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Winning souls through the love of God

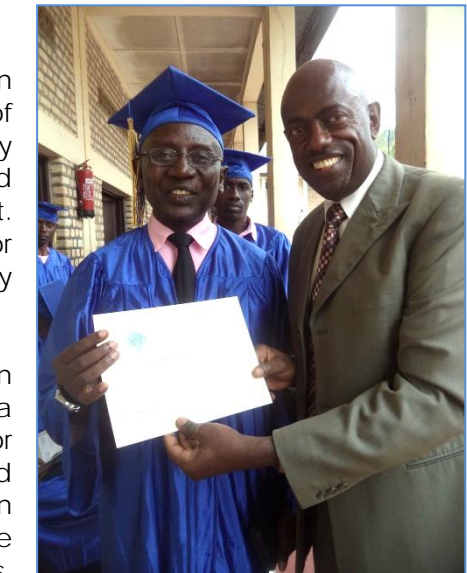
Greetings partners and friends; we hope you are having a wonderful year and that you are enjoying the blessings of God each day. We returned to the U.S. last month in time to experience this year's Victory Conference. It has been a very productive year in Rwanda; the time flew by and we can't wait to return and begin the next chapter in the Lord's plans.

## Prison Graduations Increasing!

Upon our return to Rwanda last winter, we began conducting twelve prison Bible school graduations, some of which had originally been planned for July 2016. Our ministry works closely with the country's prison officials, and scheduling conflicts led to the temporary postponement. Diplomas were awarded to 991 men and women for completing the requirements of our International Victory Bible Institute (IVBI) one-year Bible school.

Rwanda has fourteen prisons and starting a Bible school in one particular prison seemed impossible because it was in a remote location and we could not find a nearby pastor or chaplain to teach the curriculum. We shared this need and many of you prayed with us for an answer. Most in Rwanda's prisons are there due to their involvement in the 1994 genocide. Strangely it's not unusual to find pastors, priests, and nuns serving sentences for genocide crimes. That tells you something about the level of chaos and spiritual darkness that overtook the country those terrible 100 days in 1994.

But God always has the last word, doesn't He? Now, some of our Bible schools are led by pastors who are incarcerated. It "just happened" that two of our incarcerated pastor/teachers at one prison were transferred to the prison for which we could not find a teacher! Included in this transfer were eight IVBI student inmates who had completed the Bible school requirements, but had not received diplomas. We were able to hold a graduation for the transferred inmates,



during which 24 inmates attending the graduation as guests received Jesus as their Lord and Savior! At the same time, we were able to announce the opening of the new Bible school in that prison and 251 inmates signed up! Because of your faithful prayers and support, God has now opened the doors so that Send Me International's IVBI Bible schools are in every prison in the nation of Rwanda. To God be the glory!



## Prisoner Testimonies Abound

Currently, we have 1,853 student inmates enrolled among all our Bible schools. Musanze Prison held its first graduation with amazing testimonies. As Michelle shared a message on "This Is the Time of His Restoration," several students came forward to share how God is restoring hearts and changing lives inside prison walls. We know that when the inmates' hearts receive God's healing and restoration, they can't keep the Good News to themselves and they share it with fellow prisoners, friends and family. One woman shared that she came to prison hopeless, angry, and bitter, with shame and guilt for leaving two small children behind. Another woman prisoner saw her distress and invited her to attend the Bible school. As a result, she was born anew in Jesus and experienced the healing of her broken heart that only God can provide. She was able to forgive herself and receive forgiveness from her family.

In another testimony earlier this year came from one of our Bible School graduates who is a young man, only in his twenties. He was in prison for killing someone and testified that when he arrived in prison, he was like a savage – heartless and hateful, caring for nothing and no one. Somehow as the days passed, he felt an urgency to do something. He began attending the Bible School and found he enjoyed it. As he heard the truth of God's Word, he was transformed and surrendered his life to Jesus. As he continued his studies in the Bible school, he felt to reach out to the family of the man he had killed to express his remorse and ask for their forgiveness. To his surprise, he found out that the man he killed was actually a distant cousin. The man's wife forgave him and she visits him in prison from time to time.

We see God's hand at work in so many situations and it is a joy when we hear good reports from those who are supportive of the IVBI Bible schools. The deputy director at the Youth Correctional Facility, which has about 300 incarcerated teenagers, had high praise for the student inmates who attend the Bible school. He told us that one teen, who was chosen as leader of all the youth, was one who was graduating from the Bible school. The IVBI curriculum emphasizes that these young people are new creations in Christ. When their hearts are transformed, it manifests in the change of their behavior.

