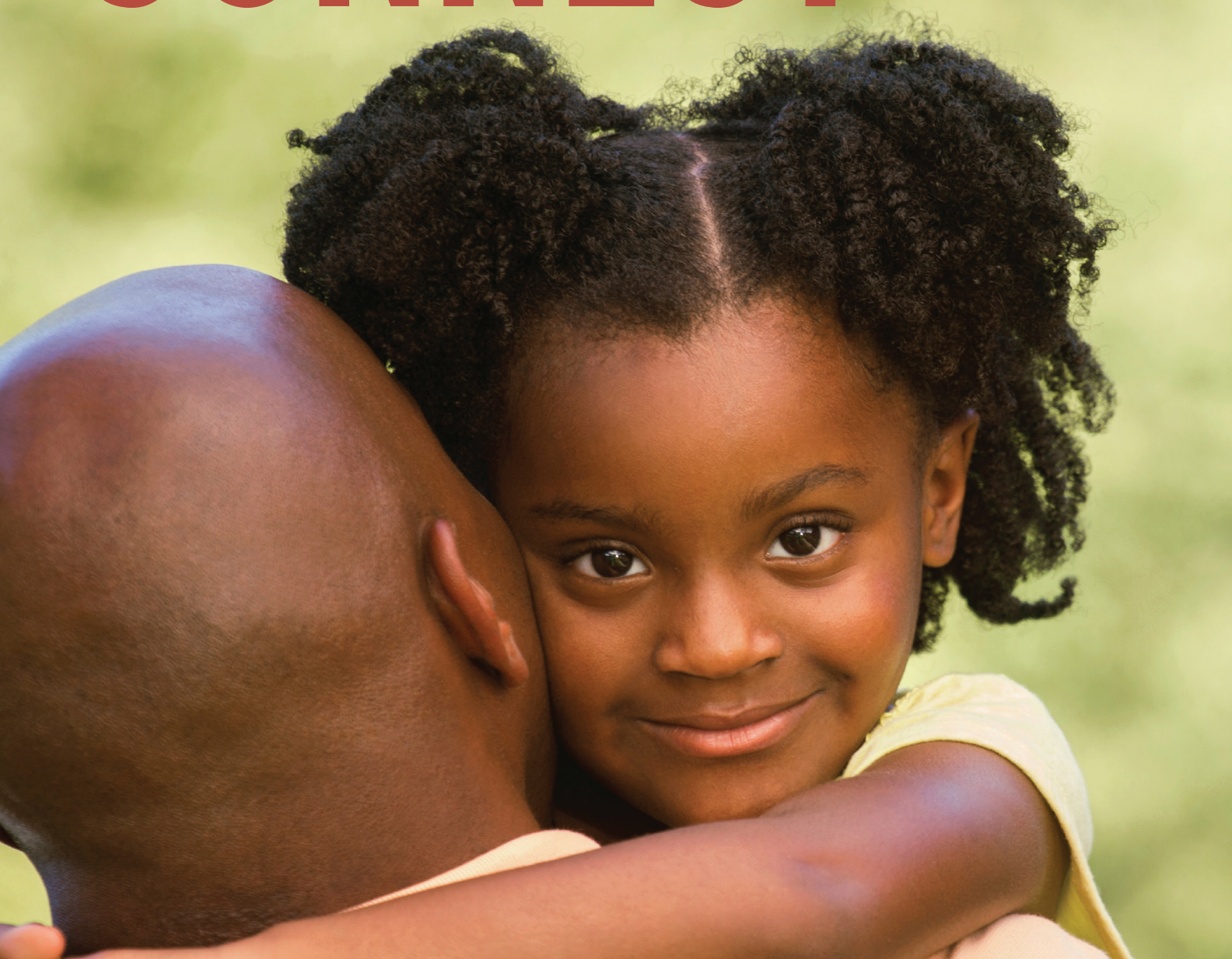


EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION NEWS AND INSPIRATION

# CONNECT



**APRIL-  
JUNE  
2016**

**MISSION PRIORITY** pg.3

**NEW DEPARTMENTAL  
DIRECTORS** pg. 5

# United for Mission



Unity is one of the core principles in Scripture. Jesus' prayer in John 17 is "that they may be one." The oneness that He experienced with the Father, is the same oneness He desired for His beloved followers. Our Savior prayed this prayer, because He had a special calling and mission for His disciples. He realized that they could not carry out their mission, unless they were united in purpose, united in prayer and united in mission. Like the Apostles of old, we too have a calling on our lives—a calling that we can not accomplish unless we are united. As we see the tremendous opportunities for outreach and mission across our great Division territory, sometimes the task ahead may seem daunting. But, we must remember that in unity we have strength. If we stand together, pray together, plan together, and work together, by God's grace we will reach our goal and fulfill our mission.

We hope you enjoy the first issue of **CONNECT**. Our goal is to keep you connected and informed of all the exciting things happening in our eleven-country region. I invite you to read our president's welcome and call to Unity. Let us accept his charge and unite together to make Mission our Priority and to bring the good news of the gospel to all the world.

**Philip Baptiste**  
**CONNECT Editor**

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**EAST CENTRAL  
AFRICA DIVISION**  
[www.ecdadventist.org](http://www.ecdadventist.org)

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Executive Secretary  
**Alain Coralie**

Treasurer

**Jerome Habimana**

Communication  
**Prince Bahati**

Children & Women's  
Ministries  
**Debbie Maloba**

Evangelism  
**Joel Okindo**

Education  
**Andrew Mutero**

Family Life & Ministerial  
**Musa Mitekaro**

Health  
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Publishing Ministries  
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Personal Ministries  
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Youth & Chaplaincy  
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**Winfrida Mitekaro**

Special Assistant  
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**Rachelle Hines**

# Mission Priority

## UNITED IN CHRIST



Our theme for the next five years is Mission Priority. This theme is a personal appeal for every Adventist member to become totally involved in the life and mission of the church. We are challenging each one to bring at least one person to Christ, and it is possible to do so by God's grace.

