

MAY 2005 PRAYER UPDATE

DEAR PRAYING FRIENDS –

April was a busy month, with unique opportunities to creatively learn Kinyarwanda through new ministry experiences. We have many stories to tell, but we'll limit our words for now. Again, we love hearing from you. Every morning we race to the computer to read messages from you – our friends. Thanks for your notes. And, more importantly, thanks for your faithful prayers.

NOTES OF PRAISE –

- The dedication of MNC's facilities (Mission Pour La Nouvelle Creature) on April 30, was a great time of celebration and encouragement. Approximately two hundred were in attendance, including friends, students, various missionaries, and graduates.
- We received an exoneration from the Rwandan government for the contents of our container! We are breathing a little easier now. Yet, we are still waiting to hear if we must pay even small fees on the container itself (the shipping container is usually not eligible for exemption).
- Our van has finally arrived. Having placed the order in early November, the van travelled from Japan to Brussels to Kenya to Uganda to Rwanda. And, it still arrived having been driven only sixty kilometers. We are excited for the potential to use this eighteen passenger van to further the work of ministry here.

ITEMS FOR PRAYER –

- Saturday, May 7, Tim will be preaching at the wedding reception of a new student in the Pastoral Training Program, from Kabale, Uganda. Pray for God's blessing for Pastor Kenneth and his bride Judith as they make this commitment before many unbelievers. And, pray for Tim as he prepares and delivers words of encouragement.
- Yes, we still need prayer for our Kinyarwanda studies. Efficient use of time, energy, focus, and patience are all assets for which we request your prayers. It's a physically draining process.
- We're approaching the six month mark of being here in Rwanda. And, we're thinking that a little time off might be beneficial. The weekend of May 27-29, we are planning to take a short respite. Please pray for refreshment, encouragement, and a good time of enjoying our family.

APRIL HIGHLIGHT –

Language learning comes in many forms. Both of us have enjoyed new opportunities for involvement in ministry to help us learn Kinyarwanda. First, Jessica: Every Tuesday afternoon, she is teaching sewing at our church in Kigali. She intended to be just a participant. But, somehow she's become the leader, which is no easy task for one who speaks the language like a toddler! Materials are costly for Rwandese women, so they are using materials donated through another missionary to sew Bible covers. Jessica is truly in her element – crying babies, nursing mothers, quick needles, and joy all around. And, Tim: It all started with neighborhood children pounding on the door asking for a soccer ball. Not wanting a hundred kids asking for balls everyday, he decided to make it a competition. The first four children who memorized eight verses out of Romans (the "Romans Road") would receive a soccer ball. The children responded well, and many memorized the verses. In May, the standard is higher – memorizing Romans 8:28-39. Yet, the children are complaining that the challenge is too difficult. Thus, the deal is this: If Tim, who doesn't speak their language, is able to memorize the verses in Kinyarwanda, then they can as well. If he's not, then a different arrangement will be made on Monday. In summary, the bottomline is this: Despite the challenges, we really *are* enjoying learning Kinyarwanda (and we *are* learning it)!

Thanks for Praying,

TIM, JESSICA, THOMAS, MARTIN (AND BLITZEN)

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