

COMPASSION COMMUNITY REAL SOLUTIONS

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// RWANDA — A MODEL THAT WORKS!

Throughout the world there is a growing gap between those who have access to healthcare and those who do not. In developing countries, many people must walk a full day to receive medical care at the nearest clinic, and it can take even longer to reach a hospital. Once they get there, these hospitals often lack the medical personnel and supplies needed to treat them.

Does it have to be this way?

If we can provide people with basic healthcare and hygiene training, disease can be prevented and life expectancy improved.

The local church is the answer to closing the healthcare access gap.

Most cities and villages without hospitals or clinics have one thing in common—they have a local church. Imagine what would happen if ordinary people in these churches were mobilized and equipped to meet the basic healthcare needs in their communities!

In 2007, the HIV&AIDS Initiative was launched in Rwanda as part of Saddleback Church's PEACE Plan. The strategy was simple: start a grass-roots effort that would dramatically increase access to quality healthcare for over 600,000 Rwandans through local churches.

Everyday, Rwandans successfully bridge the access gap. Over 7,000 unpaid local church volunteers, trained in basic health promotion and disease prevention, are linked to existing healthcare systems and make home visits to people in their communities. This model of training and mobilizing church volunteers is being replicated in communities around the world.

We dream of the day when local churches, linked with community health systems and hospitals, provide basic healthcare to those in need everywhere! With the widest distribution and largest volunteer base, a network of millions of churches around the world is positioned to revolutionize healthcare, making it accessible and affordable to billions who have never enjoyed it.



In the Western Province of Rwanda near Kibuye there are **3 hospitals**.



In the Western Province of Rwanda near Kibuye there are **21 healthcare centers**.



In the Western Province of Rwanda near Kibuye there are **520 churches**.



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