

Rwanda Mu Mateka Mashya  
July 09 Ministry update

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'You can't kneel on the stony ground, it is too painful; please pull the mat on the grass.' The Rwandan Bishop who was leading the Repentance event in the stadium said to the group of 'Muzungus' as they started to present their confession. 'We are dealing with a very painful past, so why not?' said the white, 'Muzungus.'

This stadium event called Rwanda Mu Mateka Mashya (literally Rwanda New History) took place in Gitarama on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 09, organized by Rwandan church leaders in partnership with Christian organizations. This is a dream come true after many years of dreaming and praying, but also months of hard work in teaching, interceding, meetings ...



Flame of Reconciliation Belgium-Rwanda with the Executive of Reconciliation



Europe-Rwanda at NURC

It is the first time in the history of the Rwandan church that an event such as this is organized and run by Rwandans, aiming at repentance. Le Rucher GL played a significant role in facilitating working with other Christian organizations. The repentance happened 15 years after the genocide. At last the church is responding to God in repentance but the international body of Christ joined to represent their respective governments not in an official capacity but as the royal priesthood according to I Peter 2: 9.

Delegates from UK, Holland, US confessed on behalf of the international community their failure to help Rwanda in her greatest time of need, abandoning the country, providing weapons and watching as killings were taking place. The German delegates acknowledged as the first European nation to occupy Rwanda to have planted the seed of ethnic division which led to the genocide later by favoring Tutsi and developing a theory in their favor of 'superior race, highly intelligent, born to rule,' leaving the Hutu resentful.

The Belgians presented a well researched confession including their divide and rule game, shifting allegiance in 1959, helping the Hutu to out the Tutsi in the bloody revolution that took the lives of many and sent thousand into exile. They also acknowledged the role their government took in pressuring other countries to withdraw their troops after 10 Belgians serving under the UN umbrella were killed. This confession was received with applause since Rwandans could never expect to hear this.

The most welcome is the confession of French delegates about their government's active involvement in the genocide through training and arming militia and government soldiers, then helping killers to escape through Turquoise Operation into Congo, through fighting directly and providing all kind of support for the Rwandan refugees to regroup and force their way back. If anything was unexpected at this time when Rwanda and France are at the worst of their relation it was the humble confession of the French representatives. Rwandans were very grateful and as people of faith we strongly believe our Lord will use the confession to restore the broken relationship and bring a New Era of reconciliation.

The Rwandan pastors had taken time to confess before each other and the nation at different occasions but this time, they pledged before the nation that the church leaders will go from town to town to ask forgiveness for the failure of the church in preaching denominations instead of Christ, siding with whoever is in power, supporting discriminatory laws and practices, not denouncing injustices and sometimes actively taking part in the killings and genocide. This is unheard of and this confession is going to circulate in churches, rally the agreement and ownership by Christians before we declare Rwanda 'free from the power of its painful past' in 2012.



Thank God with us that the Church in Rwanda at last is taking responsibility for its failures.

Pray God with us for God's wisdom as we start to train local teams of young volunteers in Rwandan communities.

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