

Hello friends or as they say in Rwanda, Muraho!

Wonderful news! I return to Rwanda Sept. 16-Oct. 7, 2009. To those who have contributed to my work, I'm deeply grateful for your heart for Rwanda and your generous support of our shared ministries. To those unfamiliar with this work I invite you to discover the miracle of Rwanda, a country torn apart by the terror and heartbreak of the 1994 Genocide now healing and inspiring the world through deep reconciliation and radical forgiveness. To learn more about Rwanda and my 2008 trip view photos/comments: <http://picasaweb.google.com/Istrachan012/RwandanHUGS>

For two years I have been deeply blessed to work with Bishop John Rucyahana's ministries and his wife Harriet, Inyakurama Assn., pastors and ministries in Kigali, MBYO, Jabana, Musanze, and Turwubake Association members from 4 communities working with me in Bigogwe. I support Drs. Caleb and Louise King at Shyira Hospital. In Sept/Oct 2009 I'll continue to work with all of the above and add new programs in Butare. I teach sewing and jewelry projects to hundreds of Rwandan women grateful for work and support students eager to learn. Much of the work involves prayer partnerships and developing friendships.

Being mindful of challenging economic times globally, I've created some projects that ask a minimum donation of \$5.00. More generous donations are needed for more complex projects to enable the women to work and to educate children. Your unrestricted donations are a key to the success of this work and in 2008 were used to purchase supplies for jewelry and sewing projects, given to Mbyo reconciliation village for food and clothes, provided lunch daily for 25 Prayer Doll Project seamstresses, distributed to Pastor Deo to assist the orphans who visit his mission to eat and bathe, etc. My USA office expenses, airfare, hotel, food, & transportation in Rwanda are paid from my personal funds. Be assured 100% of YOUR contributions benefit our Rwandan friends. While considering a donation now, please plan for holiday giving that could honor your loved ones AND employ and empower women, clothe children, swaddle babies, help provide medical care, educate children, and demonstrate that you deeply care about them in a loving, prayerful way. Folks who ordered prayer dolls in '08 shared how the dolls made very meaningful Christmas gifts. Listed below are opportunities to participate in my Rwandan HUGS (Help Us Get Started) projects. All of these items (except the prayer dolls and some jewelry) will be distributed in Rwanda where **there is such great need**. A portion of the cost of goods also assists Inyakurama and Turwubake to build homes, support HIV/AIDS projects, improve/create work spaces and showrooms for their handcrafts, etc.

Please consider contributing in one or more of the following ways:

Purchase/donate the following gifts for our brothers and sisters in Rwanda:

- 1) Children's clothing: Women will sew dresses, shirts, & pants. Your first \$12.50 donation will pay for women to create clothing for a child in their family. Additional donations of \$12.50 will provide clothing to the orphans and struggling families in their communities. (Rwandans teach us so much about sharing and giving. MANY Rwandan women care for their own very large families AND often as not 4-5 more orphans. Therefore, the idea of creating the first clothing gift for their family is mine, not theirs).
- 2) Fleece Baby Blankets: Contribute \$10 for a baby blanket for newborns at Shyira Hospital.
- 3) Colorful Jungle Animal Fabric Wall Hangings: Your \$15 donation will provide lovely animal theme wall hangings to brighten up orphanages, schools, & hospitals. Their walls are really bleak...I remember visiting an orphanage in Kigali and seeing nothing bright on the walls of rooms full of babies/children.
- 4) Prayer Handkerchiefs: Contribute \$5 for a vintage ladies handkerchiefs or a man's bandana. I will take them from the USA with your written prayers which will be translated & attached to each handkerchief and given to students, orphans, hospital patients, genocide and/or HIV/AIDS survivors, coffee farmers in Bukonye, reconciliation village residents, and others in Rwanda. 100% of

your \$5 donations will provide scholarship funds for my two translators, Rachel, a law student and Gentile a 1st year student in Gisenyi. These are beautiful and tangible ways to show a Rwandan that you care for them and pray for them.

5) \$5 Prayer Bracelets and \$5 Cross Necklaces: Bracelet with a pewter "Pray" or "Survivor" message bead centerpiece & yellow, green, and blue beads (Rwandan Flag Colors) and Pewter Cross/bead necklaces on cord will be made by our friends in Rwanda. This provides a much needed ready market for some of the jewelry products as it's pre-sold in the USA. When the recipients see their bracelet or necklace they will remember that someone (you??) cares for them and is praying for them. (see #3 for recipients).

6) Purchase a manually operated sewing machine for sewing projects (\$175) or pay for sewing instruction (\$100 per month for group sewing instructions). This will put many ladies to work more professionally.

