

Newsletter - February 08

Dancing & Ministry at Muyira



Outreach to New Communities- Trauma and Trust

In 2007 Comfort Rwanda began the support of Sakina Denise of Solace Ministries as an outreach worker. Denise, whose story you may have read in "Beauty from Ashes", is passionate about reaching out to survivors with the message of hope that has changed her life.

There is a recurring theme with many communities of survivors. Since the genocide they have had visits from people who have taken pictures, said some nice things but there has been no lasting help. Their lives have been in limbo, frozen in the trauma of '94. They have become suspicious of outsiders, not believing anyone truly cares

Over 2007 Denise and her team have reached out to seven new communities like these and have begun to see trauma turn to trust. Comfort Rwanda groups have visited three of those communities at Rukumberi, Bisesero and Muyira.



The approach of Solace is always to start with the message of comfort, hope and salvation in the gospel, then to develop a Solace community with leaders who can begin to implement a process of fellowship, prayer and support, and then to look at practical projects of support. We are delighted to have had churches and individuals link up with some of those communities and begin projects that we trust will transform many lives. In the words of one woman "they found us in

deep sorrow and they comforted us. We were scattered and they brought us together and then supported us in activities".

Uwimana Marie's 'Old House'

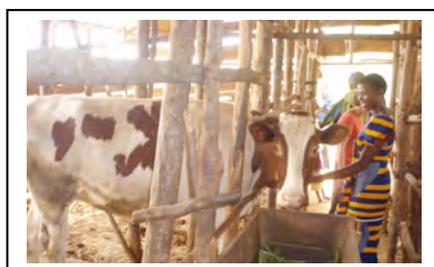


The village taking shape



Progress at Bugesera

Comfort Rwanda village at Bugesera is taking shape thanks to the extraordinary generosity of many people. There are funds pledged or given for about 10 houses but we believe all twenty planned will be built soon. Cattle are now being distributed. The cow shown has been given to Angelique and is known as "igisubiza" which means "answer" – God's answer with your support for her cry for help.



Cow given to Angelique



Pastor's conference

In January '08 Phil and Julie Arbon from Paisley, Jamie and Bonnie Davies from Bishopbriggs and Callum Henderson took a pastors conference in Kigali, the fourth New Year Conference. It was a tremendously encouraging time – the pastors are growing annually in their understanding and application of God's word and it was great to see around 100 pastors and leaders from various denominations and groups of churches fellowshiping and learning together. In the evenings the New Year convention also went well with tremendous passion and hunger for God evident. The church has recently had to knock down another wall to accommodate the growth that has taken place over the last 6 months.

Looking for Rwandan crafts - sales person

By importing and selling crafts we are able to provide an income, develop skills and promote work and well-being in communities. In 2007 we sold around £5000 worth of crafts through a variety of events, church stalls and fair trade shops. We feel that opportunities are available to greatly expand this and are looking for someone who would consider developing this side of Comfort Rwanda's work. The work can either be paid (probably on a commission basis) or voluntary. Please let us know if you are interested.

Sponsorship programme

There are now 6 families and 41 individuals in the Comfort Rwanda sponsorship programme. Diane Umubyeyi says "I thank God because he protected me and my family, He gave us a sponsor, who supports us in our life. Our sponsor came at the time it was very difficult for me to resolve problems of my brothers and sisters and I couldn't comfort them in difficult situations because it seemed that there was no hope. With the support we have come to know that God loves us and knows our situation and problems. He resolved many of our problems for example we are able to get our daily food, clothes, school materials. What God is doing for us shows that He is a Living God and this makes our faith very strong."

Comfort Rwanda AGM

10th May

At: The Manor
Drove Loan
Denny
FK6 5LH

3.35 – Prayer
5 – 6.30 Food &
Fellowship
6.30 - Meeting

Street Kids Rescue Update

The street kids rescue has been at a crucial point as the success of the project over the last 18 months has led to dual challenge of equipping the seventy kids on the project at present to leave the project with skills to make a living as well as taking new street kids onto the project. We are very grateful for funds given to see a breakthrough with this and we look forward to reporting on the results very soon.

Snippets:

Earthquake

A number of homes belonging to survivors from Solace groups in Cyangugu were destroyed in the recent earthquake

Congo

The situation over the border in Congo continues to be very difficult. We have provided bibles for pastors ministering in the refugee camps and committed to the support of a widows sewing project.

Airdrie shop

The shop continues to provide many £'000s for Rwanda. If you or your church can donate second hand goods we would be grateful.