



# NEWSLETTER

## TRANSFORMING THE BONEZA, RWANDA COMMUNITY

### Our Mission

To positively transform the community of Boneza out of extreme poverty by focusing on education, clean water, healthcare, Pastoral care, and economic development.

### Our Vision

A thriving Boneza, Rwanda, with Christ centered, educational leaders and residents creating hope, health, and sustainability for all people.

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### Back to School for KHA!

It's October in Boneza and KHA opened last month with a record 347 students. It is such an incredible cohort of returning and new students. Overall, there are 143 young women



and 204 young men studying Building Construction, Tourism, and Networking and IT in the school that covers grades 10, 11, and 12.

79 students are from Boneza with the remaining students coming from as far away as Kigali. Our reputation as a quality educational academy has certainly spread throughout the country. The dorms will be filled this year!

There are also extracurricular activities for the students to broaden their educational experience. Some students are producing art works as an expression of their creativity. An art gallery will show the paintings and students will be able to sell their creations. The farm is expanding to teach the students farming skills. The farm is expected to yield food for the campus and eventually, sell food in the community. Students are expanding their welding skills and are performing maintenance work for the school. During the holidays they can use the skills and sell their products, window frames, and doors. English and Communication skills are also being supplemented for students to gain proficiency and confidence in their interactions for future jobs.

What makes a typical school day? Students wake up at 5:30 AM to prepare for the day. Breakfast is at 7:30 and Morning Assembly begins at 8:30. Classes are held from 8:45 to 3:30 with time for a break and for lunch. As in typical high schools, students change classes depending on their area of study. Hands on experiences supplement classroom instruction giving a full complement of activity.

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After school activities include sports and the other extracurricular activities described above. During homework time, students can receive extra help in their studies. Supper at 8PM brings the day to a close and lights out at 9PM brings quiet to the campus.

Meet two new students who just started at KHA this fall.



### Adeline, 18 years old

Adeline comes from Kigali in Kicukiro District where she lives with her Dad. She got to know about KHA through her father's friend who recommended KHA as the best technical school that will

help her to achieve her dreams of becoming an entrepreneur. She believes that computer skills will propel her businesses when she graduates.

She likes the school, her teachers and the school's initiative to train students to use English in their daily life.



### Isaac, 19 years old

Isaac is a tourism student from Musanze District in the Northern Province. He attended middle school in the north and got grades to go a public school. However, after learning about

KHA, he decided to join our Tourism trade in grade 10. He aspires to learn foreign languages from KHA and become a tour guide for visitors coming to Rwanda.

Isaac's mother got information about KHA and shared it with him. He liked the school and his parents decided to apply for admission which was successful.

Isaac has arrived at KHA, and he already likes the teachers and their teaching approach. He enjoys the meals provided by the school cafeteria.

Many students cannot afford the education at KHA, so the Scholarship Fund was established to provide tuition assistance. Our goal this year is to support 200 students with some level of assistance. Your donation to this fund can make all the difference for a student's future. Please check out the web site for donation opportunities.

## A Family Trip to Boneza

This summer, board member Kevin Denton took his family to Rwanda to discover for themselves another country, another part of the world, amazing people, and a ministry like no other that brings hope. Visiting and living together with our brothers and sisters in another part of the world brings understanding and a new compassion to help others.



Let's follow Kevin's journey of adventure and learning. Flying to Rwanda can be a challenge and international flying with three children could be

an ordeal, but "they crushed it" said Kevin and were rewarded with a grand welcome from John, Fred, and Deborah. First, required stops in Rwanda include sites in Kigali like the Genocide Memorial. This puts into perspective the history and redemption in the country. Seeing this modern and interesting city sets the stage for visits to the rest of the country.

Then it's on to the natural beauty of the land and a trip to Akagera National Park. This wildlife park preserves the land for the zebra, hippos, elephants, lions, giraffe, and a myriad of other animals to live peacefully in their habitat. This is a true treasure for the country.



But Boneza is far away and the long trip to the final destination is paved with some highways and some bumpy, dirt roads that give the "African massage." So why take a family of five on this vacation? Kevin simply replies, "Some would say this is a waste and that the money would be better spent if sent directly to the people. Yes, that is a good argument, but short sighted. In any ministry opportunity, both parties have the opportunity to be changed.

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For those sent, they carry back with them the experience to the many partners that helped them go and the memories to help them change. To those to "receive" are given not money for the immediate need but the love of those who are interested in and value their lives—even when the numbness of poverty would seek to snuff out such a belief."

While in Boneza, the family had the opportunity to help a widow build a home from mud bricks that they made by hand from the dirt on the hill and the water they carried from the stream a half mile away. They sat and talked with



KHA students and shared pictures and stories and laughter. What a way to bond! They visited a preschool where they could play with the children and serve the daily porridge.



They visited a micro-finance trust group to see how the women are caring for each other, and the businesses they are building. They went shopping for food for

the teacher appreciation dinner and shared the meal with them. Their children spent time with the students of Boneza in class at KHA, in the dormitory staying overnight, and dancing together at the teacher appreciation dinner. They learned that we are all more alike than we are different.

Meanwhile, Kevin spent valuable time with KHA's principal, Claude, who showed him the progress of the students and the challenges of the farm. Kevin and Claude hope to use the farmland to produce crops that will both feed the KHA students and also supply income by selling produce to the community. They are implementing new techniques that will improve their crops. Meeting with KHA graduates, Kevin learned that some, like Gilbert, have completed advanced studies and returned to teach at KHA. This kind of commitment is a tribute to the wonderful education he received and his gratitude for the opportunity provided by KHA.

