

# BRUBAKERS PRAYER UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2008

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## DEAR PRAYING FRIENDS –

Did you hear about the earthquake in Rwanda yesterday? We were alarmed by the news of dozens of people who were killed and many more who were seriously injured. Though we've been trying to contact pastoral students who live in the devastated area, we have been unable to get more specific news of what happened. We too felt intense tremors in our home, though without any significant effects. Events like these remind us that we are sustained by the gracious work of God in answer to your prayers. Thank you.

If you have emailed Jessica, please be patient, as her computer "died" last month. We are looking into options for its replacement. Please continue to explore our website ([www.ncmrwanda.org/brubaker](http://www.ncmrwanda.org/brubaker)), as well as the New Creation Ministries website ([www.ncmrwanda.org](http://www.ncmrwanda.org)), for pictures and more information regarding our ministry.

## NOTES OF PRAISE –

- **Pastors' Decisions For Christ:** We are still praising God for the work of His Spirit in the lives of twenty-two of the thirty-six pastors who studied their first term in MNC's Pastoral Training School last month. After many days of learning the truth about the Gospel, many confessed that they had never trusted Jesus for salvation. (See highlight below for more.)
- **MNC Staff:** We are thankful for the level of unity, enthusiasm and energy that is currently a part of MNC's staff. Jean Baptiste has been fitting in very well and has become an important part of the day-to-day functioning of the ministry.
- **MNC Library Project:** In preparation for a degree level Bible school at MNC, a church in Chicago ([Church of Wrigleyville](#)) has been preparing book-lists and planning various aspects of our library. Two weeks ago, Tim asked representatives from Saddleback Church (Rick Warren's church) to consider bringing books in their luggage (they have a team of 250 people coming in late March). The church responded enthusiastically, wanting to bring ten books per traveler (a total of 2500 books). This could save us thousands of dollars in shipping! But, please keep praying, as there is much to work out logistically.

## ITEMS FOR PRAYER –

- **Shepherd Leadership Conference:** Tim is working with leaders from eighteen other Rwandan church groups and para-church organizations to plan a leadership conference focused on reaching the highest tiers of Christian leaders in Rwanda. The conference will be held April 21-25. We will be hosting Dr. Jim Copeland (from our mission board, [WorldVenture](#)), as our special speaker. Please pray for the next two months of planning and preparation, as there is much to be finished. This is an unusual conference, as it represents a wide range of involvement and is being planned from Rwanda, rather than imported to Rwanda (unlike many other conferences).
- **Pastoral Training School:** Pastoral Training School (PTS) students will be in session February 5-22. Tim will be teaching "Preaching." Gary Scheer will be teaching "The Kingdom of God." Please pray that these students (in their fourth and final year) would study well and be transformed personally and in ministry as a result of these courses. Also, please pray for the health of all involved.

- **Degree Program Brainstorming Meeting:** On Friday, February 22, we will be meeting with key Christian leaders from the Rwanda church community, requesting their assistance in affirming and contextualizing MNC's plans to begin a degree program (like a Bible College). *This is a very important meeting.* Please pray for important insights to be gleaned from this time together.
- **MNC Leadership Retreat:** MNC's leadership team will be spending a weekend together (February 29-March 2) to pray, build community, and rekindle enthusiasm for the goals of the ministry.
- **Katabirora:** The unfortunate saga of Katabirora's imprisonment continues to sadden us. The latest development is that key judges and witnesses (including "Christians") are expecting "payment" for verdicts and testimonies. Of course this shows that justice may never have been intended. It is very frustrating, but we are trusting God. Please pray for the strength of Kata's character, as many people would just seek the bribe-money and compromise integrity.

#### **JANUARY HIGHLIGHT –**

Twenty-two pastors becoming Christians? If they weren't Christians before, what were they? Salvation is a confused concept in Rwanda's churches. Why? For the majority of those who call themselves Christians, salvation is "repenting of sin" and "going to church." When one of these "Christians" returns to sinful habits, salvation is lost – because salvation is only repentance and leaving behind bad behavior. But, what about Jesus? There is very little understanding of the significance of Jesus' work on the cross on behalf of sinners. So, it was completely freeing for these pastors to come to the understanding that salvation is not the work of man in doing good things and forsaking bad things, but, rather, that it is the gracious work of God in removing unworthy sinners from the kingdom of darkness and bringing them into the kingdom of His Son through the blood of Jesus. For twenty-two pastors, last month's term of study was the first time they understood that all God requires from them is *faith* in Jesus. Just think... now twenty-two pastors are preaching the truth to the thousands of people that they oversee. MNC is making a difference!

Thanks for Praying,

**TIM, JESSICA, THOMAS, MARTIN & CECILIA**