

**MISSIONS ATLAS PROJECT
EAST AFRICA / CENTRAL AFRICA
RWANDA**

Snapshots Section

Country Name: Republic of Rwanda

Country Founded in: 1962

Population: 10,473,282 (2009)

Government Type: Republic with a multiparty system

Geography/location in the world: Rwanda is located in east-central Africa and is bordered to the east by Tanzania, to the south by Burundi, to the west and northwest by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and to the north by Uganda.

Number of people groups: 13



Religion Snapshot

Roman Catholic 56.5%, Protestant 26%, Adventist 11.1%, Muslim 4.6%, Traditional 0.1%

Rwanda's constitution allows for religious freedom, and other policies and laws generally support that freedom. The government of Rwanda does have a requirement that religious groups conduct services only in their established places of worship; the use of private homes is prohibited.

In 2008, there were reports of Jehovah's Witnesses being expelled from school, detained by local authorities, and fired from teaching due to certain, specific religious beliefs that conflicted with governmental policies.

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rw.html>

Source: <http://esa.un.org/unpp/index.asp?panel=5#Africa>

Source: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2008/108386.htm>

Country Profile

Basic Facts

Country Name: Republic of Rwanda

Demographics: Rwanda is the most densely populated country in Africa with more than 10 million people living within 26,338 sq. km (10,169 sq. miles). About 18% of Rwandans live in urban areas.

42.1% of the population is 14 years of age and younger. 55.4% is between 15 and 64 years. Only 2.4% is 65 and older.

Current life expectancy in Rwanda is about 49 years for men and 52 years for women. The birth rate is 39.67 births per 1000 population. The death rate is 14.46 deaths per 1000 population.

Source: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2861.htm>

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rw.html>

Language: The national language spoken by Rwandans is Kinyarwanda (or sometimes just called Rwanda). Some Rwandans also speak Swahili when dealing with other African countries.

Even before Rwanda gained independence, many spoke French. After independence, it was declared an official language and was taught in schools. In 1994, after the Rwandan Patriotic Front stopped the genocide and took control of the government. English was also made an official language. Then in 2008, the Rwanda government dropped French as an official language.

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/jan/16/rwanda-english-genocide>

Source: http://books.google.com/books?id=Rfjw_5JL0DsC&pg=PA48&lpg=PA48

Society/Culture:

Internet - As of November 2008, there were about 100,000 Rwandans with access to the Internet, which is about 1% of the total population.

Source: <http://www.internetworldstats.com/africa.htm#rw>

Health - HIV/AIDS has been devastating to the country of Rwanda. As of 2007, there were about 150,000 people—both adults and children—were living with HIV/AIDS.

At least 360,000 people have died because of HIV/AIDS since its discovery in 1983. Because so many men and women have died, the number of orphans has risen. There are an estimated 220,000 orphans in Rwanda.

Source: http://apps.who.int/globalatlas/predefinedReports/EFS2008/full/EFS2008_RW.pdf

Source: <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=2593071>

Source: <http://unaids.org/en/countryresponses/countries/rwanda.asp>

The Arts - Dance and music are significant aspects of Rwandan traditions. There are spontaneous performances in many of the towns and villages, and one of the most popular groups is the centuries-old *Intore Dance Troupe* (*intore* means “the chosen ones”). Music and dance styles are wide-ranging, but one common instrument is the drum. Drum orchestras are used during the bigger celebratory performances.

Rwandans also create ceramic crafts, baskets, woodcarvings, and paintings, which can be seen along some village and city streets.

Source: <http://www.rwandatourism.com/culture.htm>

Government:

Rwanda adopted a new constitution on May 26, 2003, which resulted in elections for the executive and legislative branches of government.

Executive - The president of Rwanda is the chief of state. Currently that is Paul Kagame who was elected by the National Assembly on April 22, 2000. After the new constitution was adopted, new presidential elections were held August 25, 2003, and Kagame was elected by the people.

The Prime Minister is the head of government. Bernard Makuza has held that position since March 8, 2000.

The cabinet consists of a council of ministers appointed by the president.

