

BRUBAKERS PRAYER UPDATE JULY 2008

DEAR PRAYING FRIENDS –

Cold in the morning... hot in the afternoon. That's the weather forecast in Rwanda for the next few months, as we've entered the long dry season. Every morning is about 55-60 degrees. Every afternoon between 80-85. Can you imagine a more perfect climate?

Thanks for your prayers on our behalf. We know that the fruit of our labor is the fruit of your prayers.

NOTES OF PRAISE –

- **Pastoral Training School:** We are thankful for a great term with third year Pastoral Training School students, having taught "Homiletics" and "Old Testament." Please pray for these pastors as they go home and seek to implement what they've learned into their lives and ministries.
- **Home Assignment Preparation:** Jessica has done an amazing job of being proactive in packing and preparing for our transition. We are well along the way to having our home prepared for our move.
- **Boys' Schooling:** The boys are finished with school for the year. Thomas has finished two years. Martin has finished one. We are amazed and so proud of how well they've adjusted to school-life in a different culture and language.

ITEMS FOR PRAYER –

- **Pastoral Training School:** July 7-25, first year pastoral students will be at NCM studying "The Church" and "Cults and Sects." Please pray for Gary Scheer and Jean Baptiste as they teach. We are expecting as many as thirty-six pastors.
- **Home Assignment Preparation:** We are packing and preparing for our year-long assignment in the States. Having made Rwanda our home, it will be difficult to be away for so long. Please pray for attention to the many details of preparation and peace of mind in the midst of potentially stressful transition.
- **NCM Degree Program:** We have some significant meetings in the month of July to continue planning for NCM's upper level Bible college. Please pray for us to be able to listen to the wisdom of others and make good use of their insights in effectively planning this strategic ministry.
- **Katabirora:** Once again, it appears that the genocide tribunal leaders have given us false hopes of Katabirora's retrial as he is still waiting in prison.

JUNE HIGHLIGHT –

For me (Tim), one of my favorite aspects of teaching a class on preaching is helping students understand the depth of the Word of God. Many Rwandan pastors have a faulty assumption that the best sermons are ones in which the preacher uses many different passages of Scripture – like a shotgun. But, one of my goals in teaching Preaching is to help these men understand that one short passage has more than enough material to fill a sermon – all they need is to adequately study and appropriately apply that text.

In teaching principles of studying God's Word, I use the metaphor of two mountains (a metaphor that quickly relates to those who live in "the land of a thousand hills"). One mountain is "where we live" (Rwanda in the year 2008). The other mountain is "where they lived" (those within Scripture). The task of the preacher is to go from "where we live" to "where they lived," to seek to understand the meaning of what is written in Scripture following the rules of "where they live" (culture, history, context), and then to take the things they've learned "where they lived" and make them relevant to others that live with us "where we live." The truth that I emphasize over and over is that the quality of a sermon is based on the ability of the preacher to understand the mountain "where they lived" (the Bible) and then the strength of the bridge between the mountains leading to "where we live." It's an exhilarating moment for me, the teacher, to see them run with resolve to rightly represent Scripture.

Thanks for Praying,

TIM, JESSICA, THOMAS, MARTIN & CECILIA

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