

February 2004

Dear Praying Friends,

Again, we thank you for your spiritual partnership in our preparation for ministry in Rwanda. As you pray, we hope our communication with you provides encouragement to continue in this important ministry before Him. Please remember our interest in hearing from you to know how we can be praying you. We have a stack of notecards by our dinner table and pray for each of you on a regular basis.

NOTES OF PRAISE:

- Thank you for praying for wisdom concerning what to do with our house. After much counsel, thought & prayer, we've decided to sell it. We're not quite sure of the timing, but we are seeing God provide in step with His will.
- Thank you for praying for safe travel & spiritual renewal during our time in Denver. We spent three days in training sessions, two days in prayer, and three days in sessions with CBI's leadership. The entire Rwanda team was at the conference. So, we had time to pray together, play together, and get their insight concerning our preparation for departure.
- Thank you for praying that God would direct us to more opportunities to develop & nurture relationships with churches. During the last month we've made contact with six new churches.
- Our support level continues to increase. Unofficially we are at 76% (reflecting six churches and forty-two individuals)!

ITEMS FOR PRAYER:

- Please continue to pray that God would provide opportunities to share with churches. We are sending information and making phone calls to set up meetings with pastors & church leaders. Pray that we would be sensitive to where God is directing us.
- If you've ever been attached to a pet, this prayer request won't seem odd. We've been blessed as a family by our dog Beau. During some stressful days of seminary & ministry, walking and unwinding with Beau was a gift from God. But, now we need to make a decision about what we will do with Beau in light of our departure for Africa. Please pray for wisdom in this matter.
- Please pray for effectiveness in communication as we share our plans for ministry on Sunday, February 8, in Villa Park, IL, during the morning worship service. We have 5-10 minutes to connect with people's hearts. Also, pray for effectiveness in communication as we share with one of our supporting churches (First Baptist, Iron River, MI), on Sunday, February 22.
- Please continue to pray for Jessica during her pregnancy. The ultrasound indicated we are expecting a healthy boy. But, the traveling and rigor of raising Thomas make this a difficult time for mom.

JANUARY DEPUTATION HIGHLIGHT:

- "Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown You..." We are continually impressed by God's provision along the journey in unanticipated ways. Before departing Denver to return to Chicago after the Renewal Conference, I (Tim) called various taxi companies and rental car agencies to find the most affordable way to get from the airport to our home. Because of the awkward date and hour of our arrival, we didn't feel comfortable asking a friend to pick us up. I was discouraged by the amount it would cost us to make the trek home. But, it was inevitable, I thought. Toward the end of our flight, Thomas was making faces at the gentleman sitting across the aisle. After some small-talk, he asked about our time in Denver. When he found out we were missionaries, he told us he is on the board of North Park

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University, a local Christian college. AND, he was staying at a hotel just a mile down the road from our home. Without knowing our situation, he asked us if we'd like a ride home in his rental car. On the drive home we talked about the Lord. When we got home, our new friend Mark (an engineer from Denver) unloaded all of our baggage and even gave a gift toward our ministry in Rwanda. Experiences like these cause us to marvel at the great provision of our Lord!

Thanks, again, for praying,

Tim, Jessica, Thomas & #2