

# REDEMPTION

Annual Update 2024



**Dr. Fred  
Sebashoka's story**  
*pgs. 6-7*

**Reflections on  
30 Years of  
Redemption**  
*pg. 13*

AFRICA NEW LIFE



# Table of Contents

Letter from the President.....

3

Who We Are .....

4

Dr. Fred Sebashoka’s Story.....

6

Let Every Child Dream .....

8

Highlights from Our Programs.....

10

Local Work, Local Staff .....

12

Reflections on 30 Years of Redemption.....

13

Kevin Gift’s Story .....

14

Join Rwanda’s Redemption Story.....

15



**Dr. Charles Mugisha**  
Founder & President,  
Africa New Life Ministries

*Photos by:  
Wurzbach Fisher Photography, and Benny Ishema  
for the Rwanda Communications Team.*

“Despite the wounds in Rwanda’s past, today we witness redemptive hope in the eyes of those we serve.”

We are thrilled to share with you the inspiring stories and photos within these pages! As you read, you will sense the conflicting emotions of this time in Rwanda’s redemption story. We rejoice over how the fruits of the ministry are appearing throughout our nation as our alumni become Rwanda’s servant leaders! And, we must acknowledge the painful reasons for Africa New Life’s founding as we near the 30th anniversary of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi. In this tension of joy and sorrow, I celebrate that we serve a merciful God who called Africa New Life to be a light-bearing torch in the midst of bleak darkness.

This last year, the ministry’s light continued to shine. We are seeing more sponsored students than ever pursuing their education with confidence. The Africa College of Theology is bringing hundreds of redemptive, equipped pastors with accredited degrees into church pulpits across Rwanda and globally. Women are being vocationally trained and empowered, children are having their basic needs met, and thousands are being transformed by the gospel in New Life Bible Churches weekly. These good things will continue throughout 2024, by the grace of God and your support!

As we look to the future, we also continue to strengthen what has gone before. This year, we will extend the ministry’s work in Gashora, Nyagatare, and Nyanza by launching brand new churches in each community. The Christmas celebration in Nyanza will be extra joyous this year as they officially launch their church while celebrating Christ’s birth!

Despite the wounds in Rwanda’s past, today we witness redemptive hope in the eyes of those we serve. As the writer of Lamentations wrote, “You came near when I called you and said, ‘Do not fear.’ You, Lord, took up my case; you redeemed my life” (Lam. 3:57-58, NIV). Taking up Rwanda’s case, our gracious God has used those who serve Him, like you, to redeem lives in Rwanda through acts of compassion and the Good News of Jesus. And He is not done! We will continue our work, guided by faith and fueled by the light of hope.

Charles

**Dr. Charles Mugisha**  
Founder & President,  
Africa New Life Ministries



# Who We Are

Rwandan *led*  
Reconciliation *focused*  
Relationship *driven*



## 2023 Financials

### 2023 Revenue

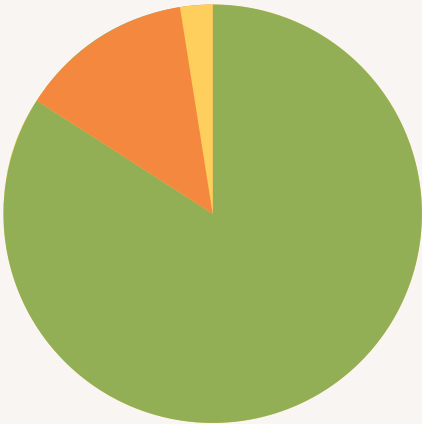
\$15,073,083

### 2023 Expenses

\$15,982,026

### Expenses by Percentage

|                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Program Services     |              |
| 84.1%                | \$13,444,982 |
| Fundraising          |              |
| 13.4%                | \$2,140,312  |
| Management & General |              |
| 2.5%                 | \$396,731    |



## Our Mission

Africa New Life Ministries exists to communicate the message of Jesus Christ in word and deed, to Rwanda and all the nations. This ministry will help all peoples to understand the relationship with God available to them through belief in Jesus as Savior.

This will be accomplished by providing access to education, leadership training, and healthcare; through church planting and Christian discipleship; and through holistic care for vulnerable children, and women and men in need.

*All financial figures cited in this document for fiscal year 2023 are unaudited as of press time. Audited numbers will be available in June 2024 at [africanewlife.org](https://africanewlife.org).*

For further financial details, visit [africanewlife.org/impact](https://africanewlife.org/impact)





# Dr. Fred Sebashoka

In Rwanda’s ongoing redemption story, Africa New Life’s impact is visible through the stories of formerly sponsored students who are now adults. These students, raised in the aftermath of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi, faced bleak prospects and limited dreams. Their parents were often forced to choose between paying school fees or providing food and feared their children faced a life of poverty. Africa New Life came alongside this generation in 2001, and now many have emerged as Rwanda’s proof that beauty can arise from the ashes. Through their successes, we glimpse the transformative power of education, compassion, and opportunity. **Fred, a boy from one of Rwanda’s poorest communities, is one example.**

A cattle-keeping family for generations, Fred’s parents, Clever and Faith, returned home to Rwanda in 1996 after the genocide ended. In 2000, they moved to Tanzania for better cattle conditions. Fred remained with an aunt in Rwanda, though his parents funded his education. Tanzania proved perfect for cattle keeping; however, in 2006, the government told all Rwandans living in Tanzania to return to Rwanda with whatever they could carry.



