

Dear Friend,

Rwanda is home to almost 10 million people and a country of fertile and hilly terrain known as the "Land of a Thousand Hills." Sadly, however, it is better known for the 1991 genocide in which almost a million people were killed in the space of three months.

As Mike considered the challenge of preaching to the people of Rwanda during his trip there — September 25th through October 7th — he felt the leadership of God to preach a message on biblical forgiveness. Mike admits, ***"I've preached on biblical forgiveness from Ephesians 4:26-5:2 a number of times this year, but there was nothing like sharing that message there in Rwanda. It was very humbling. Nothing in my realm of experience comes remotely close to the evil committed against these people. Only the Lord Jesus can understand. Only His Spirit, bringing the truth of His word alive in their hearts, could make a difference."***

And make a difference, God did! Mike had the opportunity to preach that message six times to more than 2000 people in Rwandan churches. Service after



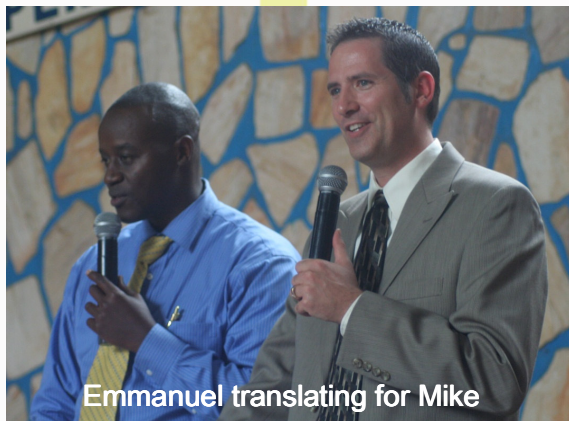
Nearly 2000 in attendance



University Meeting



Faces of Rwanda



Emmanuel translating for Mike

service, large groups of people — at least 900 individuals in all — publicly confessed the sin of returning evil for the evil done to them and chose instead to begin to follow biblical forgiveness.

After watching the people's response, Mike remarked, ***"I saw a lot of spiritual courage on the part of the Rwandans to choose obedience to God's Word on forgiveness."***

One young lady approached Mike after a service and shared that her parents and all of her family were killed during the genocide. She said, ***"When I think about those people (the killers), I have been very angry and bitter with them. But, tonight, I have chosen to forgive them."***

Mike also preached on the Love of the Cross and a message to university students that challenged the life philosophy of our world to live only for today.

Two key translators worked with Mike. The first is the leader of Evangelical Revival Ministries (ERM), Pastor Emmanuel Sitaki (pictured below, left with Mike). Simplicity Ministries is currently in a partnership with ERM and its work in Rwanda. Pastor Sitaki lives here in the Portland area, and he and his

Simplicity Ministries®

Mike & Debbie Thibodeaux

PO Box 388 Fairview, OR 97024

503.618.9984 o | 971.219.6964 c

mike@simplicityministries.org

www.simplicityministries.org



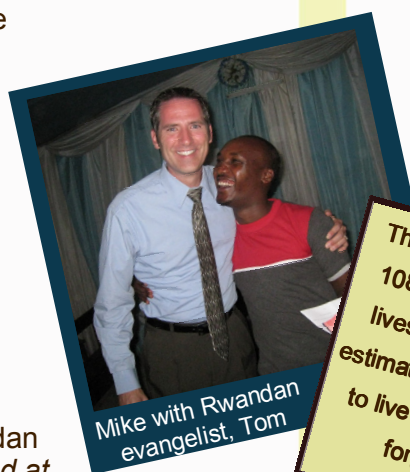




family have become good friends to our family. It was a joy for Mike to have Pastor Sitaki translate for many of his sermons, especially because of his experience in pastoring and preaching, as well as because of his language skills. The first Sunday morning, Pastor Sitaki translated two services into Kinyarwanda and a third into French.

The second translator who worked with Mike was a Rwandan evangelist named Tom (*pictured at right*). He and Mike had much in common, of course, and worked well together. He quickly became a good friend.

Toward the end of the trip Mike had two very special opportunities to share the gospel message, with men who were doing construction all week for ERM and with several teenage orphans from the genocide who are sponsored by ERM. When he talked with the workers, 8 of 10 gave their lives to Christ (including



Mike with Rwandan evangelist, Tom

Thank you for praying!  
108 people gave their lives to Christ and an estimated 900 committed to live a life of biblical forgiveness.

(below) Mike had the privilege of praying for and dedicating a Rwandan baby girl.



a Muslim man), and 13 out of the 17 orphans were saved!

**Overall, there were 94-108 people who made professions of faith in Jesus Christ!!**

In addition to the preaching and teaching times, there were other aspects of ministry that took place on the trip. The ERM team was made up of 12 people who worked in a variety of ministry areas during their time in Rwanda, including prison ministry, sewing ministry (teaching Rwandan women and helping them to develop a trade), and construction of a wood working shop on ERM property.

Laying groundwork for future ministry and mission trips, Mike and Pastor Emmanuel met with several key pastors to introduce to them Simplicity Ministries, The Hope Video, and Simple Evangelism. Plans are being made for Mike to return to Rwanda in 2010!

Simply Devoted, Debbie & Mike

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PO Box 388 Fairview, OR 97024

503.618.9984 o | 971.219.6964 c

[mike@simplicityministries.org](mailto:mike@simplicityministries.org)

[www.simplicityministries.org](http://www.simplicityministries.org)

