

# Rwanda Challenge 2018

## Upcoming Events

**July/August — Jim and Leah are expecting our ninth grandchild (entire family, plus, plan to be in NH for early August**

**August/September — Rwanda with Gene Andrews**

**January — Rwanda with Scott McClimans (and maybe one more friend)**

## Strategy to Reopen Churches

Beginning in February 2018, over 7,000 churches have been closed (1,400 in Kigali) in Rwanda. The church leaders I have spoken with agree with the government in requiring the church buildings to be safe and sanitary. A small percentage of churches have already made the needed improvements and acknowledge they would not have acted at this time without the action of the government.

Some, not all, of the closed churches are worshipping with an "open" church (meaning the government says they can meet) or using an "open" building in the afternoon. After seeking discernment from God, Rwanda Challenge, in partnership with others, has now implemented a strategy to move forward in a healthy way.

### The Goal

...to partner with Harvest Christian Church in Rwanda to reopen thirty local churches. Five local churches are able to cover their expenses, leaving twenty-five that need some help. In multiple phases, local churches will be strategically selected by Rwandan leaders, and then in partnership with each other and God we will commit to steadily reopen these local churches.

### Phase One

- First, Rwandan churches will give financially to the need.
- Second, since the financial need is so great, U.S. churches will be asked to help.
- Third, Rwandan leaders will select which churches will be helped first.
- Fourth, churches which are helped to reopen, will commit to help the next group of closed churches in Phase Two.
- Fifth, once the process is finished, these Rwandan churches will be asked to continue to help start new churches and send missionaries to neighboring countries.



**Safer sidewalks were required at the Zarephath Church in Kimironko**

### Phase Two

- Repeat Phase One.
- Continue until thirty local churches are reopened.

To help reopen churches see check details on other side.

**Write "Reopen Churches" on memo line.**

You can contribute electronically by going to: [www.rwandachallenge.com](http://www.rwandachallenge.com) > Partner with Us > Reopen Churches

## 2018 Highlights

**January — Taught four groups of church leaders in Rwanda including web-based teaching (VA to Kigali)**

**March — Shared RC with churches in VA/NC**

**April/May — Taught in Israel and Rwanda**

## The Vision

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

## Upcoming Plans

Lord willing, I will be back in Rwanda for the second half of August, into September. First on the agenda is to upgrade the Rwanda Challenge vehicle. It is all about “dependable and reliable,” both of which were more in question on each trip. So, the old vehicle has been sold. We plan to purchase a newer vehicle at the beginning of this next trip.

Gene Andrews teaches at Mid-Atlantic Christian and is on staff at First Church in Washington, NC. Gene is scheduled to join me as we travel to the Western Province to teach two groups of church leaders. Then we return to Kigali to finish Galatians and begin a study of 1 and 2 Thessalonians with the “Equip a Church Leader” group. My trip will conclude with the “Equip the Next Generation” group continuing their study of Luke.

Scott McClimans is Camp Director at Camp Pitt in Chatham, VA. Scott is planning to join me again in January. Both Scott and Gene have been with me multiple times to teach in Rwanda and both have participated in the web-based teaching from Virginia and North Carolina.

It is a huge blessing to have others join in serving God's church leaders in Rwanda. This provides a sense of team for me. And, can you imagine what it means for the Rwandan leaders? Also, I believe it is healthier for the Church when God's truth is communicated through multiple personalities. I praise God for these partners.

### 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 teaching partners like Gene and Scott

### 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.