



I will never forget visiting this remote community where we met families who were dirt poor, just trying to manage to have food for the day. YFC had done a distribution of items from the container we sent such as clothing, shoes, linens, some wheelchairs and crutches for those who needed them, and bikes for the administration, in this place where YFC is starting to build a school. I was so struck when I saw the T-shirt of the girl on the left that said "Colwood Kids". Here we are in the middle of "nowhere" and I see a shirt from a church next to our office. Thank you Lord! The girl in the blue shirt shared how much she loved and treasured her new shirt that replaced her old tattered one, which was probably like the one the boy next to her had on. For these girls, the gift of one t-shirt was significant, a gift so appreciated. This area is filled with families who have come back after a civil war years ago caused many to flee. Euphrate, the YFC Burundi National Director seen in the pic on the left, told me his own story of how his father was killed and everything was taken from them, leaving them destitute. All who were educated or had a little bit of means were killed, as they were considered a threat to those who sought power. As families have now come back, they have been given small properties and homes by the government (as shown below), but many are eeking out an existence. My heart was warmed knowing we were able to provide some basic things that had a significant impact, and YFC looks forward to being more connected when they open a school that will support many kids who do not have the opportunity to be in school at present.





Transformation

As I spent the week in Burundi, the word that kept coming to mind was transformation. Every year they are giving hundreds of young people hope through their schools and orphanages, transforming their lives forever. Their orphanages are actually called Homes of Hope, where kids are cared for by house moms and given the opportunity to go to the YFC school, transforming their lives physically with food and shelter, through education, and spiritually as they learn how they can have a relationship with God. I was so impressed by these kids, their kindness, warmth and welcoming nature, and the heart they have for God. Let me share one story of a boy I met who is now 23, but has been transformed by people from YFC walking with him. His name is Amani.



Euphrate with Amani

At age 3 Amani's parents divorced, and since neither one wanted to take care of him he ended up bouncing around between relatives. At age 9 he ended up being on the street, begging for anything to sustain him, rummaging through garbage for something to eat, or eating scraps from what was fed to pigs. He

would sleep under a bridge, or in a hole made for curing bricks during the day. One day YFC was showing the Jesus film, and he went. He got tired and went to sleep under a car, which ended up being the car of YFC leader Freddie. Freddie, over the next few years, would help Amani however he could, and they plugged him to a YFC school at age 12, where he started in Primary 1 with 6 year olds. He graduated last year, and has a great love for God that he wants to share with others. His story is just one of many examples of a transformed life because of those who reach out and care for kids such as him, taking them from a place of having nothing, to a place of hope and faith.

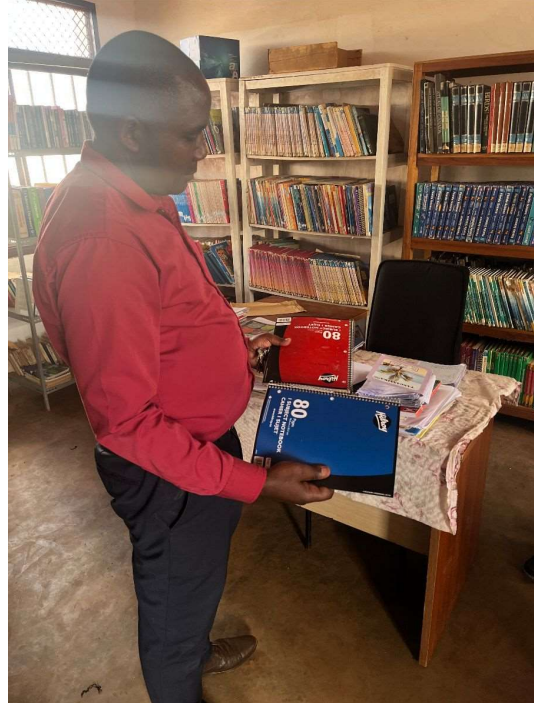
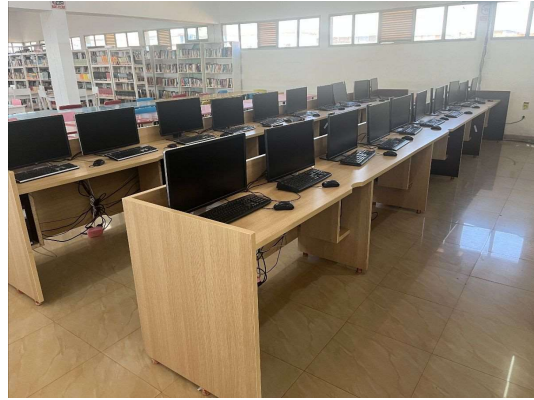




Fun Times!

The above pics give a small glimpse into some things I experienced. We had a blast playing a fun game of soccer with boys donning Tim Horton's soccer shirts and soccer shoes that we had sent on the container. When we went to the three different elementary schools, we were welcomed by the whole school, with the teachers wearing Vancouver Sun Run t-shirts that we had sent, and kids holding up things they had received. I was able to pray for all of them before the kids headed back to class, as well as share words of encouragement and pray for the teachers. I also saw firsthand how valuable bikes are, as the majority of people rely on them to carry big loads because they can't afford cars. Some bikes from the container were given to the Homes of Hope, where I met two boys who were learning to ride it for the first time, and some of the older boys are using them to get to school in town. What a huge difference they make!





Items We Sent:

Top: Books & toys for the schools

Top Left: Maternity packs at a maternity clinic

Top Right: Desk tops made into computer stations at YFC's top level academy

Bottom Left: Sheets and medical supplies for their Health Centre

Bottom Right: Notebooks for teachers and students

Well, I could go on for a long time sharing many more stories and experiences from my three weeks in three different countries. Thanks to all of you who partnered with me prayerfully and/or financially that made this trip possible, much appreciated! I believe it was significant in helping me understand that much more about the different ministries and the challenges they face, and I was able to share a lot of encouragement and pray for many different groups. My prayer is that the Lord will show me how I can best continue to support and encourage these great teams of people who are sacrificing much to serve others, and who are believing God for big things. Please pray with me!

Thank you again and enjoy the summer months ahead!

Dave



To invest in this ministry click on <https://yfc.ca/victoria/team/dave-peacock/>

In the US, donations can be made through this link <https://yfici.org/donate/> Click on "Give to Staff or Nations". In the "Select the Individual/Project You Would Like to Support..." tab, type in Dave and you will see my name come up. Click on it and you will be guided through.



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Our mailing address is:

YFC Victoria
112 - 2244 Sooke Rd.
Victoria, BC V9B 1X1