

Africa Trip Report, Spring 2009

On Wednesday, May 27th, I, Bishop Joshua, my wife, Kathy, and one of the young ladies in our church, Sharon Dougherty, made the long flight to Kigali, Rwanda. We were warmly received Thursday evening at the airport by about 20 adults and children. Our luggage was immediately taken from our hands and eventually, squeezing into vehicles, we were taken to our hotel. After dropping off our luggage in our rooms, we were escorted into the hotel restaurant and treated to a welcome dinner where we were lavished with praises and cheers of welcome. By the time we were finished it was after 10:00 pm and we were exhausted. We went to our rooms and unpacked, then repacked for the next day, since we were to leave early the next morning to take a bus to Burundi.



As planned, the next morning at 6:30 we were gathered up by Celestine, the young man who mostly looked after our needs while we were in Rwanda, and we were taxied to the bus stop for a 6 hour trip to Bujambura, Burundi with Fr. Denis and his wife, Dativa. As is often the case, the bus was packed and hot. But we had a good laugh at one point during the trip when we realized the music being piped through the speakers was American Country and Western. Seeing Africans, known for their amazing ability to keep difficult off-beats on a drum while singing and dancing, singing and clapping instead to Kenny Roger's song "The Gambler," was both hilarious and refreshing.

When we arrived that afternoon in Burundi we were received by Bp. Telesphore, who is the overseer of a group of about 50 churches throughout Burundi. He and a number of his fellow leaders have the EOC for some time. My liturgical teaching and do them to begin using the determine whether they some capacity into the warmly received by the been blessed by Bishop been going through the frequently visited and EOC church in Kigali. Fr. Denis is very well respected there.



After settling in for the night and next morning, on Saturday afternoon we met with about 15 leaders from various places in an old, run down meeting hall with holes in the roof that leaked and left puddles on the floor during the thunderstorm that began about the same time the meeting began. I spent about 2 hours teaching, presenting and explaining liturgical items that we brought with us for them, and

