesaving work in Burundi, the ride crosses Rwanda through stunning scenery including a tea plantation, a volcano park and genocide sites. Huge ascents and descents, both physical and emotional.

Interested?

Email [simon@greatlakesoutreach.org](mailto:simon@greatlakesoutreach.org)



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## Community Transformation



- GLO believes in sharing the gospel in words and deeds. Its partners live amongst the people they serve, bringing practical and spiritual support.
- Health clinics
- Housing, healthcare and education for the Batwa (pygmy communities)
- Interfaith dialogue

## Equipping children, families and young leaders



- Schools, orphanages and street children projects
- Evangelism, Christian children's and youth work

## Social Enterprise



- Kings Conference Centre – a leading hotel in Bujumbura, supporting Scripture Union
- Burundi Bio Agricultural Communities – tackling malnutrition and poverty

Find out more and support us here:  
[greatlakesoutreach.org](http://greatlakesoutreach.org)

Thank you!



How far your giving can go:

**£23** - buy uniform and pay school fees

**£50** – broadcast peace to millions

**£152** – create a job

**£500** – conflict prevention

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