

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.

A COVID-19 Shutdown Perspective

Myra and I were sharing with churches and friends in VA/NC when states/businesses/churches began to shut down. Many were excited about the potential of the MACU-Rwanda Campus and the impact this could have on the future of Rwanda and surrounding countries. Then, suddenly, everything was on hold.

Yes, these are uncertain times. However, we do not always experience life as such. While COVID-19 is horrible, it has been a great reminder of the precious gift of each day and the reality of Jesus words to the rich young fool in Luke 12:20. "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?"

Each day is a gift to be used to advance God's kingdom for His glory. And each day, difficult or not, we can take confidence in God's amazing love for us.

Romans 8:37-39 "...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Not even the coronavirus can change that!
In all circumstances God is worthy of our praise!

Prayer Requests (Phil. 1:9-11)

- Ask for wisdom and discernment in equipping Rwandan church leaders.
- Praise God for His amazing love.
- 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.



Nyabugogo Bus Park



Above pictures have become this.



Empty Streets of Kigali



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

Rwanda Challenge 2020

Upcoming Events

May - ?? Wait for churches and countries to open.

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.

(For a more detailed understanding of the new mission go to <http://www.rwandachallenge.com/newsletters.html>).

Potential Home for MACU-Rwanda



Centered on this hillside is the unfinished building we are seeking to secure for the future MACU-Rwanda Campus. We need \$50,000 down payment to secure the property and building. Then \$265,000 would complete the purchase/construction and get us ready to furnish the campus. This plan includes renting six units on the street level to businesses, creating a sustainable path for overhead expenses of MACU-Rwanda. This is by far the best deal we have found in Kigali.

Please pray. If you desire to send a check write on the Memo line: MACU-Rwanda Campus.

Crisis in Rwanda

It is impossible to realize all the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic around the world. Closing one business has some implications. Closing almost all businesses results in multiple ripples which are hard to comprehend. The immediate issues in the US are difficult, but I will assure you, the complications in a country like Rwanda is much more severe. I am reminded of the Great Depression. It was a difficult time, but normally it was harder for those who lived in the city. My grandparents had no money. However, because they lived on a farm, they had food to eat.

COVID-19 has created a crisis for many in Rwanda. The streets are empty. Public transportation is closed. People are restricted to their homes and must call the police before going to the market. Life is difficult for those living in rural areas, but most of them have something to eat. They are limited by items like cooking oil. Those living in the city are having a harder time "making a life." Most city dwellers have no garden and no money. They have little to no food.

I am aware of a few missions and churches helping with the need. Rwanda Challenge has started an emergency fund and provided some help the last three weeks.

Message from Theophile: "Hello Frank we shared the \$500 to 17 pastors and 13 from Next generation in total 30 family. When we called Havugaimana J Bosco he cried, it was 3 days without eating with his family."

Please pray. If you desire to send a check write on the Memo line: RC-Emergency Fund.

Dilemmas in Practical Ministry

Life is filled with choices; some are easy, some are hard. The two needs just presented are difficult for me. The immediate need is to provide for a brother or sister in crisis (James 2:14-17). But are there opportunities which are more immediate than helping the poor (Matthew 26:6-13)?

Right now I am torn between my friends in crisis because of the COVID-19 shutdown in Rwanda versus the need to provide an affordable associate degree in Bible/theology (required by law) for the future of the Rwandan Church. For me, I cannot choose between the two. I will do both.

I am reminded of one of the sayings of my seminary professor, James Strauss - "Do something, even if it's wrong." My interpretation: take a step, do something. It might not be the perfect decision, but at least do something.

God, help us to care enough to do something.