*“When they told me I had a sponsor, I thought I was dreaming! It was the beginning of my dreams coming true and having hope of a future. When they register you, they ask, ‘What is your dream?’ I knew I would be able to study hard if I got a sponsor, so I told them I wanted to become a doctor.”*

Clever and Faith settled in a refugee camp in the drought-plagued community of Kageyo, now stripped of their cattle, livelihood, and dignity. Fred rejoined his parents, shocked to find his 10 family members living in one tent. Fred’s parents used their resources to feed their children, leaving no money for school fees. Being forced to leave school devastated Fred.

When Africa New Life began work in Kageyo in 2008, Clever pleaded with staff to register Fred for sponsorship. *“I was registered, but getting sponsors is tough for older students,”* Fred recalls crying while waiting, knowing that being chosen for sponsorship is difficult for older students.

When Fred was 15, the Dorway family sponsored him in 2010. *“When they told me I had a sponsor, I thought I was dreaming! It was the beginning of my dreams coming true and having hope of a future. When they register you, they ask, ‘What is your dream?’ I knew I would be able to study hard if I got a sponsor, so I told them I wanted to become a doctor.”*

Sponsorship lifted the burdens of school fees and scholastic materials and helped the family overcome food scarcity. Fred was able to focus on his studies. He faced obstacles, but his determination never wavered, culminating in his graduation from the University of Rwanda in 2023, to the immense pride of his family and community. Kageyo celebrated its first-ever medical school graduate at their New Life Bible Church. *“I wore my gown to the party and told my mom, ‘Wow, I made it! I’m a doctor! I see God’s work in our family and my life through my education.’”*

With a servant’s heart and gratitude, Fred plans to pay it forward. *“In five to ten years, I want to be Rwanda’s second cardiothoracic surgeon. With God’s help and mercy, I will build a clinic that provides care to those without money. My other name is Sebashoka, and I’ll call it Seba Heart Center. Pastor Charles and others built Africa New Life so vulnerable children like me living in a village could dream. Without them, I couldn’t have hoped to become a doctor. I plan on sponsoring older students with Africa New Life.”*

Meanwhile, Fred is building a barn behind his parents’ home to hold the cattle he plans to purchase for his father, Clever. Fred aims to rebuild the dignity stolen from his father years ago, a beautiful act of redemption made possible through years of Africa New Life’s partnership and God’s goodness.





# LET EVERY CHILD DREAM<sup>©</sup>







## Educational Sponsorship

Our educational sponsorship program provides vulnerable children in Rwanda access to education through school fees, scholastic supplies, and support services, empowering them to break free from the cycle of poverty and realize their full potential.



**788** students completed their secondary education (12th grade) or the vocational equivalent



**817** post-secondary students received support to attend university or a vocational equivalent



**6,485** home visits were conducted by Child Welfare Officers



**76,246** students participated in iLead training, in partnership with the John Maxwell Leadership Foundation and Rwandan Ministry of Education



## Healthy Body

Africa New Life prioritizes holistic well-being through initiatives that promote physical health and wellness, including providing clean water, nutrition, medical care, and hygiene education.



**72,901** patients were cared for at the Dream Medical Center Hospital



**1,248** babies were born in a safe, healthy environment



**6,485** student health visits were facilitated by community nurses

## Growing Faith

Africa New Life fosters spiritual growth and Christian values within Rwandan communities through planting churches and discipleship programs that equip people to deepen their relationship with God and become influential leaders in church and society.



**217,000+** people were reached with the gospel through New Life Bible Churches, livestreams, and related events



**1,228** people made decisions for Christ through New Life Bible Churches



**1,077** pastors and students were trained at the Africa College of Theology



**1** new church was launched in the community of Huye



## Community Development

Our community development initiatives focus on economic empowerment, vocational training, and social support networks, aiming to create sustainable growth and stability within Rwanda.



**5.4+** million meals were provided through our programs and schools



**143** women and children were cared for through our New Life Women's Development Programs







## Local Work, Local Staff

“Rubavu’s Africa New Life community team works to serve over 1,200 sponsored students and their families. Many of our students do not have food in their homes, so we provide a nutritious, balanced meal on Center Day, full of healthy ingredients. After they eat, we play sports like soccer and volleyball and jump rope together to bond with the kids. Many students have single mothers or experience neglect. Our team knows we are important role models; for some students, the team is their only role model.”

