



AMOS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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HEATH'S NOTES

Two of my teammates, Chris and Charles, have been contacting local schools in order to start sports programs for kids. While talking to a school a stone's throw away from where we work, they learned that this school is the largest in Rwanda with +3,800 kids and 59 teachers. The headmaster told them of a major problem the school has - toilets. I believe there were only 8 functioning pit latrines for all of these people! The community had donated money to build more, but money was still needed to finish what had been started.

ATN gladly partnered with the school, with money and manpower. We showed up and helped haul rocks, move sand, mix concrete, carry water, etc. in order to help the paid workers finish quicker. It was a great day of partnering and working together.

However, the biggest surprise and blessing was hearing what the headmaster reported about the day. He was very thankful for the money and work that ATN gave towards the latrines, but what would be even more helpful would be to have someone come to the school to teach ethics!! The school has two problems: physical and spiritual filth and they were asking ATN to help with both.

When I heard this story, I couldn't help but think

about Deut. 23:12-14 where God gives some commands about bathroom etiquette. God tells the Israelites to bury their waste outside of camp. His reasoning is not just about hygiene but also holiness. God doesn't want to see anything indecent which will cause Him to turn away. We have been given a huge responsibility by God to help the largest school in Rwanda to be a place of physical and spiritual holiness where God will freely dwell.



Heath spent one Saturday morning working on 10 ft. latrine holes for a neighborhood school.

MEN'S RETREAT

I traveled to Kenya for the annual East Africa Men's Retreat, along with four other missionaries/teammates. I was a bit hesitant in going due to our recent thefts but, in hindsight, I am glad I went. We traveled by road (African roads I remind you) for about 18hrs one way. We broke the trip up into two parts and stayed in Kampala with some friends. The retreat was held at the Rondo guesthouse where 28 missionaries gathered from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda. We were able to relax, visit, watch monkeys, eat delicious food, and be encouraged by God's Word. It was a mini-paradise.

Our speaker was Dr. Mark Love who teaches at Rochester. He spent the week looking at the book of Matthew and how to be a people of the Bible while also being able to cross boundary lines instead of forming

them. He was very challenging in our reading of Matthew especially with Jesus' words, "I desire mercy not sacrifice."

We all had such a wonderful time together and it was fun reconnecting with old friends, some I haven't seen for 11 yrs. I am amazed at the quality of men God has called to Africa. I praise God for what He is doing.

PRAYER REQUESTS

THANKFUL FOR PETE AND HOW FUN AND SWEET HE IS!

THANKFUL FOR HEATH'S SAFE TRIP TO KENYA
GOD TO SEND MORE HARVESTERS TO RWANDA
LEARNING THE LOCAL LANGUAGE (AS ALWAYS)

OUR NEW LITTLE GIRL

As many of you know, we have had a number of thieves on our property these past 4 months. The most invasive was in late January, when a thief entered the house while Pete and I (Rebecca) were home and stole many things. We have been praying about options to up our security & a dog is one of the answers to our prayers. She is a Rhodesian Ridgeback & she has quickly become a member of our family. We know that our ultimate security is not in physical things or barriers, but in our Lord & that keeps us at peace. But we are thankful to have Kaya roaming the grounds and hopefully putting a lot of fear into thieves who have been so freely entering and stealing.

REBECCA'S NOTES

If you have ever been in Africa, you know that visitors are a common occurrence and much of the time they are an unannounced surprise tapping on your gate. This was exactly what caught me off guard, yet again, this last week.

It was Saturday and Heath told me that Manuel, our carpenter, was possibly coming over to visit sometime today. Manuel *flashed* Heath and within minutes there was a knock at the gate. I was in *shorts***, which I only wear *in* the house on Saturday, when we don't see any Rwandans. Manuel showed up with his fiancé, Donette, in their Sunday best and with gifts (peanuts, bananas & eggs) for us! They came and sat in our living room, trapping me in the office & completely unprepared for visitors. After looking everywhere for something to hide my bare legs, I made a dash through the living room to our bedroom. I hoped I would pass through unnoticed, which proved to be impossible. I quickly put on a skirt and walked out again, noticing both visitors look directly down at my legs, hoping they were covered. As I greeted them, they quickly forgave my mistake.

Manuel and Donette stayed for an hour or so and we had a great visit in their language - they speak no English and our Kinyarwanda is slow and weak! But these are the best times to practice, make mistakes & begin new relationships.

To be honest, at first thought of visits like these we have some dread, since our language skills are so limited &



Pete has forgotten all about toys and spends most of his days in Kaya's bed patting, kissing and laying on her!

unplanned visits are so foreign for our culture. But we always say good-bye to our visitors feeling richer & encouraged. We pray together & look forward to more surprises from our Father!

*to call someone and let the phone ring once, then hang up before they answer—done in hopes that the other person will call you back, so the caller does not use his cell phone time or money.

**shorts are not worn in public, as legs are VERY private parts of the body!



Manuel and Donette were a surprise blessing at our house.

Heath and Rebecca Amos

B.P. 6490

Kigali, Rwanda

Africa

Heath Cell - 250 078 896 2778

Rebecca Cell - 250 078 555 3693

We're on the Web!

Our Blog: <http://www.amosarchives.blogspot.com>

Email us at: amosrwanda@gmail.com

See us at: www.rwanda08.com