



# TenTalents

## INTERNATIONAL

April 2008



### Lisa's Story



*A testimony from the April '07 Rwanda trip- she shared this at our banquet last September..*

I have always been completely supportive & believed in the work Mike was doing in Rwanda. However, it is different when something is a part of your heart. Leaving Rwanda last year I was leaving a big part of my heart behind.

I want to share what happened to me on that trip: We were spending the day at the New Life Junior Academy (same property where the Faith Home is). We were preparing to leave, and as far as I knew we were not going to be back there. I quickly found a few kids from the Faith Home that I wanted to get pictures of, and when one of them, Peter, asked when we were coming back, it was difficult for me to tell

him I did not think we would be back until next year. As we climbed into the vans & drove away, the sadness I saw on the kids faces broke my heart.

At that moment God gripped my heart for those kids. I kept feeling we needed to be back there. I could barely talk to anyone that evening, or even the next morning, because the grief and agony in my heart was so strong. As God would have it, that morning it was my turn to lead the team devotional. I had yet to figure out what I should say. After breakfast I went to read my Bible, and the chapter I was on was Isaiah 49. As I read, the words came alive to me & I knew that was what I would share with the team. With much difficulty (I was crying & struggling to speak) I read it aloud to the team. I felt it was God speaking to me about myself & my family, as well as about Rwanda. God had placed Rwanda deep within my heart. *(See excerpts from Isaiah 49 on the next page.)*

We did end up going back and having dinner with the kids in the Faith Home. I loved being with them. When I told all of them that night that God had called them out of the streets for a reason & had set them apart because he has a plan for their lives, I was speaking over children of my heart.

I want to share a second experience I had: We visited two genocide memorials. Both of these were sites where thousands of people were killed after they crammed into churches seeking safety. I can describe it to you, but until you experience it, you can not understand the power of being there. I forced myself through it. At the back of the first church was a large tarp, covering- something. As they led us back to it, I thought, "is it... no, it can't be..." Then they threw back the tarp to reveal mounded up piles of bones.

The atrocities they described to us, the extreme horror of what was done to even women and babies, I will not repeat to you. Behind the building were underground tombs, basically storage areas for piles of bones. I stood by as others went into one, while out of the corner of my eye I could see people washing bones in tubs of water. I was told these were relatives who were washing remains for burial. I was overwhelmed with sadness over the magnitude of what the people of this country had gone through. At the same time I was crying & grieving for them I was thinking, "Thank you God that you're bigger. Thank you God that you're bigger."

What happened in Rwanda was huge. An enormous tragedy, a monstrous, horrible thing that took lives and left others scarred in many ways. But the God we serve is bigger than all that! When the life of Jesus fills someone, he takes what was broken, what was discarded or misused, and makes it brand new - he gives purpose. The orphaned, the cast off, the forgotten, whether in Rwanda or anywhere else in the world, have a purpose in Christ Jesus, and God is able to make it come to pass. He uses ordinary people to accomplish these extraordinary things!

## Acres of Hope

One of the things that is needed most in the country of Rwanda is hope. Ten Talents International plans to use every square foot of the 7 acres that God has provided us with to bring hope to the people and children of Rwanda.

The first step is to build the Home of Innocence. This will be a transitional home for getting children off the streets and ready to be placed into the home of widow- creating a new family out of two broken ones.

Besides the Home of Innocence, we also plan to build two smaller homes that will be used by the widows/adoptive families during the final week that the children are with us.

When the children and widow/adoptive families are both ready to become a family they will spend their first week together in one of these homes. This will give us time to make repairs, if needed, to the family's home as well as give them time to get used to living together as a family while still having easy access to the loving staff at the Home of Innocence.

We also plan to build an auto shop and carpentry training center to provide valuable training. With these training facilities we will be able to help those street children who are too old to be placed into a home. They will learn the skills needed to provide for themselves as well as a family of their own someday.

Lord willing, we also plan to build a mission house that will be used for short and long term missionaries that come to Rwanda to work with Ten Talents International and our partner ministries.



## Excerpts from Isaiah 49

1 Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the LORD called me; from my birth he has made mention of my name...

3 He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor."...

6 he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

8 This is what the LORD says: "In the time of my favor I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances,

9 to say to the captives, 'Come out,' and to those in darkness, 'Be free!' "They will feed beside the roads and find pasture on every barren hill.

10 They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat upon them. He who has compassion on them will guide them and lead them beside springs of water...

13 Shout for joy, O heavens; rejoice, O earth; burst into song, O mountains! For the LORD comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones...

19 "Though you were ruined and made desolate and your land laid waste, now you will be too small for your people, and those who devoured you will be far away.

## Matching Funds

Several people have asked if the matching funds are still in place for the Acres of Hope - the answer is yes! We are praying for God to enable us to pay the property off so we can move forward with the Home of Innocence. For every dollar that you give, it will be matched with 50 cents. Every donation you make towards the Acres of Hope goes 50% farther! We still have \$18,000 to raise to finish paying for the property. We will need \$95,000 to build the Home of Innocence on this property. Will you please pray and see how God would have you be involved?



## May 1st

That is the day we leave with our team for the next trip to Rwanda (it also happens to be the National Day of Prayer). Please be praying for this team and our trip (the team returns May 17th). This year, however, when the team returns, our family (Mike, Lisa, KaLia, & Nate) will be staying in Rwanda until August 1st. This will be the longest amount of time we have spent in Rwanda (3 months). We would ask you to keep TTI and our family in your prayers. Please pray for provision, health, and most especially for God to use our time there to further His kingdom. We will have access to emails and we will also post updates regularly on the TTI website's blog - [www.TenTalentsInt.org](http://www.TenTalentsInt.org)

**Ten Talents International - Please note our new address!**

Mike McColm, President

PO Box 873685 Vancouver, WA 98687

Phone: 360-909-2864

e-mail: [mike@TenTalentsInt.org](mailto:mike@TenTalentsInt.org)

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