

MERCY MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

2021 Annual Report

Equipping people to impact a needy world



Changing seasons. .

This year saw many changes in the make-up of the team. Renée Schudel was scheduled to leave after 25 years so she was working toward that goal all year. The prayerful challenge was to find who the Lord was going to provide to replace her. The Van Hasselt family left at the beginning of the year, but immediately the Lord provided a new family to fill their place, Trent and Tabby Cox and their 3 children, Americans who had been working many years in



Ethiopia (arriving at the end of the year). In the meantime, Dierk and Els Slingerland volunteered to help with the practical work. They arrived in March and stayed 8 months. What a gift! But we still had the dilemma of who would permanently replace Renée in her role as Business Administrator and cook. . . God amazed us with the answer suddenly appearing out of nowhere in the form of another American couple with long-term field experience in Niger, fluent in French and already in possession of French residency visas. October and November, we spent time getting to know each other. In December, we invited Steve and Nancy Brown to join our team. Renée relocated to California and still is fully involved in MMI and all the projects, but not with the center at Le Rucher.



The team by the end of the year

The building has grown!

Finishing the new building addition has been a monumental task. Delays and rising costs have been balanced by God's faithfulness to provide a steady stream of volunteers, donated building supplies, and unexpected financial gifts to cover the cost overruns. Erik and Jeltje took the brunt of the work (and stress), chasing contractors, correcting mistakes, and continually reminding the architect what still needed to be done. But we made it! Just a few hours before the Cox family arrived to join the team at the end of the year, the new apartment was move-in ready. A 2nd smaller apartment was also finished. We expect to have the upstairs lecture room and debriefing rooms useable in the first quarter next year with the help of several professional volunteer teams.



Front from the dining room area
looking towards new wing



Back of new wing looking toward
older building. Both apartments are on the ground
level with the Meeting room upstairs

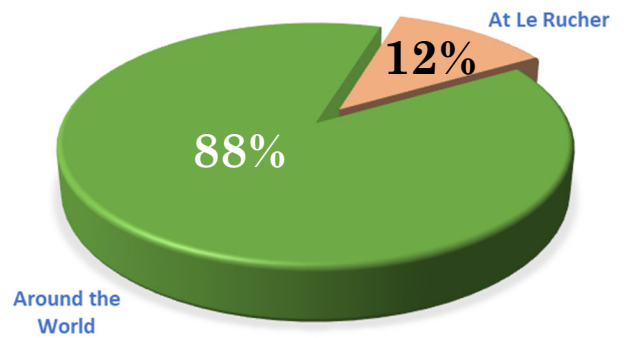
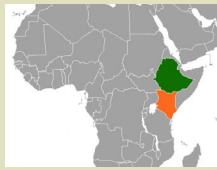


Back looking from where
the buildings connect

Member Care

388 cross cultural workers debriefed in 2021 by 46 certified debriefers and staff members:

In addition, teams of Ethiopians and Kenyans trained by Le Rucher staff members debriefed an additional **333** people, bringing the grand total debriefed with the Le Rucher model this year to **721**



Training

164 Christian workers equipped this year

105

mission organizations served this year through debriefing and training

After postponing our debriefing training 6 times due to covid lockdowns, we were faced with a huge waiting list of people wanting to attend. Since many were Americans who were restricted by France, Kristine ran 2 seminars in the US and cleared much of the backlog.

When the lockdown lifted in the summer months, we quickly ran 1 more at Le Rucher, followed by a Crisis & Trauma Response training, crowded between debriefing retreats in the autumn. All this with a 100% healthy record.

A new debriefing training was also run in South America in Spanish by a couple with daily oversight via Zoom by our staff.

On top of this, a new program called the "Tree of Life" trained 42 Kenyans to help people who continue to struggle with traumatic experiences.

This an increase of 108% in face-to-face training over the previous year, back to our normal rate of training despite covid.

Community Development & Reconciliation Projects

We serve locally-run projects by raising finances, assisting in writing proposals, making donor reports, facilitating strategic planning sessions, doing debriefing and a wide range of training or consulting.

Eastern Congo (OEIL)

Reconciliation, peace-building, community development. While living with the threat of Ebola, Covid-19, civil unrest and erupting volcanoes, this project annually impacts hundreds of thousands, seeing them healed physically, emotionally and spiritually. Over 7,000 local intercessors are mobilized to do the work of reconciliation and restoration in their local villages and towns.



For a long time the intercessors from one of our prayer cells prayed specifically for the militia who were causing atrocities in their area. One evangelist who is clearly led by the Holy Spirit, felt the Lord saying she should go into the militia camp and share the love of God with them. Surprisingly, they humbly listened to her preaching, and they requested that OEIL send a team to run a Healing and Reconciliation workshop for them. We refused because they were still armed. But the Holy Spirit had other plans! The team decided to venture into their camp to run a rally (after informing the local authorities and police). And God did wonders! Several surrendered their lives to Christ

and the whole unit is no longer fighting, waiting for the government promise for disarmament.

