

Gahanda, Rwanda 2019

August 18

“Thirst was made for water; inquiry for truth.” – C.S. Lewis

As a child I was told, “Be careful what you wish for because you might get it and not like it.” I think my times in Rwanda have been like that. I wished to be here. I want to be here. I need to be here. God opened the doors for me to be here. But what I see is very hard to absorb. It breaks my heart. No one likes a broken heart.

On the way to Gahanda from Kigali (a 2 ½ hour trip), one team member said this about the poverty, “It’s like I can’t breathe, or take a breath without seeing it over and over. At home you see pockets of poverty. You drive through it and it’s gone. Here it doesn’t go away.”



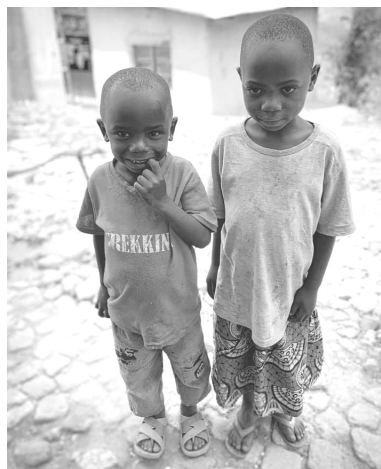
My times in Rwanda have created inquiry for truth. Inquiry about circumstances in this culture, inquiry about what I am willing and capable of doing, and inquiry about my trust in Christ to work His plan.

I don’t think one can “breathe” this truth for long and not be changed. I am not discouraged. I LOVE Rwanda. I am being truthful.

August 20

“Every child you encounter is a divine appointment.” – Wess Stafford

This truth is very evident here!! The scale of the need and poverty is difficult to comprehend. In a world where athletes and businesses make mil-



lions and billions of dollars these children have been left behind!

Children in torn, tattered clothes are everywhere. When they see our vehicle coming, they run to the edge of the road, smile with enthusiasm and wave.

Those smiles are a “divine encounter.” The hands and feet, running and reaching, or being still and grasping toward heaven ... these children have found a special place in my heart.

August 21

“Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can bear a hardship today.” – Thich Nhat Hanh

So why would someone come halfway around the world to cry to have their heart broken? Hope is my answer – because ignorance can no longer be an option.

Today we played soccer. Rwandans say, “Foootballl”. The whole community, (hundreds of people) turned out for the event. The teachers

played the students. Our team played against the local pastors. It was incredible. Some spectators even climbed trees for a better view!

For the first game I found a spot to sit near some children. As the game progressed, the children worked up the courage to inch closer and closer. Eventually I was surrounded by about 60 kids.

The little girl in this picture came up on my right-hand side. Initially she would not look directly at me. She'd glance at me out of the corner of her eye but not make direct eye contact. By the end of the game she was pressing up against me. Her hand was on my leg. She wouldn't leave it there long, but she wanted to touch this stranger.

My heart broke. Then I remembered the events of the last two days of teacher training and the celebrations of **all** that Northgate and Gahanda have been able to accomplish as Connected Communities. In fact, the district head of the Rwandan department of education came by the school. He had nothing but praise



for what has been accomplished over the last two years at Gahanda!!

I told the Northgate team as we were driving back to our accommodations, what has been done, including this teacher team, is a real, honest to goodness miracle. People say there are no miracles, **they are wrong**. They are looking in the wrong places!

What has been done gives me hope for that little girl. Tomorrow she is going to wake up and her life is going to be incrementally better because we are going to work with the community on the beginnings of a freshwater project. And, five years from now, **watch out!** Because God is doing a miracle in Gahanda, Rwanda, **right**

now – change is occurring!

I have hope for tomorrow!!!



Sponsor a child, change a world.