

Upcoming Events

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, First Church of Christ, Washington, NC

June 18 — Reynolds wedding number six—Rachel and Mitch Johnson

August — Teach church leaders in Rwanda with Tim Maness, County Line Christian Church, Axton, VA

September/October — Northwest School of Missions, Washington, Oregon, Idaho

November — International Conference on Missions, Lexington, KT

Partners in Rwanda

Isaac introduces himself to the church family at the Serephat Church in Kimironko



Scott McClimans, Isaac Fultz, and Theophile Rugubera

Partners in Rwanda

It is a great blessing to have others join me as we equip servant leaders in Rwanda. On the January trip Scott McClimans and Isaac Fultz shared two weeks each as we taught the “Equip a Church Leader” and “Equip the Next Generation” groups. Tim Maness taught one lesson all the way from South Central Virginia (7,400 miles).

Scott is the camp director at the Pittsylvania Christian Service Camp in Chatham, Virginia. This was his second trip (January 2015) with Rwanda Challenge. Scott is a very good Bible teacher and shared in teaching Acts and Genesis.

Isaac is a seventeen year old young man who helped with multiple technology pieces. His family (including six siblings) lives in the same town as I do, Candia, NH. Scott and I, along with the Rwandan adults, were very impressed with Isaac. Our cook, Dinah, began to claim him as her son. Isaac seemed to adapt easily to the diet, climate, and culture (trips to the market, loss of electricity, etc).

One of several highlights of this trip was Tim Maness teaching over the internet some 7,400 miles away. Isaac was the production manager on the Rwanda end. Tim taught about a thirty minute lesson on unity from Ephesians. While there are some adjustments we can make, everyone was encouraged by the quality of the teaching medium (we now have 4G capability in Kigali). Now, we can partner with teachers from the United States.

I give thanks for the many partners of RC.

Prayer Requests (Phil. 1:9-11)

- Ask for wisdom and discernment for Rwanda Challenge
- Praise God for the growth we see in Rwandan church leaders
- Seek God for the turmoil that surrounds Rwanda today, especially Burundi
- Praise God for remote teaching capability and ask Him to provide teachers for this new medium

Rwanda Challenge 2016

Tension Rises in Burundi

In early 1994 there were growing concerns in Rwanda that danger was ahead. Most of the world was oblivious to the ominous reality experienced daily by many Rwandans. Around Rwanda were reports of isolated incidents of torture, murder, and rape. These scattered events became full-blown genocide on April 7, 1994. The horror of Rwanda was ignored or conveniently dismissed by most of the world (including the United Nations).

Burundi is sometimes referred to as the sister nation of Rwanda, made up of Hutu, Tutsi, and Twa, with the same heart language. Rwandans have relatives in Burundi, as well as the DRC, Uganda, and Tanzania. An extremely controversial presidential election occurred in Burundi in July 2015. Somewhat related to this election, thousands of Burundians fled to Rwanda last year (an internet search will produce many accounts.)

Last month I had the opportunity to teach a group of church leaders less than five miles from the Burundian border. One of those church leaders, Willy, had fled to Rwanda in July 2015, along with many others after fourteen of his church members were murdered. He reported that people are being terrorized, murdered, and women are being raped. Unlike 1994, cell phone videos are normal in much of the world today. So, I saw videos of the violence.

After viewing several tragic scenes, I saw a video so horrific, which I will not describe, I had to push the phone away. How can these atrocities occur with such rapidity in a "Christian nation?"

83.6% of Burundi is Hutu and 90.46% of the population is classified as Christian (*Operation World*, 2010). I ask again, "How is this possible?" While there are many answers, I am convinced the foundational answer is the lack of a Christian worldview. Being classified as a Christian is not the same as knowing and applying the Word of God in daily life. The need in Burundi is the same as Rwanda and many other "Christian" nations. This does not even take into account over two billion included in the unreached peoples of the world. We can blame the United Nations, governments, tribal tensions, etc. While there is some truth in all these, the primary solution is "teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" in Jesus' Great Commission.

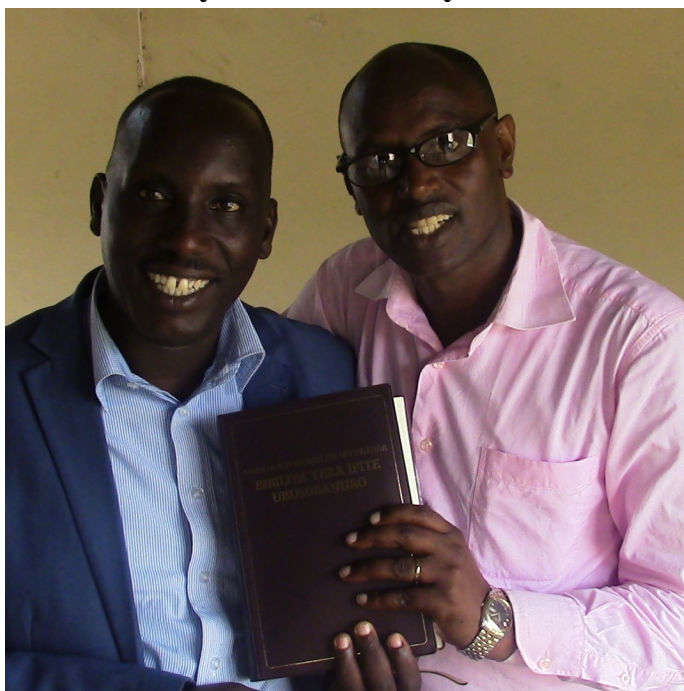
Please pray for Rwanda Challenge and church leaders in Rwanda and surrounding countries.

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

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.

Ntagonera Willy receives his Kinyarwanda Study Bible



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