



January 2020

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we start a new year, we are thankful for the wonderful opportunities that God has given us to do ministry in East Africa, and we look forward to what God has in store for us in this new year.

November saw us returning to the US, but before we returned there were many things to do. The most important event was the forming of Gospel Light Baptist Church in the Nyagatare region of Rwanda. This is a group of believers that we have worked with for several years and have spent much time in teaching. Over time, we began to see much growth in the Belivers there and also in Pastor Jon. We felt like they were ready to take the responsibility of their own church on themselves. In conjunction with the event, we also planned a few days of teaching for our national leaders to make sure that all of the other pastors would be able to attend the church forming. We have been trying to teach servant leadership and there is no better place to demonstrate servanthood than helping another man's ministry.

The teaching was on Baptist distinctives and it was the right topic to cover before the church forming. We were able to have good discussion on what a Baptist church should look like and talk about the procedures for our program on Sunday. The program included special speakers, signing of the church documents, baptism, and communion. I was a bit apprehensive about how everything would go, but I was encouraged to hear Pastor Jon take charge of the discussion and show his awareness of the ideas and how he planned to run the event. His maturity and growth over time is evident and I am thankful for God's work in his life.

The day of the church forming was an amazing day, and it was wonderful to see how God has worked in lives in that place. The service was very well run and many took an active part in the events. Every time there was an issue, someone stepped up to take care of it without being told or asked, and I saw a great unity in the Believers there. All told, 69 charter members signed the church covenant, and 20 others were baptized. It has been a blessing to see this church grow, and we look forward to seeing many more Baptist churches formed in Rwanda in the coming years.

Our flights back to America were mostly uneventful, although we did have a canceled flight and ended up being rerouted on a different airline. We reached back in America a day later than expected, but we are thankful that we are safe.

Arriving back the week before Thanksgiving saw us jumping right into the holiday season, and it feels like we have been going nonstop since. We were able to see many family members over the holidays, and have already had several meetings at churches. Our plan is to spend the first half of the year in America and return to Africa in July. We look forward to being with many of you in the coming months to share the work with you personally. We trust that you will continue to pray for the national leadership who will continue on while we are away.

In Christ,

David, Talia, Hope, Joy, Josiah, and Abigail Ruley



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