

DEAR PRAYING FRIENDS –

On April 7, 1994, just eleven years ago, civil war and genocide erupted on these beautiful green hills of Rwanda. Almost one million people were slaughtered. Slowly the nation is rebuilding, but the wounds are deep. And, God's instrument for healing and reconciliation – the church – limps along. Your prayers for us and our ministry are powerful, pivotal, and effective. Thanks for your partnership. And, thanks, again, to those who regularly bless us with personal notes and emails.

NOTES OF PRAISE –

- At this time of the year, as Rwanda remembers the darkness of April 1994, we thank God for the peace and safety of the country.
- We are all healthy! This is a big praise, as with sick bodies come crabby people and difficulty in learning language. We were sick for almost five weeks. Our bodies are slowly acclimating to living in a place with different sicknesses.
- Our CBI missionary team retreat (March 30 – April 3) was refreshing spiritually, emotionally, and physically. And, only one of us (Martin) got car-sick during the four hours of weaving up, down, and around Rwanda's thousand hills.

ITEMS FOR PRAYER –

- April 30 is the dedication of the new facilities of Mission Pour la Nouvelle Creature (our ministry's name in Rwanda – taken from 2 Corinthians 5:17). Please pray that the ministry would continue to thrive and provide Rwandan churches with spiritually mature leaders, as we seek to help the church in Rwanda to be the Body of Christ.
- Our interest in teaching and translating was infused with fresh life during our team retreat, as our future roles and a possible timeline were more clearly defined. Obviously, this in turn fuels our study of Kinyarwanda. Please continue to pray for diligence, creativity and persistence as we study this difficult language.
- We are impressed daily with the immense task of raising our children to love God. Thomas is two. Martin is breaking new teeth on almost a daily basis. We covet your prayers as we seek to reflect God's love and patience to our boys.

MARCH HIGHLIGHT –

The shores of Lake Kivu are a beautiful reminder of the creativity and power of our Creator. We spent three full days with our CBI missionary team praying (day one), planning (day two), and playing (day three). The weather was great and the food was ample (better yet, prepared by others). Thomas enjoyed three days of making close friends with nearby cows and rabbits. Martin enjoyed entertaining the nuns (we were staying at a Catholic guest house). At night, we stood on the shore, looking across the lake into the dark mountains of Congo, lit by regular bursts of lightning. Looking up the Rwandan coast, we watched plumes of red smoke rise out of one of the biggest and most active volcanos in the area. During our day of play, we boated to a nearby hot-spring – the result of immense underground pressure from the volcano. And, though we all left with a souvenir of sunburn, we arrived home encouraged, refreshed, and rejuvenated to approach the enormous task of learning Kinyarwanda.

Thanks for Praying,

TIM, JESSICA, THOMAS & MARTIN (AND BLITZEN, TOO)

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