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

Greetings! Time seems to escape us when we are in Rwanda; we have many praise reports to share, starting with our arrival in early December.

Refugee Ministry Continues

Our bags were not even unpacked when we were off delivering a 40-foot container of fortified rice to three refugee camps in different parts of Rwanda. This was the only Christmas gift that most of the refugees received and it was very well appreciated because they are used to receiving beans and corn every month. The fortified rice is a complete meal with protein, minerals and many vital vitamins, packaged with love by caring Christians to help those facing



famine and disaster in many parts of the world. We thank Feeding the Nations and Reach Now International for providing the rice and entrusting us to deliver this food and minister the love of Jesus to refugees who have fled from the fighting in neighboring Congo. In 2012, we delivered four 40-foot containers of fortified rice, feeding about fifty thousand refugees inside Rwanda.

Love Reaches Across the Ocean

We send special thanks to Muldrow Elementary School for sending us many boxes of Christmas gifts, toys, dolls, shoes, children's coloring books, pencils and other school supplies. It's wonderful to see the hearts of children in the U.S. reaching out to children thousands of miles away in Rwanda. We were able to bless the residents at Elim Children's Home (the home we have shared about often that cares for children whose mothers



are afflicted with HIV/AIDS), as well as the children at Glory School, a Christian school in an area where most of the residents are Muslim. The joy of our



Christmas Day was multiplied during a two-hour drive to visit some of Parfait's family. We stopped each time we saw a child roaming on the streets and blessed them with some of the gifts from Muldrow Elementary School.

An Island Adventure for Jesus

One of the doors that the Lord has opened for us is to the Idjwi island in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) which has a population of about two hundred thousand. The island is between Rwanda and DRC in the middle of Lake Kivu. Parfait traveled 6 hours by car, 2 hours by boat and an hour by motorcycle to reach a church on the northern part of the island. The people were very friendly and so excited that a pastor would take time to visit on a muddy, rainy weekend. It was an adventure, as even the motorcycle had to be pushed to climb a slippery hill, but it was well worth the effort to feed the great hunger of the people for Jesus.



While walking and waiting for the motorcycle to catch up, Parfait met a young woman carrying a load of sugar cane on her head. He shared the Good News with her and she gladly received Jesus as her Lord and Savior. The people at the island church soaked up Parfait's message on righteousness, hearing for the first time that, in Jesus, they are righteous before God. Many were saved and we have been invited to return.

One unforgettable moment occurred at the port as Parfait was waiting for the boat to return home. He met an elderly woman, about 80 years old, who lived alone on the

island. She knew Jesus, but had been praying for provision as she has no family to help care for her. Four of her children have died and the other two had moved on to build their own families. What a joy that we were able to bless her with money for food for a long period. This is another example of the amazing works of the Lord that we find on the other side of our obedience to go where He leads and to share the love of Jesus along the way.



Sharing the Word of God

A Bible in Kinyarwanda (Rwandan language) costs the equivalent of six or seven U.S. dollars, far beyond the means of many in this country. While we are not able to give a Bible to all those who receive Jesus or to the Christians we meet everyday, we have a wonderful book by Pastor Billy Joe, "This New Life," that we give to them. This small book is a powerhouse of the Scriptural basics for living a victorious Christian life. "This New Life" was translated into Kinyarwanda by Parfait and the Lord is using it to change lives in Rwanda. Many times we meet Christians who lack assurance of their salvation – they are unsure if they are really born again, lacking the fundamentals of how to know for sure that they have received the free gift of eternal life. "This New Life" puts the answers in their hands, with many

Scriptures that can guide them to further study when they have access to a Bible. We often give "This New Life" books to children at church, asking them to take it to their parents.

The book is also a big lift to thousands inside the prisons, as they learn they can have a new life in Jesus, even after killing people during the genocide. Our ten International Victory Bible Institutes are going strong, with nine of them inside Rwanda's prisons. This summer, we will have many graduating and receiving their diplomas.



The Blessing of an Education

We continue to seek out children who can't afford school, so that we can pay their tuition and provide the school supplies and uniforms that are required for attendance. Recently, as we left our home, a little girl called Deborah was waiting for us outside our gate. Her family was not able to afford to send her to school and she politely asked if we could assist her in paying for her school fees. Her positive attitude and well-spoken request touched our hearts and Deborah is attending school today, with all her school supplies and fees taken care of. At the end of last semester, she rushed to our home to show us her report card and she was 9th among 30 children. When we asked her why she was not the first of her class, she replied that she needed to study after hours, but it required more school fees which we were then able to provide. Thank you, our dear partners, for making these opportunities available for "the least of these" whom Jesus treasures.

Abundant Rain Comes to Rwanda

A team led by Pastor Ron Spradlin from Abundant Rain World Outreach Church in Coweta, OK visited us in February and we had a magnificent ten days ministering in churches, prisons, refugee camps, schools, orphanages, and via radio. Many were saved, healed and delivered as the Good News was shared. We spent a week at a church in the heart of Kigali, the capital city that is our home, offering a lunch hour fellowship. Worship filled the atmosphere as Pastor Ron brought a word in season to the people, with Parfait translating. God ministered to the hearts of the people as they received prayer each day.

Our team traveled to a Baptist church led by Pastor Dominique, one of our International Victory Bible Institute graduates, in a city four hours outside Kigali. Pastor Dominique organized an outdoor meeting for us and many people from the area came and received the Gospel. A special group from the



church welcomed us with traditional dancing, such an honor for our guests. Pastor Dominique inherited an old, abandoned Baptist church and now has a congregation of 60 people. We were able to provide a new roof for his church and the day we visited, the roof had just been put in place to much rejoicing. On the way back home, we visited a new camp that is housing close to twenty thousand refugees from Congo. We shared the Gospel and were also able to tell them that Feeding the Nations is sending a 40-foot container of the fortified rice for this camp that is due to arrive in June, 2013.



We also took Pastor Ron's team to minister to the children at the Glory School. When we arrived in the van, the children were so happy to see the "muzungu" – white people – that they could



hardly wait until we got out of the van to give hugs. We played games with the children (for which we gave small prizes), and the team sang songs and performed skits, all teaching about Jesus, His love, and the plan of salvation. The children all prayed the salvation prayer to receive Jesus! Pastor Emmanuel, the founder of the school, shared with the team the vision God put in his heart to reach children in this Muslim area for Jesus and that they would, in turn, reach their parents, according to the Scripture in Isaiah 11:6, "A child shall lead them."

At the Elim Children's Home, the founder, Marie Paul, shared her heart-wrenching, amazing testimony of surviving the genocide. In gratitude to God for delivering her life, she started the Suzanne Foundation, named after her mother who lovingly reached out to widows and orphans stricken with HIV/AIDS. The children at Elim are so full of love and ministered to us in song. The team then played games and skits with the children and handed out gifts to bless them.

Our Thanks & Prayers for You!

Our heartfelt thanks for supporting our work; it's such a privilege to live on the mission field. We continually pray for you and value the connection of your emails and prayer requests. Please consider becoming a monthly partner because it's a great help to us in planning ahead. You can visit our website www.sendmeintl.com for updates and it offers a convenient way to donate. Visit on Facebook under Michelle Karekezi to know exactly what we are doing. Pray about coming to visit us in Rwanda, where we can minister together and just love on the precious people of this nation. In His Love,

Parfait & Michelle