

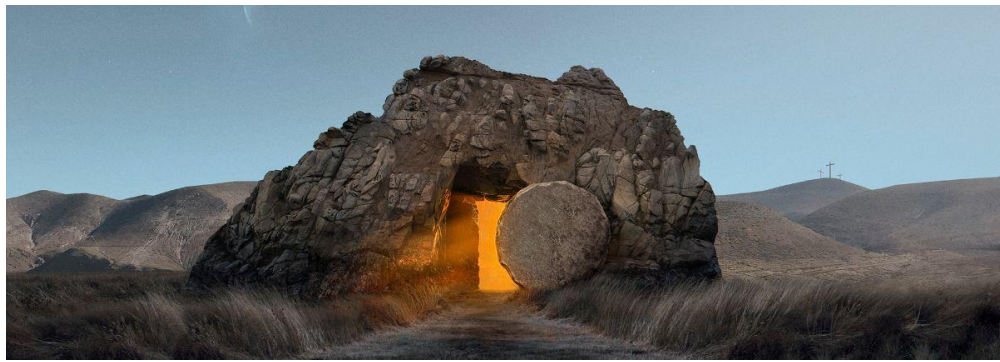
Friends,

Our Lord Jesus had defeated Death. Jesus is alive--forever!! We are united with Him and we too will live forever according to His promise. Alleluia!

This is George Renner (in case the forwarded message is mysterious.) I am forwarding along to you a monthly newsletter from Transformational Leadership for Africa (TLAfrica). The letter begins with an Easter "meditation" that I wrote. I love to talk about Jesus' resurrection and I wanted to pass this along to encourage you, since I was refreshed as I prayed and wrote.

You will see in the newsletter that I am referred to as the "Chairman" of the TLAfrica Board. It's true. God has nudged me to come alongside my dear friend, Faustin Ntamushobora, and to try to provide some support and encouragement to him as he pursues God's vision for his home region, Rwanda, DRC, Kenya.

Please read the update and pray with us.



## Jesus' Resurrection Frees Us From Fear!

In some parts of Africa, many continue to be slaves to traditional beliefs that have shaped us as a result of our culture-of-origin. Traditional taboos about death make us slaves to fear. Many have never known the freedom explained in Hebrews chapter 2. Jesus "shared in our humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death." Our experiences in our families and/or clans shaped how we see death and dying. Most of us attended many funerals through the years and we were "taught" by the traditions and rituals how to feel about the end of life. Even if we have become Christians, when we return to the community to bury a dead relative, the old ways continue to shape us. It requires a deep transformation in the mind and heart to set us free from the old fear-centered traditions.

Resurrection-grounded hope transformed Apostles. The preaching and faith of the Apostles (according to Acts) was centered on Jesus' resurrection. "With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all." (Acts 4:33)

The summary of Peter's proclamation to the Gentiles in Acts 10 shows us that the Apostles boldly declared that God sent Jesus to be the Lord and Savior and that the resurrection is the crux of the matter.

“We are witnesses of everything Jesus did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” 10:36 ff.

The Apostles understood that Jesus being raised from death was more than a momentary event in Jesus' life. When God raised Jesus, it was an unprecedented act which launched the time of fulfillment of all God's promises. Jesus' life and his words were vindicated. God said, "this truly is my Son and Israel's Messiah". Jesus' death was verified as the acceptable atonement for the sin of the world. God's long-awaited reign "on earth as it is in heaven" was inaugurated. The "new and living way" into God's presence was opened to all who believe. “Jesus is alive—this surely is the central Christian affirmation...New Testament faith is Easter faith, faith in the living Lord Jesus. Jesus, living, reigning, and acting is the issue...he who was dead is now alive in a new way. He is alive, never to die again. He is alive, Lord over all time and space. He is alive, to come again to bring all things to the Father. This means that his ministry that was ended is, with the resurrection and ascension, continuing, though now through the Holy Spirit.” (Prof. Richard Pervis in *The Resurrection of Ministry* [IVP])

Happy Easter to everyone reading this message!

Dr George Renner

Chairman of the International Board of Directors,  
TLAfrica, Inc.

# Praise Reports!

Be sure to follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on what is happening throughout the TLAfrica organization and when updates are made to the blog.



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## Calvary Church Mission Fair

Salome and Faustin had a marvelous time in Souderton, Pennsylvania last month. Their time at Calvary Church was a enriching, encouraging and an all around blessing in many ways.

Faustin and Salome spoke at their Pro-Mission Ministry fair after church allowing them to start new friendships, rekindle some and strengthen their existing friendships. They continued their time of fellowship, connection and prayer with smaller groups during lunch following the Pro-Mission fair and the next evening's dinner hosted by their close friends.

On Monday, they met with the Missions Pastor, Pastor Chad, and the Assistant. It was an opportunity for me to thank him and Calvary for the \$25,000 gift we received from them last year for THIU matching fund and for their monthly support (since 2008!).

## Godly Leadership in Kavumbu, Kenya

The Kenya staff spent a few days in Kavumbu, Kenya last week, along with 2 local pastors and 27 attendees, for the "Godly Leadership" training seminar.

Read about the message and testimonies [HERE](#).



## Hope & Relief in Goma, DR Congo

Recently, there has been fighting in the Eastern side of Congo where several villagers have been forced to flee their homes. The city of Goma is surrounded by more than five camps of the displaced people. These camps include Kanyaruchinya, Nzuro, Mungunga, Bushagala and Mubambiro. TLAfrica in partnership with WorldVenture gave five thousand dollars to buy food for people affected. The recipients expressed their gratitude for TLAfrica's love and compassion. Over 90 families were assisted, including 7 hosted families, 76 families in camps and 7 families who received money in cash remotely. TLAfrica board members and the office in DRC partnered with local church leaders to distributed 25 Kgs of Rice, 25 Kgs of Maize Flour and 20 Kgs of beans to each of the families. You can see more photos and information by following us on Facebook or LinkedIn.



## THIU UPDATE

After some time in Kenya prepping and facilitating the seminar mentioned above, Mr. Nelson Kilonzo, has returned to Rwanda and will resume management of the THIU construction project. The generous donation of \$10,000 from a donor in Hong Kong is a significant step forward. This leaves us a remaining balance of \$113,000 for the matching funds campaign. This support is crucial for completing the building and sending out official invitations for the October celebrations, which we hope to see you there.

I join you in giving thanks for the provision of this donation and for the dedication of everyone involved in the project. It's heartening to see the community rallying together to make THIU a reality. As we move forward, let's continue to pray for the success of the remaining work and for the continued support of donors and volunteers.

For those who wish to contribute to the THIU matching fund, please follow the GIVE link below. Your donations are greatly appreciated and will make a significant difference in reaching our goal. We would love for you to join us in Rwanda this October for the inauguration and/or 2 training conferences. You can follow the VISIT link below for more information and to request further assistance. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to this important cause.



HE IS  
*Risen*

• CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION •