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○ FEBRUARY 5

○ 2011

9th Annual Rwanda Prayer Banquet¹

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Silver Spring, Maryland

Saturday, February 5, 2011

Newsletter

Guest Speaker *Bishop Darlington Johnson*

Bishop Darlington G. Johnson, D.Min. D.D., is Senior Pastor of Bethel World Outreach Church in Silver Spring, Maryland—a rapidly growing, multicultural congregation of 2,500 members from 45 nations. He is Presiding Prelate of Bethel World Outreach Ministries International—a global organization of more than 20,000 members in 22 nations. He is the First Assistant Bishop to the Presiding Bishop and Director of Missions and Outreach of the Kingdom Council of Interdependent Christian Churches and Chairman of the Board of International Gospel Outreach Ministries. Bishop Johnson is also the Vice Chairman for the Africa Leadership Forum and Executive Board member of the Awakening America Alliance.

A scholar, Bishop Johnson holds Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Oral Roberts University (Tulsa, Oklahoma) and Phillips University (Enid, Oklahoma) respectively. In 2009, Bishop received an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity degree from St. Thomas Christian College (Jacksonville, Florida). A diligent servant, he is committed to winning lost, making disciples, planting churches, and developing Christian leaders. He has preached God’s Word in more than 25 nations.

Bishop Johnson is the author of several books: *Light for Your Journey: Essential Building Blocks for a Successful Life, Anointed for the Marketplace, This One Thing I Do, Good-bye Worry, and Sexual Purity*. His television program—*Rivers of Life*—airs weekly in Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties, Maryland and in Monrovia, Liberia.

He is married to Pastor Chrys Johnson, M.A. They have one daughter, Isabel.

^{1/} More information about the Rwanda Prayer Banquet is available at www.rwandaprayerbanquet.com. The Rwanda Prayer Banquet (RPB) is a yearly event held in Washington, D.C., on **the first Saturday of February each year**. The RPB is a replica of the United States National Prayer Breakfast—hosted by members of the United States Congress—which is held the first Thursday of February each year in the Hilton’s International Ballroom in Washington, D.C.



Left Ambassador Ssemपाल, Pastors Rutaya



Left Bishop Johnson and Pastor Rutaya



Left Anna Karasanyi and An



Statement by Georges Parker¹

Thank you, Sister Antoinette, for inviting me to the Rwanda Prayer Banquet. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and prayer with my Rwandese brothers and sisters. As you know I recently spent several weeks in Rwanda, Kigali to be specific. I had a wonderful experience, the people, the culture, the language, all so beautiful.

When I arrived it seems like everyone I met greeted me with the same greeting, "welcome home". I thought to myself what a strange thing to say. It wasn't until I was ready to leave Rwanda that I began to understand. Since my return I have spoken with a number of people who have traveled to Rwanda and hardly, without exception, they shared the profound impact their visit had on their lives. Some could express their feelings while some just came away knowing something (or someone) had touched them. Most felt that they returned having experienced something that was spiritual in nature. I have a theory as to why people return from Rwanda with such a feeling that somehow they have become part of this beautiful land.

As everyone knows something happened in April of 1994 that was so horrifying, so evil and so beyond what most people can even comprehend. I went to Rwanda thinking that I had a good understanding of the genocide, but I was not prepared with what I came face to face with. As I stood in the children's section of the genocide memorial, I found myself sobbing uncontrollably. In facing my own humanity, I was trying to reason in my mind how can human beings sink so low as to consider the life of another human as worthless as an insect. And what's more many of these who perpetrated these atrocities professed to be Christians. I began to understand the great evil humans are capable of.

Now to explain my theory, I believe that God knew that the events of those three months would be more than any person, or country could ever recover from. No emotional, physical or spiritual healing was possible in light of such incredible evil. Satan must have been very proud of himself in the devastation he brought about and believe me, this was Satan himself, not his demon helpers. I believe that God, in his unfathomable compassion, brought His Kingdom down to Rwanda and overruled the plans of Satan and said "No more"

The bible says that the blood of one man (Abel) cried out from the grave. How much more would the blood soaked ground of a million souls cry out for justice for all time. I believe that God poured out such an abundance of uncommon grace over this blood soaked ground that anyone who visits and walks the land has no choice but to receive this precious gift. I believe this outpouring of grace will remain until the Lord Jesus returns. God gave it for the Rwandese people and since God is no respecter of people, everyone partakes.