We believe that the key to accomplishing this goal is unity. Thousands of years ago, the Psalmist David penned these words: "Behold how sweet and pleasant it is, for brothers and sisters to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1). Jesus prays for His disciples to have unity in John 17. The Apostle Paul counsels us to remember that the church is a body and "there should be no division in the body," (1 Corinthians 12:25). Be that as it may, the disciples did not have a history of working together in unity. "Who's on the left

side and who's sitting on the right side?" they bickered angrily. They didn't realize the importance of TEAM—Together Everyone Achieves More. Jesus wanted them to live in unity—He taught love and togetherness, and prayed earnestly that they would become one as He and His Father were one.

Perhaps the unity Jesus prayed for was not fully realized until the day of Pentecost came. On this day, after being together for so long, the disciples finally understood what it meant to live in unity. The blessing of being in unity is that **Unity Promotes Promise**. For they had been promised the gift of the Holy Spirit, so they got together in unity to pray and look for that promise.

Today, as Seventh-day Adventists, we too must pray and look for the promise. Why? We too believe that "The

Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the arc-angel and the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first, then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air." This is our promise, and in unity we can help to promote and fulfill this promise. In unity, as we share and preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to our friends and neighbors, we can help hasten the Second Coming and the fulfillment of this most precious promise.

Unity not only promotes promise, **Unity Unveils Potential**. As the disciples came together in unity in the upper room, their unity unveiled the potential, not only for the Holy Spirit to come and fill them, but it enabled them to speak in languages and evangelize in ways that they

never could before. With this new gift of diverse language and communication, they now had the potential to reach people from all walks of life with the gospel's good news of Jesus. Unity unveiled the potential, that language and culture need not be barriers to reaching the masses for Christ. Unity not only promotes promise, **Unity Unveils Potential**.

