



AMOS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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KURUHUKA NO KWIGA

The above title says: "To rest and to study." It does not say rest and **NO** study! I thought I'd share a little about these two words.

To study : Kinyarwanda is coming bahoro, bahoro (slowly, slowly). There are many days I come home and I think, "I'm never going to learn this language" or "Wouldn't it be easier to hire a personal interpreter?" Just the other day, we were learning the simple word "its." There are over 100 different words in Kinyarwanda for "its" while English has only one word. Thankfully, Murphy Crowson taught me a trick to learn these 100+!! Ughhh... however, we push onward. Wouldn't it be nice if we could just download Kinyarwanda into our mind, like in the Matrix. It would be so easy. Yet, the Lord is seeing to it that we learn this language the hard way! And it is paying off. You can see a quick change in people's faces and mannerisms when you speak to them in their language. Even if the conversation is short (it doesn't take long for the Rwandans to see you are a babe in their language), you can tell that it means a lot to speak like them. May the Lord continue to help our team to study (kwiga) and to learn this language.

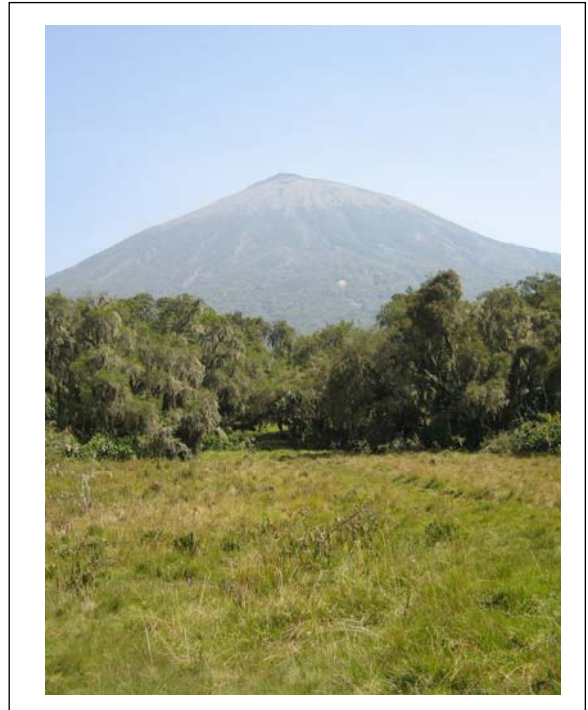
To rest : Earlier this month, Chris, David, Marty, and I hiked to the top of this mountain - Mt. Karisimbi. It is the tallest peak in Rwanda at 14,787 ft. We took a two day trip and climbed this puppy. It was a very beautiful hike filled with sweat and soreness, but also rest and beauty. Trips like this are so important in order to relax the mind from language and the busyness of living in a different culture. It is so important to take our Sabbaths as the Lord has called us to do.

HEATH'S NEWS

Have you ever noticed that God has perfect timing? In Memphis, we sang a song that said, "He may not come when you want 'em, but He'll be there right on time. He's an on time God; yes He is." We continually find this to be true here in Rwanda.

This past week, in just the right time, two mentors/counselors for our team came to visit - Dottie Schultz and Dale Hawley. They didn't come with an agenda or to see the animals. They came to listen to us, laugh with us, cry with us and offer advice only when asked. Our team has met with them a number of times and we were so blessed to have them come to Rwanda and give up money, sleep, energy, etc. for us.

Rebecca and I were blessed to meet with them in three different settings: as a family, as the Rwanda 08 team,



Mount Karisimbi

The base of this mountain is where Diane Fossey lived and worked as she studied the silverback gorillas which are still alive and well.

PRAYER REQUESTS

PETE'S CONTINUED HEALTH AND GROWTH

SAFE TRAVEL FOR ALL OUR SUMMER VISITORS

LANGUAGE LEARNING LESSONS

CHURCH PLANTING MOVEMENT WORKSHOP
HAPPENING HERE IN MID-AUGUST

and with our larger national team here in Rwanda. How the Lord used them to bless us! We were able to share our struggles, as well as blessings, in living here in Rwanda. There is a lot that we are going through right now: culture shock, adjustment and settlement into this country, first time parenting, language learning, etc. How sweet is the kind ear that is willing to listen and to understand. It was great for us to process where we are and where we are going as we minister here in Rwanda.

Thank you God for mentors and for all of our teammates. We could not be here without You or them.

NEW FRIENDS

We have been so blessed by so many new friends since we have been here. Slowly, we are deepening those relationships and building a special trust with several people.

As you can tell from the picture, one of those people is Claire. We were not looking for her, nor was she looking for us, but the good Shepherd led us together, during the first weeks we were in Rwanda. She helps us out around the house in countless ways. She speaks very limited English, so we get great practice with our Kinyarwandan speaking. Claire is one of the hardest working people I know and always has a smile on her face and a ready laugh for us all. We have thoroughly enjoyed having her in our home for meals, playing games and helping out. We would have a hole here without her.

A very telling story happened the other day with Claire. It certainly reveals her heart and the motivation behind her hard work, honesty and joy in the midst of her

REBECCA'S NOTES

Pete is now six months old and continues to bring us unbridled joy each day, as he discovers the world around him, flashes silly smiles at us and simply seems content with life. He continues to make our adjustment to being parents and living in Rwanda quite easy. We are thankful for him each day and continually try to put him in the Lord's hands.

This week is another exercise in handing my worries over to the Father, as Pete gets his shots here in Kigali. I had no idea how accustomed I had become to cleanliness, order and anti-bacterial gel, when it comes to medical care in America. My expectations were instantly lowered at our first appointment here, as I watched the doctor examine another baby before Pete. I am sure he is thorough and competent, but his English is hard to decipher, his practices hurried, and his office a mess. I tried not to grimace when he laid Pete on the same 'un-sanitized' towel that I had watched him lay another naked child on just minutes before, all without ever pausing to wash his hands. I watched nervously as he fumbled through dozens of packages in his tiny refrigerator for 2 vaccinations Pete was to have. Several tumbled out onto the floor and he found what he needed. I was glad to dress Pete quickly and get home. Now we go back this

circumstances. I often let her borrow Pete's books to look at and practice some English. She came in with me the other day to find some and in her slow, broken English, she said, "Give me Jesus." That was it, she just wanted Jesus, it was all she knew and that was enough. We found a picture Bible for kids and a couple of story books about Jesus and she left with a smile. Why can't I live with such clear focus day to day? We learn so much from her, much more than she will ever know. Thank you Father, for my sister Claire.



Pete loves Claire and his smile says it all, each time he sees her!

week for more shots and believe it or not, I feel good about it. There is something freeing about letting go of expectations and realizing that my antibacterial gel doesn't keep me in control. I trust that the Father has Pete in his hands, which is an even better place than in my own arms or even the cleanest doctor's office.



Pete wanted to say- "Bite!" to all our friends at home!