

Mission to Rwanda

By Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw

It was extremely gratifying to see good fruit borne from our outreaches. We first visited Rwanda in 2004 and the leadership there was very cautious and reserved. Now, after bringing Neal Lozano with us twice to teach the Unbound model of prayer and deliverance, and Lloyd preaching at several large public rallies, they were



thrilled with the results. They were eager to pray and evangelize more. Bishop Kizito has helped establish a National Service Team for evangelization. This year marked a real first as we reached out to three new dioceses. The National Service Team was jubilant because they were able to coordinate with the locals to accomplish some really large events and everything went off very well. Next year they want to bring in new groups to teach the Unbound Model, and possibly do some outreaches to Burundi. The Bishop told us that our coming was providential because it gave them confidence to come out of the “upper room” and get to work! The faces and even the music of the people were different; there was so much more joy.

After resting from our long journey, we walked to our first outreach at Holy Family Church. At 3:00 pm we began with evangelization (Lloyd preaching) and then Mass. Fr. Hubert brought out the Blessed Sacrament and his homily was at least one hour. There were over 1000 people praising God. A rain storm came up and mist filled the air inside but no one seemed alarmed. After Mass the priest brought Jesus through the crowd and many people came up to give testimonies of healing.

We were told by the interpreter that Fr. Hubert’s mother was murdered in the genocide. Later, the killer begged pardon from him. Fr. Hubert gave him pardon and to show that he truly forgave, he is paying for the school fees of the killer's two children while he is in prison. He said the children are not at fault, and he invited others to forgive from their hearts. He is one of the few that talks about the Genocide publicly. He told us that when Renewal Ministries came for the first time in 2004 and did some programs with him, it gave him the courage to take Jesus to the people. Before that they had never done a healing service. He now travels across Rwanda and other East African countries bringing the healing power of God!

The following day our outreach was in the town of Butare at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Wisdom. We were supposed to start at 11:00 and even though we were late, everyone was still there, waiting patiently for us. The program is the same wherever we go—Lloyd preaching, then Mass, and Eucharistic adoration with a priest then taking Jesus through the crowd. The National Service team came with us, so as Jesus was brought through the crowd, they knelt at the altar and alternately sang, exhorted, and had words of knowledge. Afterwards many people came up to give testimonies of healing.

Between venues we drove five miles to a beautiful compound on the side of a hill run by Our Lady of Hope Sisters. They were in the middle of a retreat given by our old friend, Fr. Bonaventure. This beautiful humble priest lost his whole family in the genocide. He is always so joyful and loving. The sisters showed us their compound where they take care of the elderly. It was so clean and the people were obviously very happy. Some were blind or infirm in some way, and one man had leprosy or some disease that took his fingers and feet. Since we were late, I was given 20 minutes to preach, so I spoke on unforgiveness. With the experience of praying with many sisters in the past, I felt that it is always necessary to address this topic. Then Fr. Hubert brought out the Blessed Sacrament and he had words of knowledge. We waited for testimonies, but only one sister stood up. This form of worship and openness was very foreign to them. Later one sister confided to Father that she had made up her mind to leave the community because of a rivalry with another sister. After hearing my talk during the evening session she made the decision to forgive, and by the end of the program she had totally changed her mind and she decided to stay in her community. Alleluia!

For our next event we traveled back to Ruhengeri where we were greeted warmly by Bishop Kizito. The following morning we rode with the Bishop to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. The small Chapel of Our Lady of Fatima is a building on a grassy flat area in front of a hillside. High on top of the hill overlooking the seats is the huge Cathedral of Our Lady of Fatima. The seats were almost full at 8 am and Lloyd began to speak an hour later. The Bishop estimated about four hours for the Mass. In the beautiful sunshine, the pavilion was covered by thousands of multicolored umbrellas that pointed toward the hot sun. Female children and teen dancers in matching red dresses were brilliant against the green grass. Communion was almost all distributed when it began to rain. The dancers smiled and kept going. As the rain got harder the smallest of the dancers began to look about, and with their eyes they were saying, "What do we do now?" Soon it was a torrential downpour and still they tried to keep dancing. The altar boys and girls ran for cover under the huge pavilion covering the altar where all the priests and the Bishop were watching. Soon the dancers bolted and ran too. Caretakers also brought some of the handicapped and elderly under the covered pavilion to get out of the rain. Some people ran for cover, but the ones on the cement stadium steps stood their ground. Groups of four or five people huddled under their umbrellas while it just poured. It was amazing to see 50,000 people just standing in the pouring rain, not knowing when it would stop.

After about 15 minutes it began to lessen and people came out from under the overhangs. Soon they were singing with greater enthusiasm than before. Lloyd came out from under the pavilion and began to dance to show his appreciation to the people for not leaving, and the crowd roared and began to dance too. The Bishop loved what Lloyd did. He said the rain was a blessing and these people came to pray, rain or no rain. They would not be deterred from their blessing. Then the Bishop and the priests brought out the Blessed Sacrament and began to walk through the crowd as best as they could. The aisles were packed so there was no way to get to the top. The custom in Rwanda at the Consecration of the Mass is to clap for Jesus. So as the Monstrance was taken through the crowd, spontaneous cheering and clapping arose and subsided at the Lord walked through the crowd.

After Mass they asked for testimonies and three people came forward and gave testimonies of how Jesus had healed them in 2004 at the last Healing Mass. The leaders

decided that all of the many testimonies of healings that had occurred this day should wait for a special Mass of Thanksgiving that will be held later this year. That would give them another opportunity to hold a large event and evangelize! After Mass we ate with the Bishop and he was very pleased with the event. Jesus was lifted up. He wanted to know when we could come back. The Bishop said we must continue to hold outdoor rallies in order to let people know that Jesus is really here, alive, and that He loves and cares for them.

On Monday we went to the Sacred Heart Chapel where we held a program for the charismatic group called Emmanuel Community. There were at least 1000 people packed in like sardines. Small narrow benches were the only seating and every space was taken, despite the intense heat. There was great praise and worship, then I gave my testimony and Lloyd spoke. Before I spoke I noticed a child of about six on a mat on the floor groaning. He had been brought by his teacher. I prayed for him for a few minutes and at dinner that evening we were told by the priests that he got up after Mass and Adoration and started playing with the other kids.

The priest spoke for over an hour, but the people stayed. After Mass, but before they came out into the church with the Monstrance, a priest brought Jesus out of the main Tabernacle. He bowed and then lifted Jesus most reverently. That is when I recognized the priest as Fr. John Baptiste from Burundi. As he raised Jesus up he looked so lovingly, so adoringly at Him. He slowly and gently put Him down, never taking his eyes off Jesus. It was so beautiful to see. This is the same priest that had come to us in 2004 asking for prayer after he had lost his faith. When we prayed for him then, using the Unbound Model and he forgave his father and others, his faith-life changed radically. Now here he was, so full of faith and love for Jesus that I was overwhelmed at God's mercy. Then they took Jesus through the aisles and the people just loved it!

Our final few hours in Rwanda were spent with Bishop Kizito, discussing plans for next year. That night we flew back to Entebbe to catch a flight to Amsterdam and then to Brussels, and finally on to Liberia. It would be our first time in Liberia and we were going to meet a number of Church officials to plan for a national day of reconciliation to be held in January of 2009.