

GISENYI, RWANDA PASTORAL TRAINING

"But even though we, or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed." Gal. 1:8

An eight hour drive brought us to Gisenyi in northwestern Rwanda just across the border from Goma in Congo. Monday morning we began the teaching sessions in Galatians expecting about 20-25 students. There were about 30 people there including some of our former students from Goma, with another 20 drifting in over the next hour. The number of students was consistent over the two weeks. Many had to pay transport to get there; some were staying with church members, and others were paying their own lodging and food. We were humbled by their sacrifice. Most of the pastors get little or no pay from their congregations, so this was a hardship for them as they satisfied their thirst for God's Word.

It is difficult to require them to pay their own way, but we were encouraged that they were making it a priority. This is the only way training can be self-sustaining. The long-range plan is entirely indigenous training by African teachers so they can continue with this model without requiring outside funding. It was a delight to interact with them from Galatians as Don was translated twice – first into Kenyan Swahili, then into Swahili. There were many good questions and lively discussions as we looked at the true gospel of justification through faith as opposed to "works righteousness." Questions came up on Christian liberty, preaching the truth when it is offensive and loses membership, our Sonship in Christ, walking in the Spirit, bearing one another's burdens, paying pastors and teachers, and church discipline. We were able to meet with several of the men from that area as well as Bukavu, Congo who want continuing education.

PRAISE

- For our safe travels to Rwanda
- For the Lord blessing the time in Gisenyi and providing for the students through the local churches
- For Don reducing his prednisone by half again and keeping normal lab results
- For our new website



NEW WEBSITE!

After much work, many false starts, tears and frustrations, this techno-challenged lady finally got something out there! Julie, one of our resident Kenyan students helped Fran "translate" the

instructions, gave four pages of helpful suggestions and saved her even more pain and tears.

We have wanted a place where students and prospective students were able to access Don's notes and print them out as they need them. Now they can go to the website and find anything that Don has written along with other information about the Study Center. Please feel free to check it out. It is a work in progress so will probably look a bit different from time to time:

christcommunitystudycenter.org

Disclaimer: Be forewarned that Don has not had the time to edit any of his notes, so you may find some crazy spelling and grammar!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For the Apologetics class – that we would all be transformed in our hearts and practice to defend the faith
- For the new class in Revelation which Don has never taught
- For the unrest in Congo, that the Lord would see fit to give them peace and provide for the thousands of refugees who have fled to Uganda
- For the possible development of a new study center in Kisumu, Kenya
- For Don as he studies and writes
- For Fran as she restores data after yet another computer crash, the second in 3 months
- For wisdom in knowing the best way to utilize and multiply Christ's Community Study Center



Vianney from Rwanda with Julie & Elisha from Kenya

CCC PROJECTS

The project account that was set up with MTW allows donors to give directly to the project and have fewer administrative fees taken out which lets us use the funds for several different ministries:

Translations – Pastoral Epistles into Swahili
Galatians into Kenyan Swahili
Hope for Africa into Runyankore
Biblical Interpretation into Luganda
Other translations as money becomes available

Kindles – 16 Kindles distributed in South Sudan

12 Kindles in Kenya

1 in Rwanda

1 in Uganda

Others ready to send into South Sudan as they have one of the greatest needs. Printing is very expensive.

Books for the Library – It has been a resource for several individuals in the community, two Baptist pastors, all our students, other missionaries, and us.

The information is in the box below if you would like to donate.

SUPPORT TO:

Mission to the World

Acct. # 14825

Box 116284

Atlanta, GA 30368-6284



Christ's Community Study Center

Project # 95942

COURSES 2013

Since we returned the first part of 2013, Don has finished the classes on Ecclesiastes and Biblical Interpretation of Old Testament Narratives at Christ Community Study Center (see website). Lots of discussion and participation ensued as the class interacted with the material – the reason we like small classes. The week long trip to Kenya in April to the Eldoret Study Center also used Ecclesiastes as their material. He taught the two week course in Rwanda on Galatians in June. Now the Mbarara class is looking forward to Apologetics using a video series, lecture, and class discussion. Several new people have joined us, so this should be a lively class. We will also begin a study in Revelation. In September, Jeff Borden, a former MTW missionary to South Africa and currently the MINTS coordinator for Africa, will be teaching Hebrews in our study center in Mbarara. This will give our students an opportunity to hear additional expositional teaching from a different teacher who is knowledgeable about Africa. Another course we are looking at is the Truth Project from Focus on the Family, a DVD Worldview course. It may be one we leave with the students while we are on HMA.

We have been greatly encouraged with the church we attend in Mbarara. Don and others have been teaching through the book of Daniel. Preaching a series of sermons on a book of the Bible is not common in African churches. Another missionary doing theological education taught the first three chapters; Bob, one of our students, taught a chapter; Noowe, another of our students, taught four chapters; and Don is now teaching the last four chapters. It has been wonderful to see the response of the congregation as they begin to see how the Lord teaches us through a whole book of the Bible. Bob works with Farming God's Way, is a leader in the church, and very interested in learning to preach and teach more biblically. We were excited as he exegeted the Scripture and made good applications that showed he was really "getting it." Noowe is an older pastor who has great wisdom and insight into the application of Scripture to his culture. It was a treat to hear him feed the flock.

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