

## BRUBAKERS PRAYER UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2005

### HELLO PRAYING FRIENDS:

Here we are, suffering for the Lord in eighty degree weather. We hope this note finds you doing well and feeling warm (at least on the inside). Thank you so much for faithfully approaching the Father on our behalf. We are busy getting settled into the roles of Rwandan House Wife and Husband. Tim spent all weekend planting a garden and hooking up an antique ringer-washer for use. And, Jessica is busy with planning and preparing meals with daily trips to the market. In addition, we are still hitting the books (and the people, so to speak) learning Kinyarwanda. We've probably lost five pounds from our hectic pace.

### NOTES OF PRAISE –

- We have visas and green cards, a nice house and a puppy (named Blitzen). What more could we ask for? We praise God for providing these necessary items. Our home is near our teammates and has a lovely view of the valley below. And, there is plenty of room for guests – consider yourself invited! Check out our website for current pictures: [www.skokievalley.org/brubaker](http://www.skokievalley.org/brubaker).
- The boys are developing quickly and have enjoyed superb health. Thomas is learning a bit of Kinyarwanda and loves playing outside, washing clothes, and helping in the garden. Martin has four teeth and has begun army crawling. They bring a smile to all those we meet.
- Thanks for praying for Silas. Though it took over three weeks for his health to be restored, he's feeling better, and he's back with us every morning.

### ITEMS FOR PRAYER –

- Please pray that God would clearly guide us to meaningful relationships with Rwandese.
- Please pray that we would have wisdom in balancing study, family time, friendships, recreation and housework. Just *living* here is a 24 hour a day job. Pray that we would set realistic expectations of ourselves, especially as we patiently await the ability to speak Kinyarwanda.
- Please pray for our ongoing adjustment to the culture of Rwanda. There are many differences in worldview that are difficult for us to navigate. We feel very, very *white* and very, very *American*. Yet, we wish to have the resiliency and flexibility of Christ.
- Please pray that God would lead us to the right church family with which to be a part. It's quite difficult to be the only muzungus (white people) in the church. Some Sundays, people will *literally* stare for over a half hour. And, as you might expect, it gets difficult to entertain the boys through three or more hours of speaking and singing in Kinyarwanda (there are no nurseries), with only a small aisle between wooden benches for playing.
- Finally, we ask you to continue to pray that our container will arrive soon and intact. Apparently, it is still in Dar es Salaam awaiting another twenty foot container with which it will make the trip to Kigali on a forty foot truck.

### JANUARY HIGHLIGHT –

Over the weekend of January 16, I (Tim) had the opportunity to travel with Gary Scheer (another CBI missionary) and two Rwandese church leaders to visit one of the current students in the Pastoral Training Program. The student, Pastor Celestin, lives in an area called Gitarama. On Saturday, we drove for two hours on paved roads until we reached a corner with a dirt road, where Celestin met us. We made the long trek, using four wheel drive, up and down steep Rwanda hills until we arrived at his church. After a few hours of meeting with church leaders, we began our walk to the pastor's home. By the light of the moon, we walked almost two miles up and down steep hills until we arrived at his home to the sound of joyful singing. We were welcomed in and treated with humbling hospitality, as we ate a late dinner and settled down to sleep. Gary and I shared a bed about three feet wide. Though the home had no electricity or running water, it did have an indoor toilet (a hole in the ground in a room off the back of the house). In the morning, I stepped outside of the mud-block home to look out over one of the most astounding views I've ever witnessed – the Nyabarongo River weaving in and out of hill after hill. Our visit was a great encouragement to me, as it gave me a reminder and a clearer picture of what we've come here to do – to provide essential biblical training and materials for pastors and churches who have little access to such assistance.

Your hands in Rwanda,

Tim, Jessica, Thomas & Martin (and Blitzen)

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