

Visits of our partners in Rwanda in Nov-Dec 2022

Since the beginning of the corona pandemic, the world has been missing peace. The war in Ukraine frightens us, evil shows its power in many countries. Yes, they tear down the foundations; what can the righteous do? (Ps 11:3). "Therefore, do not grow weary in doing what is good. Do not become discouraged, and never give up" (Galatians 6:9) being ambassadors of peace. With this message I, Denise Uwimana-Reinhardt, would like to encourage on the one hand you, our friends and readers in Germany, Europe, USA, and worldwide. But on the other hand also the widows and orphans and our partners in Rwanda directly when go to Rwanda for 4 weeks to see them, our projects and talks with them about the progress and joyful development but also about their challenges and needs. We all need to lay our trust in Jesus Christ, the Lord of history, who brought the world out of darkness into light.

Matthias Schaffrath, director of *Building as Mission* will fly to Rwanda too, in the beginning of next year. He wants to encourage the widows that things will continue and that they will not lose hope. In order that the construction of our Senior Center in Mukoma can begin soon, he will clarify important technical tasks with the director of Iriba Shalom Rwanda and the local engineer. Matthias Schaffrath will be officially assigned as a volunteer of *Iriba Shalom International e.V.* for the construction and consulting. The financing through the Schmitz Foundation is already approved with 50.000 €. We are happy that meanwhile the necessary own contribution of 17,000 € (nearly equiv. to US\$) on the part of our association has been donated but 20.000€ for the interior decoration (Plumbing, furniture...) must still be raised and we ask for donations. Of course, you will be informed about the progress of the construction in our upcoming newsletters and will receive detailed information upon request.

Cultural and encounter trip in August 2023



Women meet for community work

Let us invite you to a unique journey to the land of a thousand hills! You will be immersed in Rwandan culture and history, visit your own sponsor family and meet countless grateful Rwandans. You will visit many projects of *Iriba Shalom Rwanda* and *Shalom Ministries*, which you have only read about so far, and experience first-hand how reconciliation and forgiveness are lived in Rwanda after the genocide against the Tutsi. Sightseeing will not be lacking either: Safari tour in Akagera Parc, hike in the Rainforest, boat trip on Lake Kivu. Have we aroused your interest? Then register with us for the 2023 trip!

Noheli nziza!

All members of SHAM and ISHAR in Rwanda wish you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year 2023!

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Evangelische Bank
IBAN: DE86 5206 0410 0000 8104 44
BIC: GENODEF1EK1

Please indicate the purpose of your donation and when making your first donation please provide your address for the receipt.

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"Full of joy you will draw water from God's rich springs" - (Isaiah 12:3).

November 2022

Newsletter 18



Newsletter

Word of Greeting

Word of Greeting

"For this purpose, the Son of God appeared, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8)

Yes, this is a Christmas message in these times of war and oppression in so many countries. No superficial festive mood will help when the evil one, the wicked one, again uses new tools in the horror of war and lying propaganda, as Jesus soberly stated: "the devil is a murderer from the beginning ... and the father of lies." (John 8:44). Here it's only Him who saves, who "appeared" as a child in Bethlehem. On Golgotha in apparent defeat, he has already defeated the evil one and will destroy all evil and suffering one day. Already today he proves his power as victor over the forces of evil in many who trust in him, in Ukraine, in prisons or as survivors of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

On behalf of the board, I wish everyone this true Christmas joy.

Iriba Shalom international e. V.

Now I see a future for myself!



Tailoring project: training as a dressmaker

In cooperation with our partner organizations *Iriba Shalom Rwanda* and *Shalom Ministries*, *Iriba Shalom International e.V.* (abbrev. = IRISI) promotes a tailoring training. The majority of the participants are single parents.

Drocella Nduwimana, Director of *Shalom Ministries* reports: We thank God that through the collaboration with IRISI, the first group of 30 needy teenage mothers, in Ruhango district at Peacemaker Women, have completed their tailoring course. Now they run small tailoring shops in their village, with their own machines. This has been a great help because it allows them to live a purposeful life. The project not only benefited them financially, but also contributed to their emotional healing.

These young mothers had children at a young age, and many of them were abandoned by their children's fathers and their families because of this. They felt isolated from society because it is considered bad for a girl to have an illegitimate child. By having to raise their children alone, they were forced to take low-paying jobs to earn a living.

