



Monthly Missions Focus: Rwanda



Location: Central Africa, east of Democratic Republic of the Congo
Area: 26,338 sq. km. – slightly smaller than Maryland

Population: 8,648,248 – Rwanda is the most densely populated country in Africa. Capital: Kigali 237,782.

Ethnic groups: Hutu 84%, Tutsi 15%, Twa (Pygmoid) 1%

Languages: Kinyarwanda (official) universal Bantu vernacular, French (official), English (official), Kiswahili (Swahili) used in commercial centers

Economy: Fertile agricultural land with few natural resources.

Income/person \$210 (0.7% of USA).

Religions: Roman Catholic 56.5%, Protestant 26%, Adventist 11.1%, Muslim 4.6%, indigenous beliefs 0.1%, none 1.7% (2001)

Challenges for Prayer

- 🌍 The genocide that caused the death of a million men, women and children stunned the world and traumatized the nation.
- 🌍 The East African Revival began in Rwanda in the 1930s. The blessing was lost and the heritage of tribalism which was crucified with Jesus on the cross, forgotten. Pray that the Church may be cross-centred, Bible-based, supra-tribal and become truly prophetic and evangelistic.
- 🌍 Pray for all involved in reconciliation, counseling, discipling and training ministries. Bible schools and seminaries are seeking to regain lost ground in providing leaders for the future.
- 🌍 Young people were deeply affected by the events of the 1990s. Pray for: ministry to university students which has had to begin from scratch and the orphans from genocide, war and AIDS.
- 🌍 Ministry challenges that need intercession:
 - Muslims have increased significantly in the 1990s through an aggressive mosque-building programme. Many have been attracted by Muslim claims of the tolerance and peace found in Islam in contrast to the genocidal 'Christians'.
 - Detainees and prisoners languishing in over-crowded prisons face a long and hopeless future.

(Statistics are compiled from *Operation World* and *CIA – The World Factbook 2006*)

Short-term project team catches water for ministry in Rwanda.

Food For The Hungry has a team in Rwanda that is wrapping up a special sanitation project for a Kagarama primary school. The team of 12 volunteers landed July 5, and will be heading home soon after finishing their work on the new project. The system, which takes 14 days to construct, gathers rain water to increase access to clean drinking water for the children in Kagarama.

Through their actions, team members are literally bringing a cup of cold water in Christ's Name to those in need. It's another step in Food For The Hungry's fight to help the oppressed in the area--their way of bringing light into very dark circumstances. (*Mission News Network – July 14, 2005*)

Reaching a new generation with the message of hope

In 1994, it took only 100 days to see over one-tenth of the population wiped out during Rwanda's 'ethnic cleansing.' Today, the country continues to grapple with its painful past and resolve the tensions between the Tutsis and the Hutus. Aside from dealing with the criminal issue of the genocide, there are many who are looking at new beginnings.

Book of Hope's Rob Hoskins says they're planning a massive distribution this year, aimed at the ultimate reconciliation.

The Book of Hope is a harmony of the Gospels for kids. It's not a coincidence that the major initiative is called '100 Days of Hope.' The project launch is timed to coincide with the 100 days of genocide. "What an opportunity for us to come back 12 years later, and, instead of memorializing a million people dying, what we're doing is, we're saying that, 'There's hope for a new generation.'" Hoskins says the government approached them and asked if they would bring their resources. It's a step in the right direction--a new day, and '...that hope is found in the Gospels. So, over a 100-day period of time, over two million Rwandan children and youth in Rwanda will receive the Word of God."

However, Hoskins asks prayer for the project because: "There is opposition from the Muslim minority in the nation. They've busted into churches, Muslim police--they're trying to confiscate our sound equipment and different things that we need for the distribution, so there's still a great deal of spiritual warfare that will be taking place. The enemy does not want to see us accomplish this great kingdom plan." (*Mission News Network – January 13, 2006*)