



What's Brewing?

WITH THE BRUBAKERS

The Quarterly Newsletter of Tim & Jessica Brubaker. Volume 3, Issue 1 (January-December 2005)

Prayer Focus

Thank you for praying...

We spent three weeks driving 3500 miles during the month of November, saying goodbye to family and friends. Thank you for praying for safe travels.

Our transition to life in Rwanda has been virtually seamless. The boys have readjusted their sleeping schedule. And, we are all healthy.

We thank God for the provision of an excellent language helper. Silas, a former pastor, helps us process and drill language skills which we prepare in advance.

Join us in praying...

Pray for wisdom in setting up our home. We have a house to rent, but much work needs to be done before we will be settled.

Pray for quick and easy procurement of permanent visas.

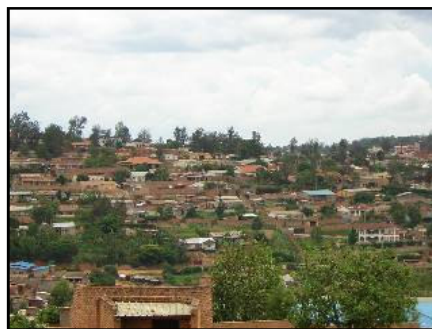
Please continue to pray that our container would arrive intact and at the right time.

Pray for Silas, our language helper. His role is vital. But, his health is unstable. Pray for strength and God's blessing in Silas's life.

Tura Ha Kunda!

After twenty hours of travel from Chicago to Kigali, having lost only one small piece of luggage, we arrived at our destination after seventeen months on our preparatory "Road to Rwanda." And, we love it here (in Kinyarwanda - Tura ha kunda).

As we've previously mentioned, our first responsibility is to learn Kinyarwanda, the predominant language of the land. Because we anticipate training minimally educated church leaders and pastors, Kinyarwanda is essential. Thus, our days are filled with language learning activities. We meet five times per week with Silas, our language helper. Twice per week we study grammar with a seasoned missionary. Everyday we carve out time for private study. And, everyday we walk around town making people laugh, as we practice our new words. Our first day, we walked around the neighborhood saying, "Hello my name is _____. I came to Rwanda yesterday. We like it here. Goodbye."



In addition to language, we are also applying for permanent visas, arranging for the arrival of our shipping container, and hunting for a home of our own. Location is a key factor in choosing a house, as we'd like to be near our teammates, and we want to be in a neighborhood filled with Rwandans. Housing is inexpensive. But, many of the houses we're looking at will require major repairs. We're currently living with Gary & Laurie Scheer, veteran missionaries with CBI.

After a long time of anticipation, years of preparation, and a long season of transition, we are relieved to be here. It is so satisfying and reassuring to look out over the hills of Kigali and have extreme confidence that we are *exactly* where we should be.

Tura ha kunda!



Jessica tells the Christmas story to neighborhood kids using flannel-graph. Thirty-nine children attended. Almost all of the children had never heard the Christmas story before.

Simbisobanukiwe

As you might expect, everyday is a learning experience for us, as just about everything is new. *Simbisobanukiwe* roughly means *I don't understand*. We'd like to tell you some of the unique experiences we're having as naive students of Rwandese culture.

A Reason to have More Kids...

As part of obtaining our visas to live in Rwanda, we were required to go to a Rwandan police station to get background checks and fingerprints. Unfortunately, we arrived at 3:25 to discover that government offices close at 3:30. Normally we would have been turned away. But, the director kept the office open longer in exchange for the opportunity to hold Martin. We are learning that our children are the key to the good graces of many people.

There's a Fly in My Eye...

One Saturday evening, a few weeks ago, Tim went for a bike ride with another missionary. (It's exhilarating to speed down the steep Rwandan hills.) Toward the end of the ride, a little bug flew into Tim's eye. The bug contains a kind poison that causes severe irritation for about 30-45 minutes. Feeling the need to stop and remove the bug, Tim pulled off to the side of the road near a settlement of Rwandese mud homes. Immediately a bunch of Rwandese men ran up to Tim. One man pulled Tim's head back. Another held his arms. And, another started poking around Tim's eye with a bent blade of grass. Needless to say, Tim was a little disconcerted. Yet, this was a frequent act of kindness traded among Rwandese who get bugs in their eyes. We are learning that Rwandans are very gracious and generous people.

Our Website

Thanks to our home church, Skokie Valley Baptist, we've posted a website to catalogue newsletters, prayer updates, pictures, sounds and much more information. Please visit it and tell us what you think! Email us a suggestion. Go to www.skokievalley.org/brubaker.

Family Update

- **Martin** is growing quickly. At seven months, he has four teeth and enjoys eating just about anything, if it's mixed with a Rwandan banana. Thomas remains his primary entertainment. We expect that he will be crawling *any day!*
- **Thomas** is learning a few words of Kinyarwanda. Yet, despite his inability to speak the same language, he quickly makes friends with everyone he meets. It doesn't take much communication to chase each other and play with a few toys.
- **Jessica** enjoys learning about Rwandese culture. In Rwanda, many women do not say the name of their husband—*ever*—as a symbol of respect. Even if the husband's name is a part of another word, the wife will not say it. Jessica is giving this a try. We'll see how long this lasts! She is thoroughly enjoying Rwanda.
- **Tim** is busy learning language, tracking our container, finding a home, and experiencing Rwanda. We're finding that we learn language quite differently. Jessica prefers talking with people around the home and neighborhood. Tim prefers studying the grammar books. But, he also enjoys running up and down the steep hills of Kigali in the morning for a little exercise.



Thomas enjoyed Christmas in Kigali (left).



Martin enjoys a cool, Sunday afternoon swim in his "pool" (right).

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Mailing Instructions:

Mail from the USA has been arriving quickly (5-6 business days for letters). Remember to use the correct denomination of stamps (letters require eighty cents of postage). If sending a package, please make items appear used (wash clothes, remove tags, etc). Write on the outside of the package a brief (but not tempting) survey of contents, along with *Not for resale. No commercial value.* Also, it's a good idea to put a bag of chocolates inside the package to earn the favor of the post office employees!

—— TimAndJessica@world.cbi.org ——