

NEW CREATION MINISTRIES



BRUBAKERS PRAYER UPDATE—SEPTEMBER 2010

DEAR PRAYING FRIENDS –

The rains have returned! This summer has been the driest we've ever experienced in Rwanda – the ground becoming like concrete and inches (literally) of dust covering the roads. The rains came back last week and have been remarkably refreshing, reviving the life on the hills which had turned brown. (Reminds me of Hosea 6:1-3.) Thanks for praying for us and the ministries with which we work here in Rwanda! Here are a few updates and requests:

FAMILY STUFF:

Thomas (second grade) and Martin (first grade) have both begun school at KICS (Kigali International Community School). The school is uniquely focused on accessibility to missionary kids so that expatriate families have the freedom to serve in Rwanda without concern for their kids' education. Thomas's teacher is from the UK, and his class has sixteen kids from eleven countries. Martin's teacher is from Michigan. Jessica is a regular room-mother, dropping off sweets and helping teachers with various projects. I (Tim) am on the school board. Cecilia (our three year old) is trying to keep up with her brothers by doing some preschool at home. She also takes ballet lessons from a New Yorker who is teaching dance to young people here in Rwanda. Jessica's sister Johanna will be visiting us starting on September 16.



CLIR (CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE OF RWANDA):

Our plans to begin a degree level program of study at NCM continue to move ahead. We have recently taken a very significant step in partnership conversations with another mission board and existing school about merging programs and strategies. Given the similarity of our projects, overlap in current resources, and the incredible tasks involved in starting a university, I am looking forward to this partnership. Please pray for wisdom in these conversations, as we don't want to be insensitive to the Lord's plan for us. And, we want to be certain at every step that this partnership is from Him.



PASTORAL TRAINING SCHOOL:

We are currently together with twenty-two pastors from three different countries in their third year of study in NCM's Pastoral Training School. Jean Baptiste is teaching a preaching module. And, I am teaching a class on Acts, Romans and Galatians. Please pray specifically for the hearts of these men to grow in their understanding of the Gospel, God's Word and their ability to communicate to others.

MARRIAGE CONFERENCE:

Last month, for the first time in the history of the Pastoral Training School, we brought together all of our third-year pastors and their wives for a week of teaching and discipleship related to marriage and family. It was a great time of learning about communication, God's plan for marriage and raising children. Throughout the week, pastors and their wives were asking each other for forgiveness, repenting of ungodly behavior and determining to change the way they relate to each other.

PREACHING/TEACHING:

Last month, I (Tim) finished up a five week preaching session at Christian Life Assembly here in Kigali. It was a FUN time of ministry and a great way to contribute to a local church which has been a huge blessing to our family. Over the next few weeks, I will be preparing for a InterVarsity Fellowship conference in which I will be speaking in December. Please pray for wisdom and the ability to relate to a group of Rwandese with whom I have very little experience. (Young, privileged, well-trained, English speakers –



should be fun!)

MISSIONARY TEAM:

We are thrilled that we are back together with Gary and Barb Bennett and their girls Melissa and Megan. Please pray for Gary and Laurie Scheer as they remain in the States for an indefinite period of time due to serious family illnesses. At the end of this month, our single/engaged mid-termer Audrey Sorensen will be finishing her four years of work with us in children's ministry. Additionally, you can be praying for the two families who are still raising support to join us here in Rwanda – Dan & Rachel Janzen and Greg & Tori Finley.

AUGUST HIGHLIGHT:

NCM's Gospel... Many of you will remember the story of how two and a half years ago, twenty four pastors in our pastoral training program professed faith in Jesus for the first time in their lives during a class on the true Gospel. Over the years, I have noticed that these students have had a unique spiritual aptitude for understanding God's Word that others (more academically advanced) haven't had. Though encouraging, preaching the truth of the Gospel in their churches has oftentimes brought frustration, resistance and (yes) even persecution. And, because these students have never heard anywhere else the message of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus, they have often referred to these teachings as "NCM's Gospel." Honestly, I've always been a bit irritated by that, as it's certainly not ours. And, that term seems to parochialize and even marginalize something which universally true.

Over the last few weeks, I have been teaching on Romans and Galatians. We have been hitting head-on some of the incredible statements of Paul regarding universal human depravity, the inability of the law to save, the work of God in achieving man's salvation, the Christian life and divine election... Wow! What awesome stuff! But, for me, the highlight was hearing these guys one-by-one reflect on our time in Romans, saying, "We realize now that this isn't NCM's Gospel. This is THE Gospel." Lights are coming on... They're getting it... Pastors and their churches are changing!

Thanks for Praying,

TIM, JESSICA, THOMAS, MARTIN & CC



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