

# GREAT LAKES OUTREACH

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017

**Great Lakes Outreach works with outstanding local leaders to transform Burundi and beyond**



## Young Leaders and Education

**Back to School** - we helped over **1000** children with fees, uniforms and stationery so they could go back to school in September.

**Training Young Leaders** - Gitega International Academy, our flagship boarding school in Gitega, Burundi, achieved international accreditation so that pupils can now apply for college anywhere in the world. **Two pupils achieved full scholarships** to a very expensive leading college in Swaziland, where pupils come from 60 nations because of the superb quality of education. Gitega International Academy is the first English-speaking boarding school in the country. **Many of the nation's key leaders' and influencers' children attend.** This year the first pupils graduated, during a massive televised event with **1000** guests from across Burundi and around the world.

## Economic Empowerment

**Bleeding Dignity** - we kickstarted a new enterprise by funding a visionary young entrepreneur. With your support, we provided reusable sanitary towels for **1000 girls, helping create four jobs.** Without adequate sanitary protection, which is really hard to access and afford in Burundi, many girls drop out of school. So the impact of this simple and vital initiative will be felt for years and even decades to come!

**Building Hope** - we started work on Phase II of Kings Conference Centre, the **top hotel** in Bujumbura according to TripAdvisor. It's a powerful witness for ethical Christian business, right in the **center of the city.** It also provides a lifeline of a regular income for **160 men, women and the children of employees.**

**Bringing Joy** – thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, we helped put a smile on the face of **3600** men, women and children with a much-needed gift for new clothes and food at Christmas. That's **450 families!**



TRANSFORMING  
BURUNDI  
& BEYOND  
[www.greatlakesoutreach.org](http://www.greatlakesoutreach.org)

## Community Transformation

**Breaking Ground** - we started laying the foundations for a new hospital in an area where the nearest hospital is currently many days' walk away. The land was donated by the government after years of prayer and negotiations.

**Christian Initiatives for Peace** – we broadcast weekly radio and TV programmes promoting peace, reaching deep into communities. We were involved in top level advocacy for peace, unravelling tensions and saving lives.

**Making Mission History** - our national congress brought together for the first time all those with a heart for mission in Burundi across denominations and geography. It was nearly a year in the planning, and it went superbly well. **We wanted 250 attendees**, hand-picked for their influence or their active engagement already, but in the end **348 came** and many pledged themselves to future mission.



## Testimonies of Hope

**From Parasites to Salvation** In Mwaro province, during the national annual outreach, the team came across a destitute family whose leader was an infamous witchdoctor called Kaziri. They nursed the children and grandparents, bathing their wounds and pulling out jiggers (parasitic fleas which burrow into feet, sometimes causing the need for amputation). Kaziri was blown away by the love shown, and gave up his charms and paraphernalia to be burnt. When neighbours heard of his conversion, they came to investigate and when they saw it was genuine, another seventeen decided to follow Jesus. Beautiful!

**Healing Memories** Dieudonne's Dad, a man of peace, was murdered during the war in 1993 by being buried alive in a pit. Yet Dieudonne forgave these killers and now sponsors the children of one of them through school. Dieudonne is also active in promoting peace in the troubled community where his father was killed. He brought together those perpetrators of violence in the war and their victims' families to work together in a cooperative. These include Catholics, Protestants, Muslims and animists. They work the land together, receive a daily wage, and a share in the crops, whilst a percentage is kept for reinvestment. It's a stunning model.

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