



November 17, 2010



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

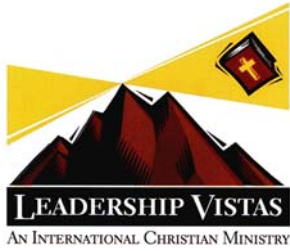
Recently **Leadership Vistas** sponsored a training conference for women church leaders in **Ruhengeri, Rwanda**. We are delighted to have **Dr. Jennifer Turner from Perth, Australia**, who taught theology at the conference, **share her experiences** with you.



**“Eighty African women** in colourful dress, many with babies strapped to their back, **singing and dancing in praise to our God!** Can you imagine it? For two days running, **a fierce tropical storm** beating down on a large metal roof! Did you hear it? It seemed like you might have heard it even from the other side of the world! It drowned out our amplified voices, but it **couldn’t mute the singing nor dampen the joy of these women** who were **receiving an absolute treat** each day of **seven hours of teaching, three large heaped meals** (when only one meal a day would be their norm), **soft beds** in dorms with fellow believers from four countries, and generous **personal gifts** from their American sponsors. In turn **we in the women’s conference** were **blessed with a harmonious teaching team**; not one or two, but **three translators** to share the load; and **a conviction that there was nowhere else in the world we would rather be for that week than with them.**



A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.



“One sight in Ruhengeri we will not quickly forget was our **public health trainer Marilyn** getting some of the women to help her **strap a baby to her back African style** while **she taught mother and infant welfare**. That her **‘baby’ was a chimp** with big grinning teeth that she uses to teach dental care only added to the fun. But it also reinforced **Leadership Vistas’ approach** that we



bring not only **Bible teaching and training** for serving God, but that our Creator is also concerned for our **physical and emotional well-being** as women, and **we need to share our knowledge of that too**.



“Of course there were **difficulties**. The **noise of the rain** in one room where we met **was so great** that **we had to move** to another. **One team member fell** heavily on the terraced floor of the conference hall, **but made a great recovery**. **We discovered a group of women who understood neither English nor Swahili**, the two languages we were using, and **we had to experiment with using three languages**---this slowed things down considerably. Having the women’s conference at the same time as the men’s conference placed a **heavy load on our team leaders**. **Often the meals weren’t ready** when scheduled and we westerners had to adjust to African time and custom.



“Despite these challenges, **it was a great privilege to join our resources to the faith of these women church leaders**. We heard again the greatness of our God in **their voices**, and we learned enough Swahili to say in response to any hurdle, **‘Mungu sawa sawa’**---‘**everything is OK when you go with God.**’ *We thank you on behalf of these 80 women and their ministries in Rwanda, Congo, Burundi and Uganda for your prayers and financial support in making this happen.*”

I also want to **thank the Lord for His continued blessing** on this ministry, *and for all of you who support our efforts* through your prayers and contributions to strengthen God’s kingdom in Africa. **May the Lord’s name be praised!**



In Christ’s service,

Jerry Brown  
*Equipping African church leaders to fulfill their calling from God*

