



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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News From Boneza and The Impact of Arise Rwanda Ministries

It is often said “that a picture is worth a thousand words.” Most of the time that proves to be correct...unless, of course, you are in “The Land of a Thousand Hills” where the natural beauty of the land and people is hard to do justice to in single frames.

By God’s grace, 2024 has gotten off to an exciting start at Arise Rwanda Ministries. Much has happened in the first quarter, and we are excited to share.

We are thankful that so many of you pray faithfully for the ministry. The team serving on the ground feels and appreciates them. We know it is the power of prayer that sustains and grows ARM. Hope and transformation have impacted the entire community.

As you read through this newsletter and look at the photos, we hope that you are amazed by all that God has accomplished. In a relatively short period of time, The “Holy Hill” has been transformed from an empty plot of land in 2011 into the thriving Kivu Hills Academy Campus (KHA) it is today.

In addition, just across the valley from the KHA campus, on what was also a vacant hill... now stands the almost completed structure for what will soon house the Kivu Hills Medical Center (KHMC). A true beacon of hope for this entire region that has had no local access to health care.



Holy Hill in 2011



Holy Hill today



Rwandan Minister of Education Visits Kivu Hills Academy (KHA)!

Construction continues and there is tremendous progress being made at Kivu Hills Medical Center. The glass for windows has been delivered and is now completely installed. And despite the rains, muddy road construction and difficult conditions...the beautiful floor tile has also arrived and it is being laid. It is now possible to "walk the halls" of this healing facility and envision the life saving transformations that will eventually take place here. As Project Cure prepares for the shipment of their containers of supplies...the team on the ground is interviewing, planning, preparing and praying for the first stage of opening. The plan is to start as a day clinic to effectively meet the basic needs and urgencies of Boneza and the surrounding area. Eventually the capabilities will expand along with our partnerships and staff.

There have already been visiting physicians and Universities from Rwanda and the USA who have enthusiastically expressed their desire to volunteer, teach and use their medical skills when KHMC opens. In fact, there have ALREADY been visiting medical teams that have provided basic care in both the medical and dental capacity.

This is a recent message to all of you who have been supportive in the mission of building the KHMC.

"I spent a full day with the team that is building Kivu Hills Medical Center in Boneza! I couldn't stop to think about the bible verse Matthew 25:39-40: When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. With the Medical Center project, I just want to pick one of the 2 things that Jesus mentioned in these verses "When I was sick you visited me". With Kivu Hills Medical Center, you are not only visiting ONE of the least of these brothers and sisters of Jesus, you are helping in building them a medical center for them to have access to affordable and quality healthcare!



Now, pause for a second and think about this” We are building a medical Center for Jesus that will serve 30,000 people of Boneza in Rwanda! And one day the king will say” Truly, when you built that Medical Center for those brothers and sisters of mine in Boneza, you did it for me.” What a great privilege that God invites us to join him and be part of what he is doing for the least of these in Boneza!

Thank you for responding to that invitation. Because of your faith and love for the people of Boneza, soon the Kivu Hills Medical Center dream will come true! Please see the pictures of the progress of the construction of Kivu Hills Medical Center!

This is a recent message from ARM Founder, John Gasangwa



Kivu Hills Academy (KHA) Students Innovations & Updates

There is so much happening on the Kivu Hills Academy Campus, it is hard to know where to begin! The 350 students presently enrolled are thriving and dreaming BIG. Whether it is the Construction, Hospitality and Tourism, or ICT Curriculum...innovative thinking and ideas for the future abound. Below are two examples that were recently invented by the ICT students.



A "Smart" Receptacle for garbage, cleaning or bio-waste.



The excellence of KHA continues to gain recognition. It has been rated a top tier Technical Education High School for all of Rwanda. Recently, this was further validated when the campus was honored by a visit from the Minister of Education, Hon. Gaspard Twagirayezu.



The minister asked questions to trainees and interacted with them. He also gave them exercises in Programming and IT. He was impressed to see how KHA managed to succeed in answering his challenge.

Once in the tourism workshop, Trainees explained what they study and shared a lot about Tour Guiding, national Parks, Tent Pitching, and community-based tourism at the KHA culture Village. The minister also enjoyed a performance from KHA Traditional dancing troops.

