



TenTalents INTERNATIONAL



May 2009

Mike's Report from Rwanda

This month I returned after spending over 3 months in Rwanda. I will honestly tell you there were some rough and frustrating days on this trip— days when I wanted to give up. I praise God though for reminding me of His calling to these kids and that country. As I look back now on all of the things that were accomplished in this trip, I am so glad that He has given us the opportunity to partner with Him in ministering to His children. Much of the frustration came from trying to get our shipping container out of customs. It took almost three months, but we did get it out and by God's grace we did not have to pay any taxes and even after 2 months on the open sea, hundreds of miles over some of the roughest roads you can imagine, and almost three months at the customs yard, everything inside was in perfect condition and amazingly in the same place as when it left Vancouver, Washington! Thank you to all who gave items, helped us pack, prayed for its safe arrival, and for us to get it out of customs. Children now have Bibles, clothes, shoes, backpacks, and books, because of you!

We had two team members with us for the second half of February. They came with the hope of helping us with the development on the Acres of Hope, but since we could not get our container out- God used them in other ways. They were able to spend a lot of time with the kids, part of which included helping us register 40 children for sponsorship. These are children who have homes but were on the streets during the day, and those children are all now in school everyday instead of roaming the streets. (We pay school fees for a child once they are registered, then when we find a sponsor for them we are able to get them their school uniform, supplies, medical care, etc.) Just being in school is life changing for these children!

Home of Innocence

Another event that happened during the trip was we decided to use a rented home for the Home of Innocence, until we can raise the money needed to build. We now have eight boys, former street children, in this home. These boys all have different stories; some are orphans; others have a parent or step-parent but the parents are either too poor to care for them or don't know how to raise their children in a healthy manner; still others have been abandoned with no hope of being reunited. Regardless of how they came to us, they are all now doing very well. They know the love of our heavenly Father as well as the love of their new aunts and uncles who care for them.

One of these boys is Emmanuel. Emmanuel is 12 years old. His father died when he was young so he never knew him, and he says that his mother died after she was poisoned when he was about five years old. Emmanuel has four brothers but he doesn't know where 2 of them are, including his



younger brother who ran away since their mom died, and he wonders if the boy is still alive or not. Please pray for Emmanuel. He still needs a sponsor, and our long term goal is to transition him into a forever family.

Emmanuel is proud of his ball spinning skills!

August Team

Would you like to come be a part of what is happening in Rwanda? We have a team going the first 2 weeks of August & we still have room for you! You can obtain an application on our website, or contact our Team Coordinator, Darcee, at darwanna@gmail.com or call our office. It would be something you will never regret!

Child Sponsorship

Ten Talents International has a waiting list of children who need a sponsor. We are so thankful that we already have 17 children sponsored and their lives are changing!

There are three different categories of child sponsorship. The first is "*In Home*" - children who are orphans or whose families are deemed unfit or unsafe. These children will live in a transitional home (currently, the Home of Innocence) and be sponsored either by two people at \$55 per month or one person for \$105 per month. The second category is "*At Risk*" - children whose families need assistance to keep them off the streets. Their sponsorship is \$35 per month. The third category is "*Technical Training*" - children who are too old to start or return to school. They will be enrolled in a training center and will be sponsored for \$35 per month. We have profiles of waiting children in the At Risk program on our website, or you may contact us for more information on sponsorship. This is a way for both a child and a sponsor to

share their lives and love across the world!



Attention Sponsors

Sponsors interested in sending a gift to their sponsored child may do so through the mission team going in August. The easiest way to do this is to place the items in a one gallon Ziploc bag and write the child's name & sponsorship number on the outside (for example: Mary Munyaneza, AR001). If you need some ideas, here are some useful items: clothing (including underwear and black socks), mini photo album (with your family's picture & names on the inside), postcards showing the area you live in, stickers, ball point pens (kids in school in Rwanda do not use pencils after 1st grade), blank note pad or coloring book, colored pencils, marbles or other small games, nail clippers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc. If you have a question about an item please feel free to contact our office. We also can tell you the clothing or shoe sizes of your child if needed. We would love you to include a personal letter in your package to your sponsored child - they appreciate your help so much and it would mean the world to them to hear from you. You can bring these items to our office anytime before July 20th. Thank you for choosing to give towards these children & the future of Rwanda- these kids are excellent investments!

McColm Family

Our family continues to live by faith, trusting God to provide for every need we have. We thank God for caring for us during our latest 3 month stay in Rwanda. We are not sure when we will be returning to Rwanda as a family (the August team will not include Lisa & the kids), but we are hoping for an extended stay beginning this November. Of course that requires the funds to do so, so we ask you to join us in praying for God to provide *miraculously* & to make his will clear to us. We would also like you to pray for us to receive an adequate amount of monthly support for our family. For those of you who are interested in keeping up to date with our family, we have started a new blog to share more personal updates. Check it out- www.McColms.blogspot.com.

Vision 20/20

It is our goal to get 20 more children sponsored by June 20th - that is our "Vision 20/20"! This effort will culminate with a special dessert & silent auction on June 20th at 7pm. Some of the items up for bid will include art and handicrafts from Rwanda, framed photographs, as well as other great items! Grace Community Church is hosting this event in their building at 1311 Lewis River Road, Woodland, Washington. Proceeds will go towards the rent for the Home of Innocence. Come, bring a friend who would like to find out about our work in Rwanda, have fun, and be a part of making a difference in children's lives for eternity!

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