

BUILDING LASTING FOUNDATIONS

2017 MISSION TO KICURIKO, KIGALI DISTRICT, RWANDA.



BUILDING LASTING FOUNDATIONS: TRANSFORMING THE YOUTH OF KICUKIRO (RWANDA, KIGALI DISTRICT)

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22:6

African Enterprise missions aim to reach an entire city with the Gospel during mission week. However, due to the size of some cities this isn't possible. Kigali, with 1.25 million people, is vast. Undeterred, AE Rwanda has developed a plan to reach the entire city of Kigali over 3 years by reaching the city's main districts, Gasabo, Kicukiro, and Nyarugene one at a time.

The Gasabo Mission took place in 2016 and reached nearly 79,000 with the gospel, 6,900 of them making confessions of faith in Christ.

This year, Kicukiro was AE's focus. Over a year of preparation and training of local evangelists culminated in a week-long mission which brought 10,109 people into the kingdom and proclaimed the Gospel to over 62,987 people!

AE Rwanda wanted to focus on reaching the young people in the area with the Gospel. So, they strategically coordinated events in schools, parks and other public places in order to get the attention of children.

Albert, AE Rwanda Mission Director, explains the strategy.

“It's clear from scripture that children are esteemed by God. However, we find that in society children are often forgotten. They are ignored, rejected, abused or taken advantage of in terrible ways. Even the church sometimes misses the mark in giving children the right start in life. Along with reaching the lost, one of our desires during this mission was to rekindle ministry to children in Kigali. We have worked hard to develop an intentional, strategic outreach plan to reach the children of Kigali, and we've taught this strategy to our local church partners in the hope that they will embrace it and continue the work.”

Volunteers spent the week before the mission with local Sunday school teachers, learning to effectively minister to children. During the mission, they taught children about how to effectively share the Gospel with their friends.



THE MISSION IN SUMMARY

- 62,987 people reached with the Gospel
- 10,109 people made commitments for Christ.
- 300 of the poorest in the district had their health insurance paid for a year by AE
- 48 Sunday School teachers trained in sharing the Gospel with children
- University students at Kigali Independent University (ULK) reached with the Gospel.
- Thousands of children reached through targeted schools ministry.
- Business men and women reached on their commutes home

As the mission began children and teachers gathered at a local playground where they performed the skits, games, and songs they had learned in order to attract a crowd. They then shared the Good News with the people gathered. 103 of the village children accepted Christ. Praise God!

The team also reached out to many schools and universities.

“The age of self-discovery for teens and college students is a vital one. We took the Gospel to schools and universities across the city because we believe that the Gospel is a strong foundation for them to build their lives on.”

(Albert, AE Rwanda Mission Director)



In one school, the team met Martin, a self-described hooligan, renowned for his wild ways.

“I’ve always been proud of being wild; being feared by the other students. I’ve never before felt remorse for my actions. That is until the AE missions team arrived at my school.

When the mission team came this morning, I wasn’t too interested, but when they began speaking about the Gospel and the love that Jesus has for me, I was immediately convicted of my sins and I knew that I needed Jesus in my life.”

As the AE team called for people to raise their hands to accept Christ, Martin was among the first to respond. Upon seeing his hand in the air, a gasp went up among the other students because they couldn’t believe that the boy they had feared was responding to a call for salvation! Martin’s humble response to the Gospel touched the hearts of many other students, who felt emboldened to raise their hands to receive salvation. 300 of the 310 students at Martin’s school responded to the call for salvation!



Throughout the Kicukiro Mission week, people heard the Gospel ringing through neighbourhoods, marketplaces and, slums. Open air outreach in these places brought many to their knees in the knowledge that they needed Christ in their lives.



Wealthy professionals too were transformed by the Gospel.

Pius, a lawyer by profession, had everything going for him in a worldly sense. Eight children well established in the USA, money, status and power. But Pius could only describe his life before the mission as clouded by confusion and filled with a yearning for something he couldn't find. He had been filling his life with cruel masters.

"I feel enslaved by drugs and alcohol. I thought they would help me find my way, but I've only felt more lost and alone. I thought that having status in my community would make me feel complete, but I only feel more empty."

Evenings during the Rwanda Mission were filled with gospel rallies, which aimed to reach people with the Gospel on their commute home. The AE teams played loud music invited people to join them to dance and sing. Then the team began preaching the Gospel to the crowd. Many people accepted Christ at these rallies throughout the week. Pius was one of them.

"When I heard them preach about Jesus I realised that my life can be better. I've been living for the wrong things. I felt my own sin so painfully that I knew I needed forgiveness. I came forward to confess and pray for Christ to save me from my sin. I am determined to follow God from this day on."

I'm so thankful for AE coming into my neighbourhood because it had never before occurred to me that the answers to my suffering could be found in a church. Now I understand that God has a wonderful purpose for my life and I'm excited to tell my wife and children about the changes in me."



Jeannine, a 19 year old woman, told the team about her experiences of the mission.

“My life was in disarray. When I lost my both my parents at a young age, I was left feeling alone in the world. I thought that relationships with men would help me be fulfilled. For several years, I’ve thrown myself into multiple relationships and affairs but instead of finding the affection and care that I wanted, I’ve only found frustration, dismay, and pain.

As I was walking through the market, I heard someone preaching the Gospel through a speaker and their words struck me to the heart. I was compelled to stop and listen and I made a decision to follow Christ right then! I felt instantly free and light! I want my life to be transformed by God. I am determined to follow Christ and lead a life that honors him. Thank you for coming to tell me about Jesus today.”

These are just a few lives among thousands of lives that have been changed by the Gospel through the Kicukiro Mission. Now, the church must continue the work by reaching out to those who have made confessions of faith and starting them on the long road of discipleship.



Please pray:

- For the local Kicukiro churches as they begin this very big task.
- As the team begins preparation for the Nyarugene Mission. Please consider financially supporting this and other AE Missions in 2017 and beyond.
- Ask God to provide church partners who are passionate about reaching their communities with the Gospel, and building churches with deep foundations and strong young disciples.