

Josh and Nadine Guenther are headed to...

BURUNDI

In January, 2013

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" ~ Isaiah 6:8

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Burundi, Central Africa, a beautiful country forgotten by the rest of the world...

"SERVING...TO SHARE GOD'S UNFAILING LOVE"

It is our deepest passion and desire to serve the poor and the broken. "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." - Jesus, from Matthew 25:40

On our first date, Nadine and I shared our individual dreams with each other to be medical missionaries overseas in Africa. Eight years later and very happily married, we are living this dream together! We are both Registered Nurses. Josh works in the ER at the Royal Alex Hospital, while Nadine runs a Community Nursing Station for homeless men in downtown Edmonton. We are planning to move to Burundi for a period of 2-3 years with the intention of starting up a medical clinic there.

Serving individuals by helping to meet their basic physical needs opens the door for opportunities to share God's unfailing love.

"The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." Proverbs 16:9. This verse has been predominant in our lives these past few years as we have been learning so

much about trust and faith. The Lord has truly opened this door and we ask for your prayers and partnership as we take these steps of obedience in however God continues to lead us.

We had never even heard about Burundi until approximately 4 years ago, when we met a man named Simon Guillebaud. An inspiring UK missionary who had spent the last 14 years of his life there working for God's glory.

Since that time, God has made it crystal clear that our "hidden treasure" is located in Burundi. We both have new love for Matthew 13:44. The story of a man, recognizing the value of what he finds in a field, gives everything he has to attain that treasure. We are blessed to see God's calling so clearly in our lives.

In Burundi, half the population lives below the poverty line, on less than \$1US/day, and it is



Population:

10 million people, packed into a tiny space that is 1/27th the size of Alberta.

FINANCIALS

In partnership with YFC Edmonton, we are doing the bulk of our fundraising in a project-based manner.

- \$30,000 CAN - will be needed for a guesthouse to be built onsite. Instead of raising money for rent, this project will leave behind a much needed asset so YFCB can open its doors to more volunteers and teams in the future.
- \$12,000 CAN - will purchase a Toyota Truck, which we will use for mobile clinic visits, transporting equipment, patients, etc. This will also provide a much-needed vehicle for YFCB that we can leave behind.
- \$2,000 CAN for a gas-powered backup generator.
- \$5,000 CAN for a community garden, large enough to feed the staff and children at the Gitega complex.
- Other funds will be needed for our own expenses: Vaccines, medications, medical insurance, our visas, flights, as well as money for unexpected expenditures. In total, we anticipate that roughly \$50-60,000 CAN will be needed. Extra money would go towards various medical supplies, equipment, etc.



If you feel led to provide for us in a financial manner, please make cheques out to:

YFC EDMONTON
memo: Shammah Medical Clinic

**Please provide a name & address if you wish to receive a tax receipt.

one of the poorest countries in the world. It is at the bottom of most global organizations' GDP per capita estimate lists, at less than \$US 200, compared to Canada's \$US 51,147. The under-5 mortality rate is 181.

That means that almost 1 in every 5 children born in Burundi will be dead before the age of five.

10% of mothers die during child birth.

177,600 people live with AIDS, and 14,500 die every year from the disease. Of those living with HIV, only 34% receive the crucial drugs needed for treatment. There are over 200,000 orphaned children in Burundi, due to the AIDS epidemic.

Burundi is emerging from a 12+ year ethnic-based civil war between the dominant Tutsi minority and the Hutu majority. For years, the country was considered one of the most violent places on the planet, and hundreds of thousands lost their lives, in a conflict few cared or even knew about.

The needs are great, but help is hard to find.

PLEASE PRAY...

- ...that God would provide opportunities & use us to be an example of Jesus to them as we provide physical care.
- ...for health, safety & protection while we are in country.
- ...for ongoing unity & growth in our marriage as we work together to carry out the Lord's will.
- ...that through God, the clinic will become operational, & improve the quality of life for those it serves.
- ...that God will provide miraculous healing to the patients who attend the clinic.
- ...for the funding that we need.
- ...for God to form the bridges & connections necessary to have the clinic succeed.
- ...for the staff of YFCB as well as all of our Burundian brothers & sisters in Christ who desperately need our support & love.

We are traveling to Gitega, Burundi's second largest city, to work for **Youth For Christ Burundi**. YFCB is run by Burundians in partnership with various organizations, including **Youth For Christ Edmonton**. Outside of Gitega, they have built a multi-building complex that includes an orphanage for 50+ kids, a primary school for 270 children, and one empty building. We hope to help them turn that empty building into a functional medical clinic with the goal of providing healthcare services to the area. Initially the clinic will be nurse-led, with the hopes of developing it into a fully staffed, self-sustaining facility.

We are working hard to further educate ourselves, advance professionally, and learn everything we can in preparation. We are networking with various partners who could help facilitate the clinic when it is functional. This includes logistical support, equipment donations, training, etc.

We are also planning a trip to Burundi this August/September in order to prepare more fully for our move. We will go for two weeks to perform community and needs assessments, evaluate equipment and supplies, and fine-tune our plans. Please ask us about how you can support us this summer, and beyond!

We are confident that God, as the author and director of our faith, and this move, will provide all that we need. As brothers and sisters in Christ, please partner with us to see the glory of God brought to Burundi. Thank you so much for your prayers and support!

~ Josh & Nadine.

