

Central Africa Vision 2000

Portland, Maine

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In 1994, Hutu militia in Rwanda began a horrific ethnic cleansing against Tutsi men, women and children. Neighbors fought against neighbors, teachers against students and even pastors against members of their congregations. In just three short months, over a million people were slaughtered and millions of survivors became homeless refugees. Most of the survivors are women and children, now widows and orphans with no homes, no incomes and no hope. 70% of the women remaining in Rwanda are widows and over 500,000 children are orphans. CAV 2000 is an interdenominational ministry with a vision to reach the widows and orphans in the war-torn region of Central Africa. They work with the evangelical churches in Rwanda, Burundi and Eastern Congo to do the work of sharing the Gospel of Christ through reconciliation, relief and resources. Each year CAV 2000 USA sends a team to Central Africa to lead Regional Reconciliation Conferences. These conferences bring together pastors and church leaders from different tribes for the purpose of fostering unity and reconciliation between them through forgiveness, which leads to peace. Relief for physical needs comes through donations of medical supplies, food and clothing to those still living in refugee camps. Resources for widows are through community banking projects that provide small loans to women to start up income producing businesses enabling them to take care of themselves and their children. The women at these banks also work together to keep records, budget their incomes and savings and develop marketing strategies to insure each member of the bank is successful.

First EFC of Maine has supported CAV 2000 since 2002.

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