

HELLO PRAYING FRIENDS!

The dry season is upon us and the dust lays thick and red. It's chilly every morning (in the mid fifties) and hot every afternoon (reaching into the eighties) with intense sun. Though our surroundings are shriveling and turning brown, we appreciate your prayers that renew and refresh us while we seek to learn, adapt and serve here in Rwanda. Please let us know specific ways we can be praying for you!

NOTES OF PRAISE –

- Sunday, July 3, Tim preached his first sermon in Kinyarwanda at our church in Kigali. Though it was a difficult undertaking to prepare, translate, memorize, and preach, it was a helpful and practical exercise in learning some of the more difficult grammatical patterns.
- We didn't travel to Gisenyi, as we mentioned we would. Having learned from previous bad experiences, our two moderately sick children kept us home. But, we were refreshed by a wonderful weekend in our own home!

ITEMS FOR PRAYER –

- We are still waiting to hear from the government about the final customs charges for our container. Pray that this would be concluded soon.
- July 18-August 4 we will be hosting a team from our sending church, Skokie Valley Baptist. Their main ministry will be teaching VBS for missionary kids at an annual retreat in a town called Kumbya on Lake Kivu. Please pray that the team would remain healthy, that all logistics for their trip would go smoothly, and that they would adjust well to jet-lag and minister effectively.
- Please pray for the Kumbya retreat itself, that the missionaries who attend will be refreshed by fellowship and God's word. We are in need of this rest, too, as all of our other attempts to "get away" have failed from poor health.
- As we are still trying to study diligently, pray for wisdom and creativity in making appropriate changes so that we will be able to effectively learn Kinyarwanda.

JUNE HIGHLIGHT –

Our highlight in last month's update (our horrible trip to Nyungwe Forest) was not very positive. Having gone through that low point, we determined that if we are going to really *unpack* and feel like Rwanda is home, we must work to make our house feel like a home. So, over the last month, we've tackled odd (in every sense of the word) jobs around the house to make things more comfortable. First, though our container had traveled thousands of miles before it rested in our side yard, it still had a distance of about ten feet to go before it arrived in an appropriate place. Thirteen men brought big logs and long sticks to lift and pull and slide the container to the right spot. Second, we used various pieces of PVC piping, string, a few scraps of wood, and wall anchors to set up a shower in our bathroom. We also found a decent shower head in town and installed it on the wall using a hose. It's amazing how uplifting a good shower can be! Third, two Rwandans helped Tim install cabinets on the wall in the kitchen. It was a funny experience, as neither of these men (one was a carpenter) had ever done a task like that. It took two hours to install the first small set. Seeing that progress was slow, the men left intending to return the following week. But, feeling ambitious, Tim and Thomas installed the second set in thirty minutes and reinstalled the first set in another twenty minutes. So, with additional decorations and a flowers around the house, Rwanda is feeling much more like home!

Thank you for your faithful prayers,

Tim, Jessica, Thomas and Martin

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