What barriers do you face

**Unity not only promotes promise, Unity Unveils Potential.**

today? Perhaps being united in Christ, praying together, and coming together in one accord will unveil the potential to help us break down these barriers and carry out our mission.

Finally, and most importantly, **Unity Unleashes Power**. After the Upper Room experience, the disciples, now empowered with the Gift of the Spirit, were able to move, preach, and reach people for God with unprecedented power and unbridled creativity. Do you want that kind of power? Do you want the Holy Spirit's power to fill your church and help you to reach your community for Him? It can happen when we are united in Christ and united in mission!

Dr. Blasious Ruguri is President of the East-Central Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

# About Our President

## A biographical sketch of Blasious Ruguri



as the president of the denomination's East-Central Africa Division, tasked with overseeing the work of the Adventist Church in the 11 countries that comprise the church's work in Eastern and Central Africa. John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the United States, was quoted to have said: "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, and do more and become more, you are a leader."

This adage aptly describes Dr. Ruguri, who has significantly contributed to the development of the Adventist Church in the Central, Eastern, and Southern Africa Regions. Dr. Ruguri is internationally known for his bold initiatives and dynamic leadership which continue to lead the East-Central Africa Region to unprecedented growth while focusing on mission.

Dr. Ruguri has earned several professional degrees. He graduated with a Bachelor of Theology degree from Bugema University in Kampala, Uganda in 1981. He also received a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry and a Doctor of Ministry degree in Global Mission Leadership from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Dr. Ruguri is married to his wife Elizabeth, and together they have three adult children.

**D**r. Blasious Ruguri was born and raised in the beautiful country of Kenya. As a young person, he enjoyed spending time in church and preaching the good news of the Adventist message. He was called to

pastoral ministry in 1982 and was ordained to the gospel ministry on August 16, 1986. Dr. Ruguri's outstanding leadership qualities were evident early in his ministerial calling when just about a year

after he began working as a pastor, he was called to serve as the education and youth director of the Central Kenya Mission Field, a responsibility he held till 1985.

He was called again to serve as the youth director of the East African Union where he worked faithfully from 1985 to 1989. Subsequently, the Adventist Church in the East Africa Union called him to serve as the stewardship director for the Union in 1991. Four years later, the Eastern African Division asked him to serve as their stewardship director and in 1995, he was elected as the executive secretary of the Division.

After 15 years of distinguished service in Secretariat, in 2010 Dr. Ruguri was elected to serve



Division Headquarters

# Executive Secretary and Division Treasurer Introductions



**Elder Alain Coralie** (pictured above) was elected at the 2015 General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas to serve as the Executive Secretary of the East-Central Africa Division. Elder Coralie brings a wealth of experience to the position—he served as the Associate Executive Secretary for the Division. A native of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean, he has worked as a district pastor and Conference and Union departmental Director. Elder



Coralie has also served as the Executive Secretary of the Indian Ocean Union Conference (Madagascar). Apart from his administrative duties, Elder Coralie is an avid student of theology. Following a BA in Modern Languages, he obtained a Masters of Divinity degree from Andrews University and a Master of Theology from the University of Oxford. He is presently a PhD candidate in Liturgical Theology at the University of Bristol where he is developing an Adventist

Theology of worship. Elder Coralie is married to Caroline Coralie. They have one daughter, Audrey-Joy. In his spare time, he enjoys safaris with family and wildlife photography.

**Elder Jerome Habimana** (pictured in right photo) was re-elected at the 2015 General Conference Session to serve as Treasurer of the East-Central Africa Division. During Elder Habimana's previous 5-year term, the division experienced a 65% increase in tithe and an 87% increase in offerings and local mission giving.

Elder Habimana graduated with a BA in Accounting from the Adventist University of Central Africa in 1988 and also received a Master in Business Administration (MBA) from Andrews University in 1991. After his graduation, he worked as the Associate Finance Manager

for AIG, where he received many awards and accolades for his commitment to excellence and fiscal responsibility.

