

Jaimashi fellow followers of our Lord Jesus Christ.

My daughter and I went on a mission trip to Rwanda from March 9 to 20<sup>th</sup>. When I returned from my previous mission trip to Kenya and Uganda in April of 2019, God began to work in my heart with a different strategy to use for future mission trips. Instead of teaching to large groups of 150 to 200 people, my new strategy would be to organize intense teaching sessions for a small group of only 10 to 20 people. And I would teach them all day, for 3 days or longer. Rwanda would be my first opportunity to implement this new strategy.



At my first session, I was immediately greeted by two men who had traveled to Rwanda from DRC Congo. Their faces were beaming with a big smile as we shook hands. They were very happy to see me.



One requirement I have for these training classes is that those planning to attend from far away are required to pay for their own travel expenses and lodging. These men were glad to do that.

My first class had 17 people. Working with this small group was wonderful. I was able to have question and answer periods and tune in to individual needs so that I could provide

great sustenance to their spiritual growth and development.

During the question and answer period, one lady gave testimony about her life as a nine-year old during the genocide that took place in Rwanda over a 3-month period in 1994. An estimated



500,000 to 1,000,000 Rwandans were killed, including about 70% of the country's Tutsi population. An estimated 250,000 to 500,000 women were raped. She told us that the Lord spoke to her, telling her clearly that she would survive. She went on to explain some of the details on how God guided and protected her while so many others she had been around did not live through it.



The driver's license of my host had expired. So, I became the driver to and from classes. With motorbikes weaving in and out of traffic, large vehicles choosing to join the party without respect to right of way, and pedestrians and bicycles constantly pacing the sidelines, I was kept on my toes. My previous experience with *'Super Mario Kart'* came in handy.

On Saturday evening, after 5 full days of teaching at two locations, a huge announcement came: Beginning tomorrow, for the next 14 days, no churches would be allowed to gather anywhere in Rwanda. A government mandate in reaction to one person being diagnosed with coronavirus.

I was in shock. I had been scheduled to teach at a church Sunday morning. Then at a class Sunday afternoon. Followed by three days with the Kabuga church and one final day with the Remera church. All had to be canceled. With one short news break, all of my ministry plans in Rwanda had come to a screeching halt.

I made a commitment before God to fast. I would not eat again until God opened the door for me to teach again in Rwanda. All alone in my room, I broke out into tears and sobbed. I had prepared so hard, for so long, for this mission trip. Spent so much time in prayer. How could this have happened?

I wiped away my tears and walked out of that room. It was time to stop feeling sorry for myself and turn my focus away from my inadequacies and towards God. I was encouraged and prayed for over the phone by a strong person of faith. It refreshed my mind. I was now convinced that God was going to bring success somehow, someday.

That evening some tremendously good news came forth. God had opened the door for me to teach for the next three days at someone's house. The schedule would be from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. There would be 18 to 20 people waiting for me to expound God's Word to them. This group was the most enthusiastic to hear God's Word of any I had encountered so far in Rwanda.



This is just a sampling of all the exciting things God did during my daughter and I's 11-day stay in Rwanda. Check out the following links to the BAM website to enjoy powerful stories and testimonies, complete with photos:

### **Blog**

<https://bibleapplicationministries.com/category/rwanda-march-2020/>

### **Photo Gallery**

<https://bibleapplicationministries.com/rwanda-mission-trip-march-2020/>

Like the rest of you, I am not able to travel anywhere until the coronavirus lockdown is over with. Let us continue to pray for deliverance from this every day, as well as for so many poor people in countries such as Kenya, Uganda, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, etc. where many people have completely run out of available food to eat.

Once the coronavirus issue is resolved, I will make plans to go back on the mission field. Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Kenya and Uganda are on my radar screen for the near future. Please pray for this daily as well.

***Calling for volunteers.*** I need assistance in these areas:

1. Social media communication.
2. Layout and editing. (I am working on a book to get published.)
3. Review technical drawings given to me for our training centers.

Reach out to me by email at [josiahsparks@bibleapplicationministries.com](mailto:josiahsparks@bibleapplicationministries.com). Or drop me a message on the 'Bible Application Ministries' Facebook page.

Our long-term vision is to build training centers in places throughout the world. Land is being donated for this in Rwanda, Kenya and Nepal. Technical drawings of these training centers have now been created for me by a talented professional in Rwanda, free of charge. Here is one view:



If you haven't done this already, search for 'Bible Application Ministries' on Facebook and 'like' that page. I do an exciting 'live' teaching there every week and post other announcements that you may not want to miss.

If you are interested in attending a weekly online Bible fellowship, drop me a line. Specify your preferred day(s) of the week and time of day that works best for your schedule.

God loves you and so do I.

"Bible Application Ministries" is an official 501c non-profit ministry.

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another with all wisdom, and singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

Colossians 3:16 REV