

December 2009

SHELBY

**Noheli Nziza na Umwaka
Mushya Mwiza!**

In Kinyarwanda, this means
"Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year."



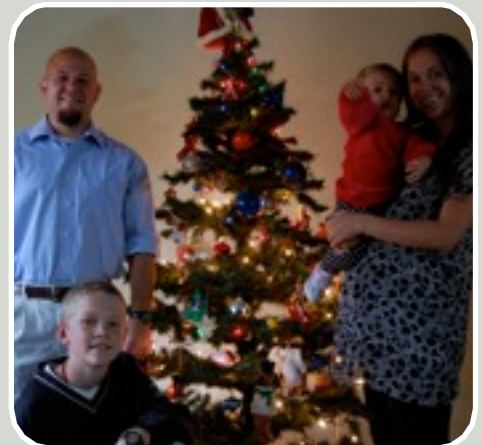
FAMILY DAY SEMINAR IN NYACYONGA

We were so blessed to have Chris' mom and dad here for much of December. After they had only been here a few days, they bravely led a Family Day Seminar at a village church outside of Kigali. The day was well received with many wonderful responses. Their theme was "Choose". They discussed the fact that we have a choice about how we live in our families. They shared their own stories of faith and encouraged and challenged the people there to lead their families boldly in faith.

After Len shared about his own childhood with an alcoholic father, a man came forward and confessed that he was an alcoholic and said he wanted to become a follower of Jesus so he could start leading his family. This day was the first day that man had ever been in church. Coincidence? We don't think so. One of the leaders of that church will be working with this man to help him grow as a new disciple of Jesus.

The translator for the day was our Kinyarwanda teacher, Felix. He is dating someone right now that he plans on marrying. He commented to one of our teammates that this girl is very lucky that he attended this seminar because he learned many things that will make her very happy when they get married. Awesome! Mom and dad did a great job!

For more pictures and information, check out our website at:
www.shelbysinrwanda.org.



CHRISTMAS IN RWANDA

We had a full Christmas! Mom and dad's visit and parties with great teammates made for a wonderful second Christmas in Rwanda.

ATN Sports Camps

December was a busy month! It's hard to believe it's already over! The Lord gave us many opportunities to reach out to our community this month as we continue to make relationships with the people here. We kicked off our youth and sports program at ATN this month. (Our team at ATN has done some other projects with sports in previous years, working through a local university. This new project is our first venture into our community around us.)

The first week of December we hosted two free sports camps, one for football (soccer) training and one for basketball training. I advertised that I would take the first 30 kids in our age group (10-15 years) for each camp. The first day we had 70 kids show up for our football camp! I couldn't turn them away. So we divided our age group in half and did training for 10-12 year olds from 8-10 a.m. and then did training for 13-15 year olds from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. By the end

of the week, we had 100 participants in our football camps! Praise God! We finished the week by playing 3 matches on Friday. The kids had a great time and we made lots of relationships.

After we finished our football camps each day, we took a break and then hosted a basketball camp for the same ages from 3 - 5 p.m. We ended up working with more than 50 kids wanting to learn the game. This training was a bit more difficult because the kids here have had almost no training in the game. They came with no skills - most didn't know the rules of the game - so we had to start with the basics.

On Friday night, we hosted a reception for our athletes and their parents at ATN to introduce ourselves and to get the family's input into how we best can serve the youth of our community. One mother said, "You've taught them football; what are you going to do about their spiritual needs?" Wow! What a great invitation to develop the spiritual direction of the youth of our community! Praise God for a great week!

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Shelbys' Visit

We were so blessed to have Chris' mom and dad here for two weeks this month. They were such a blessing and encouragement to us. Not to mention, Coach (Chris' Dad) played Santa for the missionary kids.

2. Jill's Pregnancy

Please continue to pray that Jill's pregnancy is healthy and that Baby Cy is born without any problems. We have made the decision to stay here for the delivery with the help of a Canadian mid-wife and Rwandan doctor. She has 2 months to go.

3. Opportunities

Pray that God works through the wonderful opportunities He has presented, including the sports leagues that Chris will begin on the heels of the camps he held this past month.

4. Break-Ins

We have had several people jump our fence and steal things. Both our bikes were stolen (one has been recovered). We are looking in to getting a dog. Please pray about this situation.

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These are the participants who showed up the first day of ATN sports camps!