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Staff Volunteer Update

Melodi Horrell—Admin / Accounting



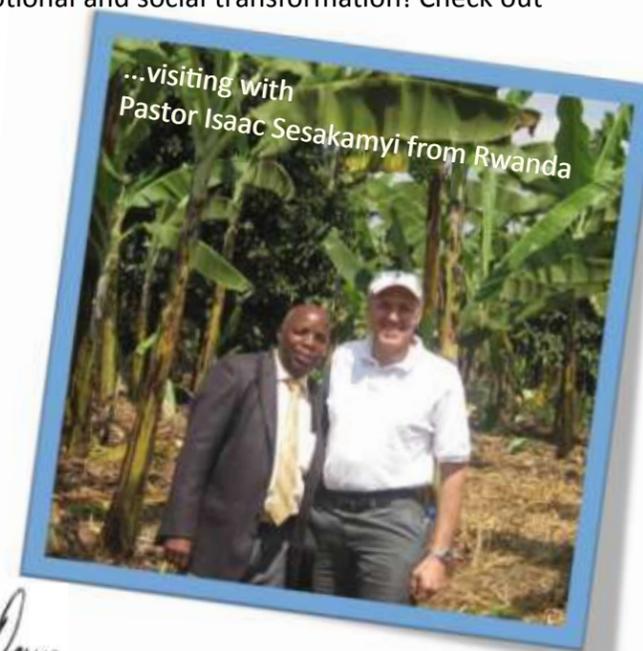
Melodi Horrell is one of our wonderful volunteers. Originally from Sidney, MT, she and her husband Ray have lived in Caldwell, ID for 7 years. Ray & Melodi have been married for 15 years and often go fishing together. (Apparently Ray enjoys it more than Melodi, but she still outcatches him.) Melodi enjoys reading and collecting green glass. Her volunteer responsibilities involve accounting, donor processing, distributions to pastors—and keeping us all laughing. We're glad you're part of the team, Melodi!!

Director Comments

In July of 2010, Jim Cardillo and I visited several of the Praise International sponsored ministries in Africa. On that trip, we spent a week in Rwanda meeting with a group of Rwandan Christian leaders to determine the best way to help their churches become self supporting. Now, almost a year later, we're sharing a progress report on the exciting outcome of that visit: spiritual, emotional and social transformation! Check out the story on the next page. It will touch your heart.

This newsletter also marks the end of my tenure as Executive Director. Debbie (my wife), Brenda Ball and I wish to thank all of you for your faithful support of Praise International. All of us will be moving on to other positions at the end of July. As you read in our last newsletter, the Praise International ministry will narrow its focus to West Africa and Eastern Europe. Freddie Harris will be stepping into the Executive Director role, and the Praise International office will move back to Caldwell, ID. Several new board members will join Praise in July as well. Please pray for us in all of these transitions.

If you are sponsoring a national pastor through Praise, you will receive a letter explaining how to make the changes and channel your donations. Please contact us if you have any questions about the transition or if you would just like to learn more about the ministry. We would love to talk with you.



Field Update: Ivory Coast

November 28, 2010 began months of hostility between factions of incumbent President Gbagbo and rival Ouattara. Though Ouattara's victory was decisive, Gbagbo refused to concede, claiming the voting had been rigged. The conflict is fueled by rivalry between the predominantly Muslim north and the Christian (Catholic) south: Ouattara from the north, Gbagbo the south. Though Gbagbo was captured and detained on



April 11, the country is still devastated. Many Ivoirians have been traumatized,; clashes continue, and the death toll is now over 3000.

Evangelicals were in a dilemma: accept Ouattara's victory, upheld internationally, or stay loyal to the defeated Catholic president. Praise West Africa Director, Joseph Oulai, said that some prominent Christian leaders believed God would restore Gbagbo to the presidency. So great was the trauma that Joseph genuinely feared that his pregnant wife, Cristine, could lose the baby. Good news! Their baby was recently born and is healthy. Pray for safety & healing for the people of Ivory Coast.

