

News from Rwanda
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I spoke with Robin Strickler from the Lutheran School at length about the plans for the start of the school and the *Lutheran Center*. Pastor Seburikoko and six members of his parish in Rwamagana have spent the last two weeks interviewing the 71 people who are using the land. The mayor is actively involved, and as I understand the process, each of the people using the land needs to fill out forms documenting its use and/or interest in the land. You will recall, the land they want to use for the *Lutheran Center* is approximately 35-38 acres. Because southeastern Rwanda is not served with water or electricity, and because erosion and careful water usage are significant concerns, the goal of the project is develop independent and self-sustaining systems. This will give them land for buildings, sufficient space for water catchments systems, solar power, passive lighting, and permaculture gardens, which will serve both as a food supplement and as an agricultural lab for the school. The city will review the forms submitted and then, if necessary, facilitate payment or exercise eminent domain, if necessary.

The estimated value of the land is 71 million francs or about \$46,000. As soon as the land is purchased, a hard-bodied tent has been offered to our sister parish in Rwamagana so they can begin using the land immediately while the building is being constructed. The plan now is to build in phases, with the chapel, library, and some classrooms being in the first phase. They are also looking into purchasing a brick-making machine to cut construction costs.

The school is still waiting for word on their application for 501C3 status, but everything is positive and we are thankful for Gods direction as we move forward.