

March 2010

# SHELBY

## Dufite abana benshi!

In Kinyarwanda, this means "We have many children!" Fred said, "I can't believe we have 5 people in our family now!" God has been so kind to us. Please thank Him for giving us 3 beautiful children!



Meeting with the leaders of largest public school in Rwanda

## ONE SCHOOL.... THOUSANDS OF LIVES

As director of Youth and Sports at ATN, I have visited a couple of the neighborhood schools but I didn't visit the one with the children wearing the brown and khaki uniforms until last month. It turns out the school we call Kicukiro Public School is the largest public school in all of Rwanda...and it's just down the road from us. Charles Kabeza and I met with their dean of students, Lambert, about opportunities and needs at the school. It started with helping them complete a latrine project but is turning into much more. The group in the picture above met and determined the three greatest needs for the school and ways ATN could partner in making a difference there. Some of the things that came out of the meeting included: 1)The need for professional development for their teachers. We just happen to have five school teachers on our team. 2)The need for character education in the school. They said, "Yes, come teach our kids how to play soccer. But please, also teach them how to be good people." We plan on doing this in the Fall using the Bible as the base for our curriculum. 3)The need for physical improvements at the school like a fence and more water tanks. This school gives us access to 3800 students, 60 teachers and their families. God continues to open doors for us as we seek to make disciples in all levels of society. Over 50% of Rwandans are under the age of 21. If we are going to reach this nation for Christ, we must reach the young people. Thank you God for such a great opportunity!



### MIMI AND GRANDKIDS

Jill's mom visited us for 10 days after Cy's birth. We were so thankful for her time here.

# March Madness 2

Last year's March newsletter had an article called March Madness. Well, there must be something about March because March 2010 has been just as busy (and we haven't been watching tournament games).

Ahhh....The joys of living in another country! We have made countless trips to the U.S. Embassy and local government offices to get Cy's birth certificates and passport. Several jaunts to Rwanda Revenue Authority and our bank and then a new bank to try to secure a refund of our caution fee we paid back in 2008. This has still not been resolved. Nothing goes quite as easy as you think it should. What you think will take a couple of hours turns into a one or two week process. But, Sam and Nancy have taught us a phrase that brings perspective when some days don't go as you'd hope: T-I-A. This is Africa!

Meetings, meetings, and more meetings. After our team developed a national strategy, our task forces have been meeting almost weekly to move forward. It's exciting and momentum is growing. We are so thrilled about all the Discovery Bible Studies going on across the country. Our language teacher has started several. I have just started one on Wednesday nights. This weekend our team goes back to Rutare to follow up on some training we did back in August. There are Bible studies being started in homes. God is moving and we are trying to keep up. We have reached the start of the time in

our work here where we can "see" things happening.

This month all of our reports were due into the government in order to renew ATN's registration. All of these reports took time, but they are finished. However, the local government is holding up the renewal. We can't wait to see how God works this one out.

Jill's mom visited us for 10 days. Such a blessing that she has already been able to visit us twice.

Our sports equipment drive has been a huge success. Already 4 trunks of equipment have shown up in Rwanda. Sulphur Springs school has more equipment in storage. Using this equipment, we are planning a Peace Tournament next month after the week of mourning between local schools.

Cy's growing. He came into this world weighing just 6 pounds. But at 5 weeks, he already weighs 9 pounds.

Right now, Jill is home-schooling Fred while he is out on break. His school is off for two weeks. Since he will be missing 4 weeks when we head home on furlough, they are working on the materials he will miss.

And, to add to the madness, we are preparing on leaving here in six weeks for a 3 month furlough. We certainly have mixed emotions. Much to do to get ready to go. Ready to see our family and friends, but not wanting to leave the work that is picking up so quickly here. God is good and is leading this mission into exciting and challenging times. We are so thankful to be a part of this!

# PRAYER REQUESTS

## 1. Harvesters

Catch the Luke 10:2b virus. Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send more workers into his harvest field in Rwanda. The harvest is plentiful here but the laborers are few.

## 2. Week of Mourning

April 7-14 is the official week of mourning in Rwanda. People all over the country were affected in some way by the genocide that happened here in 1994. During this week, people experience deep trauma as they remember and many end up in the hospital. Please pray that God continues to redeem the past of the people of Rwanda.

## 3. ATN Registration

The renewal of ATN's registration has been held up for some time. Please pray that this will be expedited so we can all stay here legally.

## 4. Furlough

Please be in prayer about our preparations for furlough (May 15 - August 15) and that we will finish up strong here, that our children travel well, that our flights are safe, and that we are able to communicate well in the states what's going on here and enjoy time with family.

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Fred earned his yellow belt in Taekwondo!