

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

Greetings! Though it is already March, we also wish you "Umwaka Mwiza," which means Happy New Year! We are excited to see God's plans unfold for 2010; it is time to arise and shine for Jesus like never before. Since returning to Rwanda in December, we have witnessed a tremendous hunger for God, with many coming to Christ and many receiving the infilling of the Holy Spirit. The fields are truly ripe for harvest and we count it a privilege to be able to serve God in this manner. We have so many testimonies, we could fill pages, but here are highlights of some of God's divine appointments for Send Me International. The boys pictured here have just received Jesus!



## Out of Prison, Into the Kingdom

Our first full day upon returning to Rwanda, Parfait went to the Kigali prison to check on the International Victory Bible Institute (IVBI) that we started just before our trip to the U.S. last June. We had received word that a Muslim man named Abel, who used to cut Michelle's hair, was in that prison. As Parfait was speaking to the Director, he learned that Abel was just released the day before. The Holy Spirit prompted Parfait to call Abel and he learned the young man was in a desperate situation and was crying out to God for guidance. While he was in prison, he had lost everything. With a pregnant wife and two children, he had no job, no home, and no money. Parfait met with him and, in a short time, Abel accepted Jesus as His Lord and Savior. Abel wanted his wife to experience what just happened to him, so Parfait took him to the place his wife was staying and she received Jesus as well. Together, they shed tears of joy for the peace and hope they found in Christ. We thank God we were able to help them financially to give them a new start. They now have a house, he has a job again, and they have a beautiful, new baby girl. They are so grateful for what the Lord has done. Please pray for them to stay strong and grow in the Lord.



#### The Truth Set Her Free

As we travel, we often encounter women like the one in this photo who are selling fruits and vegetables beside the road. One day, we stopped to buy corn from one of these ladies and Parfait spoke to her in Kinyarwanda, asking if she died today, would she go to heaven? The lady said she doesn't have any money, so she doesn't go to church on Sunday. She believed if she didn't go to church, she could not go to heaven. She also said she could not go to heaven because she was not rich. Parfait told her the truth of God's Word, that heaven is a free gift, and explained how she could receive this wonderful gift. At first, she hesitated to pray because she said she was hurrying to sell corn to earn money to buy potatoes to feed her children. Parfait convinced her to listen. She listened to him and prayed with him to receive Jesus! He gave her a little money for her family and we went on our way, thinking how cruelly the devil deceives people about God's kingdom.

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#### A Church in the Road

We have ministered in several churches. One was 3 hours away, requiring a long, winding, bumpy drive. The church met in the middle of a road next to the pastor's house. The people were praising God with just two small drums and their voices. Sheep were bah-ing and chickens clucking, but Jesus was in our midst. People were saved, healed, set free and filled with the Spirit of God. We have also attended many prayer meetings with people who meet during the week and pray from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. Some of the groups have focused

prayers, such praying for students in college. They meet

message of salvation by grace.



Another group of people we were able to minister to was a young boys soccer team. Parfait's brother works with the team and we had the opportunity to minister to them as well. They were very receptive to us coming.



# Ministering to Children Children need to go school, especially the first grade. It is heart-

breaking to see children roaming about during school hours, excluded from the education system for lack of money. Send Me International needs your help to reach more children. We noticed two little children that live near us in a run down house; we usually gave them a candy when we passed by. One day we met Clementine, their mom, and learned that the boy, Jean de la Paix (John of Peace) is seven years old and his little sister, Ange (Angel), is four. The two are inseparable. Clementine was seeking work, normally farming, where she earns about one dollar and five cents per day. She told us she could not afford

school for Jean. We asked Clementine to contact the local school to see if there would be room for

Jean and that we would pay for his school. Praise God, although Jean was two weeks late for enrollment, the school agreed to allow him to stay after we paid for his tuition. We also learned that Clementine and the children have no health insurance, which is offered to everybody here at a very low cost of less than two dollars per year. We continue to see God move in the life of this single mother, as we went into a local farm while we were doing our morning prayer walk and asked the owner if he would consider giving Clementine a job. Even though they were not hiring, they offered her a full-time job and now she is working every day at the farm. Please pray for this precious family.





## **Today Is the Day of Salvation**

The harvest fields are white in Rwanda. Everywhere we go we are able to bring the Bread of Life, Jesus, to hungry people. When we went to the market to buy lemons, Parfait sent a boy into the store to buy them for us. Two other young men were there and Parfait spoke to them, then opened his Bible and



began to preach from the Word of God. More people gathered to listen and soon there were 15 young guys and they all prayed to receive Jesus! Even the lady who was the parking lot attendant prayed!

