



Tim & Jessica Brubaker

Prayer Update - September 2007

*Serving with Mission pour la Nouvelle Creature
to train pastors and church leaders in Rwanda.*

DEAR PRAYING FRIENDS

The turmoil of the last two months has brought with it unique experiences of confirmation that God is firmly in control of life's changes and uncertainties. Here is neat example: A few weeks ago Tim went with a few Rwandese friends to visit Katabirora in prison. Not only is he doing well, but he is called "Pastor" by all the inmates and guards. And, amazingly, the director of the prison is a Christian man, a friend of one of our staff-members. He too is convinced of Katabirora's innocence, and his position in the prison will make it very easy for us to continue to visit Katabirora.

NOTES OF PRAISE

MNC Teaching Staff – We have been asking you to pray for Katabirora's replacement (whether temporary or permanent). Jean Baptiste has been doing a great job. It has been a lot of work trying to prepare him for the task (he's never taught in this way before). But, he seems to be relating well with the students. Please pray for *clarity* and *wisdom* to know if he is someone that we should continue to use in future teaching terms.

Visiting Students – We had a great time (as a family) visiting four pastors from southwestern Rwanda. Our times of teaching went smoothly. After visiting these pastors, it is very clear that MNC is making an important difference in churches across Rwanda (see Jessica's HIGHLIGHT below).



Curriculum Development – Tim has been spending a considerable amount of time putting together curriculum materials on Bible Study Methods and Hermeneutics. Everything has been coming together well. Next week he will begin preparing a few more courses that will be taught beginning in January.

ITEMS FOR PRAYER

Thomas and Martin – Please pray for our boys as they begin school on Monday, September 3. Thomas is acquainted with the system and is looking forward to returning. Martin (three years old) will benefit from the social interaction. But, as this is his first experience, please pray for a good transition for him. \

Student Visit – Please pray for Tim, as he visits a pastor over the weekend of September 1-2 in the northwest corner of the country. Pray for effective communication, good health, and for profitable ministry among those whom he is visiting. He is travelling with three other MNC students and a British missionary friend named Bruce.

MNC Teaching Staff – Please pray for God to clearly show us who we should be using in place of Katabirora. Though Jean Baptiste is a good possibility, we don't want to make any mistakes in choosing the wrong people.



MORE ITEMS FOR PRAYER

MNC Calendar – Though we usually ask you to pray for things during the month in which those things are being done, we would like to ask you to pray for those things that we are planning to do, even though they are months away. In light of the events of the last few months, we are under pressure to fill gaps and make difficult decisions regarding scheduling. Here are a few things, in particular, to be praying for: (1) Pray for the three remaining Pastoral Training Sessions (September 10-28; October 8-26; November 26-December 14); (2) Pray for our pastors' wives training session (November 12-16); (3) Pray for plans to begin a new four year pastoral class in January 2008.

Katabirora's Family – Please pray for Katabirora's wife and children, as they need to move this month (mid-September) and establish themselves in a new home. It is obvious that their children are being neglected in light of Virginia's regular trips to the prison to visit her husband. It is a difficult situation, in need of wisdom and provision.

JESSICA'S HIGHLIGHT

They say that Rwanda is the "Land of a Thousand Hills" and we traversed at least half of them on our trip to Cyangugu last month. Along with a fair amount of bumps, bruises and blisters, we enjoyed soda, hikes and "the things of meat" (think "insides of miscellaneous animals") as we visited two Pastoral Training School students, Aaron and Jonas. These guys live far away from everything, up at the top of the world amidst coffee trees, on very nice, steep paths, though not necessarily "roads".

We learned several things while on this trip: 1) Never, under any circumstances, believe a Rwandan when they say things like, "it's very nearby" or "10 minutes...only 10 minutes", 2) Despite the Rwandan ethic of wearing "church shoes" (high heels), from now on I will wear tennis shoes with socks on any future trips to the outer reaches, despite my desire to fit in with the culture, and 3) MNC's work in Rwanda is doing what the church in this country most needs, helping church leaders understand what it means to be made new in Christ. There is so much potential for training leaders in this country! And, so many roadblocks for them to surmount to find such training... age, financial inability, location.

I left this trip with a renewed vision and heart for the Rwandan church (including fresh energy for studying Kinyarwanda), a new awe of Tim who is SO in his element here, and enthusiasm for visiting students in the future. Visiting is a major part of friendship in this culture. Thus, it really spoke to the churches we visited... that I and my three kids actually went where few white people have ever gone before. They were amazed to see a white lady carrying her baby on her back, and I was amazed that Thomas and Martin didn't have to use the "international language" of fighting at all, even though mobs of kids surrounded them any time we were out of doors. We endured only one flat tire and the pick-up truck only had to be pushed out of a precarious position once. Exhilarating, tiring and, as we told the kids, an adventure. It was a success.



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