

Mpanda Wounded Soldier Community

This community consists of approximately 20 soldiers who are disabled from wounds suffered while in the Burundian military. Most are in wheelchairs or on crutches and many have some of their family living with them. They live in a cluster of 20 housing units on the side of a hill 25 minutes outside the capital.

I first met these soldiers in 2012 when they were in horrendous living conditions in the capital. I would visit them on all my trips and we even built two chicken coups to provide work and income. Their current homes are much better than before yet with no road they are isolated from the rest of society. There is a rugged dirt path through the fields that is virtually impassible considering their disabilities.



Jean Bosco (left) with soldiers in Mpanda



Rice and Bean Delivery!

Immediate Ministry Opportunity

During our trip in February, Owen and I spent time in Mpanda and took them rice and beans. I also introduced my Burundian ministry partner, Jean Bosco (Jesus-Life Burundi), to the community. He was immediately drawn to their needs and began to think of ways his ministry could serve them. **He has started visiting them weekly and will begin a discipleship program that will strengthen them spiritually. He also plans to take rice and beans on a regular basis to serve their physical needs. The total cost is \$500 per month** and covers curriculum, transportation, food, missionary stipend, administration and the building of a small shelter for classes.

Eating Every Third Day

In February Owen and I took 10kg rice and beans for each soldier. Three days later our military liaison received a phone call thanking us for the food. He is a father of eight and his wife left him and the kids when he became disabled. They had been eating every third day before we brought the food and wanted us to know how grateful they were.

Long-Range Ministry Opportunity

Our home church in Denver recently reached out to its seven international ministry partners with the opportunity to apply for a \$50,000 ministry-project grant. Only one project will be selected but we are submitting a plan to build a road and small community center for these families to gather in. The community center will also serve as a place for Jesus-Life to hold meetings and worship services.