

November 2009

SHELBY

Turashimye Imana ko...

In Kinyarwanda, this means "We praise God for...." During the month of Thanksgiving, we reflect that we have much to fill in after this statement.



Explaining the Discovery Bible Study method to a village outside Kibungo

THE VILLAGE OF RUTARE

What a fantastic month! We have seen God at work here and we want to testify to what He has done. Heath, David, Felix (our language teacher) Charles Mapenda (my friend from the Bible college) and I traveled to a little village deep in the mountains of Eastern Rwanda to conduct a training seminar for several of the local churches in the area. We were told to expect around 15 people. By the end of the day Saturday, more than 120 were trying to squeeze into a little church building, anxious to hear God's Word. We conducted the whole seminar using the DBS method which puts people into groups and allows them to discover the truth of God's Word for themselves. We simply acted as facilitators, asking questions and encouraging the church as they encountered God's Word together. On Saturday night, we showed a movie about the life of Jesus to the entire village. It was a big deal because the village doesn't have electricity. Over 500 people came out to watch. After the movie, we studied the Scriptures with 4 ladies who were convicted by the film and two decided they wanted to follow Christ. It was a powerful, wonderful weekend and we are rejoicing and praising God for what He is doing here in our midst! For the complete story of our trip to the village of Rutare, visit Chris' blog on our website at www.shelbysinrwanda.org.



SMALL GROUPS IN DBS

"I didn't know we could know God's word ourselves without a trained preacher teaching us. We can do this anytime."

November News

A brief re-cap of November.

Our national team continued to meet and we finalized our vision and mission statements and determined our core values. We spent each week in prayer, seeking God's vision foremost and are so excited about the momentum that has begun.

One of the highlights, of course, was the visit to the village in Rutare.

Chris started a community youth group for missionary and cross cultural worker kids from the ages of 9-15. Obviously, this was a high need as 28 kids showed up to the first meeting. This group will meet once a month to play games, worship, pray and encourage one another.

We continued our language study. We have changed the format of our time in formal language class. We begin each Monday with prayer and a Discovery Bible Study in Kinyarwanda. Felix, our teacher, gives us an audio file to listen to

each week. By Friday, we are supposed to have figured out what he said in Kinyarwanda and translate it into English. Throughout the week, we study different passages in scripture in Kinyarwanda.

Our national team got together on Thanksgiving Day to celebrate in style. No one should feel sorry for us (except for missing family), there was nothing missing in the way of traditional Thanksgiving fare thanks to our turkeys (which we had raised and killed for the occasion) and all the wonderful cooks who contributed. We even had some horseshoe games going on.

Fred got his braces off. He's very excited about that.

Our team just finished off the month with a weekend get-a-way to Gisenyi, a town on Lake Kivu in the western part of the country. It was a great time of rest, relaxation and play. Our kids had a great time on the beach and in the pool.

We have much to be thankful for and are looking forward to all God has in store for us in December.

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Thanksgiving

Please join us in thanking God for all the wonderful opportunities He is giving us to serve in His name. We are also thankful that God has provided for Chris' mom and dad to come visit next month.

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.

3. Opportunities

Pray that God works through the wonderful opportunities He has presented, including the sports camp that starts this week, the Family Day Seminar in December, the community youth group and the church leader training that was conducted.

4. Poverty

Please pray that we will know how to respond to the poverty that is all around us. We want to respond with compassion, but also we want to do more than just give a hand-out but to somehow be a conduit of God's kingdom on earth.

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Fred enjoying some fried turkey (we called this one "dinner")