

PRAYER UPDATE – MARCH 2006

DEAR PRAYING FRIENDS –

Where did February go? The days are flying by. Thank you for your faithfulness in prayer. We know that the work God has given to us here is not our own – it is yours as well, as you pray and lift up to Him the issues of our lives and ministry.

NOTES OF PRAISE –

- Jessica shared her testimony on Sunday, February 19th. It was a wonderful experience for her, as she was free from distraction (the boys stayed home with dad) and was able to speak clearly in Kinyarwanda the things that were on her heart. The following day, our pastor mentioned to Tim that Jessica's words penetrated their hearts.
- Tim taught for two days (February 27-28) during M.N.C.'s most recent Pastoral Training School modular session. It was a good learning and growing experience for him (see highlight below).
- Thank you for praying for wisdom regarding schooling options for Thomas. We believe God is leading us to try the French schooling options in the Fall. In the meantime, Jessica is bringing Thomas and Martin to a playgroup of various families who send their kids to the French school, and we've ordered a French language learning program for kids (BBC's Muzzy program). Please continue to pray for wisdom in the necessary steps of preparation.

ITEMS FOR PRAYER –

- We will be traveling to Johannesburg, South Africa, for two weeks (March 5-19). We will spend the first week on vacation, staying at a bed and breakfast, meeting with missionary friends from Ghana, and enjoying the amenities of the first world. During the second week, we will be participating in leadership development meetings for missionaries with WorldVenture from all across Africa. Pray for safety, refreshment, growth, and health.
- Currently our language helper Silas is very sick. He has been in the hospital for many days (very rare in Rwanda due to the expense) with a fever, urinary infection, and complications from malaria. His immune system is very weak, and his body struggles to fight off diseases. Please pray for his health, as he has an important role in the lives of many people here in Rwanda. With every sickness his life is at risk.
- On Sunday, March 26, Tim will be preaching a new sermon at the Grace Church in Gacuriro. Please pray for his preparation and people's reception of this message.
- On Tuesday, March 14, Tim's mother (Maureen) is have some serious surgery to remove a tumor from her spinal cord. The surgery is a long, involved, and delicate process with serious implications. Please help us by praying for her – for peace in her heart and success in the procedure.

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHT –

After more than three hundred hours of preparation, it was a relief to finally teach during the most recent Pastoral Training School's modular session. Twenty one pastors from at least eight different denominations (Quakers, Pentecostals, Baptists, Brethren, etc...) gathered to be taught. I had prepared thirty pages of manuscript from which to teach and eight pages of outline for the students to use to take notes. Very quickly within the first session, I realized that there was a problem. Most of the students were obviously stumbling on something. The note-taking outline that I had provided didn't give them enough information to know what was important to write down. So, they attempted to write down everything. I had highly overestimated the learning and note-taking abilities of the pastors (at least one is barely literate). So, Monday evening, I spent many hours rewriting my notes for Tuesday's lesson. The newly revised notes emphasized what was important and provided lengthy written portions of helpful commentary or Biblical background material. And, Tuesday's teaching was exhilarating! Students were following along well. I was able to answer questions. And, we were wrestling with the meaning of the Biblical texts rather than note-taking strategies. It was such fun to be involved in this ministry for which God has called us to Rwanda.

Thank you for your prayers.

TIM, JESSICA, THOMAS, MARTIN, BLITZEN, & DONNER (Yes, we've added another dog to the family – Blitzen's long-lost sister!)

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