

Rwanda Challenge 2020

Upcoming Events

November trip depends on COVID tests. Begin computer/English composition training for potential students.

March and May trips if the U.S. and Rwanda allow.

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.

“Team Rwanda”

Six of the seven members of Team Rwanda are from Christ's Church, Greenville, NC (Tim Turner is the preacher and part of the team). Team Rwanda will focus on basic computer skills and English composition for an initial group of Rwandan students.



“Team Rwanda” from Greenville, NC area.

Tammy Bishop, Victoria Bishop, Karlee Hardison, Katie McKinney, Travis Taylor, Sabrina Dewald, Jennifer Parker, Jonathan Dewald, Tim Turner

After a week of English Comp, we should have a much better picture of the potential of these students to be able to accomplish their courses in English (required for the degree).

The **third hurdle** is a MACU-Rwanda campus. A local church cannot meet without a legal preacher. A legal preacher is required to have an associate degree in Bible/theology by September 10, 2023. A small campus in Rwanda is required by the Higher Education Council of Rwanda in order to offer an A.A. degree in Rwanda. The arrival of the pandemic significantly hindered progress toward a physical campus. Some partners of Rwanda Challenge are discussing once again and making decisions on how they can help provide a campus. I anticipate we will surpass \$100,000 by early 2021. The building/property we have in mind will cost \$180,000 (if the price has not changed). Of course, without financial partners the mission/vision is only wishful thinking. More important, without God's blessing, we build in vain.

Used Laptops Needed: Perhaps you are getting a new laptop during the holiday season. It would be a blessing to Africa Hope Initiatives ministry leaders if you would consider donating your old laptop (reasonable speed and condition). If this is a possibility for you, please contact Frank@RwandaChallenge.com.

Three Hurdles

Multiple hurdles stand before us in our commitment to fulfil our mission. The **first hurdle** is travel. Team Rwanda is scheduled to depart RDU on November 10. I am supposed to connect with the team in Amsterdam to catch our flight to Kigali. The worldwide pandemic has added multiple hurdles for the trip; initial Covid test, Passenger Locator Form, hotel arrangements for an arrival Covid test, and a departure Covid test. Once we are in Rwanda odds are extremely low that we will have a problem.

A **second hurdle** is the competency of students in English and basic computer skills. This is our first team to assess and address the English and computer skills of prospective students. I think we can quickly get past the lack of computer skills. English is a whole different issue.

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 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.

Rwanda Challenge Succession Plan

In the pursuit of a MACU-Rwanda partnership between Africa Hope Initiatives, Mid-Atlantic Christian University, and Rwanda Challenge, it seemed wise to develop a succession plan for RC.

Lord willing, through a phased transition, Scott McClimans will become the sole U.S. Director of RC in 2027. Of course, if something prohibits me from continuing my role before 2027, Scott will immediately become the U.S. Director of RC. Scott is a 1993 graduate of Cincinnati Bible College and Seminary with a B.A. in Bible and Christian Ministry. He served for over 14 years as manager of Pittsylvania Christian Service Camp in Chatham, VA. During his service there, Scott and I met through Cornerstone Church of Christ. He has now traveled to Rwanda three times since 2015 to assist RC with teaching at church-leader training seminars.

Through these trips, **God opened Scott's heart to Rwanda Challenge's purpose and confirmed in him Rwanda Challenge's vision** as a means of showing the love of Christ to the Rwandan people.

As the potential AHI-MACU-RC partnership was being explored, Scott began the process of concluding his ministry with Camp Pitt. During November 2019, Scott approached me about how he could assist in Rwanda Challenge's mission moving forward. After this conversation, we began praying and discussing how a transition plan would benefit the mission; the shape that plan might take; if Scott would be a good fit; and the process to move forward.

In October, the elders of Cornerstone Church of Christ approved the plan.



Scott McClimans, Assistant Director of Rwanda Challenge

Prayer Requests (Phil. 1:9-11)

- Ask for wisdom and discernment in equipping Rwandan church leaders
- Praise God for "Team Rwanda" and raising up men like Scott McClimans for the future of RC and MACU-Rwanda
- Seek God for the finances needed to secure a property and building for MACU-Rwanda

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