

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it...

Psalm 24:1 (NIV)

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BUILDING PEACEFUL COMMUNITIES

In 1994, in just 100 days, the country of Rwanda was ripped apart by genocidal conflict. In a land roughly the size of Wales, more than eight hundred thousand people were killed and six million people displaced. The Methodist District I serve has partnered with the Free Methodist Church of Rwanda for the last 12 years. We have learned a great deal of what makes for peace as well as being able to contribute a little towards it. Shared prosperity helps to build peaceful communities. The Church operates a 'Share a Cow' scheme called Inshuti Nyanshuti. In a big community

ceremony, a cow is given to a Hutu and Tutsi family to be looked after jointly and its benefits shared.

PRAYER

Bountiful God, may the shared cows of Rwanda fertilise the seeds of peace across that land; May their milk strengthen children growing up in friendship and trust. May their calves provide a shared stake in a prosperous future and may we learn that sharing your bounty paves the way to peace. Amen