



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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Grab a cup of Rwandan Coffee, Sit Back, Relax and Enjoy!!

What a wonderful time of the year! As the year draws to a close, we enter into the beautiful season of giving thanks and joy filled celebrations. We reflect on what has transpired and wonder what the New Year might have in store.

Everyone at Arise Rwanda Ministries hopes that you, your family and friends had a blessed and thanks-filled Thanksgiving. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ in a few weeks, we pray all will have hearts overflowing with awe, wonder and gratitude. May the peace of God that surpasses all understanding prevail in your heart and home.

For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

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Such a promise and such hope! We know the impoverished community of Boneza has, does and will endure daily struggles beyond our comprehension here. Yet we also know there is a high level of joy and hope prevails. Smiles come easily - even amidst hardship. Being tucked away in a remote region that is far off the grid; the community was not able to access or even imagine having the kinds of amenities we take for granted here. Having access to Clean Water, An Education, Economic Development, Pastoral Training and Health Care...were daily prayers.

God is faithful. His timing is perfect. He has good plans and He knows who to use to see them unfold. Since 2011 The Arise Rwanda Ministries Team, under the founder and leadership of John Gasangwa, has answered the call. Without any resources in hand, it was in faith and trust in God alone that caused his and other hearts to be forever transformed.

Boneza now has two "Holy Hills" that shine bright light and a hope of God sized proportion all over the community. On one hill stands the Kivu Hills Academy Campus and on the other is the Kivu Hills Medical Center. In between is now a community with access to clean water wells, churches with leaders being well trained and mentored, economic development opportunities as thousands have learned how to build a small business, start trust groups and save hard earned money in the small local bank. New agricultural practices are being introduced, farm animals are being well cared for and the "Have a Cow" program implemented years ago has now allowed many families to flourish and provide good nutrition to their children.

"ONLY GOD!" is the ARM mantra. All glory and honor are His. We give thanks and have a deep appreciation for our many loyal, generous prayer partners and donors. As hearts have been

stirred...God has continued to move. We cannot wait to see what 2026 holds - and we give thanks to all of you for being part of the team and participating in this amazing journey. May you enjoy the stories from the field that follow. We are praying for you and we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Joy Filled New Year!!

In the words of a great leader, Nelson Mandela... ponder these quotes as you reflect on the following stories from Boneza and the ARM Team.

"It always seems impossible until it's done."

"Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again."

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."



The Road Leading to Boneza is Now Paved! By John Gasangwa, President and Founder of ARM

The first trip made to Boneza was early 2011. I was on a motorcycle that broke down many times riding over those bridges to this unknown, isolated, and poor community of Boneza!

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Photos of the road before pavement



I remember over the years, driving the first car of Arise Rwanda Ministries, which we called Amazing Grace, over those roads. Some of the bridges were only two small tree trunks, and the roads were washed out. We used to call the roads in Boneza “Free African Massage Roads”. It took about one hour to drive to Boneza from the main road. A distance which is only 6 miles/10 kilometers. Now it only takes 7 minutes to drive from the main road to Boneza on the new paved road! Boneza was isolated because of the road. Today, business in Boneza is booming. Hotels and resorts have been built

in Boneza, access to electricity, and clean water. The people of Boneza are THANKFUL to Arise Rwanda Ministries! Because of Arise Rwanda, Boneza has gotten attention from all over the world and the government of Rwanda to pave the road to Boneza. We are thankful!

Please meet the mighty entrepreneurial widow Maria in Boneza! Maria 70-year-old widow whose husband died in the 1994

Genocide against the Tutsi. Maria has lived in Boneza for all her life. She went through a lot during the Genocide losing all her children and family members. She lives on a very small piece of land where her house is, which is also falling apart. Her land is not enough to grow crops on and make an income either. Two years ago, when the government of Rwanda started to pave Boneza road, Maria saw an opportunity to start a small

business on the side of the road. It was a version of “a lemonade stand” selling donuts, biscuits,

roasted peanuts and banana juice. She started her business with only \$1 dollar and now her business is worth \$100. She just built a small shop to move her business from the side of the road into her little shop. She is so happy that the new road has bought a lot of business to her and the community of Boneza because of easy access and transportation. It used to take a whole day to walk to the next town to get her products, but now because of the road and many means of transportation it only takes her 10 minutes. She is so thankful that Boneza has a road.

