

Rwanda Challenge 2017

Upcoming Events

November — Attend the International Conference on Missions in Peoria, IL

January — First scheduled trip to Rwanda in 2018

April/May — Back to Rwanda.

Encouraged

There are many words/phrases that could describe my week in Kherson, Ukraine; inspired, new friends, surprised, challenged. The word "encouraged" seems to best describe my week of celebrating with Tavriski Christian Institute their twentieth anniversary. I was encouraged by the school, the church, the people, the stories. Most of all I was encouraged by the commitment I experienced to the Great Commission. These followers of Jesus are serious about loving their neighbor, sharing the good news of Jesus, translation work for people groups without a Bible, and reaching unreached people groups.

I met Christians who take van loads of supplies to Ukrainian soldiers on the eastern battle front. I met men who are serious about encouraging each other in their journey with Jesus. Tavriski Christian Institute is equipping church leaders in Ukraine and neighboring countries who in turn are equipping other church leaders (1 Timothy 2:2). There were three Christians whose homes had been destroyed by the shelling on the Ukraine/Russia border. They believe God used this to lead them to the ministry he had for them. One local church had housed two hundred refugees from Crimea, housing orphans, and meeting needs of the poor.

Then there are examples of translation efforts to provide Bibles in the heart language of various people groups. Some of this focus reaches out to Roma gypsies in Ukraine and

neighboring countries.

As I reflect on God's Church in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, I am ENCOURAGED.



Roma Gypsies in Ukraine

2017 Highlights

- January — Taught seven groups of church leaders in Rwanda
Conducted first full web-based teaching (NC to Kigali)
Preached for English speaking church in Bilbao, Spain**
- March — Shared RC with Towne South Church of Christ, Elizabeth City, NC and
County Line Christian Church, Axton, VA**
- May/June — Bob and Marie Paddock joined me in teaching in Rwanda**
- August – Taught church leaders in Rwanda assisted by Tim Turner and Winfred Felton**
- September — Taught in Rwanda and attended the twentieth anniversary celebration
of Tavriski Christian Institute in Kherson, Ukraine**

The Vision

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

Rwanda Trip Highlights

Rwanda Challenge was involved with seven groups in five weeks.

The future church leaders (Equip the Next Generation) continue to show growth as they study the Good News of Luke. It will take about three more weeks to finish (2018). While these are very competent young people, I am still surprised at times with things they don't know; e.g., how the Gregorian calendar works in discussing the birth of Christ, maps, and directions (points of the compass).

The older group (Equip A Church Leader) completed two studies in August. In mid-August, Tim Turner and Winfred Felton taught "A Study of Titus for the church leaders (Equip A Church Leader). The second week these leaders completed "Lessons on the Letter of James: Prepared by Church Leaders of Harvest Christian Church."

Prayer Requests (Phil. 1:9-11)

- Ask for wisdom and discernment in equipping Rwandan church leaders
- Pray especially about discernment for new doors opening to Rwanda Challenge
- Praise God for His Church in Ukraine and the ministry of Tavriski Christian Institute

Financial Partners

Make checks payable to:
Rwanda Challenge

Send Checks to:
Cornerstone Church of Christ
1186 Fairview Road N.
Chatham, VA 24531