Purchase/Order items for delivery here in the USA

1) Rwandan Prayer Partner Doll for \$12 plus S/H (\$4 for first doll and \$1 for each additional doll). Will have a photo/bio of your prayer partner in one pocket and a place for your prayers in a heart shaped pocket on the front. Made from 3 African Batik Fabrics symbolizing the unity of the three cultures of Rwanda. They will be shipped to you from my home in the USA time for Christmas giving.

2) Butterfly or African animal theme bracelets made by Rwandans. \$10 each (+ \$3.00 S/H for the total jewelry order). They struggle to sell jewelry in the poorest areas: jewelry orders will be a BIG BOOST!

Assist with educational projects:

1) Sponsor a student at Sonrise School in Musanze. To sponsor a Primary or a Secondary Student visit their web site, www.mustardseedproject.org. If you live in the Bedford, VA area, I have forms and photos of students waiting to be sponsored... 1,000+ children are now enrolled at Sonrise.

2) Assisting orphans in Butare (southern Rwanda) with School Fees and Medicine Cards (\$35 per year per child). Please contact me for photos and profiles of the some of the 300 children waiting to be sponsored.

Unrestricted donations:

Your unrestricted donations assist in purchasing sewing, jewelry, medical and school supplies, feeding the hungry, and other expenses that occur while developing new projects.

Order form below

Please fill in the form below and return via mail with a check or money order payable to: Nancy Strachan or donate online to my Paypal account at Rwandanhugs@aol.com or as a last resort call me with your credit card numbers. If you send money via Paypal, please cut and paste the form below, complete it, and return it to me. If you send a check through the mail, please print this out and enclose it with the check. I must complete my banking by Sept. 15 as I depart for Rwanda on September 16. If you order AFTER Sept. 16, I'll check my e-mail while in Rwanda and see what I can do to process the orders from there.

TO: Nancy Strachan, 630 Mountain Avenue, Bedford, VA 24523
ph. 540-586-4446 Rwandanhugs@aol.com

Your Name _____
Phone _____
Address _____
E-mail _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

It is my joy and honor to contribute in the following way(s):

Donate Children's clothing for lady's families..... pieces @ \$12.50 each = Total _____
Donate Children's clothing for orphans..... pieces @ \$12.50 each = Total _____
Donate Fleece Baby Blanket for Shyira Hospital.... pieces @ \$10.00 each = Total _____
Donate Colorful Animal Print Wall Hanging..... pieces @ \$15.00 each = Total _____
Donate Prayer Handkerchiefs/Bandanas..... pieces @ \$5.00 each = Total _____
Donate Prayer Bracelets or Cross Necklaces..... pieces @ \$5.00 each = Total _____
Donate a Sewing Machine..... machines @ \$175.00 each = Total _____
Pay for Sewing Instruction for groups of women..... months @ \$100 each = Total _____
Order Prayer Doll(s) - USA delivery..... doll(s) @ \$12 + ____ S/H = Total _____
Order Butterfly or African Bracelets-USA delivery... Butterfly African @ \$10 + \$3 S/H = Total _____
Order Butterfly or African Earrings-USA delivery.. Butterfly African @ \$8 + \$3 S/H = Total _____
Paying Butare Orphan's School/Medical card fees..... @ \$35.00 = Total _____
Unrestricted Funds..... = Total _____

THANK YOU!! Total Donations for Rwanda _____

If you donate in honor of someone, indicate the number of cards you will need here _____ and I'll mail a Handmade Rwandan card (or cards) to you for you to share with your honorees (after I return from Rwanda).

For those ordering Prayer Dolls & donating Handkerchiefs PLEASE WRITE YOUR PRAYER REQUEST(S) FOR YOUR RWANDAN PRAYER PARTNER:

Your Name: _____
Prayer request(s) _____

Web sites to learn more about some of the ministries mentioned above:

Bishop John and Harriet Rucyahana: <http://www.mustardseedproject.org/section.asp?secID=4>
Pastor Deo: <http://www.mustardseedproject.org/section.asp?secID=29>
Inyakurama: <http://www.mustardseedproject.org/section.asp?secID=25>
Shyira Hospital: <http://thekingsatshyira.wordpress.com/> & www.shyira.org/shyirahospital.htm
Land of 1,000 Hills Coffee: <http://www.landof1000hills.com/>

(NOTE: I will be overseas Aug.28-Sept.11 so please act ASAP and share/E-mail this message widely.)

I am most grateful to you for your donations and prayers. God Bless You.

In Christ, for Rwanda, *Nancy*