Join a Local Pastor in Boneza to “Walk a Mile in His Shoes”

When Arise Rwanda started in Boneza in 2011, the first leaders of this community we met were local pastors. When we asked them what their needs were and how we could come alongside them, the answers we received from all of them was surprising! They all echoed “We need pastor training and Bibles for our people in Boneza.” After a few pastors’ trainings by some American pastors, we realized the need for the pastors to come together from their different denominations to form the “Jesus community in Boneza.”

Today, this program is thriving with 50 local pastors being trained 3-4 times a year, and every family in Boneza has a bible in Kinyarwanda. Under the leadership of Pastor Prince Mutababzi, who leads Pastoral Care and Outreach Program in Arise Rwanda, this program is thriving! The pastors are united; they meet once a week for a bible study and training. Some of the pastors walk for 4 hours every week to come to the pastors training!



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Pastor Daniel has been a local pastor in Boneza in the Baptist church for over 20 years. He says " We praise God for Arise Rwanda. Before Arise Rwanda, we were not united. We had our own denominational differences. We didn't work together as pastors. Today, we are more united, we love each other, we support each other and get trained together. We are one body of Christ." Arise Rwanda has donated over 250 bibles in Kinyarwanda in Pastor Daniel's church. The bibles are transforming lives in Boneza!

hiring local medical staff to start running it as a day clinic.



Kivu Hills Medical Center

In the history of Boneza, there has never been access to healthcare. The people of Boneza had to walk for full day to go to the nearest hospital. We still transport the sick and injured by carrying them on a grass mat secured to poles and with 4-6 runners going as fast as they can. The healthcare need in Boneza has been overwhelming. For a community of 30,000 people there was only a small building called the health post. When you walk in this building there is not even a band aid. This photo on the right is the old dental chair that hasn't worked in years.



Today, Arise Rwanda has completed a 50,000 square foot medical center that will take care of the healthcare needs of the people of Boneza and the region. KHMC is equipped with model modern medical equipment. We are in the process of

Just in September this year, a medical Mission team from the USA and Kigali treated over 2,000 people in 10 days! Jessica is a 2-year-old little girl in Boneza who was born with a hole in her heart. She couldn't get any treatment in Boneza. Her grandmother had given up on her life and was waiting for the day she would die. When the medical



team came, they were able to diagnose her heart defect. Arise Rwanda helped her to get treatment at King Faisal Hospital in Kigali. This is the best hospital in Rwanda that has cardiologists. Initially, she was scheduled to see the heart doctor after 3 years. Arise Rwanda helped to pay privately for her to get her heart surgery right away. Today, Jessica's heart has fully recovered, and she is very healthy and waiting to go to pre-school when she turns 4 years old. The family praises God for this healing miracle!

Kivu Hills Academy's Continued Growth and Impact



Kivu Hills Academy Farms: Growing food to feed 360 students

The KHA farm is bursting with crops, vegetables, cows and pigs! Currently on the KHA farm they are growing about 3 acres of maize, bananas, vegetables (carrots, onions, and egg plants) to feed the school. Emery Tuyisenge, the KHA farm

assistant manager, says "We don't buy any of the vegetables from other farmers to feed the students at the school. We grow it here on our farm."



The farm has a cow that produces one gallon of milk every day which is served to the students at KHA!

The milk production is going to increase when the cow has a baby, and the school plans to buy an extra dairy cow next month.



The farm has 8 pigs. Five of the pigs are pregnant and expected to deliver in February. On average each pig produces 8-10 piglets. Emery teaches agricultural classes to KHA students here at the farm and gets them involved. "If we don't raise a generation that imports



food." KHA farm is on the road to help the school to be self-sustainable by growing the food to feed the school and sell any extra to the Guest Houses and small hotels in Boneza.

Kivu Hills Academy continues to go from strength to strength, fostering an environment of education, growth, and social impact.

We've made significant improvements to our infrastructure, starting with the school's kitchen, which has been renovated and enhanced to be cleaner and more efficient.

A major addition is our new bakery, which not only supplies fresh bread for our students' breakfast (serving both the academy and the preschool) but also serves as a vital community initiative. By producing extra bread for sale in the local market, the bakery is generating jobs and improving livelihoods for people in the Boneza community.

Furthermore, a new access road is currently under construction, which will make it much easier for parents, students, and visitors to reach the school.

