

Celebrate 75 Years in Burundi



1934 - 2009

let's learn about Burundi

[You will want to locate the continent of Africa on a map. Now find Burundi. Note the other countries and water masses mentioned in the next paragraphs. Find a map of the United States. Point out the state of Maryland.]

fact file

Area: 10,745 square miles (slightly smaller than the state of Maryland)

Population: 8,390,505

Capital: Bujumbura

Languages: Kirundi, French

Religions: 67% Christian (Roman Catholic 62%, Protestant 5%), indigenous belief 23%, Muslim 10%

Agriculture products: cotton, tea, maize, sorghum, sweet potatoes, bananas (of which Burundi is one of the world's ten largest producers), manioc (tapioca), beef, milk, beans, and rice.

Burundi is called "The heart of Africa," and really looks like a human heart. The country is surrounded by Rwanda, Tanzania, and Congo, plus Lake Tanganyika on its western border. It is not easy to travel to Burundi because it is in the center of Africa surrounded by other countries. Do you think it would be easy to get to Burundi from America? How would you choose to travel to Burundi?

It is a beautiful country with beautiful people. The land has mountains, valleys, gorges and waterfalls. Burundi is close to the equator, but because of its higher altitude, it is a pleasant 70 degrees almost all year around. The average elevation is 5,600 feet (the city of Denver is called the Mile High City and is at 5,280 feet). The capital, Bujumbura, located by Lake Tanganyika, is a more humid climate with a lower elevation. The capital is the largest city in Burundi.

the Equator


[have a world map to help with this]

Do you know what the equator is? Where is it located? (The equator is an imaginary line half way between the Northern Hemisphere and the South-

ern Hemisphere.) Who can find the equator on this map?

The latitude at the equator is zero. Did you know that at the equator the days and nights are always equal length all year around? They have 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness. How does that compare to where we live? When does the sun come up and go down in the summer and winter time where you live? Our shortest day is December 21st and our longest day is June 21st. This is a lot different than at the equator.

Now let's find Burundi on the map. Is it above or below the equator? How far below? Daylight begins in Burundi at 6 a.m. and it is dark by 6 p.m. every day of the year.



"Celebrating 75 Years in Burundi" was developed by Donnetta Carpenter, Wichita, Kansas.

These resource pages are a companion piece to the Africa DVD.

Both this resource and the DVD are made available by the Christian Education Commission of Evangelical Friends Church—North America.

Country	Length
CHILDM MESSIANGERS	1:00 - 13 MINS
BURUNDI	3 MINS
BURUNDI SUBSHOW	4 MINS
RWANDA	15 MINS

Another interesting thing is that Burundi is 7 hours ahead of our time. (When we change to Daylight Savings Time, then Burundi is 8 hours ahead of us.) When we go to bed at 10:00 p.m., it is 5:00 a.m. in the morning in Burundi—the sun is about to rise. By the time we are up and off to school at 9:00 a.m., the Burundians are heading home at 4 p.m. for the close of another day. So here's some-

thing to remember—when you go to bed Saturday night, pray for the people in Burundi, who will be getting up soon to go to church.

Is Burundi in the 10/40 Window? No, but there are still many people in Burundi that do not know about how Jesus can free them from their sins and fill them full of His love and peace.

where is the Nile River?

Have you heard of the Nile River? It is the longest river in the world. Where do you think it begins? The furthest headstream of the Nile is in Burundi. (Interestingly, Rwanda and Uganda also claim to have a source of the Nile.) Most say that Lake Victoria is the source of the Nile, but the Kagera River in Burundi flows over 400 miles before it gets to Lake Victoria.

[On a map locate Mount Kikizi and find the Ruvyironsa River. See how it flows into the Kagera River and then on to Lake Victoria which goes on to the Nile.] It is amazing but you could go to Burundi and see the source of the Nile River! Did you know college and high school mission teams have made short-term mission trips to Burundi? You really could go someday!

more about Burundi

So how many people live in Burundi? The population is estimated to be around 8,390,505 which would be about 780 people in a square mile. (Rwanda is the only other country in the area with a higher population.) It is hard to imagine so many people living in a small area. There are people, people everywhere!

Let's take a look at the population. About half are children from the age of birth to 14, and the other half of all the people are ages 15 and older. The average age of all the people in Burundi is around 16½ years old and the average life span is only 51 years. How does that compare to America? Let's take a look. The average age of people in the United States is approximately 37 years and the average life span is 78 years. Why do you think there is such a big difference? (Health care,

medicines, food supply, income, and war are some reasons.)

Some of the constant health concerns for the people are that often their food and water can carry diseases, as well as the mosquitoes which also carry diseases. All of these diseases can be cured, but since the people are so poor, they cannot afford to buy the medicine. Just sleeping with a mosquito net covering and boiling the water they use would help so much, but they often don't know what is making them sick. AIDS is also a major concern.

What about the land? It is used mostly for growing crops and grazing animals. There has been a lot of soil erosion (the minerals needed to grow good crops have run downhill and into the streams and rivers). Why? Because too many animals have

grazed in the same areas and most of the forest land is gone. The trees have been cut down for firewood for cooking and also destroyed because more land was needed for food production. Because of the loss of trees and the overpopulation there has also been a great loss of the wildlife population.

There are two seasons in Burundi—the rainy season and the dry season. The people can have three planting seasons when the rains come on schedule; however, if the rain is delayed, the food has to be stretched further. Often they eat only one meal a day. If the drought lasts a long time, then the seed needed to plant their crops is eaten to keep from starving...so they have nothing to plant when the rain begins again. Another thing that has affected their food supply is the tribal wars that have happened from time to time. Ninety percent of the people depend on subsis-

tence agriculture, which means they need to grow good gardens all year around to have food on their tables each and every day. Here are some of the items they grow: coffee, tea, corn, potatoes, sweet potatoes, bananas, manioc (tapioca), beef, milk, beans, and rice. Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world, but is still one country of great beauty. The average yearly income is around \$400.00. Compare this with the average yearly income in the United States of around \$32,000.00.

a pause for prayer:

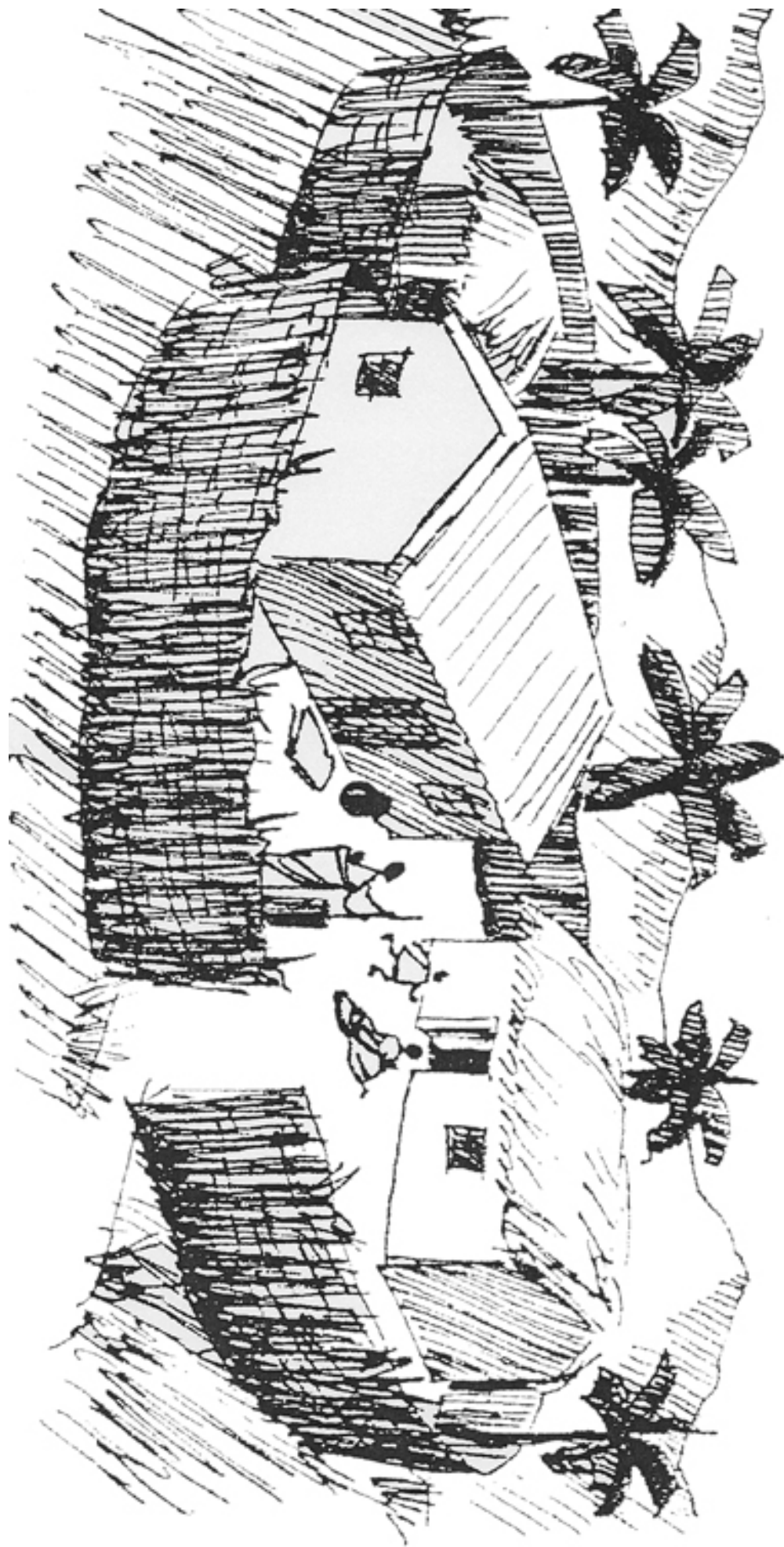
Let's pray for the health of the Burundi people, that God will supply rain for their crops and that they will learn how to boil water and cook food to kill the harmful diseases. Pray that God will provide a way for the people to have mosquito nets.

the family

Most Burundi families live on a plot of land in the country instead of in a village. Their houses used to be a hut covered with grass, but now their homes are made of adobe bricks (a mixture of dirt and water) which is put in a form and then laid out in the sun to dry. If the family has enough money to buy trees for burning, they will make smaller bricks and bake them in the oven to make them stronger. The roofs are often corrugated metal, or made of tile. The people get clay and make the tile for the roof, and another kind of tile for the floor. The home is surrounded by a closed in area called an urugo (oo-ROO-go). They often grow banana trees around the home to help hide it and protect it from the sun and weather. When a son marries, he often builds his urugo next to his parents' home. *[See picture example on page 4.]*

Dads often have to get a job away from home, while the mother and children plant the garden and care for it. The food they grow is almost all of the food they will live on. Older children also help to care for their younger brothers and sisters. They also attend school if they can afford it. It would cost \$20.00 per child to go to primary school for a year, and over \$100.00 per child to attend secondary school for a year. If you have several children, you would probably have to pick and choose which child would attend school in the coming year.

Today especially in larger cities, the Burundians' lives are becoming more modern. The women are starting to work outside of the home as teachers, office workers, and working in the medical field. In these places you will also find preschools and nursery schools to care for the younger children.



what about school?

Only about 35% of the people can read and write. Because of the repeated wars, there has been a great loss of the educated people, and the conflicts have also kept the children from attending school. Today more teachers are needed to be trained and schools rebuilt. There is a shortage of Bibles. Some estimate that over 4 million are needed, but of course a lot of people need to learn to read before they could read the Bible.

The Friends Church has some teacher training schools, and schools for children. In 2002, I (Donnetta Carpenter) traveled with a team on a mission trip which stopped to visit the Peace School in Gitega, Burundi. The children were full of excitement, smiles and songs. Many of them have never seen a white person. They call us "Mazungu." That is one white person. For 2 or

more, they would say, "Bazungu." The children were so happy to be at school and to see us, and did not mind sitting very close together on backless, wooden benches in a small room. They wanted to touch us and shake our hands. The Peace School is for children from preschool through the primary grades. Besides reading, writing, math, and music, these children were being taught to live in peace with each other. They sang for us in English the Martin Luther King song, "We shall overcome some day..." They were saying with God's help they would bring peace and reconciliation to their country and their world. Oh, yes, can you guess what their favorite sport is? It is football or *soccer* as we call it. They often make a ball of rags wrapped around and around until they have a nice sized ball.

who are the people who live in Burundi?

The people of Burundi are called Burundians and are made up of three groups: Hutu, Tutsi, and Twa. Today approximately 85% of the population are Hutus. Some go to the cities to work. More, though, live in the country and grow food for their families. Then 14% are Tutsis. Some of them live in cities where they have jobs, but some still live in the country and raise cattle for almost all their food and other needs. The Tutsis are known for their dancing and their high jumping skills—some are 7 feet tall. And 1% are Twa (Pygmies), many of whom make pottery and woven mats. They are around 4½ feet tall.

So which tribe do you think lived in Burundi first? Many believe that the Twa were the original tribe living in the area. The Hutus arrived around the 1300s, conquered the Twa, and ruled them mostly

peacefully. In the 1400s the Tutsis migrated from Ethiopia to Burundi. They came with long-horned cattle and grass cutting knives which the Hutus and Twa did not have. The Tutsis ruled the Twa and the Hutus. This means these tribes had to work the land for the Tutsis. Even later when people from Europe lived in Burundi and ran the country, they favored the Tutsis, too, because they were the taller tribe with finer facial features.

So the Tutsis have ruled and/or dominated the country of Burundi for hundreds of years, often in control of political/military government of the country, even though they are a smaller part of the population. The Hutus have tried at different times to gain power by taking over the government, but this has led to war and many lives have

been lost in the process. Many people lost their lives in the 1970's and also in the 1990's, leaving many orphaned children.

Today the current government and the military are made up of both Hutu and Tutsi tribes. Many Burundi people now have hope that they can live in their country without war. The Friends Church and other churches are praying for peace and teaching about Jesus' love, peace, and forgiveness. They are teaching the people of their need of reconciliation between the Hutu and Tutsi tribes. What does reconciliation mean? It means to agree to settle their differences—to be in harmony or peace with each other. This is very hard because the tribes have carried these bad feelings about each other for hundreds of years. Only a miracle from God can bring healing, love, peace, and harmony to this situation.

The Burundi people are not the only people who have this challenge to live in love and harmony with each other. In the Bible, Paul writes to the Ephesians and reminds the Jews and Gentiles that Jesus died to make peace between these two groups of people, and that they would become one with Christ, as we see in Ephesians 2:14-18:

THE NEW LIVING TRANSLATION: For Christ Himself has made peace between us Jews and you Gentiles by making us all one people. He has broken down the wall of hostility that used to separate us. By His death He ended the whole system of the Jewish law that excluded the Gentiles. His purpose was to make peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in Himself one new person from the two groups. Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of His death, and our hostility toward each other was put to death. He has brought this Good News of peace...

Paul also writes to the church in Colossians about reconciliation. He is really writing to you and me, too—and any person in the world. Paul is remind-

ing us that sin separates all of us from God. God cannot look on us and our sin, but He had a plan. Because of His great love for you and me and all the people of the world, He sent His Son Jesus to die for our sins.

Remember that this is a gift from God. So when we confess our sins, the gift of forgiveness is ours—we are reconciled to God—there is nothing between us and God. Let's read Colossians 1:19-20 from the New Living Translation:

For God in all His fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and by Him God reconciled everything to Himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of His blood on the cross.

How does God want us to treat our friends? How does God want us to treat kids that aren't very nice to us or are different than we are?

how does reconciliation work?

Let's talk about how that might work here at home. Have you ever had a friend that you quarreled with? *[allow time for some to respond]*

Were you ever so mad at someone that you never wanted to talk to the person again, but he or she was your next door neighbor and was also in your class at school? Something just had to be worked out, because it was so upsetting to you and you missed your friendship. Sometimes it is good to talk to your parents or another grown up when you feel that way. They will want to listen to you, pray with you, and offer suggestions on how to be reconciled to your friend. It isn't always easy, but one of you would say, "I'm sorry. Would you forgive me?" And then you would work through your disagreement together.

Has your teacher ever had to work out disagreements between kids in your classroom? The teacher helped the students to come to some workable agreement—to be reconciled to each other so the classroom learning could go on.

Now think of the Scripture verses above, and how Christ died so that the Hutus and Tutsis could live in peace with each other. Or think about you and your family and friends. Jesus died so that you can live at peace with them, too.

prayer time:

Will you join us in prayer for our Burundi friends, that God will remove the pain and hate from their lives and help them live in His peace? Only a miracle from God can start this revival.

Many Hutu and Tutsi church leaders had to flee the country or were killed. Pray for new leaders and for the rebuilding of churches, as well as the churches helping to get the school system growing again.

Pray for our Burundi church to grow strong and to share the message of Christ's salvation, healing and peace. Since the last war there has been a growth in the Muslim community, because of the bad witness of the many "Christians" involved in the killings. Pray that true Christian love and light will be seen.

