

Mission Trip 2018

2nd to 11th Aug

This is dedicated to my Dad

Charities/Ministries to support:

Solace Ministries UK: Solace representative in UK. Child Sponsorship program in Rwanda, www.solaceministriesuk.com

Friends Trust International: Child Sponsorship program and projects in Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria

Introduction

Introduction: This trip was one of the toughest trips I have had since I started mission trips 17 years ago. I will explain this in later part of this newsletter. I went with Winnie Kuta Dankwa who had already been before. This was her second time in Rwanda and this time she felt more at home. This newsletter gives a day-2-day summary of what happened on daily basis.

Day -2-Day Account

Day 1: I was invited to teach at Restoration Church Kimisagara branch. I was picked up by one of the Pastors and we went to the branch where there were about 12 staff waiting to be taught. The session ended up by covering program management, in other words how the church can effectively manage projects that are related together. They were very pleased and the whole team did say they got a lot from it following feedback. I went back to the hotel to relax and afterwards I went to visit a longtime friend. It was a wonderful time of catching up however when I got back to the guest house I realized my UK phone was either missing or stolen and this meant I lost all my contact and this was very upsetting as I needed contact considering my dad was in UK and not feeling well

Day 2: This was a public holiday in Rwanda, it was known as the "harvest day" similar to "thanks giving day". The day was meant to be a relaxing start however with the loss/theft of my phone, I had to go to the police to report it and tried tracing my footsteps again/again until I decided to get another smart phone with a Rwandan number and try as much as possible to connect close people on "WhatsApp". In the evening I went to teach some youth in another branch of Restoration. Within this session I prepared a topic on what it means to be an entrepreneur. It was more of a lecture as the follow up on the second day was planned to be a workshop. Following the session, we went to the airport to pick up Winnie who just arrived from UK.

Day 3: Today was a full day, we started out with a session at another branch of Restoration Church the ex Ramera Branch. The group we met was the outreach group. They meet every Saturday to pray and plan for their outreach. The group invited me to preach or rather encourage them and I had a good word on "perseverance" taken from Revelation 3 about the church of Philadelphia. Apparently, it was a word in season and the team were really blessed as I was. Hallelujah. The next schedule was to complete the program with the youth at the restoration church. This became a workshop even though it was not exactly planned. The topic was to consider the parallel between business and the church and to find out what each person's characteristics is within that parallel so they could do businesses that match their personality type. This session ended up being a really wonderful day with ministration for the group that attended. Praise God.

Day 4: The session today was divided into two, in the morning we went to Trumpet Church where Winnie preached. It was great, she preached on asking God for more revelation of him taken from EPH 1:19, the church was definitely taken by her preaching it was indeed a blessing. Afterwards we went home to rest a bit and for the afternoon session we took a long drive to a district outside Kigali about 1hr drive to visit Nicolas projects. I knew Nicolas and his wife from when I first visited Kigali but we lost contact and finally I was able to catch up and see what they were doing. This project was a community that had

being built, it consisted 30houses, a farm and some Cow for each household, the community was set up such that they needed nothing. The homes were 3-bed houses and finished with beds and chairs the basic stuff and solar panel for electricity. This poor community consisted mostly of women. We met with this group of women about 10, come to the session. Jumoke preached about the role of women in the bible and how our focus was to have tenacity and keep going and that we were the first evangelist and as Jesus is coming back soon we should not stop but focus on preaching HIS word. I was blessed by this word myself. We had a chance to pray for one of the women who had a bad leg following a moto bike accident. This was such an inspiring meeting to see the amount of work this couple are doing. Really inspiring.

Day 5: We all woke up excited because the next two days was to spend it with Good News at the youth camp. We joined the group from America called the URI team. They were the same team we joined last year. They are so organized, they all had their T-Shirts, food and drinks for the children, a bus load of equipment and refreshment with volunteers. We went off to the Joy center where about 250 children of all ages were waiting for us. They were so expectant and they really welcomed us. The children were then divided into groups and myself and Winnie had the older children between 14-24yrs. The word I had for this group was to talk to them about generational curses and we went through a simple exercise of breaking the curse. This group of youth were so interested and they could not stop asking questions. We then had some snacks with them which consisted of drinks, donuts and banana. The children were so happy, this was very inspiring to see what GNI is doing with the kids of this area that are really so poor. We also had a chance to see the computer project which consisted about 24 laptops and the sewing machine projects which Cap is supporting. The computer project can start but the sewing project needs a teacher which they are currently looking to hire one for 1yr.

Day 6: We woke up early to pay a visit to project that Winnie's church is supporting, this was the Solar Panel project in the district 45mins outside Kigali. The group consisted of about 30-40 women and some men. They were mostly older women. They were so loving, we met them in the bush whilst they were out farming. We sat in the shade under the trees and had time of fellowship. These men and women were so appreciative that someone was thinking of them from afar and wanted to give them opportunity to have electricity which they never thought it will ever happen to them. Praise God. We then spent the rest of the afternoon at the Guest house fellowshiping with the other guest, entertaining some visitors.

Day 7: Phase 2 of trip. The CRUSADE: Apostle Palmer did not turn up so things were a little shaken, we had to re-plan what we will be doing at the crusade basically it meant that myself and Winnie and Pastor Arphrodis who organized the crusade will be sharing the seminar and crusade sessions amongst ourselves. One of our friends who now has a pick-up car offered us the car and also offered to travel with us and interpret for us. We prepared for phase 2 of the trip, loaded the truck and had some diner at Arphrodis's home and set out for NGOMA district. The journey took about 2.5hrs but it was interesting. When we got to Ngoma we moved to the guest house which was not exactly what we expected, let just say it was a village guest house.

