



AMOS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

December 2009 / Volume 3, Issue 1

HEATH'S NOTES

Happy New Year to you all. With the arrival of 2010, we have a renewed excitement about our ministry in Rwanda as we plan for the coming year. For the past few months, our missionary families have worked hard to form a national vision and mission for Rwanda. We are trying to think outside the box of our local area and how we can impact the entire country of Rwanda and beyond.

During December, Chris, David, and I were able to spend the night in the village of Rutare, near the Tanzania border. We were graciously accepted by the village and were told we were the first white people to ever spend the night in their town! We spent two days training and equipping the local church to be more evangelistic through greater obedience. We had roughly 50-60 people in attendance and many expressed their thankfulness in what they learned.

That night we showed a movie about the life of Christ in Kinyarwanda and we had at least 500 Rwandans show up for the viewing. Chris played the movie on a projector up on a bed sheet. It was a hit, as you can imagine, in a village with not much excitement on the weekends.

The next day I spoke about true obedience to God's word. For many people - whether in Rwanda or in the US - we know the basic truths of the Bible about what is right and wrong, but we struggle on a daily basis to carry out those simple principles. We pray that this is the first of many opportunities to be in the village, among the people.

TRIP TO GISENYI

Over the holidays, we took a retreat to Gisenyi with our teammates. Gisenyi, Rwanda holds a special place for Rebecca and I because this is the place where we had our first date and where we fell in love back in 2005. We both went to work with 120 orphans at the Imbabazi orphanage, which was then run by Rosamand Carr. Little did we realize how that summer trip would change our lives! We were married 8 months later and now have moved back to live here. We thank God for how He has already used Rwanda to change our lives and we hope He will use us in return to change the lives of Rwandans.

This was our first visit since 2005 and we enjoyed seeing old familiar places and reminiscing a bit. While there, we got to see two of our friends we met at the orphanage. Zachary and Frederick (pictured above)



Friends in Gisenyi who we met back in 2005 when we worked at the Imbabazi Orphanage.



continue to work with the orphanage but they have also started a program and built a facility that teaches disabled Rwandans to paint, sew, make crafts, use computers, learn sign language, etc. It was really neat to tour their facility and see all the different projects they are part of. Interestingly, Jack Hannah and the Columbus Zoo in Ohio are supporting their work.

PRAYER REQUESTS

GROWTH OF GOD'S KINGDOM IN RWANDA

LEARNING THE LOCAL LANGUAGE!

RESTRUCTURING OF OUR NGO - ATN

A PLAY GROUP FOR PETE

OUR 1ST HOLIDAY HERE

Our holiday season was just as quick and fun filled as ever. We would have never imagined that we would have such a big family here to celebrate with. Pete fully enjoyed his first Thanksgiving, along with about 35 teammates and friends. We had home-raised turkey, mock sweet potato casserole, mashed potatoes and even two cans of Ocean Spray canned cranberry sauce. We had planned to play volleyball up at the ATN offices after lunch, but as always, we were way too full for that much action!

We went on a team retreat the day after Thanksgiving to Gisenyi. It was refreshing and uplifting for all of us to spend some time on the beach of Lake Kivu. Pete loved the sand, but the water was too chilly for his liking.

Christmas was full of memories this year. We made gingerbread houses, shrinky dink ornaments and caramel popcorn. Pete even got to see Santa

REBECCA'S NOTES

Claire continues to amaze us and teach us many lessons. She continues to be a joy to our family, a huge help and one of Pete's favorite friends. He greets her with a big smile each time he sees her and often crawls around looking for her. She only speaks Kinyarwanda, so we are little by little, gaining the ability to communicate better with her. But her humility, love, joy and work ethic are evident far beyond any language barrier.

As Heath and I were talking about what to do for Claire for Christmas, we became aware that she did not have a bed. They sleep on a deteriorating piece of foam on top of a piece of cardboard. We've seen her house, but had no idea that they were sleeping on the dirt. I thought it only logical that we get her a bed as soon as possible. To do this, we had to ask her the mattress size, so we could give the measurements to the carpenter. She shyly looked down and said quietly that she did not want a bed. I couldn't believe it, why would she not want a bed. She explained that her house was so small that she would not be able to walk around in it, if there were a big bed frame. Each day she leans the mattress up against the wall, so there is room to move around in their little house. So we settled on a new mattress and she was tickled with joy and laughter. After sleeping on it one night, her only complaint was that she would now be late to work each day, because the sleep was so good!

Heath and Rebecca Amos

B.P. 6490

Kigali, Rwanda

Africa

Heath Cell - 250 078 896 2778

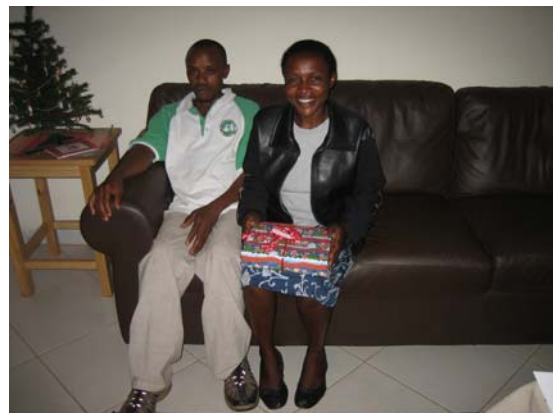
Rebecca Cell - 250 078 896 2777

Claus here in Rwanda. We sang Christmas carols and drank hot chocolate, though we weren't the least bit cold. It is certainly a Christmas we will never forget and we praise God that He saw fit to partner us with such good people here. God filled many holes this holiday with beautiful memories and we are thankful for His graciousness.



Thanksgiving 2009 was truly a time to think back over the year and count our many blessings!

I am humbled and humiliated by stories like this. How can I have come to live with such plenty that I accept so much of our comfort as a given. Claire's joy is not conditional on physical comforts. Her life's circumstances would make most of us miserable, yet she lives each day with hope and a happiness that teaches us all.



Claire with her husband at our Christmas dinner. Her joy is obvious in her smile!

We're on the Web!

Our Blog: www.amosarchives.blogspot.com

Email us at: amosrwanda@gmail.com

See us at: www.rwanda08.com