

MY MISSION TRIP TO

Rwanda



JULY 2016

By: Bishop Warwick Cole-Edwardes

Trip No. 44

BACKGROUND

One of the most beautiful prayers in the **Anglican Prayer Book** goes like this:

“God of all the nations of the earth, we pray to you to remember the multitude of men and women who, though created in your image are ignorant of your love. Grant that by the witness of those who serve our Lord Jesus Christ wherever they minister your Word, perishing souls may be saved, the whole Church revived, and the name of our Saviour magnified. In Christ’s name we ask it. Amen.”

I now head up on my 44th mission trip into Africa in order to carry out the above and assist in the training of pastors from the rural areas. Dr. Garry Friesen and one of our past students, Fred Kiiza are heading up a new initiative in Rwanda and it looks very exciting. Having had an amazing mercy mission trip to Malawi and then a hectic preaching trip up to Uganda, this should again provide me with another opportunity to do what I love doing - teaching and equipping those pastors who otherwise would not be able to be equipped for ministry.

It will also enable me to meet with up with some of our other past students, love them, encourage them and keep the fire burning. God willing I hope to see Jean-Marie Hakuzimana, Fred Kiiza, Emmanuel Ruheza, Clementine Kachungu, Marceline Niwenshuti and Arcade Nibaruta.



ALL NATIONS



Floyd McClung is the founder and director of All Nations, an international leadership training and church-planting network located in Cape Town.

He is a man who has been an inspiration to millions across the world in the cause of missions. You may not know, but at the moment his is seriously ill and in need of our prayers. Listen to what he wrote not too long ago, it is brilliant:

“Church is not a temple-like building to attend on Sundays, but a community of revolutionary people who make Jesus the Lord of their whole lives and live to accomplish His mission. If Jesus is the Lord of every day and every part of life, and the church is the people who live for His mission, then church happens every day, everywhere! Church is not limited to a holy-day meeting, led by a holy man; it is a mission force of radical people invading every vocation and every nation of the world.”

— **Floyd McClung, A Simple and Profound Call to Live Like Jesus**

That is my longing as I head up to Rwanda, to encourage and equip these precious pastors in the rural areas to become ***“a mission force of radical people”*** enjoy the Journal ...

Rwanda

Republic of Rwanda
Africa

Geography

Area: 26,338 sq km

A fertile, mountainous country similar to its southern neighbour, Burundi.

Population: 10,277,212

Capital: Kigali

A massive 25% population loss in 1994-5 through massacres, genocide (nearly 1 million) and flight of refugees (over 1 million). Most of the latter have returned

Official language: French, English, kiNyarwanda.
The entire population speaks kiNyarwanda

Religion

There is full freedom of religion

Largest Religion: Christian

Religion		Pop %	Ann Gr
Christians	9,159,051	89.12	2.7
Evangelicals	2,761,140	26.9	3.0

Challenges for Prayer

Ministry challenges that need intercession:

a) **HIV/AIDS** is a massive challenge in Rwanda. The prevalence rate is as high as 10% for 14-49 year-olds, and 33% for pregnant women, a ticking time bomb to rob Rwanda of its next generation.

b) **Women at risk.** Many were widowed by the genocide; others are effectively widowed as their husbands still languish in prison. Between 100,000 and 250,000 were raped, a systematic use of terror that left nearly half of the victims HIV-positive, psychologically traumatized and socially stigmatized. Females tend to have less education and less opportunity for work; as a result, many have fallen into or been forced into prostitution. Pray for more ministries to work with these women.

d) **A lack of discipleship and biblical teaching.** Many call themselves Christian but lack a depth of understanding of their faith. The prosperity gospel is beginning to extend its influence in Rwanda; churches need trained leaders and laity who can respond to such problematic issues. Teaching programmes such as the Alpha Course can go a long way in building up the body of Christ, which is at risk of adopting an "evangelical nominalism". Pray for evangelicals in Rwanda to become mature in Christ, biblically sound and a transforming influence in their nation.