Presidential elections are to be held every seven years, and those elected are eligible for a second term in office. The next vote is scheduled for 2010.

Legislative - Rwanda has a bicameral parliament made up of a Senate and a Chamber of Deputies. The first legislative elections were held from September 29 to October 2, 2003.

The Senate has 26 seats. Members serve eight-year terms. 12 of the Senate positions are elected by local councils; eight are appointed by the president; four are appointed by the Political Organization Forum; and two represent higher learning institutions. The next Senate elections will be in 2011.

The Chamber of Deputies has 80 seats. Elections are held every five years. 53 members are elected by popular vote; 24 are women who are elected by various local groups; and three are selected by disability and youth organizations. The previous Chamber of Deputies elections were held in September 2008; the next will be in September 2013.

Judicial - The judicial system of Rwanda includes a Supreme Court, High Courts of the Republic, provincial courts, district courts, and mediation committees.

Local government consists of five provinces (Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western, and the city of Kigali). In addition, there are 30 districts, 416 sectors, and 2148 cells. Elections for district mayors and sector and cell executive committees were held in the spring of 2006.

Source: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2861.htm>

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rw.html>

Economy:

The genocide in 1994 severely damaged Rwanda's economy, but they have made remarkable progress in stabilizing the country. Poverty levels are still high, however, and Rwanda still requires financial assistance from other countries and the IMF.

Services make up about 43% of Rwanda's economy. Agriculture contributes another 35%, and industry 22%.

Major exports from Rwanda are tea, coffee, hides, and iron ore. Major export partners are China, Belgium, and Germany.

Major imports are food, machinery, equipment, steel, petroleum, cement, and construction material. The major import partner is Kenya, followed by Uganda, Germany, Belgium, and China.

As of September 2009, one US dollar was worth about 568 Rwandan francs.

Source: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2861.htm>

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rw.html>

Source: <http://finance.yahoo.com/q?s=RWF%3DX&.yficumb=0EUFOMPxnZ2>

Literacy:

According to estimates in 2003, about 70% of the population age 15 and older could read and write. The literacy rate for men was 76%, and for women it was 65%.

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rw.html>

Land/Geography:

Rwanda has a temperate climate with two rainy seasons. The first is from February to April; the second is from November to January. It is mild in the mountains, and frost and snow are even possible.

Rwanda's terrain includes mountains in the west, but otherwise mostly grassy uplands and hills. The highest point in Rwanda is the Karisimbi volcano in the west, which is 4519 meters (14,826 feet). The lowest point at 950 meters (3117 feet) is the Rusizi River in southwestern Rwanda.

Source: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2861.htm>

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rw.html>

History

Several theories explain the early history of the Twa, Hutu, and Tutsi people in the area now known as Rwanda and Burundi. One commonly held belief claims the Twa, descendants of the pygmies, were the earliest inhabitants, and later migration from other parts of Africa changed the social and political conditions in the region.

Some researchers think the Hutu people began moving into the Rwanda/Burundi area from western Africa between AD 600 and AD 1300. The Hutu outnumbered the Twa and began establishing their culture, language, and regional kings. At that time, most of the Twa moved further into the highlands.

In the 1400s and 1500s, according to traditional theories, the Tutsi people moved into the area from the Nile regions in northern and eastern Africa where modern day Sudan and Ethiopia are located. The Tutsi were typically taller than the Hutu and the Twa, and though there they never numbered more than about 15% of the population, they took control of the region. The Tutsi established a kingdom, controlled most of the land, and taxed local farmers and herders.

During the 1600s until the 1800s, the Tutsi kingdom encompassed modern-day Rwanda, Burundi, and parts of Tanzania. The kingdom, however, was decentralized—more like a feudal system. Internal strife eventually left the king in control of only about half the territory.

In the 1800s, Europeans discovered this part of Africa. Richard Burton and John Speke, explorers from Britain, visited the area in 1858. Then, in 1885, Germany claimed the territory as its own. The Tutsi kingdom was incorporated into German East Africa, but Germans did not start to settle in the area until 1906.

