

Erickson's Quarterly

WINTER 2026

New Year Greetings!

As 2026 has begun with so much negative news, we thought you might be ready to read something positive coming as an answer to your prayers and financial giving in 2025!

First of all, we praise the Lord for another successful Rays of Light cycle led by our team in N. Ireland. Only four teens attended, but God did a significant work in their lives as evidenced by this comment: *"Rays of Light has helped me by bringing me closer to God again, helped me to open up, meet new people, and talk with people who understand."*

While leading Rays of Light, the team was looking at ways to make improvements, because we intend to embark on a full update this year. Already, they have some innovative ideas for new therapeutic games and Bible worksheets. However, this project will have a substantive cost, so please join us in praying for the necessary funding. Even as we write, we are just completing a redo of Pot of Gold, the children's program. When funding becomes available, it will be available for download from our website.

Meanwhile, because the work of helping hurting young people will not wait, our teams around the world are carrying on with the older versions of our materials. Thanks to the end of year giving by generous donors, in December, we were once again able to send Pastor Francis to Hannah's House in Burundi, to train more

leaders for running Growing Through groups. They have started the New Year by opening eight new sites!

At the moment, the new sites in Burundi are running our Rays of Light program. The pictures below are showing several of the sites conducting two of the twelve Rays of Light meetings.



In previous letters, we have shown pictures of teens participating in several Meeting One activities, but we think this 'spider web' activity may be new to you. In this activity, participants name a character quality they feel they can bring to the group and then pass the ball of string to another participant who names a quality, etc. Eventually, you have a beautiful spider web! (In this activity, we focus on qualities such as caring, helping, listening, making people laugh, etc., rather than abilities. We want them to understand that who they are is more important than what they do.) Hopefully, at the end of this exercise, each of the participants will understand that they are important to the group, and the group is important to them.



In Rays of Light, teens look at Biblical passages featuring the ups and downs of David's life and the Psalms showing how he handled the emotions he experienced during those times. In Meeting Two, the participants are shown trying to put together puzzle pieces they have colored. When the puzzles are completed, they are showing cracked pots! This is the word picture David uses to describe himself in Psalm 31. The teens are asked, "Why do you think David would be feeling that way?"



Whether attending Rays of Light for teens or Pot of Gold for children, the participants are offered something to eat. This is important because they barely get enough sustenance to survive from meals at home. Here children from the Pot of Gold program in Burundi are enjoying mugs of porridge. Our groups in



all the countries attempt to provide refreshments at every meeting, and we send money to cover their expenses when funds are available.

Whenever possible, not only do we send funds to cover refreshments, but also to cover costs of printing our materials. Hannah's House in Burundi has translated all of our materials into their language, but with the influx of teens from eight new sites they desperately need money for printing the Bible memory verses that the participants receive after each meeting. If you are able, we urge you to help us help them.

In closing, we are so thankful that you are amongst the web of friends that God has provided for us! The encouragement you have given and love you have shown enables us carry through with the vision God has given. Please pray for godly wisdom as we go forward with the expansion of Growing Through and its pending innovative changes.

May God's richest blessings and His peace follow you into the new year and bring you all your heart's desires!

Sending our love on the upcoming Valentine's Day and all the year through,

Dale & Jewell

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