



Parfait & Michelle Karekezi  
P. O. Box 703071  
Tulsa, OK 74170  
parfait@sendmeintl.com  
www.sendmeintl.com

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

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Our time of rest and sharing the Good News in the U.S. is coming to an end. We thank all of you who attended our annual banquet in September; it was a great time for us to reconnect with our many friends. We always look forward to that evening when we are refreshed by your love and can share with you the testimonies and photos of all that God is doing in Rwanda.

## Fruitful Travels in the U.S.

We spent the month of October traveling, starting with an invitation to speak at a church in Ft. Worth, Texas, followed by their missions bazaar. From there, we drove to Newburgh, New York, Elkins, West Virginia, and the Washington, D.C. area. We wrapped up the trip with visits to three towns in Pennsylvania, then returned to Tulsa. We were able to share the Word at three new churches, meeting one of the pastors for the first time.



On the way to Newburgh, we stopped to see Michelle's grandma in Pennsylvania and joined in a family celebration of her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday. During this stop, we were reacquainted with Trudy, a precious 87-year-old blind lady who lives in the same apartment complex. We first met Trudy two years ago when she was sitting with her friends as they worked on a jigsaw puzzle. As we visited with her that day, we learned that Trudy worried all the time about many different things, but one of her specialties in worrying was that she would pay her bills on time. Each time she received a bill, she would do her best to pay it right away, always concerned that she might forget the bill and her payment would be late. When we asked if she had forgotten to pay any of her bills in recent years, Trudy surprised us by saying no, but that she worried about it all the time.

As we continued to get to know Trudy, we found out she was of the Jewish faith. We shared the Good News that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and she gladly received Him as her Savior! As we prayed for her, we told Trudy that Jesus wanted her to give all her worries to Him. "All of them?" she asked in surprise, and we assured her that the Bible clearly says ALL. In October, it was a joy to have a short reunion with Trudy and she told us that while she still worries from time to time, she's not troubled by worries as she once was. It is never too late for Jesus to change lives to make things better now and for eternity!

## More Prison Ministry Opportunities

Another ministry highlight during our travels was sharing the Word at the morning service at Calvary Presbyterian Church, an historic church in Newburgh, New York, that is pastored by Rev. J. Edward Lewis. We met Rev. Lewis in Rwanda on two occasions and last year he spoke at one

of our prison graduation ceremonies. Later that day, Rev. Lewis took Parfait to the Fishkill State Prison to minister to about 130 inmates. It was amazing to see these men hungry for the Word, coming together, worshipping the Lord and attentive to the message. Parfait's personal testimony of forgiving those who murdered his family members and returning to Rwanda to establish many Bible schools in the prisons had a great impact on these men.



In our last newsletter, we told you about the first all-female prison in Rwanda where 45 women inmates graduated in the spring from our International Victory Bible Institute Bible School. As we prepare to return to Rwanda, we have received good news that another prison for women only has opened in the southern province and we are looking forward to ministering there. We have a total of twelve Bible Schools and, in the coming year, we will add two more. With these schools, God is bringing to fruition one of our long-time goals of placing an IVBI in every prison in Rwanda! God is so faithful!

## 2014 Highlights

We were blessed to receive visits during 2014 from faithful Tulsa ministry friends. In July, shortly before our return to the U.S., Pastor Rod Baker, Missions Director for Victory Christian Center, stopped in Rwanda while on an African ministry trip. Pastor Rod brought a timely word during one of our weekly radio broadcasts where we share the Gospel, reaching an estimated three to five million adult and children listeners. When Pastor Rod visited the Elim Children's Home, the delight of the children was obvious as he gave many unique and fun illustrations to explain the love of Jesus and the salvation message.



Pastor Rod also accompanied us to the newest of the refugee camps in Rwanda which was established in February. The camp was home at that time to seven thousand and it has since grown larger. About sixty-five percent of the refugees are children under 18 years of age. During his visit, Pastor Rod shared an illustrated message of the Gospel of Jesus using different items to show the human heart, the world and the love of God. When he gave an invitation to receive Jesus, many, many hands were raised. We were also able to bless the children of the camp with some soccer balls, treasures to these young ones who have so little.

Our other visit was in May from the Sheppard family, including grandparents Paul and Marty, who go on short-term missions to Kenya, along with their son Bryan, and Bryan's sons, Kyce, 14



and Korbin, 12, who live in Tulsa. They arrived with soccer balls, candies and other small gifts for children. We had fun visiting Glory School where about 300 boys and girls attend. Glory School is a new Christian school for K to 4th grade located in a Muslim-populated area. It is common for Muslim families to send their children to school there. During our visit with the Sheppards, we shared the Good News, loved on the children, visited their classrooms, and interacted with them, as they are all learning English. We also blessed the school with soccer balls and a few school supplies. Grandma Marty had a wonderful time talking to children and showing them on the world map where she lives.

The Sheppard family visited Elim Children's Home where Grandma Marty shared songs and the family provided lunch for all the children. The Sheppards' visit to one of the refugee camps was quite an experience for Kyce and Korbin, who were mobbed by the camp children as though they were "rock stars." We had fun asking the children to guess the ages of Kyce and Korbin and we invited the same age child from the refugee camp to come and stand next to them for a hug and photo. During this visit, we brought soccer balls to the children and also 100 pair of ladies' shoes that were donated to bless the women of the camp.



We took the Sheppard family to visit a village of disadvantaged people who reside on a hill in a rural area about 15 miles outside Kigali. We were able to give each family nine pounds of cream of wheat, soy, sorghum, corn and barley. The people boil water and add a small amount of the mixture which sustains them the whole day until dinner. Our gifts of food and the Gospel meant we were warmly welcomed when we made a return visit with Pastor Rod in July. Kyce, Korbin and their dad shared during our banquet in September, with Kyce commenting how much it meant to him to have the opportunity to go on the mission field with his grandparents.





We told you in our last newsletter about the three ladies that Parfait met while driving down the road and they recognized him and remembered he had a white wife. They were from the disadvantaged village and the picture in the newsletter showed a baby that was malnourished. Through that divine appointment, the door was opened not only for the help Parfait gave them that day, but also for the visit from the Sheppard family, as well as another visit in July with Pastor Rod. Again in July, we came with gifts of food and Pastor Rod shared the Gospel, with many hands raised when he gave an invitation to receive Jesus.

Has God spoken to you about making a short-term mission trip? We would like to invite anyone who has the interest and God's leading to come to visit us in Rwanda. You do not have to be a preacher, just a desire to share God's love as we go about our normal activities. The people of Rwanda love visitors and are very welcoming.

## Looking Forward to 2015

We leave for Rwanda on December 9<sup>th</sup> and soon after we arrive, we will be holding a Christmas party for the children at the Elim Children's Home. We have been invited to share the Word on Christmas Day at a church in Kigali, a great way to celebrate our Savior's birth. Along with the addition of the new Bible Schools, we are looking forward to another great year reaching out to people throughout the country, including our "candy ministry." A



simple piece of hard candy puts a big smile on a child's face, whether in our neighborhood as pictured below, or along a country road or when we visit churches. The candy is a wonderful tool to let us share Jesus with these little ones.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with the fullness of God. THANK YOU everyone for your prayers and financial support. Please feel free to communicate with us via email at [sendmeintl@gmail.com](mailto:sendmeintl@gmail.com). Also, follow us on Facebook under Michelle Karekezi or Parfait Karekezi, as we love to hear from you and stay connected.

*Parfait & Michelle*