During World War I, Belgium sent 1400 troops to the Rwanda/Burundi area and seized control from the Germans. Then in 1923, Rwanda and Burundi were mandated to Belgium by the League of Nations. At that time, the territory was called Ruanda-Urundi. Belgium controlled the area indirectly by working through the Tutsi aristocracy.

After World War II, Ruanda-Urundi became a “Trust Territory” under the United Nations. Belgium retained administrative control. After 1948, Belgium allowed other political parties to compete.

The Tutsi and Hutu have had tense relations for years, but violence broke out in 1959. Hutus ousted the Tutsi king, and over the next few years, thousands of Tutsis were killed. Many others fled to nearby countries.

As the territory of Ruanda-Urundi moved toward independence, the United Nations suggested that both parts of the territory should stay together as one nation because the population had the same people groups and the same language. However, leaders from each area wanted independence separately.

In 1961, the Party of the Hutu Emancipation Movement (PARMEHUTU) won a landslide victory, and afterward the country of Rwanda was given its independence from Belgium on July 1, 1962. Rwanda's first president was Gregoire Kayibanda.

The early years of Rwandan independence were challenging. There were accusations of inefficiency and corruption in the mid-1960s.

In 1973, the military took control of the government, stopping all political activity. Major General Juvenal Habyarimana dissolved the PARMEHUTU party and the National Assembly. Five years later, a vote was held to endorse a new constitution and confirm Habyarimana as president. He was elected again in 1983 and 1988.

In July 1990, Habyarimana declared his intention to change Rwanda into a multi-party democracy. Others attempted to hurry the process along. The children of those who had fled Rwanda in the late 1950s and early 1960s had formed the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) in Uganda. They blamed the Rwandan government for not bringing in democracy and failing to resolve the issue of nearly half a million Tutsi refugees who were still living outside of the country.

In October 1990, the RPF invaded Rwanda from their base in Uganda. The war lasted for nearly two years. A cease-fire was declared in July 1992 and political talks began. Government leaders met in Arusha, Tanzania to discuss power sharing agreements between the Hutu and Tutsi people. After one of those meetings, the plane carrying the president of Burundi and Habyarimana, the president of Rwanda, crashed near the Rwandan capital of Kigali on April 6, 1994. Many believe the plane went down under suspicious circumstances.

The next day, civil war erupted in Rwanda. Over the next three months, Hutus killed between 500,000 and one million people. While most of the victims were Tutsis, many Hutus who did not join in the violence were also murdered. Hundreds of thousands of people fled Rwanda to escape the violence.

The RPF resumed fighting, too, and eventually stopped the genocide about three months later. They took control of Kigali on July 4. The war finally came to an end on July 16. At that point, hundreds of thousands of Hutus, fearing reprisals for the genocide, fled Rwanda and sought refuge in Burundi, Tanzania, and Zaire.

Five political parties—the RPF and four others—created the Government of National Unity on July 19, 1994. A little later, a transitional legislative body, the National Assembly, was put together with 70 representatives from those five parties and three additional ones.

During this time, others outside of Rwanda offered their support. Humanitarian relief flowed into the country from other countries and international organizations.

As the government and people of Rwanda worked on rebuilding and unifying the country, schools began to reopen. From 1994 to 1995, more than half of the secondary schools and a

majority of primary schools reopened. The national university in Butare resumed classes in April 1995.

Also in 1995, an international tribunal appointed by the United Nations started identifying people who were responsible for the genocide, charging them with the crime, and sentencing them. Rwandan courts were eventually swamped with cases because so many people were accused of taking part in the genocide. A new system was put into place to deal with the backlog of genocide cases. *Gacaca* courts were given the task of judging many of the cases. These courts consisted of Rwandan citizens who were elected to judge their peers; voting for members of those courts began in 2001.

In December 2001, with the hope of promoting national unity and reconciling differences among Rwandans, a new flag was designed and a new national anthem was written.

Paul Kagame, a leader in the RPF, had been serving as president since the legislature voted him into that office in 2000. In 2003, national elections were held—the first since the genocide. Paul Kagame was elected by the people to serve as president for a seven year term.

