

The Forgotten People. Donna Bloomfield

Background & Calling:

- Donna, originally from the UK, first went to Burundi in 1999 with African Revival Ministries to help establish a school for orphaned children.
- Although she thought she was staying for life, God called her back to the UK after three years.
- In 2010, she returned to Burundi with a vision called “**Hope For Tomorrow**”, focused on sharing God’s love with the poor and marginalized.

Initial Ministry:

- Donna partnered with a Burundian man, Everest, to help rural farmers out of poverty through a milk enterprise.
- In 2014, they discovered a displaced and neglected community called **Carama**, home to over 800 families labeled as “rebels” and forced into terrible living conditions with no food, water, or shelter.

Serving the Forgotten People:

- Despite danger and warnings, Donna and her team brought food, began forming relationships, and shared the Gospel.
- She learned key lessons:
 - “**People, not projects.**”
 - “**See the poor as friends, not charity cases.**”
 - She realized the importance of not being seen as the saviour, but pointing people to **God as the true provider.**

God’s Provision:

- Through prayer and generous donors, they were miraculously able to feed the community monthly for over **3.5 years**.
- Basic shelters, a school, and milk for children were later added, all without a formal charity at first.

Building Trust & Church Planting:

- By simply **being present** and forming friendships, trust grew. Eventually, community leaders asked Donna’s team to start a **church**, recognizing their love and authenticity.
- This led to organic spiritual growth and deepening relationships.

Displacement & God's Sovereignty:

- In 2017, the government dismantled the camp and scattered the people. Donna lost all contact and wrestled with deep grief.
- God reminded her that the people were **His**, not hers—and that He had a plan.

Reunion & Restoration:

- Three months later, former camp leaders miraculously found Donna and shared that **none had starved** - God had provided even in their exile.
- They were resettled in temporary shelters and work began to help them become self-sufficient.

Empowerment through Foundations for Farming:

- Donna and her team introduced a method of sustainable farming to help the community feed themselves.
- Over time, many were trained and began teaching others, including government officials and agronomists.

Key Lessons & Reflections:

- True transformation comes when the **poor are empowered**, not pitied.
 - **Dependency** can be dangerous, but **help in crisis is essential** - balance is needed.
 - **True equality and friendship** dismantle superiority and enable genuine partnership.
 - Today, former camp residents are **leaders and teachers**, showing that God is truly “lifting the poor from the ash heap” (Psalm 113:7-8).
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