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Winning souls through the love of God

See You at the Blessing Banquet!

Hello! We look forward to seeing many of you at our annual blessing banquet on Friday, October 4, 2019. We will begin at 6:00 p.m., with dinner served at 6:15 followed by an update on our ministry activities this year and a word from our guest speaker. Please join us at the Marriott Southern Hills, 1902 East 71st Street in Tulsa. This is a free event and we will receive an offering for the Rwanda ministry. Please RSVP to Parfait: 918-704-0313 or sendmeintl@gmail.com

A Young Boy's Heart for Rwanda



We have the privilege to bring the story of Send Me International to churches in different parts of the country. At a church in Ft. Worth, Texas, a nine-year-old boy named Ayden came to our meeting with his parents. When Ayden heard about Send Me International's work, he took it upon himself to make and sell small pins to wear, similar to a lapel pin. He raised \$600 and asked us to use it where the need was greatest. We felt to ask a preschool about their needs and they requested play equipment and drawings for the walls of the school to aid in teaching the children English. This would better equip the children to learn more English as they advance in the Rwanda school system where it is commonly taught. These photos show some of what Ayden's gift accomplished. The preschool children were so amazed and grateful that a boy in the U.S. wanted to do this for them.



Sowing Seeds of Prosperity

Twenty-five ladies have started a co-op in Rwanda making beautiful hand-crafted sandals. The soles are leather and the women hand-sew the tops of the sandals using small pearl beads. Pastor Rusty Griffin from Christian City Fellowship in



Sealy, Texas joined Parfait in Rwanda this past June. Pastor Rusty provided a specialized sewing machine to attach the beaded

sandal tops to the soles and also a sanding machine to smooth the edges of the leather. The ladies sell the sandals and are also learning other skills such as hair braiding to broaden their business.



Refugee Camp Ministry

The Mahama Refugee Camp is the largest refugee camp in Rwanda and home to over 62,000 people, most of whom fled civil unrest in the neighboring nation of Burundi, south of Rwanda. Thanks to the generosity of the Tulsa office of Coldwell Banker Select, AMC Mortgage, plus gifts



from other partners of our ministry, Pastor Rusty and Parfait took 800 solar lights to Mahama in June. While they were there, Parfait and Pastor Rusty held a Leadership Conference for over 200 pastors and other leaders living at the camp. The solar lights were given to these leaders to distribute among some of the families. The lights are a great blessing since the shelters where the camp residents live have no electricity. The Leadership Conference was a time to minister God's love, hope and encouragement to these leaders; to strengthen them in the Lord and share Bible-based wisdom for the leadership and guidance they are called to provide for the

camp residents. Refugee camp life is difficult for all, including the leaders; it is easy to succumb to discouragement and feelings of abandonment. Your partnership with Send Me International lets these men and women know that they are valued and are not forgotten.

More Prison Graduates

During Parfait and Pastor Rusty's time in Rwanda, they conducted graduation ceremonies at seven of Rwanda's thirteen prisons. The number of prisons changed from fourteen to thirteen when two prisons were consolidated into one. In all, 921 diplomas were awarded to inmate graduates for completing the requirements for the first-year Bible School curriculum. A second-year Bible School curriculum was also launched at seven prisons, as we continue to see demand for the Bible School programs inside prison walls.

God has given us great favor so that prison officials are very supportive of the Bible Schools and the graduation ceremonies. The graduations are very well attended by inmates who are not presently enrolled in the Bible Schools. Many are then eager to enter the Bible Schools after they see and hear the evidence of changed lives among their fellow inmates. With so many people in attendance, graduations have become evangelistic outreaches and we saw hundreds give their lives to Jesus during the graduations!



After a decade in prison ministry in Rwanda, it is easy to think that you have "heard everything," but two particular testimonies at the June graduations caught Parfait's attention. An inmate named Faustin asked permission to give his testimony at one prison during the graduation. When Faustin was sentenced to prison for murdering his wife, he connected with some inmates who were illegally making "moonshine" whiskey and he began drinking the liquor as a way to help him sleep. One day, an inmate invited him to visit the Bible School and after attending for a while, he realized he no longer needed the alcohol to be able to sleep at night.

As the Bible School year progressed, Faustin came to realize what a terrible thing he had done – something he truly had not recognized before. The revelation of his sin and the grief he had brought caused him to write a letter to his children and to his wife’s family to ask them to forgive him. God worked in this situation in a miraculous way and family members did indeed forgive him. Now Faustin is looking forward to a day when he can go to his home village and ask his children and his wife’s family to forgive him face-to-face.



A graduation testimony at another prison came from an inmate named Wellars who is serving a life sentence for genocide crimes. Wellars said he could remember killing a minimum of 150 people. Even though there are reminders of the genocide everywhere in Rwanda, it was still shocking to hear Wellars’ story. Our minds can’t grasp killing on that scale, especially knowing that most of the killers did not have guns – Wellars did not – but instead the weapons were machetes and clubs so that the victims were often struck many, many times before they died or were left for dead.

