



Spring Trip Report 2014

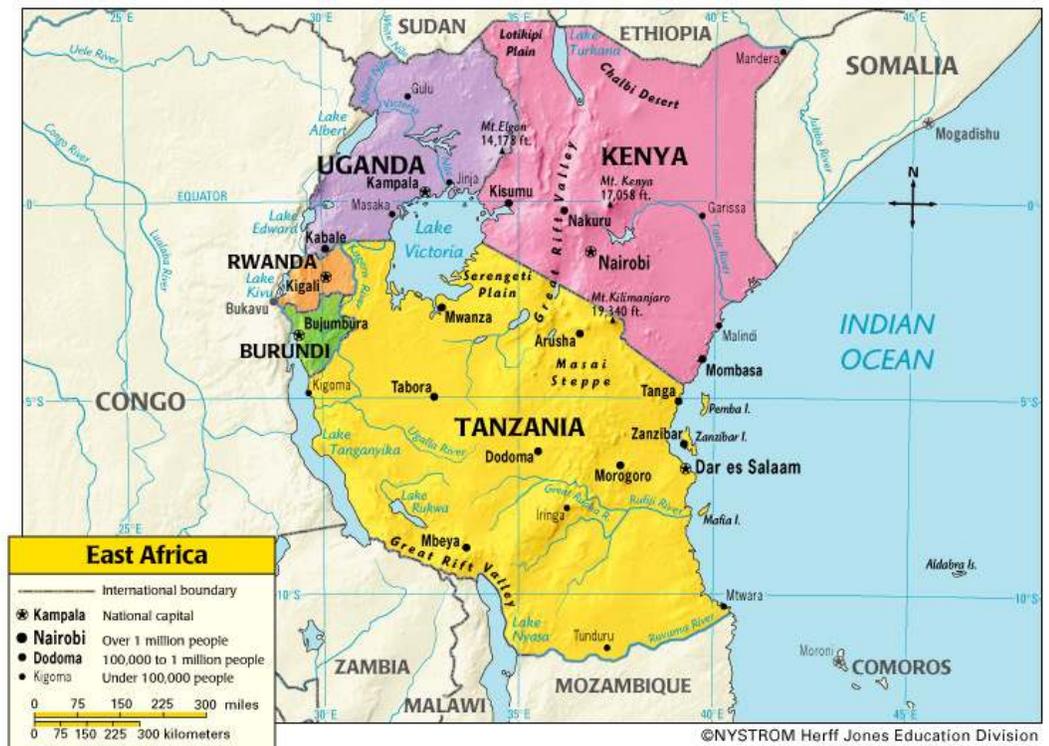
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Burundi!

SMPI's partnership with the EQUIP organization continues to expand in East Africa. We have been travelling to Uganda since 2006. In November of 2013 we began teaching the Leadership Development classes of EQUIP in Rwanda and on this trip, we travelled to Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi to meet with a group of leaders who requested that SMPI begin to train leaders there. After a couple of days in the country, meeting with interested leaders, we have decided to begin Volume One in November 2014. Each time we begin a new location it means a commitment for the next three years, travelling twice a year to complete the course. Burundi becomes the seventh location at which we will be teaching the EQUIP Leadership



Burundi is another lush East African country located just south of Rwanda. Rolling hills filled with tropical vegetation greet you upon entering the country. Lake Tanganyika extends 420 miles from north to south with Burundi bordering it in the north, the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the west, Tanzania on the east and Zambia in the south. Shipping barges sail up and down the lake transporting cargo between these four nations

classes each time we go to East Africa. We are excited at the interest of leaders in Burundi for training and personal leadership development.



The city of Bujumbura with Lake Tanganyika in the background

Treasured Kids!

SMPI along with Grace Christian Fellowship and other friends sponsor 77 children, teachers and administrators at Treasured Kids Primary School. And “treasured kids” they certainly are! Just take a look at those faces—real kids who are enjoying the benefits of having a sponsor to help them with school fees, a noon hour meal, medical attention when needed and a school uniform. Thank you to all those who are regularly giving



and supporting a child. You are making a very real difference in their lives. We would like to invite you to come with us later this year (November) or in January 2015 to see for yourselves. You will come home with an expanded perspective. The GCF Global Focus funds helped to fill a need at the school. The teacher’s quarters had only been partially used to house teachers. A mortgage required part of the facility to be rented out in order to make the payment. This year we were able to retire that mortgage and now all units are being used by the teachers. You cannot imagine the joy and gratefulness that was expressed to us for taking care of the mort-

gage! Within hours of telling the school of our decision to help out we received several email letters expressing the most heartfelt gratitude of the teachers. The farm continues to produce crops to feed the children their noon meal. In addition to our normal crop, maize (corn), this year we have also planted cherry tomatoes, sweet potatoes and cabbages. The goal is to provide a more varied and nutritional diet for the children. We still have about 4 of our 18 acres to clear and plant with crops. We are nearing the end of our three year plan for the farm and hope to reach the goal of having enough produce to feed the children and sell the remaining amount to fund the farm operations.

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The farm is growing multiple crops this season in hopes of reaching our goal of self sufficiency

Plus One Sponsors

The following businesses are “Plus One Sponsors” of SMPI. Please consider using them if you need the services they provide. If you would like to use your business to support the ministry in Africa, we can show you how, with virtually no cost to you or your business.

Byler Farm Mkt
(261-651-8338)

- fresh fruits, vegetables, baked goods, maple syrup

G & J Tree Service
(269-330-9510)

- complete tree service (24hrs)



The teacher’s quarters



Four of the TKPS kindergarten children pose with Mama Jennifer for a fun picture. They are always excited to have their photo taken and want to see it immediately, many times laughing at themselves. In the background is our “new” Toyota Surf (2000) that we were able to purchase. What a blessing! Thank you to the GCF Global Focus initiative and other friends who contributed to make this purchase possible.