

PRAYER UPDATE – OCTOBER 2005

DEAR PRAYING FRIENDS –

As you experience the beauty of the changing colors of leaves and the coming of cooler temperatures, we're beginning Spring. We often stand on our front porch and watch the rain approach us from the distant mountains. The dark clouds slowly envelop the hillsides in between until we can barely see a short distance. The wind blows, and the rain pounds. The power is stunning.

Thanks for your faithful, ongoing prayers on our behalf. And, thanks for your frequent personal notes. Please check our website (www.skokievalley.org/brubaker) for pictures, as we update it frequently.

NOTES OF PRAISE –

- We're thankful for God's provision of good resources for fresh Kinyarwanda study. We have been reading a short Kinyarwanda devotional book called *Umusomyi wa Bibiliya*. Everyday we read a paragraph of reflection and challenge on a biblical passage. It has been instrumental in helping us gain helpful "church language." And, it has led to good discussions with our language helper Silas.
- Thank you for praying for our trips to different churches in September. Both went well (see *Highlight* below).

ITEMS FOR PRAYER –

- Thursday, October 13, we leave for Mombasa, Kenya. Missionaries with WorldVenture from all over East Africa are gathering for four days of meetings and spiritual encouragement. We will extend our trip for three additional days of vacation, as well, arriving home on Friday, October 21. Please pray for safety in travel (we're flying) and happy children. And, please pray for refreshment and meaningful conversation with other mission workers. Thomas will celebrate his three year birthday in Mombasa, as well (October 15).
- Please pray for our ability to HEAR Kinyarwanda well, as we are both focusing much of our time in this area. Obviously we want to SPEAK, as well. But, as HEARING is the first step in learning a language, pray that we'd be creative in planning our schedules and our exercises to grow in this area.
- Please continue to pray for encouragement and assimilation to the Rwandan culture. Pray that God would give us grace to meet the emotional and spiritual challenges. And, pray that God would help us establish healthy patterns and rituals in our family and marriage in these early years in Rwanda.
- Please keep praying for the finalization of our container. They are telling us now that the government lost our paperwork!

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHT –

Even enormous potholes lining the dirt roads didn't keep us from reaching our destination on Sunday, September 11, as we made our way up and down hills toward Gatovu. The scenery was breathtaking: Mineral-rich gardens growing potatoes, sorghum, cabbage, carrots, and others sit like patchwork on the sides of the dramatically steep volcanic mountains. Six other pastoral students from M.N.C. joined us in visiting and encouraging the believers in Gatovu. The service was a splendid time of dancing, singing, and sharing the Word of God. I (Tim) preached a fifteen minute sermon. Unfortunately, I had overestimated the amount of light that would be available inside the church building. The mud block church is set high up on the side of a mountain. Because of the frequently cold temperatures and rain, the windows are quite small. And, obviously there is no electricity. My notes were printed in an 8-point narrow font to fit nicely inside my Bible. They were a little hard to use in the dark! But, God quickened my memory and helped me through. After the service, we walked into the valley to the pastor's home to eat lunch – beans, cabbage, and potatoes. We ate in a small room partially enclosed by mud-bricks, covered with a big blue tarp. Thomas and Martin did well, though Martin emptied his stomach a few times during the car trip! Jessica enjoyed her first visit to a rural church. And, for both of us, the experience was an encouragement to our sense of ambition to work hard in learning Kinyarwanda and preparing for full-time ministry with M.N.C.

Thanks for Praying,

Tim, Jessica, Thomas & Martin

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