the Church

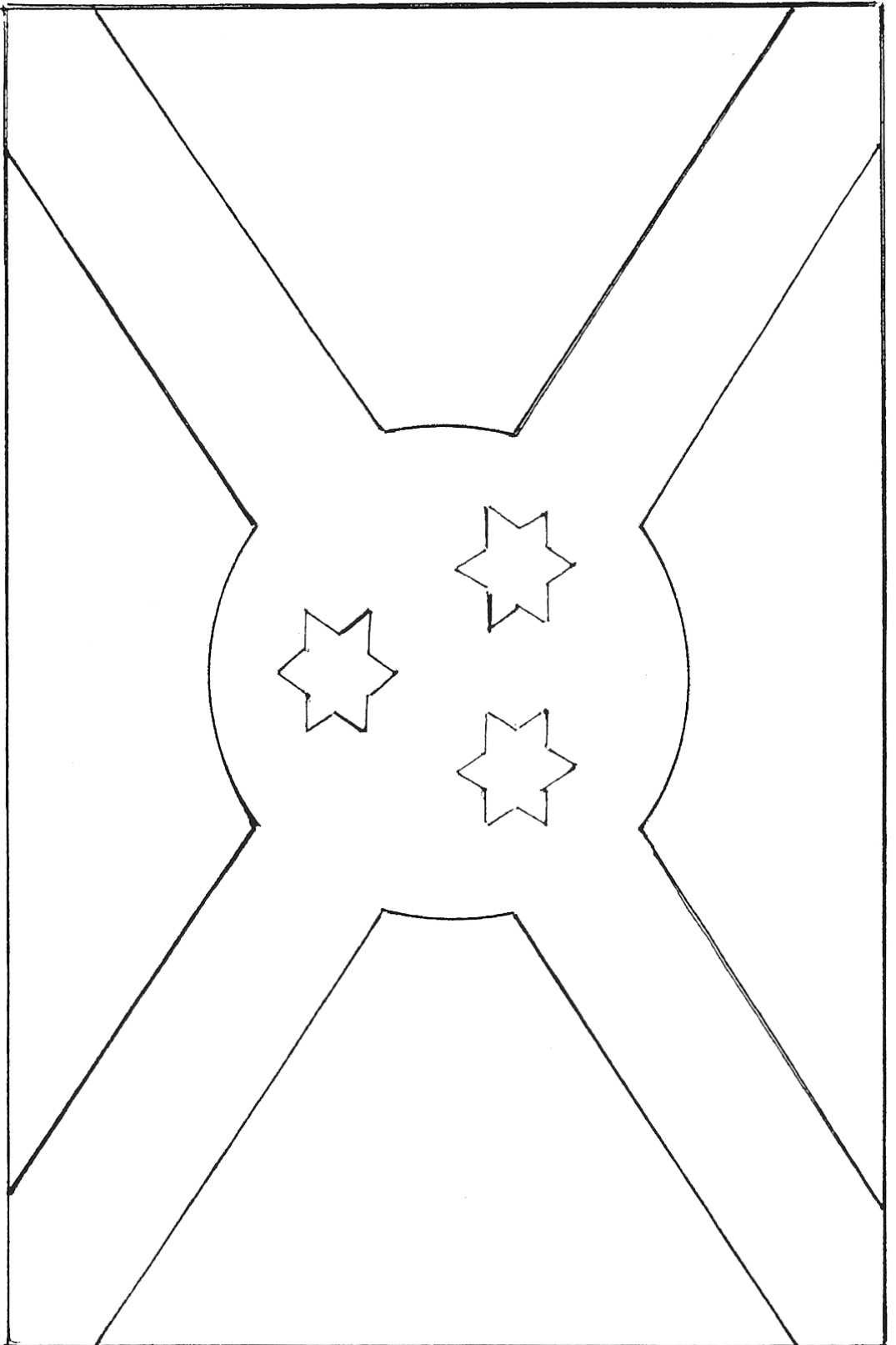
The Friends Church in Burundi is strong and growing. If you lived in Burundi, you would most likely walk to church. If you are lucky, you might ride a bicycle, but you would travel miles and miles to get to church. Church lasts for three to four hours, with 3-4 choirs singing. Some of the choirs are made up of children, some are youth, and some are adults. Most singing is done with a drum keeping the beat. Some churches have electric guitars that are plugged into a car battery to play. A few groups have electric keyboards. The Burundians sing with great expression and movement. They often raise their hands in praise to the Lord and move in the presence of God to His glory.

When an offering is taken, everyone stands and walks to the front of the church with his or her money, or beans or eggs or something else God has provided for them. They do not have much to give, but they give out of their love to God.

Would you believe each Sunday you would hear two sermons woven in between the different choirs? By the time you leave you will be pumped up in the Lord and feel very blessed.

the flag of Burundi

Read the following
information and
color the flag.



In the middle is a circle
that is white as well as
the bands extended to
the corners
(the white stands
for happiness).

Color the two shapes
above and below
the circle red
(the red stands for
independence through
many sacrifices).

The two shapes to the
right and left of the
circle are green
(the green stands
for hope).

In the circle are
three red stars
rimmed in green
(they stand for work,
unity and progress).

what do you remember about Burundi?

[Read the sentences below and then look at the words at the right to find the correct word. Write the word in the blank.]

People who live in Burundi are called _____.

The country of Burundi is shaped like a human _____.

The country of Burundi is slightly smaller than the state of _____.

The country of Burundi is located close to the _____, but because it is a higher elevation, the temperature is about _____ degrees all year around.

The colors of the Burundi flag are _____, _____, & _____.

We have four seasons and Burundi has two seasons, which are the _____ season and the _____ season.

A source of the _____ River begins in Burundi.

_____ is the largest city in Burundi and it is also the capital.

The main language the Burundians speak is called _____.

About _____ of all the people living in Burundi are children ages birth to 14 years.

The two main tribes who live in Burundi are learning to settle their differences and live in peace with each other. This is called _____.

We, the Friends Church, began our mission work in Burundi in _____.

Reconciliation

one-half

Heart

70

White

Nile

Bujumbura

Maryland

Burundians

Red

Equator

Kirundi

1934

Wet

Green

dry

let's have fun singing songs in Kirundi

Into My Heart

First sing the song in English.

Into my heart,
Into my heart,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.
Come in today. Come in to stay.
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.

Now look at the words in Kirundi.

Mu mutima,
Mu mutima,
Ngwina mu mutima wanje
Injurubu, ugumemwo
Mu mutima wamje Yesu.

Now let's use our English phonetics and sing. This is how it would sound in Burundi.

Moo Moo-tee-ma,
Moo Moo-tee-ma,
Ngwee Ono-moo moo-tae-ma-wanja.
Eng-jeeroo-boo, oo-goom-emwo.
Moo-moo-tee-mawanjay, Yay-soo.

Let's try another song.

Jesus Loves Me

First sing this in English—chorus only

The Kirundi words

The translation

Yes arankunda,	Jesus loves me.
Yes arankunda,	Jesus loves me.
Yes arankunda,	Jesus loves me.
Ni we yampiriye.	It is He who died for me.

Phonetically

Yes, ah ran koon da.
Yes, ah ran koon da .
Yes, ah ran koon da.
Knee weigh yahm-fee-ree-yea.

Kirundi Bible verses

The following verses are taken from a Bible that children would read in Burundi. Can you read the first verse? Can you tell us what the verse is talking about? What good is a Bible if you do not understand the language? Do you see why it is so important to have the Bible translated in your own language?

Now look up the verse in your Bible and write it on the space provided.

What does the scripture mean to you now?

Kuk' urunkundo Imana yakunze abari mw isi ari rwo rwatumye itanga Umwana wayo w'ikinege, ng' umwizera wese ntaz' apfe rubi, arikw ahabge ubugingo budashira. Yohana 3:16

John 3:16

Uhoraho ni we mwungere wanje, sinzokena. Zaburi 23:1

Psalms 23:1

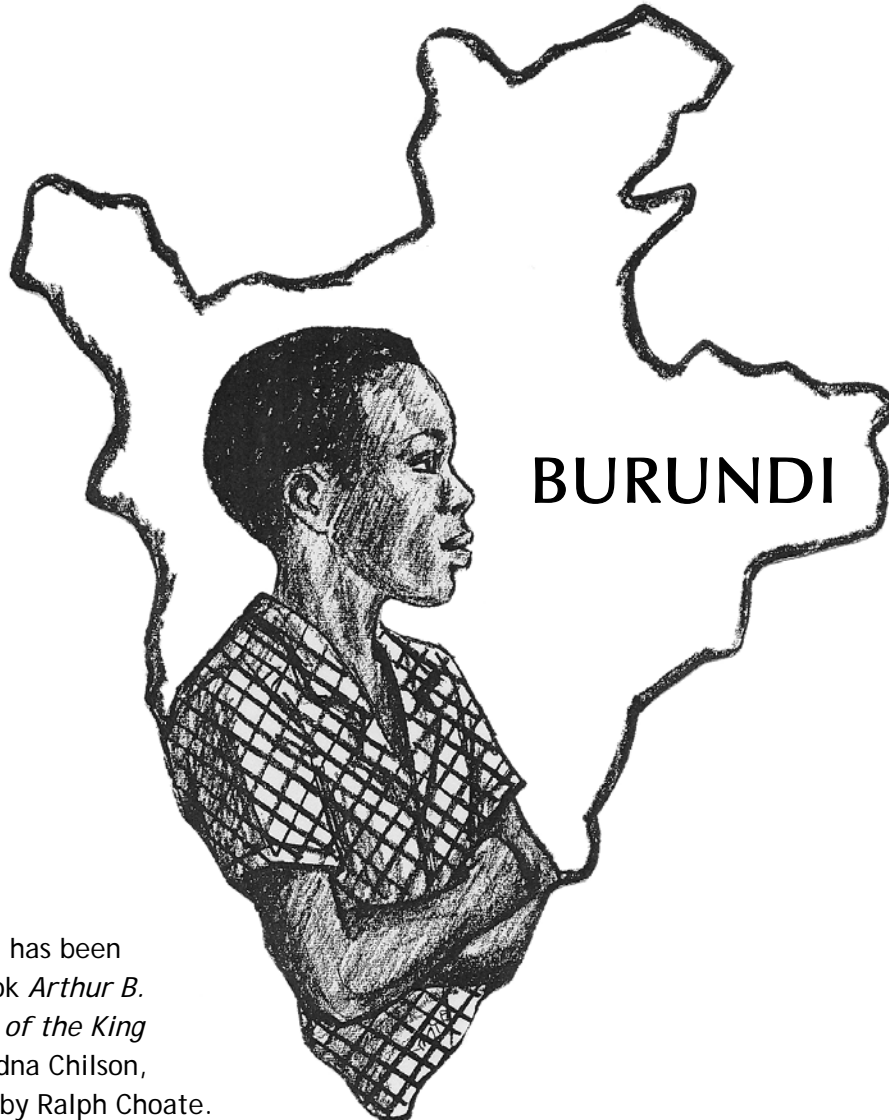
Ni yo gitandara canje yonyene n'agakiza kanje, n'igihome kirekire kinkingira. Zaburi 62:2

Psalms 62:2

Kand' utikoreye unusaraba wiwe ngw ankurikire, ntaba ankwiye. Matayo 10:38

Matthew 10:38

history of Mid-America Yearly Meeting Missions in Burundi, Africa



Much of this material has been gleaned from the book *Arthur B. Chilson: Ambassador of the King* written by his wife Edna Chilson, and *Dust of His Feet* by Ralph Choate.