In 2003, Elder Habimana received a call to serve as the Assistant Treasurer of the East-Central Africa Division. Subsequently, the division asked him to serve as Associate Treasurer in 2007. In 2010 the church elected him to serve as Treasurer.

In his earlier years, he also served as a primary school teacher and principal in the Rwanda Union Mission. Elder Habimana is a man of tremendous experience and incredible gifts, but his greatest strength is his love for mission and his commitment to do all he can to share the hope in the 11-country region of ECD. He is married to his wife Eugenie, and together they have three children.



**Tom Ogal**  
*Associate Secretary*  
 Origin Country: Kenya  
 Education: Doctor of Ministry; MA Pastoral Theology; BA Theology; Certificate in Editorial Skills.  
**Favorite Color: Navy Blue**  
**Hobby: Reading**  
**Bible verse: Phil. 4:13**



**Yohannes Olana**  
*Associate Treasurer*  
 Origin Country: Ethiopia  
 Education: BA, MBA  
**Favorite Color: Blue**  
**Hobby: Reading and getting to meet new people**  
**Bible verse: Job 42:2**



**Michael Caballero**  
*Associate Treasurer*  
 Origin Country: Philippines  
 Education: MBA; BSC; Accounting; CPA.  
**Favorite Color: Dark Blue**  
**Hobby: Orchard Farming**  
**Bible verse: Rom. 8: 38,39**



**Paul Muasya**  
*General Field Secretary*  
 Origin Country: Kenya  
 Education: BA, MA.  
**Favorite Color: Brown**  
**Hobby: Farming**  
**Bible verse: Isa. 35:5-6**

## 6 EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION TEAM



### Prince Bahati

*Communication*

Origin Country: Rwanda  
Education: MA Com. Science; BA in Journalism & Com; Diploma in Advanced Journalism studies.

**Favorite color: White**

**Hobby: Jogging**

**Bible verse: 1 Thes. 4:16**



### Andrew Mutero

*Education*

Origin Country: Kenya  
Education: PhD Religion; MA History; MDIV; BA Theology; P1 Certificate Primary Edu.

**Favorite Color: Purple**

**Hobby: Reading**

**Bible verse: Psa. 37:4**



### Fesaha Tsegaye

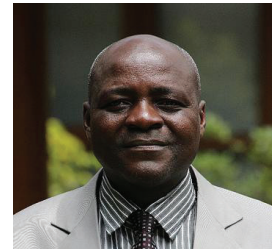
*Health Ministries*

Origin Country: Ethiopia  
Education: MPH; MMed; MBBS.

**Favorite Color: Blue**

**Hobby: Photography**

**Bible verse: John 10:10**



### Musa Mitekaro

*Ministerial & Family Life*

Origin Country: Tanzania  
Education: MTh; BA REL: Biblical Languages.

**Favorite Color: Green**

**Hobby: Evangelism & Development**

**Bible verse: Heb. 11; 1, 6**



### Jonathan Bizirema

*Publishing*

Origin Country: Rwanda  
Education: MA in Leadership; BTh.

**Favorite Color: Blue**

**Hobby: Music**

**Bible verse: 1 Tim. 3:16**



### Noah Musema

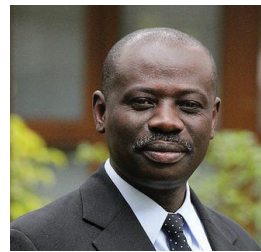
*SS & Personal Ministry*

Origin Country: DRC  
Education: ThD, Missiology; MA Religion; MA English language teaching & African Culture; BA English language teaching & African Culture.

**Favorite Color: Gray**

**Hobby: Bike Riding**

**Bible verse: 1 Pet. 2: 9,10**



### William Bagambe

*Stewardship*

Origin Country: Uganda  
Education: BA Theology; Post Grad Diploma Accounting & Finance; MBA.

