

TANZANIA CAN-GO REPORT

Trip Location: South Sudan

Trip Dates: October 11 – 20, 2022

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C for Champions:

Before:

Domitien Sabongerwa, a pastor in the Evangelical Friends Church of Burundi has been the main leader from EFC-Burundi about missionary-sending. He was the Legal Representative of EFC-Burundi when EFC-Africa was challenged to begin sending missionaries.

Burundi has started holding an annual “missions crusade” under the leadership of the Louis Pasteur.

EFC-Burundi has stated a goal to send four missionary households to launch two new fields in two different countries by 2027. They are talking about Tanzania and South Sudan at this point.

During:

Domitien led the trip and is passionate about Burundi missions sending. Fidele Bizimana, Burundi General Superintendent, says he wants Burundi Friends to deploy missionaries to the East Africa Missionary Training School in Dar Salaam even before knowing where they would start the field. We visited the Kutu and the Zaramo people groups.

After:

At the moment it seems that this mission is/will be one that EFM would join with or come alongside/behind the EFC-Burundi leaders in this vision and work of God’s mission. It seems that several Burundians would be willing to be sent, no one seems to be saying, “I must go”! Ellie Ware has expressed that she might be called towards a people group in Tanzania and other future missionaries are open to wherever there is a need and a fit. There is also a Burundian who lives in the U.S. that senses a call to Tanzania.

A for Affirmation:

Before:

The key leaders in EFC-Burundi seem committed to sending missionaries to Tanzania. They have shared this vision with some of the churches/leaders and seem to have gotten an encouraging response. Both EFC-Burundi Yearly Meetings have sent groups to visit Mapendo Songolo in the Kigoma area of Tanzania. They have been excited to go and church people have helped to send them.

EFC-Burundi is in contact with FUM-Africa and FUM-Tanzania. Burundians have visited FUM in Tanzania and vice versa and are in conversation. FUM is successfully planting many new churches in Tanzania, and have also reportedly asked Burundi Friends for support after being impressed with Burundi Friends organizational maturity during a visit to Burundi.

During:

We met several Tanzanian missionaries who are serving the Kutu and Zaramo people groups. We also met a man named Samwel who leads a missionary training school. He and those in his network are helping to build a missionary force to go to the unreached people.

After:

All seven of us on this Luke 10 trip sensed that there is a good possibility that God would send some from EFC to be a part of what He is doing. We want to have another trip in February to do some further exploration, probably among a different people group. I do not sense that anyone in particular in the U.S. has declared a specific call to initiate this mission yet. But I do think that EFC-MAYM especially would be excited to partner with EFC-Burundi to start a mission in Tanzania.

Fidele has moved forward with further conversations with FUM-Tanzania about EFC holding initial church registration with Tanzanian government under FUM registration covering.

N for Need:**Before:**

What we knew about the Kutu and Zaramo people before we went to Tanzania is the information found on the Joshua Project website.

The Kutu has a population of 137,000 people. 77% of the Kutu are Muslims. 3% are Christian (2% of which are Evangelicals).

The Zaramo has a population of 1,369,000 people. 95% of the Zaramo are Muslims. 3% are Christian (2% of which are Evangelicals).

We had also looked at the Safwa people group but decided that we would visit them another time since they are far from Dar es Salaam.

During:

We visited Tanzanian missionary families working in villages where the majority of the people are Kutu and two other missionaries working in Zaramo areas. We heard about people who have given their lives to Christ through each missionary's work, but in most cases only a few of the new believers are actually from the Kutu or Zaramo tribes. Most of the new disciples are from other tribes and areas and have moved there recently.

All of the missionaries and the missionary school director told us that there is a great need for more workers to be sent into the harvest field of the Kutu and Zaramo peoples. And they invited us to come and work among those people too.

Samwel told us that there are some groups working in the Safwa people group and that he does not think that they are unreached at this point.

After:

There is definitely a need for the gospel in these unreached/underreached people groups of the Kutu and Zaramo.