One other trip highlight was participating in "Umuganda" or community day. On the last Saturday of each month, all

12 million Rwandans are required to spend a few hours in planned community activities from helping with clean up or building a house for a neighbor. The Dentons engaged with a group in Boneza to help with the construction of a house. These projects bring the community together as they help each other one neighbor at a time.



Closing thoughts from Kevin: Standing outside KHA for one more look on the morning of our departure, I was again humbled by the remoteness, simplicity, beauty and hardship of Boneza. Still so much poverty remains, but the pride and whole-community development of this area has been amazing to witness. While I was taking my final picture, students were taking national exams in the classrooms behind me. Pastors and community leaders were participating in a two-day pastor's conference. Water was being pumped from wells, business development and commerce was providing dignified income, and Christ is being glorified through it all.

Kevin's family trip was a life changing trip for each person. They each brought back a new view of life, both theirs and those far away.

Arise Rwanda welcomes visitors to come and share the experience, build the homes, till the fields, teach the children and love all of the people they meet in this amazing part of the world. Contact John or any Board member to plan a trip. If you cannot make the journey, please continue to pray for the ministry and support it's many programs. Visit our website for more information. Thank you!



## Bible Recipient Testimonies

As we reported in the summer newsletter, in March 2023, Arise Rwanda distributed Bibles to adults, families, and students of Kivu Hills Academy. This amazing gift was made possible by your donations in cooperation with the American Bible Society and the Rwandan Bible Society. The gathering to distribute the Bibles was a powerful experience for everyone who attended. Thanks to board director, Dave Knibbe for making this project a true success.

The real success now is to hear the inspiration that is going on in the lives of the recipients. Feel the gratitude as you read the stories below. There are more on the website.



### Uwizeyimana Emelyne

29 years old, Rutsiro District

I warmly receive the Bible because it was my first time to have a Bible, The Bible means the way that leads to God in Heaven. I was very excited to reading it while in Church services, and to reading it to others.

I believed, this Bible will help me to transform my bad habits, to know God's commandments, to be able to support the vulnerable, visiting the sick and to generally avoid bad habit such as adultery, swearing, and stealing.

After receiving the Bible, things changed whereby I stopped insulting my wife and children, my level of love to my neighbors increased as well as my humbleness. The verse that blesses me in the Bible is Psalms 139:1-15



### Bampire Emmerence

41 years old, Rutsiro District

I appreciated so much owning a Bible because I didn't have one. To me, the Bible is a spiritual guide in the journey to heaven. Reading the Bible reminds me of who I am and how I should behave, it also reminds me of presenting myself to God as a pure sacrifice but also to socially live with others and evangelize them.

I have the willingness to share with others what I read in the Bible so that they may also be blessed. Isaiah 54:4 "do not be afraid because you will not be ashamed..."



### Nyirahabimana Rahabu

38 years old, Rutsiro District

The gift of the Bible came at the right time; I was in loneliness. To me the Bible is the way leading us to heaven, it helps me to change my actions and decisions in my daily life. Before receiving the Bible, I was a pagan and couldn't pray, I was always in fight with my husband whom we were not religiously married but after receiving the Bible and reading it, I felt an increase of Power in me, and the joy overflow in my body and mind. I decided to be baptized a few months after receiving the Bible (on August 27th, 2023), my husband and I are now religiously married and currently I am a choir member. The scripture in Acts 3:19 that says "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord," blesses me.

Please keep these dedicated folks in your prayers as they study the Bible and live out their faith. Amen!



ARM's mission is to partner with the Boneza sector to make the programs sustainable and integrated into the fabric of the community. God is at work in this amazing land, and we are privileged to be part of His work there. We give God the glory for all that is being accomplished in His name. Join us in prayer for the success of the mission and for the people we serve.

## US Board of Directors

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**Follow our progress and learn more about our programs, impact, and how to get involved at [ariserwanda.org](https://ariserwanda.org) or on Facebook.**

All donations are tax-deductible. Arise Rwanda Ministries USA is a US 501 (c)(3) charity, EIN 88-3306938

Donations can be made online or sent to:

**Arise Rwanda Ministries USA, Inc.**

c/o Pamela Fogg, CPA

8333 SE Stark Street

Portland, OR 97216

## Kivu Hills Medical Center An Update



The medical center project is currently searching for a medical administrator to guide the next steps of the project. This person will be tasked with the responsibility of planning the scope of the operation as we seek to first open as a day clinic. Staffing, equipment, and the remaining finishing materials will be coordinated to open the facility as soon as everything comes together.

In the meantime, this September, a visiting medical team from NYC used the space for several days to treat over 600 people, providing as much care and advice as possible. The need for this facility is evident. Arise Rwanda will move forward to make the health center a reality for Boneza.

Thank you for your support and prayers on behalf of this monumental project.



## Your Gifts Bring Hope to Boneza

The Arise Rwanda team thanks you and invites you to support the exciting work God is doing in Boneza! Our current campaigns are:

**Operations** - to support the budget for Arise Rwanda and all programs. [ariserwanda.org/custom-donation](https://ariserwanda.org/custom-donation)

**Scholarship Fund** - to support tuition assistance for KHA students – Goal 200 students supported. [Donate Here](#)

**Small Business** - to support the entrepreneurship for women in savings groups. [Learn more and get involved here.](#)

**Preschool Education** - giving our youngest children a hopeful start through a nourishing Bowl of Porridge and a meaningful early education. [Donate Here](#)

**Kivu Hills Medical Center** - to support the completion of the facility and prepare for the operational security going forward. [Learn More](#)