

# Gary & Barb Bennett

WORLDVENTURE RWANDA



## NO GUARANTEE OF TOMORROW

It was Sunday, January 22, when we received an email that a dear friend, Lana, from our home church in Windom, MN had been killed in a car accident. Our hearts were aching. We longed to be able to grieve with our church and provide comfort for her grieving family. It is probably one of the most difficult things about being missionaries, processing loss in isolation. It was a stark reminder that none of us are guaranteed tomorrow. Keeping short accounts with others and remembering to say “I love you” to those around us needs to become a life habit.

A few days later we were just finishing up with our Rwandan small group Bible Study when Barb got an urgent email from her mom that her identical twin sister had experienced severe chest pain, and was being taken by ambulance to a hospital in Spokane, WA. After arriving at the hospital they discovered that Brenda’s aorta had ruptured and she was immediately taken to surgery. By the time they had repaired her aorta, irreversible damage to her left leg, lower intestines and kidney had occurred. She remained on life support for three days but when the doctors were unable to restore blood flow, it was decided to cease any further life saving measures. We decided Barb needed to return

Remembering Barb's twin Brenda



60th Birthday 2022



Bren Visited Rwanda 2012

home, and amazingly, within 14 hours, she was on a flight back to Spokane to be with her family.

Barb's brother Jerry passed away 5 years ago from Leukemia. Losing a second sibling at such a young age has been hard. You can pray for wisdom for Barb as she processes this deep loss, helps her parents settle her sister's affairs and makes sure they are confident and comfortable living on their own. If you'd like to read more, Brenda's obituary can be read at [legacy.com](https://www.legacy.com) (search for Brenda Gish, Spokane, WA). Brenda will be deeply missed, but we have the confidence that we will see her again in eternity and know that she is at peace in the presence of Jesus her Savior.



[Link to Brenda's Obituary](#)

### FARMING

This last week Gary and WorldVenture colleague Lance along with 5 Rwandans from New Creation Ministries attended a "Farming God's Way" training here in Rwanda. Farming God's way is basically a minimum tillage way of farming which emphasizes keeping the soil covered with mulch. The great thing about this training was that they demonstrated and explained each step of the process thoroughly. Part of the training was in the classroom but the rest of the time was spent in the field with the participants using hoes to dig planting stations.



### EXCITING CHURCH EVENTS

This week 41 people were baptized at our church here in Kigali. The majority of them were young people and young adults. In addition to baptisms, over 100 kids, aged 12 -18, are enrolled in a 4-year-long intensive discipleship program which culminates in a

One of the big challenges for this program is finding enough teachers to disciple these kids. Pray that the Lord would raise up more children's workers. The children's director, Jean, attended our CLIR program and she continues to do a great job of leading the children's ministry.

missions outreach.



## KUMBYA

Over all the years that we have been in Rwanda, one of our most significant summer events has been the annual Kumbya Conference. Ever since the genocide, the title for the Kumbya property has been unclear. Countless hours have been invested trying to come up with a solution to resolve the situation. Two weeks ago, a significant event in Kumbya's history happened ... we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU acknowledged that the facilities belong to the Kumbya Centre Association and the land belongs to the local church. This gives us the opportunity to develop Kumbya into a full-fledged retreat center to be enjoyed by the Rwandan Christian community, both national and international. We are excited to see how God is going to use Kumbya in the years ahead to bless and encourage even more people.



**Would you like to give to one of these projects?**

**Choose to make a difference by clicking on one of the links below**  
(you will need to insert the project number!)

**Student Scholarships (6402-906)**

**Agriculture Project (6402-909)**

**Bennett's Personal Support (4000-038)**

**Or mail a check to:**

**WorldVenture**

20 Invernes Pl E  
Englewood, CO 80112

### PRAISE:

- Barb was able to fly home to be with family and the women from our Rwandan congregation voluntarily raised funds to help fly Megan and Melissa out to be with her.
- Our Co-worker, Laura Pearce, has returned safely back to Rwanda after a very fruitful partner development trip to the US.

- God has provided great educational opportunities for the agricultural workers at NCM

**PRAYER:**

- Pray for Barb as she continues to process the loss of her twin sister. She plans to return to Rwanda on February 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Pray for peace between Congo and Rwanda, and the many lives affected by the ongoing conflict.
- Pray for Gary and Lance as they attend another agricultural conference in Tanzania at the end of February.
- Pray for a meeting on March 3rd regarding the future of our bachelors level program, CLIR.

As ALWAYS...thank you for your faithful partnership  
as we seek to serve Christ in Rwanda.

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