Kivu Hills Academy has achieved outstanding academic success. In the 2023/2024 academic year, we proudly ranked as the top school in the country in both Tourism and Building Construction programs. For the new things we have in KHA, we build the trail signs that help our tourism students to guide in the school in different areas.

This success continued into the 2024-2025 school year, where we celebrated a major milestone: 90% of our students were awarded government scholarships.

Our enrollment continues to grow, with 320 children currently attending the Preschools and 365 students enrolled in the Academy. Supporting this growth is our thriving school farm, which produces fresh, healthy vegetables used daily to prepare meals for our students.

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Kivu Hills Academy remains a dynamic center for learning, personal growth, and positive social change.

Please read the wonderful stories and thanks from two KHA students and graduates:

Emmanuel Niyodusenga was born and raised in Boneza as the sixth child in a family of seven. He grew up with a dream to create solutions that improve lives. After completing his primary and ordinary level education at GS Rugamba, Emmanuel faced a major obstacle — he had



passed his national exams but couldn't afford to continue his studies in a technical school. Opportunities were limited, and nearby schools were too costly for his family.

Everything changed when he heard about Kivu Hills Academy, a new school being established in Boneza that offered technical

education at an affordable cost. Determined, he enrolled, and through hard work and dedication, earned a half scholarship each term for his strong academic performance. This opportunity made it possible for him to complete his studies, and in 2018, he graduated as KHA's Outstanding Male Student.

After graduation, Emmanuel was offered a chance to serve his alma mater as an Assistant Teacher. In 2019, KHA awarded scholarships to its top students to pursue higher education, and Emmanuel was among them. He joined Rwanda Polytechnic to study Civil Engineering, specializing in Water and Sanitation Technology. While pursuing his studies, he demonstrated strong leadership



and an entrepreneurial spirit—running a small stationery business and selling airtime to support his family back home.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, Emmanuel turned crisis into opportunity. Noticing that his community lacked clean water for drinking and sanitation, he applied his technical knowledge to capture a local water source and construct a water point in Buhonongo Village, serving over 500 people with safe water.



After excelling at Rwanda Polytechnic, Emmanuel graduated as an Outstanding Student and joined the Water and Sanitation Corporation (WASAC) as a Water Network Maintenance Engineer. His passion for community impact and sustainable development inspired him to continue his education. In October 2025, he proudly earned a First-Class Bachelor's Degree in Water Resources Management from the Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences (PIASS).

Today, Emmanuel dreams pursuing a Master's Degree in Water Resources Engineering, aiming to develop advanced skills to ensure equitable and sustainable access to clean water for all. Emmanuel states, "Kivu Hills Academy didn't just give me an education—it gave me hope, discipline, and a vision to serve. My goal is to transform communities through sustainable water solutions and ensure that no child's potential is limited by lack of clean water."

Emmanuel is shown receiving a certificate from a group of men in suits, and standing with two other graduates in academic regalia in front of a banner for Protestant University of Rwanda.



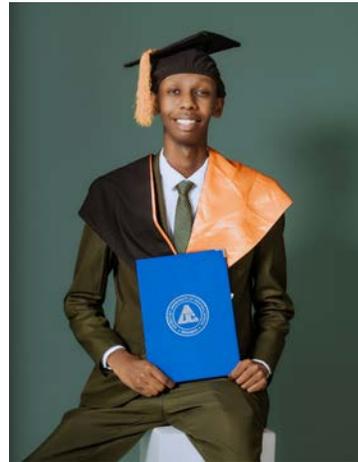
Hello, my name is Turashimye Chretien. I studied at Kivu Hills Academy from 2017 to 2019. My first time going there, I crossed Lake Kivu by boat, and it felt like a miracle from God. I was one of only six students from outside Boneza, and we were among the first students in the Networking program. It wasn't easy, but it was a great experience.

Kivu Hills Academy is one of the best schools in Rwanda. The leaders from Arise Rwanda and the staff at Kivu Hills supported us so much. I especially want to thank John Gasangwa for the amazing idea of starting Kivu Hills Academy and Arise Rwanda for how they have supported students and the school in so many ways. They didn't just help me in my studies, but they also helped me grow closer to God. I will always remember the Friday prayer sessions where we prayed together—it really strengthened my faith. Academically, I learned so much about computers and networking, and that knowledge became the foundation for my career.



After finishing high school in 2019, I couldn't start college in 2020 because of COVID-19. But in 2021, I joined the Adventist University of Central Africa, one of the best universities in Rwanda and one of the most challenging for IT studies. Because of what I learned at Kivu Hills, college wasn't too hard for me. I already had the basics, and this

helped me finish my degree in just three years instead of four. This was a big milestone, and I thank God for guiding me.

