

Editorial

In this February edition of the KOMERA newsletter we are focusing on the building we have now bought as a headquarters for PHARP in Rwanda. We have sent £45,000 to buy this property and to undertake some basic conversion work so that it can be used by PHARP as a base for training, administration and hospitality in Kigali.

It is in an area of the city close to the airport, very accessible to many of the very poor areas of Kigali. Since so few people have access to cars, those coming to the building walk - and so the location is important.

As well as office space, the building is going to house training facilities for the work with young people, a seminar room for some of the counselling and seminar work. The counselling will include some of the Restorative Justice encounters when survivors and perpetrators of the 1994 Genocide meet each other. Privacy and support are essential for this. The building enables staff to offer such a space.

There will be a shop in the building to sell some of the produce created by the students - many of us have seen this produce when it has been brought back to the UK for sale here.

On top of this, the building is going to have a number of bedrooms and catering facilities so that people visiting Kigali - both from abroad and from other parts of Rwanda - will be able to stay there and be catered for by the helpers at PHARP. This will also generate further income for the organisation.

It is the commitment of people in our District that has enabled all of this. Many thanks for all the work put in. Please continue your support for both the training work and to raise the funds to bring some young people from Rwanda here to the District next November.

Greetings in Christ,

John Howard

Progress at PHARP

Building work has been continuing at the new PHARP headquarters.



In the photo above you can see transformed the main building, comprising of a meeting hall and three further rooms. Behind the house are two annexes.

Work on the annexes is continuing.



Before.....and after.





Above -- second annex



Work on toilet block.

Our thanks to everyone for the fundraising which has enabled this work to be done.

Further details on any part of the project – either contact the District Office on 01902 332508, email bs@wsmeth.org.uk or speak to one of the project team, Brian Dawson, Paul Nzachahayo, Samuel Uwimana, Phil Hoar, Peter Clarke, Moira Simpson and John Howard.

This is a prayer Revd Anastase Ruigirangoga has written for the Methodist Prayer Handbook next year - perhaps we might all use it during Lent to pray for Rwanda. JH

A Prayer for Rwanda

God of love, mercy, justice, and peace,
Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.
We lift up to your attention and care the Country of Rwanda and the Rwandan people, those inside and those outside. You haven't ignored the suffering they have been enduring as result of the genocide of 1994. We thank you for your work of healing and reconciling that has been taking place in this Country.

We pray that you would help those who couldn't find you in the midst of their pain to see you in the reconciliation process of the country; to know that you were, are and will be; you keep on loving, caring, and you remain sovereign.

We pray that genuine confession, repentance, and forgiveness take place and lead to lasting peace in Rwanda for your glory's sake.

We pray that you continue to heal their hearts, minds and souls.

We pray that you continue to care for the orphans, the widows, the disabled, those living with incurable disease, and those in prison.

We pray for the church of Rwanda to be the vessel of your grace and love; to stand against any kind of injustice, and to reach out in forgiveness.

We pray that you would guide Rwandan leadership to handle mistakes and offenses with grace and forgiveness, and the country of Rwanda to stand as a symbol of hope in this troubled World.

Your will be done.

Amen

Rev. Anastase Rugirangoga

ALL ABOUT FINANCE

I am constantly being asked about our fundraising for Rwanda. It is a continually growing project as new things are springing up all over the place. There is no doubt that the whole thing is most successful and I thank all of you who have made this possible.

Since 1 September we have sent £15,000 to the ministerial students' college in Kigali, which is being overseen by Bishop Samuel. This is our current major building project.

The main money raising item at the moment is for the visit of young people from Rwanda in November. The figure currently collected for that is £3,700 and there are many money raising events planned for the summer to supplement this.

The District Chair, Rev John Howard and others raised £4,885 during their marathon walk of the District. Well done to John for this and thanks to all who sponsored him and others as they trekked around. A further £1,920 has been raised generally for Rwanda.

Please make cheques out to Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District and send them direct to me. Any further information must be written on the back of the cheque.

Moira Simpson (District treasurer)