

Rwanda Challenge 2021

Upcoming Events

February — RC plans to purchase a property and building for the MACU-Rwanda campus once the Covid restrictions are lifted enough to have the closing.

May 12-29 — Tentative trip to Rwanda to offer the first two classes of MACU-Rwanda.

Summer — Tentative trip to prepare the second cohort of students in English and computer skills.

The New Mission

The mission of Rwanda Challenge is an **affordable** associate degree in Bible/theology for Rwandan preachers to be awarded by September 2023.

If the Lord wills ...

- ◆ RC will close on the property and unfinished building this month. The road in front of the building will soon be paved. A new bus terminal will be added to this neighborhood.
- ◆ RC will begin and complete Phase 2 of the MACU-Rwanda campus. The January 2020 estimate to finish the building for occupancy was \$110,000.
- ◆ Africa Hope Initiatives will begin to rent out the six units on the street level to sustain the overhead cost for the MACU-Rwanda campus.
- ◆ MACU-Rwanda will offer a soft launch in May. RC has a growing team to assist Rwandan students with laptops, emails, loading Microsoft Office, and Logos Bible Software.
- ◆ RC will launch Phase 3; furnish the MACU-Rwanda campus.
- ◆ A team from VA, NC, TX, and Hungary will assist the second potential cohort of Rwandan students with computer and English skills.
- ◆ RC will focus on Phase 4; provide student scholarships for Rwandans who are competent to pursue an A.A. degree in Bible and East African Ministry.



MACU-Rwanda Campus

in October 2019, before we ever visited this building. The MACU-Rwanda building is in the center of the rainbow near the bottom of the picture.



Future MACU-Rwanda Campus

RC Emergency Fund: As we enter February, Kigali has been on lockdown for two weeks. With Covid cases and deaths increasing we expect the lockdown to continue. When confined to their home, a difficult situation for the poor increases significantly. Last year, we were able to provide \$5,000 to help provide food for Rwandan preachers and their families during the earlier lockdown. The need has returned. You can help by sending a gift to Rwanda Challenge and write "RC Emergency Fund" on the memo line; or go to www.rwandachallenge.com/rc---emergency-fund to give electronically.

Recent Highlights

November — a team from eastern North Carolina joined me to assist potential Rwandan students with English and computer skills to prepare them for the A.A. degree.

January — major lockdowns in Rwanda due to Covid continuing into February and ...

The Vision

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

A Clear Vision

by Scott McClimans

In his 2005 book, *Visioneering: God's Blueprint for Developing and Maintaining Personal Vision*, Andy Stanley defined vision as "a clear mental picture of what could be fueled by the conviction that it should be." Others have said similar things about the importance of clearly articulating what the future should look like. Probably the most concise definition of vision is the one I heard in a seminar on strategic planning: vision is the why that compels your what. In other words, vision answers the question, "what could the future look like if we make a specific contribution now?"

When I think clearly about trying to shape the future, I'm reminded of two passages from the Bible. First, James 4:13-17 (ESV):

¹³ Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"—¹⁴ yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

We should be humble about the power we have over the future. Nevertheless, James' conclusion in verse 17 lets us know that uncertainty is no excuse for failing to do what we know is right. We must trust God, seek his perfect will, and act.

The second passage is a familiar one to many, Matthew 7:12 (ESV):

¹² So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

We are most like God when we graciously give to others what we want for ourselves.

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. About seven years ago, it was this vision that first drew my interest to what the Lord was using Frank to accomplish in Rwanda. Starting in 2015, I began experiencing firsthand how God was using this vision to transform lives and heal communities through teaching the truth of the Bible to church leaders. Significant new obstacles lie ahead for the Church in Rwanda. The future is uncertain. But, humbly seeking the Lord's perfect will, we have an opportunity to do for others what we would want done for us. The chance to work alongside Frank and all of RC's partners is a true honor. The determination of our brothers and sisters in Rwanda is humbling. Sharing in the work God is doing is exciting. I look forward to seeing the future He will build through our efforts as we work together for His glory.

Prayer Requests (Phil. 1:9-11)

- Ask for wisdom and discernment in equipping Rwandan church leaders
- Praise God for the progress made in 2020 toward MACU-Rwanda in the context of a world pandemic
- Seek God for Frank's health; a heart stent was inserted on 1/29/21

Financial Partners

Make checks payable to:
Rwanda Challenge
Send Checks to:

Cornerstone Church of Christ
1186 Fairview Road N.
Chatham, VA 24531

For new campus write on memo line:
MACU-Rwanda Campus