

PRAYER UPDATE – APRIL 2006

DEAR PRAYING FRIENDS –

Within the last week, some of the heaviest rains and coldest temperatures of the year have arrived. And, with these April rains comes the harsh reminder of the bloodshed and violence from twelve years ago. As we hear stories and participate in the lives of the Rwandan people, we're amazed that God would call such ordinary people as ourselves to minister to them. But, we know that our effectiveness, health, and growth rests upon your prayers. Thanks for partnering with us in this ministry.

NOTES OF PRAISE –

- Thank you for praying for us during our time in South Africa. We had a safe, healthy, and prosperous journey. For more details, see our highlight below.
- Thank you for praying for our good friend Silas. As we mentioned last month, his body struggles to fight off diseases. He is grateful for your prayers and has recovered from his recent series of sicknesses. But, please keep his ongoing health in your prayers, as his immune system is continuing to deteriorate.
- Thank you for praying for Tim's mother, Maureen. The doctors were able to remove ninety percent of the tumor from her spinal cord. The remaining ten percent will be carefully watched and treated as necessary in the future.
- Tim's preaching engagement on March 26 went smoothly. He preached a new sermon from Colossians 3:1-17, with the theme being that our lives ought to confirm to the people around us that we truly are children of God.

ITEMS FOR PRAYER –

- April 7 (Friday) marks the anniversary of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. Though the war was twelve years ago, reminders are daily and intense as prosecution of war criminals continues within the traditional gacaca system, as well as in the international criminal tribunal in Tanzania. The government is asking all citizens to exhume bodies buried in their yards (which are hundreds of thousands) and rebury them in appropriate memorial sites. Even yesterday, a neighbor walked by our gate with the bones of five victims. Please pray for Rwanda during this intense season of remembering. Maybe you'll even find the time to rent one of the new movies about the genocide (*Hotel Rwanda* or *Sometimes in April*) and allow it to cause you to pray for the Rwandese people.
- April 18-22 we will be travelling to Uganda (not a long drive) to participate in meetings for first-term missionaries with WorldVenture in East Africa. Please pray for a safe journey and an encouraging time of discussing first-term issues with other newcomers, as well as some of the seasoned missionaries from East Africa.
- Tim is busy writing, translating, and studying in preparation for another teaching assignment coming up next month (early May). He'll be teaching on Paul's letter to the Galatians. Please pray for insightful and contextualized understanding of the biblical material, as well as growth in language ability and teaching style.

MARCH HIGHLIGHT –

Was that really Africa? That is a question we have asked ourselves many times since our two week trip to Johannesburg, South Africa. Six lane divided highways, skyscrapers, amusement parks, four level shopping malls, MacDonalds, functional street-lights, drinkable tap water, constant electricity, varieties of cheese, one-stop hardware store shopping, luxury cars, etc... If it wasn't for the giraffes, zebras, rhinos, and lions, we would've thought we were in North America. Our first week of family vacation was great – shopping, walking around the zoo, visiting a botanical garden, playing with our boys, etc... And, the second week of meetings with our mission board was encouraging and stimulating, especially as we found time to network with missionaries from around the globe. A special bonus on the trip was the opportunity for Tim to visit with his cousin Pat, whom he hadn't seen for years (who just happened to be visiting South Africa at the same time). But, though our time in South Africa was enriching, refreshing, and revitalizing, we were glad to come home. There is no other place like Rwanda where every person you meet is a friend. There are beautiful things about African culture which are obviously lost by the influence of progress.

Thanks for praying,

TIM, JESSICA, THOMAS, MARTIN, BLITZEN & DONNER

P.S. Some have been asking about the latter addition of a dog. The missionaries who sold us Blitzen are being unjustly chased out of the country. They gave us Donner, thinking it would be a good home, as she was born in the same litter as Blitzen.

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