Christian support ministries:

a) **Bible and Christian literature** distribution offers words of hope to those who suffer. The Bible Society published a modern translation in Kinyarwanda, which is more accessible to those with limited literacy. Poverty and illiteracy limit the impact of literature, so African Enterprise, The Bible Society and others work to increase literacy through programmes as well.

b) **Audio resources** are therefore vital. GRN recordings are available in all the major languages, and Faith Comes By Hearing distributes solid-state audio players packed with Scripture and Christian teaching.

c) **Christian radio.** A number of Christian radio stations operate locally. These are supplemented by TWR broadcasts in Kinyarwanda, with programmes designed to minister to the specific needs of this nation. AWR also ministers in this way.

d) **The JESUS film** has been viewed by over half of the population.



MY DIARY

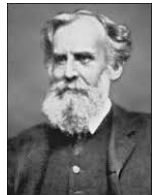
SATURDAY, 23 JULY

I woke up this morning looking forward so much to my trip up to Rwanda. But before anything else, I must read from my Bible, keep the batteries fully charged and then spend time in prayer. My Bible readings continued in Judges, Jeremiah, Mark and Acts after which **Oswald Chambers** in his classic "My Utmost for His Highest" wrote:



"haul yourself up a 101 times a day in order to do it, until you get into the habit of putting God first and calculating with Him in view."

Then in my time of prayer, I was also able to pray for the KIM MUN people in Vietnam, one of the thousands of unreached people groups. I always love reading **John Venn's** picture of a missionary and long to live it out.



"with the world under his feet, with Heaven in his eye, with the Gospel in his hand and Christ in his heart, he pleads as an ambassador for God, knowing nothing but Jesus Christ, enjoying nothing but the conversion of sinners, hoping for nothing but the promotion of the Kingdom of Christ and glorying in nothing but in the Cross of Christ Jesus, by which he is crucified to the world and the world to him."

Wow ... if only I could live like that day-by-day for the rest of my life, and to be a missionary to Africa, like Venn has described.

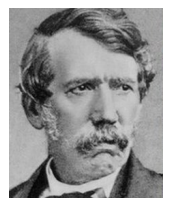
I took a slow drive down to Durban from where I flew up to Johannesburg and then on to Kigali International Airport in Rwanda. I find being able to read my books as I travel such a huge blessing. So with my books packed, my Bible and notes all ready, the malaria tablets hopefully already clicked in, now let my hero **Jim Eliot** close the day off with a prayer of deep commitment:

"God I pray Thee, light these idle sticks of my life and may I burn for Thee. Consume my life, my God, for it is Thine. I seek not a long life, but a full one, like you, Lord Jesus."



SUNDAY, 24 JULY

Today is my Dad's birthday. What an amazing legacy he has left for us. Having been raised in the most loving home, but sadly a home without Christ, I was saved in 1967 and then I had the unbelievable privilege of leading my dear father to Christ. Soon he gave up his business career and offered himself for the Lord's service, serving as a minister of a Church in Rosettenville until he went to glory in 1984. **David Livingstone** said this of his father, and I of my Dad, such beautiful words:



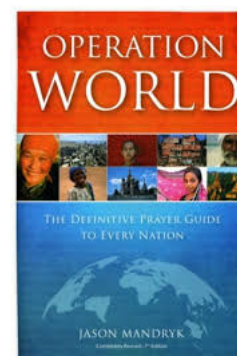
"he reared his children in connection with the Church of Scotland – a religious establishment which has been an incalculable blessing to that country – but he afterwards left it, and during the last 20 years of his life held the office of a deacon of an independent Church. He deserved my lasting gratitude and homage for presenting me from infancy with a continuously consistent pious EXAMPLE ... I revere his memory."

So now, on this special day, let me follow in the footsteps of Livingstone and my Dad and spend time reading the Bible. My readings continued in Judges, Jeremiah, Mark and Acts and then it was time for **Oswald Chambers** to again teach me further. Listen:

"Nothing happens in any particular unless God's will is behind it; therefore you can rest in perfect confidence in Him."