—*Pastor Brians Rwebishaka, Community Pastor and Child Sponsorship Program Coordinator, Rubavu*

**Back Row (from left to right):**  
Venutse Byiringiro, Volunteer | Renatha Muhoracyeye, Child Welfare Officer | Jacque Muvunyi, Cook | Ruth Asiimwe, Community Nurse | James Kagaba, Child Welfare Officer and Online Gifts Officer | Leatitia Mutangampundu, Child Welfare Officer | Jean Marie Vianney Ntamwete, Custodian | George Baguma, Child Welfare Officer | Aziza Nikuze, Church Affairs Support Staff | Brians Rwebishaka, Rubavu New Life Bible Church Community Pastor and Child Sponsorship Program Coordinator

**Front Row:**  
Bertilda Nirere, Gardener | Innocent Niyikora, Cleaner | Jackson Mugisha, Cleaner | Evariste Abayisengasound, Technician

## 30 Years of Redemption Rebuilding Broken Walls, Broken People

*Reflecting on the 30th Anniversary of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi*

This year, we pause to solemnly commemorate the 1,000,000 people who were slaughtered 30 years ago in Rwanda during the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi. Senselessly killed were our mothers, fathers, children, grandparents, siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles, and friends. With each act of compassion that restores hope to the survivors today, we aspire to honor the memory of those we lost.

Even now, the sights of post-genocide Rwanda remain etched into my memory. Rwanda was a dark hole filled with the smell of death. Streets were haunted by orphaned children, widows, and childless mothers. Life was shattered, violence and hatred had taken everything. There were no jobs, no housing, and no infrastructure. The broken roads everywhere were symbolic of the country, which was going nowhere. The instability in Rwanda went so deep that the nation had no choice but to rise.

Our government embraced forgiveness and reconciliation as the compass to restoration, peace, and healing. Social progress and harmony grew. Neighborhoods that had been dens of robbers became dens of healers. Reconstructed communities stabilized. This work was good, but our people’s pain remained palpable.

Florence and I felt called to rebuild broken walls and broken human beings. We wanted to provide healing and reasons to dream. Especially for the children who would become our nation’s future! In 2001, Africa New Life launched with 32 sponsored students.

Today, Africa New Life’s influence extends across Rwanda, permanently intertwined with Rwanda’s redemption narrative. Survivor counseling, education, and vocational training continue to empower individuals and strengthen communities. Through planting churches and building child development centers, we have created lasting spaces to nourish people’s health, education, and faith formation. Through it all, God has sustained us through servant-hearted ministry partners like you.

Today, the future is bright because it will be led by the redeemed! Rwanda’s children, the beauty among the ashes left by the genocide, have grown up. In 2001, Africa New Life emerged from darkness, offering a single, bright torch to illuminate the path forward. Now, thousands of alumni each hold their own radiant torches, together illuminating the nation. As they step into leadership roles across the nation, I pray they lead with compassion, care, and humility, remembering that they are the most *extraordinary* testament to Rwanda’s redemption story.

Let every child dream!

Charles







*“I want to be an athlete professionally. I really want to go to the Olympics! I have big dreams.”*

19-year-old Kevin Gift is one of Rwanda’s most powerful swimmers. His father introduced him to swimming at age 8, and Kevin’s been gliding through pools ever since.

*“I joined the Rwanda National Swimming Team when I was 11 and took 7th place at a competition in Uganda during my first ever competition. I have competed in many competitions since. I have a love for this sport!”*

Kevin was initially sponsored in first grade, and then the Gauntt and Smith families sponsored him through high school. *“I don’t know where I would be had I not been sponsored. It means a lot to me; I know I wouldn’t have reached where I am without Africa New Life. I credit them because the skills and knowledge I have gained are my foundation and the start of my success.”*

Sponsorship has strengthened the most essential aspect of Kevin’s life; his faith. He shares his love for Jesus, stating he was baptized in September 2022.

*—Kevin Gift, sponsored student and member of Rwanda National Swim team*

Last August, Kevin graduated from high school, where his focuses were math, physics, and geography. Now, Kevin teaches swimming lessons to children while continuing his own training. He hopes to go to university later this year and study astronomy. Dedicated to pursuing his Olympic dreams, and fueled by boundless determination, he’s qualified to swim in several major competitions, including Spain’s Commonwealth games. Kevin’s parents and younger brother proudly support his athletic and academic aspirations!

*“The Rwanda Olympic team works with the Ministry of Sports. You have to be really good to beat their times.”* Kevin strives to someday beat the trial times and land a spot on Rwanda’s Olympic team. Given the scores of medals he has acquired, he may just become Africa New Life’s first Olympian!

## Join Rwanda’s Redemption Story

Over the 30 years that have passed since horrific violence touched every family in Rwanda, we have watched God weave incredible stories of redemption in Rwandan lives time after time. You can be a part of the next story He is writing **with a gift to Africa New Life’s Impact Fund today!** The Impact Fund surrounds and supports every area of our work across Rwanda. It’s the best way to come alongside these resilient men, women, and children this spring. **Will you join Rwanda’s redemption story today?**

Give online at [africanewlife.org/impact](https://africanewlife.org/impact) or scan the code to learn more.







**AFRICA** NEW LIFE

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