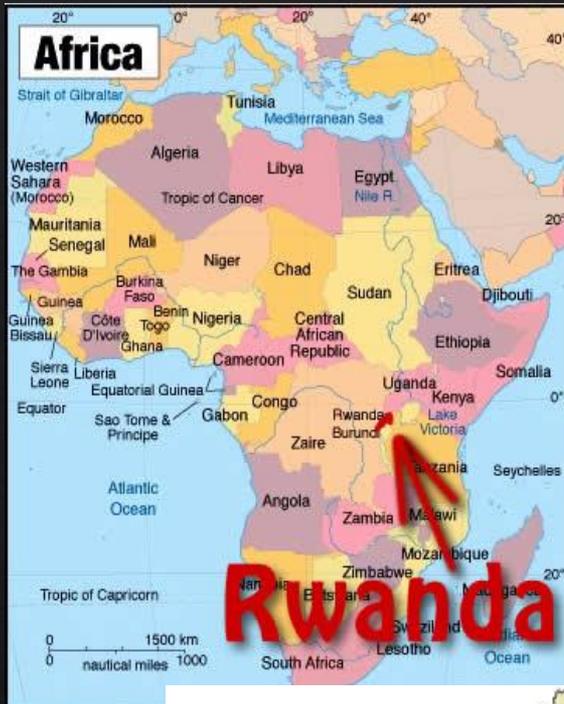


*Mission Trip To  
Rwanda, East Africa  
22 – 29 December 2017*



# WHERE IN THE WORLD IS RWANDA AND WHY RWANDA?



Rwanda is a very small country in East Africa with such beautiful landscape and well-terraced mountains. Popularly known as the country with a thousand hills and the Switzerland of Africa, Rwanda is a core tourist attraction in East Africa. The genocide of 1994 claimed the lives of one million people, a culmination of decades of tension between the Hutus and Tutsis, the two main tribes of Rwanda. People were brutally killed, fathers, husbands, wives, children, professionals etc. Every sector in Rwanda was affected by this horrible and painful massacre across the country.

As a result of the genocide many were left as widows and orphans. It's estimated that there are about 700,000 widows and 300,000 orphans if not more. 90% of these child survivors witnessed deaths of their family, friends or neighbours with some 80% having lost at least one member of their family.

There also about 65,000 child-headed households - children looking after other children, normally these children are between the ages of 13 – 18 years old and have assumed “Parent responsibility”

Dele first visited Rwanda in 1999 with a team of 15 Volunteers from the UK to work at Fred Life Orphanage in Gitrama (Now Muhanga) for two weeks. Since then Dele & various team members have supported, raised money and expertise etc. to help hundreds of Widows, Orphans, the destitute, homeless and vulnerable Rwandans get educated, build homes, set up farms, set up income generated projects etc. Now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year. The team continue to work with grassroots friends and Charities, - Iriba Shalom, Good News and Lahai Roi Project – “Helping Individuals to Help Themselves”.

## ***Mission Trip To Rwanda, East Africa – Full Itinerary of Events***

- **22<sup>nd</sup> December – Arrival in Kigali & Travel to Rwamagana – East Rwanda**
- **22<sup>nd</sup> December – Youth Camp – Life Purpose**
- **23<sup>rd</sup> December – Community Day – Repairing A Mud House**
- **24<sup>th</sup> December – Visiting Friends in Kigali**
- **25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch with Widows & Orphans**
- **26<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Party with Good News Beneficiaries**
- **27<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Party with Lahai Roi Beneficiaries**
- ◇ **28<sup>th</sup> December – The drive to South West Rwanda via Nyungwe Forest**
- **28<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Party with Iriba Shalom Widows & Orphans**
- **29<sup>th</sup> December – Time to Leave Rwanda again**
- **Why Giving Back is fun**

## 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Arrival in Kigali & Travel to Rwamagana – East Rwanda



*The Oyekanmi's arrival at Kigali International Airport on 22 December 2017*



## 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Youth Camp at Avega Conference Centre, Rwamagana

*After catching up on a few hours of sleep it was time to speak at the Youth Conference which had started on the 20<sup>th</sup> December. The aim of the Youth Camp was to inspire and motivate 125 Youths (Ages 15 -22 Years Old) to get Life Skills and to develop their talents and potentials in order to contribute and have a positive impact in their community. Both Esther and Dele spoke on the topic... What is your Life Purpose centred around Five Simple Questions below:*



**WHO AM I ? - IDENTITY**

**WHERE AM I FROM ? - SOURCE**

**WHY AM I HERE ? - PURPOSE**

**WHAT CAN I DO? - POTENTIAL**

**WHERE AM I GOING ? DESTINY**

22<sup>nd</sup> December – Youth Camp at Avega Conference Centre, Rwamagana



# 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Youth Camp at Avega Conference Centre, Rwamagana



*"The meaning of life is to find  
your gift. The purpose of life is  
to give it away."*

