

BRUBAKERS PRAYER UPDATE – JANUARY 2008

DEAR PRAYING FRIENDS –

It's seventy-seven degrees and sunny on this beautiful January afternoon. What is the weather like where you are? We are so thankful for the joy that comes from serving the Lord. We are confident that MNC is making a huge difference in the lives of pastors and churches all over Rwanda. And, you are a part of that, as you faithfully carry our requests before the throne of God.

NOTES OF PRAISE –

- **Plane Tickets:** A few weeks ago we began our hunt for plane tickets to return to the States in August. (Planes coming and going from Rwanda in the summer months tend to sell-out early.) We were discouraged by the exorbitant rates that airlines were charging. But, after a lot of searching, we found a humanitarian travel-agency (used by our mission) that provided great rates. So, we have tickets (though not yet "in-hand") for our departure from Rwanda on August 1, 2008.
- **Kids' Education:** We have continued to pray about our kids' involvement with French during our home-assignment later this year. We have decided not to pursue the private French immersion pre-school. Instead we have determined that the best option is to use our travels (we will inevitably be travelling to visit churches and supporters) as an opportunity to teach them and expose them to things they won't experience here in Rwanda.
- **Joseph the Gardener:** At the end of November we were saddened by the death of the wife of one of MNC's workers. Joseph's wife died during child-birth complications, as did the child. The day of the funeral, Joseph's oldest child ran away from home and hasn't come back. This has been a difficult time for him. But, we are thankful for the Lord's care for Joseph and for the care that so many in our community (MNC, church and neighborhood) have given to him.

ITEMS FOR PRAYER –

- **MNC's Pastoral Training School:** A new group of thirty-six pastors arrived at MNC on Monday, January 7, coming from seven denominations in two different countries. They are studying two topics – The True Gospel (taught by Tim) and The Christian Life (taught by Gary Scheer). Please pray for the power of God's Word to penetrate these men's hearts, minds, behavior and worldview. They have a tremendous amount of enthusiasm to study, but bring with them a lot of unique and strange beliefs.
- **Political Problems in Kenya:** Please pray for a quick resolution to the deep-rooted political problems that are currently troubling Kenya after recent elections. Because almost everything that is bought in Rwanda comes from Kenya, this has caused prices to skyrocket.
- **East Africa Spiritual Renewal Conference:** Our missionary team in Rwanda is responsible for planning a retreat for WorldVenture's East Africa missionaries. The conference is scheduled for the end of March 2008, in Mombasa, Kenya. Because of political problems and other issues the team that was coming from the States to run a children's program for our kids has decided not to come. Please pray for wisdom in trying to plan a substitute program without outside volunteers, as well as for wisdom in discerning whether or not we should go ahead with the conference in light of recent problems in Kenya.

- **Katabirora:** Though Katabirora was told that he would be re-tried before the end of 2007, we are still waiting for the judges to set a date. Please pray for physical, emotional and spiritual strength for him during these difficult days of waiting.

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHT –

“Is that a chimpanzee?” That’s not the normal kind of question that families ask each other as they drive down the road. But, that was an exciting beginning for us to our New Year’s excursion to southwestern Rwanda (Cyangugu). We saw three chimps sitting in trees along the side of the road – probably just as curious to see us as we were to see them. We spent five days camping at Kumbya where our kids were able to swim in Lake Kivu, enjoy the sun, and dig in the sand. We had a great time sitting around with other missionaries talking about life and ministry as we ushered in the New Year. The days were filled with all sorts of wildlife adventures – a big cobra on the path to our cottage, monkeys stealing our bananas off the table, and loud touracos waking us up in the morning.

Thanks for Praying,

TIM, JESSICA, THOMAS, MARTIN & CECILIA BRUBAKER