

Fw: RWANDA BENNETTS - August 2023 eUpdate

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BENNETT August 2023 eUpdate

WorldVenture Rwanda



KIDS WITH A MISSION

We have often written about the children's ministry at the church we attend here in Rwanda. Barb has invested her time with these kids for a number of years. We have witnessed many lives being touched through this transformative program and continue to hear stories as a result of those who have served in it over the years.

For the past 6 years they have provided a discipleship program for kids who choose to study, patterned after Saddleback Church's kids discipleship program (saddlebackkids.com). This four year program culminates in a two week mission trip where the kids are taught to share their faith, either in rural areas of Rwanda or in neighboring countries. Recently, 28 kids graduated from the program and were able to go on a mission trip to the neighboring country of Tanzania. The kids spent two long days on a bus before they reached the YWAM base in Arusha, Tanzania. In Arusha, they focused on a particular people group and went door to door presenting the Gospel. The kids were amazed at some of the things they observed among this people group. The Lord really used the kids and a number of

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We are so thankful for this opportunity and what God did through these kids, and in the lives of the kids as the leadership cultivates in them a heart for the gospel and missions. The director of the kids program, Jean, went through our university program CLIR, at NCM, and is an outstanding young woman who is totally sold out to serving Christ. Emmanuel, who is a part of our Wednesday evening cell group, is the lay pastor who helps with the kids ministry. It is so exciting to see two young adults who have so much zeal

people they visited accepted Jesus as their personal savior.

and love for serving the Lord.

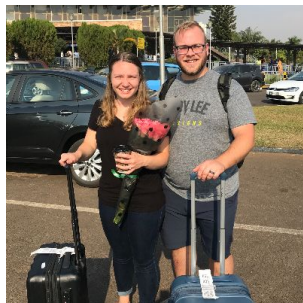
SUMMER VISITORS

A recent event at our local market reminded us why the teaching we provide at New Creation Ministries is so important. In our teachings we really emphasize the supremacy of scripture and how we need to evaluate everything through the lens of what the Bible says. My brother Craig and his wife Kathy have been visiting us. As we were talking to people at the market, we mentioned that we both had lost wives to cancer. The people we were talking to immediately assumed that our family was cursed. They encouraged us to perform a certain ceremony in order to nullify the curse. We then had the opportunity to explain that Jesus is more powerful than any curse and the most important thing we can do is to surrender our lives to Him. Many people here live in fear, holding to superstitious and traditional beliefs, deeply rooted in the culture. It is only by studying and knowing God's Word that people can be set free. We are grateful for every opportunity share the truth and power of Christ at work in us (Philippians 2:13)

During their visit, we attended a rural church with one of the staff members from NCM. Barb sang the song "Goodness of God" in Kinyarwanda and then we played with kids after the service. Their joy in welcoming us was contagious (as you can see from the following picture).



Also visiting us this summer are our kids! Megan and Paul arrived this past week and Melissa will join us on September 11th. We are so excited to have a full house again and have the opportunity to introduce our son-in-law to our lives and ministry in Rwanda. Melissa just graduated from Bethel University with a master's degree in Social Work. We are so proud of her accomplishment! In October she will serve as a teen counselor for the WorldVenture East Africa Spiritual Life Conference in Kenya.



KUMBYA CONFERENCE

In late July we attended the annual Kumbya conference. This "family camp" conference has been held for the past 80 years on a beautiful but rustic peninsula in Lake Kivu. Originally, the conference was a place for expat missionaries to rest, connect, pray together, and be renewed spiritually, emotionally and physically. The invitation has recently been expanded to any Christian workers in the region, including Rwandans. We are in the process of trying to develop the peninsula into a

year around retreat center. We would appreciate your prayers that God would help us acquire the necessary building permits to upgrade the facilities so that the property can be used by more people and the blessing we receive there can be experienced and shared by people throughout East Africa.



As always, thank you so much for your prayers on our behalf!
In Christ, Gary and Barb Bennett

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