

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 Rwanda Challenge with Spanish church
- March — Shared Rwanda Challenge in North Carolina and Virginia
- May — Shared Rwanda Challenge with two churches in North Carolina
- May/June — Taught in Rwanda with Alison Delong
- October — Southeast Asia and Rwanda
(met with Rwandan representative of the Higher Education Council)

The Vision

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

Next Steps for Rwanda Challenge

- Seek financial partners for MACU-Rwanda.
- Acquire property for a MACU-Rwanda campus.
- Build an adequate facility for MACU-Rwanda.
- Encourage/help existing and potential preachers to pursue their high school diploma which now requires (assumes) a proficiency in English.
- Provide English tutoring for Bible college students.
- Provide computer training and computer lab for Bible college students.
- Offer an **affordable** (including scholarships), accredited associate degree in Bible/religion.
- Create a sustainable path for the future of a Bible College campus in Rwanda.
- Begin offering an Associate of Arts in Bible no later than January 2021 (a window of two years eight months for students to earn a two-year degree).

Prayer Requests (Phil. 1:9-11)

- Ask for wisdom and discernment in equipping Rwandan church leaders
- Seek God for Mid-Atlantic Christian University as she prepares for application with the Higher Education Council to offer an associate degree in Rwanda
- Ask God to provide the financial partners who will help MACU-Rwanda become a reality



Frank, Theophile, and Kevin visit with Theoneste at the Ministry of Education

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

January — Teach in Rwanda and seek campus property
February/March — share new mission in VA/NC

Urgency Created by New “Preacher” Law

A new “preacher” law went into effect in Rwanda on September 10, 2018. The Rwanda Governance Board is responsible for the law. The Higher Education Council (HEC) is responsible for the delivery of the educational requirements to meet the new law. Kevin Larsen, Ph.D., Vice President of Academic Affairs, Mid-Atlantic Christian University, Theophile and I met with a representative of HEC in January to clarify multiple issues as we work through requirements created by the new law.

The urgent section of the law edited for clarity.

Article 22: Requirements for being a preacher

A preacher must:

7° possess an associate degree in religious studies from an accredited institution...

“Play the Movie”

“Play the Movie” is principle number three in *9 Things You Simply Must Do to Succeed in Love & Life*, by Dr. Henry Cloud. “[Successful...people rarely take an action without considering its future implications.”

Rwanda Challenge is playing out different scenes for the Rwandan Church as we close out 2019. A new “preacher” law was passed in September of 2018 which gives existing preachers five years to earn an associate degree in religion.

As we play this forward, here are some of the issues affecting future scenes in this “movie.”

- A preacher will need an associate degree in Bible/religion by September 11, 2023 to be legal.
- A local church cannot exist without a legal preacher and a legal building.
- A legal preacher/church cannot function without a legal representative and his/her associate.
- The legal representative and his/her associate must have a bachelor's degree in Bible/religion by September 11, 2023 to be legal.
- The associate and bachelor's degree must be awarded by an accredited institution (recognized internationally) from anywhere in the world.
- A student must have a high school diploma (or equivalent) to begin studies toward an associate or bachelor's degree.
- Students must be proficient in English since Rwanda requires in-country studies in higher education be delivered in English.
- Most preachers in Rwanda are not proficient in English and do not have a high school diploma (many are not even close).
- Higher education is not affordable for most Rwandans.
- A higher education degree offered in Rwanda requires a physical address (property and appropriate building, etc.) in Rwanda; approved by the Higher Education Council.

Now, for some of the implications of these issues.

- **A large percentage of existing preachers will no longer be legal on September 11, 2023.**
- **Thus, a large percentage of existing churches will no longer be legal on September 11, 2023.**
- **Many existing preachers will need to be replaced by a legal preacher by September 11, 2023.**

See “Next Steps for Rwanda Challenge” for proposed solutions to this urgent need.