The following are exciting chapter books you could read to your children about our mission work in Burundi. These books were written by Betty M. Hockett. They are:

What Will Tomorrow Bring? about Ralph & Esther Choate

No Time Out about George & Dorothy Thomas

Keeping Them All In Stitches about Gerry Custer

Order your copies today from Barclay Press at <http://www.barclaypress.com/>

part 1

so how did Mid-America Yearly Meeting begin their mission work in Burundi?

In the early 1900's, Mid-America Yearly Meeting had been involved with several other Yearly Meetings in mission work. We had even helped to send some missionaries to these fields, but because of a growing desire to have a mission work in Africa, it was determined at the fall Yearly Meeting Session of 1933 to commission and send Arthur and Edna Chilson and their daughter, Rachel, to go to Africa, and "seek a place where the gospel had not yet been preached." The three left in October of 1933 to "spy out the land for a mission site." Arthur was 60 years old at this time. He and his family had served in Friends Mission work in British East Africa (which is now known as Kenya), and although they were older now, they were taking with them a wealth of wisdom and years of a deep faith in God and His promises.

So the Chilsons boarded a ship and headed east to Africa with stops along the way. This trip often

took up to two months. They arrived in Nairobi, Kenya in mid-December of 1933, and after purchasing a car (which was not easy to find) they continued their trip to inland Africa the first week of January 1934.

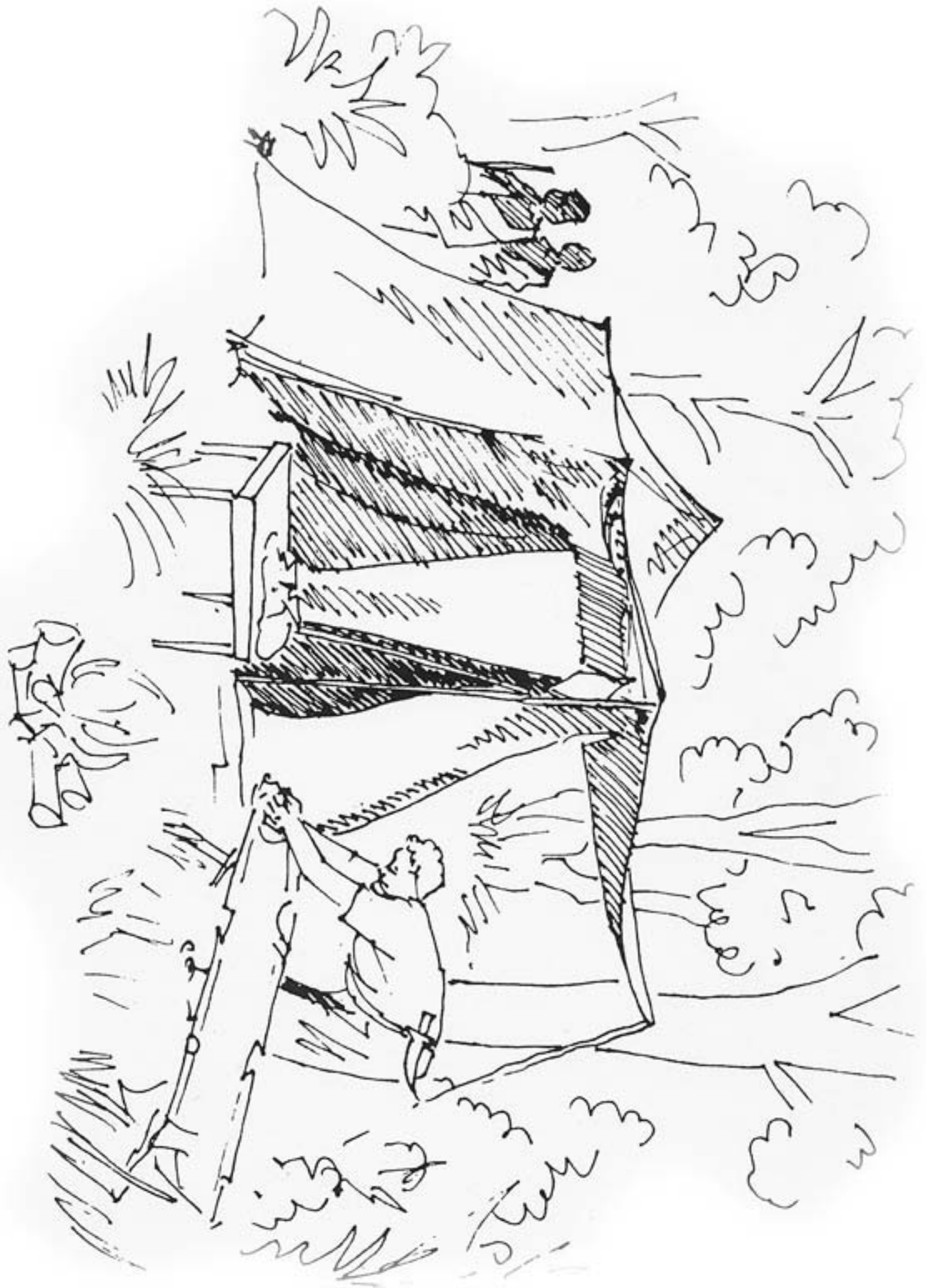
Arthur wrote, "We started out, somewhat as Abraham must have done long ago—looking for a country, a place where Kansas Yearly Meeting (now EFC-MAYM) could spend their time, and money, and effort to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to an 'unreached people.' "

So God guided them south of Lake Victoria and west towards the Belgian Congo, just as a friend had prayed for them earlier, "that we might be led to the place of God's choosing—to the place He had prepared for us 'since the foundation of the world.' "

traveling in Africa

Traveling was very different in those days. When it was time to stop for the night, there were no motels or camping sites, so they picked a spot and set up a canvas tent. *[See picture on page 14.]* Then they would gather firewood to cook their food on and then crawl inside the tent for some needed sleep. On one such night, just as the Chilsons were going to bed, they heard the roar of a lion. We all enjoy seeing lions at the zoo with a fence around them and thrill when they let out a roar, but can you imagine what it must be like to

hear a lion roar and just have a thin tent wall between you and the lion?? Well, after hearing several lions roar and hearing sounds of upset zebras, Arthur thought he should get out the rifle he had packed for the trip. So, he got it out, cleaned it up, loaded it and tried to shoot it, but nothing happened. Finally after more work the gun did fire. They did not need to use it that night. God protected them as He had promised and they slept in His peace. He was the fourth member of their party!



At one time, some of the land of Burundi was part of German East Africa (other European countries had come to Africa. For instance England had come to Kenya and lived in colonies). The Germans had begun some mission work in Burundi, and had built several mission stations. But when World War I broke out, the Germans had to leave, so the

government of Belgium was given this land. Now there was one small mission station run by Danish Baptists. As the Chilsons arrived at this station and shared their desire to start a mission, the Danish missionaries wept for joy. They had been praying that God would send more missionaries to help spread the Gospel to this great territory.

waiting for an answer

After a week's visit, the Chilsons headed back to Nairobi, Kenya, with a message from the Danish Baptist missionaries requesting permission to give one of their empty sites to the Friends Church for their mission field. Back in Nairobi, the Chilsons believed this was God's will for them, and loaded

