

# MISSION: MATTERS

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WHERE THE WORD  
MEETS THE WORLD

March-April 2026

## SPECIAL EDITION

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Rwanda's heartbreaking history reminds us that our past doesn't define us—Christ's sacrifice and forgiveness do.

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Young, forward-thinking leaders like Emmanuel are breaking old cycles to rebuild their nation from within.



# Letter from the President

*I mean that God was in Christ, making peace between the world and himself. In Christ, God did not hold people guilty for their sins. And he gave us this message of peace to tell people. 2 Corinthians 5:19 ERV*

## The power of reconciliation

### How your partnership is helping a nation heal through God's Word

Recently, our team visited Rwanda to give you a small glimpse into how God is bringing restoration to people there. In utter brokenness and tragedy, the Lord is healing lives and communities. In this Special Edition, I'm eager to share these profound stories with you. Stories revealing the life-transforming act of reconciliation that we celebrate each Easter.

When you hear about Rwanda, one horrific event likely enters your mind: the genocide. This is something that many of us can't even imagine. An estimated 800,000 people were killed, and hundreds of thousands of women were assaulted. April 7 marks 32 years since this nightmare occurred.

This is part of their history—one they might want to forget but surely can't. Yet it has shaped who they are today: a nation determined to heal its past and build a hopeful future. Three decades later, Rwanda has made remarkable progress, and God is at the center of it.

Your partnership has made a profound difference. Through your generosity, Bible League International is guiding people in Rwanda through the pages of God's Word. People are discovering that Scripture offers a path forward—not just for their nation but for their own lives.

As we celebrate this Easter (only two days before Rwanda's anniversary), reconciliation takes on an even deeper meaning. The Bible's message is clear: God reconciled the world to Himself through Christ. His death on the cross and resurrection tore the veil in two so we could have a new life with God.

But that is only part of the story. It also means being able to restore and rebuild relationships with those who were once enemies.

Because of your generosity, thousands in Rwanda are discovering these truths as they study God's Word. Just as Rwanda continues its journey of healing and hope, you are helping people embrace a new life with Christ. Thank you for being part of this important work in Rwanda and throughout the world.

In Christ,



Jos Snoep, President



# The golden treasure of the Gospel

## Healing trauma, reconciling former enemies, and rebuilding lives in post-genocide Rwanda

On a Saturday afternoon, a large group of youths gathers in a guesthouse run by the Anglican Church of Rwanda. As they will soon be taking their final school exams, Bishop Ngendahayo (*pictured*) wants to encourage them with God's Word and pray over their exams.

The event typifies Bishop Ngendahayo. Despite his high rank in the Anglican Church, he carves out space in his overloaded schedule to meet the local youth and share Christ's love with them. He does so out of a passion that his father planted in him at an early age.



### A faithful life

“My father used to gather us in the evening to read the Bible as a family,” he recalls. “For me, at that age, it was like speaking with God directly. I grew up with this fire for the Word. Therefore, I think everyone should know this unique golden treasure of the Gospel.”

In the dining room of the same guesthouse, Bishop Ngendahayo speaks about his ministry and the impact of the partnership with Bible League. He wears a simple blue jacket over a red sports shirt. The only sign of decorum is a necklace with a large wooden cross. His voice is soft, with calm authority. There's no rush in his demeanor; he leisurely leans forward, his arms resting on the table, hands folded.

“I have been serving as a bishop in the Anglican Church for 15 years,” he says. “I am married and blessed with the responsibility of bringing up 20 children, both biological and adopted ones.”

### Focused on the Word of God

With 50% of its people under the age of 20, and a median age of just under 23, Rwanda has one of the world's youngest populations. At the same time, roughly 45% of the Rwandans live below the national poverty line, and unemployment is a tremendous challenge to the country's economy. As a result, many people can't afford a Bible.

