

December 2008

SHELBY

Amahoro!

In Kinyarwanda, this means peace. We haven't officially started language study again. We play to begin in January but we are trying to communicate in the local language as much as possible. We'll use this spot each month to introduce a new Kinyarwanda word or phrase.

Stepping off the plane in Rwanda... We're finally here!



STARTING THE PROCESS OF SETTLING...

We have been in Kigali, Rwanda for just over a week. We are flooded with emotions...excitement, anxiety, anticipation, joy, helplessness, confusion, fear. Even though we have been here before, it was short-term and we knew we would get to go back to familiarity soon. This time, we know we will be here for at least two years before a furlough. So, we have been spending the last week searching for a house and a vehicle. Locating a house here is a unique experience. There aren't any Century 21 signs posted in front of available houses. Instead, you locate "agents". As far as we can tell, these are networkers...people who know people who know people. The agents take you to houses and if you are interested you begin to negotiate. After some searching and negotiating, we have found a house! It's a simple, comfortable concrete floor house with hot water and a generator. We have also looked at countless vehicles. We praise God that we have located and bought a good truck! Already we have been warmly welcomed by our teammates Sam and Nancy Shewmaker and our hosts Caleb and Jenny Beck. In addition, our Rwandan friend Charles greeted us at the airport and welcomed us back. We are looking forward to reconnecting with more friends and meeting new ones.



Tess Under Her Crib Net

Even though malaria doesn't have a terribly high incident rate in Kigali, we sleep under mosquito nets to be safe.

Africa Transformation Network

Many have asked what we will be doing here in Rwanda. Good question. For the first year we will spend considerable time learning the language and culture, finding appropriate and culturally meaningful ways to present or re-present the message of Christ. To stay in this country, we must have a valid work visa. We plan to register with Africa Transformation Network (ATN), a non-government organization (NGO) that seeks to make disciples of Christ in a holistic manner, ministering to the whole person. A project for the first year for ATN is to begin an English training center. The Rwandan government has said that by 2010 all public workers (i.e. school teachers and taxi cab drivers, etc.) must speak English. We plan to help in this goal by offering English classes.

We hope to build relationships and use programs such as Let's Start Talking to use the Bible to teach English and offer discovery-type Bible studies to those interested. In addition, ATN has plans to offer sports programs, women's sewing and quilting projects, as well as provide a community center for the youth to come and fellowship. The ATN Center is located in the Kicukiro district of Kigali, Rwanda. This is the district in which we have found a house. The vision of our team is to form Christ-centered communities transforming lives to God's glory. We truly wish to live among the Rwandans, loving and working with our neighbors and friends as we share and learn. At the heart of it all is discipleship...living the kingdom way and in some way bringing his beautiful, mysterious kingdom to earth .



PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Healing

This country is hurting. Please pray, not just for salvation for individual Rwandans, but for the healing of this nation as most are "the walking wounded".

2. Adjustment

We are praising God that Fred is doing so well. He seems genuinely excited to be back and play tour guide to fellow teammates' children, Ian and Lola. Yet, we are praying for continued smooth transition for Fred and Tess.

3. Language

Please pray for a supernatural gift from God for our team to learn Kinyarwanda, the local language. It is difficult but the people are so much more receptive when you speak to them in their heart language.

4. House & Vehicle

Please praise God with us that we have found both a house and car within a week and a half of our arrival! Please also pray that the Kimbrows will locate a house soon (they've already bought a vehicle).

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