



Picture Above: Did you know girls in Rwanda have short hair like boys and wear ties to school?!

News Highlights

Page 2 | 30 Years since
1994 Genocide

Page 3 | Carry Her
Burden

Page 4 | How You Give
HOPE in the
Refugee Camps



Florence, Nursing Student

My Life Now Has Direction

Florence is an Impact Hope student attending nursing school at the Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA). She is pursuing her dream of helping others.

Have you ever had a place make a drastic impact on your life? For Florence, it was visiting a hospital when she was a little girl. She remembers seeing many people who were in pain, yet there was only one doctor to assist them. There was no way he could help everyone. Florence recalls, "It clicked in my mind that if I become a doctor, I can help. I can reduce the number of people who are suffering in pain without anybody to help them." That's when Florence's dream to work in the medical field began.

But, like all dreams, they come

with significant hurdles to overcome. Florence was a young girl living in a refugee camp in Rwanda. Her life was full of struggle, but she says one of the hardest things was the mindset and behavior of others in the refugee camp, "You are surrounded by very many people who are there [in the camp], and they are doing nothing...They are waiting for the UNHCR to give them food, to give them what to do."

Florence was not satisfied with being idle. She had to do something to work towards her goal and to give her hope that her life (Cont'd inside)

Florence’s Story Continued

would be more than it was in the refugee camp. She put all of her attention on school. The first time Florence heard about Impact Hope was in 2016 when her older brother, Samuel, was sponsored. Florence became excited and determined that she, too, would be an Impact Hope student. **This gave her even more motivation to do her best in school because she knew Impact Hope only chose students with high grades.** Several years later, Florence got accepted into the Impact Hope program!

When Florence arrived at Gahogo Adventist Academy, she recalls, **“I was so excited to be among the students selected. My life had a direction now with Impact Hope supporting me.”** She continued, “When I learned Impact Hope sponsored several of the highest-scoring students to attend university, I **purposed in my heart that I’m going to work hard**, that even if they take one student to university, I’ll be among them. I’ll be one of those students.”

Florence’s hard work paid off! She is now studying at AUCA University in Kigali, Rwanda. “The greatest challenge that I faced is the way I look. I am a girl. Everybody in the camp and even at school thinks that I’m dumb... Even my classmates [at university] said that I should choose something else. But this is what I want and I’m going to struggle until my last breath.” **After the first university year exams, Florence came in first in the class.**

Florence’s dream of helping those in pain has not wavered. She says, “This was my plan all along, that one day I’ll be somebody who will help people ease their pain. Wherever I get the chance to be a help, I’ll be happy to work there.”

Thank you for making it possible for Impact Hope students like Florence to pursue their dreams!

CARRY HER BURDEN

This International Women’s Day, keep 55 girls safe from the streets of Kampala and child marriage!

In honor of International Women’s Day in March, we are partnering with Adonai Children’s Ministry in Uganda to keep 55 girls safe from the streets of Kampala and child marriage.

Adonai Children’s Ministry is a haven for the lost, the abused, and the homeless. Pastor Douglas, founder of Adonai Children’s Ministry, has poured his heart into this mission, fueled by funding from a Dutch family. Together, they built a home for children. **A place where young girls find refuge from child marriages, and where the scars of abuse are replaced with hope.**

But now, support has ceased due to a change of circumstances with the Dutch family that was supporting this ministry. **Without financial intervention now, these girls are at risk of returning to the streets.** Desperate to keep these children in school, to feed them, to

clothe them—to see them thrive, Pastor Douglas prayed God would place someone in his path to **bring hope back** to their mission. Shortly after, Liz Thomsen, Executive Director of Impact Hope, met Pastor Douglas on a flight to Rwanda. **A divine appointment.**

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

At Impact Hope, our mission is to bring hope and education to impoverished youth. Galatians 6:2 says, “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

We believe God placed Pastor Douglas and Liz on that plane a year ago for this day so that **Impact Hope can help carry the burden of these 55 girls at Adonai Children’s Ministry. See backpage for how you can get involved!**

30 Years Since the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda

April 7, 2024 marks the 30th anniversary since the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. Over one million Rwandans were killed during the 100-day genocide. Each year, Rwanda honors this day as an International Day of Reflection.

While their history is tragic, Rwanda has become a place of refuge to thousands who have flooded their borders seeking safety from persecution in their home countries. Some Impact Hope students have stories of fleeing the Democratic Republic of Congo. However, many students were born in Rwandan refugee camps. Life as a refugee is all they know.

Please join us on April 7th in praying for Rwanda and for Impact Hope students and their families.

Heavenly Father, No refugee is a stranger to You, and no one is ever far from Your loving care. Heal the hearts of the Impact Hope students, their families, and Rwandans who have endured unimaginable tragedy and trauma. We ask that you would continue to keep peace in Rwanda and help those seeking refuge in their country to find hope in You. Amen.

Meet Nine Year Old Susan from Adonai Children’s Ministry

Susan was born on a small island in Uganda, where HIV has the highest number of people dying from this disease in the country. Unfortunately, when Susan was four years old, her mother and father died from HIV. Susan was left to her grandmother, a known drunkard in the village. Susan remembers sleeping outside of loud, filthy bars. This was quite a dangerous place for a young girl. She had no chance of attending school or hope for any future. Life changed drastically for Susan when Pastor Douglas rescued her from that island. She is now one of the top students in her class, loves to play with her friends, and gets to sleep peacefully in a safe place.



Susan, 9 yrs old, finally sleeps peacefully at Adonai Children’s Home.



You Bring HOPE to Young Refugees

As of right now, Impact Hope is the only **HOPE** for eligible students to attend schools of excellency outside of the refugee camps.

The United Nations (UN) recently published an article stating that, "This academic year... 803 refugee students were identified as eligible to attend national schools of excellence. However, only 250 scholarship places – around 31 percent – **were available through Impact Hope**, a national NGO."

Your support for refugee education out of the camps per year is 904 in total. In addition to the 250 scholarships awarded for 2023-2024 new students, Impact Hope takes 654 students out of the camps.

First, can we say we are incredibly thankful for YOU, our sponsors and donors! Impact Hope could not accomplish sending any refugees to school without your support and heart for them.

Second, there is more work to do. **553 students are still waiting on an opportunity!**

Please share the work of Impact Hope with your community to help get more young refugees out of the camps and onto a bright new path!

Scan the QR code to read the full article by the United Nations.



International Women's Day Project

Adonai Children's Ministry

\$40,000 is needed to fund Adonai Children's Ministry for the next year. Your gift will provide three meals per day, Christian education, hygiene supplies with reproductive health education, and HOPE of a bright future!

\$20,000 has been pledged as a MATCH towards this goal. You can donate by:

1. Scanning the QR code
2. Visiting ImpactHope.com
3. Calling (503) 673-3905



Ways YOU Can Make an Impact

SPONSOR A STUDENT

\$50 monthly provides a safe education at a Christian boarding school and all living essentials.

DONATE

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

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