

## Blessed To Be A Blessing (BTBAB)

# BTBAB News

May 2017

Volume 19 issue 2



## Tanzania bound

by Katy Read

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In April this year, a team of four of us went to Tanzania. I was excited and nervous to be going back a second time; this time as a leader. It was great going back to stay at the orphanage and see people we had met last year again.

We visited three schools while we were there. We sang songs, decorated tote bags, made loom bands and played games. The children loved running around chasing us as we blew bubbles. Such a simple thing but one that brought such joy. We also went to visit another orphanage where there were about 40 children. Before we left the country we were able to donate £400 worth of food and school supplies to them, thanks to the kind donations of our UK friends.

As with all BTBAB's trips we had a project to set up. We always pray as a team before we go, to see what God wants us to do. The year previous I had stood in the grounds of the nursery school and there was a broken playground. It was dangerous

and I said in my heart to God, I wish I could do something about this. I left it at that and just wrote it in my journal.



I didn't want to say to the team about what I had felt last year because I wanted them to hear from God themselves. During a prayer time the team had visions of school bags and children in uni-

## Getting Involved

If you'd like to get involved, simply drop us an email to [info@btbab.org](mailto:info@btbab.org) and let us know if you would like to:

- ◆ Be a Partner
- ◆ Go on Short-term Mission Trip
- ◆ Support our OCT projects overseas
- ◆ Sponsor an ACI recipient for as little as £10 a month
- ◆ Be part of a person's journey of faith by going on the new Discippler's course
- ◆ Give directly to missionaries we support

If you are happy to inform us please let us know if this will be monthly or a lump sum, and the amount. Alternatively you can make cheques to Blessed To Be A Blessing (or BTBAB) Or perhaps you simply want to give anonymously, then please pay directly to Natwest A/C No: 11318635; Sort Code 51-61-28; BIC: NWBK GB2L; IBAN: GB23 NWBK 51612811318635



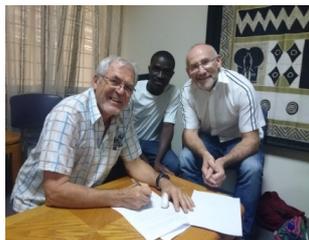
### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

Next year's retreat will be held at The Hayes Conference Centre in Swanage, Derbyshire. Book your place now!

25<sup>th</sup> –27<sup>th</sup> August 2017

## Redeeming the Land- New Partnership Signed by Tom Griffin

The photo on the right has been a long-awaited event in the adventures of Redeeming The Land (RTL). It is a photo of Pastor Elmer of Christian Life Ministries (CLM) signing the Partnership Agreement with Peniel (our project co-ordinator) and myself at the end of our recent OCT mission to Burundi.



Tom, Pastor Elmer and Peniel signing the partnership

Karen and I spent nine days in Burundi in March and the main aim was to negotiate the agreement with CLM, which is the church that Peniel, attends in the capital Bujumbura. Pastor Elmer, his wife Sherry, who are originally Canadian, and their church have a tremendous vision to bring transformation and revival to Burundi.

We also spent time in Gitega where we walked the land that



Visiting the landowner with the zone

Peniel had identified for rent and met the owners. Gitega is 120km east of Bujumbura, approx. 2hrs travel. This land belongs to a local family whose members live in various parts of the country, one being in Bujumbura and attends CLM. The 5 hectares of land are fertile and placed in a very

pleasant setting with some trees in the vicinity and a stream at the end of a gentle gradient. Our time in Gitega also entailed meeting the local community leaders as is the typical order of things when in countries like Burundi. All was very positive and we also had opportunity to meet with some of the key contacts while we were in Burundi including Libby Nahimana, who is a signatory for RTL and Noe Nizigama from Floresta, both of whom have shown us great kindness during our previous visits to the country.

Since the start of this partnership Peniel has launched the project in Mubuga, i.e. the zone of Gitega where the land is. This

was attended by potential farmers as well as some local dignitaries. Peniel cast the vision for RTL and up to 60 questionnaires were completed which will give the basic information about the interested farmers. Peniel reported that the community leader also encouraged the people to work hard for the development of their lives and the success of RTL. This next step is to form the farming association from this grouping and then train the farmers to be ready to plant in the next planting season which is in September.