As I prepared to leave Rwanda, I began to experience an anxious feeling and shortly after my departure, I began to feel homesick, not for the U.S. but for Rwanda. Then I understood why "welcome home". This might sound strange to some and might offend others, but in my spirit I have no trouble saying "I am Rwandese."

I have heard it said that after God's busy day at work he goes to Rwanda to lay down and rest. I think probably he lays down in Jerusalem but Rwanda is his pillow.

Your brother and friend in Christ
Mungu akubariki sana



^{1/} George Parker is the founder and overseer of A Voice for the NATIONS! More information about A Voice for the Nations is available at: <http://www.avoicethenations.org>

Statement by Mutoni Karasanyi¹

As a child, growing up as a first generation immigrant is at times difficult. Ultimately, your world becomes divided between the world outside your home, at school, at work or with your friends, and the world within your home, with your parents, relatives, and family friends. These two worlds clash on so many levels from culture, foods, and language to issues such as values, beliefs, and political opinions. As a result, we begin to identify more with the world outside of our home. It is only through visiting and experiencing Africa for ourselves that we realize how little our worlds differ. When you get to know children living in Africa, you gain a greater affinity and understanding of the continent.

In 2009, I decided to move to Kigali, Rwanda for one year. Although our family had visited the continent many times before, only my younger brother had ever lived in East Africa. I left the US with specific goals of learning my parents' language (Kinyarwanda) and investigating possible future business opportunities. While I was there, I also hoped to make some small difference by volunteering with two different non-profit organizations; the Rwanda Convention Association, and the Rwanda Youth Healing Center. Later, I would also join the Kigali chapter of the RotarAct club (a younger level of Rotary Intl).

A year and a half later, I finally returned to the US. My Kinyarwanda has certainly improved, but far from where I had hoped it would be. Through my work experience with a small marketing and advertising agency, I learned a great deal about the current economic climate of the country and the many, many business opportunities that are available to entrepreneurs. I left feeling that I had not only accomplished my goals, but also gained something more.

Often when we discuss other countries, we describe cultures, economic development, and political history as tremendous obstacles to living and working in different countries or even with people of differing backgrounds. Yet, when I danced with orphans living with HIV/AIDS, played games with young Genocide survivors, or discussed business plans with university students, I realized their humanity and suddenly I didn't feel any different from them as I had from the American children I grew up with. While living in Rwanda, nearly every day, I would meet more and more ambitious and inspiring men and women of my own age, who were opening their own businesses or achieving success in difficult careers. Many of them had also lived some part of their lives abroad and could relate to me in a way that few of my peers in the US could. In all the trips I had taken previously, I had never really gained such a strong connection with my countrymen as I had by actually living there.

In conclusion, I believe that every first generation African should be given the opportunity to travel to their parents' homeland and experience their world first-hand. It will not only build stronger relationships with your extended family, but will grant you a deeper understanding and appreciation of an entire generation of youth, who are the leaders of tomorrow's Africa. There is an entire world of music, dance, exotic foods, and new languages awaiting you, but I have a feeling when you get there, you'll start to feel right at home!



^{1/} Mutoni Karasanyi, son of Norman and Anna Karasanyi was born in USA. He successfully completed his MBA at Boston College, in Boston, U.S.A.

Speech to the 2011 Rwanda Prayer Banquet¹ by Zachary D. Kaufman² on the Kigali Public Library

Part I: Introduction

Thank you to Antoinette Kanyabutembo for inviting me here today to discuss the Kigali Public Library. Ambassador Kimonyo, Bishop Johnson, pastors, distinguished ladies and gentlemen of the Rwandese community, it is truly an honor to be with you all tonight at this Prayer Banquet to commemorate the 1994 genocide, as well as to look to a future of hope and possibility in Rwanda.

