

My First Visit to the USA

I have a special memory from my arrival in the USA on Sept. 11, 2018, 4:30 p.m. The enthusiastic welcome at Rochester (NY) airport by many friends from Pearce and Northgate Free Methodist (FM) communities linked with Gahanda and Nzige communities in Rwanda gave me great joy.

I was delighted to meet in person for the first time the ICCM Central office team in Indianapolis (IN). We have known each other only through correspondence for almost eight years!

I cherish how hundreds of sponsors from Pearce, Northgate, Williamston, and Journey FM communities were so interested to know how sponsorship changes the life of the child, the entire family and it also impacts the whole community, referring to my childhood sponsorship story (see page 2).



Sending a letter with a photo to the sponsored family is highly appreciated as sponsor – child relationship is a legacy to future generations! My tours in various U.S. schools inspire me on what to do next for our children and teachers into our schools in Rwanda.



"Thank you Ephaste for the wonderful blessings you brought to us by being here." – Ruth Stothard Trost

How My Life Was Impacted by ICCM Sponsorship

Ephaste Niyigena, ICCM National Coordinator Rwanda

Almost everyone can remember the important people who might have played different roles or had influence in his/her life. American, Alice Bland, is one of the people who influenced my life. She remains in my thoughts for her incredible investment into my childhood life through ICCM sponsorship. I even remember my child sponsor number. It was RW106-0539.



Sponsorship had a huge impact on my life. I am who I am today or can be in future because of it. How splendid to have received my sponsor's first photo together with her husband Charles! Our relationship was founded on encouraging words and praying for one another.

This black and white photo is one she liked best. I am holding the rabbit. I was showing her the healthy rabbit we had purchased and I had grown from a monetary gift she sent. This photo of my family includes my father, Elie, my mother, Therese and my siblings, Bernardin and Alvera.



I remember how Alice was saddened by the death of my brother. Later, we, as a family mourned hearing in her letter that she had lost her children and her husband. I treasure these letters and photos received from Alice as feedback of mine since 1985 through 2016 when she joined our Lord Jesus, she served.

My dad kept the letters and photos safe and transferred them to me after my wedding. I, too, will transfer them with clear explanations to my children as a precious inheritance. May our Lord's blessings be upon the next generations of Alice Blands who are influencing children and changing the world through sponsorship.



Ephaste with his family. His wife is Immaculate. Their first born is Bright Mpuhwensa. Their second born is Generous Uwijuru. Their daughter is called Precious Irakoze. Ephaste is holding their fourth born (a boy) Right Iduhire. Their youngest child is Esther Uhiriwe.

During this season of Thanksgiving, we're very thankful for YOU, our sponsors!