

2019 Africa Learning Conference

Last month I joined other ICCM leaders and about 15 African Coordinators in Rwanda for the Africa Learning Conference. It was a time of prayer, worship, and training. ICCM is strategic in that many of our Regional Coordinators are highly skilled in organizational and child development.

One of our leaders Dra. Teresita Chua came all the way from ICCM Philippines to train our African National Coordinators on Holistic Child Development. Dra. Chua spent three days with us addressing organizational development in favor of

the whole child. This included creating standardized policies and procedures for each distinct program, SWOT analysis, and analysis of children's behavior at various stages.

We broke off into groups to work on how we can apply what we learned to our specific programs. Many found the training invaluable.



One day we visited the Gahanda School. They welcomed us with open arms as distinguished guests as Linda ceremonially opened new rooms and a library given to the school by their Connected Community partner Northgate Free Methodist Church, Batavia, New York. (See page 2 for an additional library story.)

The school's administrators, pastors, teachers, children, and parents welcomed each of us individually. Linda was gifted with a beautiful traditional dress. She gave greetings and blessed the crowd on behalf of ICCM.

We also met a survivor of the Rwandan genocide – the lone survivor of her entire family – who, living in the same village of Gahanda School, offered one of her two traditional houses to a family of a different tribe. The father of the family works at the school tending to the cattle on campus. They live in harmony on their small compound selling sorghum and goat milk.

Overall, the experience was truly eye-opening. The African leaders came away from the conference feeling more like a cohesive team than ever before.



Pearce for Nzige Library

by Lydia Monroe, Ex. Dir. Pearce 4 Kids (P4K) Child Care Center

When I was at our partner school in Nzige, Rwanda, last November I was privileged to cut the ribbon on the school's new library. They needed a library to meet a requirement for the school to receive permanent certification. Upon entering the library, I immediately noticed the labels "science, math, social studies, English, ..." on the shelves. But I also saw sparsely filled and empty shelves. Innocent, one of the Nzige teachers, confirmed what was obvious – they needed books and curriculum to fill the shelves.

When I returned home and told the P4K leadership staff about the library, we immediately began

dreaming of how we could help. We knew our P4K children would be able to relate to wanting/needing books as we have an abundance of books in our classrooms that are loved and used each day. Thus, our Nzige Library fundraiser was born!

Our Pearce 4 Kids children (day care, nursery school, pre-k and school age weekday child care ministries) had a great time with a penny war (contest) and a bake sale. They seemed to understand what they were raising funds for ... although many of them call it Rosine's library!! (She is P4K's sponsored child). Rosine IS Nzige to them. I love that!!



As with all our fundraisers, our hope is to help teach the children about the joy of giving to others and specifically help them to feel connected to our partner school and friends in Nzige. We had great community support and donations from a few businesses/individuals. We raised enough money to help the school get a good start in stocking the Nzige library shelves.