



Dear Friends of Rwanda,

With all the activities happening around Rwanda these days, Joe Ritchie and I thought it might be worth shooting you all a note every once in a while to update you on what we know is happening.

Soon we will have a Friends of Rwanda web site up and running. The site will host additional information on FOR activity, as well as research and analysis on Rwanda and related media coverage.

If any of you think of something worth informing the FOR network about, let us know and we will spread the word. It's been an absolute privilege getting to know all of you via our joint efforts in Rwanda. I suppose we have Rwanda to thank for that. Here's to 2007 being as fun as 2006.

Warmest Regards,

Dan Cooper



Joe Ritchie, President Kagame, Dan Cooper

President Paul Kagame initiatives: Rwandan/Western Partnerships

President Kagame recently organized a structure within the Rwandan government designed to integrate individuals who possess experience and know-how in the specific areas Rwanda is currently working to develop. Examples of areas to develop are: energy, water purification, railroads, and information technology. The Western partners will bring their knowledge and experience in their respective category to help position Rwanda's assets for investment opportunities. Each partnership will report directly to President Paul Kagame.

The first six Western partners are:

Energy:

Rex Amini, CEO of Sage Energy

Aram Keith, founder and owner of Keith's Companies (recently acquired by Stantec)

Focus: Assisting the minister of infrastructure in identifying, structuring, and building energy solutions.

Information Technology:

Scott Ford, CEO of Alltel

Focus: Assisting the Minister of Infrastructure in developing the Information Technology backbone of Rwanda.

Railroad:

John Orrison, Burlington Northern Railroad VP

Focus: Working with Rwanda to help build a railroad from Tanzania to Rwanda.

Water:

Otto Helweg, water expert

Dale Dawson former Stephens Investment Banker VP

Focus: Assisting Rwanda in providing accessible clean water.

The first meeting of the Rwanda/Western Partnership program took place January 4-5, 2007 in New York City. The objective of the meeting was to come away with an execution plan for each category listed above. Within 24 hours each team was able to chart a way forward and they are now working to execute on those plans. The NYC group will be meeting again in early April in Rwanda to report to the President on their progress and their plans for the future.



FOR Infrastructure meeting in New York City

Saddleback Church

This past November, Rick Warren returned to Rwanda for the fifth time in two years. While there, Pastor Rick unveiled the “Purpose Driven Life” written in Kinyarwandan. This set the stage for implementing the “40 Days of Purpose Nationwide Campaign” for the fall of 2007.

During 2006, under the leadership of the Rwandan Church Steering Committee, Saddleback Church sent 255 people to work alongside 29 churches in locations throughout Rwanda. For 2007, Saddleback has recruited over 500 people to travel to Rwanda and plans to send 1,000 people in 2008. Saddleback church also trained 200 church leaders on the Purpose Driven paradigm in 2006.

On December 14, 2006 Rick’s vision for the power of the local church as a distribution system was realized. President Bush, along with Rwandan Pastor Straton Gataha and Rick Warren announced the “Malaria No More” campaign for Rwanda. The goal of the program is to wipe out malaria in Rwanda. This program will not be run through NGO’s or the local government, but rather by thousands of local churches throughout Rwanda. Currently malaria is the number one killer in the country.

Finally, with the assistance of Peb Jackson, Rick continues to use his influence to help Rwanda within the highest levels of the American church, business and government environments. All this, along with the tremendous amount of positive press from Rick’s involvement in Rwanda has had an untold positive effect to the larger efforts in Rwanda.



Rick Warren in Rwanda

Jim Click/[Jim Click Automotive Team](#)

Jim Click traveled to Rwanda in 2006 and was captivated by the Rwandan people. Since his return he has been one of Rwanda's best salesmen. This is no small thing as Jim is the best car salesman in both California and Arizona, owning numerous dealerships throughout both states. In an effort to share the good news about Rwanda, Jim created a package of products and information about Rwanda which he hands out to each person who test drives a car. The package includes: a picture calendar about his trip, Rwandan coffee, a coffee mug, and a brochure telling the story of the "New Rwanda", one of hope and possibility!

Using his extensive network within Washington D.C., Jim has also opened doors of opportunity for Rwanda. It's nice to have one of the best salesmen in the world with you when you are working in D.C.



Dan Cooper (with Rwandan gift), Jim Click, and Peb Jackson



Jim Sinegal of Costco is transforming Rwanda's coffee industry from the ground up. In Rwanda, there are about 500,000 people who depend on coffee for their livelihood. Coffee supports more families directly than any other product in Rwanda. Rwanda's economic goal is to raise the average per-capita income level in Rwanda to \$900 per year. With that in mind, Costco's initial involvement has already made three important contributions:

- 1.) They have purchased a substantial percentage of Rwanda's fully-washed crop for 2006. This gives the growers confidence to make the investment in higher quality coffee and helps them quickly move away from the commodity markets. Costco has committed to do even more volume next year.
- 2.) Costco has pushed the average price paid to small-hold farmers significantly higher. In dealing with Rwandan producers, the first question asked was how much the farmers received per kilogram? The condition Costco set for participation was that the prices paid to the farmers be increased to levels set by Costco, which are well above the Fair Trade benchmark.
- 3.) Costco has launched a program of community development in the districts of their suppliers. These programs will focus on new schools, healthcare facilities, and other social services.

