

JUNE 2006 – PRAYER UPDATE

DEAR PRAYING FRIENDS –

The rains have stopped and layers of dust begin to blanket everything in range. At night the temperatures drop into the low fifties. During the day, the heat swells into the low nineties. The arrival of intense sun also brings with it a season of color as flowers remarkably lace the landscape in vibrant red, orange, yellow, purple, pink, and white. (Those are the colors I see from my window!) How amazing is the creativity of God! “Seasons” are not just North American Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. He has made and governs the diverse seasons of every place – including Rwanda. Thanks for your faithful prayers.

NOTES OF PRAISE –

- **Jessica’s Pregnancy:** Jessica’s pregnancy started with more sickness than she had known in both of her previous pregnancies combined (does this mean it’s a girl?!). But, thankfully, she has been feeling much better over the last few weeks. Please continue to pray for good health and safety for mom and baby during the coming months.
- **Tim’s Teaching:** May 17-18 Tim taught on Paul’s letter to the Galatians in MNC’s Pastoral Training School. Every little opportunity for ministry involvement in Kinyarwanda brings unique developments in language skills. Tim is understanding more of the questions that are asked and feeling more confident in giving responses.
- **Darcy’s Visit:** May 16 through June 6, Jessica’s mother (Darcy Perry) was with us. For the first week, we had an additional three visitors from Nebraska. Darcy’s visit was fun and memorable. Without a doubt lasting impressions have been made upon Thomas and Martin.

ITEMS FOR PRAYER –

- **Video Team:** Saturday, June 10 through Tuesday, June 20, we are hosting a team of two sent by the Church of Wrigleyville (one of our supporting churches in Chicago). The team will put together a video for us to use in promoting the work of MNC among churches and supporters in the USA. Please pray for wisdom, creativity, and safety for the team.
- **Tim’s Teaching:** Tim will be teaching on the attributes of God in MNC’s Pastoral Training School June 26-27. Please pray for the next few weeks of preparation, for growth in teaching ability, and for development in Kinyarwanda skills in the process.
- **MNC Ministry:** MNC is undoubtedly meeting an enormous need among churches here in Rwanda. As the ministry grows, our need for funding grows, as well. Part of our intention in developing a video is to visually encourage people to participate in directly supporting the ministry of MNC. Please pray for creativity and wisdom in pursuing the ongoing financial support of this ministry.

MAY HIGHLIGHT –

“Jesus prayed in tongues!” Thus, every Christian that seeks to live like Christ must seek to follow His example and pray in tongues. What do you think? This was the theme of a visiting preacher at one of the most influential churches here in Kigali. Regardless of your theological position on the gift of tongues, this teaching should raise some serious questions. How did he know that Jesus prayed in tongues? He quoted Jesus’ prayer in Mark 15:34 as proof, “At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “ELOI, ELOI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?” which is translated, “MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?” According to this visiting preacher, Jesus was praying in tongues. He had no idea that the foreign words were actually Aramaic!

“Every Christian is required to give a tenth of their earnings to the Lord!” Right? Another preacher (who visited our church last month) used 2 Peter 3:8 to develop a mathematical formula to prove that tithing is God’s commandment for all believers. The verse reads, “But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.” The formula (which included quite a bit of faulty mathematics) was revealed to the preacher the evening before the preacher came to teach our church.

False teachings like these abound in Rwanda. And, the scary thing is that people are quick to embrace them. Many who oversee churches (including pastors and denominational leaders) are unequipped to discern the truth of God’s Word. The need for discipleship of church leaders is immense. And, we thank God that it is to this ministry that we have been called.

Thanks for Praying,

TIM, JESSICA, THOMAS, MARTIN & “?”

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