

BRUBAKERS PRAYER UPDATE

JULY 2007

DEAR PRAYING FRIENDS –

The last month has been filled with many new experiences – visiting Rwandan prisons, meeting with upper level government officials and looking for teachers to fill the gaps caused by Katabirora's imprisonment. Though we had many restless nights, comfort comes from the fact that we know the One who intricately makes sense of senseless things. Thanks for your prayers.

SUMMARY OF THE PROBLEM –

Let me retell (in brief) the story that surprised us in the final days of May. Our teacher Katabirora Laurent came into my office and told me that he needed to appear before a local genocide tribunal (called *gacaca*). He was being accused of having participated in scheming to massacre a church full of families who, in the first week of the genocide, fled to the church building for refuge. When he told me the problem, he assumed that he would appear before *gacaca*, the charges would be dropped, and he would return in time to finish up our teaching session. But, he never returned.

During *gacaca* witnesses provided pictures of Katabirora standing together with the *Interhamwe* (the group of thugs who carried out the genocide in 1994) from 1992, as well as a ledger in which was written the names of *Interhamwe* members, including his name. In the pre-genocide years, there were many political parties in Rwanda (including the *Interhamwe*). Thus, the photo and ledger are not necessarily incriminating. Many are saying that Katabirora was "set-up" by people (ironically, church leaders) who are jealous of the position he has at MNC and the level of education and ministry he's achieved. As we said last month, we don't know the truth. We think Katabirora is innocent, though, and we are asking God to release him soon.

PRAYER REQUESTS –

With these things in mind, we asked you to pray for the following four items:

- (1) **Justice** – There are many who are being put into prison who are innocent. And, there are others who are "buying" a favorable verdict, though they are guilty of significant crimes. Rwanda desperately needs to know the freedom of walking in the light. Keep praying for this, especially as you remember Katabirora.
- (2) **Katabirora** – We asked you to pray for a quick appeals process. God has given this to us. On Thursday of this week (July 5), Katabirora will stand before the appeals court (again, *gacaca*) where his case will be heard. His wife has been gathering witnesses who will come on Thursday to testify on behalf of Katabirora's character. Please pray for them *to be there* and *to speak up* when necessary. Many Rwandese are afraid to speak in *gacaca* out of fear that people will try to injure them.
- (3) **Wisom, Discernment & Safety** – Marc (MNC's business manager) and I have spent hours visiting various *gacaca* leaders to ask them to expedite the appeals process and to make them aware of potential sabotage against Katabirora. Only once did we come up against hostility. I went to the jail to visit Katabirora, together with visitors from Chicago. Though we found that they had moved him before we arrived, there was an old man who was there waiting for us when we returned to our van. He was very pushy and even accused me of being a murderer because I work with Katabirora. Otherwise, we thank God for the ability to maneuver some difficult situations with wisdom.
- (4) **Provision** – We asked you to pray for God to remarkably fill the void left at MNC by Katabirora's absence. The Lord has provided for every remaining term this year! There is one man in particular whom I intended to work with closely in order to see if he might be a good fit for MNC long term. His name is Jean Baptiste. Pray that God would reveal to us very clearly if he is the right fit at this time.

NOTES OF PRAISE –

- (1) **Visitors** – We were together with three pastors from a church in Chicago for about nine days. Their visit went *really* well. We are thankful for their interest to be a meaningful part of ministry in Rwanda. If you want to hear their unique reflections about the trip, a podcast of their presentation is available on iTunes. (Search for “Church of Wrigleyville.” The podcast is called: “Our Broken World: Rwanda.”)
- (2) **Teaching** – Our trip to Ruhengeri to visit a pastoral student went really well. The pastor is obviously using the lessons he is gleaning at MNC to teach his congregation. He uses two Sunday afternoons per month to disciple his church leaders using things he’s learned in school.
- (3) **Strength** – This has been a physically draining month. It has been compounded by all of us being sick (except Cecilia) and one of our dogs having had a serious injury.

ITEMS FOR PRAYER –

- (1) **Teaching** – Thursday, July 5 to Wednesday, July 11 we will be in southwestern Rwanda visiting four of our pastoral students. This will be the first time Jessica and our kids have gone on visits like these. Pray for good health, safety in travel, and great times of ministry among these four churches.
- (2) **Curriculum Development** – Tim is putting the final touches on lesson materials that he will use in August. He will be teaching Bible Study Methods – a very important class. Please pray for wisdom in contextualizing well, creativity in methodology, and good use of time. He will also be working with Jean Baptiste (see above) in putting together curriculum to teach exilic and post-exilic history and prophecy.
- (3) **Kumbya** – Tim has been working with a team of missionaries to plan this year’s Kumbya Conference. The dates of the conference are July 28 through August 5. Please pray for final preparation to be done well and for a safe, relaxing, and beneficial time for all.

Thanks for praying,

TIM, JESSICA, THOMAS, MARTIN & CECILIA BRUBAKER