*Pablo Picasso*

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## 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Youth Camp at Avega Conference Centre, Rwamagana



## 23<sup>rd</sup> December – Community Day – Repairing A Mud House



*Part of the Life Skills Training was to get the Youths to help others in the Community. On this particular occasion a very poor family was selected to repair part of their mud house. The Youths had to get water from the valley, dig the clay and sand for the local plaster and then walk back up the mountain to repair the house. A great humbling experience for both old and young!*



## 23<sup>rd</sup> December – Community Day – Repairing A Mud House



## 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch with Widows & Orphans



*....Celebrating Christmas day with two special widows. To my right is Agnes Mukamisha a surviving widow with one son (Joseph) and two nieces (Lynda & Lillian) . I met Agnes in 2004 through her best friend – Mama Lambert. Agnes worked with World Relief UN before and after the genocide, it was the UN that eventually came to pick Agnes from the popular Hotel Des Colines (Hotel Rwanda Film) where she survived with her son Joseph. Agnes was shot and hacked during the genocide. She has a bullet left in her heart!. Her husband and two other sons were hacked to death . To my left is Beata Mukarubuga (Mama Lambert) a widow with three surviving children Dieduonne, Denise and Lambert. I met Mama Lambert in 2002 during one of our trips to Rwanda. Her organization – Solace Ministries was introduced to us by CMS in the UK...Great connections. Mama Lambert's husband and her other five children were killed. Her husband was thrown alive into a river and her five children were thrown into a toilet pit. These widows remain a great source of inspiration to their community and survivors around Rwanda today. Mama Lambert has a safe house for prostitutes in Kigali pulling them off the streets and encouraging them to build a new life. She also is a counselor for trauma ... one of the side effects of genocide. Survivors still have vivid memories of how they loved ones were killed.*

## 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch with Widows & Orphans



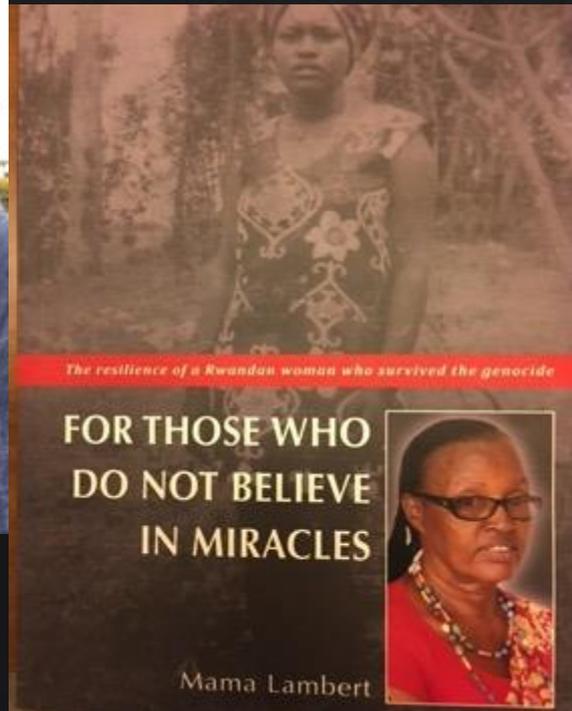
*Here we are with Beata (Mama Lambert) and her son Lambert who survived on her back, below is Agnes with her only surviving son – Joseph and her two nieces – Lillian and Lynda – Their families were completely wiped out. Joseph survived by hiding under a chair in the sitting room and so the killers did not see him. Great wisdom! he was only 3 years old during the genocide of 1994. All 3 are now graduates and working in Rwanda.*



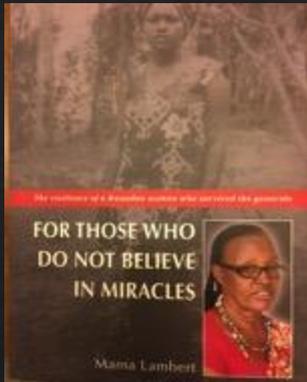
## 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch with Widows & Orphans



*Here I am with Lambert now 26 years old he was only two years old during the 1994 genocide. The good news now is that Lambert will be graduating from university this year - “For Those Who Do Not Believe in Miracles” ... You can read more in the book below... Its on Amazon!*