In my time of prayer I was able to pray especially for the FULANI people in Chad. "**Operation World**" then reminded me of Africa's greatest need:

"leadership training is recognized as the critical bottleneck. Leaders are in short supply at every level – for village congregations, for the urban educated, for theological training, for missionary endeavour and for national-level leadership."



So now I head up to Rwanda and in some small way assist in helping the greatest need ... training up pastors and servant leaders for Africa.

An excellent five-hour flight on Rwanda Air brought me safely to Kigali where Fred and Dr. Friesen were there to meet me.



From there I was taken to a really lovely restaurant in the city centre for lunch where we enjoyed a time of rich fellowship over what was a perfect lunch. From there we then picked up ANDREW and he very kindly drove us to GATSIBO the place where we are to have the Conference about two hours outside Kigali. In their amazing generosity I was booked into a lovely room which will be my home for the week, absolutely spoilt ... (even hot showers) ...



After supper there was time for preparation because I will be speaking for four hours each day, doing four sessions each day on **PASTORAL MINISTRY**. Also I was able to read from my books which I brought with me.

📖 **"The Quest for Full Assurance" by Joel Beeke**

📖 **"Dr. Philip's Empire" by Tim Keegan**

As I drifted off to sleep I felt so incredibly privileged and blessed. I then prayed another beautiful prayer by **Jim Eliot**:

"Father, take my life, yea my blood if Thou wilt and consume it with Thine enveloping fire. I would not save it, for it is not mine to save."

MONDAY, 25 JULY

We had lots of rain last night so it was wonderful to sleep with the rain falling on the corrugated iron roof, I love that sound. After a beautiful hot shower (must be a first for me) I read from Judges, Jeremiah, Mark and Acts. Then, as always, it was time for **Oswald Chambers** to mould my thinking and lifestyle:

"the Beatitudes seem merely mild and beautiful precepts for all unworldly and useless people, but of very little practical use in the stern workaday world in which we live. We soon find, however, that the Beatitudes contain the dynamite of the Holy Spirit. The Sermon on the Mount is not a set of rules and regulations; it is a statement of the life we will live when the Holy Spirit is getting His way in us."

In my time of prayer I was able to pray for the KAMI people from Nepal.

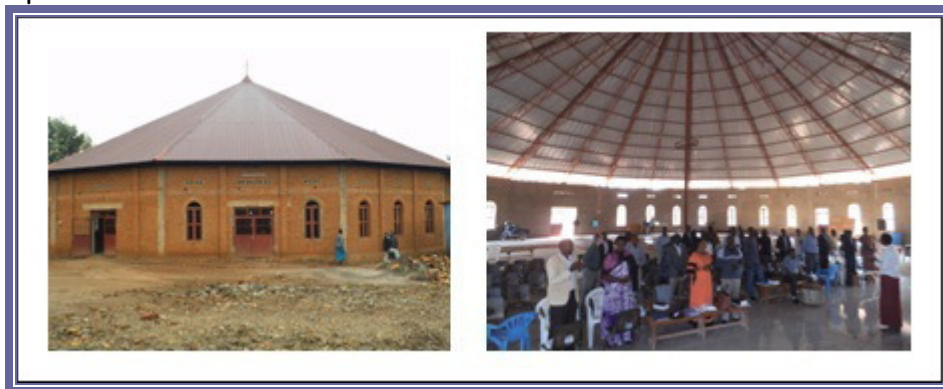
This book I am reading on the life of **Dr. John Philip** is so interesting. He towered over 19th Century South African History, championing the rights of indigenous people against the power of white supremacy, but today he is largely forgotten or misremembered. He arrived in South Africa in 1819 to be the superintendent of the London Missionary Society but soon became involved in campaigns, fighting for the emancipation of slaves, protecting the KHOI against injustice and opposing the dispossession of the XHOSA in the Eastern Cape. The results were clashes with the English settlers, the Dutch colonists, colonial authorities and fellow missionaries. This book seeks to revive him and the book enables the reader to rediscover the real heart of Dr. John Philip. I found it particularly interesting when Philip was dealing with the Moffats in Kuruman and Livingstone with his travels up north, both of which were not easy men to get on well with.

