



## Speeches

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1. Paul Osborne – CEO Parramatta Eels
2. Justin Poore – Parramatta Eels
3. Emarina – widow in Rwanda.
4. Odette – widow in Rwanda
5. Mark Zschech – Chairman & Founder

### 1.0 Paul Osborne

**Oct 19 2009. Sydney Int Airport. HOPE Rwanda / Parramatta Eels pre-trip press briefing**

"I think its important that these guys who play at the NRL level have a little bit of a reality check every so often, and they'll certainly get that on this trip."

*Q: What will you be doing over there?*

"I understand we've got some brick laying in store for the boys, I won't be doing a lot but we'll be working in the Village of Hope. We had great fun last year and I know that the boys will get a lot out of it."

**Oct 23 2009. In Kigali, Rwanda. Parramatta Eels to Rwanda.**

"Its been quite confronting, some of the things we've seen here and I've been pleased with the way the boys have handled it. The fact that they are NRL players means very little to the people of Rwanda, I think the fact that they've come and helped is of more interest to the people here because there was a great feeling of abandonment fifteen years ago."

### 2.0 Justin Poore

**Oct 21 2009. From the Village of Hope in Rwanda.**

"The reason I raised the money for my charity night (in July 2009) was because we heard some testimonies from two ladies who got to live in the houses we built and it touches you in a different way that you can't explain. They're just so happy that they know people want to help them and the western world hasn't forgotten them."

"After walking through the genocide museum and hearing the stories and taking it all in last year, I wanted to go home and try and give something back. And obviously we only raised \$30,000 but it's a thing I want to do annually and I want to keep coming back every year. I actually thought it was a lot harder coming back a second time, I took a bit more in and it opened my eyes up more and it was a lot more heart-breaking than the first time. I don't think the boys realize how horrific the atrocities were over here and that's one of the main reasons I'm keen to jump onboard with the Hope: Rwanda charity because its all about awareness, half the world doesn't know what happened here. Its good for rugby league players to come over here and see the way they live."

### 3.0 Emarina

**Oct 22 2009. Waiting to move into the Village of Hope. Her family moved in just one month later.**

"I live in my father-in-law's house, he and my husband were killed in the genocide, and my family's house was destroyed so we came here because it was still standing. If it rains, I have to stand in the corner and wait for it to stop. Everyday I walk for two hours to get water, but when I need to wash my clothes I go three times. When it rains my children run away to find a stronger shelter because they fear the house will fall on us. When we move into the village and I see the rain coming I will smile because the house won't fall on me. I can't explain how happy I'll be in the new house. Surviving the genocide was a miracle, but living in the Village of Hope will be a bigger miracle."

## 4.0 Odette

Has lived in the Village of Hope since 2007. Number of dependants: 9 (3 biological children, 6 orphans)

“The genocide broke out and I fled to Uganda with 3 of my children, the other two were living with their grandmother. During that time of fleeing to war I parted with my husband and I have never seen him since then. I do not know the kind of death he died. My mother died in the genocide with my siblings and my two children.

We returned from Uganda after the genocide and I decided to go to my place of birth hoping to find some survivors who knew me. Indeed I found people but they wouldn't give my land back and we had nowhere to live. We had nowhere to go and nothing to eat! I made up my mind to seek justice concerning our land and property but I did not get it back until 2004. By then the house was in very poor condition and leaked badly when it rained.



I heard that there are some orphan children who were distant members of family who survived the genocide and I brought them home to live with me. I also discovered that a brother of mine also survived and when I told him of our orphans and he helped me to care for them. My brother passed away on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2006 and I have remained with the orphans. I thank God for strengthening me through such hard times with my children. I praise God who made us meet Nicholas (manager of the Village of Hope) and he brought us together as orphans and widows. I thank God from my heart because he gave me a house. God has really answered my prayers and I thank our sponsors.”

*Pictured: Odette, her house and two of her children. Oct 09.*

## 5.0 Mark Zschech

Founder of Hope Rwanda, Chairman of the Board of Directors.

“The Village of Hope initiative and with our relationship with the players of the NRL its an opportunity to put a fork in the road and say now we can offer some women a chance to go on a road that climbs upward where they can improve their lot and their lives. These women can actually be aspirational about their futures; they can actually feel like they have a hope. So that word for us, ‘hope’ is a really important word. We want to be people who can actually transfer hope into other people’s lives.

I’d like to think that we have made a small impact in one particular village, and I’d like to think that can be a model that others can copy, it doesn’t have to be us, but there would be more people who’d want to do this kind of work. Even the government here has really enjoyed seeing the progress of this village and has duplicated it in many other areas. So we want to build lots more homes, if we had more finances we’d build more homes, that’s very easy. But I think the success for me is just one person, one widow, one child, seeing one happy face, one lady not having to cart so much water everyday as she’d now got a rain water tank off the back of her house and so that way she can spend more time doing handicrafts and living a more dignifying life.”