Part II: Personal Motivation

A. Religious Experience

Growing up as one of the only Jews in Morgantown, West Virginia, I was the target of several instances of anti-Semitism—spit on, taunted, punched, simply for being Jewish. On one occasion, a classmate who held me personally responsible for the death of Jesus Christ, picked me up, turned me over, and rammed my head repeatedly into a rock. Teachers rarely intervened. In fact, they, along with parents and religious leaders, were often the source of misconceptions about and animosity towards Jews. It was because of these experiences that I learned early in life that innocents can sometimes suffer discrimination. This discrimination can be manifested violently. Many people, even those with the power to help or in positions of authority, will unfortunately remain bystanders or even initiate or exacerbate these problems. I learned at an early age that it is vital to combat myths, misinformation, and misperceptions that lead to persecution.

Later, while in high school, I read and saw the tragically scant news about the genocide unfolding in Rwanda. I had a visceral reaction, not just because of events in my own past, but also because of the history of my people and the teachings of my faith. As a Jew who grew up learning about the enslavement and genocidal ambitions of Pharaoh in ancient Egypt and about the Holocaust, it was very clear to me that a similar atrocity was being perpetrated against another group of people, and that everyone—especially Jews—had a duty to act. Yet, the few people around me who cared enough to discuss the Rwandan genocide mostly expressed concern but powerlessness to help. I disagreed, as I think we are never powerless to act. I vowed that when I grew up I would try to help promote human rights in concrete and meaningful ways, and not stand on the sidelines.

That's what my religion teaches. Judaism teaches that Tzedakah, or charity, is a fundamental part of our faith—and this Tzedakah has multiple levels of merit. For example, giving after being asked is considered a lower level of Tzedakah than giving before being asked. Also, giving when neither the recipient nor donor knows the other's identity is considered a higher level of Tzedakah than when giving when either the recipient or donor does know the other's identity. The highest of eight levels of Tzedakah is enabling the recipient to become self-reliant. It is also a part of the Jewish faith and culture to perform Mitzvot, defined in Hebrew as commandments, but the term has also come to express any act of human kindness. It was these teachings, in part, that led me to help build the Kigali Public Library, the first public library in Rwanda, which, I'm very pleased to inform you, we will open later this year!

B. Rwanda Experience

During my early travels to Rwanda more than a decade ago, I learned that there was no public library in the entire country of Rwanda. And the lack of access to accurate information—access which a public library provides—has been particularly tragic in Rwanda. There were few outlets to challenge rumors and falsehoods about Tutsi promoted by Radio Télévision Libre des Mille Collines and Kangura newspaper.

Many of us—Rwandese and others concerned about Rwanda—felt compelled to act, and so decided to work together to design, build, stock (with books, audio-visual media, and computers), staff, and maintain a public library in Rwanda's capital city of Kigali. The library will be free and open to the public.

But libraries are more than buildings stocked with books and machines.³ I've always liked the inscription over the door at the Library at Thebes in Ancient Greece that read, simply: "Balm [, or Medicine,] of the Soul."⁴

I believe the Kigali Public Library will serve a similar purpose in Rwanda. The construction of the Kigali Public Library sends a strong message to the Rwandese people and to the world that this country is committed to opening a new chapter in its history—one marked by peace and progress. By enriching minds and encouraging critical thought, a public library can combat the stultifying burdens of ignorance and conformity. It helps safeguard freedom and spurs the development of a healthy democracy by providing access to information that enables citizens to make decisions necessary to govern themselves. As Andrew Carnegie, the founder of the modern public library, said, "there is not such a cradle of pure democracy upon the earth as in the Free Public Library, this republic of letters, where neither rank, office[,] nor wealth receives the slightest consideration; where all men are equal."⁵

Once users have access to the library's materials, they also will have the opportunity to gain knowledge that could help them secure employment or start a business. Thus this institution will not only promote independent thinking and informed decision-making, but will also help fulfill the dream of safety, equality, and development in Rwanda.

In addition, a public library in Rwanda will help to build a common national identity. This library will house special collections on such topics as Rwandan history and literature, which will serve to preserve the past and showcase shared experiences. We will ensure that the histories represented in the library's collection are selected and maintained by an independent editorial board.