Genocide trials continue in Rwanda. Over the years, many people have been convicted. Others, though, have been released from prison. Many of those who were let go had confessed to taking part in the genocide, but the courts needed to relieve overcrowding.

Source: <http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?historyid=ad24>

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rw.html>

Source: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2008/108386.htm>

Source: http://www.gov.rw/page.php?id_article=63

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/1070329.stm>

Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1070265.stm

Source: <http://www.gov.rw/government/president/personalf.html>

Christian History

European missionaries brought Christianity to the Rwanda/Burundi region in the late 1800s, but it was not until after World War I that Christianity experienced significant growth. Both Protestants and Catholics established churches in the area in the 1920s and 1930s.

The Roman Catholic Church started ordaining Rwandan priests in 1917 and established the Rwanda vicariate in 1922. The Catholic Church grew quickly in the 1930s.

Lutherans from the Bethel Mission in Tanzania were the first Protestants; they built a mission in Rwanda before World War I. However, these German missionaries were kicked out of the country when Belgium took over during the war. Afterward, Belgium would not let them return.

American Adventists went to Rwanda in 1919 and eventually grew to be the second largest denomination after the Catholics.

The Anglican Church began as a medical and evangelistic mission. Their growth was helped by the revival of 1927, which eventually swept across both the Rwanda and Burundi regions. The Anglican Church is currently the third largest denomination in Rwanda.

Other Protestant denominations established churches before World War II, but those groups remained relatively small until the Pentecostal and Charismatic renewal movements in the 1990s. Pentecostal churches are now the fourth largest Christian community in Rwanda.

Source: Source: World Christian Encyclopedia, Vol. 1, 2nd ed. ISBN: 0195103181

Source: <http://www.operationworld.org/country/rwan/owtext.html>

Religion

Non Christian

Islam

Different statistics indicate anywhere between 460,000 and 812,000 Rwandans are Muslim. As of 2000, that number was growing at a rate of 8.4% a year.

Source: <http://www.operationworld.org/country/rwan/owtext.html>

Source: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2008/108386.htm>

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rw.html>

Baha'i

As of 2000, there were about 15,466 followers, and that number was growing at a rate of 8% per year.

Source: <http://www.operationworld.org/country/rwan/owtext.html>

Jehovah's Witness

The Jehovah's Witnesses started in 1965. As of 2000, there were 92 congregations and 6,828 members; 20,000 people were affiliated with them. More recent information indicates the total number of Jehovah's Witnesses is 15,000.

Source: <http://www.operationworld.org/country/rwan/owtext.html>

Source: World Christian Encyclopedia, Vol. 1, 2nd ed.

Source: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2008/108386.htm>

Non-religious/other

As of 2000, about 307,000 people fell into this category, and that number was growing at a rate of 8% a year.

Source: <http://www.operationworld.org/country/rwan/owtext.html>

Catholic/Orthodox

The Catholic Church began in 1889. As of 2000, there were 1,133 congregations and 1,813,187 members; 3,300,000 people were affiliated with the church.

The Evangelical Orthodox Church has a mission in Rwanda, but few details are known.

Source: <http://www.operationworld.org/country/rwan/owtext.html>

Source: *World Christian Encyclopedia, Vol. 1, 2nd ed.*

Source: <http://www.evangelicalorthodox.org/project-rwanda.html>

Christian/Evangelical

Anglican

The Anglican Church in Rwanda began in 1920. As of 2000, there were 2,000 congregations and 245,961 members; 819,050 people were affiliated with the church.

Baptists

The Association of Baptist Churches of Rwanda began in 1965. As of 2000, there were 126 congregations and 27,000 members; 59,000 people were affiliated with the churches.

The Union of Baptist Churches in Rwanda began in 1938. As of 1995, there were 100 congregations and 10,000 members; 20,000 people were affiliated with the churches.

Source: <http://www.operationworld.org/country/rwan/owtext.html>

Source: *World Christian Encyclopedia, Vol. 1, 2nd ed.*

Methodists

Free Methodists, as of 2000, had 200 congregations and 30,000 members; 130,000 people were affiliated with the church.

