

BRUBAKERS PRAYER UPDATE

May 2008

DEAR PRAYING FRIENDS –

Heavy showers and hot sun are two distinct traits of recent weeks. Thus, everything is very lush and flowers are everywhere. This is a beautiful time of year in Rwanda. Thanks for your prayers for us and our ministry. We appreciate your faithfulness and friendship across the many miles.

NOTES OF PRAISE –

- **Pastoral Training School:** First year students will finish their second year tomorrow (5/2). Thirty-four of the original thirty-six students returned. And, the two who didn't return had valid reasons and will be there next time. They have been sharing great stories about how their first session in January provided them with awesome opportunities to share the true Gospel with others.
- **MNC's Degree Program:** Tim had two solid days to sit, process, and write out all of the thoughts that he's been collecting for the last eighteen months regarding MNC's degree level Bible school. Now that a model is theoretically developed it will be much easier to tweak and change it.
- **Student Visit:** Tim, Martin and Jim Copeland (from the Shepherd Leadership Conference) visited a student named Alfred in Kibungo on Sunday, April 27. Alfred preached using homiletical techniques that he had studied in February's preaching class. Afterwards he shared that he really loves this new method, as do the people that he oversees. Because he oversees ten churches, he has had opportunity to use this new method in many places. Theological students studying in Kenya told him that he has learned better principles than what they are learning. And, he has been invited to teach those principles to twelve other pastors in the next month.
- **Shepherd Leadership Conference:** From April 21-25, MNC worked with other organizations to host a leadership conference. Over two hundred top leaders attended, representing thirty organizations. (See highlight below.)

ITEMS FOR PRAYER –

- **Student Visit:** From May 3-4, Tim will be visiting a pastoral student in Ruhengeri. On Saturday (5/3), he will be teaching a seminar to about fifteen church leaders. Please pray in particular for safety in travel as there are terrible roads during the rainy season.
- **Pastoral Training School:** From May 12-30, fourth year pastors will be in town studying in their second session. Gary Scheer will be teaching "Teaching." Audrey Sorensen will be teaching "Children's Ministry." And, Tim will be teaching "Missions." Please pray for a fruitful time of ministry.
- **MNC's Degree Program:** Please continue to pray with us as we make critical decisions and refinements regarding MNC's plan to start a college level Bible school. Pray in particular for wisdom in how to make the program contextually appropriate for the Rwandan church.

- **Katabirora:** Unfortunately Katabirora's wife went to visit him at the end of the genocide memorial week (the week of April 7) and was denied access to visit him. They told her to "go back home to her white genocidairs (*that's us, apparently*)" and that they hadn't fed the prisoners in over a week. This is disheartening. Please pray for strength for both Katabirora and Virginia.

APRIL HIGHLIGHT –

Unforeseen unity among normally estranged church leaders. That was one of the highlights of last week's Shepherd Leadership Conference. From April 21-25, over two hundred top level church and business leaders gathered for five full days of solid training in leadership principles. Our teacher was Jim Copeland from WorldVenture. Among those who attended were executive directors of many major church denominations, the Anglican archbishop of Rwanda, an apostle (no, not one of the original ones), leaders from the largest textile factory in Rwanda, leaders from a major South African cell phone company, and students and staff from various theological institutions.

At the end of the week, a man named Antoine (who is probably the most respected evangelical leader in Rwanda) shared what the conference meant to him. He told the crowd that in 2005, during forty days of prayer and fasting, the Lord showed him that 2005-2015 was going to be "the decade of the church." The Lord showed him that whatever He was going to do, He would do it through the church – but even more, through a unified church. Antoine expressed a bit of doubt in the fact that the church could ever be unified, as Rwandan churches are remarkably divided. But, after three years of praying, he stood before us and told us that he has seen the first sign of the beginning of the fulfillment of that promise – the Shepherd Leadership Conference.

We praise God for what He is doing. And, we thank God for you.

Serving Together,

TIM, JESSICA, THOMAS, MARTIN & CECILIA BRUBAKER

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