

AMOS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

May 29, 2009 | Volume 2, Issue 4

NEWS FROM RWANDA

Greetings from Rwanda. It is hard to believe that it has been two months since we came to here. We can actually find our way around town: post office, airport, market, hardware stores, church, etc. Life is getting easier as we settle into this new place.

One blessing that has come this month is visitors. The Hollands recently came to visit us from our team's supporting church - RHCC. What a blessing! They drove over from Uganda with the Shero's who are long term missionaries in Mbali. Not only did we have a fun time visiting and catching up with them, they blessed us in being a huge source of encouragement. They reminded us of the larger community of believers who are in constant prayer for us.

Also, we had the unexpected blessing of a visit from Mark Moore. He was Rebecca's teammate and mentor who lived and ministered in Jinja, Uganda for 10 yrs. Mark is working to start a faith based development program in Rwanda that addresses the severe issue of malnutrition in children. I got to chauffer him around these last two days and sit in a number of meetings about his idea called M.A.N.A., which is a non-profit organization similar to the profit-based Plumpynut. Our team hopes to partner with them and help fulfill our calling by Jesus in Matthew 25. If interested, see this website: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/10/19/60minutes/main3386661.shtml>

HEATH'S NEWS

With prayers and open eyes, our team went on our first survey trip this month. Our initial plans are to live in the capitol city for one year in order to learn the language and to seek out a place to move where our team could be effective for the Kingdom.

Our first venture was to the university city of Butare (a.k.a. Huye), Rwanda's 3rd largest city. We brought along Alex, a former minister in the area, who set up a host of meetings for us. For 3 days we met with many ministers and church planters from the city and surrounding villages, government officials, NGO's, muzungos (white people living in Rwanda), etc. We learned a lot in our short time there.



Pete is really growing and learning so much. He loves his ball and just being alive!

PRAYER REQUESTS

PETE'S FOUR MONTH CHECK UP & SHOTS

UNITY AMONGST THE GREATER MISSIONARY COMMUNITY

LANGUAGE LEARNING LESSONS

OUR ADJUSTMENT TO LIVING IN RWANDA

What we learned:

1. Syncretism between Christianity and local pagan traditions (animism) is prevalent.
2. There is hostility towards church planters in the villages by other religious groups.
3. Strong spiritual warfare in the area and, sad to say, genocide ideologies still exist.
4. There is an obvious need for missionaries in the region in and around Butare.

So, our first trip is down with more to come. Please pray for God's leading and directing of us as we continue surveying Rwanda.

LANGUAGE LEARNING

One of most exotic and exciting things about moving to a foreign field is language. It is usually the first question we get from people at home and one of the first questions we are asked here in Rwanda as well. Just as you catch your breath after slowly uttering out a short phrase in Kinyarwandan at the market or on the road, people immediately begin rattling off sentence after sentence in the language, assuming you know it well. Of course, at this point I can only say and understand a few basic things, as long as they are said very, very slowly. This language is spoken so very quickly and many words run together & getting people to slow down is difficult. Regardless, each and every time we try to speak even the shortest phrase in the language, their eyes light up and faces smile with delight.

In the picture here, I am in language class, with Pete along for the lesson as well. Thanks to technology our classes are easier to follow and understand. Our language teacher, Felix, is an excellent teacher and patient to no end. We do very little note taking or writing at the beginning of lessons,

Felix knows that if we cannot hear or speak it first, we will never get the language. On paper only, the words are useless. We do much more speaking and repeating, which at first was frustrating, as I am a visual learner, but is certainly paying off. The more we speak it, the more it makes sense. He does teach us the grammar & rules, which all fall into place. Please pray for us as we continue to struggle with a language that some days seems insurmountable and for the discipline to study diligently and get out and risk failure and embarrassment, as we try it out in the real world.



Language lessons with Pete in the front seat learning with me.

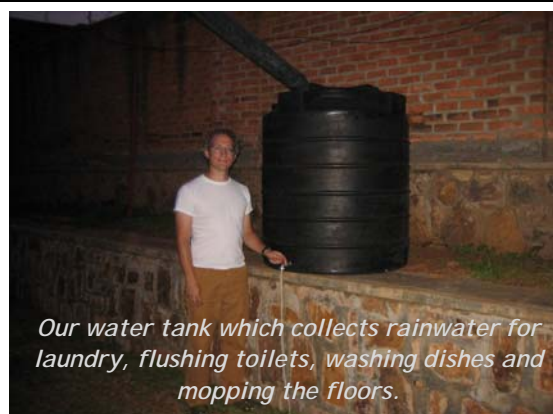
REBECCA'S NOTES

Getting settled here in our new home has been quite a process, but we believe that life is going to get halfway normal here soon. Many people ask about normal everyday life here in Rwanda, so over the next few issues of our newsletter, I want to address a few of those questions and attach a picture each time of our life here and what normal looks like to us.

One of the most basic needs living things need is water. It sustains us physically & helps us keep sanitary. This is a commodity that I took very for granted in America. Not only do we need water, but we need clean water. Some might argue if tap water in America is safe enough to drink, but none would hesitate to agree that our water here in Rwanda is not clean enough to drink. A Katadyn drip water filter quickly and efficiently purifies our water.

But cleaning the water has been the easy part, it is getting the water that has been an issue for us here in Kigali. At random times, especially in dry season, the city cuts the water off for conservation reasons. Unfortunately, it is without warning and our water tank can be empty before we know that we have no water left. It has been off for us or our teammates for up to two weeks. And if any of us could

choose between water or electricity, we would certainly to go without electricity. Since we can't always rely on the city water, we decided to get an extra tank to collect rainwater for harvesting. We also save and recycle our water from the laundry. We are grateful for water each day, something I didn't think much about before living here. How much more should we praise God for His Living Water!!



Our water tank which collects rainwater for laundry, flushing toilets, washing dishes and mopping the floors.

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