



AMOS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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UMUGANDA DAY

Months seem to pass quicker here in Rwanda. It seems like we just wrote May's newsletter! To start with, we thought it would be good to share a tradition that happens here. Every last Saturday of the month is called umuganda day. The government mandates that no business is done in the morning and that everyone is to gather in local, organized groups around their homes in order to complete a project for the community. Groups work for two hours followed by an hour meeting.

I've been in Rwanda for three umuganda days and we've: cleared a roadside of overgrowth, cut down brush from a large field that was invading the neighbors' yards, and repaired a road with two loads of gravel. It is not common to see bazungu (white people) working. Often, Rwandans come and try to take your shovel or hoe out of your hand so you can rest.

The hour meeting consists of news, problems, and events of the neighborhood. The meeting is all in Kinyarwanda so you have to stand by someone willing to translate. Topics of discussion have been poverty, petty theft, need for peace and quiet in area, neighbor needing help with her children's school fees, road improvements, etc.

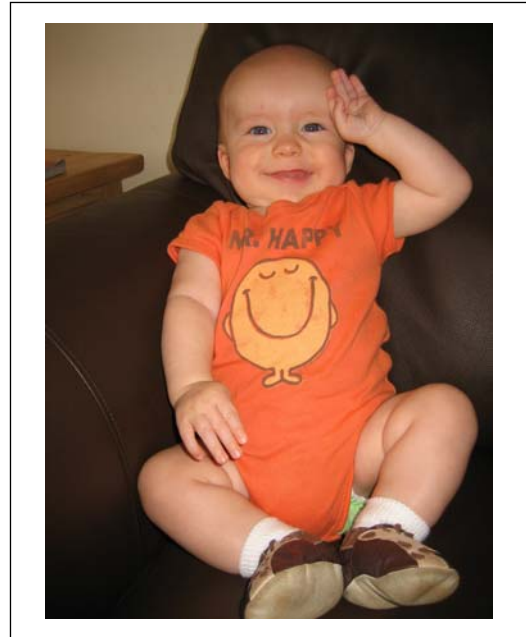
Umuganda day is such a blessing and a great tool to get to know neighbors and the news of the area. It feels like the old Amish barn raisings where everyone works together for a common goal. May the Lord bless our attempts to meet people in the community for His Glory through such events like umuganda.

HEATH'S NEWS

It has been three months since we moved here and I thought I'd share some of the lessons learned so far.

1) Being in a different culture is tougher than I thought it would be. It is even tougher knowing that we are not here on a short term mission trip. We are here for good. We must learn to connect with people in their world. White people are a novelty around here so you get lots of stares and remarks, in Kinyarwanda mind you. At first this isn't bad, but it wears on a person after awhile. But it isn't their fault. Try painting yourself blue and then walk down main street. You'll get stares, too!

2) Language learning is time consuming. There are days in language class or when people are talking to



We forgot to take a picture at Umuganda day last month...Heath worked on improving the roads. So instead a picture of Pete saluting you - Happy 4th of July!!

PRAYER REQUESTS

PETE'S CONTINUED HEALTH AND GROWTH

SAFE TRAVEL FOR ALL OUR SUMMER VISITORS

LANGUAGE LEARNING LESSONS

CONTINUED PEACE AS WE ADJUST TO LIFE IN RWANDA

me that I wonder if I'm ever gonna pick this language up. Thankfully God gives us glimpses of fluency. He gives us "aha" moments where we are able to do the simple task of communication. Oh how we take language for granted. We praise God for our wonderful, patient teacher, Felix.

3) Here we are forced to trust in God more. We have less control than we do in the States (at least perceived control). From crazy drivers to water that has been out for a week to all the things I don't know ("simbizi") about this culture, God keeps us on our toes in relying on Him.

JINJA, UGANDA

We traveled to my first home in Africa this month. Just out of college, I moved to Jinja to teach the missionaries children for one year. As the year progressed, there was a desire in the village churches for someone work with some church members and do some basic teacher training with them. It was very clear that this was a direction God wanted to take me at the time and I spent an additional 1 ½ working with these village nursery schools. These years were a blessing beyond words and served to prepare me in a wonderful way for where God has brought our family now.

Our visit back was full of encouragement, laughter and joy. I left Jinja a single and now returned as a wife and a mother. They were all so thankful to meet Heath and Pete and there was much to be shared. Pete was passed from person to person and was greatly received by everyone. He met his African Grandmother Janet for the first time, as well as many of Mommy's dearest friends in Busoga.

REBECCA'S NOTES

Many people ask questions about the food we eat here in Rwanda. I think foreign food is always intriguing, whether in a positive sense or a negative. I imagine that most people think that African fare would be something to be feared, but it is really quite delicious. For the most part, the traditional food here is simple and cheap. Being bland, would be the worst thing that could be said about it, nothing that couldn't be perked up with a little bit of salt. Every meal consists of two parts - the main food (a starch of some sort) and a soup to pour on top. Below are some examples:

- Main Foods: potatoes, sweet potatoes, plantains, cornmeal mush, rice, cassava, millet
- Soups: Greens, peanut sauce, beans, peas, fish, beef, carrots/onions/tomatoes

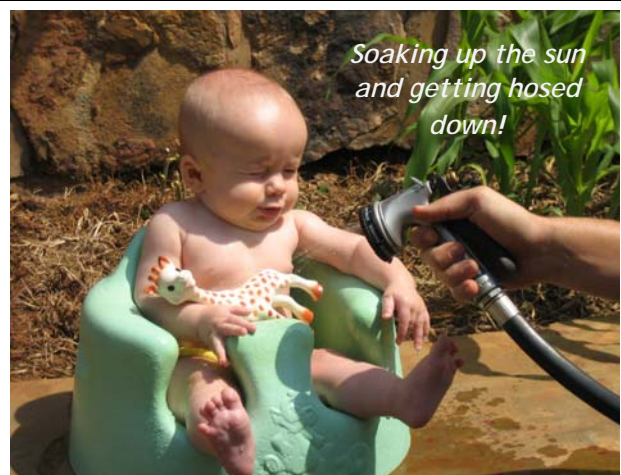
We really enjoy the food, but African cuisine is not all we eat. We can buy most every ingredient to make almost anything we eat in the States, only everything must be made from scratch. Last night we had pizza—homemade sauce & crust with pepperoni from a care package and Rwandan cheese. Or we even have Mexican food quite often, with homemade tortillas, salsa, guacamole, chips, etc. I bake bread almost weekly, but you can buy bread too. The things we can't buy are convenience foods, things that can be

We are now at a stage in our ministry here, where we certainly do not feel very productive many days. We often wonder just how God is going to use us here and what fruit there will be. This trip to Jinja served as a great encouragement--seeing a work that has been going on for years. We were able to see the many lives that have been eternally changed and how God is faithful to those who seek Him. We trust that in some way, our Father will use us here in Rwanda to touch lives. We will patiently wait for direction. We will serve others *today*—for we know that is our calling.



It was so good to spend some time in Wankonge and see so many friends.

prepared quickly. There are many imported foods from Europe, which are way out of our grocery budget...Cheerios for \$14, one pint of ice cream for \$18 or ten slices of bacon for \$15. I do love to cook, but it is certainly more time consuming here. We do love the freshness of our meals and the variety to fruits and vegetables we get so freely.



Soaking up the sun and getting hosed down!