

# Mission Trip 2017

## 28th Jul to 05th Aug

*Trip with a difference.*

*Thank you for all your support*  
Introduction

This year's mission trip was different; I know I say this every year but that's because it was different. This year I was hoping to take a few people to make it a big event however I ended up with my Sister (Kemi) and my Nephew (her son- Temi). I believe I had just the right number of people. It was fun, fun!!! I was excited about this trip that's because I had spent 3weeks prior in the US just to spend time developing myself in spiritual activities with God and I could see the huge difference. I hope you enjoy reading our encounter and I do hope it encourages you as much as it did us and you can live the experience with us.

### Day 1— Friday 28th

We landed at Kigali airport, I was so exhausted but there is something about Kigali, flying into the country this time with Rwandan air direct from London to Kigali was great. The journey was a bit bumpy but it was okay. Approaching Kigali and you see the city from the plane it brings this sense of joy!. Kigali has changed so much every year it looks bigger and modern, I could no longer recognize the airport, the runway has expanded so much, same as the airport.

Meeting us with their usual warm smile was Ben our host and owner of Good News Guest House and Pastor Arphrodis one of my long time friend from Restoration church. We were driven to the guest house where all we wanted to do was eat and sleep.. We sorted out the logistics for the trip, I rented a car to drive, changed some money and worked out a draft itinerary for our visit.

**Day 3:** I could not believe I had to attend church again today and also preach!! I felt so sorry for Kemi and Temi, it was as if they did not sign up for this grilling experience.

Anyway, we had a 10.30am start at Trumpet church, this time I was to preach at the Sunday service. My topic was "How do you view Father God?". I am not sure how we survived the service but we did and also managed to worship and dance. You can't help but partake in the worship. They really worship God with everything irrespective of what they have or have not. I would say the less they have the more they worship. I see this in the less modern church compared to the established churches which is very westernize and everyone stands in rows and lift up their hands. The less modern ones really give their all... Anyway, the service was not packed, not surprising as we had an eventful Saturday night. At the end of the service Pastor Arphrodis decided to honor me by giving me a gift and complementing me for my sacrifice to Rwanda and Trumpet church over the years. I thought that was sweet but I was embarrassed to be frank.



Children at youth camp

**Day 2—**Myself and Kemi (my sister) had to get up early to teach leaders at Trumpet church. Temi wanted to have a lie in as his 14yr old body needed to rest... so we decided he will meet us later in the day at the start of the youth revival meeting taking place in the same location. So, by 7.30am we were out. The leadership meeting finally started at 10.30am, a couple of hours later than intended. I spoke to the team about the different types of leadership skills, Autocratic, Democratic and Servant leadership. As there were only about 7 of the leaders present, it turned into a workshop with lots of contribution and discussion from the group. It was a good session with the feeling shared by all. Afterwards, we were treated to lunch which was surprisingly nice of the team.

At about 2pm the youth service started, there were two main choirs that delighted us with Rwandese worship music and even though we didn't understand the words, the worship took you to a different level. Kemi absolutely fell in love with the sound. It puts you in a worship mood without a doubt. The dancing was also captivating, Temi my nephew had never seen anything like this and I think he was pretty much in awe of the energy and joy they put into worship.

To finish off the event I preached on "spirit of evangelism", it was very moving, we all got so cut up that we finished later than expected. There was such a presence of God in the atmosphere that evening. even Temi joined in!!! We finished at about 7.30pm, even though we were supposed to leave at 6pm for another engagement. We eventually got to the wedding reception for Ben's niece at 8pm. By the time I hit the bed that evening I was so tired I can't remember if I knew the country I was in??

**Day 4:** Today we decided to join Ben of Good News and some Americans from another charity that were also staying at the guest house in an event they organized for the youth. There was a two-day youth camp and we took the opportunity to offer whatever help we could. Temi joined the youth 4-8yr old helping them with games and as a Frisbee catcher and also loving on the kids. There were 250 kids present of all age groups. They were so adorable. All not having much, you can tell from their cloths, they were also from the area but they were just so happy to receive guests. The Americans from Chicago, came prepared with games so it was so much fun and the kids just loved Katie, their leader who has been coming for the past 5 years.