**Favorite Color: Light Cream**

**Hobby: Reading Spiritual and Resource Materials**

**Bible verse: Ps. 24:1-2**



### Debbie Maloba

*Women & Children's Min*

Origin Country: DRC  
Education: MA, Public Health; BA, Human Biology.

**Favorite Color: Pink**

**Hobby: Traveling & Reading**

**Bible verse: Jer. 1:5**



### Magulilo Mwakalonge

*Youth & Chaplaincy Ministry*

Origin Country: Tanzania  
Education: MA in Biblical Studies (NT); BA in Theology.

**Favorite Color: Brown**

**Hobby: Singing**

**Bible verse: Heb. 2:18**



### Joel Okindoh

*Assistant to the President for Evangelism*

Origin Country: Kenya  
Education: ThD Missiology; MA Religion; BA REL Philosophy.

**Favorite Color: Navy Blue**

**Hobby: Mission trips**

**Bible verse: Phil. 3:7, 8**



### Philip Baptiste

*Special Assistant to the President*

Origin Country: Canada  
Education: BA, MDiv, DMin, CFLE.

**Favorite Color: Blue**

**Hobby: Playing the piano, Writing, Traveling**

**Bible verse: Jer. 1:4**



### Winfrida Mitekaro

*Shepherdess Coordinator*

Origin Country: Tanzania  
Education: BA, MA

**Favorite Color: Peach**

**Hobby: Visiting nature and reading life application books**

**Bible verse: 1 John 5:14-15**

# PARABLE OF A LIFE-SAVING STATION

## Mission is Our Priority

**O**n a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur there was a once a crude little life-saving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat, but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea, and with no thought for themselves, they went out day or night tirelessly searching for the lost.

Many lives were saved by this wonderful little station, so that it became famous. Some of those who were saved, and various others in the surrounding areas, wanted to become associated with the station and give of their time and money and effort for the support of its work. New boats were bought and new crews were trained. The little life-saving station grew.

Some of the new members of the life-saving station were unhappy that the building was so crude and so poorly equipped. They felt that a more comfortable place should be provided as the first refuge of those saved from the sea.

So they replaced the emergency cots with beds and put better furniture in an enlarged building. Now the life-saving station became a popular gathering place for its members, and they re-decorated it beautifully and furnished it as a sort of club.

Less of the members were now interested in going to sea on life-saving missions, so they hired life boat crews to do this work.



The mission of life-saving was still given lip-service but most were too busy or lacked the necessary commitment to take part in the life-saving activities personally.

About this time a large ship was wrecked off the coast, and the hired crews brought in boat loads of cold, wet, and half-drowned people.

They were dirty and sick, and some spoke a strange language, and the beautiful new club was considerably messed up. So the property committee immediately had a shower house built outside the club where victims of shipwreck could be cleaned up before coming inside.

At the next meeting, there was a split in the club membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's life-saving activities as being

**The Church is a life-saving station. Let's make sure we are focused on the mission of saving lives and reaching our communities with the good news of Jesus!**

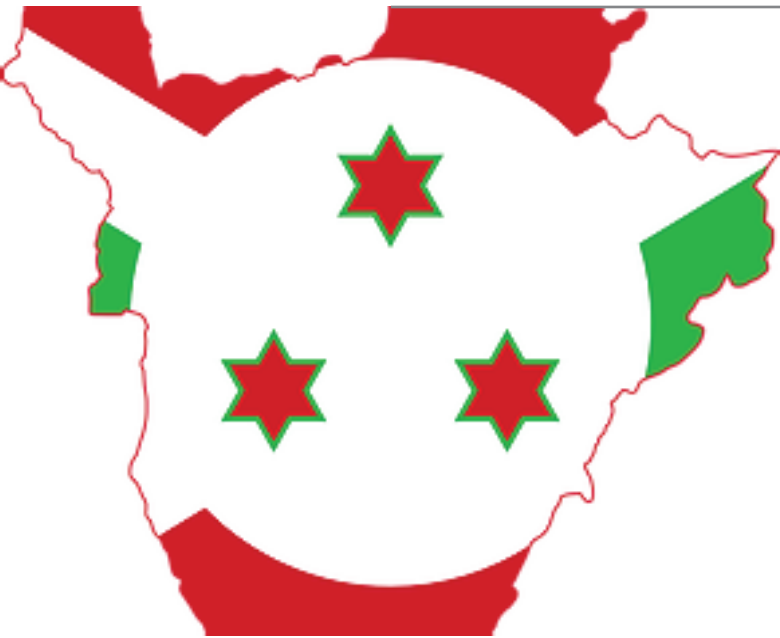
unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal life pattern of the club.

