

Mission Trip 2013

31st Aug to 07th Sept

Awesome Trip.

Thank you for all your support

Introduction

I start my year thinking, am not going to “travel this year to Rwanda”, has Rwanda become a pilgrim for me? As the months go by, I realize its not a pilgrim, its not about me, I do have work to do and help in changing lives and destiny in my little way. Mission 2013 to Rwanda was a struggle mainly because I had nothing planned, practically and spiritually. I had no program, plus I had no one going with me. My decision to go came as a result of a new role I took on with ICCC (International Christian Chambers of Commerce (<http://www.iccc.net/>)), I was asked to be the coordinator of the ICCC program with Regents University on training Entrepreneurs (<http://bdcrwanda.com/>). This role means recruiting, coordinating the logistics with Rwandese coordinator, as of when visiting Executives visit and mentor/coach students (for about a week at least). I have been a visiting Executive myself for the past 4yrs so I had an idea what was involved. So with my new hat I thought this is a good reason to go even though it seemed the only one the time. However God had other ideas and I tell you ... this trip left me speechless on the way back. I invite you to please read on to find out my experiences this year:



On the left is a success story. Agnes now a good friend lost her husband in the genocide left with bringing up 3 children on her own and it was daunting for her. As any mother she wanted the best. Now one of her daughter graduated from University in Civil Engineering and she was chosen the spokes person for the year. Agnes was so proud what God has done in her life. Praise God. Amen



Picture of me and Ben on the left. Ben of Good News has come a long way, now he has his own guest house, ministry and a blessing to many. Please read events on Good News on next page.



The Journey

First a Big thank you

I have to start by saying a huge thank you to my readers who take the time to read my newsletters every year and some even ask me for it when I have missed out a couple of years due to laziness.

Really thank you for your support and prayers and encouragement and responding to the needs I highlight in my report. It amazes me.

Thank you so much from me and from the lives that you have changed, Like I said its not about me, I am the interface, you all are the ones that give me the reason to go. May God continue to bless you and remember your labor of love in Jesus name. KISS KISS.

The journey this year was uneventful which is a good thing, I guess, I flew Brussels airline with change over in Brussels and arrived same day in Kigali. I was impressed with Brussels Airline (Hmm).

Kigali Airport is being renovated, I tell you guys if you wink you will see new building site being put up. The pace of change is incredible. Constant improvement, the airport is being extended, electronic passport control being installed!!! President Kigami is not joking when he means the Switzerland of Africa. Also the amount of Foreign nationals passing through this small country is huge. I was reminded by Ben, from Good News that this was a fulfilment of a prophecy we gave in 2001 when we came as a group that a land forgotten shall be remembered by the World.

I spent 7-days in Kigali, stayed in a Hotel called “Hotel Iris”, my plan was to stay at Good News because of the hospitality but it was full....:(

I managed to cover the following agenda whilst I was there:

- 1) Time with Good News Ministry to visit Widows in Muhanga
- 2) Time with Pastor Arphrodis of Trumpet church
- 3) Mentoring at BDC
- 4) Catching up with friends and CAP project meetings.

Charities/Ministries to support:

- **Solace Ministries UK:** Solace representative in UK. Child Sponsorship program in Rwanda, www.solaceministriesuk.com
- **Good News Ministries:** goodnewsguesthouse@yahoo.fr
- **Friends Trust International:** Child Sponsorship program and projects in Kenya and Nigeria and Ghana (www.friendstrust.org.uk)
- **Children's Ark Project:** Building Montessori school in Kigali <http://www.childrensarkproject.org>
- Trumpet Church Kigali



ABOVE ON THE TOP IS ME WHEN I WAS PRESENTED A GIFT FROM THE GROUP IN MUHANGA. BELOW THAT IS THE GROUP AT OUR MEETING. READ THE GOOD NEWS EVENT FOR THE STORY.

Time in with Good News Ministries

As some of you read from my news-letter last year, I also support Good news Ministry. Good news is doing really well, it has more projects this year, impacting more lives but all these comes at a cost. So let me identify their needs:

They need salary for at least one of their staff Janet, she has just joined Good News to assist with the growing work. Janet comes with lots of experience. She took a leap of faith by leaving her job with Hope International another big charity to join

Good News. She left her full comfortable salary because of the conviction she has to help widows being a widow herself, she wanted the holistic approach to recovery rather than just aid. She took half a salary cut and the honest truth is the half salary is not even guaranteed. So if anyone feels the compassion and would like to contribute to paying her salary at least till things improve please let me know. Her



Some of the group from Scotland at Ben's house where we had dinner. The group before distributing their goats.

Time at Trumpet Church

Arphrodias whom I knew from Solace Ministries stepped out 3yrs ago to start a church. He resigned early this year from his post at Solace Charity to become a full time Pastor. His church is growing up in a basic state. He is catering for the "poor" I mean poor. He has about 20 people in his congregation no equipment yet but they now have microphones and chairs so things are moving. He is a man of tremendous faith which really encourages me, you can't but agree with him even if you think are you sure? Things happen for him be it slowly. As an example he could not pay his rent and I felt so sorry for him, he said he had 30,000RWF and the rent was 100,000RWF (£100)/month anyway I gave him the remaining 70,000RWF for the month and I counted it and gave it to him in an envelope. I know how much I gave him as I know how much I had left. Anyway he insisted I prayed over the envelope before I gave him and I did after a while. To my amazement he texted me and said he counted the money when he got home and it was double 150, 000 RWF!!! No joke.

