

# TANZANIA TRIP 2 CAN GO REPORT

Trip Dates: September 17-25, 2023

Report written by: Matt Macy with contributions from Brad Carpenter's 2022 report

## **C for Champion**

### **Before:**

- Burundi Friends Church considers it their vision and irrefutable plan to send missionaries to Tanzania. The two Burundi yearly meetings, Kwibuka and Kibimba, named Domitien Sabongerwa, a pastor and former legal representative, to be their missions liaison.
- Burundi leaders speak of it being late as far as missions sending. They are eager.
- Burundi has started holding an annual "missions crusade" a couple of years ago under the leadership of the Louis Pasteur, their newer legal representative.
- Kwibuka Yearly Meeting has started a work in Rwamugasa, Tanzania in Fall 2022 on their own, not among the unreached peoples that the Luke 10 Trips have been exploring. This work went forward separately without communication with Kibimba Yearly Meeting and without established partnership with EFM.

### **During:**

- Burundi Friends Church leaders are very enthusiastic about sending missionaries to the places we visit as they find any needs or opportunities.
- Kibimba and Kwibuka yearly meetings are working to figure out how their relationship could work better. We are all interested in the two yearly meetings having a unified missions sending vision, which goes from the top leaders all the way down to the local church congregations.

### **After:**

- Nathan Macy is currently inspired and expressing impatience to go. There are at least two other EFC NA future missionaries currently talking about Tanzania and we have had others say that Tanzania is on their heart.
- Americans are inspired into becoming champions as we see Burundian commitment and mobilization. We are interested in taking next steps with Burundians as they work on the framework foundations.
- Mid America Friends love Burundi and are ready to support Burundi's missions sending efforts. We feel and see tangible evidence of the support and readiness from Mid America churches and individuals.

## **A for Affirmation**

### **Before:**

- 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.
- We met several Tanzanian missionaries in 2022 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.
- We had a wonderful Central Africa Missions Sending Learning Conference in April 2023 which added much affirmation and enthusiasm.

### **During:**

- We received nothing but strong positive affirmation from everyone we talked to about starting a new mission in Tanzania.
- We had a meeting with Nicholas from FUM-Tanzania, and he was eager to partner. (We later received great cautions on this from FUM contacts)
- We heard of some possible friction or misunderstandings from FUM leaders about “Friends having a choice between EFC and FUM” after the April conference.

**After:**

- We received a letter from FUM Kelly Kellum and John Muhanji expressing many misunderstandings and rumors about EFM or EFC-Burundi wanting to switch FUM Tanzania churches or leaders to EFM. Stan and Matt met with Kelly and John to straighten it out on what EFM does and doesn't do. We clarified that EFM is following EFC-Burundi's lead on this, and that it is critical that any concerns be worked out directly between FUM and EFC-Burundi. Matt and Brad met with Burundi leaders to clarify this. Everyone involved has desired transparency and positive relationship with FUM in this journey, but EFC-Burundi does not look to FUM for permission.
- EFM will continue to encourage positive relationships, sensitivity, and any appropriate partnerships. This is a matter of prayer. There have not been any reservations among EFC about moving forward.
- EFC-Burundi considers it a priority to obtain EFC registration in Burundi. The work that Kwibuka YM has started in Tanzania has land which is registered under FUM covering.

**N for Compelling 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).
- On the Luke 10 2022 trip, as we drove to remote villages and met Tanzanian missionary graduates from the missions training school, we saw places with tremendous need for the Good News and saw that if these missionaries had not gone, there would not be anyone there making disciples and planting churches.
- In 2022 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.

**During:**

- In 2022 we recognized Ngerengere as a potential hub for establishing a mission and finding places in the area that we could plant among unreached. In 2022 we basically used a guest house in Ngerengere as a base for a few nights as we traveled to villages, but we didn't explore this town at all. So, we wanted to get to know the area more and spent 3 nights in Ngerengere:
  - We were surprised initially, based on last year's visit, how many people here identified as church-attending Christians. But we also learned that many of these churchgoers did not understand the gospel or how to follow Jesus. We also learned

that the Muslim or Christian identity was often more about a family or community cultural identity than about a personal active practicing faith.

- We learned consistently that in this town, Muslim and Christians live in peace with each other (they report that the village is generally different in this regard, and we saw this last year). We were told several times that a new church would be welcome here, if it did not bring division among the religions and groups that are established.
- We talked to several people who didn't recognize any difference between Muslim and Christian. One team talked to a man who visited both Muslim and Catholic churches and sees no difference except that shoes had to come off to enter the Muslim church. We also met people who were Muslim and married to a Christian. But we also met Christians who knew and could clearly explain the difference (but if felt like they were the exception).
- We heard of villages further away from town who don't have local access to the gospel or have any church. We met a man and heard of other people who travel quite a distance from villages to occasionally attend church.
- We had several groups of people, especially in villages, invite us to come back and start churches. We felt warm hospitality and welcome, and a hunger for spiritual and physical development.

**After:**

- Future missionary Nathan: “anyone seeing the places we visited or hearing us talk about them is going to see that there is need.” (the need is obvious)
- We have a faith and trust in the training process at the East Africa School of Missions that graduates will be prepared and inspired to go to the unreached peoples of Tanzania.