Some time ago while in Cape Town, I went to try and find the Church where John Philip was the minister for 20 years ... and I found it!!! In the Church there were some amazing plaques to John Philip, his wife Jane and in front of the Church was the table at which David Livingstone used to write his journals from ... wow what a find! So this book brought everything into perspective for me wonderfully. Here are some photographs of Philip, the Church and his tombstone.



The Conference is running so well and today I had the privilege of lecturing for four hours on **PASTORAL MINISTRY** where I was able to use the experience I gained after thirty years in Pietermaritzburg and six years in Pinetown. I spoke for two hours on "The **PORTRAIT**" of a Pastor and then for another two hours on "The **QUALIFICATIONS**" of a Pastor.

We arrived back at our home at 6:00pm in time to enjoy supper at 7:00. I then was able to read more on the life of John Philip and settle down for a good nights rest after a very fruitful day. Here are some photos of the Church.



Tonight **DICK DOWSETT** closes off the day:

"if you believe in the fire of hell, then you cannot regard mission as a casual option or an occasional hobby – it is No. 1 priority."

TUESDAY, 26 JULY

Another beautiful morning has broken across Rwanda; it felt so good to get into my Bible readings where I read from Judges, Jeremiah, Mark and Acts 13, that amazing Chapter where the Church at Antioch sent out Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey. Time again for **Oswald Chambers** to mould me, listen:

"ask God to keep the eyes of your spirit open to the Risen Christ, and it will be impossible for **DRUDGERY** to damp you."

Each day it is so important never to get into a rut, because drudgery could so easily dampen my passion. In my time of prayer, I was able to pray for the FULAM people living in Burkina Faso. Now I feel ready to preach for another four hours today ... such a privilege.

It is quite tiring speaking for four hours each day, but I loved it and the people were very receptive and seemed to love the teaching. Today I covered "The PRIORITIES of a Pastor" and "The PRECAUTIONS of a Pastor".

Exhausted I found my way back to my room and was able to finish this book on Dr. John Philip over a cup of African tea, my favourite.



As Dr. Philip worked tirelessly, fighting for the rights of the indigenous people against all forms of white supremacy, he was by and large rejected. But, if he had come to South Africa in the 1980's, we can well imagine that he might have found congenial company among the liberation theologians who played such an important role in South Africa's struggle for justice. He would have recognized their social Gospel as compatible with his own.

After another lovely supper, a wonderful day of ministry and my book on Dr. Philip read, it was time to rest. But remember:

"if you love what you do, it becomes your life and can't be divided into weekend and work time. It is all consuming."

WEDNESDAY, 27 JULY

Another beautiful morning greeted us in Rwanda. After doing my washing and having had a hot shower, I could then do my Bible readings.

I remembered what Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote:

"therefore every day in which I do not penetrate more deeply into the knowledge of God's Word in Holy Scripture is a LOST day for me."



My readings continued in Judges, Jeremiah, Mark and Acts after which **Oswald Chambers** said:

"when Jesus brings a thing home by His Word, don't shirk it. If you do, you will become a religious humbug. First go ... at the risk of being thought fanatical, you must obey what God tells you."

In my time of prayer, I remembered the WOLOF people from Senegal.

There is some time before breakfast so let me begin my other book "The Quest for Full Assurance" by Joel Beeke. Against the background of the 16th century reformation (with special attention to Calvin) Beeke examines the theological development of personal assurance of faith in English Puritanism and its parallel movement in the Netherlands. After some African tea, two slices of bread and an omelette, I was ready to go and preach for another four hours.