Finally, Rwanda's first public library will strive to play an important role in childhood education. Its books will spark their imaginations, inspire their creativity, and expose them to a world filled with ideas and wonder. Story hours for preschoolers

^{2/} Zachary D. Kaufman is the founder, president, and chairman of the Board of Directors of the American Friends of the Kigali Public Library. More information about the Kigali Public Library is available at www.kigalilibrary.org. More information about Mr. Kaufman is available at www.zacharykaufman.com.

^{3/} I am indebted to Beth Payne for formulating an earlier version of the rationale for the Kigali Public Library.

^{4/} Siculus, Diodorus. Translated by Edwin Murphy (1985). Diodorus On Egypt. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company. 65.

^{5/} Quoted in: Ditzion, Sidney (1947). *Arsenals of a Democratic Culture*. Chicago, IL: American Library Association. 154.



Speech to the 2011 Rwanda Prayer Banquet¹

by Zachary D. Kaufman² on the Kigali Public Library (continued)

and career and education planning for secondary students will encourage their development. The library's resources will also encourage children to take an active interest in their civic responsibilities by sharing the history of the Rwandan country and its people, which will promote conscientious action and provide a more secure future. The Kigali Public Library will give the gift of knowledge to the thousands of Rwandese children who will lead their country down the path to liberty, democracy, and a bright future. Already we can tell that children are excited about the library. Recently, a young Rwandan boy came into our office, dug into his pocket, pulled out a Rwandan franc, and declared, "This is to help build MY library."

PART III: Background and Update on the Kigali Public Library

The Rotary Club of Kigali-Virunga, chartered in 2000 and of which I, along with the First Lady, am an Honorary Member, committed itself to building a public library in Kigali. This effort was soon joined by the American Friends of the Kigali Public Library, which I founded in 2001 and have led since. Together, we've led a campaign to fundraise for, to raise public awareness about, to collect books for, and to build, equip, and staff the Kigali Public Library.

This campaign is collaboration between Rwandese (Tutsi and Hutu), Americans, and many, many others. It is, I think, tangible proof that Rwanda as a nation has come together to literally build a better future. To date, we have raised about US\$3 million, a substantial portion of which has been generously contributed by the Government of Rwanda, representatives of whom are here with us this evening; we have built most of the 3-story building, which I think you would agree from pictures available on our website is not only large but beautiful and welcoming; and we are in the process of shipping to Rwanda about 45,000 books in both English and French, donated from two organizations, Project Books for International Goodwill and Libraries Without Borders. We plan to complete construction early this year and inaugurate the building around summertime. We are also in the process of hiring an Executive Director and other staff, and establishing partnerships with universities, libraries, and other educational institutions within Rwanda and abroad.

PART IV: Closing and Invitation to Become Involved

St. Paul, in the Book of Acts, Chapter 20, Verse 35, quotes Jesus as having taught that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Working on the Kigali Public Library has provided me with an opportunity to learn more about Rwanda and to get to know and develop wonderful friendships with my fellow volunteers, genocide survivors, and representatives from our donors. Based on my experience in Rwanda, I have come to realize that Jesus was, of course, right: when one truly gives, one truly receives, and that that is the blessing. In fact, I feel that I have received far more than I have given in having this precious opportunity to work with Rwandese in the aftermath of the genocide.

The Kigali Public Library will be a living institution—constantly in need of maintenance and support. It will need additional funds, new books; more audio-visual materials, extra staff, and we may eventually decide to expand the size and scope of the Kigali Public Library or even build additional public libraries in Rwanda.

To maintain and sustain the library even after it opens will require continued support of its resources and programs. You are thus warmly invited to donate money, time, ideas, and/or to join the American Friends of the Kigali Public Library. One way to donate is through our website, www.kigalilibrary.org, or you can contact me or any of my wonderful colleagues and dear friends on the project, including Grace Nkubana, our Treasurer and a Board Member, and Sheba Hakiza, another Board Member. In a few months from now, we in the American Friends of the Kigali Public Library will, with the support of the Rwandan Embassy, host a fundraiser here in the DC area, and I would like to invite you all to attend.

The Kigali Public Library is but one of many initiatives to bring people together and teach people about each other in Rwanda. I join you in offering my own prayer for Rwanda today. May G-d shine light on the future of Rwanda, and may the tragedy of 1994 never again occur in Rwanda or anywhere else. Amen.



