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Winning souls through the love of God
Restoring the beauty of Rwanda – its people – one heart at time

God is SO good! We greet you with joy to bring you this ministry update for Send Me International. We returned home to Rwanda in early December and it's been non-stop ever since. We are conscious that this is God's ministry and our desire is to be a daily example of His love, acceptance and forgiveness.

Evil Turned for Good: A Modern Day Joseph Story

The Genesis story about Joseph, who was sold into slavery by his brothers, is a story of forgiveness. God brought triumph over circumstances for Joseph and he was eventually able to tell his brothers, "...what you intended for evil, God intended for good." This Scripture applies to our recent experience with a man who is also named Joseph.



In January, while we were an hour away to preach, three people broke into our house and stole a substantial amount of money from us. Two of the thieves worked for us as house guards a year before. [Full time house guards or house keepers are the norm in Rwanda]. We began praying for the money to be returned and the thief found out. The police apprehended two of them quickly, but the third, Joseph, was harder to find.

As days passed and Joseph seemed to have disappeared, we realized we needed to deal with the forgiveness issue. As we started praying for his salvation, we realized we must forgive Joseph whether he was caught or not. This was a test for us and the solution was to cast the care of forgiveness onto God. Michelle realized we were fighting principalities and powers and that God had a greater purpose for Joseph's life, but the devil wasn't giving up without a fight. He had been living the lifestyle of a thug, drinking, stealing and living in poverty. Along with others, we continued to pray, and we felt we were to pursue Joseph. After 30 days, we received a lead that he was 9 driving hours away in Kampala, Uganda. Parfait took two men to help him and as they traveled to Uganda, Parfait led both men, Jean Marie and Theo, to Jesus!

By God's grace, Parfait, Jean Marie and Theo found Joseph, took him to the police, and recovered a good portion of the stolen funds. The officers at the Ugandan police station were very surprised that Joseph had been apprehended without the help of police and they asked Parfait to pray for them. They provided a police escort to accompany them as they took Joseph, now in handcuffs, back to Rwanda. We learned the escort officer was praying for school tuition for his child. The escort assignment resulted in extra pay – enough for the tuition!

The officer was very attentive as Parfait shared the Gospel and he gladly received Jesus as His Lord and Savior. Moments later, Joseph asked Parfait to forgive him for stealing from him. Parfait said he had forgiven him, but he must still face the penalty of breaking the law of the land. Joseph told Parfait that he understood, but he was ready to turn his life around. **He said getting caught made him realize that the God Parfait and Michelle were praying to is a powerful God!** Joseph prayed to receive Jesus and we believe he is a new creation in Christ. We give God the glory and thank many of you for praying with us. Parfait recently met with Joseph in prison. He willingly approached Parfait and is attending the prison church, sings in the choir, and hopes to attend the International Victory Bible Institute (IVBI) in that prison.

We don't understand why the robbery happened; we believe the blood of Jesus protects our home. However, God causes all things – good things and bad things – to work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose. God worked powerfully when we surrendered the outcome to Him. Ultimately, it was God pursuing Joseph through us, to the point that Parfait would drive 9 hours into Uganda to go after him. That is how much God cares: He had us drop everything else to go after this one lost sheep. God showed us to forgive Joseph and not pursue any of his assets or go to court during his case. Only God knows the future He has for Joseph's life, but we should not stop praying for him. We believe and hope there will be more to tell about Joseph as time goes by.

Update on the Elim Children's Home

We partner with Elim Children's Home, which cares for children whose mothers are HIV/AIDS infected. They have grown and now have two homes, one with 20 children and the other with 40 children. We were able to bless them with gifts this past Christmas. The dream of Elim is to have homes that they own, as opposed to renting, so please believe with us for this to come to pass. It is amazing to see these children! They come to Elim skinny, sick and without hope in their eyes. In just weeks, they blossom as they are surrounded with the love of God, the care of the Elim staff, and nourishing food. They are taught the things of God on a daily basis and we believe they are the future leaders of Rwanda.



More Schooling for Children

We visited a kindergarten school, telling the children about Jesus and giving them an opportunity to receive Him as Savior and Lord. As we were giving them a soccer ball and candies, we noticed two little guys watching from the hill. We found out that their parents could only afford to send their older sister to school. We felt led to pay for their school and now all three children are going to the same school, together. The boys' names are Irasubiza ("God answers") and Irafasha ("God helps"). They will become mighty men of God!



News from IVBI's

This year, we expect to hold five IVBI graduations in the prisons and plan three additional IVBI's to begin in other prisons. We are starting to see more fruits from the IVBI Bible Schools. One of our former students is helping us teach a new IVBI that we opened at his church! This Bible School has 48 students; it is a growing church, and the students are hungry for the Word of God.

We are excited about two new courses to be added to our IVBI curriculum, the classes are called "The Kingdom of God" and "Renewing the Mind." Parfait is in the middle of the translation of those courses and soon Michelle will be helping him as she is investing more time learning the native language, Kinyarwanda. She has joined a group of other Expatriates and they study twice a week. Please pray for great grace upon Michelle as she studies because Kinyarwanda is not an easy language to learn.

We went to preach at a church an hour away and were surprised and delighted to find one of our first IVBI graduates leading praise and worship, as well as coordinating all church programs as Assistant Pastor! We first knew her as Zura, but she has since taken the name Esther. A former Muslim, Jesus revealed Himself to her while she was reading the Koran. Esther now also leads a group of former Muslims with a ministry to reach Islamic believers with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Ministry to Refugee Camps



We had an opportunity to visit one of the three refugee camps inside Rwanda, which are mainly composed of people who were displaced during the war in The Democratic Republic of Congo. There are more than 39,000 refugees in the camps and the majority of them are children. We are expecting two containers of fortified rice, the first arriving late April or early May and the second arriving late May or early June. When we receive these rice shipments and take them to the camps, we will share the Gospel with the refugees and believe many will put their trust in Jesus.

Reaching Out with God's Word

A couple from Tulsa generously purchased Bibles from the American Bible Society which we were able to pick up in Rwanda. We took one of the Bibles to a church we visited and asked the pastor if he knew of anyone who couldn't afford a Bible. We learned that only the night before our visit, a girl named Joseline had asked the pastor to pray for her, as she desperately desired to have her own Bible. The pastor agreed with her in prayer and he advised Joseline to start saving small amounts of money toward this goal. God used us to answer this young girl's prayer when we arrived the following day and presented her with her first new Bible! We are always thanking the Lord for you, our partners, because your support for Send Me International is impacting lives and strengthening the Kingdom of God.



Every Sunday we share the Good News at a different church throughout the country. The people are so hungry and eager for the Word of God – they happily stay in a service that can last the whole day! Our hearts are always with the children and it's such a blessing to be able to give away match box toys or candies. These small gifts help us express Jesus' great love to children who have so very little.



We're Praying for You!

We pray each day for our friends and partners; we are very thankful for you. Please don't hesitate to tell us what's going on in your life or let us know how we can stand in prayer with you by sending an

email to parfait@sendmeintl.com. Please pray for SMI's ministries and for our need to raise additional financial support to reach more with the Gospel of Jesus. Please consider being one of our monthly supporters if you are not one already. You can give via regular mail or online at www.sendmeintl.com. If you can, come and visit and join us on the field, we can use your help ministering and loving on people. You can also see information about our activities on Michelle's Facebook page.



In His Love,

Parfait & Michelle