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Brenda Ball, U.S. Operations Director
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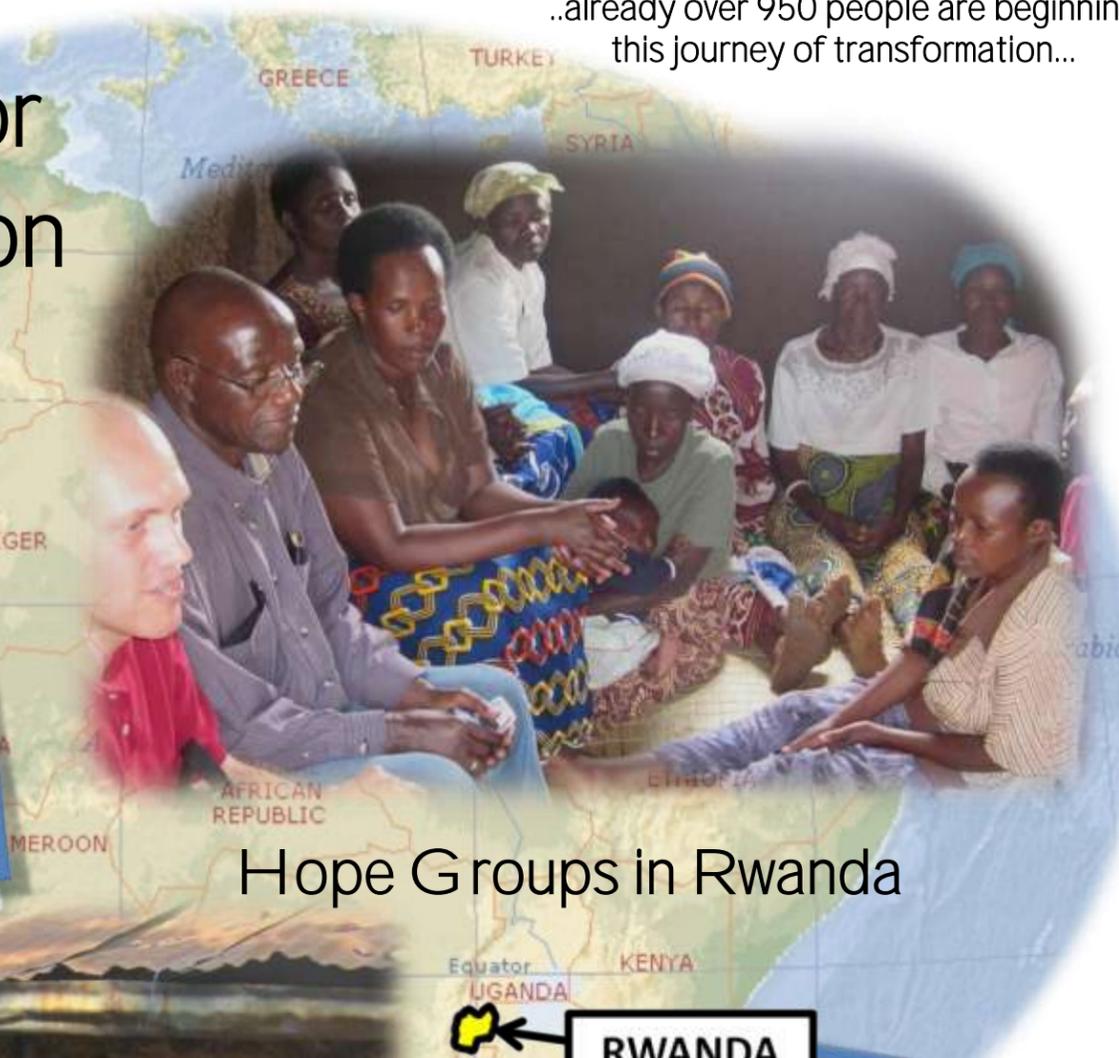
Freddie Harris, International Operations Director
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..already over 950 people are beginning this journey of transformation...

[...a picture of transformation...]

A Catalyst for Transformation in Rwanda

Hope Groups in Rwanda



July 19, 2010:
 As we arrived in their village, a group of 16 Rwandan ladies welcomed us in song: "We are so thankful that God has brought you here to visit us... God is so good. He has changed our lives and given us hope. We praise Him!" All were obviously very poor but had joy in their eyes and hope in their hearts. We joined them in the dirt hut where they were meeting. As a group, they had committed themselves to join together to support each other. Most were widows and many were caring for several orphaned children in addition to their own children.

We learned that every week the national missionary meets with them to help them learn life skills from a Biblical perspective. They talk about conflict resolution, family relationships, and God's Word. Each week every group member brings a small

sum (about 25 cents) to deposit in a shared savings account. One group member is the treasurer and the record books are open for all to see. The leadership is rotated and all decisions are made by the group. They plan income generating activities (gardening, raising goats, etc.) and help each other in times of sickness and crisis. The accumulated savings is available to be loaned out to various group members.

The national missionary told us this strategy of working in the poorest communities has been highly effective in every respect. The members of these groups often become strong Christians who are also making concrete steps out of their abject poverty. The group members simply told us that they now have hope!

Dave

Two years ago, Praise International began talking with Rwandan church leadership about economic development. The goal: For local pastors and people in the lowest economic brackets to break the poverty cycle and develop Christ-centered HOPE that touched their DAILY lives. Some of the pastors had already been using their sponsorship funds for development. Some rented land, planted gardens and grew food for their families. Others engaged in income generating activities

that supported their ministry needs, but they wanted to do more.

Last July, Dave Bochman and Jim Cardillo visited Rwanda to meet with the church leaders. Top priority was to join them in their quest for a solution to help their people in the grip of poverty enabling their churches to become self-supporting. Praise believed there already were successful community development strategies in Rwanda. After a few days of looking, what they found was amazing.

Check out Dave's letter about that experience:

Microfinance Rwanda is a project that was initiated by the Rwandan churches and sponsored by Praise International last fall. This project works with communities to help, equip, and enable them to transform their mindsets. In essence, it is a discipleship program. Rather than looking to handouts from relief programs to meet their economic needs, the aim is to develop their own productive capacity — thereby improve the socio-economic conditions of their lives. This is not a "prosperity gospel" but a process to nurture a Biblical worldview enabling people to live and

work better – as God intended. One of the key outcomes is their increased ability to support their own local church and pastor.

In October of 2010, Praise International sponsored special training for 8 facilitators to begin this ministry in Rwanda. Those facilitators immediately began starting Hope Groups and the interest grew like a wild fire. **By April of 2011, they had already started 38 active Hope Groups. That means over 950 people have begun a journey of transformation!**

Please join us in praying for them...

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