

May 2009

SHELBY

Ntadufite amazi

In Kinyarwanda, this means, "We don't have water." It seems we said this many times this month. We were without water for 10 straight days! But, we have great friends and teammates who took good care of us!

Chris preaching in Butare with Alex



MAY IN RWANDA

This has been a busy month of teaching for us in Rwanda. Our English program at ATN resumed after a two week break to observe the time of mourning in Rwanda. Each missionary family has a day each week where we assist Felix, the instructor. Jill and I take turns each Friday teaching the class. I just finished showing the movie "The Incredibles" to the advanced class. They loved it! We are having fun getting to know the students and helping them improve their language skills. We are praying that disciples will come out of these classes. I also had the privilege to do a great deal of preaching and teaching this month here in Kigali and throughout Rwanda. I have preached in three churches in Kigali and once each in Butare, Gisenyi, and Byumba. I also began teaching again at the Bible college here in Kigali. This term I am teaching a class on missions. I find this a bit humorous considering I have only been a missionary for 6 months. I'm long on theory and short on practice! But, I pray that God will use my ignorance to reveal his glory. We are thankful for the opportunities God has given us to encourage the churches here in Rwanda and to train future leaders. As always, we continue in our language study and cultural development. It is difficult but we're hanging in there and plugging away! Fred is in his last week of school and is excited about the summer. He's as tall as his dad now and thinks that is pretty cool. I told him being as tall as me really doesn't say much (now if he had hair like his dad, well, that's a different story...) Tess is growing and healthy and brings great joy to our lives. We are very blessed!



A New Friend

I met this little guy in a village we were surveying outside of Butare. I was so thankful that he was healthy and developing - something that can't be taken for granted with babies in Rwanda

Top 10 Things We Miss About America

As we enter our sixth month in Rwanda, we have reflected on the things we miss most about America. Surprisingly, it took us quite a bit of time to put this list together.

10. ESPN! (Chris)
9. Bible classes for kids
8. Smooth, paved roads!
7. Water that comes everyday
6. Whataburger
5. Automatic dishwasher
4. Carpeted floors
3. Being able to communicate
2. Being able to blend in
1. YOU! - The main things we miss aren't things but people...our friends and family.

Top 10 Things We Love About Rwanda

As we enter our sixth month in Rwanda, we also reflected on the things we love about Rwanda. Surprisingly, it didn't take us long to put this list together.

10. The weather is awesome!
9. We eat most meals together
8. It is a beautiful place to live
7. A quiet, simple life
6. New adventures
5. The missionary community
4. Opportunity to be on mission
3. Learning Kinyarwanda
2. The closeness of our team
1. THEM! - The main things we love aren't things but people...our new friends and family here.

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Schooling

Thanks to God that Fred has been accepted into a great homeschool association within walking distance of our house. He's very excited!

2. Culture Shock

Somewhere between 6-12 months culture shock usually strikes. Please pray for us and our teammates as we battle through some tough days ahead.

3. Future Projects

Please pray for upcoming work the Lord has given us: preaching throughout Rwanda, leadership training, teaching at the Bible college, youth programs through ATN, the English program and anything else the Lord wants us to do.

4. Unity

Unity is a priceless commodity here in Rwanda. Disharmony has plagued this nation for many years. Please pray that we in the missionary community will set a Godly example of unity for a people desperately seeking it.

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