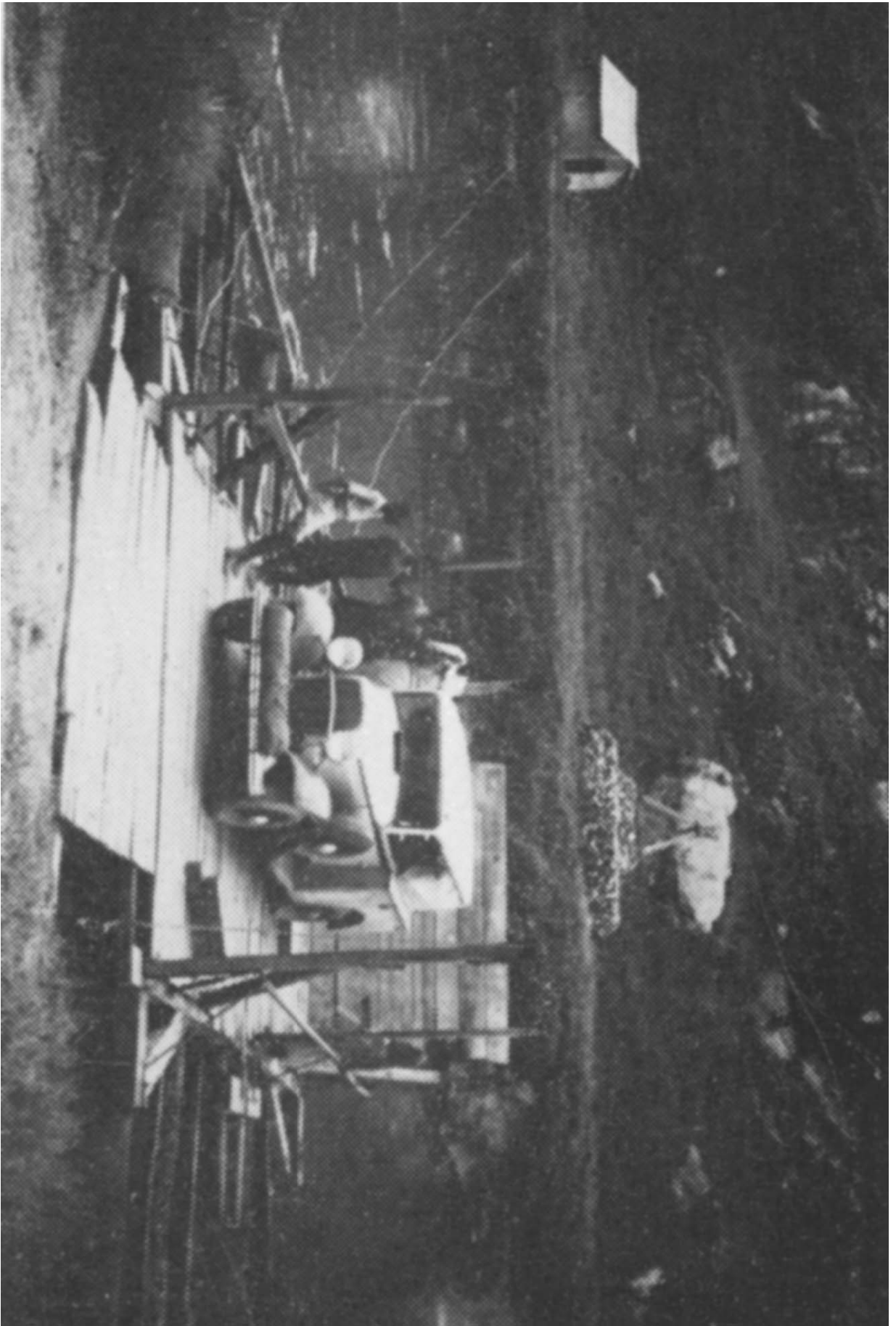
their supplies into their car and a truck as they awaited the word. Finally word did arrive—a telegraph saying, YES! the Friends Church could have the site. So they headed out for their long difficult trip back to Burundi.

the final trip to Burundi

It was a hard trip with the truck breaking down. (Where do you get parts in the jungle? You improvise!) Then rainy season began, and the dirt road and trails were muddy, steep, and winding. Rivers had to be crossed on shaky, unstable ferries [*see picture on page 16*], but God protected the Chilsons and helped them enjoy His beauty that was all around them. They noted that "the hills—almost mountains—were decorated with the natives' gardens which looked like great quilts of different colored blocks."

The station the Friends were given was at Kibimba. As the Chilsons arrived, God blessed them with a surprise—a rose bush planted by the earlier missionaries was blooming. You can imagine what that did for their spirits. It had a sweet fragrance and "cheered" their hearts. The survey trip was now over. Arthur wrote,

"...this was to be home, a mission station, a lighthouse among the dense darkness and God had led us with unerring Hand."



Crossing a ferry in 1933 when on a survey trip.

part 1

lesson questions & review

1. How long did it take for the Chilsons to travel to Africa?

(2 months)

2. How did they travel there?

(by boat)

3. If you traveled to Burundi today, how do you think you would travel and how long would it take to get there?

(by airplane; two very, very, long days)

4. Now look at a map and locate the country of Kenya. Now follow along south of Lake Victoria and find the country of Burundi. This is the route the Chilsons traveled. Do you remember what they traveled in?

(a car)

5. When they stopped for the night, what did they do?

(they set up a tent in the middle of nowhere)

6. One night when they were camping, they had an exciting adventure. What happened?

(a lion roared and Arthur got his gun. It would not fire. He finally got it to work and they went to bed and slept peacefully in God's protection)

7. The Chilsons arrived in Burundi and went to the only mission station. They met the missionaries there. When the missionaries heard why the Chilsons had come to Burundi, what did they do?

(they cried with joy because they had been praying that God would send more missionaries to Burundi)

8. Name the mission site that was given to the Friends Church in Burundi.

(Kibimba)

9. What did the Chilsons see when they arrived at Kibimba that was a sweet reminder of God's care?

(a rose bush was blooming)

part 2

Friends' mission work begins in Burundi

Our Friends mission work began in Burundi in 1934 with over 50 acres to build a home on, a dispensary, a chapel and a school. All of this would show the government that they planned to stay and become a full-fledged mission. Our mission work from the beginning was to minister to the whole person: the spiritual life with salvation, discipleship, and church planting; the physical by helping with medical needs and medicine; education through schools and technical aid; and with agriculture and community development.

So the work began and often after working hard all day, the three Chilsons would relax in the evening and listen to the distant sound of Africa. They had a great task before them. They knew they first had to win the people's confidence before they could share the message of Jesus Christ. Hardly anyone had seen a white person before, and the Burundians were afraid of them. They didn't know if white people were good or bad. What were these white people here for? How would you feel in the same situation?

the humble beginnings

Well, they got busy and fixed up their first house. It had a dirt floor, a thatch roof and grass walls. Sheets and curtains were hung for some privacy, and cooking was done over an open fire. This first home always had many uninvited visitors like, flies, mosquitoes, lizards, worms, cockroaches, termites (which ate everything in sight), and snakes! We just can't imagine what that might be like. Later they did build a home with adobe bricks, a floor, doors, and places for windows which were covered with muslin fabric, until later when glass could be purchased. This house also had a few fireplaces to help take the chill off the early morning air and the rainy season days. The rains during the rainy season are often like afternoon rains in Colorado. However, they can come with a great downpour and one can be soaked to the skin in seconds.

Thankfully, the Burundians were curious and they started to come and watch, getting closer and closer. Of course, these two-legged visitors were always welcome! From these visitors the Chilsons

began to learn the language. Then some nationals wanted to sell items to the Chilsons like chickens, eggs, green beans, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, white potatoes, milk, bananas, onions, firewood, and long poles for building. And the nationals wanted to buy things from the missionaries like cloth, soap, salt, and hoes. The Chilsons would build relationships however they could. The men loved to watch Arthur work. They also were interested in what happened at the dispensary, where medicine was given out and bad teeth pulled. Arthur even popped his false teeth in and out to amaze the Burundians and draw them all in. Arthur wrote, "All of these contacts God blessed: and confidence began to grow, fear disappeared, and the crowds attending Sabbath services increased."

The first school began with 15 boys. They came "dirty but keen." No one had told them or taught them how to bathe and to keep clean. Most of them wore bark cloth that was made from pounding bark from trees until it became thin and some-



Kivimba Mission Station, first week—1934.

what pliable. And what was the first chalkboard made of? It was made from cement which was covered with charcoal dust to make it black.

They wrote on wrapping paper with crayons to make charts for school.

more Friends pioneer missionaries arrive

On December 31, 1935, Ralph and Esther (Chilson) Choate arrived by steamer on Lake Tanganyika to help with the work. Esther was also a daughter of the Chilsons. Both the Chilsons and the Choates were our Friends pioneer missionaries in Burundi—blazing out the trails for our Friends missionaries who would follow in the years to come.

A great miracle happened on March 22, 1936. The morning service was over and 600 people

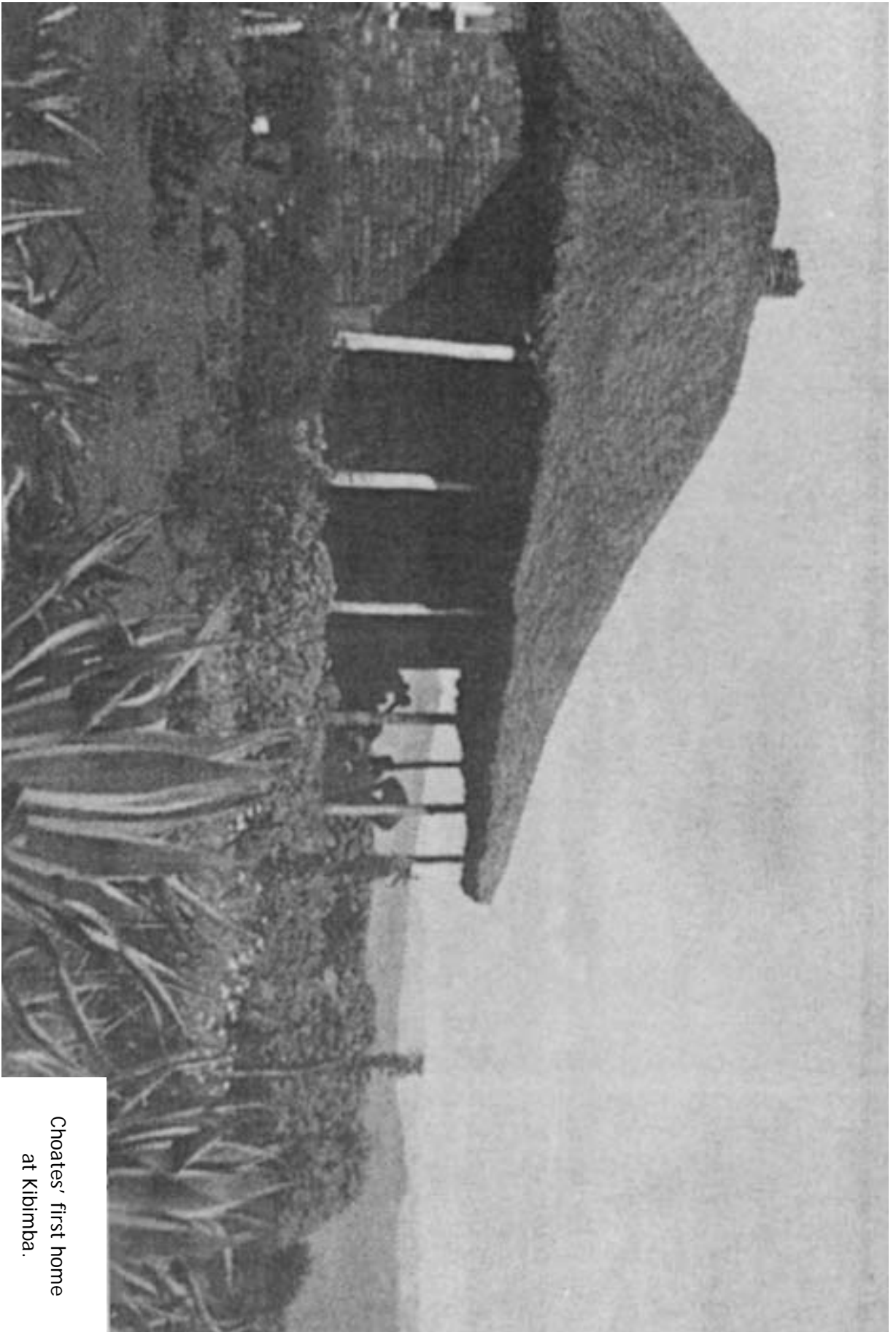
had just left when a great wind and rain storm came and collapsed the chapel. Of course, the missionaries were concerned about how the nationals would interpret this event. Would they think it was a curse? A crowd started to gather and one of Arthur's Burundian friends said, "God knew you needed a larger building.... He allowed the storm to come after the people had gone home and before the next group arrived, and now you will have a larger, better building." All the nationals embraced this idea and the missionaries praised God.

