

Burundi

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Elmer and Sherry Komant concluded 13 years of remarkable ministry in the country of Rwanda. They pioneered and planted a church that is now a city on a hill, a light to a nation that used to be a place of pain and suffering. They could deservedly choose to rest and enjoy the fruit of their labours. But like Caleb, they are people of a different spirit, so, one more time, they are preparing to go to a new city in a new country to establish another lighthouse amidst the darkness.

These two countries are neighbours with a very similar history, marked by decades of enmity between different people groups. While Rwanda has prospered during the last ten years, Burundi has been left behind and is still gripped with racial tension, poverty and widespread corruption. But God has not forgotten this nation!

God called Elmer and Sherry to move to Burundi where they planted another urban Great Commission church in the pattern they have established and proven over 32 years of missionary service in Africa. Bujumbura is being touched by surrounding nations and by the people of North Pointe, today.

What does it take to be a pioneer church planter at the ends of the earth? What are the marks of a different spirit? Here are few brief observations:

1. Teamwork. Elmer and Sherry have not worked alone, but have been supported by Patrick Muchiri, Andrew and Prisca Mukinisha, Marty and Margit Mittelstaedt, Dwight and Linda Goltz, and their own family, Racheal and Jeff.
2. Absolute dependence on the Holy Spirit to bring in the harvest. Endurance and perseverance to break through the resistance that will certainly come from the evil one.
3. A commitment to excellence in the services provided because urban churches need to stand out and be a place where leaders of society can also find life and hope in Jesus.
4. A great love for people, for the Lord will bring the broken and the discouraged.

5. Tenacity in the disciple-making responsibility so that the church will have strong leaders who are faithful followers of Jesus.

Planting urban churches to serve as the backbone of a larger ministry to a nation has been an integral part of the PAOC missions strategy over the years. Following the pattern of the Apostle Paul, we focus on the leading cities in a nation and build strong churches that offer a credible witness to the transforming power of God.

A very exciting development in the planning phase for this new church is the commitment of help made by other African city churches. Four urban churches are going to collaborate in providing financial and human resources (Christian Life Assembly, Kigali; Watoto Church, Kampala; Nairobi Pentecostal Church, now known as Christ Is the Answer Ministries (CITAM); Mombasa Pentecostal Church). Teams of young people, musicians, actors, evangelists, and many other gifted people have been committed to this dream.