RPB Update



ts Arrival
Bishop Johnson, Pastors M. Rwimbuguza, Sarah Rutaya and Bernadette Raha



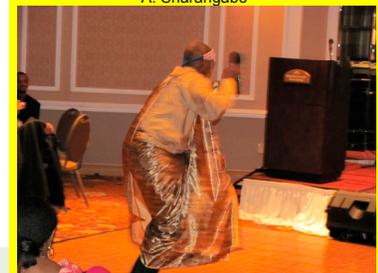
Pastor Mishake Rwimbuguza



Mutoni Karasanyi



A. Sharangabo



Immaculee & her daughter



2011 Rwanda Prayer Banquet Pictures

Amariza n'Amasonga Dancers



Ann G. Karasanyi ^{1/}

^{1/}Ann G. Karasanyi, Senior Executive Assistant, at World Bank, Washington, D.C.

Mmes. Ann G. Karasanyi and Marie Jeanne Uwanyarwaya are the key organizers of the Rwanda Prayer Banquets in Washington, D.C.

Sponsorships Voices

Dinner



Yohanni Kayinamura & Bishop D. Johnson



Ambassador Ssemपाल & Pastory Rutaya



Pastor Bernadette Raha



Pastors Likekele, Rwimbuguza, Rutaya and Raha



Message from Kigali, Inshuti Za Jesus February 15, 2011



Inshuti Za Jesus February 15, 2011 at 11:28am

Subject: Turabasaba ubufatanye ku murimo w'Imana!!
Muvandimwe Antoinette,

Yesu ashimwe,

Twe tukwandikiye turi abanyarwanda bishyize hamwe bashinga icyo twise : " RWANDA JESUS FRIENDS NETWORK " akaba ari ihuriro nyarwanda rihuzza abantu bose bakunda YESU baturuka mu mpande zose z'isi, basengera mu matorero atandukanye.

Ni muri urwo rwego twashyizeho Website yitwa

http://www.facebook.com/l/1b7baASwHX_DUKTZI2UJy9Qkw2A; www.jesus.rw itangaza uko umurimo w'Imana ukorwa mu Rwanda no mu mahanga tutitaye ku madini ahubwo twitaye ku murimo w'Imana ukorwa.

Ni muri urwo rwego, nyuma y'ikiganiro mwagiranye na VOA twumvise twishimiye kugishyira kuri Website yacu, ubu iyo nkuru abakunzi ba website

http://www.facebook.com/l/1b7baASwHX_DUKTZI2UJy9Qkw2A; www.jesus.rw aho bari hose ku isi bakaba bashobora kubona Ikoraniro mwakoreye i WASHINGTON.

Tukaba rero tubasaba kuba Umufatanyabikorwa wacu, mukajya mutugezaho, ibiterane, amasengesho, ubuhamya,.... bw'abantu bari muri DIASPORA yanyu natwe tukaba tubemereye kujya tubitangaza ku buntu kuri Website yacu.

Ikindi kandi mushishikarize abanyarwanda ba DIASPORA yanyu kutugira inama no gusura Website http://www.facebook.com/l/1b7baASwHX_DUKTZI2UJy9Qkw2A; www.jesus.rw kugirango bamenye ibikorwa mu Rwanda mu murimo w'Imana.

Ku bindi bisoanuro, mwatwandikira kuri E-mail : inshutizajesus@yahoo.fr cyangwa kuri Facebook : inshutizajesus.

Imana ibahe umugisha mwinshi cyaneeee...

Ubuyobozi bwa Website http://www.facebook.com/l/1b7baASwHX_DUKTZI2UJy9Qkw2A; www.jesus.rw

