



December 2015



AT KICS

As mentioned in previous newsletters and blogposts, spiritual warfare is front and center for my role as Spiritual Life Coordinator at KICS. Prayer is paramount. Each morning staff are invited to arrive a few minutes early to prayer-walk inside and outside the school grounds and to pray together prior to opening the front gates to students. Each week a weekly prayer from scripture is also posted on the school website, emailed to staff and parents, and made available to students in order to unite us in our prayers for the school.

We have recently concluded 40 days of prayer when we invited the entire KICS community to join us in praying over the school each day. Prayer guides were made available so that we could all be praying the same scriptures on any given day; we invited parents to come walk the perimeter of the school while praying for spiritual and physical protection. We concluded the 40 days with a community-wide night of worship.

During middle school and high school mission (mission is a 25 minute gathering each morning), we have been unpacking the idea of unreached people groups. One of the shocking realities we have discussed is that if every person on earth who claimed to be a Christian shared the gospel with every single person they knew, and if every one of those people became Christians, there would still be over 2 billion people who have never heard the good news about Jesus. That's nearly 1/3 of the world's population. One-third of the people in this world do not know a single Christian. We are challenging our students, many of whom come from powerful families in Rwanda, to use their gifts and passions to serve in unreached parts of the world once their education is complete. Our prayer is that KICS graduates become a part of a new generation with a burden for sharing the love of Christ.



Candlelight prayer at the conclusion of the 40 days.

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Our Views

Eating in the Dark

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BROTHER ALLIANCE

Where to begin? Almost eight years living in the heat of America's Texas, three years in the heart of China's mountain ranges and, so far, six months in the center of Africa really gives me a good view of some of the world's richest and poorest places to offer. I feel very much at home in Kigali, Rwanda, even though it is so different from the places I used to call 'home'. I have adjusted to life here extremely well and met many wonderful friends who, like I, have lived in many places and experienced many different worlds and cultures (one of which has lived in 9 countries). I have many things to share but not a lot of time. I'll just have to tell you about one of my newest ideas.



Western food is treasured. Those four words are true for nearly everyone at school. So one night I got to thinking and came up with a grand scheme. The next day I talked to some guys and teachers and my plan was confirmed. After about a week of working out the kinks of my idea and advertising at school, I was ready to put it into action. The next day, I came to school with a Reeses cake in hand prepared by me and my mom. I was wanting to sell Reeses cakes for 1,000 francs a slice (about a dollar fifty) during middle school lunch. The profit would be used to buy water filters to give to desperate families in local villages. Most Rwandans walk long, tiring distances to fetch their water from a stream or well. The water is filthy, dangerous, and can cause disease or severe illnesses. They are inconsistent about boiling their water and can be found drinking it unboiled and unfiltered. A water filter can be live-saving for a family!



The first day of selling, we (me and some friends) sold out in minutes. We got 15,000 francs (about 20 dollars) which was incredible to me. One water filter costs about 45,000 francs (60 dollars). Even though we got 15,000 and the filter costs 45,000 we were making progress. Soon word got around and some high schoolers got jealous. The next week we made two cakes, one for high school and one for middle school. A teacher friend, Coach Jeph, sold the cakes to high school and me and a friend to middle school. The leftover pieces we sold to primary and parents. After counting up the money, we got around 38,000 francs (50 dollars). We added it to the first cake and came to a stunning 53,000 francs which is around 70 dollars. With a couple more cakes, we could buy two water filters. I figured we could get 1 in a month earlier...but now two! We plan to deliver our first water filter this week.

I'm excited for what this means for the families who get the wonderful gift of clean water. Last week a friend who helps me sell the Reeses said, "Maybe Green-hills (another Western school in Kigali) likes Reeces too?"

Aiden has 19 classmates in the 7th grade. They represent 8 different countries and 4 different continents.





WENDY'S WANDERINGS

Resilience seems to be an underlying theme that I am learning about here as well as how much the human heart can endure.

I'd like to share the story of one of the girls that lives at the girls' home, Centre Marembo, that we serve alongside. Olivie *(name changed) began being repeatedly sexually abused around age 7 by a neighbor. Enduring years of this treatment, she found a way to escape her torment and left her village. She went to the city where she found a job working in a family's home doing housework at age 11. This is where she encountered more of the same from her male boss. Sexual abuse is rampant here. She contracted HIV and STD's from him. Her father, who is imprisoned due to acts he committed during the genocide, has disowned her. She was rescued and moved into a home for girls where she is safe.

