

Ps 91. 'He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, will rest in the shadow of the Almighty'

Coronavirus in Africa. As I write Rwanda has had 2,092 cases of the virus with 5 deceased and 1,169 recovered. Uganda has had 1,195 cases with 5 deceased 1,070 recovered. Burundi has had 395 cases, 1 deceased 304 recovered. DRC has had 9,133 cases 215 deceased 7,424 recovered. Lockdown is being slowly lifted in some places, but with us in UK, life has been severely affected.

We have **very dear friends** leading the Church work in the three countries where my parents worked. In Cyangugu, Rwanda, Bishop Francis and his wife Eva. In Kigali, Bishop Nathan and his wife Esther. Pastor Charles Semwaga and his wife Juliet lead a church there in the capital. In Burundi, Bishop Sixbert heads the Buye Diocese, where the Bishop Barham Theological College trains clergy for that diocese. In Uganda Canon Medad Rugyendo is Principal of the Bishop Barham University College, Kabale, where we sponsor students. In the Muhabura Diocese, Bishop Cranmer Mugisha and his wife Hope are near completion of a guest house called 'Muhabura View' that looks out on the volcanoes where the Mountain Gorillas live. In the three countries, guest houses help to generate income for the work of the Church.

The pressure on these leaders to develop their growing churches is huge as everything comes with a price. It has been a joy to be able to help them by sending donations over the years, but our long term aim is to help equip them to look after themselves and not be dependent on outside support. We don't propose to 'feed the hungry', but to enable the Church to feed them. We want to help train clergy who are well equipped to lead as the Church grows.

For 35 years the funds we have raised, or been given, have been collected and sent through the Lawrence Barham Memorial Trust. Now that has been closed, we have found a new way. We are grateful to the trustees who have worked with us over the 35 years and also to the Church leaders at Christ Church Horam who have received donations for us. We still use our own Tithe account, the Bishop Barham account 70345520, from which we can send funds quickly. Friends have kindly come to our doorstep to buy Jill's elderflower and marmalade! Now we are telling you of a new charity, which can receive donations, **claim the Gift Aid** where appropriate, and send the money as we direct, to projects in the Churches listed above.

As part of our fund-raising we had planned a lunch at the **Powdermills Hotel** near the battlefield in Battle. The management have had to postpone it because of Coronavirus.

A NEW WAY. The Christian charity with which we are being welcomed is linksinternational.org.uk, based in Littlehampton, West Sussex. Cheques can be made out to linksinternational and marked "**Barham Rwanda**". The funds will be 'ring fenced', with quarterly reports to us. Bank account number is at the bottom of this letter.

Cyangugu Diocese now has three guest houses to generate income. Peace Guest house by the lake and Bweyeye guest house by the Nyungwe Forest and near the border post with Burundi, are fully funded, the third still has to pay off a bank loan. This was being

fully covered by guest fees before lockdown and will be again as soon as travel across Provinces is allowed.

Our current project is to help the diocese **rebuild the school** at the parish of Nyabigoma in the mountains around Bweyeye, which was damaged beyond repair by a massive landslide, leaving 550 children with no schooling. The government will build 13 classrooms from emergency funds, but the Church must build the administration block with various offices and the 'girl's room', the library, smart classroom and the Head teacher's accommodation, at a cost of 75.4 million Rwanda francs (**about £60,755**), towards which we have just sent £4,000 from our Tithe account. We would need to sell 13,501 bottles of elderflower to cover that cost! All the building work we support is done by our Rwandan builder John Mugabutsinze, whose father who died recently at the age of 106, knew my father. His brother, John's uncle, worked for my father in the 1940s. John's elderly mother sent us a message from her Lockdown home saying "Read Psalm 91". Verse 6 talks about the pandemic, but in older words! We have just sent John £8,000 donated by the Kirby Laing Foundation to build the toilets at a new Health Centre, which the Governor of the Western Province wants to use for Covid-19 cases. This health centre, near the tea factory of Shagasha, is the first stage of a new hospital on land given by the government for that purpose.

If you want to contribute to this work, please send a cheque to:-

Bishop & Mrs K Barham
Rosewood
Canadian Rd
Battle
East Sussex
TN33 0LR

Cheques should be made out to:-

linksinternational and Barham Rwanda

With our love

Ken and Jill