Wellars will never leave prison, but he testified that because of the Bible School, where he found the love and forgiveness of Jesus, he wants to go to the villages where he killed people and to publicly repent and ask the villagers for forgiveness. A few years ago, the Rwandan government began arranging for some of the genocide killers to be taken out of prison under guard to go to places where killings occurred in order to ask the people living there for forgiveness. It is likely that sometime Wellars will be selected to participate in this program. Though the genocide was twenty-five years ago, there are millions who survived and remember the atrocities. For some, these reconciliation meetings do bring an opportunity for forgiveness and a sense of closure to the horrors they experienced. We praise God that He allows us to be witnesses to supernatural works of His grace, where forgiveness flows and healing can begin.

Hungry for the Gospel

The people of Rwanda are so appreciative of visitors. Pastor Rusty brought a powerful word to a church located in the town of Kinyinya, outside of Kigali. After the service,



we brought the children together to pass out lollipops.



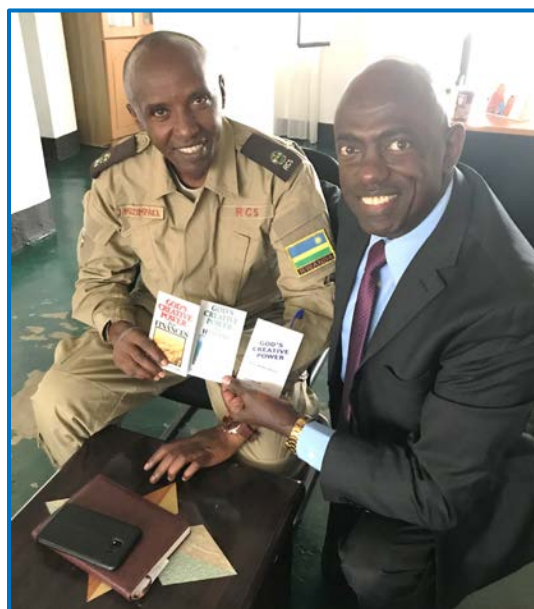
Candy always gives us the chance to talk about Jesus to these young ones. A lollipop is a rare treat for these children and it is very special to them to receive these candies. Early in our ministry, God gave us the idea to use simple candies to connect with little ones and the joy and delight on their faces brings us great joy too.

Update on Michelle's Healing

Michelle continues to make improvements in her healing journey. We are thankful for a steady increase in her white blood count, which is very near the normal range, and for improved cognitive function. Her glutathione level, representing the body's detoxification pathways, is increasing, but needs to go higher and she continues to receive treatments that help her in these areas. Michelle's mobility has also continued to improve, but needs to advance further. To this end, she exercises faithfully to strengthen her muscles and improve balance and stamina. Please join us in praying for God's direction and finances to add treatments with umbilical cord stem cells that she can receive locally. This type of stem cell is assimilated by the body to areas where there is the most need for restoration. Our eyes are on the Lord and we rest in His promise of Isaiah 40:31, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength..." Michelle is going to run and not grow weary, she will walk and not faint! We are ever grateful for all of your prayers, support and encouragement, trusting that God will complete in Michelle the good work that He began. Through faith and patience, we will inherit God's promises!

Resources for a Changed Life

In our work with the prison Bible schools, we become acquainted with officials that oversee the prisons. Because of the success of the prison Bible Schools, these friendships can open doors to witness about God's sufficiency in meeting practical needs. Pictured here is a gentleman who was the deputy director of the prison of Bugesera. He confided in Parfait that he was having serious financial problems; in his words, he was "broke." Parfait gave him Charles Capps' mini book, "God's Creative Power for Finances." When he began to apply the book's principles, he was offered a United Nations one-year assignment that paid very well and then allowed him to return to his former employment upon completion. He is on fire for God, having seen the Lord work miraculously in his life and finances. He asked Parfait to bring him more Capps books so he could share them with others.



Our Faithful, Faithful God

Over the ten years we have been on the mission field in Rwanda with Send Me International, God has faithfully provided laborers to work alongside us in different facets of the work. Where God guides, He provides and we depend on these co-laborers when we are in country and when we are in the U.S. God has brought leaders for each of the prison Bible schools, sometimes even through inmates who were once pastors. These and the many visitors who have come to Rwanda on short-term missions help us to be the hands and feet of Jesus. We want to pay tribute to our heavenly Father for His provision and for each of the men and women who continue to sow their gifts and talents into the ministry of Send Me International.

Thank you for your continuing prayers and financial support as the Lord leads you. We cannot do this work without you and we pray for you always and love to hear from you. We are on Facebook under Michelle Karekezi or Parfait Karekezi. You can email us sendmeintl@gmail.com or give online through our website www.sendmeintl.com.

With grateful thanks,
Parfait & Michelle