## Elim Children's Home Update

The boys and girls at the Elim Children's Home are growing fast. Many attend elementary school and some attend kindergarten classes at Elim, thanks to a teacher who comes to the Home. Your partnership allows us to help educate these children by covering their required school fees. One highlight this year was hosting an Easter party for the children. We blessed them with plates of good food and the special treat of a soft drink. After the meal, they gathered around us and prayed for us. I can assure you, that was the sweetest "dessert" ever!



## An Exciting New Assignment

In April of this year, we sensed the Lord was preparing us for change. As we sought Him diligently, He revealed His plan that we should step out in faith and plant a church. As we have shared, we have a twice-weekly radio program that potentially reaches an audience of 3 to 5 million listeners in Rwanda and parts of bordering countries. Many who enjoy our teaching have asked us, "Where is your church?" We never had an answer to that question because God had not led us in that direction until this past May. As the Lord revealed His plan, our first thoughts were "how?" and "where?" Soon we met Evariste Ntivuguruzwa, who is now associate pastor of the new church, and the Lord had told him the same thing, confirming God's direction for this new assignment.



Right away, a woman offered a garden and a tent with room for 200 people. We thank our partners who helped with the purchase of a sound system and other needs. After only two months, we were outgrowing the 200-seat tent. Pastor Stephen Cline, sent by Lake Country Church of Ft. Worth, Texas, joined us on the mission field and he provided a tent able to seat over 600! Pastor Stephen was a great help in setting up ministry for children at the church and everywhere we went together, we had many ministry opportunities.

Pastor Stephen also joined us on the radio program and shared a powerful message focused on the young people. God continues to confirmed His plans for this new church with many salvations, physical and emotional healings, deliverances, and marriages restored. Most of all, the people are building a strong foundation and learning who they are in Christ and their authority as believers.

## Girls' School Outreach

We continue our outreach to Fawe Girls School, an all-teen girls' school under the leadership of Catholic nuns. God has given us favor with the school's leadership and we are warmly welcomed to visit and share the Gospel. During our visits, it is our privilege to share a message of hope and encouragement with these young ladies. They were delighted to receive our gifts of basketballs, volleyballs, basket nets, and ball pumps, made possible by the generosity of you, our supporters.





## Impacting Refugee Camps

Rwanda continues to provide a safe haven for families fleeing conflicts in neighboring nations. We made our third visit to the Mahama refugee camp, located 4.5 hours from Kigali, Rwanda's capital city where we live. This camp has over sixty thousand residents who left Burundi due to civil unrest in that country. On this visit, we were able to bless one thousand families with a solar light, a precious commodity in a place that has no electricity. We shared the Good News of Jesus Christ and many, many hands went up to accept Him as their Lord and Savior. Special thanks to Tulsa's Coldwell Banker Select for providing the solar lights.

## School Success

Send Me International continues to assist youngsters who do not have the means to attend school by providing tuition, uniforms, shoes, and school supplies to allow them to be educated. One of our success stories in progress is Impore Cyiza, a young boy who was 8 years old when we first met him in 2008. An orphan who lives with his relatives, we have been able to pay for his schooling since he entered 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Impore is now a sophomore in high school, making good grades and having much hope for his future.



## Ministry Need

Please join your faith with ours as we believe God for a newer vehicle. Our 1998 Toyota Landcruiser has covered thousands of miles in Rwanda and has been a huge blessing to us since 2008. Now it is showing its age (almost 20 years old!) and is requiring frequent trips for repairs. Roads in Rwanda are not always paved and our ministry often takes us to towns and villages through rough terrain. A newer used vehicle would be a blessing and a more reliable way for us to continue to reach people with the Gospel and introduce them to our wonderful Jesus.

## Join Us For Our Tulsa Banquet

Please join us for our annual mission blessings banquet which will be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel, 7902 South Lewis, beginning at 6:00 pm on Friday, September 29, 2017. The dinner event is free of charge, but please notify us that you are coming so we are sure to have meals for all our guests. **You can let us know by calling 918-704-0313 or by email: [sendmeintl@gmail.com](mailto:sendmeintl@gmail.com).** We will receive an offering for the Rwanda ministry and share more updates on the ministry.

Thank you for your continuing prayers and financial support as the Spirit of the Lord leads you. 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, you can email us at [sendmeintl@gmail.com](mailto:sendmeintl@gmail.com) or check our website [www.sendmeintl.com](http://www.sendmeintl.com).

*Parfait & Michelle*