

Introduction to BTBAB mission to Burundi - June/July 2012 -



WELCOME

We believe that you are about to have one of the most privileged experience of your life as Christian. *Mission* is at the core of God's heart in the earth. It was (and still is) the central message of Jesus' last words to His disciples before He returned to heaven (Mt. 28: 16-20; Mk. 16: 14-20).

Missions does not begin when you arrive in Burundi, but from the moment you say 'yes' to go. While we believe in excellence in ministry, we are more interested in what God wants to do through you and in you, than in doing everything perfectly. We strongly believe that mission is not an event but rather it is a journey - a journey where God is more interested in what happens *in* you, than in what you *do*.

So sit back, do your best but be ready for a ride - perhaps a *bumpy* ride. We say 'bumpy' because during this journey, you will meet people who think differently from you and who also do things differently from you. In all, we encourage you to cultivate a teachable spirit (a willingness to learn) and allow God to be God and people to be human.

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ABOUT BTBAB

BTBAB, otherwise known as *Blessed To Be A Blessing*, was established in 1997 as a demonstration of God's love to the poor and underprivileged in the developing world. We find our motivation in the words of Jesus in Mt 10: 8.

Our work has grown over the years involving humanitarian work, helping in building orphanages, youth mission as well as taking encouraging words to the underground churches being persecuted in nations otherwise closed to the gospel. To date BTBAB has served in over 15 nations around the world with 15 teams already sent out on short term missions. In recent years, we have become proactive in releasing people to go and give anything from 6-months to 2years of their lives to help transform communities in the developing world. The work has been made possible through the generous donations and prayers of people from different parts of the world.

In addition to taking teams out on missions, we undertake several projects and initiatives empowering the poor and reversing the damaging impact of poverty in the developing world. For more information (including our guiding principles), pls. email us: info@btbab.org or visit our website on: www.btbab.org

ABOUT BURUNDI: The people, the place & their way of life

Africa's Burundi, one of the world's poorest nations, is emerging from a 12-year, ethnic-based civil war.

Since independence in 1961, it has been plagued by tension between the dominant Tutsi minority and the Hutu majority.

The ethnic violence sparked off in 1994 made Burundi the scene of one of Africa's most intractable conflicts.

It is now beginning to reap the dividends of a peace process. But it faces the formidable tasks of reviving a shattered economy and of forging national unity.

- **Full name:** Republic of Burundi
- **Population:** 8.5 million (UN, 2010)
- **Capital:** Bujumbura
- **Area:** 27,816 sq km (10,740 sq miles)
- **Major languages:** Kirundi (official), French (official), Swahili
- **Major religions:** Christianity, indigenous beliefs
- **Life expectancy:** 51 years (men), 54 years (women) (UN)
- **Monetary unit:** 1 Burundi franc = 100 centimes
- **Main exports:** coffee, tea, sugar, cotton, hides

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ABOUT OUR HOSTS in BURUNDI

We are currently in contact with a number of potential hosts and a final decision on who we would work with will be announced at the team's first training weekend in February

This will be the first time that BTBAB will be sending a team to Burundi and it will not just be an exciting challenge and adventure but promises to be a radical life-changing experience for anyone who hears and responds to the call. Will you join us? Can you give just two weeks of your life to help reshape the history of a people who are so far removed from the trappings of western culture that it calls to the core of what being a Christian is all about...a call to reach all nations, tribes and tongues with the love of Christ.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO GO

You must be:

- A Christian
- 16yrs or over
- Active member of a local church
- Able to pay for your own expenses
- Letter of reference from your pastor or a recognised Christian leader who has known you for at least one year (we will contact this person only after we have received your application form)

What about dates & costs

We are looking at taking **out a team for 29th June to 11th July 2012**. The purpose of our trip will be to demonstrate God's love in a practical way to the people of Burundi. We estimate cost to be around **£1200 - £1350** (includes training in the UK, flights & accommodation).

Once you have met the 5 conditions above, we would need a character reference from your church minister or a Christian leader who can honestly vouch for your character. We will start receiving applications from March 2011 and hope to fully recruit the team by mid-June. However, we reserve the right to stop receiving application earlier if we have reached the maximum number. So the earlier you contact us, the better. Please note that all money you start investing from the 1st training day are non-refundable (including flight fares)

if you are seriously interested in this trip, we would strongly recommend that you contact us via email at this stage - just simply to register your interest by emailing us at: info@btbab.org

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WHAT ARE WE GOING TO BE DOING?

