

Dear Friends,

Rwanda is commemorating the 14th anniversary of the genocide this week. Monday marked the anniversary of the start of the mass killings and this whole week is a time of remembering those horrific events of 1994. Continue to pray for Rwanda as it works through the repercussions from the genocide. The process of trying those accused of participating in the genocide is still ongoing. During this week tensions always rise. Last night someone threw a grenade at national memorial center, injuring some of the police guarding it.

A week ago my brother Randy and his two daughters arrived for a two week visit. He is a counselor in the Chicago area where he works in a medical clinic. Yesterday he helped out at the national memorial center. He worked with the guides, helping them deal with people who had flash backs and those who were totally overcome with grief as they visit the center. His experience and training as a trauma counselor was very helpful as waves of people broke down during the memorial ceremony. He was glad he could be there to help, but honestly it was a very difficult situation seeing so many people being overwhelmed by grief as the horrific memories of 94 came back to them.

This week we are having a pastors and wives conference where Randy is teaching on post traumatic stress. The genocide was such a terrible event that even this many years afterwards the things people experienced are still affecting their daily lives. Our goal in this conference is to give our pastors some tools to help people in their churches work through what they experienced. We would appreciate your prayers that God would mightily use this seminar to both help our pastors work through their own feelings and issues and also learn skills so they can help others work through issues as well.

Melissa and Megan are loving having cousins here. On Saturday we went to the Akagera game park and saw elephants, giraffes, hippos, antelope, baboons and other animals. It was a great day of seeing some of God's beautiful creation. My nieces are getting the full African experience as we were without electricity two days last week, and it has been 6 days since the water has been on. They have been troopers though learning how to take sponge baths and learning to do without hot running water.

Continue to pray for the land needs of two of the Grace churches here in Kigali. The government has used their eminent domain rights to take away the land and buildings from two of our churches. We are still negotiating to try to get a somewhat fair price, but it is not looking very good. Even once the reimbursement question is settled, there still remains the bigger question of where to relocate these churches. Land, and especially land located on major roads in the city, is next to impossible to find. Pray for the leadership of Grace churches as they work on this big issue. Pray that they would come to an agreement with the government and receive fair compensation. Then, pray that they will be able to find parcels to relocate these two churches.

We recently attended a WorldVenture spiritual life conference in Kenya. We had a great time of fellowship, rest and spiritual restoration. We looked at the prayers of Jeremiah and the book came alive like it never has before. It was a really good time of learning and being challenged.

Thank you for praying about the construction of a staff house at New Creation Ministries. We have just finished building it and one of our teachers has just moved into it.

As always thanks so much for your prayers on our behalf,

Gary, Barb, Melissa and Megan Bennett