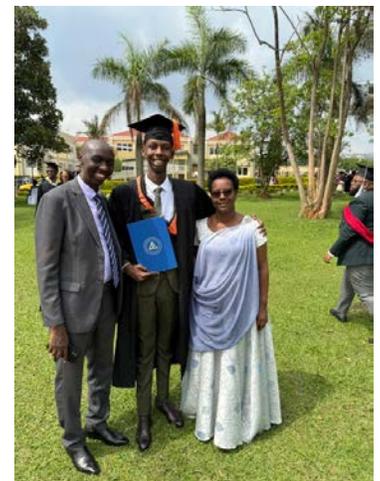


I'm so grateful to the staff at Kivu Hills Academy and Arise Rwanda for everything they did for me.

Today I reflected on Deuteronomy 31:8: "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he

will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." I'm so grateful to Jesus for His faithfulness. By His grace, what once seemed impossible is now a reality—I've graduated with a bachelor's degree in Information Technology! Glory to Jesus!

Here's a picture of me and my family from my graduation. Yesterday was an amazing day as I received my bachelor's degree in Information Technology at 22 years old. I'm truly grateful to God for this blessing, allowing me to reach this milestone at this stage of my life. I know He will continue to guide and bless me as I pursue my goals, including a master's degree and, eventually, a Ph.D.



Thank you!



Journey of Self-Empowerment: A Story from Valentine

My name is Valentine. I am 43 years old, a wife, and a proud mother of three beautiful children. I was born in Boneza, Kinunu in Bushaka, where I grew up in a family that had almost nothing. We survived day by day through hard labor, and even as a child, I understood what struggle looked like. When both of my parents passed away, I found myself standing alone in life, and I decided to get married, hoping to build a future filled with stability and love.

But the man I married was also fighting his own battle with poverty. Together, we faced a life full of challenges, days where we did not know what we would eat, and nights where we lay awake worrying about our children's future. We relied on daily labor, working with our hands and praying for a better tomorrow.

My heart broke the day my firstborn daughter passed her exams to join grade 10, and I realized I had no way to pay her school fees. As a mother, nothing is more painful than seeing your child's dream blocked by poverty but through Arise Rwanda she got the scholarship at Kivu Hills Academy and that time too I joined a women's trust group called Terimbere Mugore, supported by Arise Rwanda. They believed in us when we had nothing. Through their support, I received a loan of

just 20,000 RWF, an amount that may seem small to some, but to me, it was the seed of hope. With that small loan, I started selling tomatoes on a tiny table. I woke up early, worked tirelessly, and refused to give up. Day by day, I saved a little, reinvested a little, and pushed forward. Slowly, that small table grew into a real business. I went from buying just a few tomatoes to stocking goods worth 150,000 RWF.

Today, I sell vegetables, fruits, potatoes, beans, rice, bananas, almost every essential food item a family might need. When someone comes to me looking for food, they do not leave empty-handed. My stand is full, my business is stable, and my dignity has been restored.

Because of this growth, I now educate my children with confidence. My First born is in university studying tourism and the others are in secondary school and I pay their school fees myself. I am no longer the mother who cries over what she cannot provide. I am now a mother who stands strong, who provides, who dreams big and who shows her children what resilience looks like.

All of this was made possible because Arise Rwanda believed in us, women who had been forgotten, mothers who had lost hope, families fighting to survive. You lifted us up when we could not lift ourselves. Thank you for standing with us, empowering us, and changing our lives.

May God bless you abundantly!





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

Donations can be made online or sent to:

Arise Rwanda Ministries USA, Inc.
 c/o Jayson Denton
 9613 Old Farm Road
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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thank you for your continued support to the Boneza community and Arise Rwanda Ministries!



Wherever you may be and however you and yours celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, The King of Kings and Lord of Lords, may JOY fill your heart and Peace prevail in your home. In the midst of the hustle, bustle, shopping, entertaining and travels of the season...remember that Jesus is the only reason for the season. Keep Him in the center of all and on the throne of your heart.

Arise Rwanda Ministries and the community of Boneza thank you. We pray for you and praise God for your generosity and faithfulness. May 2026 be a year of sharing, listening, learning and patience. Let us press on in our goals of serving and praising Him.



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