



A little anecdote of life in Rwanda!

Having driven across the border from Kigali to Kabale and then to Kisoro in Uganda for a week in January, I crossed back to Rwanda. I drove the 200 miles from Kigali to Cyangugu in the 30 year old Toyota Land Cruiser I share with Charles. There was a slight pull to the left when I braked and a judder on the steering wheel when I went over 60 kph... When I got to my house I found a programme planned for me for a visit **every day** except the two Sundays where I was preaching nearby, for two

weeks, to visit the nine pastors' houses we have built. I said to the Bishop's driver, who brought the programme, I must have time to take the car to the garage. He said "*don't do that, I will fix it!*" For all nine rural parish visits, I was driven in a diocesan car. So Jimmy (bishop's driver) took off all four wheels and found the judder was caused by the steering damper not springing in and out (like a shock absorber). The back wheels showed brake fluid leaking and the brake shoes were soaked. The poor car looked very sad for a few days sitting in my garage with no wheels on!

Jimmy put the brake shoes with the fluid cylinder in a box and the damper. He phoned the parts company in Kigali and ordered the parts. He told me the price (£320). So I went to an ATM and withdrew it. He took it to the mobile phone shop where they put the money on his phone. He then sent the money by "mobile money" to the shop! He then took the box to the bus park and told the bus driver to take it to the parts company in Kigali so as to make sure the parts were identical. The next day he had to take the Bishop's wife to a Mothers Union meeting in Kigali. Two days later he picked up the parts and returned to put them on the car. That was the day before I left Cyangugu. So I drove the 200 miles back to Kigali with good brakes and good steering! On the Chinese-built tarmac road through the Nyungwe Forest, at the road leading to one of our parishes called Banda, people had come up the 2,000 feet **looking for a lift** in a bus. They were sitting on one side of the road. Opposite them, on the other side of the road was a group of black and white 'Mountain' monkeys **looking for a banana** (or maize cob) from the people!

Some people may think Africa is backward (darkest Africa!) I don't think we can send money by mobile phone here can we? You can get 4G mobile signal everywhere in the country except in the forest.

Ken