“As a church, we tried other programs to keep our Christians focused on the Word

*Continued on page 4*

*How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things.*

Romans 10:15 NKJV

of God, but we lacked good Bible study materials,” Bishop Ngendahayo explains. “We also didn’t have a structural follow-up strategy to monitor the faith progress of our congregants. The Bible League program offered us all that.”

With its 1.5 million members, distributed across roughly 2,000 congregations, the Anglican Church offers ample opportunity to expand the Bible study program throughout the country.

“However, the reach of the program isn’t limited to the Anglican Church,” Bishop Ngendahayo states. “Other denominations have shown interest in the Bible study program, too, and we are working with them to expand the ministry.”

### **Post-genocide reconciliation**

Mention Rwanda in a conversation, and people quickly come up with the genocide. Today, the horrific events of the 1990s continue to deeply affect the Rwandan society. Shortly after the genocide, the Rwandan government initiated a social program to achieve healing and reconciliation. Bishop Ngendahayo notes that the Bible League program added a new dimension to this effort.

“The Bible study program serves as an extra instrument to achieve reconciliation, this time based on biblical values,” he says. “It allows us to bring victims and perpetrators together in the safe environment of a Bible study group. As they study God’s Word, they learn about the forgiveness of sins through Christ. As a result,



they are able to forgive each other. We highly appreciate the program for that!”

### The Gospel’s healing power

Amazingly, even the Rwandan government has acknowledged the positive impact of Bible League’s Bible study program. “The government now even supports it!” Bishop Ngendahayo gratefully concludes. “I can say without hesitation that the Bible study program brings more healing than any other initiative.”

And that is because that healing is deeply rooted in the atoning work of Christ at the cross. In the bishop’s words: *the golden treasure of the Gospel.*



## Bible League’s Rwanda ministry in 2025



**28,164** People who have studied God’s Word



**1,523** Local believers trained to lead



**42,015** Bibles and study materials shared

Over 76,000 people have heard God’s message of love since our ministry began in Rwanda in 2021. Praise the Lord for how He is restoring hearts in this nation.

### Rwanda’s present

- Population: 13.6 million
- Median age: Under 21 years
- Language: Kinyarwanda
- Main Religions: Christianity 96% and Muslim 2%
- Average income: \$83 per month

As they study God’s Word, Rwandans are finding reconciliation in Christ. Thank you for sharing the golden treasure of the Gospel with them!

# After unimaginable loss, Dalie forgave

Now she walks alongside others on the road to reconciliation—thanks to you



*The depths behind her gaze.*

*These dark brown, deep-set eyes,  
which seemed to contain an ocean of emotion—  
what horrors had they seen?*

*Jesus said, “Father, forgive them. They don’t  
know what they are doing.” Luke 23:34 ERV*

*Read more on page 8*

Dalie's face is serious, almost sad. Her smiles are sparse; her eyes seem to reveal, "We have seen too much..."

In her soft, slightly nasal voice, she introduces herself:

"My name is Dalie, and I am 63 years old. I was baptized as a child in the Anglican Church. In 1973, when I was 10 years old, people started persecuting us."

### **Surviving the genocide**

The harassment increased over the years, culminating in the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Dalie's words come timidly as she recalls:

"In 1994, my husband was killed. At that time, I had four children. I gave birth to eight children, but I remained with four. The other four children died."

Dalie sniffs, stifling a sob. She struggles to curb her emotions and continue her story. A soft moan precedes her following words:

"One of them was killed during the genocide, with my husband."

Dalie attends church in Kavumu, deep in Rwanda's rural inland, a beautiful terrain of green, wooded hills. Only 30 years ago, the blood of thousands of innocent victims drenched the soil of this serene spot.

"I used to read the Bible and pray, until the genocide," Dalie goes on. "Then, fears conquered my heart. I didn't feel like going to church anymore because I couldn't forgive those who killed my husband and son."

*Continued on page 10*

## **Remembering the past**

April 7, 1994—the day the brutal and inhumane Rwandan genocide began. Reports estimate more than 800,000 people were killed in 100 days—many by their neighbors or people they knew personally. Hundreds of thousands of women were sexually assaulted.

