

Standing in the Gap

Steve & Rachel Good

July 2011

Ministering with The Chapel

I, Rachel, had the privilege of traveling with a group from The Chapel in Akron, OH to villages in Mozambique. What was different about this trip was that many people made commitments to God. There have been many opportunities for them before, but God is moving and many decided that this was the time to say "Yes!" to Jesus. I have traveled twice a year with this church since 2009 but this time I was able to participate in the teaching. It was great to share my heart with these women. The team also worked with children's clubs and

church leaders. The Chapel has set up water systems in two villages that make it possible for people to get water close to home. In the past they walked 2-4 km with heavy containers on their heads and some were killed by crocodiles at the river.

Women in Chaimite; Volunteers from WR programs preparing to hear the teaching



Burundi and Eastern Congo

Since our last newsletter I, Steve, traveled twice to E. Africa to serve on the boards of two microfinance institutions (MFI's) in E. Congo and Burundi. I was asked to work with the WR country programs to help start sustainable agriculture initiatives and connect them to credit with the MFI's. Talk about a wide open door and a God-sized task. During the trips to the field the vistas, the needs and the potential were almost overwhelming. It is encouraging to know that we are not in this alone. God has his hand in this and will send the right people, resources and ideas as they are needed.

This is also known as the Great Lakes Region. Goma, in Congo is located on Lake Kivu, (an exploding lake) and Bujumbura, Burundi is on Lake Tanganyika. It seems odd to enter a city in a land-locked country and see cargo cranes at the boat docks. I traveled by boat on Lake Kivu where the views are beautiful.

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Lake Kivu

Travel to Zambia

Both of us were able to go to Zambia in May. Besides the regular management work that Steve does for the WR office (ZambiaWorks), we did a Training of Trainers I seminar for Community Health Evangelists (CHE). This program does community development and relies on volunteers. It was a challenge to hear some of the participants say that volunteerism does not work in Zambia. Another

The pastor in Zambia said Steve preached well because his sermon was not too short!



pastor then said "We need to pray that people's thinking will be transformed." That is the key – that God will change hearts and make us willing to serve and love our neighbors, even if there is no immediate reward.

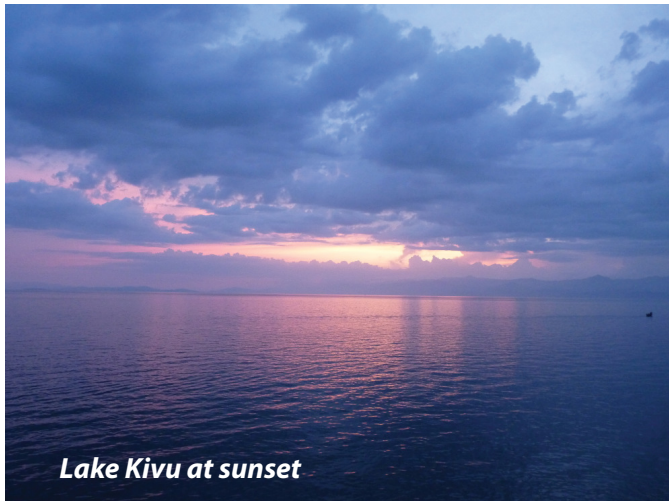
"He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord and He will reward him for what he has done." Prov. 19:17.

Burundi and Eastern Congo (cont.)

In Congo, I traveled through the area where chief rebel, Laurent Nkunda headquartered for four years. The mountainside soils are volcanic in origin and so rich that it feels like you are walking on a compost pile. We walked part way up the slope and still the mountain towered above us at least 1,000 feet and fertile fields were visible to the top. What an awesome creation!

In southern Burundi, where WR works with returnees from refugee camps, the challenges are different. Here the soils are deep red clays and due to high population levels, the hills are intensively farmed. Roads wind along the ridges of the area, some no wider than foot paths. Villages are perched on the tops of the high hills with villagers raising small kitchen gardens around their houses, and farming down the slopes. Some deep erosion is in evidence, destroying scarce land that is needed for survival. Despite all the poverty

and possibility for despair, there is much potential as evidenced by the self-sustained village we visited further north. Here they were raising food year round, including wheat and potatoes inter-planted with squash, beans, bananas and more.



Prayer Requests and Praises

- Thank God for the deep healings that took place at the Ancient Paths Seminar held April 8-9. Pray that we will be able to attend more trainings and a Marriage Covenant Retreat in South Africa in August.
- We are thankful for traveling mercies and for God's peace as many times Rachel stays in Maputo. Pray for continued protection.
- Please pray for housing for us. We're moving to a temporary location July 9 while we look for the right house that will also be WR's guesthouse. Housing prices and cost of living is now comparable or higher than large cities in the U.S.
- Ask God to guide the people who have recently made commitments to Him. May they take advantage of the discipleship opportunities in their villages and grow in Him. Pray for strong, indigenous Bible-believing churches to be formed in these villages.
- Please pray for Maputo International Christian Fellowship which we attend and help lead. Our pastor, Sammy Gumbe, has been sick for several months.
- Pray for continued strength and health to do the work God has called us to.
- Thank you for praying for us and standing with us!