Goma, Congo (Africa Restoring Bridges Initiative)

Reconciliation, community development, servant leadership. With all the same challenges as OEIL, this project is active primarily in the region of Goma. They have empowered thousands in the region to work toward development and reconciliation and have taught reconciliation principles in many village schools.



"Since we fled from the volcano we have been assisted by many NGOs, but I've been especially touched by the way you treated us and comforted by your teaching from the Bible. When we had to flee, I blamed my unborn child for my difficulties, but when we prayed today, I put my hand on my belly and asked forgiveness. You can't believe what happened – he started moving again! I believe you came here for those of us who have been ignored by others, even our unborn children. I will name him Espoir or Esperance because God has changed my suffering into Hope!"

Kenya (Way Of Peace) Healing & Reconciliation for Sustainable Peace and Development.

Using a workshop called "Healing Hearts, Transforming Nations" this team has helped entire communities become whole again, bridging tribal suspicions and enabling them to maintain peace even in the onslaught of ongoing political turmoil. In addition, they have developed a debriefing ministry, serving other reconciliation teams around the region, as well as pastors and other Christian workers within Kenya. During Covid-19 they used television and radio to broadcast the debriefing tools with personal follow-up by telephone.



"When I came to the workshop, I was very bitter and angry with my mother. After the 1st session I was overwhelmed by feelings of sadness and depression and I wanted to leave. Thank God the facilitator invited me for a one-on-one session to share more about the causes of my feeling. I realized I was attempting to escape the painful reality of my situation. I had been rejected by my father and I lived with my mother who is a violent alcoholic. I could never find peace at home. It had become so bad that I attempted suicide several times, but it did not work. I hated myself, saw no future for me, and had no reason to live. I was encouraged to stay a little longer for the workshop and see what God would do. I wrote all my painful, shameful and horrible experiences and gave them to Jesus at the cross workshop. I cried a lot, but I also received healing and I suddenly felt joy and peace! Now I am praying that God will help me to fully forgive my parents."

Rwanda (Rabagirana Ministries) Reconciliation and Community Transformation.

This is the core team, providing inspiration to the other reconciliation teams in the region. They use workshops, radio messages, song, paintings, and training seminars to train pastors and youth to become agents of Biblical transformation in their communities. They have shifted from working primarily with those who lived through the genocide, to the younger generation which is still trying to understand and work through the pain their parents have passed along to them.



"I lost my parents during the genocide. The horrors I saw back then, I wish I could unsee them. You could say that the devil was indeed here in Rwanda in 1994. Up until this workshop, I hated the Hutu people. Whenever I had an opportunity, I would try to hurt them. It was even true in my own family. I married a Hutu man, and we have four children. But inside I hated them all. I would mistreat my kids because of the pain I was carrying from the genocide. I thank God that this workshop set me free. I went home and asked for forgiveness from my children, and for the first time since we got married, I told my husband that I loved him. They were all shocked! Thank you for teaching me about forgiveness."

Rwanda (Shalom Community Organization) Reconciliation and Community Transformation.

Using self-help groups, youth camps, workshops and a training center, this team has empowered thousands to live in peace and learn how to work together to develop their communities.



"I'm one of those people whose house was renovated. My husband passed away and left me with 8 children in an incomplete house, with no doors or windows. This house was later destroyed by the earthquake. I lost hope because I had no means to renovate the house. Now I would like to thank Shalom and members of my community. They remembered me and my children and worked together to renovate my house and to make sure I had doors and windows. They found construction materials (bricks and mud), and I'm now a woman who owns her own home."

South East Asia (YWAM) Integrated Rural Development (Micro-enterprise).

This team seeks to improve community quality of life through training in animal husbandry, nutrition, and running family businesses. Cooperatives are encouraged and micro-credit is provided.



"When we started the grafted tomato models, Mr. Quyen's family was selected as one of the first three households to participate. They put in more than 500 plants and harvested good tomatoes in both form and quality. Now many people visit their farm to learn from his experience. He remains our most successful model and many others have since followed his lead and planted their own grafted tomatoes."

Zimbabwe (Fountain of Hope) Orphan and Community Empowerment Initiative.

After successfully disciplining one community, this team is now working in Makamure, which is slowly becoming a role model for others, especially in moving from ancestral worship to trusting in Jesus. The community is working together to build a clinic, repairing roads, growing trees to reduce climate change, caring for widows and orphans, and working at the schools so their children can attend.



The Zimbabwe Water Authority told the community leaders that they had tried for many years to provide water to one of the villages of Makamure called Chipunza but it would not work because the ground has difficult rock. Nevertheless, Fountain of Hope told them they would sink a borehole in this village because the people of this village had been walking for almost 10 km each way to get water from one of the rivers. Never mind they had failed previously and all the geologists maintained its impossibility. The community decided to pray for water to come out. After much prayer, the drilling rig was brought into the community to drill a borehole. The community councillor invited the school children, teachers and many other people to come and see whether water will come out of this dry place. Prayer was offered to God before the drilling started and amazingly, despite the rocky ground, water came out! The water that came from this ground is now enough for the entire village as well as the primary school children and teachers. Our God is still working miracles, He is really doing a new thing in this community. The people of this community saw it and they now believe that there is a wonderful God, who is the Lord of miracles."