



IN THE BEGINNING.....

Following our first ever ministry visit to Kenya last year, God opened the door for us to minister in three other East African nations: Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania.

First on our itinerary was Rwanda and our tour was organised and facilitated by Luc Buntu, a local worship leader and Jean Gakwandi, the leader of Solace Ministries.

We have made a short ministry video and compiled this short report for you to find out about our first tour of Rwanda.



<https://youtu.be/AsBffEQx6Kg>



4th Left Luc Buntu;
 5th Left Jean
 Gakwandi
 Far left Agnes
 (Solace Ministries);
 Remi Banjoko
 (Solace Ministries
 UK);
 2nd right Pastor Ify
 Taiwo;
 3rd right p Peter
 Taiwo

We arrived early
 in the morning
 at around
 1.30am and were
 quickly taken to
 the Guest House

owned and run by Solace Ministries, which would be our home for the next
 10 days.

Our first trip out on the day of our arrival was to the Kigali Genocide
 Memorial, not too far from the Guest House. For us to minister effectively in



Rwanda, it was important for us to
 know more about the genocide that
 took place only 22 years ago in 1994
 and the devastating effect that it
 has had on the people and the
 nation. Aside from the 1994
 genocide, we learned that there had
 been other smaller scale genocides
 in 1959 and 1973, which had caused
 many Rwandans to flee to
 neighbouring countries such as
 Kenya, Uganda, Congo, Burundi etc.
 to escape the violence and
 oppression.

GENOCIDE SURVIVORS

During our time in Rwanda,
 through Solace Ministries, we were
 able to meet widows and orphans
 of the genocide and hear their
 stories first hand. Still, 22 years



on, there is a lot of pain and anguish from the trauma that was suffered and we were privileged to be invited to sit with them, listen to their stories, cry with them, feel their pain and also minister to them and with them. The depth of the ministry that we encountered in Rwanda was unique and our hearts were deeply moved.



We ministered in many churches in Kigali. In Butare we ministered at the University and one church over two days. At the University we saw around 45 students give their lives to Jesus and throughout the tour we saw many people respond to the call for salvation through Jesus.

We conducted worship workshops in Butare and Kigali and many worship leaders were encouraged and strengthened by what they received during those times of teaching.



Ministering to worship leaders at a Worship Workshop

TESTIMONIES

Get back in the Race

Pastor John ministered to the widows and orphans of the genocide and spoke about “Running the Race”. He related the story of how he was watching the marathon at the 2004 Olympics in Greece on TV in the UK. There was one runner, who was far ahead of the field and looked certain to win. Suddenly, out of nowhere a crazy man jumped up and pushed him down and out of the race. Pastor John remembers shouting at the TV, telling the man to get up and get back in the race. The man finally got back up and although he did not come in first, he finished the race taking the bronze medal. He also received for the first time in Olympic history, a medal for his attitude. It was a powerful message, which spoke to all present.



Genocide survivors responding to the message to get back in the race

Following the ministry, the Solace ministries session leader and senior counsellor Mama Lambert, spoke up and said that a few days before, she visited the burial place of her children and someone had burned the place down in an act of vandalism. She spoke of how deeply it had affected her and how, tired and discouraged she felt. This message, she said, had given her a new hope and the strength, to get up and get back in the race.

Living Water

Many people told us of how ‘Let your Living Water Flow’ had been instrumental in their lives bringing healing and hope. They sing the song in Kinyarwanda and had no idea of its origins or the composer. They told us of how honoured they were that God would send the original composer of the song their way to minister to them.

GRATEFUL HEARTS

Our tour of Rwanda would not have been possible without the help of Luc Buntu, a worship leader, who took on the responsibility of connecting us with churches. He was supported by his worship leader friends, who have become very dear friends of ours and share the same heart for worship and ministry.

It also would have been impossible without the immeasurable help and support of Solace Ministries who provided our accommodation, meals and transport. The outpouring of unconditional love that we received from them, another faith based ministry, cannot be expressed in words. We owe them a debt of gratitude not only for what they did for us, but for what they do on a day to day basis providing a safe place for widows and orphans to share their stories and receive Godly counsel. They also offer a place where people can receive practical support such as medical help, training to help start small businesses and child sponsorship to enable children to go to school.

To find out more about Solace Ministries and the scope of its work visit:

<http://solacem.org/>

<http://www.solaceministriesuk.com/>



<http://www.vinesong.com/newsletter/Uganda2016Newsletter.pdf>

Click on the images to read the other short tour reports.



<http://www.vinesong.com/newsletter/Tanzania2016Newsletter.pdf>



<http://www.vinesong.com/newsletter/Nigeria2016Newsletter.pdf>