Kibimba becomes an official Friends mission

In June of 1936, the first active members were taken into the Friends Church, and in November of 1936 the King of Belgium recognized Kibimba as an official Friends Mission. In the next few months a school was opened in Gitega and a new mission work was started at Mutaho. Arthur celebrated his 65th birthday on June 17, 1937. Government officials and Europeans came to see the hydraulic ram that was purchased by the youth of Kansas Yearly Meeting and installed in 1938. This helped to bring pure uncontaminated water up the hill to the missionaries and the nationals. The Burundians were amazed that water could run uphill. They had never seen such a thing.

Just when great progress was being made, God called Arthur Chilson home to heaven at the age of 66, after a brief illness. Esther, his daughter wrote, "He left us quietly last evening, January 14th (1939) ...We cannot understand it but say, 'Thy will be done.' ...We all feel crushed and heart-sick, but we have victory in Him, Whom our precious one knew so intimately and loved and longed to see."

Many fine tributes were written about Arthur Chilson and can be read in the book *Arthur Chilson: Ambassador of the King* by Edna H. Chilson. One called him "The Livingston of American Quakerism." Another wrote, "Christ was with him in Africa thirty-seven years ago (in British East Africa); and Christ was with him in Africa to the end."



Choates' first home
at Kibimba.

part 2

lesson questions & review

1. What year did our missionaries begin work in Burundi?
(1934)
2. What did the missionaries need to do to show the government that they planned to stay and become a full fledged mission?
(they needed to build so the Chilsons wanted to build a home, dispensary, chapel, and school)
3. How did the Africans react to having white people move in with them?
(they had not seen white people before; they did not know if they were good or bad people; the Africans were curious and watched the Chilsons)
4. What was the Chilsons' first home like?
(it had a dirt floor, a thatched grass roof and grass walls. Sheets and curtains were the walls and all meals were prepared over an open fire)
5. Name several items the Burundians wanted to trade with the Chilsons.
(chickens, eggs, green beans, sweet potatoes, white potatoes, tomatoes, milk, bananas, onions, and firewood)
6. And what did the Chilsons trade with the Burundi people?
(cloth, soap, salt, and hoes)
7. Arthur did something funny to get the attention of those that were watching him. What was it?
(he would pop his false teeth out and back into his mouth really fast)
8. How many students were in the first ever Friends school in Burundi? How many were boys and how many were girls?
(15 students and they were all boys)
9. The cloth used for making clothes in Burundi was made out of what?
(pounded tree bark)
10. What was the school's first chalkboard made of?
(it was made of cement and covered with charcoal dust)
11. Name the couple that joined Arthur, Edna and Rachel Chilson in the work in Burundi.
(Ralph & Esther Choate)
12. How were they related?
(Esther was a daughter of the Chilsons)
13. What great miracle happened on a Sunday morning? How did the Africans react to the miracle?
(a wind and rain storm blew down the chapel right after 600 people had left the morning worship service. The Africans thought God had allowed it to fall down after the people left because they need a bigger and better chapel)
14. In 1936 Kibimba was recognized as an official Friends Mission by the King of what country?
(Belgium)

part 3

the work goes on

The first days and weeks after Arthur's death were very hard for the missionaries and the Burundian Christians. At first the nationals thought that everything was over, but they soon began to see ways they could help with the work, and with God's help and strength, the work did go on. They all prayed harder and jumped in to fill the empty places. Ralph and Esther Choate and children Larry and Ann moved to the new Mutaho mission.

Few people there had seen white people, so again there was the need to overcome the fear of white

people. Just imagine this—it took several months of playing a “phonograph with loud and lively music,” before the nationals overcame their fear. They would wait for a crowd to gather, then quickly share a short testimony, followed by watching the Burundians run away when the music came out of the box. Then they would repeat this process with the next group of people that gathered. A home, chapel and school were built, and Esther would often care for 400-500 people every week at the dispensary in the back yard. [See picture on page 25.]

more missionaries arrive

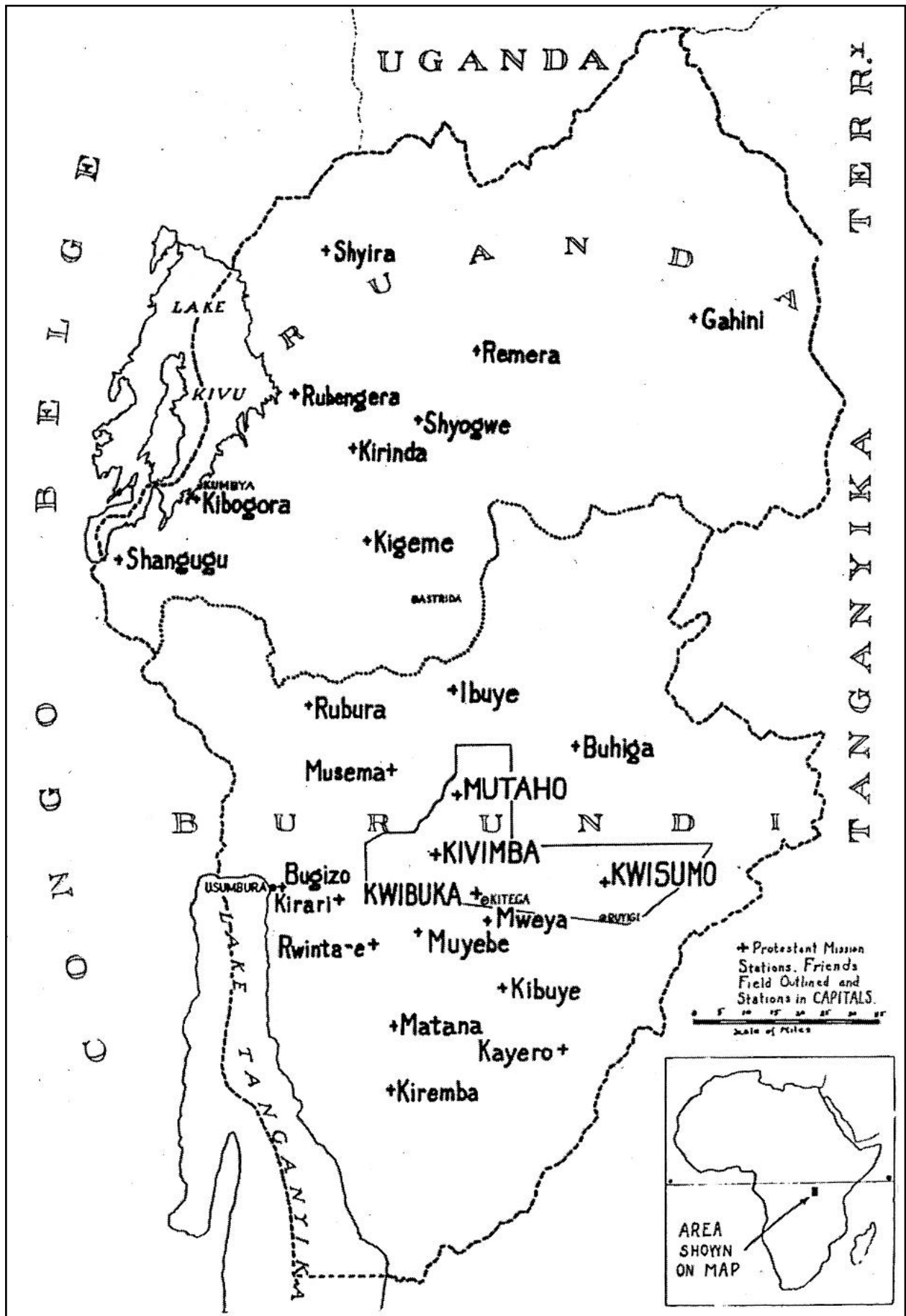
In 1944 with more missionaries arriving, the Kwibuka station was begun. Then the dark year of famine began. The Burundians normally live on the food they grow in their gardens and grow three crops a year. They have a rainy season and a dry season, about six months each. If the rain does not come—the crops do not come up and they have no food to eat. That year, all the food reserves were eaten and the people were suffering. A feeding station was set up at Kibimba, with over 1,200 people being fed each day. This became the total mission focus for that time—to care for the starving people. Finally rains came and crops returned, but about 10,000 people had died from the famine.