Source: <http://www.operationworld.org/country/rwan/owtext.html>

Source: *World Christian Encyclopedia, Vol. 1, 2nd ed.*

Pentecostals

Association of Pentecostal Churches in Rwanda began in 1940. As of 2000, there were 1,859 congregations with 139,423 members; 290,000 people were affiliated with the church.

Assemblies of God, as of 2000, had 51 congregations and 4,892 members; 10,782 people were affiliated with the church.

Church of God (Cleveland), as of 2000, had 79 congregations and 6,608 members; 13,000 people were affiliated with the church.

Source: <http://www.operationworld.org/country/rwan/owtext.html>

Source: *World Christian Encyclopedia, Vol. 1, 2nd ed.*

Presbyterian

The Presbyterian Church, as of 2000, had 74 congregations and 120,000 members; 216,000 people were affiliated with the church.

Source: <http://www.operationworld.org/country/rwan/owtext.html>

Independent churches found in the country

The Assembly of Brethren began in 1961. As of 1995, there were three congregations and 128 members; 320 people were affiliated with the church.

The Church of the Nazarene, as of 2000, had 28,000 members; 42,000 people were affiliated with the church.

The Quaker's Evangelical Friends Mission began in 1950. As of 1995, there were 12 congregations and 1100 members; there were 2,000 people affiliated with the church.

The Seventh-day Adventist church started in 1919. As of 2000, there were 909 congregations and 342,664 members; 520,000 people were affiliated with the church.

Source: <http://www.operationworld.org/country/rwan/owtext.html>

Source: *World Christian Encyclopedia, Vol. 1, 2nd ed.*

People Groups

14875

Arab (8,501)

The Arabs of Rwanda are mostly Muslim. Less than 2% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible and the *Jesus* film have been translated into their language. There are also Gospel recordings and radio broadcasts available.

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=RW&rop3=100425>

Source: <http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/arb>

14878

Belgian-Fleming (2,804)

Most of the Belgian-Fleming people are Roman Catholic. Less than 2% are Evangelical Christians. The Belgian-Fleming people speak Vlaams, which is close to Dutch. The Bible and the *Jesus* film have been translated into their language. There are also Gospel recordings and radio broadcasts available.

Source: <http://joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=RW&rop3=103034>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

Source: http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=vls

Source: <http://songsofpraise.org/translations.htm#Dutch>

14877

British (488)

Most of the British in Rwanda are Protestant Christians. Less than 2% are Evangelical. The Bible, the *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are available.

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=RW&rop3=102927>

Source: <http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/eng>

14885

Burundian, Rundi (463,218)

Most Burundians in Rwanda are Roman Catholic. Less than 2% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible and the *Jesus* film have been translated into their language. There are also Gospel recordings and radio broadcasts available.

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

Source: <http://joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=RW&rop3=103926>

Source: <http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/run>

Source: http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=run

47734

Deaf Rwandan (41,162)

There is a stigma associated with being deaf and many parents do not understand the importance of communicating with children while they are very young. Also, Rwanda's deaf children rarely attend school. There are a few groups working to improve the lives of those who cannot hear.

Source: <http://www.rnad.org/>

Source: http://www.deafchildworldwide.info/where_we_work/small_grants_programme/focus_on_rwanda.html

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

14879

French (2,804)

Most of the French in Rwanda are Roman Catholic. The Bible, the *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts are available.

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=RW&rop3=103059>

Source: <http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/fra>

14880

Gujarati (743)

Most of the Gujarati in Rwanda are Hindu. Less than 2% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible and the *Jesus* film have been translated into their language. There are also Gospel recordings and radio broadcasts available.

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=RW&rop3=103544>

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Lingala, Congolese (52,000)

The Lingala people living in Rwanda are mostly Christian. At least 5% are Evangelical. The Bible, the *Jesus* film, and some Gospel recordings have been translated into their language.

Source: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=RW&rop3=105785>

Source: http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=lin

Source: <http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/lin>

14881

Nyankore-Hima (10,240)

Most of the Hima people are Protestant Christians. Less than 2% are Evangelical. The Bible and the *Jesus* film have been translated into their Nyankore language. There are some Gospel recordings available, but no radio broadcasts available.