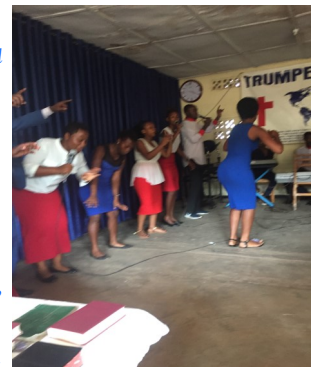
Kemi, myself, Ben and Natasha Ben's cousin spoke with the youth between 16 and 25yrs and advise them to make something good of their lives. We also wanted to know the issues they were dealing with. Almost all of them are of the age that grew up with parents who were directly involved in the genocide, so they are being brought up by parents that have wounds and this, they find is affecting them. They wanted counselling like their parents because they don't really know why the genocide happened but they are getting the secondary effect of it and it is affecting them psychologically. It was an area we never considered so an eye opener. A particular youth said he was asked to leave at age 14yrs because his guardian woke up one day and decided he reminded them of the genocide and could not take it. So, he

was left homeless and lost with no explanation. He was found and looked after by the charity I believe and now done he is well but still suffered the trauma.

To end the day the kids were served snacks and drinks which the guest host has to pay for and in this, case the Americans.

### Charities/Ministries to support:

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



Trumpet church choir, worshipping the Lord

## They still need your help

- *Good news Ministry. Good news is doing really well, 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, 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 salary is equivalent of £400 /month.*
- *Trumpet Church: They need help to sponsor 2 more children, one primary school is £40/term*
- *Restoration Church need to support young mothers as this seems to be a growing problem in their community.*



From Left, Katie and her team from America, middle the kids at the youth camp and right Ben introducing me at the youth camp. The 16-25yrs youth

**Day 5:** We left Temi with Ben and Katie's team because they had another day with the youths and he really enjoyed the first day. I was so glad, because he seemed to have matured all of a sudden. This I noticed after this event. Anyway, myself and Kemi went to minister at another church we're also associated with called Restoration church. The first half of the day was with the Kimisagara branch where Kemi spoke on marriage and God's design for marriage. She spoke to women between 25 and 40yrs. Again, it was like a workshop. We had a good turnout, about 30 women. Some really interesting discussion came out on being in an abusive marriage. I think we were all so shocked about some of the issues the women are having to deal with. To their relief it was the first time they had to share their ordeal and they were really glad the forum was in place. By the end they were so much better and happier that they wanted to show us by celebrating and dancing. The pastors were pleased because we helped open up the topic and they promised to counsel and ladies and take it further. Oh dear Lord, thank you for your goodness. We provided lunch and drinks for them as this was required or at least encourages them when you call a meeting like this.

Second half of the day was spent in another Restoration branch and this time I spoke on "being made in God's Image and being creative" This was a workshop for some women I met last year. Last year I made them set up a puzzle board and this year to illustrate being creative I made them paint what came to their mind once they prayed. I took some oil paint and paper, and brushes. It was fun, they loved it and we loved it. At the end, each group presented their piece and we prayed over it. Some came up with business ideas of shop, school, some came up with their dream home of happy family. It was such a wonderful evening for everyone. I was just as surprised as they were to see what God can do when you let go. I learnt this from my trip to US at Global Awakening and I have to say it really made a huge difference. Pictures does speak louder than words. Thank you Jesus.



The women at Restoration church after the married women's seminar

**Day 6:** Today we did not do much, I think we were so tired we distributed the clothes we

brought and finished giving it to those we wanted and there was such joy on their faces, it's always an encouragement. We decided to go and buy some souvenir and visited old friends, which I do a lot as everyone wants you to spend time and have dinner in their homes so I have to say we were not short of where to eat in Kigali.

**Day 7:** Today we decided to go along with a large group to Akagera park. After all, we deserved a treat. Akagera Park is a safari games park on the border between Rwanda and Tanzania. It was the first time for me in all my 16yrs I have been coming here. It was about 2hrs from Kigali but was well worth the trip. It took about 5 hours to travel from the south of the park to the north where we exited. We stop at the Rhino park to have lunch for about half an hour. We saw some cool animals such as Hippos, Rhinos, Elephants, Impalas, Monkeys, Baboons, Buffalos, Warthogs and my favorites, Giraffes, Zebras and Crocodile. They were lovely when viewing from inside a car.

**Day 8:** It was time to go back home. Our flight was scheduled for 10am, we were up early all packed and carting suitcases to the front door. We were sort of dragging our feet on realization that the holiday was over and back to reality so to say. Chef, bless him, packed us breakfast and Ben took us to the airport. So 2017 mission to Rwanda was over.

We thank God for all our sponsors for their financial and prayer support. It was indeed a blessing for us, for the people of Rwanda and most especially to God. Really beyond our imagination.



Giraph at the Akegara park, Temi playing at youth camp, the women at seminar, myself and kemi saying thank you

