

David Niyonzima, M.A.
P.O. Box 6311
Bujumbura, Burundi

Telephone: (257) 942-948
E-Mail: ndamukiza@yahoo.com

Summary:

Drawing from my Quaker heritage, I have been interested in issues relating to peace, reconciliation, justice and security. During the last decade I have been a witness to both the interethnic and interstate wars in the Great Lakes Region of Africa in general and in Burundi in particular. In this whole situation, I have been trying to actively play a role of a peacemaker and peace activist through peace initiatives, healing projects, communication (making the situation known to others) and advocating (being a voice) for an involvement of non-political communities who are the ones mostly suffering by the war and its effects. My familiarity of the cultural, economical, political and conflictual background in region is an asset that could help me become capable of making a difference.

Education:

- 2000-2002 Masters of Arts degree in Counseling: George Fox University, Portland, OR.
- Guest Lectured in the International Conflict and Peace 3 Thursdays, 1.5 hours each
 - Special presenter on Conflicts and Peace issues in Africa during a peace emphasis week at the Loyola Marymount University of Los Angeles, CA.
 - Peace Supper speaker: September 19, 2000 for two hours
 - Special presenter, John Woolman Forum: October 30-31, 2000
- 1991 Certificate for the Advanced Leadership Training at Haggai Institute, Singapore
- 1990 Certificate for Short Courses on Christian ministries at Roffey Place, Horsham, UK and, Nurturing our Roots at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Center, Birmingham, UK
- 1983-1987 Bachelor of Theology: Kenya Highlands Bible College, Kericho, Kenya

- During holidays I traveled extensively to learn social issues in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Congo, Rwanda.
- Got involved in solution finding for the college strike
- Composed and wrote a song that I conducted for the presidential inauguration of Tenweek Hospital

Human Service Experience:

- 2002-2004 Coordinator of Trauma Healing And Reconciliation Services
- Coordinating the psychosocial intervention for traumatized people. We promoted healing and rehabilitation for the victims of torture, sexual violence and ex-combatants and in general those affected by wars. Our services include workshop on Alternative to Violence Program.
 - Networking with local and International Non-Government Organizations that are working in Burundi to improve the economical, political, health and social conditions of the population.
 - Member of the National Network of Psychological Mental Health Providers sponsored by the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie, Burundi.
- 2003 Part time instructor of counseling courses at the Hope Africa University, Bujumbura, Burundi.
- 1993-2003 General Secretary and Legal Representative of the Burundi Yearly Meeting of Friends.
- Participated as an observer in the Arusha Burundi Peace Negotiations facilitated by Nelson Mandela in February 2000
 - Founded the Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation Under the Cross, a local peacebuilding organization that teaches peace from grassroots level
 - Met with army officials and political leaders to challenge them to promote peace
 - Initiated the Forum of Historic Peace Churches in Bujumbura in 1999 where Quakers, Mennonites and Brethrens exchanged ideas on Conscientious Objection, a follow up conference was held in Nairobi in 2000
 - Traveled to Africa, Europe, Asia, and America to cause an international awareness on the Burundi situation in particular and Central Africa in general
 - Participated in two conference aimed at reducing or stopping the proliferation of small arms in Durban South Africa, one organized by International Alert the other one organized by the QUNO
 - Was one of the presenters at the Second International Congress on Quaker Education, June 19-22, 1997 Westtown, PA.
 - Organized in Nairobi in 1997 a regional conference on Healing the Trauma in the Great Lakes Region, with the support of the AFSC's

Dialogue Exchange Program fund. A research was done for the need of Trauma Healing in Central Africa.

- Was on the American Peace Tour organized by the American Friends Service Committee for 40 days in October-November 1996
- While in exile in Kenya, coordinated visits and peace and reconciliation workshops for the Burundi, Rwanda and Congolese refugees living both in Tanzania and Kenya.
- Represented the Burundi National Council of Churches to South Africa where I learned the role of religious confessions in bringing to an end the era of Apartheid, I was hosted by the Quaker Peace Center from 24 June 1995 to 3 July 1995

- Participation in peace demonstration on the Bujumbura streets
- Radio talk shows and interviews on peace and reconciliation
- Founded the Magarama Peace School in 1994
- Founded the Kibimba peace committee in December 1994
- Reestablished the Kibimba High School as a Quaker school where Quaker values of peace and non-violence are taught
- Reconstruction campaigns (encouraged a local volunteer group to rebuild up to 351 homes in Musama area) and work camps with emphasis on peace and reconciliation.
- Organized and coordinated the Crisis Committees to give humanitarian assistance from the Canadian Food Grain Bank with the help of Mennonite Central Committee volunteers I had invited to Burundi as peace accompaniment shortly after the assassination of the Burundi president Melchior Ndadaye.(Thanks to these volunteers, Friends in Burundi were the first religious denomination to organize peace and reconciliation workshops in January 1994)
- Promoted reforestation and land protection: we produced 52,000 seedlings mostly eucalyptus in the Ruyigi province
- Food security for the most needy: distributed to 8000 families seed beans in Gitega, Ruyigi, Cankuzo and Mwaro
- Coordinated the mobile clinic that reached to 13,347 in the three most difficult months when people could not come to Kibimba hospital because of security reasons

1999-2000 National Coordinator for the Change Agent Peace Program, Burundi

- Coordinated peace projects for youth, women and laypersons on their involvement in peace-building and peace-making and reconciliation. There were also relief for vulnerable people in the Internally Displaced People's camps and an outreach to prisoners.

2000 Part time instructor at the Great Lakes School of Theology, Bujumbura, Burundi (A joint project for Friends in Burundi, Rwanda, Congo, (which I am the founder) to train national leaders to face the African challenges)

- 1990-1993 Director for Kwibuka Training Center
- Pastoral Training for Friends Monthly Meetings
 - Mechanic Training for Youth unable to go on with Secondary School education who wanted to learn self help vocational training
- 1989-1990 Director of Nyakarago Training Center
- An interdenominational Christian Short Course Training for ministries
- 1987-1988 Full time teacher at the Mweya Theological Institute, Gitega, Burundi.

Honors:

- 2000 The John Woolman Peace Award, from the George Fox University's Center for Peace Learning.

Written Materials:

- 2004 Authored an essay for *Walk Worthy of Your Calling*, Edited by Margaret P. Abbott and Peggy S. Parsons (2004) Friends United Press
- Co-authored *Unlocking Horns: Forgiveness and Reconciliation in Burundi*, (2001) Barclay Press
- Translated into Kirundi: *Peace and Reconciliation as a Paradigm*, by Hizkias Assefa, Published by the Nairobi Peace Initiative.
- Translated and adapted to the Burundi context: *Christians and Democracy*, Published in 1994 by Diakonia for "Educate for Democracy" a Campaign of Natal Churches
- Wrote articles and other essays in various publications and newsmagazines.

Special Skills:

- Strong computer skills, knowledgeable of software including Microsoft Office, and Microsoft Publisher, as well as, Internet research
- Trained in Mediation and Conflict Resolution by MAP International and got a Basic Training in Alternative to Violence Program
- Conversation and written expression ability in French, English, Swahili, Kirundi, and a bit of Lingala.

Family Information:

- Born on February 16, 1959, eighth son of Mark Bikomagu (died 1994) and Helen Buberwa (died 2001) in Gitega, Burundi. Parents were among the first Burundi Quakers (Quakerism got into Burundi in 1934)
- Married to Felicity Ntikurako on 4th May 1988
- We have 4 children: Daniella 16, Elie 14, James 12, Anna 7