



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

Winning souls through the love of God

God's Timing in 2020

Everyone will likely agree that 2020 has been a different year. Yet when unexpected things occur in the earth, God's timing is still just right. This was true for Send Me International with Parfait's trip to Rwanda earlier this year. He departed the U.S. on February 16th, with airline reservations to return to Tulsa on March 16th. On that date, Rwanda began shutting down due to the pandemic and travel to the U.S. via Europe was suspended. Opening a one-month door for Parfait to be "boots on the ground" in Rwanda, we saw God orchestrate many good things and much was accomplished in a short time!



Ministry with a Friend & Partner

It is always a privilege and a pleasure when one of our supporters is able to join us in Rwanda. On the February – March trip, our friend Jack Wills joined Parfait and the two ministered daily during Jack's thirteen-day stay. Jack operates Jack Wills Outdoor Living, with locations in Tulsa and Arkansas. He is a long-time Victory member and a dedicated supporter of our ministry. This was his first trip to Rwanda and it was a joy for he and Parfait to minister together as a team.

On every trip, we see great rewards from our candy ministry. We want to thank Mount Olive Baptist Church in Sapulpa for supplying the candy for this trip, shipping it directly to Rwanda so it was waiting for us upon our arrival. The rare treat of a lollipop opens the door for us to tell children (and adults too) about the goodness of Jesus, often allowing us to share the Gospel and lead children to the Lord. We think the smiles on the faces of the children bring a big smile to Jesus as He welcomes new family members!

Refugee Camp Ministry

Rwanda continues to be home to several refugee camps which house tens of thousands of people who have fled civil unrest in neighboring nations. Ministry to the camps continues to be a priority for us and Parfait and Jack made the three-hour journey to a camp in the northeast part of the country that we had not visited recently. They met with pastors and leaders of the camp, sharing words of encouragement, as well as providing inflatable solar lights for distribution to camp residents. Our thanks once again to our supporters at Coldwell Banker Select in Tulsa for providing hundreds of lights for this trip. As we've told you before, the camp shelters for individual families have no electricity and the solar lights are deeply appreciated.





Next door to the refugee camp, there is a public school with about 3,000 students ranging from elementary to high school ages. The children from the refugee camp are able to attend school there, a great blessing to continue their education while growing up in the camp. God gave us favor with the school principal, who allowed us to share the Good News with about 1,000 of the students during their lunch break.

We brought gifts of basketballs,

volleyballs and soccer balls and pumps for the balls. In the U.S., it is hard to imagine not having access even to used sports equipment. But as pictured above, this

young boy proudly poses with a ball handmade from plastic bags! We



marvel at the creativity that flows when there is what we might perceive as lack. When the children saw the brand new sports equipment, their eyes lit up with joy and much anticipation to "let the games begin." Your support of Send Me International allows us to bring these gifts that open the door to sharing the Gospel.



Radio & Digital Ministry

We have seen an increase in the number of people tuning in to our Wednesday night and Friday morning radio programs. Parfait records the messages and sends the audio files to the radio stations in Rwanda; we also have an archive of previously recorded messages that can be used as needed. With many churches still closed due to COVID and strict government rules for re-opening, we are privileged to bring radio messages of comfort and encouragement. Every Sunday, we also deliver a message on a popular digital app called WhatsApp that can be installed on phones, tablets or computers. People can receive the message via the app and we are able to minister the Good News and words of hope.



Prison Ministry Flourishes in Pandemic

Our prison ministry has exploded in growth during the pandemic lockdown, a testimony to the Scripture that what the devil meant for evil can be used by God for good. Some re-opening began in Rwanda in August, but the prisons are still completely closed to outside visitors. By God's grace, when we established Bible schools in each of Rwanda's thirteen prisons, we structured the programs to allow pastors who are inmates themselves to be approved and to lead the Bible schools in the absence of or alongside available teachers who are not incarcerated. As we have mentioned, a number of prisoners are pastors who were caught up in the fury of the genocide and convicted for their participation. The prison social workers continue to help us by delivering the books and notebooks for the student inmates to use for their studies. Other programs that had been operating in the prisons were not equipped to continue when the prisons closed; but ours has not only continued without interruption, but has prospered and grown as well! We presently have 1,407 student inmates enrolled in the first and second-year Bible schools and we have 1,845 diplomas ready to award to inmates when we are

able to resume Bible school graduation ceremonies. The idea of a world-wide pandemic was something we could never have imagined when we began establishing the prison Bible schools over a decade ago, but God saw years ahead and gave us a plan and the provision for His Gospel to flourish in the most unlikely of places and times.