## G for Gifting

**Before:**

- We have had various EFC-NA future missionaries express interest in Tanzania.
- We know that those who love EFC-Burundi are enthusiastically interested in supporting their missions sending efforts.

**During:**

- We are excited about opportunities for partnering with Burundian Friends to learn together how to develop a multi-national missionary team. We would like to see EFM continue to work with EFC-Burundi in developing missions-sending framework. We are praying for EFC-Burundi as they continue to strengthen and organize their missions-sending vision and capacity. This includes identifying gifting criteria to select missionary candidates.
- The Burundians are eager to begin evangelism and church planting. We all see opportunities for whole-life discipleship and development.
- Research and word on the street shows a vast number of villages, towns and peoples in the greater area who are unreached.
- Missionary training and a common language for missions strategy will be part of developing an effective missions-sending framework.

**After:**

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- We know that EFC-Burundi is very interested in sending missionaries, and that there are Burundians who have expressed interest in going as missionaries, but we have not been told specific names of candidates that Burundi would consider as potential missionaries to Tanzania for this mission.
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- For U.S. missionary gifting, we tend to think especially of helper gifting and ministry expressions while the Burundians take on more of the Pastoral leadership and lead church planting role. For U.S. missionaries we think of words like competent, prepared, humble, helper, encourager, committed to team. Maybe business, farmer, teacher, etc.

## O for Opportunity

### Before:

- From 2022: 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 encouraged them to start churches.
- 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!
- From 2022: 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.

### During:

- As mentioned in other areas of this report, there were many signs of receptivity, readiness for planting, and we received invitations/welcome from people of peace...

### After:

- We have received nothing but welcome and invitations from anyone in Tanzania. As mentioned in the “affirmation” section, we have received concern from FUM America and Kenya, with concern about how fragile FUM-Tanzania church organization could be impacted.

## Is this a CAN GO for EFM at this time?

From 2022: 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 (and other peoples), churches to be planted and multiplied, and then future EFC-Tanzanian churches sending their own missionaries.

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

**STRONGEST:** Champions are strong in EFC-Burundi’s commitment and eagerness as well as American support for both the vision of EFC-Burundi and support of EFM missionaries going.

Need is clear for the team. Places like Ngerengere that has church buildings and church goers but appear to have few transformed followers of Jesus creates a tension. The team believes the need is strong even in Ngerengere for making whole-life disciples and sending workers to unreached villages. But we ache especially for evangelism/discipleship and church planting in those difficult places and peoples in the region where there is no established gospel presence.

**NEEDS WORK:** Gifting is fuzzy to us. Burundi is eager to send but we don't know the names and gifting of specific people who are candidates. We do have future missionaries in the U.S. who are expressing an interest in Tanzania.

Affirmation has the concern of relationship and clarity with FUM and FUM Tanzania. 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.

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The main affirmation/confirmation is that the EFC-Burundi leaders sense an active call to starting a mission there. And we have nothing but consistent invitation from local people in places of need for the gospel.

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

We are in communication with EFC-Burundi leadership for follow up in focusing on Burundi missions sending framework.

The Luke 10 team's resolve continues to deepen, and we are experiencing affirmation and willingness with individuals and churches in Mid America as we talk about what we experienced. We are meeting with the Mid America mobilizers to see what they might propose to EFM Think Tank.

**Luke 10 Team Recommendation to EFM**

WE BELIEVE EFM SHOULD COMMIT TO SENDING U.S. MISSIONARIES TO TANZANIA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BURUNDI FRIENDS CHURCH AND THEIR MISSIONARIES.

Based on the two Luke 10 Trips, we can envision a church being planted in Ngerengere which would be a hub for ministry in villages in the greater region, including where there is no gospel presence. We can envision incarnational living, discipling for development, business as mission, and an emerging EFC church planting movement as EFM and EFC-Burundi partner to complement each other's strengths.

**Next Steps:**

EFM and EFC-Burundi leaders need more time together talking about partnership, answering questions from one another, and developing/clarifying missions sending framework.

Kwibuka and Kibimba YM's need to further develop their missions-sending relationship and help it take deeper root into the local church.

Some of EFC-Burundi's next steps:

- Missions sending unity between two yearly meetings and strategy for leaders and members of local churches to understand and own compelling need to send missionaries to Burundi.
- Work at EFC registration in Tanzania
- Develop an EFC-Burundi missions sending board.
- Start identifying criteria for selecting missionaries.
  - Identify potential candidates.
- Establish clear training plan for missionaries and for sending missions board.
  - How might training shape the missions-sending framework?
  - How might training impact expectations for Burundians and Americans, both senders and goers, in theology of risk and suffering?

Some of EFM's next steps:

- Continue conversation with Burundi Friends on framework.
  - Listening
  - Coaching
- EFM future missionary team visit Tanzania and the training school with Burundi future missionaries summer 2024.
  - Prepare future missionaries to enter training school for April 2025-March 2026 school year.
- Continue conversation about U.S. missionary role.
- Continue studying multi-national teams and missions-sending partnerships.