## 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch with Widows & Orphans



*“For Those Who Do Not Believe in Miracles”....Here I am with Denise & Boyd - the only surviving daughter of Mama Lambert (although this was during February 2015 - I wanted to share Denise story briefly). Denise was supported in 2005 to study Economics and Business at ULK University in Kigali. As a result of her excellent progress she was able to get a scholarship to do her post graduate studies in the UK. Denise returned to Rwanda in 2014 and met Boyd from Australia - who had come to do some voluntary work with a big team that builds homes for the poor. The rest is history. Denise and Boyd got married in Kigali, Rwanda - February 2015 and now have a beautiful daughter “Keona” as you can see from the picture to my left. The story continues. Denise now shares her testimony of survival in Sydney, Australia where she now lives with Boyd. Denise now goes around schools and universities in Sydney and tells them not only of her survival story but how you can make it in life... if you are determined and have the courage.*

## 26<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Party with Good News Beneficiaries

*Good News International is a Community based organisation headed by one of my very good friends Ben Kayumba. Dele met Ben in 2004 whilst he was working in Solace Ministries as one of the directors. Ben has since set up his own establishment and we remain lifelong family friends. Good News is currently involved in 23 different communities across the whole of Rwanda. Good News works in partnership with a number of international NGOs including Comfort Rwanda from Scotland and Inshuti International from the USA. Good News vision is to provide holistic care for survivors of the 1994 genocide who were left alone and without hope. Good News also has a beautiful guest house and gardens and as you can see in the pictures here and in the slides to follow...this is where we stayed when went to Rwanda in Dec 2017.*



*Ben - in the light blue shirt to the right together with some members of his staff in Kigali*



## 26<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Party with Good News Beneficiaries



*This was an early evening dinner with one of Rwandan favourite dishes “Brochettes” ...its roasted meat on a stick with chips, salad and fruit. The evening was to meet some friends we hadn’t seen in years due to the logistics and timing of our trips. The evening included singing, dancing and testimonies as you can see from the next slide.*



## 26<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Party with Good News Beneficiaries



*Here is Julianne another surviving widow from the genocide – Julianne. Rwandans love to give testimonies especially those who survived the war in 1994. Testimonies serve as a means of therapy and hope for widows, widowers and orphans .. And here is an example – Julianne is giving a short version of how she has been surviving after the genocide and the immense support she has been given by Good News. Julianne and her family lived in Kigali during the genocide..all her five children and husband were hacked to death in her presence. Julianne was then repeatedly and brutally raped by a mob of Militia which led to a number of internal injuries and sadly HIV. Julianne has survived against all odds and has adopted some orphans as her own children in Kigali. Julianne leads a team that makes baskets and traditional morning gowns. She indeed is a living miracle.*

## 26<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Party with Good News Beneficiaries



*Three of the beneficiaries who graduated in December 2015 .(See below – Bernard, Flora and Agnes) All three have amazing stories of how they survived. Of course not without scars but the good news is they are making head way Flora now teaches English to a group of kids in her local Community, whilst Bernard and Agnes have both opened small business outlets in Kigali. Pilote the young man sitting next to Dele is currently in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year of a medical degree at the University of Rwanda. His family survived the genocide but his dad was attacked by stray Militia from Congo who threw him into the river. We look forward too seeing Pilote graduate in 3 years time.*



*"Until you have done something for humanity, you should be ashamed to die."*

– Horace Mann

## 26<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Party with Good News Beneficiaries



*Here we are with some of Good News Beneficiaries. To my right is Mugisha Regis and his dad. Regis parents both have HIV. Regis mum was raped during the genocide and as a result this affected his dad later after the genocide. Miraculously Regis who was born after the genocide was not infected with the HIV virus. However his parents cannot work or support their family. Regis is supported for school fees and personal upkeep plus some help for his parents. To my left is Umutesi Benitha who lives with her mother in Kigali. Her family is very poor and her mother alone cannot support her education.*

# 27<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Party with Lahai Roi Beneficiaries

*Lahai Roi ... What does it mean?*

*Lahai Roi means “One that sees me, a place in the dessert and the well of the living”*

*What is the Project all about?*

*Lahai Roi Project was set up in 2012 in partnership with a local Community Church who also manage about 300 orphans for Compassion International in the local Community of Kimisagara, Kigali. Lahai Roi currently has 30 orphans who are highly vulnerable and affected with HIV/AIDs or with no parents or family at all.*

*Lahai Roi reaches out to the community irrespective of the religion or background. The young kids and adults are supported to acquire, primary, secondary and vocational training. Lahai Roi also supports university students who are on Government education loans by helping them to pay for accommodation , books etc...*

*Lahai Roi is also unique in that it encourages beneficiaries to sign up to a commitment to help others in future and give back what they have been given....a great investment for the future.*



