



## BRUBAKERS PRAYER UPDATE – MARCH 2010

### DEAR PRAYING FRIENDS –

This month we've learned that getting pastors chased out of their positions is a part of fruitful ministry. Read on... And, THANKS for your sustaining prayers and encouraging notes.

### PASTORAL TRAINING SCHOOL –

We are currently together with twenty third-year pastors, teaching "Introduction to the New Testament" and "Hermeneutics/Bible Study Methods." As we've said before, our Pastoral School is not focused exclusively on increasing knowledge, but on life-change. During this term, we are also teaching these men how to have a personal time of prayer and Bible study. During lunch last week, one older Methodist pastor named Pascal told me, "This is great! Because I'm an old guy, I wake up early and usually just lay there doing nothing. Now I have something really awesome to do with that time. I can't wait to get started studying the Bible for myself!" (See pictures below.)





### **NEW CREATION MINISTRIES LEADERSHIP –**

During the weekend of February 19-21, NCM's leadership and staff travelled to the northwest corner of the country for a ministry retreat (see pictures). It was a great time of studying God's Word together, prayer, building unity and friendship, as well as reminding ourselves of the importance of NCM's ministry in Rwanda. We are so grateful for a team of national leaders who love the Lord, love the church and are committed to God's Word. As you think of NCM, please pray for God to continue to protect our board of directors and staff and provide for them critical wisdom to lead this ministry.



### **OUR MISSIONARY TEAM –**

Over the last few weeks we've been together with Greg and Tori Finley and their delightful son Will from Texas. They visited us in order to get a better idea of what NCM does and to see if God is calling them to work here in Rwanda. After two weeks, they had confirmation from the Lord that this is the place for them! They have already been appointed by WorldVenture and have begun raising support. Please pray for them and for Dan & Rachel Janzen from Arizona that God would continue to sustain them in the turbulence of pre-field ministry, raising support and preparing for the huge transitions ahead of them. We are so THANKFUL to the Lord for a growing team to meet the demands of a growing ministry.

### **SHEPHERD LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE –**

This month (March 22-26) folks from NCM will be involved in the third annual Shepherd Leadership Conference. Our topic this year is the centrality of the Gospel in the life of a Christian leader – specifically in the areas of personal growth, family, unity and mission. Please pray for me (Tim) and the other two teachers named Antoine and Simon Peter that God would use the truth of His Word to change the hearts of participants, many of whom will be representing highest levels of church leadership in Rwanda.

## **CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE OF RWANDA (CLIR) –**

Later this month, we will have our first-ever board meeting for CLIR! Please pray for wisdom, clarity and unified direction for this team of Christian leaders. The biggest challenge before us remains finding Rwandan/East African teachers and ministry partners who will have a key role in the functioning of this school. Please pray for the Lord's provision.

## **FAMILY/PERSONAL NOTE –**

Thank you for praying for our family in addition to our ministry needs. Please pray for our children that they would grow in their love for God and for the things God loves. Please pray for our marriage that it would remain strong and grow stronger. Please pray for the protection of our hearts, minds and bodies. This is a tremendously busy season of ministry during which time we don't want to lose sight of the things that are most important to us.

## **FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHT –**

Our goals for discipling leaders for Rwandan churches do not include getting them kicked out of their positions of leadership. But, as the truth of the Gospel and sound biblical teaching collide with doctrinal confusion and biblical illiteracy, it's realistic that in some cases the results are disturbing.

First, there is Laurent – a gifted preacher with a lot of passion. He finished NCM's Pastoral Training School last December. A few weeks before he graduated, in conversations that we had together with other students, we asked what benefits had come out of four years of studying at NCM. Laurent very openly confessed that he came to understand the Gospel for the first time. And, humorously, he said that he finally has something about which to preach. At the end of the year, his overseer dismissed him from his role as pastor, accusing him of poor doctrine in allowing a woman with braided hair to have a role within the church. Though we are saddened by watching Laurent going through this trial, we praise God for a pastor who stood firmly on his understanding of the true Gospel.

Next, there is Jeremy – a critical thinker who sits in the first seat in the first row, currently in his third year in the Pastoral Training School. Last year he returned to his local church with an assignment to begin a children's ministry. Jeremy worked together with the elders of the church to divide the children into three age groups. Then, together, they appointed teachers who have the gifting and passion for this ministry. Finally, they spent four days in training, learning how to teach. After a few weeks, Jeremy's overseer visited his church. Shortly before the sermon, the children were dismissed to their lessons. The overseer became angry, called the children back into the church and began to reprimand the church for its children's ministry. His excuse? Teaching children isn't a part of their denominational beliefs. And, in his mind, teaching children is too much like the Seventh Day Adventists! Understandably, Jeremy is discouraged and deflated, scared to return to this kind of environment. But, we praise God for a change in Jeremy and within those within his church.

There are other stories... It seems like the last month has been full of them. But, again, we praise God for lives changed, standing firmly on truth.

Thanks for Praying!

**TIM, JESSICA, THOMAS, MARTIN & CECILIA**

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