

Rwandan National Couple and Three Members Murdered

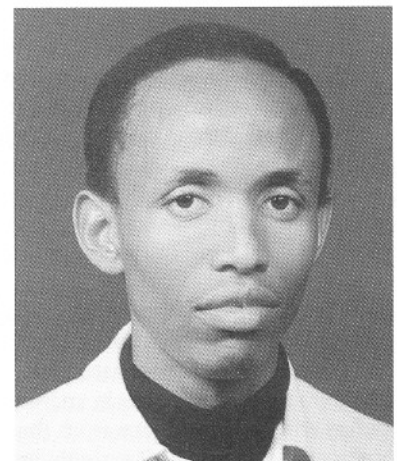


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Rwabuhungu Veridique Parfait
November 23, 1960 — June 1994

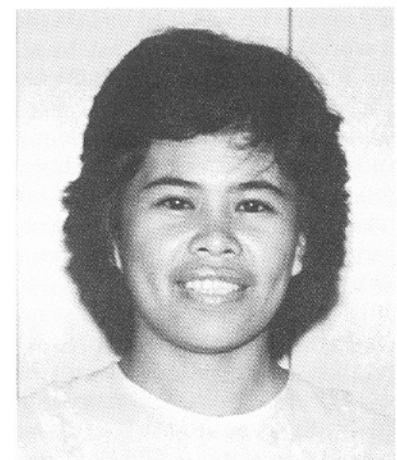


PHOTO: COURTESY OF WMD

Arellano Teofila Rwabuhungu
March 5, 1961 — June 1994

RWABUHUNGU Veridique Parfait was born on November 23, 1960, in Rwanda. His father is a Hutu; his mother is a Tutsi. During the first clashes between the two tribes in the early 1960s, his parents fled to Lubumbashi, Zaire, where Rwabuhungu grew up.

While studying in Kinshasa, Zaire, he joined our church on November 22, 1980. He was an exceptional person who easily made friends with people. He was always very prayerful, obedient and hardworking in whatever mission he had. He easily found spiritual children—no one knows exactly how many he has. Every time he changed his mission he would do a seven-day fast. Once he was on a pioneer mission in the Bandundu region, and though he suffered from hepatitis, and though his central figure advised against it, he did a seven-day fast for the mission. He insisted on fulfilling the condition, and he barely survived.

Pioneer mission

One day he asked the national leader of Zaire to send him as a pioneer to Rwanda, as he was deeply concerned about his ancestral country. He went in 1987, knowing that all odds were against him, because his physical appearance was very much like the unfavored Tutsi tribe.

Before going, he fasted for twelve days. Quickly he got spiritual children in Rwanda, and soon he had a whole tribe of brothers and sisters there. He did many seven-day fasts and other conditions during his leadership in Rwanda to protect the country.

Three years ago war started in Rwanda while he was in Goma, Zaire. Though it was very dangerous for him, he immediately went back to Rwanda. Between the border of Zaire and Kigali, three days after the war began, he was arrested and

put in prison where he stayed for three to four months. He was not released until the regional leader, Jacques Marion, went to Kigali to liberate him.

National war during workshop

On April 6, 1994, when national war broke out in Rwanda, Veridique was leading a seven-day workshop with 22 members in attendance. Despite threats, the workshop continued. One week before that uprising broke out in Rwanda, Rwabuhungu was in Goma. He returned to Rwanda to continue his work.

The members hid Rwabuhungu and his wife, along with other Tutsi members, under the roof for at least one month. Unfortunately, on May, 30, 1994, they were discovered by soldiers and brought out in front of the center in Kigali, where three persons—Gaston Mugamage, Severin Hakizima and Phillipe Nkurunziza—were shot on the spot. Gaston was blessed to Sylvie Bonzeke of Zaire in the 30,000 Couples' Blessing. Severin was blessed to Ngalula Mwakilayi of Zaire in the 30,000 Couples' Blessing also. When the soldiers saw Rwabuhungu's passport, they told him that he was lucky to have a Hutu father, and for that reason they saved him.

Rwabuhungu and his wife, Arellano Teofila, participated in the 30,000 Couples' Blessing. She had joined the church in the Philippines on September 21, 1979, and had completed two years of college. She could have been evacuated along with other foreigners, but seems to have refused to leave without her husband. She was eight months' pregnant with their first child when they started together on the long and difficult flight through enemy territory to Goma, Zaire. The remaining members started later, but when they arrived in Goma they did not

find the national couple.

Later, a refugee Hutu soldier in Goma saw the photo of Rwabuhungu in a Zairian member's photo shop. He recognized him and said that he had seen him and his "white" wife being killed.

As Rwabuhungu took part in missionary meetings in Korea, he is surely known to many. I am sure that his sacrificial way of living has prepared him for a wonderful place in the spirit world with his wife. A Filipino sister in Zaire had a vision of Arellano Teofila, in which she looked peaceful and happy. ■■

Ragnhild T. Kayembe wrote most of this story. Other parts were added by Kathryn Coman from reports received from Rev. Sang Jin Lee, regional leader of West Africa II.