



What's Brewing?

WITH THE BRUBAKERS

*The Quarterly Newsletter of Tim & Jessica Brubaker, Volume 7, Issue 1 (January-March 2009)
Serving with New Creation Ministries (NCM) to train pastors and church leaders in Rwanda.*

Prayer Focus

Notes of Praise...

We have visited all of our current partner churches and met with many personal supporters.

Our theological library project has come together. We now have over 10,000 titles, shelving and other miscellaneous supplies.

Continue praying...

Continue to pray for plans to begin a degree-level Christian leadership school. Pray for wisdom in overcoming obstacles and implementing a transformational methodology.

Continue to pray for our colleague, Katabirora Laurent, that he would receive a fair retrial soon.

Continue to pray for rest and renewal during this home assignment and preparation for our departure on July 5.

Join us in praying...

Pray for provision of remaining monthly support that we need before we return to Rwanda in July.

Pray for wisdom in packing and shipping a 20' container of books and supplies this Spring.

Transformational Education in Rwanda

In November 2006, during WorldVenture's East Africa leaders' meetings, we were discussing the future of New Creation Ministries. Our biggest emphasis has been on training untrained Rwandan pastors in a four year modular program taught in Kinyarwanda – a program that we believe has had (and will continue to have) unparalleled impact in training pastors in Rwanda. But, as we noticed at the time, there is a current push in Rwanda for higher education and English language ability. So, the dialogue began. We asked ourselves, "What should NCM be doing ten years from now so that the ministry continues to have strategic impact among Rwandan church leaders?" The answer, in a few words, was a bachelors degree level school taught in English. That was the easy question to answer. The more difficult question has been the following: "What would a degree-level Bible school taught in English need to look like in order to have maximum impact in Rwanda?" Thus began the journeys and conversations which continue to this day.

In this newsletter, we'd like to briefly introduce you to the program that we are planning to begin with hope that you will be inspired to pray for this endeavor. We truly believe that a degree level program which emulates current NCM methodology could revolutionize the way that higher theological education is done in East Africa.

Our vision is to create a learning environment that has relevance at the grassroots level which will advance Christian transformation rooted in biblical values. For this reason, we intend to provide an educational experience which is unapologetically Western in form but distinctively African in methodology.

Our list of core values ought to provide a clearer glimpse of where we're headed:

- (1) **The church is God's instrument for drawing people to Himself:** Whatever investment we make in theological education must be for the purpose of creating healthy churches.

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As a part of preparing for this new program, we have spent a lot of time hand-selecting books for a theological library.

Family Update



Our family on Christmas morning in Sawyer, Michigan.

THOMAS is attending kindergarten at a local Lutheran school and loves it. He is learning to read. He is growing up in so many ways, and we can hardly believe that he was ever a baby.

MARTIN loves PBS Kids—in particular *Curious George* and *Martha Speaks*. Both boys enjoy AWANA and swimming lessons.

CECILIA has decided to leave diapers behind (for which we are all thankful). She repeats everything she hears and talks a lot about princesses, puppies and cereal.

JESSICA is reading countless books to our kids. (They've read 321 children's books since returning to the States). She has become an avid fan of *Facebook*.

TIM is often travelling around the country visiting with churches and collecting library materials. As the weather grows warmer, he is enjoying longer runs outside—a good way to work off all the Chicago stuffed pizza!

Degree Program Giving

Starting a degree-level program has unique financial needs. If you are interested in supporting this cause, we invite you to give toward the projects listed below. You can give by sending your gift with an explanatory note to WorldVenture (see "Contact & Support").

Rwanda NCM University Library (Account 6402-908) - Help us purchase materials for our theological library.

Rwanda NCM Training Center (Account 6402-905) - Help build a new library facility and classroom building.

Rwanda NCM Degree Program (Account 6402-912) - Help jump-start the degree program's general expenses.

Degree Program, Cont'd

- (2) **The Bible is the only fully authoritative Word of God for people of all cultures:** Good theological education must have as its primary aim the clear and truthful communication of God's Word.
- (3) **Missions is not just an academic subject:** The purpose of theological education is to equip and empower God's people to reach the world for Christ.
- (4) **The key to success is in the selection process:** We believe that the selection of both staff and students is of the highest importance.
- (5) **Theological education must never exist within a vacuum:** From the very beginning we must exist for the purpose of having critical impact upon the health and growth of the church.
- (6) **Knowledge and skill alone are insufficient:** There must be intentional emphasis within academic and non-academic aspects of the school to nurture spiritual growth.
- (7) **A healthy balance between "challenging" culture and "relating" to culture:** The Gospel can be effectively communicated in all cultures using culture as the means by which it is understood. Yet, in every culture there are ungodly issues ("sanctified sins") which need to be challenged by a disciple of Christ.
- (8) **Life on life:** It is critical that all (staff and students) see themselves as integral parts of a community intended to lead others within that community to fuller lives in Christ.

Contact & Support

Internet/Phone:

TimAndJessica@WorldVenture.net
www.ncmrwanda.org/brubaker
Skype: TimAndJessica
814-414-8546 (Tim)
814-414-7519 (Jessica)

Contributions:

WorldVenture
1501 W. Mineral Ave
Littleton, CO 80120
www.worldventure.com
(ministry account: Brubaker 065)

Permanent USA Address:

Tim & Jessica Brubaker
333 59th Street
Altoona, PA 16602

Field Address:

Tim & Jessica Brubaker
B.P. 6244
Kigali, Rwanda

We Need Your Support—

If you are interested in donating to our personal support or to any of our ministry projects, please do so through WorldVenture at the address above. Please be sure to include our ministry account number (Brubaker-065) with all gifts. For more information, please contact us or WorldVenture.

Newsletter Secretary Needed—

We need a helper to stuff envelopes and send our quarterly newsletters during our next term. All costs are reimbursable. Copies and labels are sent to you from WorldVenture. This is a great way to help! Email us if you are interested. (Thanks to Jessica's parents for their service over the last four years!)