



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF REFUGEES | January 2024

**“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”
Isaiah 43:18-19**

God Heard My Voice

After escaping the rebels and his home country and being separated from his family, Bosco finally finds hope.

By Joan Oskenholt

Our home was in the most beautiful place I've ever seen. The rivers flowed by two large mountains, we had a large cow herd, and plenty of food to eat and milk to drink. Our family loved to talk and laugh together. I'll always remember the sweetness of the life we had in the Congo," Bosco Shyaka speaks softly as he tells me his story. He earned top grades in school and loved playing soccer during breaks. The peace was broken when the rebels came. "We were in class when we heard their rifles firing. The teachers and students all ran in different directions. I ran toward home,

hearing the sounds of bullets as I went." He reached his village but there was no one there. He ran to his home, but the house was empty. He didn't know where his family had gone; he was 12 years old, afraid and alone. Crying, he began his journey to find them. He met many people fleeing, but they were strangers, and no one knew where his family was.

Eventually he met a family friend in the forest. "He told me that my older brother, my hero, had been killed by the rebels." As they walked together, they walked straight into rebel soldiers. (Cont'd inside)



Left Picture: Bosco is currently studying Business Administration at Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA).

(Cont'd from front page) They shoved a rifle into Bosco's arms and told his friend to carry a big box of bullets. "We walked a long time with the rebels; I was very tired as I carried the heavy rifle. Then we heard gunfire. My friend told me to run; he dropped the box and was shot in the back and legs. It was my first time seeing someone die. Bullets flew over my head as the rebels fought the soldiers; men were dying. I remembered my mom telling me to pray when I was in trouble. I prayed for God to please be with me. And then I ran."

He ran for hours in the forest until he reached a road with cars. It was night so he hid in a gully, hungry, afraid, and crying. He slept a little and began his walk again early the next morning. A man and his daughter stopped when he waved. "Have you seen my family?" Bosco asked. "I don't know you; how could I know your family?" the man replied. "This is not a safe place, let me drive you close to Rwanda. Surely you will find your family there." They drove for many hours; because Bosco and the little girl were very hungry the man stopped at a restaurant. "The man reached the door first and yelled 'Rebels are here! Run away!' but his daughter ran back to her daddy. I heard a hail of bullets as I ran away." The border was close. Bosco hid from the rebels as he walked and found a big box to sleep under.

Early the next morning he saw the lights of Rwanda and a river of refugees going to the border checkpoint to be registered. The transit camp was crowded but Bosco saw his neighbor and asked him if he knew where his family was. "The man told me that he didn't know but that there were many people who died. He said it was a miracle that I was alive; God had saved me! Then I remembered my prayer during the battle." Bosco's neighbor gave him a bowl of porridge - the first food he'd had in three days. Because he was so young, the UNHCR included him with his neighbor's family as they waited to move to the Kigeme refugee camp. Bosco looked at each vehicle bringing refugees into

“God heard my voice and sent Impact Hope to rescue me. I see the love of my sponsor and I’m so grateful.”

the transit camp; on the last day he saw his family! All they could do was wave and cry when they saw each other. It took a week, but finally they were reunited. Bosco smiles and says, "We hugged and hugged each other. Except for my older brother, we were together again!"

Life in a refugee camp is hard. Without an education or training, jobs are impossible to get. The options for young men are few: suffer hunger in the camp, join a gang and drink and steal, or go back to Congo and join one of the militias there. This is the choice one of Boco's brothers made. "I prayed about this," Bosco says. "God heard my voice and sent Impact Hope to rescue me. I see the love of my sponsor and I'm so grateful." Bosco currently attends the Adventist University of Central Africa. His goal is to have an e-commerce business and someday earn enough to get his family out of the camp. Because of Impact Hope, it's very possible that he can accomplish his goal.



Bosco with his younger siblings in the refugee camp.



You are Transforming their Future!

On December 8, the next group of students at the Center for Hope completed their six month certification. When students attend the Center for Hope they receive business and entrepreneurial training, along with their trade. Currently, the Center for Hope offers four trades: culinary arts, tailoring, hairdressing and agriculture. This year, our goal is to add a welding program. Thank YOU for empowering these young people through education and giving them the opportunity to thrive!

Students Share their Appreciation for You

"I really appreciate Impact Hope. They took me from nowhere and made me successful, they have been my parents. They taught me technical skills; they took care of me every day and I promise to be good man by using my skills. I can't go without thanking them for their support to not only my tailoring skills, but also teaching me about the word of God."
Benjamin, Tailoring

"Thank you to everyone who brought young people together for learning TVET skills. You did a great thing! Some of us had a diploma, but that was not enough. They trained us and made us to think BIG. I can't thank enough Hans and Mindy, family and their partners, our leaders and teachers who delivered their knowledge to us. May God bless them!"
Diane, Culinary Arts

"This program helped me to be confident, and feel that I can do something so that I can achieve and help others. Some people complete their courses and go to work for others, but my wish is to have my own salon so I can be self-reliant and play a role in my family and my country."
Denyse, Hairdressing

Welding Program at the Center for Hope

Welding is a skillset high in demand in Rwanda, with very few people certified and able to perform this specific task. Impact Hope wants to launch our refugees into self-sufficiency through a welding program at the Vocational Center for Hope in 2024!

Funds Needed	Raised	Balance
\$45,000	\$29,297.54	\$15,702.46



Scan the QR code or visit to donate: impacthope.reachapp.co/campaigns/giving-tuesday-2023



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Bringing Hope and Education to Impoverished Youth

presents:

KTSY **2024 WINTER LEADERSHIP Breakfast**

OWNING THE FUTURE

SAVE THE DATE

FEB 7, 2024 • 7-9AM

Calling on all our Boise Friends!

Join us at the leadership breakfast for KTSY 89.5 to spread the word about the refugee crisis in Rwanda. Scan the QR code to purchase tickets!



Forest Falls Church: A Heart for Ministry



We recently visited the Forest Falls Church in California to share an update about the remarkable refugee students in Rwanda. This beautiful church family has supported and encouraged their students through the Impact Hope program over the years and have been a blessing to our community. **We love visiting your churches! Let us know if we can come share more about this amazing ministry with your church.** Send your email request to: karrie@impact-hope.org.



Three Ways You Can Make an Impact

SPONSOR A STUDENT

\$50 a month goes to providing a safe education at a Christian boarding school, medical coverage, and all living essentials.

DONATE

Whether you make a monthly donation or a one time donation, 100% of gifts goes directly to the mission.

SHARE THE STORY

Invite your community to get involved. Give a church presentation, host a dinner party, or send out an email sharing why you support these young refugees!

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