Rwandan coffee is currently on the shelves at your local Costco store. Buy Buy Buy!!!!



Ambassador Nsenga, President Kagame, Jim Sinegal (Co-founder and CEO of Costco), and Minister Museminali at Costco's Headquarters.

Opportunity International Bank

Dale Dawson and Dabbs Cavin are in the final stages of opening the Opportunity International Bank of Rwanda. Dabbs and his wife Mary along with their children moved to Rwanda in April 2006 to set up the bank, and will be in Kigali for the next one and a half years. The Chairman of the bank will be Francis Pelekamoyo who recently retired after being the head of Malawi's Central Bank for the last ten years. World Relief has agreed to merge its Rwanda microfinance program, URWEGO, and become shareholders of the Opportunity Bank. While it will be a challenge to integrate URWEGO into the bank at the same time they are launching the first deposit-taking branch and the corporate office in Kigali, the merger will give Opportunity a nationwide presence and accelerate its impact on Rwanda's poor. URWEGO is currently one of Rwanda's largest microfinance banks with over 20,000 borrowers (average loan less than \$100), 150 employees and 18 offices around the country.



Dabbs and Mary Cavin and their family along with Dale Dawson and his two children in Kigali Rwanda.

Geneva Global:

Shannon Davis has led GG efforts to partner with several large donors to invest money and thought into aspects of health, education, water and land reform in Rwanda. GG has been a leader in taking their cues from local leadership throughout Rwanda. In partnership with their Rwandan counterparts they are making a substantial change in countless people's lives.

GG projects:

1. GG is now considering starting Geneva Global Capital Partners which will facilitate debt/equity loans into different

countries. They are looking for Rwanda to be one of their three strategic partners.

2. In coordination with several women in the Rwandan government and GG, an elite all girl's school will be built to serve the brightest girls in the country no matter what their financial situation.
3. A fund of one million dollars has been established to provide clean water throughout Rwanda. Drilling begins early 2007 under Otto Helweg's leadership.



Doug Balfour, Archbishop Kolini and Shannon Davis

Project Rwanda:

Tom Ritchey ([ProjectRwanda.org/Ritchey Bicycle Design](http://ProjectRwanda.org/Ritchey%20Bicycle%20Design)) and company held the first ever Wooden Bike Classic Mountain Bike race in Rwanda this past September. As you might expect, the Rwandan riders won all three races (Mountain bike, single speed bike, and the wooden bike). We are now in the early stages of establishing the first Rwandan Mountain Bike. We have been given two very coveted slots for Rwandan riders in the [Cape Epic Mountain Bike](#) race in South Africa in March of 2007. Top riders from around the world will be racing there, so this will truly put the Rwandan riders to the test.

Going forward, Project Rwanda is working to deliver the first 1,000 Rwandan Coffee Bikes (see below) recently designed by Tom. So far the interest has been high as the demand for the new Coffee Bikes has reached upwards of 5,000 units. The vision for the bike is to enable

farmers to carry more products faster, resulting in a higher percentage of salable goods.



Tom Ritchey and Boulanger family going for a ride on the Coffee-bike for Rwanda

Jack Hanna and Colin Bell

Jack has been Rwanda's biggest and most popular advocate. Every chance Jack gets he is telling the Rwandan story. Hanna recently returned from Rwanda working with Colin Bell to establish the world's most prestigious resort in Africa to be located next to the Rwandan National Mountain Gorilla Reserve. Colin Bell is the former owner of [Wilderness Safari](#), whose resorts are world renowned as being the most luxurious in Africa. Mr. Bell's new venture, Great Plains Safari Company's investment in Rwanda will put Rwanda on the map as one of the premier destinations in the world. Final negotiations between Bell and the Rwandan Government are still underway.



Jack and Susie Hanna with their daughters Suzanne and Julie visiting the gorillas.

Rwandan/ARCON Air Traffic Control Project:

Rwanda has recognized an opportunity to install a Communication Navigation Surveillance/Air Traffic Management system for central Africa. As a COMESA member state, Rwanda was designated (in May 2006) to provide the leadership for this initiative. To take advantage of this opportunity Hon. Mister Butare has contracted with ARCON Corporation (Dr. Lee Cooper CEO, Daniel Cooper's father), the American firm that was instrumental in the design of the U.S. air traffic control system, to help Rwanda control the high altitude air space in and around Rwandan and central Africa.

Rwanda would develop a system centered in Rwanda with eventual expansion to other COMESA states. Implementation of a world-class ATC system in central Africa has enormous economic potential for Rwanda in particular, and other COMESA countries as well. Initial studies on the fees that would be collected from the air carriers using the controlled high-altitude airspace indicate an annual revenue stream of over \$50 million just from high-altitude flights over the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Kenya, & Tanzania (across the central belt of Africa). Control of low-altitude flights in this region would generate additional income. It is further estimated that the revenue generated from just the Rwanda Mt. Karisimbi Region will exceed \$5 million per year. So far Rwanda has invested over \$800,000 of its own money and is currently looking for funding of approximately \$4.8 million to implement this initial system in and around the Rwandan region.



President Kagame and Lee Cooper

Daniel Cooper

FOX RIVER FINANCIAL RESOURCES

2100 Enterprise Ave.
Geneva, IL 60134

Work: 630-406-6407
Mobile: 630-881-0814
Fax: 630-232-4038