G for Gifting:

Before:

There are some pastors and some young adults who have said they would be willing to go as missionaries. Ellie Ware and Dieudonne (Burundi pastor working in Atlanta) have both expressed interest. Burundians have proven skills at church planting work.

During:

The places that we visited among the Kutu and the Zaramo are pretty far out in the countryside/bush. It also seemed quite dry there. People moving into those areas will need to be ready for very simple lifestyles and it would be ideal if they have training and capabilities in business and/or farming, animal husbandry, and other practical skills for helping to provide for their families. We saw many cows in the area.

It seems that D for D would be a strategic and important ministry model for moving into those communities. We have also noticed that it will be important for our Burundi Friends to have a good system for their missionaries to be able to supplement the fundraised financial support through business.

After:

Who is needed? (I do not see the “Team Giftedness in Pioneer Work” article).

- Apostle/Leader gifts
- Teaching/Equipping gifts
- D for D mentor
- Business person
- Farming/animal husbandry
- Basic medical knowledge (medical care seems like it must be quite far away)

I am sure that EFC-Burundi and EFM churches have all of those gifts and more, we just don't know who those people are yet.

O for Opportunity:

Before:

We heard about people who were working as missionaries among the Kutu and Zaramo peoples. They are living among them. And there is at least one missionary training school in Dar es Salaam that seems to be providing very good, practical, and mission-focused training in a one-year program.

During:

We saw that there are people who are choosing to follow Jesus through the ministry of each of the missionaries we met. We were encouraged by realizing that the Muslim populations in the area (Burundians are intimidated by the mysteries of Islamic fundamentalist faith) were nominal Muslims and primarily following their people group's African cultist/spiritism practices, which Burundians are more familiar with. It also seemed that the Kutu and Zaramo

are more resistant than some people groups. Our main connections on this trip were with missionaries and believers.

The team appreciated seeing the infrastructure of a couple of small cities in the area where we used guest house and restaurants. The Burundians were able to see that if they were called to this region of villages and peoples, they could see how it could logistically be done. They also mentioned contacts we met who were encouraging them to start churches.

After:

The missionary training school is creating a missionary movement that seems powerful. The Burundians were excited about sending their missionaries to be trained in this school. I think that joining into what they are doing would be strategic. It seems like there could be some momentum building up in the Tanzanian churches that would make this be a good time to join in the kingdom/harvest work there.

I think that a mix of business, D for D, and discipleship and evangelism would be the most helpful way to enter into and engage with these people groups. Burundians are proven successful at planting multiplying churches in Burundi!

Is this a CAN GO for EFM at this time?

At the moment, it seems that this is first and foremost a situation in which we would be coming alongside/behind our Friends and partners in EFC-Burundi so that they become a missionary-sending church. There is definitely a need for missionaries to go, for disciples to be made among the Kutu and Zaramo peoples, churches to be planted and multiplied, and then Kutu and Zaramo people sending their own missionaries.

Which of the five criteria do we see the strongest? Which of the five criteria is yet to become convincing?

I think so far, the Need is the strongest criteria that we have recognized. Of the CAN GO criteria, the one that is most lacking is the "Giftedness". We do not yet have anyone who is compellingly saying, "Here am I, send me...I believe God is calling me/us to go..."

Describe key points or stories in the process and affirmation/confirmation of God's call to Evangelical Friends to go to this particular people or place.

Again, I think that the main affirmation/confirmation to me is that the EFC-Burundi leaders sense a call to being a mission there.

What steps have you taken since returning from the trip or need to take in further discernment or exploration of this field?

We verbally committed to plan for another exploration trip in February 2023. We need to do some more research on the people groups in Tanzania and then discern together which group(s) we will visit in February. We also need to discuss and clarify financial expectations between sending partners.

Luke 10 Team Recommendation to EFM

At this point our team believes that there is a great need for workers to be sent into the harvest field of Tanzania. But at the same time, we do not sense a strong call to a specific people or place. So, we recommend that another trip happen in February 2023.