



December 2007



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Normally I would be writing this letter in my nice comfortable office in Australia with Christmas decorations beginning to appear around the house, the tree going up and carols playing on the CD player. Thoughts of gifts and special foods, family gatherings, Christmas services and the joy of knowing the Christ of Christmas, all make this a wonderful time of year.

But this year I am in Africa surrounded by extremes of wealth and debilitating poverty, of suffering that my mind cannot comprehend, yet also, among people who love and serve God faithfully in the most trying of circumstances.

Although I have been to Rwanda many times, this time the stories of the genocide and its effects, even today, have disturbed me greatly. The absolute depravity that man can reach is terrifying. Most of our deaf believers have suffered so much, yet remain faithful and joyful in their service to Jesus.

Damicene is a DMI evangelist serving in the remote town of Cyangugu on the Congo border. We took a bus 6 hours over the mountains and through the jungle to reach him there. He still suffers flash backs and nightmares of his genocide experience. He has a scar across his back where he was hit by a machete-wielding killer. His family was wiped out and his home destroyed. He hid for 3 months in the forest living on roots and water from streams or pools. A Catholic nun took him in and cared for him until the killings were over and he headed for Kigali. He was 16 at the time and has survived alone until now, yet is faithfully serving Christ in this isolated place. (Pictures and Reports will be available in the new year - please check our website during January)

As we joyfully celebrate Christmas in our affluence and safe environments I wonder if we can give a thought to those of our extended family here in Africa who serve the Christ, whose birthday we celebrate, so willingly and without even the barest essentials.

Your gifts to DMI have made it possible for the gospel to reach these needy deaf people with the healing love of Jesus. Thank you for being a part of DMI ministry in Africa and beyond.

May You have a very happy and THANKFUL Christmas celebration.



With Love,  
Neville, Lill and family