

July 2009

SHELBY

Birakomeye

In Kinyarwanda, this means "it is hard." We are being challenged everyday with the difficulty of this language. Please pray for our ability to "speak in tongues", that we might grasp this language.



Our new house, with lots of water, an answer to many prayers!

A BEAUTIFUL ANSWER

Most of you know by now our water situation. For some reason, the city can't figure out what's wrong with the water system near the house and we've been without water now for 3 months. As I've mentioned before, we've been able to fill our storage tanks by hiring water trucks. This has become really expensive and we've been praying and thinking about what we should do. Should we move? Should we stay and wait it out? It's been tough because we really don't want to move. We like our house. We like our neighbors. And thinking about moving again gives me the cold chills. The other day, we were at the doctor's office, waiting for Jill to get in (that's a whole other story, a good one too!) and I was really feeling burdened by our situation. I just didn't know what we should do. I had already been looking around for another house we could move into, but I had only seen houses we couldn't afford or ones that just didn't work for us. We still didn't have any water. I looked at Jill there in the waiting room and said, "Can we pray about this water situation and what we should do? I feel like we just need to pray about this right now." She said, "Yep." And so we prayed together in the waiting room of the doctor's office. I prayed, "God if you want us to stay in the house where we're in, please God, send us water, even today. And if you want us to move to another place, we will. Please show us the house you want us to move to, even today."

We ended up not being able to see the doctor that morning. So Jill and I headed out.

I got a call on my phone from a guy I had never met before who wanted to show us a house. We went. It was a nice house, a little too big for what we were looking for, but we were interested. I asked how much the rent was. He said,



Conquering Karisimbi!

Heath, David, and Marty Koonce and I recently climbed Mt. Karisimbi, the tallest point in Rwanda (14,787 feet). I'm still sore!

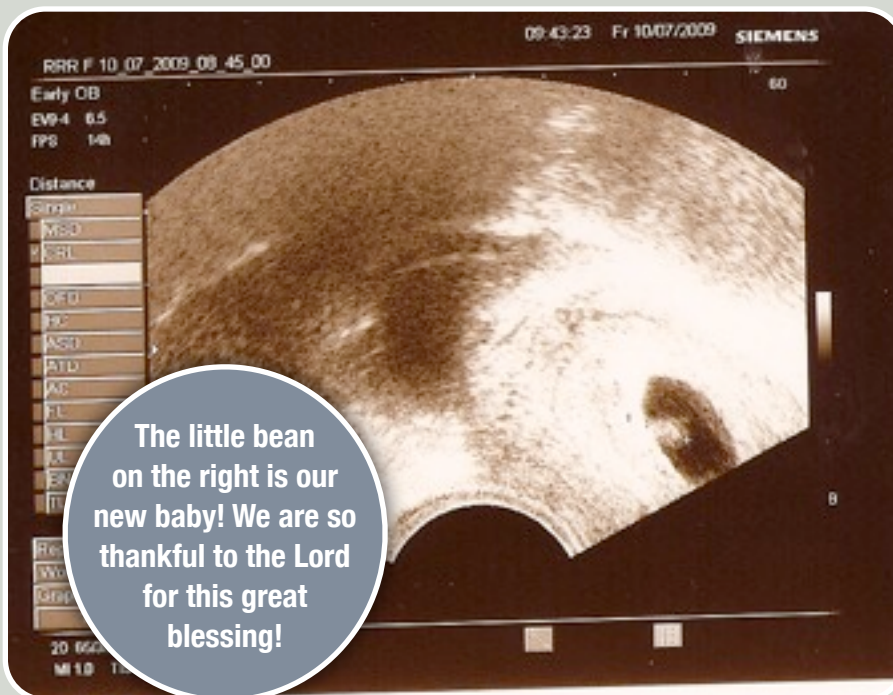
“\$1500.00 a month.” I said, “Have a nice day.” He said, “Well, let me see if I can negotiate with the owner to get it down to what you can pay.” (Which is a looong way from the figure he quoted!) I said, “Ok, thanks, keep in touch, have your people call my people, something like that. I never thought we’d hear from the guy again.

I had another appointment to see another house a little bit later. As we pulled up and walked in the gate, I knew that the house had potential. It was simple, clean, had a big yard. I talked with the owner as he showed us around. I said, “Do you have water problems here?” He said, “No. The water is great here.” I said, “How much is rent?” He told me and it is less than what we’re paying in the house we’re in now.” I said, “Do you take cash?” And we agreed that in a month, after he fixes up the place a little more, that this (there’s a picture above) house would be our new place! While I was finalizing some things with the owner, the guy from the other house called me and said, “Positive! The owner accepted your offer!” I was overwhelmed. Our God is so good. And He meets every one of our needs. And sometimes he answers our prayers quickly, even on the day we ask. God said, “Ok. I’ll not only show you a house you can move into. I’ll show you two. Why don’t you choose?”

Our God is so great! I know God doesn’t always answer our prayers that way. Sometimes we must wait patiently as we grow into the answer he has prepared for us. But it is so encouraging and faith building when he answers quickly, when we can see him work on our behalf, not because he has to, but because he wants to, because he loves us, because he can use any and every situation for his glory.

And that’s why I write this story, so that we can give him the glory he deserves. This isn’t necessarily about a house, although we are excited and thankful for our new place. This is really about how awesome it is to live in a relationship with the God of everything who still hears and answers prayers of two small, little children in a doctor’s office in the middle of Africa.

Father, may your name be glorified! Thank you for your care, thank you for your grace, thank you for our new house...and God, thanks for water!



PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Jill's Pregnant!

We are so excited because we're going to have another baby! Wow! Who would've ever thought that our family would have 3 kids? Certainly not us! God is so good! Jill is due March 4th. We will have the baby here in Rwanda so please pray for good medical care and a safe delivery. Jill is feeling pretty bad right now, so also pray for her to make it through this tough first trimester.

2. CPM Conference

A church planting movement conference is being held in Rwanda in August. Pray that God's kingdom will extend through what happens here. Those interested in church planting from 17 different nations plan on attending.

3. Vehicle

Our truck has a bad habit of losing a wheel while we're driving. It's happened twice. And now, since our family keeps growing, we're out of space in the truck. We are in the process of selling the truck so we can get something a bit bigger and more reliable. Please pray that the truck will sell and that we will have the funds we need to buy our next vehicle.

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