

## 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**

**March — Shared Rwanda Challenge in North Carolina and Virginia**

**May — Shared Rwanda Challenge with two churches in North Carolina**

### The Vision

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

### Lightbulbs

One of the great joys of a Bible teacher is the experience of students when they first discover a new truth, an insight, or a crucial detail which brings a passage to life.

The last week of May I was able to share in many of those "lightbulb" experiences with the church leaders as we completed "A Study of 1st and 2nd Thessalonians." When they entered into (experienced) Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey their understanding of the two letters came to life. Then they celebrated (often with clapping) multiple times throughout the week.

One of their greatest insights was when we studied 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5. Allow me to get slightly technical. The New Testament phrase "the love of God" is either a subjective genitive or an objective genitive. If God is the subject, He is doing the

loving. If God is the object, He is being loved.

The church leaders broke out in praise when they discovered 3:5 was in reference to God's love for us (not our love for Him) and Jesus' perseverance (not our perseverance) in trials. Focusing on our love and our perseverance will not strengthen us in hard times. But, our hearts are lifted when we meditate on God's love for us (1 John 3:1) and Jesus' perseverance (Hebrews 12:1-2).

May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

2 Thessalonians 3:5



(Right) Augustin reports to the larger group, on behalf of his group, their study of 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

### 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
- Ask God to give us clarity concerning the new laws for Rwandan preachers
- Thank God for partners like Alison who share in this ministry by traveling to Rwanda

### 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

May/June — Teach in Rwanda with Alison DeLong

October — Teach in Asia and Rwanda

January — Teach in Rwanda

## Update on New Laws

I (Frank) am now in Rwanda for four weeks. Beyond teaching church leaders, my intent for this trip is to clarify the laws requiring Rwandan preachers to have a two-year degree in religious studies by the end of 2023. If an accredited degree is required, there are two major hurdles. First, the preachers must possess a high school diploma. The word on the street says 10 to 40% of the preachers have finished high school. About one third of the Equip a Church Leader group have a high school education. So, that hurdle is high, but we could start accredited classes with some leaders.

Second, an accrediting association will require resources (a library) for the subjects being studied. Most church leaders in the world do not have a theological library in their language. Rwanda only has a few books in Kinyarwanda which would qualify, depending on the subject. Some Rwandan leaders are expressing the impossibility of thousands of preachers meeting these two requirements by 2023. Even if we add young people, at least the ones who have a desire to be preachers, not enough will be able to meet the requirements in time.

First, define your terms! When we read the new laws, there are questions about the meaning. So, Theophile is making arrangements for a meeting with one of the top government officials responsible for the execution of the new laws. Our purpose is to clarify ways we can help. Based on that purpose we will seek to clarify the meaning of the new laws. Then we will be better prepared to create our steps.

While the hurdles are high for us, God is able. Please pray that God will show us the way forward to equip leaders in Rwanda who will lead the Rwandan Church for generations to come.



Alison DeLong helps Rwandan students wrestle with the Christian Worldview.

### Alison DeLong

The first week of June, Alison will lead the church leaders (EACL) and the younger group (ETNG) in "An Introduction to A Christian Worldview." Alison is a graduate of Lincoln Christian University and Houston Baptist University, with a Master of Arts in Apologetics, where she studied with Nancy Pearcey – focusing on a Christian worldview.