

# Long Miles Coffee Project.com



Volume 1, October 2011

The Carlson family in  
Burundi, central Africa

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your patience and endurance with us as we find our feet here in Burundi, central Africa. We left our dear home in South Africa at the end of June to many tearful goodbyes and have been trying to find our feet ever since. We are enjoying Burundi, despite its many challenges. Often there is no electricity or running water in the city. That alone can greatly impact how we are able to live.

We have enrolled our oldest, Myles, into a French speaking school. While we are thanking God for the blessings of a good school, it has not been an easy adjustment for him or us. I often sit using Google translate to decipher the letters that come home from school. We are constantly attempting to learn French, and constantly feeling as if we don't know a thing. Ben has hit the ground running in order to help the coffee farmers as we arrived mid coffee season. He also spent a week in the hospital fighting a serious staph infection. It has not been an easy three months.

*You were tired out by the length of your road, yet you did not say, 'It is hopeless.'  
You found renewed strength, Therefore you did not faint. Isaiah 57:10 NAS*

Aside from all this, we still feel like this is our home for a season. We are doing our best to embrace the challenges of living and the drastic lifestyle shift because we believe in something big. We have hope in God's call for us here. We have hope that we can be of help to these coffee farmers who are desperate for everything... money, food, clothes and especially the greatest hope, Jesus.

*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1*

Burundi is the fourth poorest nation in the world and it shows. The farmers who grow the coffee in these hills are poor to the bone. They often have no means to send their children to school, no running water, no electricity, and they live off an almost nutritionless root called cassava. This is a post conflict nation with hardened and hurting people, many who are left without family... but we have faith that our God is a God of change and healing.

Please pray with us for our ministry to the coffee farmers and the coffee associates in our city of Bujumbura. Pray for us on the roads as we travel to the hills, pray for Ben's job in town as he makes connections and fights for the farmers to get better prices for their crops, pray for our family as we transition into this French speaking world, pray for our funding needs which are becoming vast as we have shifted our focus from college students to rural farmers, pray for friendships here for our family, pray for the people of Burundi, pray for more peace as we hear gunshots almost daily.

Please visit our website, which is updated weekly, with beautiful photographs and words documenting our journey here [www.longmilescoffeeproject.com](http://www.longmilescoffeeproject.com). We covet your prayers and gifts as we move forward in Burundi.

With hope and faith,  
Ben, Kristy, Myles and Neo Carlson

## Ben and Kristy Carlson

Send mail to: 7784 Grinnell Way Lakeville, MN 55044 Email: [bjkjcarnson@gmail.com](mailto:bjkjcarnson@gmail.com) To give, please make checks payable to The Navigators, write 21910211 in the memo, and send to: The Navigators Attn. Income Accounting P.O. Box 6000 Colorado Springs, CO 80934 \* Or, to give by credit/bank card, phone The Navigators on 866 568 7827.