When I met her she was receiving no counseling, social services, or spiritual teaching. We recently had some friends contribute to our work here and through their contribution we were able to provide a highly experienced Christian Rwandan counselor to provide therapy to the girls in a group setting as well as some individual sessions with specific girls. We are thrilled about this!! Absolutely giddy about it! There's only so much we can do ourselves and I see part of our role as helping provide resources to these girls. Besides, I'm not a trained trauma counselor nor do I have any experience in helping someone through sexual abuse. Having a local person that knows their language and culture is key.



Meet Therese, the new counselor we've been able to connect to the girls home.



Yesterday I got to paint her nails, hug her neck, sing together, and share from God's word with the whole group. She is shy, unassuming, precious, and hurting. Due to the language barrier, communication is a challenge, but love is unmistakable. I long for her to see Christ's love in us and through our words via a translator.



One of the many ways that violence was perpetrated during the genocide was for known HIV men to rape women and allow them to survive. I visited a co-op that helps these women by providing healthcare, teaching them a trade, and providing support through the profits received from their small store.



We feel very safe here in Rwanda. The Rwandan government is known for their zero tolerance for corruption (of course it's not obsolete but it is top-notch when compared to other African governments). Granted, multiple heavily armed military and police litter the streets riding around in open military vehicles or on foot. At first it was unsettling to see so many giant guns every time I turned around, but now I'm used to it.

We are bordered by 4 countries: Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania, and Burundi. Check out the map—we're the teeny tiny country in pink, you may need to squint.

Recently I opened up my email and found a sternly worded message from the US Department of State against traveling to the DRC, our neighbors, sighting: instability, violence, poor infrastructure, and deadly infectious diseases. Additionally, our neighbors to the south (Burundi) are in the midst of severe political strife and 'genocide' has been used in some of the news articles I'm reading about what's going on there. In fact, we've met many missionaries from Burundi who have sought refuge here in Rwanda. It's amazing to me that during the Rwandan genocide in 1994, Rwandans were fleeing to Burundi and now they are crossing their border to seek refuge here.

So I'm writing all this not to arouse fear (Mom) but instead to rejoice in the stability of Rwanda and the peace it is enjoying. Several months ago as we were on the road a couple hours outside our city, a friend pointed out a Congolese refugee camp as we passed by. There are also multiple refugee camps being set up for people from Burundi at this time. They are coming here to seek refuge. Please lift these situations up to our Father. So many people are hurting and in desperate situations. It's tough to comprehend these things are going on just an hour or so down the road. We feel so grateful to be serving here and praise God for the safety that we have in Rwanda.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- For the physical healing of several staff members and staff member's children who have been sick for some time without doctors being able to diagnose the problem.
- For the girls at Centre Marembo to know, accept, and fully experience the Fatherly love of God.
- For our neighbors in DRC and Burundi.



FUNDS UPDATE

From a recent blogpost: Asking for money and being dependent on other's contributions are aspects of mission work and/or adoption that are tough, and frankly, just stinks. But time and time again we've been touched, humbled, and taught by the generosity of others. This is one of those times.

Our good friends, who we were blessed to serve alongside in years past, informed us that, come March, they would cover the remaining balance (currently \$10,000) that is still lacking for our family vehicle.

Oh, you should have seen our faces!! Shocked! Overwhelmed! Exhilarated! "Thank you" just doesn't even begin to touch on how we have felt. Overcome with a sense of care, love, and support, and yet another reminder of our Father's desire and ability to meet our needs through His children- our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who has prayed for our work, prayed for our children, contributed to our needs, and been a part of our support system during these years of ministering away from 'home'. We earnestly desire to be good stewards of your financial support. Your lessons of love, generosity, and the importance of investing in Kingdom things continue to shape our family- and will have generational impact. With Davenport hearts full of love and gratitude, all six of us say: Thank You.

We thank you so much for your interest in our family and the work that God is doing in Kigali!

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Davenport Support

We are currently receiving financial support for our Vehicle Fund and for the ministry at Centre Marembo.

Checks can be made out to: Sunset Ave Church of Christ

Memo line: Davenport Vehicle Fund or Davenport-Rwanda

Mail to:

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