All these children pictured with Michelle prayed the salvation prayer. They converged on us because they saw Michelle and two other white missionaries who were with us. God's love does not see color, but He will use people's natural human curiosity to open doors of opportunity to share the Gospel. It is vital that we reach this young generation with the message of God's unconditional love and acceptance, as you will see in this next story.

## **The Man Who Hated Everyone**

Emmanuel is a 22-year-old man who makes a living by selling shoes on the streets, which is not legal in Rwanda. Emmanuel had a very rough upbringing – he never met his father, his mother died when he was six years old, and he was raised by his grandmother. He told Parfait that no one in his home liked him. He

worked hard in the agriculture fields as a child and was able to only finish elementary school. When he turned sixteen, he came to Kigali, the capital city, six hours away from his home. When Parfait met him, he was trying to sell him some shoes. Parfait asked him if anyone had ever told him that Jesus loves him. He replied no, that he hated everyone and everything, except he did care about the children that beg on the streets. Parfait asked if he hated him too and he replied that he simply didn't care about him.

Every time he is caught by the police for selling shoes, Emmanuel goes to jail. He must pay fines, loses all his benefits, and has to start all over again when he is released. He said he doesn't talk to anyone and no one talks to him; that everybody thinks he is a mean person. Parfait shared the Gospel with Emmanuel and, surprisingly, he made the decision to receive Jesus as His Lord and Savior. He asked Parfait if he thought God could change the story of His life, and Parfait gave him a resounding, "Yes!" Emmanuel and Parfait crossed paths again recently, and though he is still selling shoes, his countenance has changed, he smiled a



couple times, and said he has been praying and going to a church. He had many questions about the Bible and thanked Parfait for being interested in his life. He is hungry for the things of God and is believing that one day he can have enough money (\$1,000) to start his own business selling clothes. Please join us in agreement that day by day, God's wonderful plan is unfolding, rewriting the story of Emmanuel's life.

## **From Prison to Supermarket**

Parfait stopped at a supermarket to grab some items when he heard someone call "Pastor." He didn't realize someone was speaking to him, but a young man named Emmanuel (a different Emmanuel) approached him and told him that he was just released from jail and had started working at the supermarket. Parfait recognized him because he was one of many who attended our Bible school in the prison in Kigali. Emmanuel was so excited about how the Bible school teachings helped him keep his



head up. His story was that he was falsely accused by the same people who killed his family during the genocide. They were facing court and feared he would be a material witness, so they mounted a false case of rape against him. He was in jail for a little over a year and, during that time, he received Jesus as His Lord and Savior.

When our International Victory Bible Institute (IVBI) began in the prison, he eagerly jumped right into it and did not miss a class. He told Parfait he had felt like Joseph in the dungeon, but through prayers, the Lord turned it around and he was cleared of any crime. The person that was accusing him wrote a letter that she

was lying. Two lawyers came seemingly from nowhere and took his case for free! He met a man that was in jail for a short time who befriended him, so when Emmanuel was released from prison, this man gave him a cell phone and a job at a supermarket. He works fourteen hours a day, except for Sunday when he has permission to go to church. He is very thankful for the teachings he received at IVBI while in jail, an opportunity made possible by YOU, our supporters.

#### So Much More To Come!

It is our privilege to introduce you to the people whose stories we have just shared. It is because of you and your support for Send Me International that these people have been reached with the Gospel. As you can probably "read between the lines," we have these kinds of experiences every day; there are many more stories we haven't room to share. We have much more in our hearts that we know is on the

horizon for this year. *This New Life*, Pastor Billy Joe Daugherty's book, is being printed in the local language, more IVBI's will be planted this year, and opportunities abound to preach the Gospel. We are going after the harvest, taking God's message of hope to the next generation, helping carry out the vision that our dear Pastor imparted, and running with the baton that's been passed on to us.

We are believing for many more souls to come into the kingdom this year and we need your help to do this. Please continue to send your pledges and gifts of support for this ministry; we cannot do this work without you. As we have related in this newsletter, even small amounts of monetary help mean so much to the people here who have so little. As God directs you, please take a moment now to lift up our work in prayer and to send a gift of any amount. It will count for eternity! We invite you to visit our website, <a href="www.sendmeintl.com">www.sendmeintl.com</a> to read more about our ministry and see our video. If you prefer to give by credit card, you can do so on the website. Please send us your prayer requests and praise reports. A giving envelope is enclosed if you are receiving this by mail.



Thank you for your prayers, love, sacrifices, and gifts. We love you and appreciate you for your faithfulness.

In His Love, Michelle and Parfait