HealthCare

Paediatrics; General Medicine and A & E
Nursing; Midwifery; Mother & Child care; Dietetics & Nutrition

Mercy Ministries:

Carpentry & Painting; Electrical work; Plumbing
Agricultural project

Education

Health Promotion; Schools Ministry (including Teaching English in schools)

Administration & IT

Training locals in IT or assisting Team

Church Ministry

Children's & Youth (Teen) Work
Preaching, Dance and Drama ministry

Training

During your mission preparation, you will be required to attend 4 training sessions. Each session will last 6-8hrs and will be divided into 3 parts: Prayer & worship; Teaching / Practical Workshop & Administration. We know in a country like the UK, it is not always possible to attend all meetings. As a result, in exceptional circumstances, you will be allowed to be exempt from one of the 6 training sessions. However, we would stress to you that these sessions are extremely invaluable time of intimacy with God as a team, and crucial in working together as a team. So we ask that you do your best to attend ALL.

For this trip, we will condense the 6 training sessions into **3 training weekends, 2 of which are mandatory. The first mandatory training weekend is: 17 - 19th Feb 2011.** The other two will be available to the public from May 2012 (one of which may be 1 - 3rd June 2012)

Some important information

Your Team Leaders

Team Leader:	Femi Oni (femi.oni@btbab.org)
Assistant Team leaders:	Mark & Katie Gauden (acf@btbab.org)
Team Administrator:	TBA
Team Nurse:	TBA

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TRAVEL HEALTH (Check with your GP for info about what you need for Burundi)

Yellow Fever

Anti-malaria medications

Tetanus - diphtheria vaccinations

Hepatitis A & B vaccinations

Typhoid

Polio

Rabies (recommended but not mandatory)

Measles, Mumps, Rubella

Getting support from your church

As we said earlier, please get your church behind you - this is very important. Ensure that they announce your plans in church publicly, pray for you to go and pray for you while you are away.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO NOW

Applying to join this team

Complete the application form. You can download this from our website: www.btbab.org
We will need a letter of reference from your pastor/church stating that they know you, that you are a member of their congregation and that you have sought and/or have their blessings to go on this trip. **You do NOT need to chase this reference as we will contact your referee directly.** We will need a non-refundable £50 deposit from you in order to process your application.

Conduct and Lifestyle

As we are a Christian organisation with Christian ethics, please note that we reserve the right to refuse your application or remove you from the team at any time if we feel your conduct of life does not meet the minimum standard required for a Christian (this includes any behaviour that puts the rest of the team at risk). An email and telephone number of a member of our Board of Trustees will be available to team members who require confidential support during their preparations for the trip.

Passport & Visas

Ensure your passport is valid for at least 6 months at the time of returning home.

Booking your Flight

Please do NOT make any flight bookings until you have been officially accepted on this team.

However, you will be required to purchase your ticket in full 2months before the trip at the latest.

Travel Insurance

Highly recommended. You obtain your own insurance: either one year insurance, or simply a return trip insurance.

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Summary of BTBAB Ministries

Ministries: Missions Outreach; *Tool/Box* Mission Training; Overseas Initiatives (ACF & MCI)
Our Team: Consists of Board of Trustees, Executive Board and Team Coordinators.

For more info about BTBAB and our set of guiding principles, please visit our website:
www.btbab.org

BTBAB TEAM

BTBAB Operational Team

Femi Oni	Director of Operations
Kathryn Tims	ToolBox Training (interim)
Tom Griffin	Overseas Community Development (interim)
Hannah Savage	Administrator (interim)
Katie Gauden	ACF Secretary
Martin & Sheba Sergeant	Retreat Coordinators

Board of Trustees:

TBA:	Chairperson
Nigel Langford:	Pastoral Advisor/Vice Chair (communications@btbab.org)
Yvonne Twum-Barima:	Prayer Advisor (prayer@btbab.org)
Cidinha Oni:	Secretary (communications@btbab.org)
Julie Eseku:	Treasurer (donations@btbab.org)