Most of the killings took place in the first six weeks. The rapid pace of the killings even outpaced those of the Holocaust. A small African nation that some in the U.S. had probably never even heard of became front-page news due to this slaughter.

Decades later, the nation looks much different. The people are rebuilding their nation and rising from the ashes.





## Seeking reconciliation

Shortly after the genocide, the government of Rwanda initiated a reconciliation program, bringing victims and perpetrators together to speak out to each other.

“This program was held in our church, so that’s how I went back to church again,” Dalie recalls. “Through this program, I felt the necessity of forgiving those who had sinned against me.”

However, the bitterness in her heart remained. Dalie needed something else to be able to forgive. Something truly profound. It was in a Bible League study group that her eyes were opened.

“I was reading the Bible chapter where the wicked people were beating Jesus severely,” she says as her dark eyes light up. “They mocked Him and nailed Him to the cross. Yet, Jesus looked up to the skies and asked God, ‘Forgive them. They don’t know what they are doing.’”

## Father, forgive them...

The blood of her Savior, sacrificed at Calvary’s cross, cleansed the unforgiveness in Dalie’s heart. When she talks about Jesus, the fixedness of her face breaks for the first time. Tears well up in her eyes. She wipes them with her slender hands and continues:

“I realized that those who killed my husband and son also didn’t really understand what they were doing. It was that word from the Lord Jesus at the cross that enabled me to forgive them from the depths of my heart and brought peace back to my life.”

## Finding riches in Christ

Dalie’s appearance—a simple, white dress; the absence of jewelry—expresses a disinterest in materialism. She had now discovered riches that surpassed all that. She had discovered that the sacrifice of Christ outweighed all the unspeakable losses she suffered.

“Jesus is leading me, He is my Counselor,” she adds with deep gratitude. “He provides for me and takes away all my fears.”

Because of the teachings from Bible League’s booklets, Dalie can now counsel others to deal with the aftermath of the genocide.



“As I am growing old, the Bible study is becoming like my walking stick on my journey to heaven,” she points out. “From the Bible studies, I learn how to help other people who are suffering. I encourage my family to join me in my journey. Even though my eyes can’t see well anymore, I read the Bible whenever I can.”



*What had those dark brown, deep-set eyes seen?*

They had seen Christ and Him crucified! They had surveyed the wondrous cross, and because of that, Dalie could finally forgive.

**Thank you! Your gift of God's Word helps people like Dalie (*above, right*) discover forgiveness in Christ.**

# Rewriting the story of Rwanda

A new generation refuses to be sidelined by their country's dark past

Emmanuel was only about three years old when the genocide devastated his country. Now, 34, he is determined that the next generation will have a better life. One that is built on hope—not tragedy and trauma.

As a church leader and head of a technical school associated with the Anglican Church in Byumba, Rwanda, this young man has a clear purpose. He wants to equip young people with not only job skills, but the transforming power of the Gospel. And with your generous support, he is fulfilling this call.

## Faith in action

Through the Anglican Church, he attended a Bible League Bible study that changed his life. He explains, “This book inspired me and impacted my life. After every topic, we went out to practice it—to put it into action. Through growing in the knowledge of the Word of God, many of us have become preachers or are assisting the pastors in their church activities.”

Emmanuel and his group put their faith into action by visiting the sick and vulnerable. They raise money for



funeral costs. They also fund school supplies for children who cannot afford them. In a place that can still seem hopeless, these acts of generosity spread Christ's hope. Now he is using the same materials that grew his faith to bring hope to the next generation.

### Living on \$2 a day

Nearly half of Rwanda is children and teens, and close to 40% of the population lives in extreme poverty on less than \$2.15 a day. For families already struggling to make ends meet, school fees become impossible barriers to overcome.

