

2019 Highlights

January — Taught four groups of church leaders in Rwanda with Scott McClimans

**February — Preached for English-speaking church and Spanish church in Spain.
Shared about Rwanda Challenge with Spanish church.**

The Vision

Local church leaders throughout Rwanda who have the capacity to lead the Rwandan Church and become missionaries to neighboring countries.

“Thank You for Changing My Mind”

Preachers and teachers often hear “That was a great lesson,” or “Great sermon, preacher.” Sometimes the compliment is sincere and sometimes it is more of a polite farewell. Occasionally, the “thank you” is expressed in a deeper way and the individual intends to do something.

A few years back a church leader in Rwanda wanted to speak with me after three days of teaching. He said he had been preaching for forty years, but now he needed to change what he had been teaching because I had shown him what the Bible says.

The comment reminded me of one of the Manchester Christian Bible teachers thirty some years ago. He was surprised the people at MCC were intending to apply the teaching. His response; “I need to be careful with what I teach. These people are taking me seriously.” Yes, this kind of response will cause you to think twice about the responsibility of teaching God’s truth.

In January, after two days of teaching, a Rwandan church leader expressed one of those rare “Thank yous.” After lunch, I was pulled aside. “I want to say something to you.” I wasn’t sure what to expect. Then I heard, **“Thank you for changing my mind.”**

I was both grateful and reflective—grateful for the privilege to teach church leaders in Rwanda who desire to know God’s Word and to change their minds (Romans 12:2). Then I am reminded of the responsibility to be, “a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15 NIV

Prayer Requests (Phil. 1:9-11)

- Ask for wisdom and discernment in equipping Rwandan church leaders
- Seek God as we partner with Rwandan Church leaders to reopen churches
- Thank God for Rwandan church leaders who are hungry to know God’s truth

Financial Partners

Make checks payable to:
Rwanda Challenge

Send Checks to:
Cornerstone Church of Christ
1186 Fairview Road N.
Chatham, VA 24531

Online giving is available
on the website below.

Rwanda Challenge 2019

Upcoming Events

February — Preach and share Rwanda Challenge in Bilboa, Spain

March — Share Rwanda Challenge in North Carolina and Virginia

May/June — Teach in Rwanda with Alison DeLong

October — Teach in India and Rwanda

Update on Strategy to Reopen Churches

(See July newsletter for strategy)

Many have now partnered with Rwanda Challenge to help reopen churches in Rwanda (over 7,000 closed last year). Scott McClimans and I were able to deliver another financial gift in January to help five more churches reopen. Theophile recently sent this update and thank you.

..with your support of \$5,000 we are making good progress and 3 churches already were reopened we do expect more churches to do so. The churches we gave the money are overwhelmed with joy as they are confident that their churches are going to be reopened again after a year of closing . we say THANK YOU FOR ALL DONORS FOR GIVING HOPE TO THEIR BRETHREN IN RWANDA TO MEET IN THEIR CHURCHES AGAIN. We still have 20 churches which are not reopened out of 62 it is a good progress now.



Left: Theophile, Rwanda Director of Rwanda Challenge and Stephen, interpreter. Right: Scott McClimans, Camp Director of Camp Pitt in Chatham, VA. Center: five church leaders studying with Rwanda Challenge.

May/June Trip

The plan is to teach four groups in May/June. Alison DeLong plans to join me for her second trip with Rwanda Challenge. She is a close friend of one of my daughters and son-in-law, Abby and Jeremy, from their time at Lincoln Christian University. Alison is a graduate of Lincoln and Houston Baptist University, with a Master of Arts in Apologetics, where she studied with Nancy Percy – focusing on a Christian worldview. This will be our focus with the Rwandan church leaders and younger group during the first week of June. Presently, Alison is a high school history and Bible teacher at a Christian school in Houston.

The Equip a Church Leader group will



Alison DeLong on her first Rwanda Challenge trip in 2013

begin their study of 2 Thesalonians in May. Following the joint study of A Christian world-view, the Equip the Next Generation group plan to continue their study of Luke.