But some members insisted that life-saving was their primary purpose and pointed out that they were still called a life-saving station. But they were finally voted down and told that if they wanted to save the life of all the various kinds of people who were shipwrecked in those waters, they could begin their own life-saving station down the coast. They did. As the years went by,

the new station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old. They evolved into a club and yet another life-saving station was founded.

If you visit the seacoast today you will find a number of exclusive clubs along that shore. Shipwrecks are still frequent in those waters, only now most of the people drown.

Author Unknown

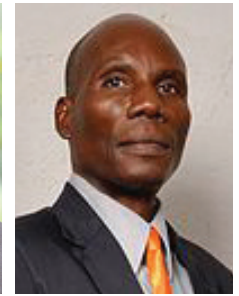


## BURUNDI UNION MISSION

**President:** Joseph Ndikubwayo

**Secretary:** Paul Irakoze

**Treasurer:** Biratevye Leonard



# RESPONDING TO A NEED



Burundi Health Clinic

In Bujumbura, the capital city of Burundi, the Seventh-day Adventist Church operates a small urban health center. Seven more healthcare centers are scattered across the country. In Bujumbura the needs are great as this facility struggles to keep up with the high demand for its services. In addition to serving the general population, the center also works with nearby businesses.

The Seventh-day Adventist

Church has a rich history of medical work. Medical missionaries have long met the immediate medical needs of people, just as Jesus did. Often this interaction is the first time a person comes into contact with a Seventh-day Adventist.

On a typical day more than 40 people visit the clinic for a variety of procedures. The small staff is forced to refer many of the patients to different care centers around

the city. The lost revenue caused by turning away patients could have a serious impact on all eight Adventist medical centers in Burundi because income generated from this clinic helps fund the others, which are located in rural areas.

To meet the need for better facilities, the church plans to replace the health center with a fully staffed hospital—complete with a maternity ward and full dental service. In the past patients requiring dental work have had to travel great

distances, even to neighboring countries, for care. This new hospital will bring quality comprehensive medical care to the people of Bujumbura. It will also fund the continued growth of smaller, rural healthcare centers across Burundi.

*This article first appeared in the Adventist World Magazine. It is reproduced here with permission.*

Andrew King is a writer and editor for the Office of Adventist Mission.







**NORTH EAST CONGO UNION MISSION**

*Democratic Republic of Congo*

**President:** Mwangachuchu Rudatinya

**Secretary:** Samuel Sinigenga Ndangamyambi

**Treasurer:** Elkana Kerosi



**EAST CONGO UNION MISSION**

*Democratic Republic of Congo*

**President:** Robert S. Muhune

**Secretary:** Tekwa Museba

**Treasurer:** Jean Ntakirutimana



**Pathfinders in the Democratic Republic of Congo**



**WEST CONGO UNION MISSION**

*Democratic Republic of Congo*

**President:** Ambroise Mfumu Fumakwa

**Secretary:** Bruno Mukinayi

**Treasurer:** Samuel Kinkela Landu



**Union Headquarters in Congo**



# Future home of the Ethiopia Union Mission



## ETHIOPIAN UNION MISSION

*Ethiopia, and the Republic of Djibouti*

**President:** Temesgen Bulti  
**Secretary:** Lukas Adde  
**Treasurer:** Aschalew Aluma



## ERITREA MISSION FIELD

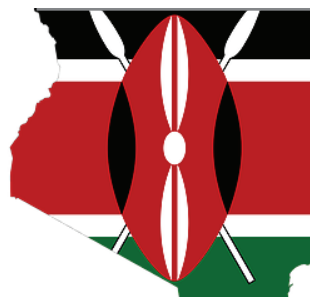
**President:** Solomon Wolde-Endreas  
**Secretary-Treasurer:** Petros Alazar



