



AMOS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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HEATH'S NOTES

'Abashyitsi' is the Kinyarwandan word for 'visitors'. We have been privileged to host many people in our home, people from the US, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, etc. Ken Stamatis and Ron Cook brought our most recent visitors. They led a group of Harding students to Kigali to help teach English literacy. They came with a program that Ken started called Africa Reads (www.africareadsnow.org). The group worked with many schools in Kigali but we were most thankful for their work at Groupe Scolaire Kicukiro. GSKI is the largest school in Rwanda and is in our neighborhood. We have done many projects with this school such as helping build pit latrines, teaching English, economics, and the Bible. Africa Reads helped further this relationship.

Rwanda recently passed a law that all schools must move from being French based to English. This was a huge open door for Africa Reads. Although schools have supposedly been using English for 2 yrs, the students knew very little English. The Harding students used local materials to help develop their English skills. They worked in two classrooms everyday, in a hot and dusty environment. The group acted out words, sang songs, drew pictures of words, etc. to increase comprehension. This also

served to teach the local Rwandan teachers better English and more effective teaching strategies.

GSKI was very thankful to Africa Reads and ATN. The school had a surprise party with sodas, presents, speeches, and dancing to honor the hard work of the Harding group. Tears were shed by both groups, as they said goodbyes. Everyone looks forward to Africa Reads coming back next year and continuing our partnership with GSKI.



Africa Reads students teach English vocabulary at GSKI

Preaching on Obedience

Last week I preached at the Friends' church where Rebecca, Pete, and I usually attend. Not only was it a great way to serve our community church, but I also got to practice my Kinyarwanda. My translator helped translate my English and he sometimes needed to translate **MY** Kinyarwanda into understandable Kinyarwanda!

In preparing for this sermon, I found out where the name "Friends' church" comes from. The name is based on John 15:14 where Jesus says, "You are my friends if you do what I command." My plan was to gear the lesson towards obedience and this text helped solidify that plan. This is a simple concept, yet challenging in deed, that if I want to be a friend of Jesus then I need to obey what he said.

Rwanda and America have similar problems in the church. Many know what the Bible says but don't

put their knowledge into practice. We want a friendship with Jesus or blessings from Jesus but not the obedience part.

Our prayer is for God to put this verse from John 14:15 into the hearts of the people: "Nimunkunda muzitondera amategeko yanjye" - "If you love me you will obey my commandments."

PRAYER REQUESTS

UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN AUG.

OUR TEAMMATES WHO ARE ON FULOUGH

FOR GOD TO RAISE UP MORE GODLY RWANDANS

LEARNING KINYARWANDA (AS ALWAYS)

WORSHIP IN RWANDA

Sunday morning worship looks so much different for us here, but has been a learning and shaping experience for us. As we come into this new culture like children, we have spent much time observing and participating in local churches. The biggest difference is the singing - there is LOTS of it. In a three hour service, at least two hours will be singing and praise time. By the smiles on their faces and their rhythm, there is no room for doubt about how much they enjoy praising the Father. I am so thankful that Pete is growing up seeing such joy and thanksgiving in worship. Even in the midst of so many hardships, we see them truly giving honor. He is also learning patience, as the services are quite LONG and there is no Cradle Roll! ☺

REBECCA'S NOTES

When most people think of elections and African countries, they do not have pictures come to their minds of peace and tranquility. There is a great history in Africa of disruption around the times of presidential elections and we are beginning to pray about that here in Rwanda.

The first presidential election in seven years is coming up in less than a month and people are getting excited. Rwanda has an amazing turnout for their elections - over 90% of the population! Our president, Paul Kagame, has served for one term and is running for his second and last term in office. He is well thought of and the majority of people fully support him. We are thrilled to be expecting a peaceful election, run with integrity with much support from the international society and the Commonwealth community http://www.thecommonwealth.org/Internal/191086/191247/the_commonwealth/. We hope you will join us in prayer as we approach August 9th.

We have been impressed with the leadership of Kagame and we pray for his continued honesty and desire to bring about peace and development in Rwanda.

We are not worried about our safety during these

At times, we miss our traditional worship services (in English), but for the most part we have learned to appreciate the way Rwandans worship and so undeniably make a joyful noise to the Lord. As we learn more and more Kinyarwanda songs, we also do our best to rejoice with them.



Heath (left ☺) is preaching at the local church where our family usually attends - the Friends' church.

times and trust that the Lord will direct our paths during this significant period. We wait and pray for now and look forward to how Rwanda will shine during these elections.



Pete is reading to himself while he takes a rest in his dump truck.

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