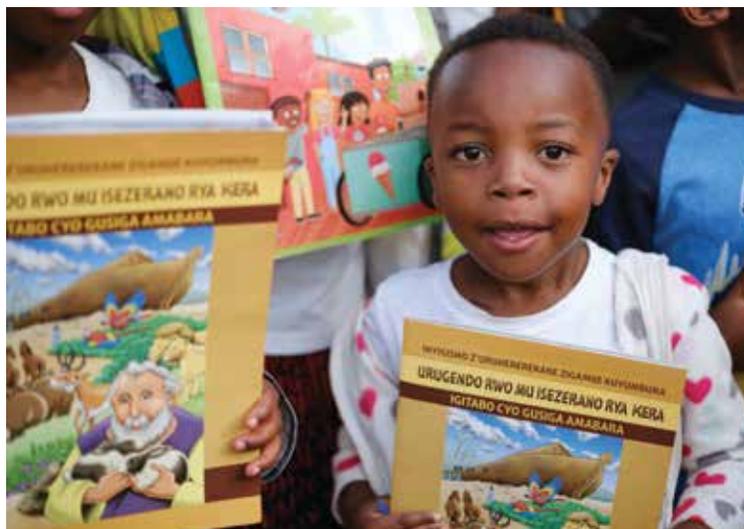
“Because of the history [the genocide], some families find themselves in poor living conditions,” Emmanuel explains. “Their kids fail to access school. Even if they go to school, they go without school uniforms or school materials, so they study very badly.”

Primary school costs 1,000 Rwandan Francs (\$.69) per term. The secondary school fee jumps to 20,000 RF (\$13.77)—roughly a week's income. Every year, kids and teens drop out because their families can't afford to send them. Emmanuel explains that when they drop out, they become street boys and girls. They use alcohol or drugs. Some become teen parents.

Emmanuel shares, “We try to prevent those life hindrances by encouraging them or helping them financially to access the school.”

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**“I appreciate the work you did to provide these books and Bibles. That's a very good gift because the Bible contains knowledge and wisdom from God. May God bless you because you are spreading God's Word.”**



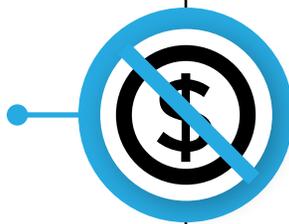


## A nation of youth

Half of Rwanda's population is under age 21.

Many students drop out due to school fees as low as 69¢/term.

Nearly 9,000 kids and teens studied God's Word through Bible League's ministry in 2025.



## Agents of transformation

But Emmanuel's dreams for Rwanda's future go far beyond keeping children in schools. Through Bible League's Bible study leader training and materials you provide, Emmanuel is equipping the next generation to be what he calls, "agents of community transformation."

He says earnestly, "You can study, but without Jesus, you can do nothing. Outside Him, you cannot change your community. That's why we call them agents of community transformation."

His approach is holistic: "Because they are living in rural areas in poor families, we need them firstly to know Jesus, to know God, and the Word of God. Then, they will get skilled and sent back to their communities to be agents of community



transformation. So, we encourage and teach them the Word of God as their guide, their provider, so that their lives can be as good as possible, better than their previous living conditions.”

### **The future is bright**

In a country with a heartbreaking past, this generation is proving that with God, all things are possible.

Because of your desire to spread God’s Word, young people in Rwanda are discovering that their future does not have to be defined by their past. They are seeing that with their Savior, Jesus Christ, they can change the trajectory of their lives and break the past cycles of poverty, pain, and trauma.

Their futures are still being shaped. But they are becoming the agents of transformation that their communities desperately need.

Rwanda’s future looks bright.



Want to hear more about how God is on the move in Rwanda?

Check out  
***“The Joy of Reconciliation in Rwanda”***  
episode of  
The Word in Action podcast.

Look for us on your favorite podcast app or YouTube or scan the QR code to the right.



# The world needs hope and healing



*Your gift today places God's Word into the hands of someone who is searching for peace.*

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