# New West Kenya Union Conference Headquarters

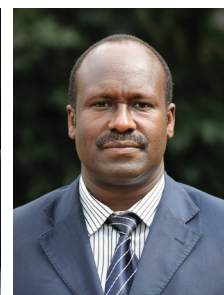


More than 3,000 leaders and members from the Adventist church's East-Central African Division celebrated the inauguration of the newly built West Kenya Union Conference headquarters in Kisumu, Kenya. The state of the art complex includes a brand new media center, two cafeterias and a host of offices and meetings rooms.



## EAST-KENYA UNION CONFERENCE

**President:** Samuel Makori  
**Secretary:** Alfred Marundu  
**Treasurer:** Nehemiah Maiyo



## WEST KENYA UNION CONFERENCE

**President:** Kenneth O. Maena  
**Secretary:** Japheth Ochorokodi  
**Treasurer:** David Sande





## RWANDA UNION MISSION

**President:** Hesron Byilingiro  
**Secretary:** Issacar Ntakirutimana  
**Treasurer:** Joseph Sebahire



## New Science and Technology Center

Photos: Claude Richli



Prime Minister Anastase Murekesi cutting the ribbon of the Science and Technology Center as Adventist Church leader Ted N.C. Wilson watches at the Adventist University of Central Africa in Rwanda.



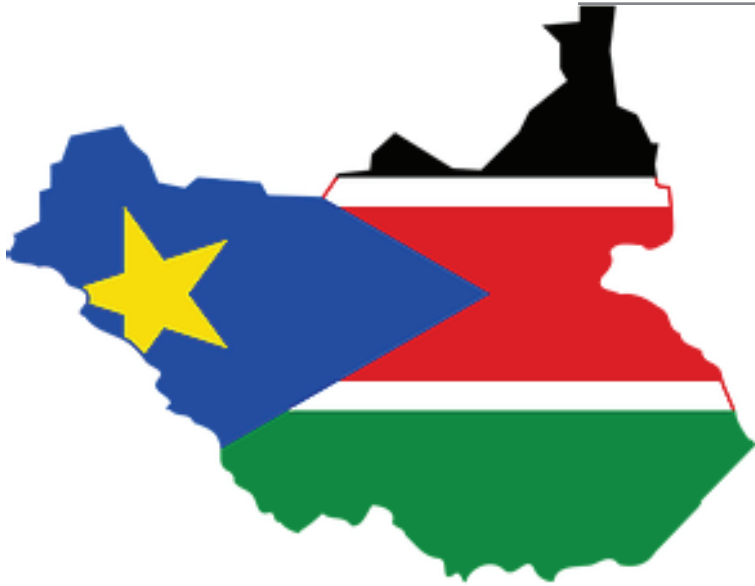
The Science and Technology Center has 24 classrooms that seat 40 to 60 students each.

Together we can transform lives and build brighter futures

Plans are underway to build the new East-Central Africa Division Medical School on the main campus of the Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) in Kigali, Rwanda. Proposed Commencement Date: Sept 2017

This is only possible with your help! Your gift of \$25 or more can equip young people across East-Central Africa to extend the healing ministry of Jesus to those who lack quality healthcare. To donate now visit [www.ecdadventist.org](http://www.ecdadventist.org)

More info on back page ad



**SOUTH SUDAN ATTACHED FIELD**

**President:** Clement Arkangelo  
**Executive Secretary:** Daniel Ogwok  
**Treasurer (acting):** Harvelle Valenciano



# South Sudan Joint Worship





## NORTHERN TANZANIA UNION CONFERENCE

**President:** Godwin K. Lekundayo

**Secretary:** David Makoye

**Treasurer:** Dickson Matiko



## SOUTH TANZANIA UNION MISSION

**President:** Mark Malekana

**Secretary:** Robson Nkoko

**Treasurer:** Jack Manongi



# THE MTWARA MEDICAL CENTER



The Eastern Tanzania conference is building an 86 bed capacity hospital in the southern part of Tanzania. The hospital will be the only medical center serving a population of over 300,000.

