

them in school, an impossible dream for many young girls. One of the biggest concerns at CJK is the small percentage of girls who attend, less than 20%. Women, even very young girls, are expected to work at household tasks, leaving little time for education. Girls are married very young, ending their education. It is not always safe for girls to go to school or activities because abductions, molestation, and disappearances are common. CJK is working hard to overcome these problems.

In the main hallway, we see a chilling reminder of Burundi's violent history, a memorial wall dedicated to staff and students killed in conflicts. One of the pictures and story is that of a former student who had become a promising teacher at CJK and who was killed shortly after his wedding day. Sadly, neither the wall nor the number of names on it is small.

While we listen to presentations about the work of CJK, we experience another reality of life in Burundi. The power goes out; the staff members nonchalantly continue talking in the dark until it kicks back in. Such blackouts are frequent.

We have the opportunity to have supper there, a lively meal filled with talk and good food (spaghetti is popular). My table companion is one of the animators, a 26-year-old woman who works with young girls. With my limited French, her limited English, laughter and hand gestures we somehow manage to communicate. Her personal story is sad, but even sadder, a not uncommon one. She first came to CJK as a child, drawn by her love of books and a chance to learn. She was engaged, but lost her fiancé in a recent conflict and is now the main support for her widowed mother and younger sisters. She is a beautiful, courageous young woman who is deeply devoted to her work and to *hope* for the future.

Le Centre des Jeunes Kamenge is one of the projects in Burundi that CCODP sponsors. Its staff is impressive in what they manage to do with few resources and under trying conditions. Please pray for them and keep them in mind when you consider making a personal donation to CCODP. Help light a candle for Burundi. ✠

FINDING “HOPE” IN THE LEGISLATION STANDING COMMITTEE



Mary Heinzlmeir
Legislation Subcommittee Chairperson

As we continue to focus on the national theme of *Women of Peace and Hope*, we consider various ways of making God's world a better place through members' efforts. What changes are necessary to improve life for all? Although there are opportunities each day to bring *hope* to others, some changes require legislation, be it municipal, provincial or federal.

The legislation chairperson is called to monitor and study legislation at all levels of government and prepare briefs and position papers on proposed legislation.

The legislation standing committee encourages members to take action to bring about positive changes. Legislation is about making a difference. Legislation is about *hope* for a better tomorrow. Each action will change things and can bring *hope* for a brighter future. Members have the responsibility to make this a better world. If nothing is done – nothing will change! Let us make our *hopes* come to life through our actions.

Remember, prayer is one of our greatest sources of *hope*. ✠

AUTOMOBILE TIRE AGE – SAFETY RISK

DID YOU KNOW?

- that you can determine the age of a tire from sidewall labelling?
- that there is an increased potential for belt separation from a tire of more than ten years of age since date of manufacture, regardless of when the tire was put into use?
- that at least one automobile association strongly recommends that unused tires should not be put into service if they are over six years old?
- that environmental conditions such as exposure to sunlight and coastal climates, as well as poor storage and infrequent use accelerate the aging process of tires?

With issues that concern public safety, consumers have a responsibility to ask questions and seek answers. For more information, go to www.safetyresearch.net/safety-issues/tires