

April 2009

SHELBY

Ubu twaze amazi atanu mu Rwanda

In Kinyarwanda, this means "We have now been in Rwanda 5 months." This was part of a monologue our language teacher had us memorize.



Fred looking at a herd of elephants in Akagera Game

THE MONTH OF APRIL IN REWIND...

It's hard to believe we've already been in Rwanda five months. The highlight of April was definitely the arrival of our teammates Heath, Rebecca and Baby Pete Amos. They stayed in the states until their baby was born in February. We are so thrilled that they are here and settling in. In brief, here's what else has happened this month: ATN received national registration. Because of this, Chris and David were able to receive year-long work permits. Answered prayer! We finally found Fred an orthodontist who can complete his dental work. Yea! The fathers and sons went a brief camping trip to Akagera Game Park (see photos). Our team had a wonderful Easter together. We had a sunrise service overlooking part of Kigali, dyed Easter eggs and the kids hunted them. We visited Shyrongi, a rural area just outside of Kigali, where our worker, Fils, is from. We were able to meet his family and enjoyed a wonderful afternoon getting to know them. As always, we're working on the language of Rwanda. It's getting more difficult - please pray for us!



BOYS SAFARI CAMPING TRIP

Dads and sons went on a two night camping trip to Akagera Game Park in Rwanda. They saw all kinds of animals!

Sometimes in April

Do you remember what you were doing in April 15 years ago? Most of us probably have a general idea - where we lived, what job we had, where we were in school. In some respects, 15 years is a long time. A lot has changed in our lives since April, 1994.

We might have trouble remembering the specifics of our lives 15 years ago. But the people of Rwanda remember. They remember exactly where they were in April, 1994, when genocide came to this country.

April is the month of mourning and memorial in Rwanda to commemorate the genocide against the Tutsi. It is a difficult month here. The government has declared that there will be no celebrations of any kind during the month - no weddings, no parties, no baptisms, no celebrations are allowed as people mourn the devastation of a people and a nation.

Kigali took on a different feeling in April. It is normally a boisterous city, full of life and vigor. This month, it was almost like a ghost town. People spoke in quiet tones. The streets were eerily empty. Stores and offices closed for much of the first two weeks of the month.

And the trauma of the events of 1994 returned. Hospitals were full of those who couldn't bear the remembering. Many can't leave their houses. There is much crying and weeping.

The genocide is over. For that, we are thankful. But the stark truth that we have come face to face with is that the people here remember. They will always remember. As we walk with them again through the valley of the shadow of death, please pray for them and for us as we try to bring grace and peace to a people who, during this month, remember a time when those qualities deserted this land. But we believe that they will return one day. Until that day comes, please join us in prayer for this people. We cannot fail them in this.

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Schooling

The school Fred has been attending has undergone some major changes and we are praying for wisdom about what to do for his educational needs.

2. Health

Many of us have been dealing with some type of illness recently. Please pray that our children stay healthy and that we will not be distracted from our purposes here by health issues.

3. Visas Received!

We are so thankful that God has granted ATN a full year registration which has made it possible for us to receive our work permits and visas, also which have been greatly reduced in price! Praise God!

4. Survey Work

We have recently completed our first survey trip to Southern Rwanda. We plan on surveying much of the country in the coming months as we seek the Lord's will in where we should live and work here. Please pray that He will show us everything we need to see and that his will be done in our lives.

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Us with Fils' family in Shyongi