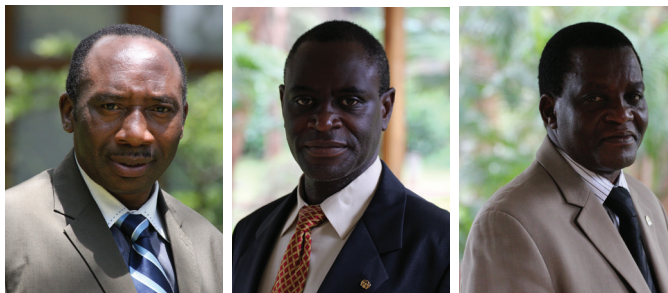


## UGANDA UNION MISSION

**President:** Daniel M. Matte

**Secretary:** Isreal Kafeero

**Treasurer:** Frank Kiggundu



# President Museveni pledges support for unfinished Adventist Church



**P**resident Yoweri K. Museveni has pledged to support the unfinished Seventh-day Adventist Church, Kikandwa, in the Semuto area of the Central Uganda Conference. The president's pledge came when he made a stopover to the church to pay his respects to the late Babumba Luttaguzi Edidian who was brutally killed in

1981. The president was on his way to Dwaniro in the Kiboga district to commemorate Heroes Day in the struggle to liberate Uganda. President Museveni pledged to contribute 200 bags of cement and 200 pieces of iron sheets toward the completion of the Kikandwa Adventist Church. Pastor Moses Kalibbala, who was on the ground when the

president visited, expressed his appreciation on behalf of the church and also offered a prayer for the president.

While speaking to Pastor Moses Kalibbala on the phone, he confirmed that all the 200 bags of cement promised were delivered and that they are now waiting for the iron sheets. Kalibbala says, "The church is working tirelessly to complete the plastering and roofing work for the church."

The Kikandwa Adventist Church land was donated by the family of the late Babumba Luttaguzi a former prominent Seventh-day Adventist member who together with several other church members and close friends were killed by government forces in 1981 at their home in the neighborhood of the Kikandwa

Adventist Church.

It is believed that at the time of these killings, President Museveni was hiding in the very home where the murders occurred, and narrowly survived being killed when the murdered decided to conceal his whereabouts. This is not the first time President Museveni has extended similar help to the very same church. Last year he also made a similar stopover and also donated 200 bags of cement together with 200 iron sheets. So, when he came this time and found work was not yet completed, he then directed that more resources be given to have the Church fully completed.

Samuel Mwebaza is the former Communication Director of Uganda Union.

# CONNECT

Private Bag  
Mbagathi, 00503  
Nairobi, Kenya

## Together we can transform lives and build brighter futures

Plans are underway to build the new East-Central Africa Division Medical School on the main campus of the Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) in Kigali, Rwanda.

This is only possible with your help! Your gift of \$25 or more can equip young people across East-Central Africa to extend the healing ministry of Jesus to those who lack quality healthcare.

To donate now visit [www.ecdadventist.org](http://www.ecdadventist.org)



### THIS IS YOUR SCHOOL: YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED

Our goal is to have Phase 1 of 4 of the building process for the new medical school completed by Sept. 2017. Phase 1 includes a Guest House, Men's Residence Hall, Women's Residence Hall, Cafeteria and Anatomy (Science) Lab.

### 4 Phases to a Better Future

MEN'S RESIDENCE HALL



GUEST HOUSE



WOMEN'S RESIDENCE HALL



CAFETERIA

