

# Rwanda Direct Newsletter

## Spring 2019



*We thank God for lots of encouraging news from Rwanda*

### **SCRIPTURE UNION**

Jean Baptiste writes “We got the occupation permission from the One Stop Centre, the Government Office, allowing us to use the houses recently constructed. Halleluiah!!! Please pray for God’s guidance, so that we find clients for our guest house, enabling us to continue to repay the loan. We praise God that until now we have been able to it”. Just a reminder, the loan is £37,000 per year!

There is still quite a bit of work to do before full completion of the project. The kitchen and conference hall have been plastered and painted. Rwanda Direct was able to send a further £2500 to help this work. The whole project has been a real journey of faith for Scripture Union. Their unfailing trust that God will provide for their needs is certainly being revealed and is a real example to us all.

### **KIGALI ANGLICAN THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE (KATC)**

It’s all change at KATC! They have a new principal the Rev. Prof. Viateur Ndikumana, who has taken over from Canon Dr Antoine Rutayisire on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019. KATC is also seeking University status from the government to become ‘The East African Christian University (EACU)’. Rwanda now requires that church leaders must have a theological education to degree level from an accredited institution. They have given the churches 5 years to achieve this. It will be a challenge to train all pastors within 4/5 years. The application for accreditation of the University’s Bachelor Degree and Post Graduate programmes has been submitted to the Higher Education Council. The first students for the Bachelor Degree are expected to start in April. Meanwhile the programme of Applied Theology (Kinyarwanda Programmes) for the development of existing pastors has resumed. Please pray for Viateur, the staff and the students for the smooth transition from KATC to EACU.

Thanks to extra income we have been able to give £2500 in addition to the usual £4000 to support theological training.

There is further good news - the vast dormitory block is finished and can house 200 students. We have been praying for this for five + years since the framework was built but no money to finish it. There is also money to build a chapel and that will start soon. All this makes KATC (EACU) viable for the future. Halleluiah!!



KATC Dormitory – Staff and Students

## KIGALI DIOCESE

We have agreed to support one student to degree level. Please pray for Nsengiyumva Jean Claude who is currently pursuing a three-year bachelor's programme at Uganda Christian University. Pray that God will guide and protect him in his studies and ministry.

### *Stop Press*

We have just heard from our good friend, Louis Muvunyi, the Bishop of Kigali.



He is doing something that has not been done before in Rwanda, in stepping down from his diocesan post in order to become the Legal Representative and Chaplain to the new East African Christian University (formerly KATC). This is a brave and bold move that God has inspired in Louis and his wife Winnie, so please pray for them in their transition and that this act of faith will be a rich blessing for the Church in Rwanda. Halleluiah!!



## HANNAH PROJECT - God answers prayer



As you will recall the Hannah Project at Byumba cares for vulnerable children, many of whom are HIV positive. We met single mothers, one (14yrs) who had been raped, thrown out of home and destitute. This work has saved many lives. It was ably led by Bishop Emmanuel's wife before she tragically died. It is now largely run by Christian volunteers desperate to help. The project has been in dire straits financially for some time so we were glad to be able to send an extra £1000 in February before our usual annual amount.

Bishop Emmanuel responded immediately: -

'Warm greetings from Byumba, your message arrives like a direct voice from above. This is incredible!!

Do you know WHY? The whole of these 3 months we have been struggling to push days for these creatures of God (I mean vulnerable children), and we were wondering what next and till when we shall be doing this. In fact, **yesterday** we had a painful meeting unable to deal with scholastic and health and nutrition needs where we ended up taking time to pray and leaving it in the hands of the Creator. Now, I've seen that the Lord is on our side



and hears our prayers. It's true that, He is the owner of time and circumstances. MAY I, ON BEHALF OF THE COLLEAGUES and THE COMMUNITY HERE, EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE AND HEARTFELT THANKS TO YOU ALL FOR BEING AND PRAYING THIS IMPORTANT ROLE AND CHANNEL AND MESSENGER OF THE FATHER OF THE FATHERLESS!

Love and grace, +Emmanuel'

### ***Can we further help the Hannah Project?***

*At our last Committee Meeting we wondered if we could provide more regular support for the Hannah Project. This mustn't take from our giving for SU and theological training as this is so vital for positive empowerment and change in the population. Can we find some more regular giving to support the Hannah Project? If yes - contact our Treasurer [barbarawillingham@yahoo.com](mailto:barbarawillingham@yahoo.com)*



## **CHURCH CLOSURES**

We are pleased to hear that some churches that had to close, due to Government health and safety requirements, are now being reopened Praise God! However, there are many more still shut, particularly the smaller local chapels.

## **RWANDA VISIT 2020**

We are planning a visit to Rwanda in early 2020. Do you know anyone who may be interested? If so, do get in contact at [info@rwandadirect.org.uk](mailto:info@rwandadirect.org.uk)

*So, much for which to pray and to give thanks to God!*

## **REMEMBER – IT'S 25 YEARS SINCE GENOCIDE AND WAR IN RWANDA**

If you know of others who may be interested in helping the Church in Rwanda, do share this Newsletter with them and suggest they get in contact with us as below.

All data is stored with regard to GDPR legislation, so we will not share contact details with anyone without permission. 100% of donations go direct to the Church in Rwanda as admin costs as admin costs are voluntarily covered by the Rwanda Direct Committee.

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