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

Hello dear friends and family! Great things are happening in Rwanda; it has been a busy and productive year and it's our privilege to bring you up to date with all that God has been doing through Send Me International.

## Broadcasting Good News!

The Lord has opened a door for us to be on two different radio stations twice a week forty-five minutes each time. It is estimated that our broadcast is reaching three to five million people because one of the radio stations called Amazing Grace reaches to neighboring countries like Burundi and Congo. We receive many calls from listeners and also text messages from people seeking salvation, healing, deliverance and other ministry.



One particular young woman called for prayer and to our amazement her name is "Nyiramutoragurwa." In the Kinyarwanda language her name means someone or something picked up randomly from the trash, the streets or anywhere. She was born in 1994 during the genocide and obviously her mother was in a distressed condition and did not welcome this daughter. Her mother later died after the genocide and her father died during the genocide. Nyiramutoragurwa never finished school and is now a mother herself, with a five-year-old child who is being raised by the father's parents. We have not met her yet, but we are helping her get the schooling equivalent of a GED in the US. We were privileged to help her rent some land where she has planted crops and is on her way to supporting herself. In addition to the farmland she is tending, her church has given her a small plot of land and we are in agreement with her that she will be able to build her own house.



## Children's & Youth Ministry

The residents at Elim Children's Home are growing up and many have reached the age of six and started attending school. There are forty children at the home who range in age from three to nine. As we have shared, the mothers of the children have HIV or AIDS and are unable to care for them full-time. Through the ministry of Elim, the children are cared for in a stable environment and the mothers have the comfort of knowing that should anything happen to them, their children will be

taken care of. The children are healthy (only four are HIV positive), very well behaved, and they love people. More than half the population of Rwanda is under the age of eighteen, so reaching out to a child in Rwanda means you are touching the nation for a better future. The Elim children's mothers are not idle and have different co-ops that help them provide for their families. Some do farming and some are raising cows and goats, using the milk for their own nourishment and that of their families, as well as selling some of it. Others are selling fruits and vegetables in their neighborhoods.

We were blessed to share the Gospel at a rehabilitation center which used to be the youth prison for all those under 18. Now it is a rehabilitation center where the young people serve their sentences, but also go to school every day and we have opened a Bible School there too! We expect many to graduate next year. All of the children will eventually return to their homes and we believe they will be equipped to influence their generation in a positive way.

## Bible Schools Continue to Grow



We now have twelve International Victory Bible Institutes (IVBI) in the prisons of Rwanda. We held two graduations earlier this year, one for 188 students and the other for 45 graduates at a women's prison, the first all-female prison in the history of Rwanda. The women graduates marked the occasion

with joyous dancing to celebrate their new-found freedom in Jesus! We were honored to have Rev. Lewis and Rev. Sabune, prison chaplains from New York, join us for these ceremonies and offer words of exhortation and encouragement to the graduates. Sister Velinda, a lay minister from North Carolina, joined us as well. Prisoners who are not attending the Bible Schools attend the graduations, offering a wonderful opportunity to share the Gospel. For security reasons, graduation ceremonies for over 500 inmates that had been scheduled for July were postponed by prison officials after fires of suspicious origin occurred at two prisons. We believe these graduations will be able to take place in early 2015.



When the Abundant Rain team came to Rwanda to minister with us in 2013, they stayed at a hotel nearby. Pastors Don and Shirley inspired Thomas, the night shift clerk at the hotel, to attend our International Victory Bible Institute by correspondence. Thomas was so dedicated and worked on his assignments during the night to help stay awake on his job. He was so diligent in his studies that he was able to finish the whole Bible school program in one year while working full time! We were elated when we awarded his diplomas to him at the hotel where he works. This was our first one-person graduation and we believe Thomas is touching many lives through his active involvement with his local church, as well as his contacts with many guests at the hotel.

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Genocide Commemoration

April 2014 marked the 20th commemoration of the genocide. We were honored to speak at different prisons and address the spiritual aspect of reconciliation and peace. As the genocide unfolded, many people fled to churches for refuge, but were slaughtered. Lacking the understanding of the evil Satan can orchestrate, many people then turned away from God. As followers of Jesus, we are called to share the Good News and believe that what happened will never happen again, especially among people who call themselves Christians. We thank the Lord that He has given us a platform to share His love, mercy and forgiveness and impact the nation. God has called Send Me International, knowing that the nation of Rwanda cannot be completely restored without restoring the people that were involved in the genocide. Some of them are inside the prison and some are outside; our heart is to reach all of them.

### God's Plans for Giving

Pastor Colette, a woman of vibrant faith, pastors an Assembly of God church in the countryside about 45 minutes north of the capital city of Kigali. We share the Good News at her church once every year and stay in touch on a regular basis. Her church did not have a cement floor, so the last time we were there, we were inspired to challenge the congregation that if they raised half the cost to cement the church floor, we would help them with the other half. As they believed God, He was faithful to His Word and they raised the necessary funds to receive our matching gift. To God be the glory!



### Ministry Opportunities Abound Daily



After 6 years on the mission field we have come to the conclusion that there is nothing like giving a child a candy in the name of Jesus. In Rwanda candy is a real treat, not an "every day" thing for most children. When we encounter children on the streets or meet them at churches, candy provides a wonderful tool to teach about the sweetness of Jesus and His love for them. Jesus and candy are a winning combination for ministering to children in Rwanda.

Parfait was driving back to the City one day when three ladies stopped him.

They recognized him from visiting their church and remembered he had a white wife – a novelty in Rwanda. The women normally found work at nearby farms, but that day they were returning home empty-handed with no money to feed their children. All it took to make their day and put smiles on their faces was a dollar each, which in this country can help provide a meal. We are amazed and grateful how the Lord cares for His children and orders their footsteps. We are privileged to cross paths with those to whom has God assigned us and we are ever grateful that you are supporting and sending us as Christ's ambassadors.



## Printing Needed for This New Life Book



The **This New Life** (Ubu Buzima Bushya) book is a blessing for the many who cannot afford the \$6 or \$7 cost of a Bible in Rwanda. Filled with Scripture, **This New Life** highlights the basic principles of God's Word that every believer should know for victorious living. We are in need of your help to have more printed. When we order ten thousand copies or more, we are able to have a copy printed for 31.6 cents. While that price may seem high, but it is less expensive than having the book printed in the United States because transportation and customs raise the cost considerably.

## Easter Baptisms

What a wonderful way to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior! We had the privilege of baptizing twelve people from a local church early on Easter morning. Following the baptisms, we shared from Scripture on the meaning of communion, then joined with the entire church congregation in taking communion.



## Our Thanks & Prayers for You!

Thank you for your prayers and support, please stay in touch and let us know what's going on in your life so we may pray for you too. Find Michelle Karekezi and Parfait Karekezi on Facebook or send an email to [sendmeintl@gmail.com](mailto:sendmeintl@gmail.com). You can donate online at [www.sendmeintl.com](http://www.sendmeintl.com) or at our U.S. address at the top of the first page.

*Parfait & Michelle*