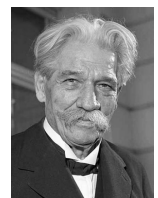
Today I covered - "The Pastor as a PREACHER" and "the Pastor as a TEACHER".

I think the pastors have really enjoyed the teaching together with that of Dr. Garry Friesen and others. In between everything I love to walk around, see the people, enjoying the vibe of this amazing country. It is the country of a 1000 hills, the kids are off to school at 06:30am and they produce the best bananas in the world ... check these photos, especially the one of a pastor's car's engine - I never thought it would ever start but it did ... and off he went, happy as anything!!



After another wonderful day in Rwanda, let me ask ALBERT SCHWEITZER to close:

"Impart as much as you can of your spiritual being to those who are on the road with you, and accept as something precious what comes back to you from them ... EXAMPLE IS LEADERSHIP."



THURSDAY, 28 JULY

Woke up early this morning to no power so I had my shave and shower with my little torch, but another beautiful morning greeted us. My readings continued in Judges, Jeremiah, Mark and Acts and it always feels wonderful to begin a day by listening to God speaking through His Word. **Oswald Chambers** then gave me a timely reminder:

"we must never put our dreams of success as God's purpose for us: His purpose may be exactly the opposite. The question of getting to a particular end is a mere incident. What we call the process, God calls the end."

In my time of prayer today I was able to pray for the BEDOOIN people of MALI, another unreached people group. Still some time to go before breakfast so I dived into Beeke's book on Assurance. He quoted from the great THOMAS BROOKS who wrote these amazing words:

What a brilliant reminder as I head off for my breakfast and then preach for another four hours today.

"Assurance makes heavy afflictions light,
long afflictions short
bitter afflictions sweet.

It makes the soul sing care away. It makes the believer more motion than notion, more work than word, more life than lip, more hand than tongue."



It was another glorious day. I was privileged to preach for another four hours on - "The Pastor as a COUNSELLOR", "the Pastor as a LEADER and "the Pastor as a MINISTER.

During the breaks I took a few photographs for you to enjoy The lectures proved too much for this man!!!



After a little zzzzz I felt refreshed and enjoyed an excellent supper. It was then time to sleep and rest for the last time in Rwanda. Whom better than JOHN WESLEY to close off the day from a letter he wrote to his brother Charles in 1771.

"your business as well as mine is to save souls. When we took priest's orders, we undertook to make it our business. I think every day lost which is not (mainly at least) employed in this thing."



FRIDAY, 29 JULY

Rwanda is such a beautiful country, truly the country of a 1000 hills. This morning my Bible readings continued in Judges, Jeremiah, Acts and my favourite, Mark's Gospel. Then my mentor Oswald Chambers wrote so beautifully:

"immediately you face the strain, you will get the strength. Overcome your own timidity and take the step and God will give you to eat of the tree of life and you will get nourished. The saint is HILARIOUS when he is crushed with difficulties, because the thing is so ludicrously impossible to anyone but God."

I remember reading that after Jon phoned to tell us his cancer was incurable and had been given two years In my time of prayer, not only did I remember the conference but also the MIAO people in China. I was then able to finish this book on "Assurance" by Beeke, it was brilliant. In summary he defined assurance as "the undoubted certainty that a person belongs to Christ, posses His saving grace and will ultimately enjoy everlasting salvation" I really enjoy walking around the area seeing the many people walking to work, singing, carrying their bananas or chickens and I found this delightful man, up early, pruning his banana trees.



After breakfast there were another two talks to give so I preached from 2 Timothy, Chapter 2 - "[The making of a Christian Leader](#)" and then Chapter 4 - "[The picture of a Preacher](#)".

Phew ... eighteen hours of preaching in one week is now over, it has been brilliant and run magnificently, it was a hug privilege to be here. John very kindly took me to the airport where I flew out at 6:00pm, arriving in Johannesburg just before midnight, followed by another flight into Durban later that morning. I found my car and drove up to Pietermaritzburg.