Lahai Roi Annual Gathering 2016 at the Kigali Convention Centre Kigali

## 27<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Party with Lahai Roi Beneficiaries



*Gisa giving his testimony of how Lahai Roi has supported him and Rose (his adopted mum and Manager of Lahai Roi Project in Rwanda – Rose has been working with Dele for over 18 years!)*



## 28<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Party with Iriba Shalom Widows & Orphans

*IRIBA means Wellspring and SHALOM means Peace and Welfare.....Full meaning - Wellspring of Peace and Welfare*

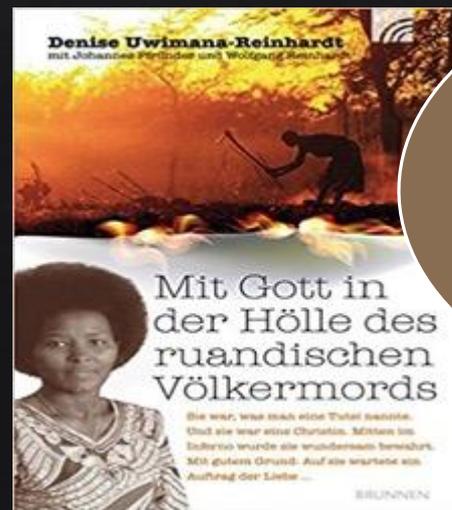
*Iriba Shalom Cooperative Association consists of about 500-600 members many of whom are widow farmers. The Cooperative is part of the Iriba Shalom NGO which is registered locally in Rwanda to help relief the homeless, hard hit poor families and seniors (elderly) who can no longer earn a living. Iriba Shalom in turn is sponsored by an International NGO called "The Good News Mission" (MFB) and Iriba Shalom International based in Kassel, Germany.*

*The main catalyst for this set up is Dr. Wolfgang and Denise Reinhardt. Dr. Wolfgang celebrated 21 years of working in Rwanda last year and was honored by the President of Germany and the Rwandan Ambassador in Berlin for his tireless efforts of raising funds and sponsorship for hundreds of poor widows and orphans across Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Italy. Dr. Wolfgang met Denise – a surviving widow with three young adult men in early 2000. They got married in 2008 and both now reside in Kassel, Germany from where they raise support and help for Iriba Shalom in Rwanda. Denise has written a book on her survival in German and it is currently being translated into English. Dele met Denise in 2002 and have remained lifelong family and friends.*

*Iriba Shalom have raised funds and help to build the big Multi purpose hall which you will see on the next slide. The hall will be opened in summer 2018 when Dr Wolfgang and Denise will come from Germany with a team of volunteers.*



*Dr. Wolfgang, Denise, Toluwani and Dele during the summer trip of 2015*



*With God in the hell of Rwandan genocide: It was what they called a Tutsi. And she would be a Christian. In the midst of the inferno she became miraculous ... An order of love waited for her (Translation of the title of the book from German to English)*

# 28<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Party with Iriba Shalom Widows & Orphans

*A Warm Welcome by some of the Orphans and Youth from Iriba Shalom in front of the New Multi Purpose Hall*



## 28<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Party with Iriba Shalom Widows & Orphans

*A Warm Welcome by some of Widows from Iriba Shalom singing and dancing in their local language - KINYARWANDA*



*Christmas for the Iriba Shalom Widows & Orphans was very simple and straightforward. They didn't want food and drink they preferred portions of uncooked rice, sugar and soap as can be seen from the pictures here. Many of these widows don't eat every day (They just can't afford to do it) and so it would be wiser to store up for the coming days as opposed to eat a big meal for Christmas...What a big difference and a very humbling one indeed!*



# 28<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Party with Iriba Shalom Widows & Orphans

*What a great joy it was to visit Annalisa, now 91 years old again with Esther, this house was built for her by Iriba Shalom*



"PEOPLE DON'T  
CARE HOW MUCH  
YOU KNOW UNTIL  
THEY KNOW HOW  
MUCH YOU CARE"  
- Jon C. Massey



## 29<sup>th</sup> December – Leaving Rwanda



*Just About to board the plane back to Kigali ... another bye bye to a country and people that I never knew before but have taught me hundreds of life lessons over the years. I have always been asked the question why do I do this and what motivates me to go to Rwanda ...It's a simple quote that I learnt early in my voluntary work from Zig Ziglar*

*“Care about others and help them to get what they want. Do it not only because you want to help them, but because it's the way to make a difference in the world”*

## Why Giving Back is Fun

AT THE END OF  
THE DAY IT'S NOT  
ABOUT WHAT YOU HAVE  
OR EVEN WHAT YOU'VE  
ACCOMPLISHED... IT'S  
ABOUT WHO YOU'VE  
LIFTED UP, WHO YOU'VE  
MADE BETTER. IT'S  
ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE  
GIVEN BACK.

DENZEL WASHINGTON