

Rwanda Challenge 2018

Upcoming Events

April/May — Israel and Rwanda

July/August — Jim and Leah are expecting our ninth grandchild

August/September — Rwanda

Rwanda Update

In the March Newsletter I reported about the closing of churches in Rwanda. I am told over 7,000 churches have now been closed (1,400 in Kigali) since February. The number reopened is not available to me, but it seems like most are still closed; some permanently. The church leaders I have spoken with agree with the government in requiring the church buildings to be safe and sanitary. Some 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 their building in the afternoon. We are seeking God for a strategy to move forward in a healthy way.

The process for now: first, the 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. 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.

Do you/we believe God can do this? I have a strong sense that while the present is difficult, the future will be better than the past—for God's glory.



The Zarephath Church building in Kimironko is not the nicest church building in Rwanda, but it is nicer than most. Even this church building was temporarily closed. Once they made a few improvements, like pavement for parking, they have been allowed to reopen while they finish their punch list.

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

The Vision

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

Israel Update

God blessed me with a great trip to Israel April 13-20. Dmitry and Yana Lednev took good care of me as they invited me into their country, church, and home. They are Messianic Jews serving in northwest Israel. Dmitry was born in the country of Georgia, and Yana in Uzbekistan. I had an opportunity to teach four times in eight days. In between the teaching, Dmitry insisted on a guided tour around the Sea of Galilee, Joppa, and Caesarea on the Mediterranean. I left Israel with the impression the Church in Israel is led by leaders who know the Bible, but labor in a difficult field. Most local churches in Israel are small; only a few are 200-300, with most being 10 to 100 people.



Operation World lists 2.04% of Israel's population as Christian and .4% as Evangelical. One of my surprises was to learn that most Messianic Jews in Israel were not Israeli-born. It seems in the bigger picture, the easiest group to reach are Jews who move to Israel from somewhere else.

I was very encouraged by my brothers and sisters in Israel but left with a burden on my heart as they seek to love their neighbors and share with them the Jewish Messiah.

Prayer Requests (Phil. 1:9-11)

- Ask for wisdom and discernment in equipping Rwandan church leaders
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to strengthen our brothers and sisters serving in Israel
- Seek God as we partner with our brothers and sisters in Rwanda in reopening their church buildings

Financial Partners

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Rwanda Challenge

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