

DEAR PRAYING FRIENDS –

Greetings from warm, sunny Rwanda. As winter sets its tight grip on our homeland (i.e. where you live), Rwanda continues to be *Perpetual Springtime*. We're not rubbing it in, though! As you dream of warmer weather, maybe it will be a reminder to pray for us. Thank you for your faithful ministry of prayer on our behalf.

NOTES OF PRAISE –

- After two months of praying about which church we should attend, God has provided the wisdom we've needed. We've decided to continue attending our current church, knowing that ministry obligations will continue to call us to other churches about fifty percent of the time. We're glad to be able to continue developing the relationships that God has provided over the last year. And, we feel peace about staying and continuing to be appropriately involved in that ministry.
- Christmas was fun for all of us. We have completely enjoyed the freedom to create our own traditions and be away from the intensity of Western materialism. During the weeks preceding Christmas we read, prayed, and sang together as a family in the evenings. Christmas Eve we celebrated with our small missionary team. And, Christmas Day (though half of our family was sick) we enjoyed opening small gifts and playing with our children.
- Jessica's grandmother visited us for the week after Christmas. At eighty-one years old, she is a hard person to keep sitting. What a pleasure it was for us to introduce her to Rwandese friends, as this culture has high regard for elderly people.

ITEMS FOR PRAYER –

- Please pray for effectiveness in ministry and good language learning opportunities as Tim preaches in Kinyarwanda on Sunday, January 8, and Sunday, January 15.
- This month we are receiving some special visitors.
 - Thursday, January 5 through Tuesday, January 10, Audrey Sorensen and her friend Leon will be visiting Rwanda. Audrey has been appointed by WorldVenture (our mission board) for mid-term service in Rwanda. During this trip she will be collecting information, photos, and ideas for the task of raising ministry funds. Please pray for a productive and efficient use of time.
 - Sunday, January 8, through Sunday, January 22, Mike and Connie Jackson will be visiting us from Evanston, Illinois. They are good friends from our sending church. Please pray for safety in travel, quick recovery from jet-lag, and a joyful time for all.
- In late February, Tim will be teaching his first lesson in the pastoral training program at M.N.C. It will be one day in the three week session (only two hours of teaching about the last week in the earthly ministry of Jesus). But, this will be a big step, as it will be the longest presentation Tim has given in Kinyarwanda. These days are filled with writing, translating, rewriting, and wrestling with Kinyarwanda. Please pray for clarity of thinking and good retention of material.
- Jessica is starting her first translation project, preparing background materials in Kinyarwanda about the Gospels. Please pray for the ability to process new concepts with her Rwandan helper. And, pray for God's supervision of the retention of meaning in translation.

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHT –

Fruit Basket Upset with a dozen Rwandese! That was one of the highlights of our Christmas. Have you ever played the game? Every person is assigned the name of a fruit. Every person but one has a seat. The one without a seat calls the name of a fruit. Those who are assigned that fruit must change seats while the one in the middle tries to steal a seat. This was one of our favorites in youth ministry in Chicago (partly because of the potential for rowdiness). So, Jessica thought she would try to play it at the Christmas party we had for the Rwandese who work for our ministry. It was quite a sight! Mama Rebeke (at eight months pregnant) stumbled through the circle. Mama Ngabire missed about ten chances to get a seat. And, Ndagije gave a yellow penalty card to another worker. What a joy it was to make fun memories with our Rwandan friends during the Christmas season.

Serving Him Together with Joy,

TIM, JESSICA, THOMAS & MARTIN

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