

AMOS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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A TRIP TO THE USA

As some of you already know, I made a trip to Texas this past month to be with my Mom, as she had surgery to remove a pituitary tumor. It was a very sudden decision to have the surgery, as well as, the decision for Pete and I to fly over the Atlantic to be with during her recovery. She is doing very well and has almost made a full recovery. As you can tell from the picture, Pete sure helped Grandma in the healing process. They both enjoyed themselves in between naps (for both Grandma & Pete), reading books, playing with wind-up toys, and exploring around the farm in Texas. The only thing that could have been better would have been to have Heath around. Nothing is as sweet without him with us.

While in the States, we were visited by Heath's Mom, Grandmother and sister - (Stella, Frances, & Heather). They made a 48 hour road trip to see us for 2 ½ days, but it was certainly worth it. Pete soaked up time with them all. There is no doubt what a blessing family is and how special short visits like that can be. We are so thankful to have had to chance to make some special memories on this trip and will cherish them always.

HEATH'S NEWS

Here are a few updates on our everyday happenings. Rebecca and I go to language each day at different times and then try to study/practice Kinyarwanda during the day. This language is difficult yet we are learning it little by little.

Besides language, which is our main task right now, I've been doing some agricultural work in my yard. Joseph and I are experimenting with different plants (mostly from ECHO in Florida) and techniques that we've picked up. Recently, we've tried starting some different veggies (spinach, onions, carrots, celery, etc.) in 3 ft. sacks filled with compost and dirt (see picture below). Like many Rwandans, we are limited

It was certainly a blessing to be able to be with Mom to do all I could to help out. Being away from family is the biggest challenge I face here in Rwanda.



Time on Grandma's lap is one of the places that Pete likes best. We sure miss good times with Grandparents.

PRAYER REQUESTS

REBECCA AND PETE'S SAFE TRIP BACK HERE

GOD'S DIRECTION AND LEADING FOR OUR NATIONAL TEAM IN RWANDA

LANGUAGE LEARNING LESSONS

THANKFUL FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

with space and so we are trying to think of creative ways to use as much of our land as possible to produce food.

Also, my teammates and I have been asked to help train local preachers. Churches here see the need for better training and equipping of their ministers and so they are willing to bypass denominational barriers to ask for help. For example, this weekend we are driving out to a village for a two day seminar on evangelism and discipleship with about 15 ministers. We are praying that these opportunities lead to true evangelism and discipleship with obedience to God's Word.

GOING ON A VISIT

While Rebecca and Pete were in the States, I had the time and opportunity to go on a few visits.

First off, I went to see Joseph's land. Joseph works for us and lives on our property. He is an orphan whose parents were killed during the genocide. In 1994, when he was 7, he watched as his mother was killed. He spent the next 3 months in hiding. We came into contact with Joseph through Xtra Miles Ministry, which is a program that connects orphans with places of employment that will help put students through university. We drove two hours outside of Kigali with a few of his friends down some roads that looked like a goat path in order to reach his home. I was surprised to see how much land he owned. I learned that soon after his parents were killed, neighbors tried to seize his land because he was just a boy and they claimed he had no legal right to it. However, he was able to keep it. We walked around his property, greeted neighbors, saw his newly planted cassava, and visited with his pseudo-grandmother who has tried to be his family. I was very well received and many were glad to see Joseph. However, they told me not to come back unless I

REBECCA'S NOTES

Change is part of all our lives. We are faced with it most everyday of our lives, some big changes and other quite insignificant. As we moved to Rwanda and had our first child, we were faced with some big changes. I had moments of doubt, wondering if we were really making the right decision in moving so far from home. But we have, only by the grace of God, adjusted quickly to both life altering experiences. Some days are certainly tougher than others, but we have a lot more days when our glass is half full!

I got on the plane wondering how I would feel going back to our old home and to so many familiar faces and places. I wondered if I would miss our home in Rwanda, the bumpy roads, the electrical outages, the inconveniences of everyday life. Would I want to get on the plane to come home to Kigali or would I long to stay in Texas? Our prayer was that the trip would only be an encouragement to those we were to visit and to us as well. Not a time to make us more homesick or doubt our call to Rwanda. God heard our prayers. It was a sweet reunion with family & friends, but we were certainly ready and willing to come HOME.

brought my wife and child!

A week later, I was able to visit Claire's younger sister who lives in town. She has two children and also takes care of their orphaned nephews.

I also visited Felix's (our language teacher) mother, which was an hour walk from my house. These visits were great for language practice, deepening our relationships with Rwandans, and seeing the abundant gratefulness through hospitality. I look forward to visits soon with both Rebecca and Pete in tow.



*Above: In front of Joseph's house.
Below: Joseph and I with our spinach we are growing in a sack.*

Sonic, Wal-Mart, Blue Bell ice cream, & Pei Wei were fantastic, but this is where we belong. God has been so good in creating a home and family here for us and we are assured daily that we are here for a reason. No doubt we do miss many relationships and comforts, but we have seen that those ties are not severed by our distance. We are blessed to have *several* homes.



Heath and Rebecca Amos
 B.P. 6490
 Kigali, Rwanda
 Africa
 Heath Cell - 250 078 896 2778
 Rebecca Cell - 250 078 896 2777

We're on the Web!
 Our Blog: www.amosarchives.blogspot.com
 Email us at: amosrwanda@gmail.com
 See us at: www.rwanda08.com