On the other hand, the Minister visited construction students in the workshop and found them building a masonry pier. He asked questions to learners. The students were able to answer all questions as expected. The Minister also asked about their aspirations and most of them said that they would like to become Civil Engineers. He was surprised to see Joyeuse , a girl in level 5 performing the same task as boys.



At the end of his visit, The Minister commended the work being done by the school and stressed that KHA is transforming the community.



KHA has started an impressive four-month "short course" in masonry. This gives Boneza Community members of all ages interested in learning trade skills the opportunity to do so. So far, these trainees have learned about making and laying bricks, plastering, rebar use and how to make cement and concrete pavement. These trainees paved different paths on the KHA campus to ease the walk and link buildings together. The "short course" is also an additional source of income for KHA which helps in reaching the goals of self sustainability for the school.

The KHA Worship Team is a student led prayer and worship group that plays a key role in keeping the gospel alive at school. The worship team - like any other student association or club on campus - is asked to present their action plan to the school administration every year.



This school year, the team committed to helping a vulnerable person or family every term. Surprisingly, this is exactly the mission of KHA as well... "Transforming the community out poverty through Christ-like approaches and Vocational Education"

These students are already applying themselves in living out the gospel. By using the blessing of their learned vocational skills to help needy families in Boneza, the community continues to see the light of hope and change shine from "The Holy Hill."

On Saturday February 24th, 2024, a group of KHA students helped a poor family. The students plastered the 16-member family's house with cement and built a latrine for them. Using money they raised from different people and activities, they were also able provide the following items to the family: 4 mattresses, 25kg maize flour, 25 kg rice, 10 bars of washing soap, 15kg beans, 5 liters of cooking oil, 4 basins (utensils), 4 Jerry cans (to fetch water), 1 sauce pan, 10 plates, 4 school bags, 1 Vaseline, and 4 Kinyarwanda Bibles.

Kent State University Comes to Rwanda

When one considers a life-changing trip, their thoughts often travel to destinations like Machu Picchu, The Grand Canyon, or some great castle in Europe. While each of those places is truly unique, the experience ends with the trip's conclusion. However, what if I told you that there was a place that you could bring back with you? This place is Boneza, and not because of the beautiful mountains, Lake Kivu, or even the great coffee. There is something here that transcends each of these aspects – the people and their stories.



Our 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.

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Follow our progress and learn more about our programs, impact, and how to get involved at ariserwanda.org or on Facebook.

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

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On a recent trip, alongside a couple dozen student-athletes and faculty from Kent State University, we watched as the people of Boneza left a deep impact on many of their lives and on ours as well.



As we bid farewell to Boneza, we could not help but reflect on the profound depth of forgiveness and the innate beauty that radiated from its people. Despite enduring unimaginable hardships, they greeted each day with forgiveness and joy, embodying a spirit of love that transcended the scars of the past. Many of the members of our group could not have fathomed that such forgiveness was possible and shared how their lives would be forever changed as a result of this trip.

In Boneza, we witnessed the transformative power of forgiveness firsthand, as communities once torn apart by genocide now lived side by side together in a spirit of reconciliation. Through an extraordinary spirit of forgiveness, unlike anything we have ever seen, the people of Boneza were able to take a picture that was torn apart and refashion it into something that transcends beauty, giving our group a glimpse of what is possible in the United States.



But perhaps what struck us most was the unwavering happiness that permeated every aspect of life in Boneza. Despite facing daily challenges that we could not imagine dealing with, the people remained steadfast in their belief that a brighter tomorrow stems from a brighter today. Their infectious joy and love for one another serve as a beacon of hope, caused us to question what real wealth looks like.

As we boarded the plane home, we brought with us small gifts for our families and friends. However, these were dwarfed by an inexplicable lesson of what it means to be grateful, joyful, and forgiving. Talking with some of the people from the trip, we came to the conclusion that try as we might, our own words could never convey the magnitude of this experience. It truly is one of those, "You had to be there" events.

Boneza is not just a destination; it is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the transformative power of forgiveness. And though our physical journey may have concluded, the lessons we learned and the connections we forged will remain with us always, a glimpse of the enduring strength and power of God's forgiveness.



Story by William Rybka