



GRATITUDE MESSAGE FROM FIRST LADY MRS JEANNETTE KAGAME

Rwanda Leaders Fellowship – Rick Warren and Andy Wood Teachings



29 November 2023

Honourable Dignitaries,

Nshuti Yacu, Pastor Rick,

Pastor Andy, Who We Dearly Welcome,

**Chairman of Rwandan Leaders Fellowship, Moses
Ndahiro,**

Dear Congregation, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

- I think you can all agree with me that we have listened to amazing inspirational messages this morning.
- **Pastor Rick** and **Pastor Andy**, it is an honour to speak after you. The wisdom you both have shared is invaluable!
- To be frank with you all, my attendance here is based on a somewhat “selfish” desire to learn, for there is little in scripture, that the believers present in this room do not already know!

- Mine must be a message of gratitude for your incredible service, **Pastor Rick**, and a very warm welcome to **Pastor Andy**.

To our Dear Friend Pastor Rick,

- You've been a loyal and treasured friend over the years and valiantly stood with us, through trials and triumphs, through challenges and victories. I am certain that you are as proud of our progress as we are!
- Indeed, you have preached the Word of God in the most digestible, loving, non-judgmental, and practical of ways possible. How beneficial this humility has been in spreading the gospel.
- Watching your unshakable, inexhaustible faith in the midst of storms; your humility and compassion for humanity; your willingness to share a platform with the down-trodden, and once worst offenders (now reformed of course), are some of the reasons I kept visiting Saddleback, whenever I would be on the West Coast.

- What I witnessed was real!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- **Pastor Rick Warren** is not just a man of God; he is a man of action. He is a man of commitment, of fairness, of empathy, of peace.
- Thank you, **Pastor Rick**, for believing in Rwanda, even when it was unpopular to do so. Despite the darkness that marred our history, you saw the light in our determination to overcome. I am certain when I say that our progress as a nation is a victory for you too. You have loved this country so faithfully. Please be assured that this country loves you back.
- Indeed, we may be small, but we will always have enough space, for all those, who regard our home with affection, and consideration.

Pastor Andy,

- I can appreciate that Pastor Rick's legacy, though incredible, does not intimidate but rather inspire you. I will make no mention of shoes to fill! However, from your dynamism, from your youth, and especially from your own impressive track-record, **Pastor Andy Wood**, I doubt that you will be overwhelmed by the task ahead. I wish you success, divine inspiration, courage, and support from our communities. May Rwanda offer you as loving a home, as I believe - as I hope - that your predecessor found here.
- Yes. That "small Rwanda" that once was at the brink, refused to vanish despite the horrors that befell it. Indeed, Rwanda bled to its core ... but, the heart of our continent kept beating still! Eventually, the bleeding stopped, and the healing began. A reconciled nation. A harmonious people.
- A leadership that has since chosen: **to remain united; to be accountable to themselves; to think big!**

- We are grateful that the P.E.A.C.E. Plan has come to the heart of Africa. We hope that its virtuous pulse will keep flowing Health and Peace across our continent, for **all blessings must be shared.**

Dear Congregation,

- We are blessed.
- We are blessed to be here, together. The connection shared by us all is one that transcends all differences, in origins, experiences and life paths.
- We are united by faith, by hope, by the Love for God and all His creations.
- I believe that we also share one truth: [PAUSE] **those that can, must.**
- Indeed, all those favoured with the platforms to effect change must do so.

- Social welfare, the wellness of others, is our collective responsibility. **Proverbs 3:27-28 says it best:** "*Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, 'Come back tomorrow and I'll give it to you'—when you already have it with you.*"
- This joins what pastor Rick and Andy shared; limitations are indeed opportunity to do good, through the love of God.
- **All those that can, must. God is good and God is great.**

Rwanda Spiritual Leaders,

- Today's wonderful messages made their way into our hearts, because you worked diligently to gather us all here. I'm becoming your frequent guest because I support your work.
- May you remain the voice of Godliness and virtue in our nation's efforts for progress and transformation. May you keep inspiring leaders in all fields of life to choose service over power.

- Whether in medical advancement, governance, advocacy, Faith or simply, existence itself, hard work and devotion will always attest to Godly values, in their purest form.
- **Those that can, must... and I promise you, that we shall.**
- Thank you for having me here today. May God cover you, and those you care for, in warm, enriching, protective love.