It has been such a blessing for me to have been asked to speak at this Conference, but now I want [John Piper](#) to wrap it all up for me:

"fight for us O God that we do not drift numb and blind and foolish into vain and empty excitements. Life is too short, too precious, too painful to waste on worldly bubbles that burst. Heaven is too great; hell is too horrible and eternity is too long that we should putter around on the porch of eternity.





LOOKING BACK

When I lie down to sleep at night, it is always a time to reflect, to evaluate and to dream. These are some of the things burning on my heart.

KWAZULU-NATAL MISSIONARY AND BIBLE COLLEGE

TRAINING PASTORS FOR AFRICA

Here I was, preaching for eighteen hours to PASTORS of Churches but none of them have had any formal training! It is estimated that up to 70% of all pastors in Africa have not had training, so the need is HUGE. You will remember that in 1980, Bishop Bradley sent me up to Ovamboland to lead my first training week, and it changed my life forever. In 1987, I started KMBC mainly for those going to pastor in Africa but because of money and education could not enter most of the Colleges in Africa. For the past 36 years, my heart has bled for Africa and her pastors. So this new initiative by Dr. Garry Friesen and Fred Kiiza is brilliant and is doing a wonderful work of training up the rural pastors of Rwanda.

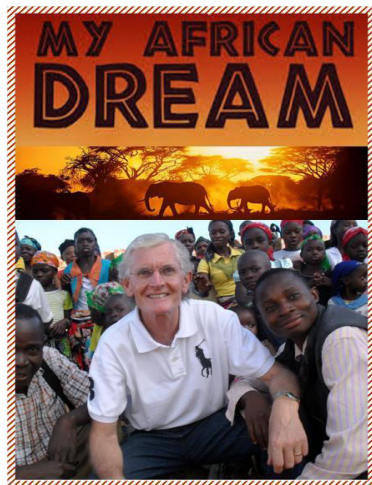


Many years ago, a man called WILLIAM TENNANT started a small Bible College in America called the LOG COLLEGE. He instructed his students not only in the Bible, in the languages, and philosophy, but he fired them up with an evangelical zeal and a missionary spirit that made itself felt throughout the colonies. Please pray that I will continue to do that at KMBC, as I have tried to do for the past 30 years.

FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA

Giving 25 lectures a week at KMBC is not enough. Through Footprints into Africa I am able to visit right across Southern Africa, from Nairobi in Kenya to Kampala in Uganda; Kigali in Rwanda, Lubumbashi in the DRC, Beira in Mozambique, Blantyre in Malawi, Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, Bulawayo in Zimbabwe, Lusaka/Kitwe/Ndola in Zambia, Ondangwa in Namibia and right across South Africa to train, encourage and equip pastors. It has been the greatest privilege anyone could ever have been given to have the opportunity to make these 44 missions trips into Africa. I get back on Saturday and will begin a series of five sermons at the Brethren Assembly on Sunday, then lecture all week at KMBC. The following weekend I have the joy of preaching at the missions weekend for Christ Church Hilton, then do a six-week course on Church History at St. Olav's before going on to the DRC and then finally ending the year in Zambia for three graduation services. Please pray for these wonderful opportunities to preach the Word of God.





In closing THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH for your love, support, prayers and financial giving which makes all this happen ... without you I would be unable to continue. I am very grateful.

GOD BLESS AFRICA
GUARD HER CHILDREN
GUIDE HER LEADERS
AND GIVE HER PEACE



If you would like to share in, or support my work into Africa, I would value your partnership. Perhaps you may like to consider one the followings avenues:

- ☑ Pray for one of the countries and the past students who are working there
- ☑ Sponsor a student's training
- ☑ Contribute to supply the pastors with resources for their work
- ☑ Contribute towards my missionary trips into Africa
- ☑ General support

I enjoy, and look forward to your comments and feedback on my Journals.

Yours for Africa,

Warwick

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