Trip to Idjwi

Parfait and Jack planned to go to Idjwi, the remote island in the middle of Lake Kivu, a lake that is similar to the Great Lakes in North America. The island is reached through the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the trip begins with a three-hour drive from Kigali to the Rwanda-DRC border. We believed Jack could receive a visa to enter the DRC at the border, but on our arrival, Jack was denied entry out of the DRC's concern for the safety of a U.S. citizen. Parfait holds dual Rwandan and U.S.

citizenship, so he was allowed in, as in the past. The people of Idjwi were expecting our visit and we couldn't let them down, so after spending the night on the Rwanda side of the border, Parfait got up very early Sunday morning for the two-hour boat trip and one-hour motorcycle ride to the island village where the church service was held. The people welcomed Parfait with gladness, but were saddened that Jack could not come, especially because he had generously provided most of the money for the church to be rebuilt after it was destroyed last year by a wind storm. The photo shows the new brick building being constructed, with the roof in progress. Send Me International is raising additional funds to purchase the windows and doors. The church was packed for Parfait's service; their people are so hungry for the Word and so grateful for visitors. We celebrated communion together, thanking God for the special partnership He has given us with the people of Idjwi.



Outreach to Schools

We've previously told you about ministering and bringing sports equipment to an all-girls school run by nuns, with our contact being Sister Marie Therèse. Since our last visit, she was promoted to be principal of a different school located about three hours from Kigali. She told us she had hesitated to invite us because of the long trip, but we were delighted to have the opportunity to visit and see the new school. Parfait and Jack took basketballs and volleyballs and were given a whole recess period to speak to all the students and the teachers together

and to share the Good News. They were also invited to meet separately with the nuns and amazingly, the nun standing to Parfait's right in the photo above knows Parfait's mother! It was a joyful visit, especially because they are in a somewhat remote location and don't often have guests, plus the sports equipment for the students was greatly appreciated. On our way back to Kigali, we had several opportunities to stop and talk with children, give them lollipops and share the love of Jesus.



We also returned to the nursery school we provided with play equipment last year. On this trip, we brought new tables and chairs, much to the delight of the school's founder and the children.



A Visit to Mount Jali

Parfait and Jack went to Mount Jali, one of the highest points near Kigali, to a village that we have previously visited. They brought food and toys for the children – dolls for the girls and Hot Wheels for the boys. Twenty-eight families live in the village in housing provided by the Rwandan government. In 2018, Parfait and Michelle made a trip to the village, taking food, toys and teeshirts that Jack had donated. Much to our surprise, some of the children were wearing those teeshirts and they thought it was great fun to find out what – and who – Jack Willis is!



Update on Michelle's Healing

Michelle just celebrated her two-year stem cell birthday for the HSCT treatment she received in Mexico. In her own words, here is an update. First, bless you for your generous prayers and financial gifts that made the treatment possible, halting the progression of the disease. I'm walking, aided by a walker, and grateful to not be in a wheelchair! My hair has grown out thick and curly and I maintain a daily exercise regimen to strengthen my muscles and prevent any atrophy. I have weekly hyperbaric oxygen treatments to decrease inflammation, boost immunity, and provide other positive benefits. I'm taking supplements and detoxing to remove heavy metals from vaccines and solutions used in medical tests such as MRI and CT scans. I do urge everyone to carefully research any vaccine that may be recommended, as they can cause severe side effects. Do you remember the story Pastor Billy Joe used to tell about his dad running alongside him as he ran in a track meet, urging him on with "Come on, Billy Joe"? That's what your love and support for me feels like! What the devil meant for evil, God is turning for good! I was healed by Jesus' stripes. I will run and not grow weary, I will walk and not faint, and I will fulfill my destiny by God's grace!

We wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas! Thank you for your continuing prayers and financial support; 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, email us at sendmeintl@gmail.com or give online through our website www.sendmeintl.com.

With grateful thanks, *Parfait & Michelle*