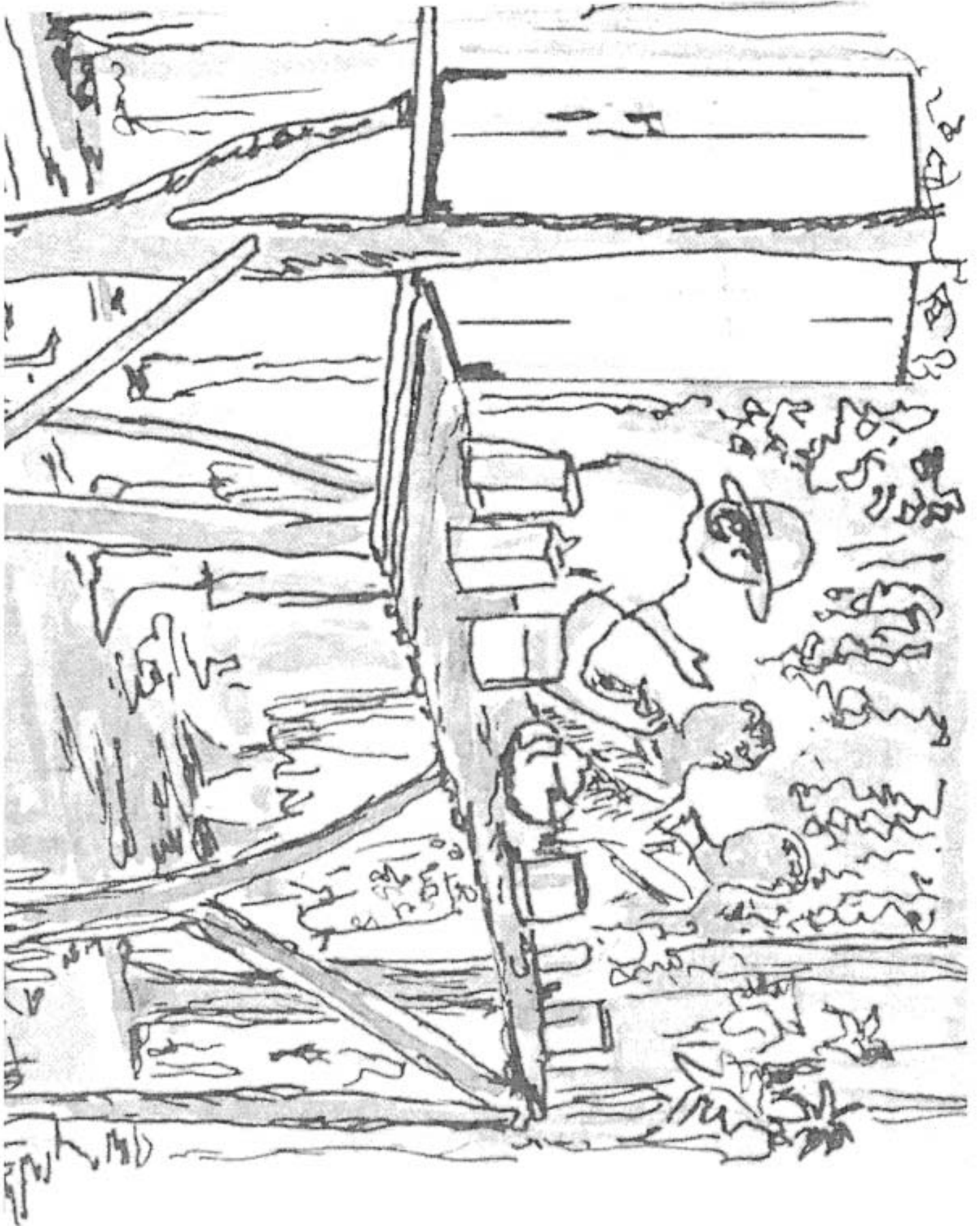
After several months of illness, Edna Chilson went to be with Jesus on December 25, 1945. She was buried beside Arthur in the little cemetery near the Kibimba Church.

In 1946 the Kwisumo station was opened, making a total of 4 mission stations (Kibimba, Mutaho,

Kwibuka, and Kwisumo). [See page 24 for map from approximately 1946 with old names for countries, towns, and mission stations.] More missionaries arrived, including an American doctor and nurses for the Kibimba hospital. Then in 1949, a Teacher Training Advanced School was started and shared with four other mission groups in addition to Friends. Many of our Friends missionaries taught in this secondary school and had a great influence on many young lives. The mission work began to fall into sort of a pattern. Ralph Choate wrote:

“...We all did the tasks assigned to us; we all worked with church and school activities. We built homes, churches, work shops, garages, out schools; we developed gardens, taught school, translated and produced literature, practiced the healing arts, wrote letters, raised children, tried by word and example to preach the Gospel of Christ and Him crucified, risen and sitting at the right hand of God, victorious!”





25 years of Friends missions: rebellion & revival

Our Friends Mission had been thriving in Burundi for 25 years (1934-1959). Plans were made for a Jubilee celebration and important people had been invited. Sadly, the plans were put on hold when the Kibimba Church rebellion began, which “led to one of the most difficult times of our mission life.” Church members wanted to stay in the church but return to some of their past ways of life. The problem turned out to be more political (not religious) and was caused by “rabble-rousers not even from our church.” Much time was spent

in prayer and guidance. Many pastors stood with the missionaries and encouraged them. When it had all settled down, over 700 members had left the Kibimba church — now was the time for holding revival services to bring healing to the broken church. A new date for the Jubilee celebration was selected with a smaller presentation planned. Up to this time over 35 missionaries had served in Burundi for different lengths of time during these years.

Independence Day for Burundi

Mission work moved ahead and during 1961 and 1962 our Yearly Meeting turned over the mission field to the Burundi Friends Church. The church took the leadership and the missionaries helped where they were asked. In the early 1960's, countries all over Africa had been given their independence from the European countries. Independence Day came to Burundi on July 1, 1962 from the Belgian government. The Tutsis had been the rulers for over 300 years, and it was their plan to continue as rulers. However, after an election, many positions of leadership were given to Hutus—which the Tutsis would not allow. Very

soon many of the Hutu leaders just disappeared, thousands were killed, and some fled the country. These were the educated Hutu people. The loss of this leadership was felt all over Burundi and was felt greatly on our mission field. Some of our missionaries were forced to leave Burundi with hardly any notice, while others stayed on. The American Embassy contacted our missionaries and told them to be ready to leave quickly. The mission work continued very slowly and the missionaries just prayed and trusted God to care for them. Gradually, life became more normal again, which allowed for a few new missionaries to arrive.

more troubles

In 1972 the Hutus again tried to gain power in the government, but the Tutsis struck back with a greater force than before. Roadblocks went up, and the missionaries' work stopped. They were not allowed to travel. Gunfire was heard daily and many people lost their lives. By 1973, “things began to slowly improve...Missionaries from every denomination were heartbroken. Many pastors

had died. Churches were without leaders. Schools had no teachers. The little country of Burundi would never completely recover from the terrible things that had occurred.”

Again in 1976 there was more unrest and fighting. Out of this time a military government took control.

God did not leave! He is faithful

All of the Friends missionaries gradually left Burundi. As visas came to their renewal dates, the government simply did not renew them, so the missionaries had to leave. By 1985 all of our missionaries had returned to the States. This was a sad time for our Yearly Meeting to be forced out of Burundi. But now the Burundi Friends Church

was totally in the Lord's hands. Praise God, He was faithful and His Spirit was faithful to raise up Christian pastors, church leaders, and teachers to carry the work on. God's Word was taught and His work went forward. The missionaries had to come home, but God stayed and He has been glorified by His church in Burundi.

let's take a look at Burundi Yearly Meeting today

The Friends Church in Burundi has 84 churches with 15,000 members, plus many, many young people and children. Their churches are often packed with people standing in doorways and listening through open windows. Last year for Vacation Bible School, they planned for 24,000 children to attend and hear about Jesus.

Pastors and church leaders are being trained by various programs, too. New churches are being built and pastors often have to preach at several churches. We need to pray for the Burundi Yearly Meeting leaders, and the pastors and church leaders, that God will be present in all they do and grant them His wisdom, empower them with His strength, and grow up a church led by the Holy Spirit that brings glory to Him.

special prayer

Praise God for the Burundi Friends Church and the work God is doing through them.

Pray for the church leadership and pastors, that God would keep them holy and pure.

Pray for the schools, the directors, the teachers, and the children.

Thank God for the many missionaries who invested their lives in the work in Burundi. Because of their willingness to be used by God, many people are in heaven now, and many more are coming to know Jesus.

