

Next Steps

PRAYER

1. Pray for each region (Kiwanja, Rubare, and Kinyandoni) by name asking for God's Kingdom to come in each as in heaven.

Specifically...

2. Pray strength, wisdom, and boldness for the each of the 270 Village Peace Committee members.
3. Pray for good health and boundless energy for the World Relief staff who are equipping communities in the peace building effort.
4. Pray for a "turning of the tide" from violence and despair to peace and hope in Kiwanja, Rubare, and Kinyandoni.
5. Pray for local churches in Kiwanja, Rubare and Kinyadoni to be agents of hope and peace amidst their suffering.

ACTION

Concerned about Congo? Feeling moved in your spirit to do something but not sure what?

Come gather with other FMCers in a non staff lead effort to form a community of people praying and discerning together how to make a difference for peace building in Congo using what God has given you. Don't go it alone! Let's see what God's Spirit might lead us to do if we are committed to discern it through prayer together. The first meeting of this group will occur **TONIGHT at 5:30 in room 104**. Join in!

Peace

THE ADVENT OF THE KING

There's a New Sheriff in Town • December 11, 2011 • Pastor Joe Johns

Text: Luke 2:8-14

The angels speak of a peace rooted in two things:

- A Power Confrontation

- A Strange Sign

The Advent Message:

Christ is taking charge to bring peace to _____



Rubare

Kiwanja

Kinyandonyi

PEACE EMPOWERMENT COMMUNITIES

PROFILES OF WORLD RELIEF PEACE BUILDING PROGRAMS

RUBARE

- Population: 8,300
- 10 mile south of Kiwanja
- Intertribal marriage has become an issue
- Population shrinking due to insecurity
- 7 VPC's recently started totaling 70 people

KIWANJA

- Population: 65,000
- Home to at least 3 Internally Displaced People camps at town edges
- Large UN base in Kiwanja
- 7 VPC's recently started totaling 70 people

KINYANDONYI

- Population: 32,000, mainly Hutu & Tutsi
- 8 miles north of Kiwanja
- Borders National forest where Hutu rebels hide
- Displacement caused food shortage. WR delivered food, tools & seeds
- 8 VPC's initiated totaling 80 people



PEACE BUILDING FAQ

What is the peace building effort in Congo with World Relief?

Simply put, it is a grass roots effort in and by communities traumatized and fractured by violence to regain a sense of shared identity and work together as a community to address conflict. In the case of World Relief, this effort is fostered in the name and way of Jesus, whom scripture calls the Prince of Peace.

Where is this peace building program happening?

The program was started in 3 pilot areas within 10 miles of each other. They were chosen because (1) they are multi-tribal, (2) they have seen high levels of violence, (3) not many organizations besides World Relief are working there, and (4) a strong church network exists in each place. The areas are called Peace Empowerment Communities (PEC's) and are located in Kiwanja, Rubare and Kinyandonyi. These groupements are the rough equivalent of what we might call a county seat, like Fort Wayne, Bluffton, and Decatur. Within each are the rough equivalents of several townships (villages) and neighborhoods (quarters).

What is the program and how does it work?

The goal is to raise up a team of 10 local peace builders in each village of Kiwanja, Rubare and Kinyandonyi. When conflicts arise in these geographies--whether by outside actors or from within--these peace building teams (Village Peace Communities or VPC's) will intervene to stand against violence and to help resolve conflicts. The VPC's are being nurtured, equipped and encouraged by World Relief using FMC dollars.

Who is in a VPC and how is it formed?

The VPC's are comprised of a broad cross section of highly regarded local people, including different tribal leaders, women leaders, youth leaders, school leaders, pastors and civil society leaders. Together, these people represent the backbone of local community life. They are elected and nominated to the VPC by their peers because of their witness of peace.

What has been World Relief's progress so far?

During September and October 2011 (just prior to elections), World Relief leaders Jean Pierre and Pastor Marcel worked tirelessly to establish VPC's in Kiwanja, Rubare, and Kinyandonyi. Despite many security risks and the overwhelming number of people to envision, God gave them great favor among influential people in the communities. Consequently, 27 VPC's were formed totaling 270 men, women and young people who are now actively building peace in their communities.

Is it working?

It's too early to tell. However, the response to the election outcomes will be the first test of this program. One very encouraging sign is the way each PEC has responded so favorably and enthusiastically to World Relief initiating the program in their area.

What's happens next?

Now that VPC's have been formed, the focus will turn to training them in conflict resolution skills and encouraging shared identity activities that bring people together. For example, the plan is for each PEC to raise up 2 soccer teams, 6 choirs, 1 theatrical group, 3 poet societies, and 10 long distance runners. Each group will intentionally be tribally diverse. The PEC's will then compete against one another in these areas and for a "Peace Builder of the Year" award.