

PROVIDENCE CHURCH Prayer for the Nations

**Rwanda**

General Information

- Population: 12 million.
- Located a few degrees south of the Equator, Rwanda is bordered by Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- On November 1, 2006, that 56.9% of the Rwanda's population is Roman Catholic, 26% is Protestant, 11.1% is Seventh-day Adventist, 4.6% is Muslim, 1.7% claims no religious affiliation, and 0.1% practices traditional indigenous beliefs.
- An estimated 800,000 Rwandans died during ethnic violence over a brief span of 100 days between April and June 1994. Most of the dead were Tutsis, and most of those who perpetrated the violence were Hutus.

Challenges

- Both Catholic and Protestant churches helped to make the genocide possible by giving moral sanction to the killing. Churches had longed played ethnic politics themselves, favoring the Tutsi during the colonial period then switching allegiance to the Hutu after 1959, sending a message that ethnic discrimination was consistent with church teaching. The church leaders had also long had close ties with the political leaders, and after the genocide began, the church leaders called on the population to support the new interim government, the very government supporting the genocide.
- Some church leaders opposed the violence, even at the risk of their own lives.
- Conversions to Evangelical Christianity increased after the genocide, while attendance in Catholic churches has decreased. Observers believe this is due to the participation of some Catholic priests in the genocide.

Prayer

- Healthcare conditions. In 2010, 91 children died before their fifth birthday for every 1000 live births.
- Church planting by evangelical churches (see reference link).

Reference

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion\\_in\\_Rwanda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Rwanda)
- <http://www.ebcr.org/>