Praise God that He is faithful!

part 3

lesson questions & review

1. After working in Burundi for about three years God took Arthur Chilson home to heaven at the age of 65. How did his family and the Burundi people feel?
(They were sad and they missed his wisdom and hard work. The nationals thought for awhile that everything was over.)
2. Was everything over?
(no—the Burundians realized that they could do some of the work themselves)
3. A second mission station was opened at Mutaho. Again the Africans had not seen white people before. What did Ralph and Esther Choate do to get the Burundians interested in coming to hear about Jesus?
(a phonograph that played lively music)
4. What is a dispensary?
(a place where medicine was given and bad teeth were pulled)
5. How many people would come in a week to seek care at the dispensary?
(400-500)
6. Burundian people depend on their gardens to grow most of the food that they have to eat. How many times a year can they grow crops?
(3)
7. We have 4 seasons. Name them. (spring, summer, winter, and fall) How many seasons do they have in Burundi?
(2)
8. Name the two seasons in Burundi and tell how long each season lasts.
(wet season and dry season—they last 6 months each)
9. What happens if the rainy season does not come or is very late?
(they have no food; the people starve and some die)
10. More and more missionaries arrived in Burundi and a total of 4 mission stations opened. What was the very special building constructed at Kibimba and who were the people who came from America to work in this building?
(a hospital; a doctor and nurses from the United States)
11. Did things always go smoothly in mission work?
(no—at one time there was a rebellion in the church in Kibimba. People wanted to belong to church but return to their old ways)
12. This was a very hard time for the missionaries. What did they do?
(They prayed a lot and asked God for healing for the church. God answered their prayers)
13. What happened in Burundi on July 1, 1962?
(The country of Burundi gained their Independence from the Belgian government. They could now run their own country the way they wished)
14. What has been the sad thing that has happened over and over in the country of Burundi between the Hutus and Tutsi tribes?
(war)
15. By 1985 all of our Friends missionaries were asked to leave the country and return to the states. What happened to our Burundi Friends Churches?
(The missionaries had to leave, but not God. The church has been growing)

Let's eat— in America

Are you hungry for tacos? What would you do? Drive to the closest taco fast food store and grab some tacos? Maybe you would run to the freezer department of your grocery store and get some tacos or burritos to heat in the microwave...maybe you would brown some hamburger and add some

seasoning, open a can of refried beans, open a bag of shredded cheese, a pack of tortillas, chop a tomato and some lettuce and then...you would enjoy those delicious wonderful tacos—all pretty do-able.

Let's eat— in Africa

So, now let's say you are a missionary kid in Africa and want a taco. Well, first of all there are no fast food taco shops, and grocery stores are open markets, so no frozen sections there. So we really have to make these tacos from "scratch!" What does that mean?

Well, first you go to market to buy the meat, cheese, beans, flour, lettuce, and tomatoes. You would probably have a refrigerator in your home, but very little space to keep things frozen, so all things must be purchased pretty close to the time you will be eating them. Always remember that all fruits and vegetables have to be washed in light bleach water to kill all of the bacteria that could make you sick. The beans have to be cooked and then mashed, the tortillas have to be mixed up, rolled out, and cooked on a grill, the cheese

has to be hand shredded, the hamburger has to be cooked very well and then you chop the lettuce and tomatoes. Now if you are not too tired, you are ready to eat!

Do you want a little pop with that? It would be room temperature Coke or Fanta that comes in lemon-lime or orange—remember, no ice. And just so you know, all water you drink or cook with has to be run through a special purifier system so you will stay healthy.

Because the preparation of a meal takes so much time, missionaries often have to have a Burundian help fix their food or they would never get anything else done. One thing you would learn quickly: you have to start early and work hard to have food on your table.

Just another thing to remember
as you pray for our missionaries
and their children.

Psalm 91 - safe in the Lord

God doesn't promise a world free of danger, but He does promise His help whenever we face danger. This Psalm is what the Chilson lived as they traveled to Burundi in 1934 and as they began their pioneer mission work among these unreached people.

It is also the Psalm that Willard and Doris Ferguson read and claimed daily, when they were our missionaries in Rwanda during the genocide in 1994.

*[At the right you will find part of Psalm 91.
Have your class read this as you choose.
Talk about God's promises for those who love Him and are following in His ways.
Then select several of our missionaries and pray some of these verses for them.]*

Psalm 91

Those who live in the shelter of the Most High
Will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

This I declare of the LORD:

He alone is my refuge, my place of safety;
He is my God, and I am trusting in Him.

For He will rescue you from every trap
And protect you from the fatal plague.
He will shield you with His wings,
He will shelter you with His feathers.
His faithful promises are your armor and protection.
Do not be afraid....

If you make the LORD your refuge,
if you make the Most High your shelter,
no evil will conquer you;
no plague will come near your dwelling

For He orders His angels
to protect you wherever you go.
They will hold you with their hands...

The LORD says, "I will rescue those who love Me.
I will protect those who trust in My name.
When they call on Me, I will answer;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them.
I will satisfy them with a long life
and give them My salvation."

unscramble game

Unscramble each word to find a product that is grown in Burundi.
Write the word or words in the blank provided.

1. _____ e t a

2. _____ a a b s n a n

3. _____ c a n i m o

4. _____ t n o c t o

5. _____ i k l m

6. _____ e s b n a

7. _____ c i r e

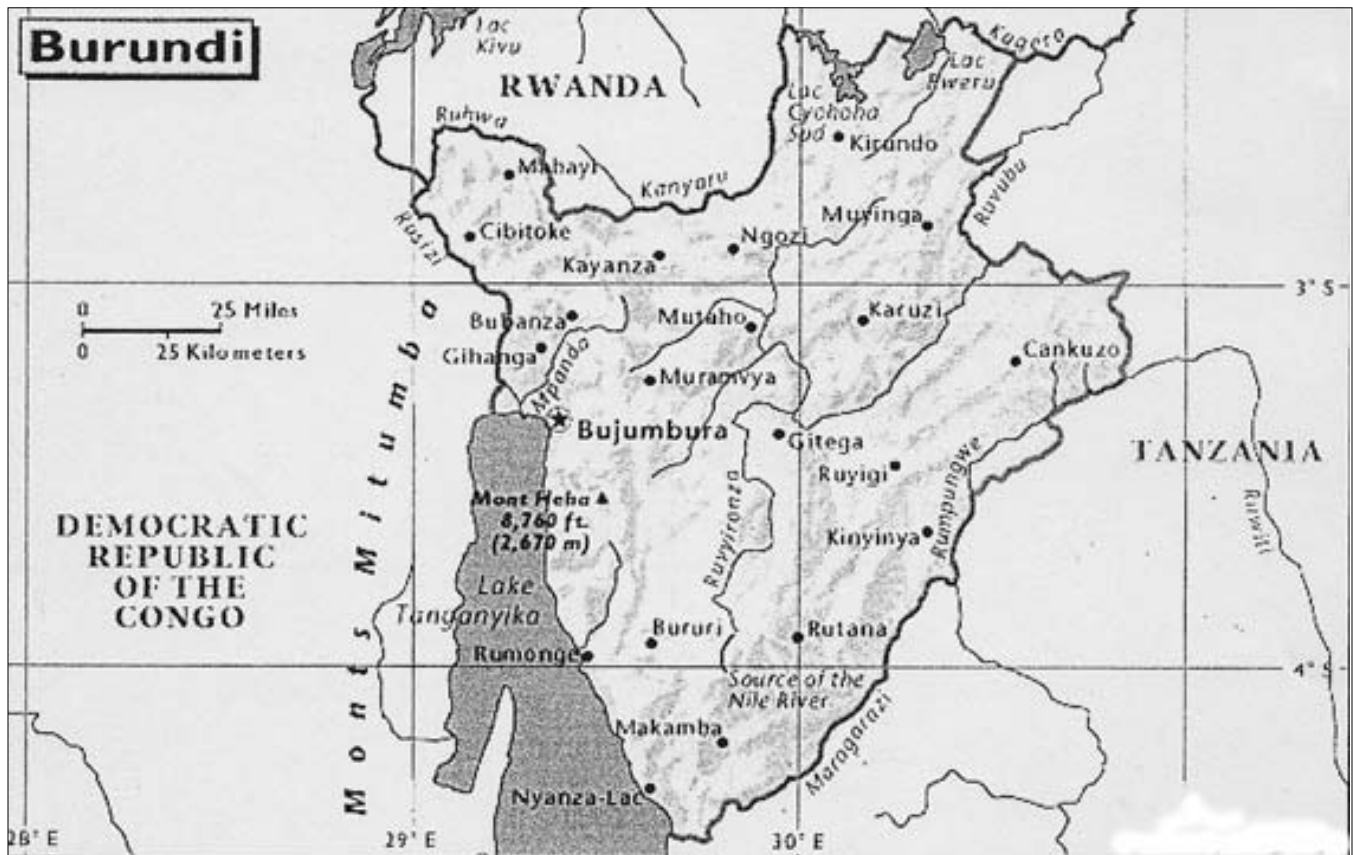
8. _____ w t e s e t o a t o p s e

9. _____ e z a m i

10. _____ e f b e

the geography of Burundi

Burundi is a small landlocked country and is called “the heart of Africa.” It is surrounded by the countries of Rwanda, Tanzania and the Congo. Look on a world map and find Burundi. On the map below, color the different countries and complete the other instructions.



- Find the country of Burundi and color it green.
- Find the country of Rwanda and color it light blue.
- Tanzania is on the south and east side of Burundi. Color Tanzania orange.
- Color the country of Congo yellow.
- Find the capital—Bujumbura—and circle it in pink.
- Find the source of the Nile and place a purple “X” on the spot.
- Find Lake Tanganyika and color it blue.