Day 8: Today was the start of the Crusade so we left early, drove another hour to another district. The road was really bad it was under construction and that meant that the journey took longer than planned. Our first point of call was the playground where the crusade was going to take place. We prayed round the crusade then went to the nearest church to meet the leaders and introduce our selves. The leaders were well coming we explained about the Apostle not arriving and that we are able to do the job at hand because it's not about any human being it's about the work God wants to do. The seminar stated with me, I taught the leaders on different style of leadership skill and when to apply them. Pastor Arphrodis took the second session and talked about Prayer. The seminar was attended by about 20 leaders. We later went back to the guest house to freshen up for the crusade. The Crusade opened up and Pastor Arphrodis took the first session. There were about 500 people on day 1. About 10 salvations. It was such a charged environment. We finished late though, there was so much musical entertainment before the actual preaching started hence we had to change our strategy and decided that day2 will be less entertainment and focus will be on the preaching

Day 9: These was the second day of the crusade and we left early so as not to get cut up in the traffic. We got to the seminar but there was hardly anyone there, when I asked what was going on, I was told that there was another crusade about 5-10 km away and the crusade was being supported by church leaders in the same area. This meant that the crowd we should have had will probably be diverted to the second crusade. The second crusade had more planning and spent more money. This was a bit upsetting at first however we decided that we should focus on our mission and not worry about the others. Even if we had 5-people we will teach as long as we serving the same God. With this in mind we started with 5 people and by the end of the day we had 26 more that day-1. I also think the increase in number had to do with the fact that we told the 1st five Pastors that we will be blessing those who

stayed with us as we had a gift for all of them. The seminar went really well, Winnie started by teaching on church management and stewardship. I then taught on Conflict management. Both sessions were very well received. They gave us lunch which we had eat, because that was showing hospitality. We had time to minister to the leaders and after wards we gave them a gift of 2000RWF which we put in an envelope just to say we appreciate their commitment. We also gave the pastors shirts which I brought from UK. For the women I had some cloths which we displayed and asked them to choose what they wanted. Even to the suitcase we left and one of them was extremely happy to receive just the suitcase. After the Seminar we did not drive back we just changed at the church and went to the Crusade. The group did reduce the entertainment and Winnie was able to preach and pray for everyone. The preaching was wonderful about 10 more people gave their lives and there were testimonies from those who were healed. It was really a blessing, we give God the Glory Hallelujah

Day 10: This was the final day of the Crusade and also the final day to get back to UK. We decided to go the Gihini which was the place of revival in 1935 and again in 2006. It was a place of solemn prayer and we spent about an hour there. We then went to see an amazing waterfall near the Tanzania border which was an hour away from the place of the Crusade. It really was very impressive. Then we went to the crusade and this time Jumoke was preaching. I preached and 1-person a young mother got saved, very rewarding. We also gave the attendees some snacks and drinks, OMG!! they were so pleased. We left them at the place having a great time. Whilst preparing for the crusade I heard from the Holy Spirit to feed the people just the way Jesus did in the scriptures on day3. I really wondered how that was going to be possible as I did not have the money to feed 1000 people, but I was determined to obey and believe God and as God will have it, my Church (Action Chapel UK) unknowingly blessed me with £1500 for the mission which allowed me to fulfil this mandate. God is awesome. The pastors were really happy and asked us to come again!!!. They gave us present from their farm which was bananas and some paintings, we were really pleased. We rushed into the car to head back to Kigali as we had to travel that evening.

Early hours of day 11 we got on the Kenyan airways plane and headed back to UK.

Dedication: First and foremost, I want to dedicate this Newsletter to My Dad his name is Olumide Ogunbekun, on the night I arrived to do the crusade in the village hotel, Pastor Arphrodis and Jean Paul came into my room and told me they had something to tell me, I thought it was

about the crusade as one person had not turned up only to hear this sad news, my dad had died. You can imagine my shock and void. We knew the sickness he had was unto death and he said he was ready but it was still too sudden I only spoke to him 3-days before, we were expecting him to still go on for a while yet but it was not meant to be. I had to make a choice to come back to Kigali and then UK or continue -with 3days to go. This was a tough decision and I asked what will God have me do and I remembered Jesus gave all even when it hurts. I decided to stay, also, Dad loved my mission trips he always loves to read my newsletter (not this one though). To a wonderful Dad who always supported me (us) in most of our ventures, I miss him, we all do but he is in a better place. Sleep well enjoy your wife now, till we meet again. Shalom

Acknowledgement

My special thanks to Action Chapel International for sponsoring me for this trip and to Sis Yinka for her love offering. To Agape Fellowship and to many who supported me in prayers; to my friends that donated clothes (Adoha, Pracxie, Kemi) really it blessed the people. Without you all, I would not have completed this trip. Thank you to Winnie for coming with me, it made the work easier and the strength to continue especially after the news about Dad.

Accounts:

Accommodation and food: £310

Transportation: £190

Flight: £900

Crusade: £1100; Feeding at crusade: £600

Until next time thank you and God bless.

Keep Prayers coming, my email is jogunbekun@yahoo.com

Please if you are interested in coming on an adventure and seeing God use you in ways you can never imagine contact me and let's go!!

Photo Gallery

Below is a photo with the American team we worked with to minister to the children at Joy centre



Below visit to community sponsored by Winnie's church



We gave a 2-day seminar to the Pastors and afterwards presented them with gift of shirts

Below Jumoke preaching at crusade



Below Minister Winnie ministering at Crusade.



The crusade crowds

