



**Empowering children  
with training and resources  
so they'll never need charity again!**

Hello ZOE Partners!

Welcome to our first monthly newsletter! You are receiving this communication because you've expressed an interest in learning more about ZOE, or have already become a ZOE partner by purchasing an ornament or an animal, or by making a donation to partner with a working group. In the ZOE newsletters, you can look forward to receiving information, updates, and prayer points to more deeply connect you to ZOE and the children participating in the empowerment program. Because we possess different levels of knowledge about ZOE's empowerment program, we will provide a variety of details to help meet everyone's informational needs.

To give the gift of hope to more vulnerable and orphaned children, we have kicked off our **Tree Of Hope** fundraiser that is running from January 15 – February 12. Although your monetary support is always welcome, this is a concentrated effort to give you and your friends an opportunity to partner with a working group of vulnerable and orphaned children for the cost of \$300, which can be paid upfront or over three years. Your commitment will help children work their way out of extreme poverty, lead thriving lives and become leaders in their community, in just three years. Every 80 commitments will fund an entire working group. Look for our tables outside the Sanctuary and in the Welcome Hall in Building C between worship services to purchase your “Leaf of Hope”. For more information, contact Mariam Mengistie at [mmengistie@st.lukes.org](mailto:mmengistie@st.lukes.org) or call 407.876.4991, ext. 313.



**Languages:** Kinyarwanda, French, and English (all official); Kiswahili in commercial centers  
**Religions:** Roman Catholic 49.5%, Protestant 39.4%, Islam 1.8%, indigenous beliefs 0.1%, none 3.6%, other 0.6% (2002)

Did you know a Hope Companion trip to Rwanda will take place February 1 – 9, 2017? Participants will be a mixed group from St. Luke's UMC, Ann Eppinger, Andrea Carter, Joel Strickland; Holy Family Catholic Church, Meg Sweeney; Asbury UMC in WV Barb Hatcher; Windermere resident Carey Sheffield; and from Atlanta GA, Jennifer Blocha. They will meet up with ZOE partners from United Methodist Churches in North Carolina and California. This trip is a part of a long term process of learning about and acknowledging the complexity of poverty alleviation. Information from the trip will be passed along after their return. Perhaps in the future you will travel to see the Giving Hope Empowerment Program in action.

### **Prayer Points**

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| Week 1 | Orphaned and vulnerable children yet to be placed into a working group                                 |
| Week 2 | Rwandan Hope Companion trip participants   |
| Week 3 | Rwandan social workers, and mentors  |
| Week 4 | The Rwandan working groups with whom we're partnering: <i>Brave, Unity, Love, and Lift One Another</i> |

If you'd like more information about ZOE, go to [www.zoehelps.org](http://www.zoehelps.org).