

**Newsletter – Sept 2010**

**Gakagati**

God has put a special touch on our hearts for the community of Gakagati in the north-east of Rwanda. People have been asking what they can do for Gakagati and, after discussion with Paul and the leaders there, the identified priorities at present are:

- Cement and sand for finishing the school building and giving the children a floor free from parasites etc. This would cost 2 million Frw which is £2,200. This is a priority of the community at present.
- Some women from the community have been given sewing machines to help them make uniforms for the children. As you know many of them have little clothing and uniforms are very special for the children. Uniforms cost £6 each.
- It does seem like a well is a positive option. However we would need some kind of finance or pledges to move ahead with that so that a test bore hole could be sunk. If we have funding in place we can give them the go-ahead to start work. The final cost can only be an estimate but perhaps £4,000 would be a ball park figure.



19 people from Gakagati wait for the cattle to get out of the way before being baptised in July



320 children attend school in 3 classes – nursery, P1 and P2. If more rooms are built another year will be added in January

**Advance Notice of St Andrews Ceilidh**

A chance to catch up with those you have been on visits to Rwanda with, a time to chat and network with people of the same heart and a good old hooch and tooch.

Same venue as 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary –

Chryston Parish Church.  
 Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November  
 7.15 pm  
 More details later.

**Thank-you**

Thank-you for your continued support of Comfort Rwanda. Your love for the widow and orphan and street child are reflections of the love in God's heart. To Him, the "least of these" is very special. We are constantly encouraged to hear of things people are doing to raise support, many involving great personal sacrifice. To understand what this means to our Rwandan partners log in and read on [comfortrwanda.org.uk](http://comfortrwanda.org.uk) the blog "Friends and partners"

**Visits to Rwanda**

We need to arrange visits to Rwanda in 2011. Dates and spaces will be allocated on a first come first served basis to enable us to move ahead with bookings. If interested please contact us with preferred/possible dates ASAP.

**Prayer**

Want to pray for the work in Rwanda? Contact Anne Reid (01382 776601, [chicsanny@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chicsanny@hotmail.co.uk)) for regular prayer news.

**Ihumure Vocational Training College**

Gary McFarlane and Roger Fleming from Chryston are in Rwanda at present helping to get the building work started and plan for the future of the college. We hope to have news of building starting very soon! Ihumure is Kinyarwandan for "comfort" and was suggested by our Rwandan partners. There is a lot of work being done to develop the plans and this has taken longer than expected but we expect to see visible progress very soon! We are also believing for the quick payment off the last £17,000 for the land. Do pray and work with us for that.

**CTCR**

The Christian Training College of Rwanda (CTCR) received accreditation for its Foundation Certificate of Christian Studies course in May this year for which we praise God! The first training week took place in July with more planned for September, October and five next year. Thirty two church leaders from 13 different denominations or church groups are on the programme of study. The emphasis is on a combination of theological, character and practical studies and application. The feedback has been very positive.

## Lands End to John O Groats

Plans are afoot to have a Lands End to John O Groats Comfort Rwanda sponsored cycle in summer 2011. You can join for the whole journey but we are also looking for 100 riders to join us for a stage (c 100 miles). Contact Comfort Rwanda to register interest.

### Sponsored run across the Alps!!!

Do take the time to visit [www.justgiving.com/team/tpc2010](http://www.justgiving.com/team/tpc2010) and check out the amazing endurance run Casey and Iona are doing for Comfort Rwanda. In the space of 8 days they climbed two Mt Everests!!!

### Comfort Rwanda rep marries Rwandan sweetheart

When Amy Stead joined a Comfort Rwanda visit to Rwanda in 2008 little did she think less than two years later she would be marrying Eliezer Haguma the leader of the street kids rescue project! After returning to Rwanda for six months in 2009 Amy and Eliezer married this summer. May God bless your life and ministry together.



## Changed lives and new hope

Those who sponsor children on the street kids rescue project will receive a project report soon. 44 children are now being sponsored and that should enable us to take new children onto the project next month. As one father said "When I try to think I just smile because when I wake up and my children say they are going to school it makes me so happy." And as one of the children said "They found me in the swamp – that is where we washed. They took us to church. They gave us some teaching before we were able to go to school – we were taking drugs and doing all kinds of street things but finally we went to school. Now I have just started secondary school – I'm a student there and I can eat and I can say I'm a different person and I have changed very much.



Ex-street kids, now "Friends of Jesus" performed ushering and dancing duties at Amy & Eliezer's wedding. They were brilliant!



## Cattle project Testimony of Mukangoga Laurence

Yves, a Solace worker, introduced the ceremony to hand over the cow: "I want you to understand the importance of a cow. In this area everyone had a cow. The killers killed and looted everything. When you give a cow it is restoring the dignity of the person. Imagine the cow you see here – it will give 20 litres of milk a day. Imagine if she sells 15 litres – she will earn 90,000 Rwandan francs (£100) a month. It is a way to say farewell to poverty. When this woman knew she had a cow she broke down and wept and said "is it possible?"



Mukangoga called her cow "Inkaimana" which means "God's cow"

Mukangoga replied:

"Since the genocide I have never had milk in my home. My children did not know what milk was. My daughter had a wound. They asked me to take her to hospital but when I gave her milk from the cow the wound was healed.

Now I have manure for the land, milk and money. I want to give you a message – we are on the way to conquer poverty. It is true that all the sufferings we knew especially when we hid in the marshes. But you have been instrumental in removing the pain of our hearts.

If we survived, the killers wanted us to become poorer and poorer. This was weighing heavily upon us until we met Solace Ministries. May God bless you, bless you, bless you.