

# Rwanda Challenge 2020

## Upcoming Events

**Fall trip if the U.S. and Rwanda allow.**

**Begin computer/English composition training for potential students.**

## 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.

## COVID-19 Confusion

Have we ever experienced this much confusion in our lifetime? In multiple countries there have been shutdowns, protests, riots, "where are the police," "we don't want the police," and "why aren't the police doing something." It seems we are collectively experiencing multiple emotions at the same time; confusion, anger, disbelief, peace, stuck.

For me, my anger is directed toward Satan for his lies which create division, pain, and death. However, because I believe Jesus is who He claims to be, I have peace. I'm concerned for my children and grandchildren (and yours). I believe the (healthy) local church is the hope of the world and I desire to advance God's Kingdom, but to some degree I feel "stuck."

This is a time of waiting on churches as they re-open and figure out a new normal. This is a time of waiting on air travel so I can plan my next trip to Rwanda. This is a time when the answer to most questions seem to be "I don't know."

So, in this newsletter I will seek to communicate future plans, but most everything is tentative. Yes, I am confused, at peace, and learning to be content with "I don't know."

If you desire to partner with one of these three needs, see the reverse side for check instructions. Indicate memo line "MACU-Rwanda Campus," "RC Emergency Fund," or "Support a Student."

You are able to give on line at

<http://www.rwandachallenge.com/partner-with-us>

## Pressing Needs

There are many opportunities to help advance God's Church around the world. However, while every person has value, the priority of all ministries and countries are not the same. I believe the top three ministry needs in the world are unreached people groups, a Bible in every heart language, and equipping local church leaders. What about the poor? Well, where possible strengthen the local church to care for the poor (except in crisis, such as the "poverty stricken saints in Judea," a hurricane, tsunami, etc.).

As we consider world needs, my intent here is to offer the top three needs of Rwanda Challenge as we enter the second half of 2020.

### 1. (or #2) "MACU-Rwanda Campus"

Based on the new laws passed in September 2018: A local church cannot meet without a legal building. A local church cannot meet without a legal preacher. A legal preacher is required to have an associate degree in Bible/theology by September 10, 2023.

To meet the requirements of the new laws and strengthen the Church in Rwanda, Rwanda Challenge is now focused on MACU-Rwanda Campus.

### 2. (or #1) "RC Emergency Fund"

This fund was created to help in special circumstances in Rwandan culture or churches resulting in unusual hardship for Rwandans or Rwandan churches (times of crisis). The immediate need is to help church leaders and their families eat. Because of the shutdown churches are closed and many jobs have been lost. Local churches are unable to help their leaders financially. During this crisis RC is seeking to help.

### 3. "Support a Student" (formerly "Equip a Church Leader" and "Equip the Next Generation")

Most young people in Rwanda are poor and unable to afford an associate degree. While our mission is to provide an affordable associate degree, the students still must do the work. In their poverty, most cannot afford textbooks, laptops, etc. We can help! \$30 a month for two years will cover these needs for one student.

## 2020 Highlights

**January — Winfred Felton, Brad Giffin, and Tim Turner (all preachers in NC) taught New Testament leadership for a week. The focus was the role, qualifications, and servant attitude of New Testament leaders.**

**We viewed properties for three days in search of a future home for the MACU-Rwanda Campus.**

**February-April — shared MACU-Rwanda Campus with churches in VA/NC until the shutdown.**

### The Vision

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

### An Interim Plan

I am often asked, when are you going back to Rwanda? I'm ready anytime, but we need two things in place.

1. Both the U.S. and Rwanda have to approve travel.
2. With the change in mission, I need a purpose to go.

Here is the tentative plan.

As we continue to move forward with MACU-Rwanda, we can begin to help prospective students with two things; computer skills and increased competence in English composition.

Most Rwandan young people have little to no experience with computers; cell phones — yes, computers — no.

Most Rwanda young people are weak in English composition.

Those who are able to carry on a conversation in English probably struggle to write adequately.

Lord willing, I will travel with a team this year to help students improve in these two areas.

Two requests: if you are interested in helping students with computer and/or English composition let me know. If you are interested in providing finances for laptops (\$250 each in Rwanda) let me know.

For more details contact Frank@RwandaChallenge.com.

### In the Land of a Thousand Hills construction is a process



#### Preparation for the Hermon Church Building

Hermon Church in Kimisagara was closed because they were meeting under a tent. This year they received approval to build. First they needed to dig out the hillside and provide a retaining wall to hold the bank. Now, they are ready to start the building, but they are out of funds and many in the church are unemployed.

If you are interested in helping to reopen Hermon Church, contact Frank@RwandaChallenge.com.

### Prayer Requests (Phil. 1:9-11)

- Ask for wisdom and discernment in equipping Rwandan church leaders.
- Praise God for young Rwandans who desire to be leaders in the local church.
- Seek God for the finances needed to secure a property and building for MACU-Rwanda.
- Ask God to stir hearts to respond to the COVID-19 crisis in Rwanda and other countries.

### 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