Source: <http://joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=RW&rop3=103783>

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

Source: <http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/nyn>

39283

Rwandese, Hutu (8,243,572)

Most are Roman Catholic. However, at least 22% of the Rwandese Hutu people are Evangelical Christians. The Rwandese Hutu people speak the Rwanda (or Kinyarwanda) language. The Bible and the *Jesus* film have been translated into their language. There are also Gospel recordings and radio broadcasts available.

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

Source: <http://joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=RW&rop3=108463>

Source: http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=kin

Source: <http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/kin>

14886

Swahili (14,628)

Most of the Swahili people are Muslim. Less than 2% are Evangelical Christians. The Bible and the *Jesus* film have been translated into their language. There are also Gospel recordings and radio broadcasts available.

Source: <http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

Source: <http://joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=RW&rop3=109644>

Source: <http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/swh>

00000

Tutsi (1,075,000)

Most of the Tutsi people are Roman Catholic. More than 10% of the Tutsi are Evangelical Christians. The Tutsi people speak the Rwanda (or Kinyarwanda) language. The Bible and the *Jesus* film have been translated and there are Gospel recordings and radio broadcasts available.

Source: http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=kin

Source: <http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/kin>

Source: <http://joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=RW&rop3=110325>

00000

Twa, Pygmy (173,000)

Most of the Twa people follow their traditional animistic religion. At least 7% of the Twa people are Evangelical Christians. The Twa people speak the Rwanda (or Kinyarwanda) language. The Bible and the *Jesus* film have been translated and there are Gospel recordings and radio broadcasts available.

Source: <http://joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=RW&rop3=110338>

Source: http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=kin

Source: <http://globalrecordings.net/langcode/kin>

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christians and churches should strive to help the peoples of Rwanda to come to peace, especially between the Hutu and Tutsi peoples. Even before gaining independence in 1962, there was tension between the Hutu and Tutsi people groups. Conflict is a major aspect of their history and culture. Since the Christian faith is believed by many, pray that Paul's message in Galatians 3:28 could be made a reality in Rwanda. There is neither Tutsi nor Hutu, "slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."
2. Evangelical Christians and churches should emphasize evangelism and church planting among the 180,000 *Twa* (Pygmy) peoples of Rwanda. Some approach toward sharing the Good News with followers of Traditional Religions should be introduced, taught to local believers, and set in motion by the local churches.

3. Evangelical Christians and churches should continue to seek to aid the peoples in Rwanda in physical needs. Humanitarian services could open the way to evangelism and church planting.
4. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to understand the significant growth of the Adventist churches and the Pentecostal churches in Rwanda. This understanding might lead to greater evangelism and church starting in other groups.
5. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to aid local Christians in leadership training on both the career leader and lay leader levels. The latter of these is probably the more important.
6. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek ways to meet the increasing physical needs in Rwanda—including the mounting problems related to AIDS.

Links

Rwanda photos on Flickr – Search all photos

<http://flickr.com/search/?q=rwanda&ct=0>

A search link to all the Rwanda photos on Flickr.com

Rwanda photos on Flickr – Search Creative Commons

<http://flickr.com/search/?q=rwanda&l=commderiv&ct=0>

A search link to Creative Commons-licensed photos of Rwanda on Flickr

Background Notes: Rwanda

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2861.htm>

BBC Country Profile: Rwanda

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1070265.stm

BBC Timeline: Rwanda

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/1070329.stm>

CIA Factbook: Rwanda

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rw.html>

History World: History of Rwanda

<http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?historyid=ad24>

New York Times: Rwanda

<http://topics.nytimes.com/topics/news/international/countriesandterritories/rwanda/index.html>

Linguistic Maps: Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania

<http://www.muturzikin.com/cartesafrique/6.htm>

Official Rwanda Government Site

<http://www.gov.rw/>

One World Guide: Rwanda

<http://uk.oneworld.net/guides/rwanda/development>

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