Currently, the second group of 48 teenage mothers has started their tailoring course. We hope for the best for them as well. We would like to support them by financing their own sewing machines so that they can learn to use them and later run their own business. A sewing machine costs at the moment: 110 € (new price). For *Shalom Ministries* (SHAM) and *Iriba Shalom Rwanda* (ISHAR) 62 sewing machines are needed, in addition the salary of the teachers in *Shalom Ministries* and *Iriba Shalom* of altogether 600 € for 6 months training period. We appreciate any financial support for this project!

Give the gift of the joy of Christmas together

The widows and orphans in our partner organizations in Rwanda are happy to celebrate the birth of Jesus together and to be connected to us, their alternative global family. While many in our country don't know what else to wish for, our friends in Rwanda are grateful for a nice meal in community - their only material Christmas gift.

Help us to ensure that they can celebrate a feast this year as well.
Donations with the purpose "Christmas party"

Double anniversary 75 years and 25 years for Rwanda



The 1st Counsellor of the Embassy (right) cuts the cake symbolizing the German-Rwandan friendship

Our board member Dr. Wolfgang Reinhardt celebrated a double anniversary in June: He could not only look back on 75 years of life, but also on 25 years of service to Rwanda, especially to the survivors of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi.

Friends and companions from different parts of Germany, Norway, England and Saudi Arabia attended the celebration. The Rwandan ambassador had to accompany a Rwandan delegation in Germany at the same time, but he sent his thanks through his representative for the manifold engagement for the benefit of the people in Rwanda. In picture presentations and many greetings, the various stations were looked back on. Reinhardt was active for almost 20 years as a congregational pastor in the church district of Herne in missionary congregational development, whereby he never separated practical congregational activity from scientific-theological work, including his extensive dissertation on the "Biblical Theology of Congregational Growth."

After several years as a theological lecturer, the surprising invitation to Rwanda came in 1997. At the first large conference after the genocide in Gahini, the place of origin of the East African revival movement, the jubilarian experienced his new calling in life through the shattering encounter with the reports of the survivors.

Since then he has been active for the people in Rwanda, first with his own circle of friends, then within the framework of missionary NGO) MFB e.V. and since 2015 in our association Iriba Shalom International e.V..

Through countless lectures, seminars, church services and articles on Rwanda, he has reminded of the horror, but also reported on the great changes, as well as the reconciliation in Rwanda and thus won many supporters and sponsors. The work was never meant to be a one-way street, but rather a living partnership with lively exchanges and reciprocal visits to Rwanda and Germany: as early as 2000 for the EXPO in Hanover, in the commemorative years 2004, 2009, 2014 through several weeks of trips to Germany with Rwandan witnesses in communities, schools, universities, twice in the Bundestag and once at the reception by the First Lady in Bellevue Palace in Berlin.

Since 2008 he has been active for Rwanda together with his wife Denise Uwimana-Reinhardt, our chairwoman. Through their moving testimony and their two books, new doors opened at home and abroad. For example, in the commemorative year 2019, both were invited twice to the USA and once to England for lectures and interviews by Denise (also on BBC and CNN).

The jubilarian, in addition to the Christian humanitarian work, has from the beginning publicly engaged and researched against the denial and relativization of the planned genocide against the Tutsi, the propaganda of the defenders of the genocidal regime and dangerous falsifications of history, also in some German books and newspapers. His second focus in the last quarter of a century has been research, lectures, and publications on the completely neglected subject of "revival" in Germany, on newer revival movements, and on the history, dynamics, and globality of evangelicalism. He now hopes to find a successor in the board soon, so that he can concentrate (beside on i these theological tasks) on lectures, articles, and networking for the Rwanda work.

In this sense, the association and especially the board of directors would like to thank Dr. Wolfgang Reinhardt for his tireless contributions and commitment to the association and thus to our friends in Rwanda!

A thank you to the sponsorship - Become a sponsor too



Thanks from Uwineza Aline Alia

"I am 15 years old. My mother's parents were murdered during the genocide. I grew up without a dad. Life was very hard, but I am very grateful that I got a godmother who supported my education. I passed my final exams in the 9th grade and I want to start an education in tourism. Thank you very much to my godparents! Without this support, my life would be without perspective. I am infinitely grateful for my sponsor family and pray for them every day." - *Uwineza Aline Alia*

The heart of Iriba Shalom International are the sponsorships. By sponsoring a child or a widow, you experience connectedness to the Rwandan world. We would be happy to work with you individually to give people in need new hope and a secure future in Rwanda.

It is equally significant if you support our ministry to the traumatized widows and orphans by making a non-earmarked donation. In this way, you strengthen the community of our partner organizations.