

Food Urgently Needed for Rwanda

We live in unprecedented times at least in our lifetime and there are massive needs all around us and around the world. But, if you're able and the Lord leads you, **would you help provide food for our friends in Rwanda?** The country has been locked down since March 21st because of COVID-19, but just in the first week of the lockdown, families began to go hungry. People were not able to report to work or find an odd job resulting in no money to buy food. People live from day to day; no savings; no safety nets; no government bailouts; no refrigerators, freezers or kitchen cabinets to store extra food. For many, they work day to day and purchase food day to day. Basic staples like rice, corn and beans have doubled in price since March 21st.

Pastor Dany, one of the pastor's we've worked with for many years, said he had 400 people asking for food for their hungry families during the first week of the lockdown which is true for many pastors.

The number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise daily in Rwanda as well as many other African countries. Although, the rate right now is minimal we pray God will spare Africa. The initial two-week lockdown will most likely be extended well beyond the initial lockdown period.

GPM has already forwarded some funds to help several families, but we want to help even more. Gifts of any size will help make a difference. We will forward 100% of all gifts to provide food for those who are going hungry. Our Ministry Coordinator in Rwanda, Sam Kamugisha, will oversee the purchase and distribution of the food. Funds can be sent by mail or online at the GPM website.

We're also working in partnership with eTeam Global to help raise relief funds for Rwanda. We've partnered several times with eTeam Global in Nigeria to train national evangelists and in Rwanda to conduct the *Festivals of Hope* evangelistic outreaches.

The following will feed a family of 5 for two weeks:

25 pounds of rice = \$18

25 pounds of corn = \$14

Give by mail or online.

Thank you for your generosity

Baptisms and Bibles

Last December was a month of celebration as 52 new Believers were baptized as a result of viewing the *Jesus Film*. Last July, we were able to provide *Jesus Film*

backpacks to three Rwandan Pastors. From mid-July 2019 – January 2020, 43,867 people viewed the *Jesus Film* at 80 presentations and 18,071 made decisions for Christ.

William (left), school headmaster, came to know Christ in May 2019 after I had the privilege of sharing the Gospel with him. He followed the Lord in the waters of baptism in December and continues to grow in his new faith in Jesus.





Right after Christmas, our Ministry Coordinator in Rwanda, Sam Kamugisha, had the privilege and joy of delivering and distributing 425



Bibles as a result of a generous contribution. Sam reported the people receiving the Bibles expressed abundant gratitude for this gift. It's only a dream to be able to have their own Bible. It's



a gift they will cherish for a lifetime. One of the pastor's wrote, "Before giving them the Bibles, we taught them the importance and benefits of knowing the Word of God."

Bible distributions were done in six churches and a couple schools. News spread fast throughout Rwanda and requests for many more Bibles have been received. If you'd like to help in providing more Bibles, ***the cost of a Kinyarwandan Bible is \$10 each.***



Muslims Coming to Christ

Ishmael became a Believer four years ago while serving as the leading Muslim recruiter for the Rwanda Eastern Province. Now he has led hundreds of Muslims to Christ and planted a church in his remote village. His vision for 2020 is to lead at least 200 Muslims to Christ! And in the first few weeks of 2020, he has led twenty Muslims to Jesus Christ. We'd like to provide a Bible for each of these converts if possible. Pray for Ishmael as he puts his life on the line to proclaim the Gospel.



Roofing for new classroom provided

The Rusumo AIC Church which was built and dedicated in 2018 is now starting a Nursery School with plans to add Primary grades in future years. We helped provide part of the roofing due to a generous donation. The roof was installed just in time to protect the mud blocks from the rainy season.

Breakfast for School Children

Funds remaining from 2019, helped us provide breakfast to the children at the New Seeds Academy Christian School in northeast Rwanda. Currently the school has 40 children and growing. Parents, children and headmaster, William, are very grateful for all those who gave to help feed the children. The children do much better in their studies when they have something nutritional to eat.



