

PUBLISHER'S FOREWORD

Because Rwanda has long been part of francophone Africa, Kinyarwanda language books in English have been hard to come by. The original 1952 edition of this book was written to serve the needs of English-speaking missionaries and may have been the first work of its kind in English. The initial plan was to simply scan and reprint this classic volume in its original mimeographed and dated form. Then a decision was made to at least digitize the text and do some minor editing before going to press. But enthusiasm for the project grew, and eventually the author committed himself to a laborious complete revision of his original work. Though significantly expanded and enhanced, this new edition preserves much of the flavor of the first edition, including a smattering of language with a religious slant. The new eye-pleasing graphics with added color bring this book up to today's standard for an attractive and quality text.

The credentials that the author Arthur Hands brings to this new volume are impressive. He learned to fluently speak the Kinyarwanda of the 1950s, and that knowledge adds a classic touch to this second edition. His years of teaching experience, including the teaching of Kinyarwanda grammar to Rwandan college students, developed the skills that are now evident throughout the book and in the many new exercises that make up a substantial part of this practical and student-oriented text. As part of the team that translated portions of the Bible into Kinyarwanda, Hands brings the thoroughness and perfectionism of the scholar and the linguist's love of language to this standard-setting work.

For GEM Resources International, this text represents a pioneering foray into publishing. GEM is a donor-funded nonprofit organization dedicated to health and education projects in developing countries. With this project, GEM has matched an obvious need with a unique opportunity to make a difference. I wish to thank my colleagues at GEM, Glenn St. Clair, David Steen, and Martin Fishell, for their support of this venture.

Finally, an expression of gratitude to the author is necessary. He was drafted into this project in stages, not realizing what a huge task it would become—and at a time in his life when he should have been relaxing and resting on his laurels. I have known him since my childhood in Rwanda, and that friendship was undoubtedly key to securing his involvement in the preparation of this second edition. To him I say, *Nuko, Kanyarwanda, wakoze neza!*—Well done, Son of Rwanda!

David Grellmann
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