

Upcoming Events

January 2016 — Teach church leaders in Rwanda with three others from the U.S.; Creighton Beatty, Isaac Fultz, and Scott McClimans

March 17-18 — Alumni Rally at Mid-Atlantic Christian University: share with churches in VA/NC

May— Teach church leaders in Rwanda with Gene Andrews

A Great Fall

International Conference on Missions

This year's ICOM gathered in Richmond, VA October 29—31. The Richmond location put me in the vicinity of my roots. Many of the supporting churches for RC were represented. Three individuals who have participated in a RC trip came to the convention. There was a strong representation from Mid-Atlantic Christian University; my alma mater.

Some highlights:

- ◆ This year's theme, "The Away Team," helped to refocus many in the church
- ◆ Attendance was 6,400 plus
- ◆ Offering goal was \$60,000 —>Actual \$96,000
- ◆ 7 new churches planted on six continents

For more on ICOM 2015 visit:
christianstandard.com/2015/11/icom-a-conference-with-eternal-value/

2015 Hi-Plains School of Missions

September 22—October 9 was a great experience and a packed two weeks. I had the privilege of sharing in the Hi-Plains School of Missions centered in the Oklahoma Panhandle, and including southwest Kansas and the Texas Panhandle. In sixteen days I spoke twenty-five times.

Dispersed among the speaking opportunities was a tour of the Black Mesa National Park, the Great Salt Plains of Oklahoma, and an OU Sooners game (number 1 in the Big 12 and matched up with Clemson for the Orange Bowl). While in Kansas I did not see Toto, but I did experience a Peace Treaty Pageant at Medicine Lodge, a portion of the Santé Fe Trail, a stop by the Dalton Gang hideout and Dodge City. Because of time I had to get... out of Dodge.

While there were many educational opportunities, the focus of the trip was sharing Rwanda Challenge with twelve churches. This year the Hi-Plains School of Missions invited ten mission organizations to share with nineteen churches (most shared with twelve churches each). The participating churches collected an offering for the school which was divided among the different mission groups. The school blessed Rwanda Challenge with a gift of \$11,275 (not including a few individual gifts). As the January Rwanda trip approaches, the Hi-Plains gift means RC will end 2015 in the black and ready to fund the January trip.

The Hi-Plains trip provided many blessings, but the highlight for me was September 25-26 and October 9. On these dates all the missionaries gathered in one location and shared the essence of what they would be sharing with the churches. Personally I was encouraged and had the opportunity to share with some great servants in God's Kingdom. On the final day we were able to share our stories, debrief, laugh, rejoice, and pray for one another. I am thankful for the Hi-Plains S of M.

Prayer Requests (Phil. 1:9-11)

- Ask for wisdom and discernment for Rwanda Challenge
- Praise God for the 2015 Hi-Plains School of Missions and ICOM
- Seek God for the financial resources to add one more teaching trip to Rwanda each year
- Seek God for the January trip to Rwanda

Rwanda Challenge 2015

Tribute to a Christian Leader

It was February 2011 in Masaka, Rwanda when I first met Polycarpe. A few preachers from the U.S. were studying with fifty-five Rwandan church leaders. It did not take long to discover that Polycarpe was well respected among these leaders. In future trips I discovered more about him. He once had me help him reproduce a picture of when he was

a police officer in the DRC. Later he patrolled the border between the DRC and Rwanda. In 1988 he became a preacher. I have visited him in his home and preached in his village in Cyangugu. On one extended visit I stayed in the home of Peter, one of his thirteen children, and met some of his grandchildren. Polycarp also adopted more than ten children: Nicodem is one.

Nicodem was ten years old and working on a fishing boat on Lake Kivu when the killers came to Cyangugu in 1994. Those on the boat fled to the DRC. When they returned after the genocide, Nicodem's family had been killed. He was adopted by Polycarpe, grew up to become a preacher in Cyangugu, and started a church in Rweru Batima, Rwanda this year.

At the age of 86, on Monday, October 26, 2015 at 6:30 PM, Polycarp passed away. In reflecting on this leader's life I began to think about other great leaders around the world who are only known in their immediate context. But there will come a day when all believers will see Polycarpe receive his crown of glory.

The Vision

The vision of Rwanda Challenge is local church leaders throughout Rwanda who have the capacity to lead the Rwandan Church and become missionaries to neighboring countries.

Polycarpe



Nicodem



Please pray for Rwanda Challenge and church leaders in Rwanda during this Christmas season.

For a financial gift, make checks payable to: **Rwanda Challenge**

Send checks to:
Cornerstone Church of Christ
186 Fairview Road N.
Chatham, VA 24531