

**Restoration, Reconciliation, and Rehabilitation: Empowering CIPs**  
**Location: Rwanda**  
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**Section I**

**Project Goals Summary:**

We aimed to humanize the prison experience for Rwandan youth in this intervention that seeks to foster various forms of resilience in children of incarcerated parents (CIPs) by generating new opportunities for familial connection, social support and community building. We partnered with Prison Fellowship Rwanda on a platform of restorative justice for genocidal rehabilitation through a self-sustaining program that could strengthen families ruptured by imprisonment.

**External Funding**

No fundraising efforts took place in order to support this project; we relied solely on the funds provided by the Davis Foundation.

**Project Reflection:**

On the ground, through ethnographic work, we helped Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR) become more aware of the specific and pressing needs of people living in their in-part sponsored reconciliation villages. Our team conducted site visits to PFR reconciliation villages in four locations. We worked with the PFR communications office to develop resources that conveyed these findings to partners and interested donors. We created a mini-documentary video, a written report, and an in-depth PowerPoint presentation for these purposes.

The initiatives we took in Rwanda differed from our proposed project plan, however. We supported our original goal while tailoring our work to meet more pressing needs within the organization, targeting their identified weaknesses in order to make the biggest impact we could in a two-month period. We found that face-to-face communication between us and PFR members allowed us to delve deeper into PFR's current needs and determine where we were best suited to assist.

We were able to overcome language barriers through translators, however, we definitely could have benefited from learning more of the local language, Kinyarwanda, as this would have allowed us to make stronger connections with more people outside of PFR. We found that almost everyone greatly appreciated when we were able to use even a little bit of conversational Kinyarwanda, and often become

more open and friendly as a result. We realized that any effort to adjust, assimilate or learn about local culture was received well by Rwandans.

We hope to maintain a relationship with PFR and look forward to seeing what this organization will do in the future. Most importantly, we developed many close and surely lasting relationships with many people in Rwanda. We anticipate that these relationships created incomparable learning opportunities that will continue to foster growth in us, and our new friends abroad, for a long time to come.

The products that we created during our time in Rwanda will be used by the organization to generate more awareness about Prison Fellowship Rwanda, including the specific needs of Rwanda CIPs. These materials will be distributed to partner organizations, put on the web, and showcased at the PFR office with the goal of spreading awareness, educating, and attracting donors. Ultimately, all of these efforts work towards improving the day-to-day lives of Rwandan CIPs and others affected by the genocide.

## **Section II**

### **Defining Peace:**

We understand peace as an ongoing process, through which a society engages in collective efforts towards alleviating violence, suffering, and oppression for all of its members.

### **Impact & Sustainability:**

Our project facilitates cooperation between a non-profit organization and its international donors, all desiring to effectively help Rwandans who are affected by genocide. Short term: our project allows PFR to spread awareness about its current programs, educating a breadth of individuals and attracting donors to fund their ongoing efforts. Long term: our project contributes to Rwanda's social healing process.

### **Personal Impact:**

Simone: This project contributed greatly to my understanding of what peace means within the context of genocide and the ways in which peace can be achieved. The opportunity provided by the Davis Foundation to travel to Rwanda made it possible for me to learn in a three-dimensional context; throughout the project, I was put in situations that challenged my personal understandings of peace, and was able to constantly rework this definition as I learned more each day. The project transformed as we went along, and watching this was particularly valuable in terms of understanding how projects develop.

Devin: I learned that, in achieving civil justice, there are no independent challenges or solutions around achieving social and economic reconciliation. Peace requires holistic, progressive and culturally tailored efforts: this cultural adaptation must often happen on the ground; being responsive to specific needs even if this means changing methods and objectives by organizations that are aware of their place in the larger

picture and do not self-perpetuate problems but empower and enable communities in combined, cooperative efforts.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