Rutonde AIC Church almost ready to begin construction



Pray the Rutonde Church will look like this soon.

After many months of delays the land title has finally been completed. Now approval is needed to rezone the land then the blueprints can be finalized and construction should begin. This year we'd like to help the Believers at the Rutonde Church to erect a building so they can once again meet together as a church. All of this depends on God's provision of funds.



Projected financial need: \$25,000

Festivals of Hope in Central Rwanda

Plans are developing to once again partner with New Life for All from Nigeria and eTeam Global USA, to conduct evangelistic outreaches and humanitarian projects in five mountain villages during early July 2020. Since I'm not yet able to travel, I'm meeting with Pastor Dany, Festival Coordinator and Sam, GPM's Ministry Coordinator in Rwanda, via Skype video to ensure plans are moving forward. We'll minister in three of the same villages as 2019 and add two new villages this year. Each village will have crusade meetings, medical and eye glass clinics, women's outreaches, school assemblies, *Jesus Film*, and a two-day pastor's conference led by the Nigerians.



Projected financial need: \$12,000

Festivals of Hope Projects:

Medical Insurance – Annual medical insurance in Rwanda is around **\$3.20 per person**. We'd like to bless as many people as possible in the five villages with annual medical insurance as a large majority cannot afford to pay even this amount. Contributions of any size will go to provide insurance for as many people as possible.



Eye glass clinics –

Eye glass clinics will be conducted in each of the five villages. We always have hundreds of people who come to each clinic. They are tested and receive a pair of reading glasses which helps a majority of people to see and read or even thread a needle.

Projected financial need: \$2,000

A presentation of the Gospel is given at all humanitarian outreach projects conducted during the *Festivals of Hope*. Many people always respond to the Gospel.

Personal Note:

Ministry Calendar Adjustments

During the writing of this newsletter, the original ministry plans for this year are now tentative due to COVID-19. The *Festivals of Hope* mentioned (page 3), including training of national evangelists in Nigeria, mission teams to Rwanda, *Love Malawi Festival* and pastor's conferences. Some or all of these may have to be postponed.



We know God's will is perfect. His plans and timing are perfect. He will use this pandemic to bring glory to Himself and draw many people to know Jesus as Savior. Please pray for wisdom and peace for everyone involved in making difficult decisions regarding cancelling or postponing ministry outreaches.

Cancer Journey Update:

You may have heard that I was diagnosed at Mayo Clinic with stage-4 lung cancer on January 21st which was the real issue with my lung problems throughout 2019. After being falsely told several times since March, 2019 I did not have cancer, the news was quite shocking.

I began cancer treatments on March 5th after several delays to qualify as a participant in a clinical trial. There were at least two issues which would have disqualified me from the trial, but the Lord provided positive results and removed the obstacles.

My second treatment was postponed a week as my immune system was too low. Hopefully the second treatment will go forward on April 3rd.

Since the first treatment, my cough has greatly diminished, the congestion is gone, shortness of breath is much better, my oxygen level on March 25th was 100% (hasn't been that high for many months), and I've had no side effects from the cancer treatment. I've really felt very good and have been able to go for walks, bike rides and work in the yard. We give praise to the Lord for these positive signs that the treatments are working. We're grateful for His grace, mercy and answers to prayers.

The first four treatments, given every 3 weeks depending on how my immune system does, consist of two chemotherapy drugs, one targeted therapy drug and one immunotherapy drug.

We're very grateful and blessed by the outpouring of prayers from so many around the world, the cards and calls. We appreciate your continued prayers for complete healing of my lungs.

We're grateful for all who have joined hands with us through prayer, finances and encouragement. Your continued partnership is greatly appreciated.

Gifts of any size or frequency are gratefully received. For your convenience, secure online giving is available on our website – www.globalpartnershipministries.org. You can choose to give one-time, or set-up automatic giving through your bank account or credit card. Of course, checks sent by mail are always welcomed.

Willing to Serve,

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