

A CLOSER LOOK AT

EVANGELICAL FRIENDS IN AFRICA

OUR HISTORY IN AFRICA:



BURUNDI:

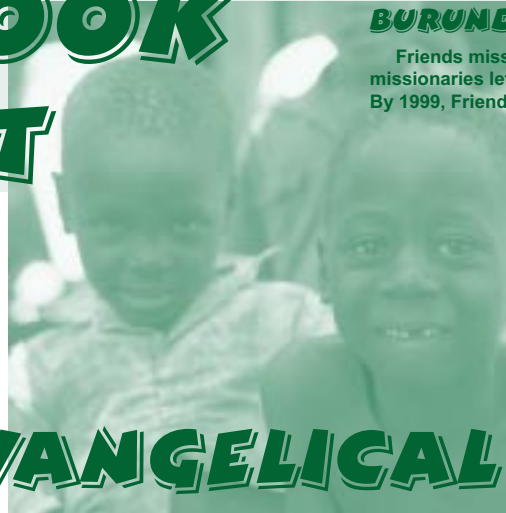
Friends missions work began in 1934. In 1985, all missionaries left due to government denial of visas. By 1999, Friends from Mid-America sent retired missionaries David & Mae Kellum back to Burundi to encourage the churches.

Today, there are over 85 congregations with attendance of over 11,000. David Niyonzima provides national leadership as General Superintendent.

RWANDA:

After considerable praying and planning, Friends worship services began in 1987. By the end of 1993 there were 25 Friends churches and by 2001, there were 68 worship points, three Friends secondary Schools, and four primary schools. Through much unrest and instability in recent years, Rwanda has been very open to the Gospel.

Willard and Doris Ferguson have served in Rwanda since the beginning of Friends work there. In 1997, David and Debby Thomas joined them.



A LOOK AT TWO OF OUR MISSIONARY FAMILIES



THE
LAMANS

Darrel, Carol and Gayla Laman are part of our Friends Family who serve World Gospel Mission in Kenya. They serve as Field Treasurer and WGM Secretary at Lakeview Africa Gospel Church. Carol also homeschools Gayla.



THE FERGUSONS

Willard & Doris are retiring after 40 years of service in Africa: Burundi from 1962 to 1985; Rwanda from 1962 to present. Their presence and leadership will be missed. During their recent furlough, Willard experienced heart problems but, has recovered through the grace of God and many prayers. Please keep them in your prayers as they move forward into God's next plan for their lives. They have five adult children.

GREAT LAKES SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY:

The Great Lakes School of Theology (GLST) is named after the "Great Lakes" of central Africa, not North America, and has been developed to train pastors and church leaders who will be culturally adapted, spiritually mature, and intellectually strong.

Significant attendance at the school is due to a farsighted desire by founder Ferdinand Nzyhabonaya to have spouses and family accompany students, living together. This is quite different from the common African practice of a man's going away for a protracted period of study while the wife and family stay at home. Both spouses are sometimes attaining degrees.

EVANGELICAL FRIENDS MINISTERING IN AFRICA

REACHING OUR WORLD FOR CHRIST



A CLOSER LOOK AT THE THOMAS FAMILY

Dave & Debby Thomas have served in Rwanda since 1997.

They have four children;
Breanna (7), Aren (6), Gwen (4) Alandra (10 mos.).

Here is a recent interview with Debby:

Update us on your responsibilities: How can we be praying for you as the Fergusons retire?

The Lord is giving us the mantle of leadership that we need as the Fergusons retire. However, the burden becomes heavy at times. We would love to have the Lord call another couple to come to Rwanda, but we also know that if he doesn't choose to do that, he will give us the strength and ability for the tasks he has set before us. Our prayer is to keep our focus and vision clear in order to discern between the urgent things that call, and the really important things.

Update us on the family:

Everyone is fine. Our newest member, Alandra, is a wonderful, sweet, smiley baby. She now sleeps for 12 hours a night, and takes two naps a day. This gives me the time to tend to the other family members and get my rest too.

How is the home schooling going?

The first week of school has gone well. I have 5 students. K (Aren), 1st grade (Melissa), 2nd grade (Breanna), and two 4 year old preschoolers. I am teaching my kids and two of a friend of mine (Melanie) who died of cancer last year, leaving two little ones behind. We had planned to educate our children together, now that she is gone, our kids are doing school together.

AFRICA EVANGELICAL FRIENDS CONTINUE TO EXPAND:

Three Evangelical Friends International Africa Regions represent Evangelical Friends of Africa. Currently the affiliated Friends include the Burundi Yearly Meeting, the Rwanda Yearly Meeting and the Friends in the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (not yet organized in a Yearly Meeting).

Friends in Congo are a mission outreach made by the Burundi Yearly Meeting in the early 80's. Additionally, churches in Tanzania, Uganda, and Ivory Coast are interested in becoming affiliated with Evangelical Friends. The current total membership of Evangelical Friends International in Africa is not known but the estimate is about 20,000. Our major project is the Great Lakes School of Theology located in Bujumbura that was established in 1999 with students from Burundi, Congo and Rwanda. Our goal is to develop strong leadership among Friends in the region who are able to face the current challenges and those who are capable to make a difference for the glory of God. - Quote taken from EFI Website.

LET'S PRAY

Pray for the following areas of concern in each country:

- Local church pastors & families.
- Local churches' continued growth.
- Local churches' physical needs
- Friends witness of the peace of Christ during political unrest.

BURUNDI

People:

- David & Felicity Niyonzima & Family
- The David & Mae Kellum Family

Ministries:

- Pray for several Friends schools teaching national children.

KENYA

People:

- The Darrel & Carol Laman Family

Ministries:

- Pray for World Gospel Mission

RWANDA

People:

- The Willard & Doris Ferguson Family
- The Dave & Debby Thomas Family

Ministries:

- Pray for Friends School teaching national children
- Pray for the medical teams that come to help minister

GREAT LAKES SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

People:

- Ferdinand & Cassilde Nzyhabonaya
- GLST Faculty & Staff (including short-term volunteers from U.S.)
- GLST Students & their families

Ministries:

- GLST-Pray that it will continue to grow and follow the vision God has placed on the hearts of its leaders

For more information, check out our website: www.efcer.org