

The Future of Rwanda Depends On The Future of Christian Education

The Case For Bright Future Secondary School



With gangly arms, long legs, and a tentative smile, twelve year-old Kayitare Godfrey represents the future of Rwanda.

Born in the decade after the genocide that claimed more than a million lives in just one hundred days, children like this pre-teen boy will one day hold positions of power in Rwanda.

But, like Rwanda, Kayitare is caught between two worlds. Between the past and the future. And both futures hang in the balance.

Caught Between Two Worlds

One year ago, Kayitare Godfrey graduated from Rwanda's Bright Future Primary School in Nyagatare. His Christian education in primary school

taught him to respect others. Teachers gently disciplined him with God's love. He graduated with a love of learning.

Bright Future Primary planted in him the seeds of truth, goodness and beauty...everything virtuous that the genocide tried to destroy in Rwanda's people.

But with no sister school to transfer to, and secondary school options extremely limited and lacking, bright-eyed students like Kayitare are at the mercy of the government for their education.



The government makes the final decision for each child based on examination scores, and students are limited by available openings.

In Kayitare's case, he landed far, far away in a secondary school on a hill in the far north bordering Uganda. The other 100+ sponsored students his age are likewise scattered all over Rwanda.



An Authoritarian Method

Thankfully, Jackson Gashumba, the full-time child sponsorship coordinator for Africa Bright Future Ministries (ABFM), checks on the welfare of all these ABFM sponsored students. On his visits he also delivers sponsorship funds and snaps current pictures.

To travel to Kayitare's secondary school on the Ugandan border, he must designate an entire day round-trip.

Not only are these students placed in secondary schools far away geographically, but the current schools do not teach the Christian formation and virtue that the Bright Future Primary School instills in students.

Dylan Thompson, the 2017 summer student intern for ABFM, observed this situation firsthand as he traveled to the countryside with Jackson. "Rwanda's school system is very authoritarian."

Pastor Patrick Twagirayesu serves as Founder and President of Africa Bright Future Ministries (ABFM) in the U.S. and also Africa Harvest Mission (AHM) in Rwanda. AHM is the sister organization that started Bright Future Primary School. He believes part of the reason why Rwanda remains in an authoritarian teaching method is that the teachers have not been trained on how to form mutually respectful relationships with the students. This approach may contribute to future college degrees that don't measure up to the level of an American college degree because the students are not always taught critical thinking skills.



Students like Kayitare still desperately need an education, as well as continued sponsorship. But the Christian foundation they knew in primary school has disappeared.

The Vision Takes Shape

Pastor Patrick, a visionary and a man of prayer, believes the key to Rwanda's future lies in building a feeder secondary school for future graduates of Bright Future Primary School.

So, in 2016 ABFM purchased a 7.7 acre parcel of land located just 10km south of Kigali. Future facilities will include the secondary school, specialized classrooms (for science, art, music, and special needs education), dormitories for 900 students, staff housing, and a dining hall.



Engineering Ministries International Canada (EMI) drew up a Master Plan in March 2018. Based on these conceptual designs, Genesis Gilgal Group, a local architectural firm in Kigali, will create the official building designs.

Key design elements will include locally-sourced materials and “environmentally sensitive and sustainable processes for its water, sanitation, and power infrastructure.” (EMI AHM/ABFM Master Plan - p. 14)

Once the government grants formal approval for construction, fundraising can begin in earnest this Fall 2018.

Phase One

Bruce MacMahon, board member of ABFM, predicts that the project will need \$1 million in order to begin construction on Phase One. As fundraising efforts get underway in the U.S., he shares that, "The vision to educate our sponsored secondary students continues to take shape. While our students currently attend local public schools, one day they will receive guidance from teachers who love Jesus, much like students all over the world who attend classical Christian schools."

To summarize the scope of the project, EMI's Master Plan states that, "The Bright Future Secondary School endeavors to be a boarding school inclusive of grades 7-12, subsidized beyond the standards of typical public schools in Rwanda, while maintaining standards as high as that of a fully private international school. Its goals are to provide an excellent education in an atmosphere of solid moral teaching and to give students an opportunity to pursue meaningful and successful careers, becoming people of positive impact within their communities and in their country."

Dylan is eager to see such a high school become a reality for the young girl his family sponsors, an adorable five year-old named Lucky Naila.



He and Pastor Patrick believe that this school will be just what Rwanda needs...a community that will foster a Christ-centered education for Lucky Naila and other students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

“This Building Will Be A Catalyst”

Ultimately, Pastor Patrick’s vision for the secondary school involves the healing of the nation.



As Pastor Patrick explains, the genocide occurred even though people knew their Bibles and believed in Jesus. But they lacked the ability to ask the moral questions that would have prevented them from killing their neighbors. Christian knowledge, virtue and discernment would have stopped them from ever considering picking up an axe.

Standing on the property and scanning the gently rolling acreage, he excitedly says, “This land is going to be the seating or the place of Bright Future Secondary School. This land has been purchased. Our next challenge is now to raise a building that will be a catalyst for the godly leaders that will influence our nation toward the right direction. You can be a part of this.”

One day soon, Jackson won't have to travel all day to reach these sponsored students. Students like Lucky Naila can go directly from primary school to a secondary school that will continue her Christian formation. Rwandan children will not have to scatter all over the country, like Kayitare and the first generation of BFS graduates.

And these like-minded students can stay together under one roof learning all that God has for them as Rwanda's future leaders.

The sooner the better for these students...and for Rwanda.

Visit ***africabrightfuture.org*** today to donate funds to help make Bright Future Secondary School a reality for these children in need.

If you would like further information about the building plans, contact ***africabrightfuture@gmail.com*** or call (208) 871-1075.

