

Dear friends,

Buye Lycée: Since our last newsletter, much needed work has been completed at Buye Lycée. Donations of £2,000 in 2024 to enable the construction of a large septic tank and rehabilitate two dormitories enabled the secondary school to remain open for the academic year 2024-25. 284 students (130 girls and 154 boys) are attending the school. In 2025, a final grant for £1,500 was sent to rehabilitate the girls' dormitory and build a security wall. The school was started by the Anglican church at Buye and receives very little support from the government to maintain and improve facilities.



Bethesda Project: This is the main focus of our support in Burundi. The Bethesda Project works in the Anglican diocese of Musinga. The project identifies and supports those living with disabilities in the different parishes. Here is some of their latest news:

"These visits are not only about medical assessments. In Murama, we gathered children with and without disabilities for an inclusive sports day. Watching them play and laugh together is a powerful reminder that joy and friendship can flourish even in the most difficult circumstances. It could make a real real difference for families who now struggle with hunger and malnutrition"



Mid-year evaluations show that the demands on the team are growing – more families than ever are asking for help, and the need for wheelchairs alone has reached seven urgent cases. Meeting this growing need will stretch resources to the limit. One new and hopeful development **thanks to a grant of £1,000 from the Wadhurst-Burundi Link** has been the team's participation in the Foundations for Farming training course. This approach, also known as **Farming God's Way**, blends biblical principles with sustainable farming techniques to help small farmers grow enough food for their families, sell the surplus, and even give to others.



Our staff, Meduc and Divine, spent mornings learning the theory and afternoons in the fields, trying out conservation agriculture methods such as mulching, composting, crop rotation and intercropping – all without ploughing or disturbing the soil.

A key technique they learned is called pfumvudza – a carefully prepared small plot that, **when managed well, can feed a family of six for a year.** The idea is to start small, do everything to a high standard, and waste nothing. They returned with certificates and an eagerness to begin trials during the September planting season. If the approach works as well in Musinga as it has elsewhere, it could make a real difference for families who now struggle with hunger and malnutrition.

HOME VISITS

The two new motor cycles donated by the Wadhurst-Burundi Link have enabled the Bethesda team to be far more effective in reaching and helping so many more needy people. The team in Muyinga is providing access to life-saving surgery, therapy exercises, counselling, laughter filled games, supplementary emergency feeding when required and finding more sustainable solutions to the problem of hunger. Practical help such as mattresses, soap and sugar are provided as well as the desperate need for wheelchairs. The heart of the work is to show God's love in practical action, providing hope for the future.



FUNDING APPEALS

Wheelchairs for the Bethesda Project:

These can be bought in Burundi at a cost of **£150-£200** each depending on the age and needs of the individual. We would like to raise **£1,000** for this on-going need. Each chair transforms a life (like the child below), giving freedom, dignity and a chance to contribute to the community.

Special Needs Education Fund:

We would like to raise **£500** to enable the Bethesda Project support the families of 7 children (3 with sight disability and 4 with speech and hearing disability) to attend two special needs schools. For sight disability, the Rumuri Centre offers training in braille and writing, mobility skills and performing daily activities and for those with hearing and speech disability, the CESDA centre provides education using sign language and practical skills needed in farming and daily living. At current rates of exchange, **£500** will enable the Bethesda project to provide the support needed for these children for one year.

Please use the attached Response Form to give to any of these needs either on a one-off basis or with a regular monthly donation. THANK YOU for your interest and support.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any queries by e.mailing:
wadhurstburundilink@gmail.com