The church has 5 young children between 12 and 16yrs in his choir from poor families and they need to pay their school fees which works out to be £40 a year per student for government sch and the parents can't pay. If you can please pay let me know. Another need is a the lack of church instrument especially a key-board if anyone knows of one going or can contribute to one cost is about £300 please let me know.

Sunday afternoon was spent at Trumpet church shared 20mins talk with them unprepared but very encouraging.

salary is equivalent of £400 /month.

- 1) Good news have taken on a project to tackle reconciliation. This is a challenging project. It involves the tribes that committed and those that survived the genocide, plus the displaced members of the society who are at a disadvantage but not due to genocide. The project involve the groups working together on a pineapple farm project and at the same time there will be workshops aimed at forgiveness and reconciliation so they can somehow live together and their children grow together in unity. I am so excited about this project unfortunately did not get a chance to visit the group this time round.
- 2) Good news also support widows on different projects and on this trip there was a group from Scotland that came to visit the widows, they bought some goats for them and on this visit I gate crashed the ceremony to distribute the goat to the community who by the way where so expectant and excited when we arrived (please see pictures attached.) Had the opportunity to share a word with the team and they where really touched, thank God.
- 3) Finally another highlight was my trip to Muhanga communities. This was the same group we went to visit last year and when they heard we were coming back they, according to their words were touched that we remembered them, thought of us coming back was an honor. With this they presented us with gift, this reduced me to tears. The meeting on my last day with the group was an awesome experience. We shared a word of encouragement and it was as if the Love of God filled the room, we all were touched. Emotional healing too place that was so needed by the women. Really Praise God.

BDC Sessions

They had about 29 students this year that registered for the BDC program which is encouraging. I had about 10 book an appointment to see me over 3-days. I was really encouraged by their drive to start businesses of their own. Some had over optimistic ideas which I had to walkthrough with them and make it more a realistic idea.

One thing I realized is that some of them don't have the role of a mentor or coach in school or in their lives they where the orphans that have now grown and need to move into life as it where. Others, much grown felt stuck in a job and want to move out and start businesses. I also realized myself that I came up with creative ideas which I never knew I had, I guess this is what is meant by the demand drives the supply or better still the Lord will give me what to say at the right time. The student came with some questions that the solution I gave made me think I needed it for my life!!!

I gave a presentation in one of the class sessions about "Starting up business as a project"

The BDC program is not just for Kigali another session is starting in Uganda Kampala so if you can, its an opportunity to see two countries, the flight is the same as there is a stopover by most airline. Let me know, all experiences are welcomed



The delegates at BDC sessions making a presentation about advertising.

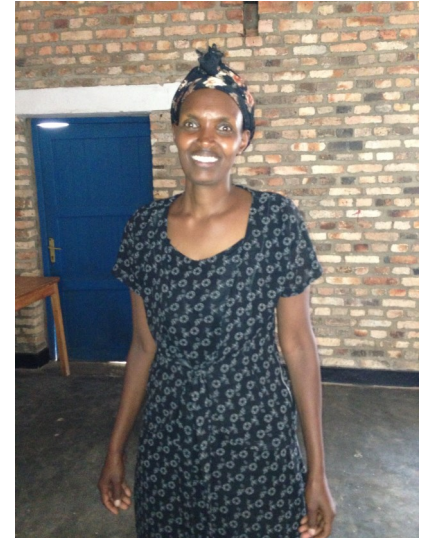


The picture on the right are both Good News staff, they went with us to Muhanga. At that meeting they (everyone) ended up crying. I haven't seen young guys like this cry from their heart to release pain locked inside and then the healing came as we felt God's love come over us. Weeping may endure for the night BUT then JOY comes in the morning, Hallelujah. That event touched me so much, what a day. Thank you Lord.

This is moi with Ben's children all so grown now on the day I was leaving. They all came to say see me off....



On the right the group with their goats, about 19 came including teachers. They were between the ages of 16-19, 6th form school. They all said the same thing, it's been a life changing experience and they definitely will love to come back. The hospitality is great, it wasn't what they expected and were grateful for the experience. I felt like bringing all the youth I know here. They were well behaved as well for teens.



One of the ladies from Muhanga, she could not hold her excitement to meet us again. That we came back was such a delight to her. She told me she had been praying for all of us. The session from last year really changed her life. Boy can she HUG!!

Children's Ark Project (CAP)

I hadly mentioned CAP in past newsletters but this time the work is shaping up and I need to mention what's happening. CAP is planning to develop a Montessori school in Kigali. This project has been going on for a while, the charity was set up in 2004 in UK and I am one of the Trustees. We have the land, got the architects and ready to build. There are 5 of us in the charity in UK and it's been tough going but we are almost there now. We need money \$100,000 to build the first phase, we have raised \$40,000 through Art sales, concert, sponsorship, charity walks etc. So if you want to be part of this please visit the following web address: <http://www.childrensarkproject.org/home.html>

We decided that the best way forward was to make the Rwandese own this charity so on this trip I met with two members who have been helping and have been liaising with over the years to discuss prospect of way forward as agreed in UK. To our joy they are so excited about the prospect of forming CAP in Rwanda and running it for themselves and CAP in UK will support them. Wow another breakthrough, thank you Lord.

Until next time thank you so much and God bless. Keep Prayers coming and also contribution if you so desire according to the needs mentioned. My email is jogunbekun@yahoo.com.

Thanks to Kemi and Winnie, your gifts of cloths really went a long way, they were all so grateful . God Bless you. Also to my dearest uncle for the medical insurance, it's going a long way. To Bose for Fred's sponsorship.