We will have completed our direct involvement in Burundi in November 2018 so lots of work will have to be carried out between now and then. We trust that over the next eighteen months the Lord will plant real seeds of transformation into the hearts and minds of this small community in Mubuga. Jesus told his disciples, "the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a man planted in his field. Although it is the smallest of all seeds, yet it grows into the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches." (Mark 4:31-32) Seeds planted, both into the natural soil as well as the seeds of faith planted into the hearts of people, can produce bountiful results in the lives of these, some of poorest people on earth.

Following the withdraw from the previous partnership at the end of last year it could have seemed that all was lost in terms of finding a suitable partner. However, God is a redemptive God and nothing is ever lost in Him, in fact He is the one that waited to produce the best wine at the end.

Our next OCT mission will be to develop our Hope Springs Project when Tom, Sue and Yemi head off to Ethiopia at the End of June.



Community leaders and local farmers at the RTL launch

## Toolbox Update by Hannah Savage

BTBAB is committed to enabling people to fulfil the great commission of Jesus to 'go and make disciples of all nations'. If you have always wanted to go on a mission trip, but you don't feel you have what it takes, please don't disqualify yourself. God just wants you to make yourself available, and he will use your skills and gifting's to compliment a team.



Esther Price is leading a team to Thailand this autumn, 16<sup>th</sup> Nov -1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2017. This information

and application form can be found on the website [www.btbab.org](http://www.btbab.org). The first training weekend is 7th-9th July 2017.

BTBAB is now running a disciplers course, a course for those wishing to know more about discipling others. The next date is 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> October 2017. Please let us know if you are interested in attending.

If you would like more information on BTBAB trips, or the disciplers course, please contact Hannah: [hannah.savage@btbab.org](mailto:hannah.savage@btbab.org)

## Tanzania Bound—continued...

forms, one lady on the team had a vision of a girl in a school uniform with a cut leg. We also had it on our heart to raise £12,000 for the project. So we decided to make the project for rebuilding and restoring a school playground and providing school resources.



While we were there, there were several hurdles to overcome. There were many times that it looked like it might not work but at each turn God made a way. It was a lesson in faith for me, to trust Him at every turn. One Mama, a lady called Fiona, said she had it on her heart for the village to have a playground previously, so she was really excited about the project. We then met with the head teacher of Tumbi Primary school who was so happy and grateful for the opportunity. He had wanted a playground in his school previously but it hadn't been possible before. He agreed to the contract. By this time it was Tuesday and we were leaving on Wednesday!

We made the decision, with the help of Femi Oni, that it was right that we split the money raised (£3365) between the three schools we had visited. The other two head teachers said they could come on Wednesday morning, the day we were leaving!

The following day two of the head teachers came and signed contracts. We are very grateful as a team for everyone's kind donations to this project, it is such a worthy cause. Children should have a safe place to play where they can have fun, be free and dream. I have always believed that God makes a way but during this trip I saw it time and time again.

I am planning to go back to Tanzania to take them the remaining funds which we are believing God to come in. God is so good, even though I'm not perfect and I have made mistakes, He is still so faithful. Femi had a word from God that we would see God's goodness on the trip and we have truly tasted and seen that the Lord is good!

*Editors note—BTBAB does not normally encourage more fundraising when a team returns from a mission trip. However, on this occasion we are making an exception to get behind Katy's desire to see the rest of her vision come to pass.*



## General Ministry Update by Esther Price

### Retreat

This year the retreat is being held at The Hayes Conference Centre in Swanage, Derbyshire from 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Please see <http://www.cct.org.uk/the-hayes/introduction> for more information. The total cost is £140 and to secure your place, please pay a deposit of £20 into the BTBAB account (see bank details in the 'Getting Involved' section). Please register your interest by emailing me at—[info@btbab.org](mailto:info@btbab.org).

### Water From the Rock

Femi & Cidinha Oni have organised a trip to Israel from 21st - 28th Oct 2017. If you are interested in coming on this trip, please contact - [cidinha.oni@btbab.org](mailto:cidinha.oni@btbab.org) to register your interest. The deposit for this trip is £150 per person.

### ACI Recipients

After much prayer and seeking, we now have two new ACI recipients in Vietnam. Cuong, a 19 year old young man, is studying Graphic Design. Thuy, a 20 year old young lady, is training to be a doctor. If you would like to sponsor them on a monthly basis, please contact me—[info@btbab.org](mailto:info@btbab.org).

### Day of Prayer and Fasting

The next day of prayer & fasting is on 23rd August. If you would like to receive emails for these days please contact Yvonne at: [prayer@btbab.org](mailto:prayer@btbab.org)

# The Vision of Two Living Creatures By Femi Oni

## WFTR Column



WFTR

*Water From The Rock* is an emerging vision being established by Femi & Cidinha Oni.