Uganda Choir from Pastor Rutaya's church



Statement *by Antoinette Kanyabutembo*¹

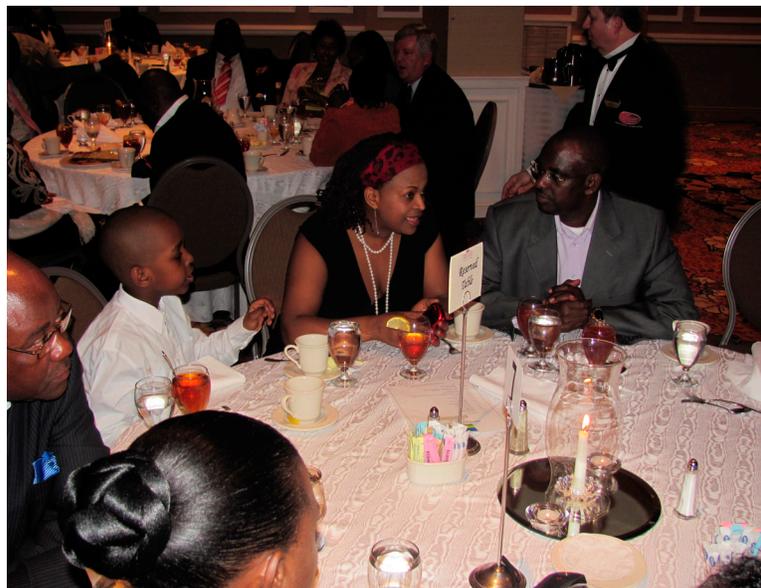
The Rwanda Prayer Banquet¹ (RPB) is a **yearly event** held in Washington, D. C., on the **first Saturday of February each year**. The RPB is a replica of the United States National Prayer Breakfast—hosted by members of the United States Congress—which is held the first Thursday of February each year in the Hilton’s International Ballroom in Washington, D. C. Similarly, the RPB started since February 2003 with the support of Rwandan Christian groups and the Rwandan community in the Washington metropolitan area. The RPB’s focus is to present **each year, the first Saturday of February**, the Republic of Rwanda to the Almighty God, the supreme power in Three: God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit. It is a day of reflection, surrounding all, consecration, and rededication of the country to the Lord; seeking God’s presence, protection, provision, and guidance for the rest of the year

Today, the RPB celebrated its **9th Annual Event**. The RPB has become the premier gathering of high level Christian and Rwanda leaders in the United States, with a focus on celebrating Rwanda and sharing its values, while advancing Christian support for Rwanda. It is designed to be a forum for economical, political, social, and business leaders of the world to assemble together and build relationships. The event is regarded as merely a tool to recruit the powerful attendees to support people of Rwanda in rebuilding their country spiritually, emotionally, financially, and economically.

The RPB is seen as an event of official national day of prayer, starting in Rwanda, reaching out other African nations, and many other nations. We thank God for the economic progress in the Republic of Rwanda, with such a pass turbulent history of an aftermath of genocide. Rwanda is today a light shining from the heart of Africa throughout the world. People of Rwanda are praying for the Kingdom of God to be established and together we’re going to continue to pray for our Leaders for wisdom and God’s divine knowledge to build the country in positive ways.

This year 2011 starts the kicks off campaign **“Helping the Rwanda Scholarship Experience Program,”** which will allow young people from Rwanda born in the United States to experience the reality of the current situation in Rwanda. The program will take the best and brightest student (s) from campuses across the United States to Rwanda for a study tour to ensure and cultivate a pro-Rwanda support throughout the next generation and to have tomorrow’s leaders develop an educated heart for Rwanda.

The Rwanda community and friends of Rwanda who wish to support this program are encouraged to join the RPB’s network of volunteers, INVOLVE. If you would like to donate your time this year, please send an email to akanyabutembo@rwandaprayerbanquet.com. RPB is asking you to help us out this year by giving with a tax-deductible donation, check payable to RINA (Rwanda International Network), EIN 20-8995712 if you want to claim tax exemption. I hope we count on you for **a generous donation**, any amount is always welcomed.



Kennedy Ballroom, Crowne Plaza Hotel

^{1/} **Editor and founder of Rwanda Prayer Banquet (RPB), Antoinette Kanyabutembo**

Antoinette Kanyabutembo is a mother of five children, two biological (Melissa and Moses Anoh) and three adopted (Solange, Hortense, and Julien Kanyabutembo). Ms. Kanyabutembo is a staff assistant at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, D.C. and also serves as Deacon at Bethel World Outreach Ministries Church, in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Comments or suggestions?

Contact: akanyabutembo@imf.org, muwanyarwaya@worldbank.org, and akarasanyi@worldbank.org