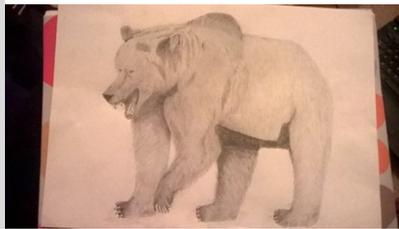
Though separate from the work of BTBAB, we work in collaboration with BTBAB. We facilitate advance trips to nations BTBAB eventually sends teams to, but also focus on supporting believers in the underground church.

For more information, contact Cidinha directly: [cidinha.oni@btbab.org](mailto:cidinha.oni@btbab.org)

### Disclosure

The Onis would like to thank Katy Read for kindly making a drawing of the vision received by Femi Oni as depicted in this article

In about 4wks, our nation of nations (the United Kingdom) returns to the polling stations for another election - less than 3 years after the last one. In between those 3 years, we have held the Scottish Referendum as well as the Euro Referendum. Both referendums have almost torn our nation of nations apart...and it would seem the upcoming election is opening up old wounds that may do more damage – unless the church takes more notice. I know there are people reading this now who think I am about to delve into the holy grail of UK politics. Don't worry, I won't fall into that trap again – at least I hope not. Everything within me would like to avoid the subject (especially as we have precious people in our lives who hold opinions on either side of the political spectrum. But I simply cannot let this go easily. The future of our nation hangs again in the balance and I feel compelled to write about this. But before I do so, I want to share something with you. On 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016, while I was in the prayer room in our garden with another believer, I fell into what I now know was a vision. In the vision, I saw two living creatures:



*"the first creature was a huge white bear in severe agony, one of its limbs had been dislocated and it*

*had an unusually long nose which swung from left to right (like east to west); the second creature was a lion sleeping and snoring on the floor."*



As I came out of the vision, I heard the following words: *"The bear will rise again...and if the lion is still sleeping, it will crush its head to the ground?"*

After I came out of this vision, I shared my experience with the other person in the prayer room with me that day, as well as some others whom I respect about things of the Spirit. I believe the vision is about world events, and about how decisions of specific nations will determine the future. Is the lion (in the vision) now waking up? If so, is the lion going to tear itself apart from within, or look to God for guidance? You could interpret the vision in many ways, but I will leave you to come to your own conclusion before God. But I would like to make a point: **Apart from the EU referendum, the UK election on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2017, is likely to be the most important general election in the modern era (and perhaps will remain so for at least the next 20-30yrs!).** The outcome of national elections in many nations in the last year have been wrongly forecasted – and I am not just referring to elections held in the United States, but in some African nations, some Latin American nations and also, to some extent, in some corners of Europe—the Netherlands being the most significant. As I shared in the May 2016 newsletter, I am writing again, that we as Christians must vote now or live to regret the painful consequences.

The tides are turning again which, in my opinion, would be a "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity for us - the church - to help reshape history and reclaim our nation for God again. Please, for once, do not make your choice based only on what the media is pumping through the air waves. There is a bigger battle going on behind closed doors, fought mercilessly by those whose intent is to remove God from the fabric of our nation. PLEASE, don't waste your vote – find out what God is saying and go out and vote with your own conscience before God. And when you enter that voting booth, don't be swayed by just what you are hearing from the main media - ask God how you should vote.

We are looking for a base for BTBAB and so our postal box is no longer in use. For urgent correspondence, please write to: c/o Esther Price, BTBAB, Hope City Church, Gaol Street, Hereford, HR1 2HU

Email: [info@btbab.org](mailto:info@btbab.org)  
www.btbab.org



Freely you have received, freely give  
(Mt 10: 8)

**BTBAB, otherwise known as Blessed To Be A Blessing, is a mission initiative established in 1997 as a practical demonstration of God's love to the needs of the poor & underprivileged in the developing world.**

*We have invested in almost 20 nations in the world and have already facilitated/sent 25 mission teams to some of the poorest countries in the world. By God's grace (expressed through the generosity of His people), over £100,000 has been invested so far.*

*We are a faith-based organisation - in other words, we depend on God to provide for our work through prayers and generous donations of friends and partners.*

*BTBAB is run by a Board of Directors, at operational level (supported by Coordinators) and accountable to a Board of Trustees.. Though an inter-denominational initiative, BTBAB values the importance of church-based ministry and therefore draws from the life of the local church, and has sent teams representing over 60 churches.*