

Woods' Family Fall Newsletter



Rwanda

Dear Family and Friends,

We trust that you are all doing well and looking forward to the holiday season. We tend to avoid thinking about the holidays, because it makes us miss our family and friends even more! It helps that the weather here always feels like its June!

We have had a busy few months:



We moved the first of October because our landlady needed the house for her family. This is our African U-Haul! The wood pieces are our bed frames. Moving was a hassle, but we found a comfortable, older house, with a pool!

We have had some visitors from Colorado who have been a real blessing to us, and the school. Jenna is in the following picture. She is from our church in Loveland, and her family sponsors Isimbi, a 1st grade girl at our school. Patrick is also sponsored and will be in 6th grade. A team from Golden Presbyterian Church in Colo. blessed our school and this family with a financial gift. The school used some of the funds to pay the family's 3 months of back rent, buy food, and take the mother to the Dr. She has AIDS, and was told she has cancer. Paul and Gorette took her to a different doctor (Jake's doctor) who determined she has

varicose veins and poor circulation, not cancer! She was so relieved. She was afraid she was going to die and leave the children, and her elderly mother, alone.



We enjoy our home visits! We visited another family that has 3 girls at our school, and have Think Compassion sponsors. Regis, a 1st grade boy, is writing a letter to his sponsor.



The last day of school was Oct. 28th. Paul and Kedress, the ‘school mom’, spoke to the students and parents. Right before Headmaster Paul went up to speak, a little boy, about 3 years old, decided he needed to “relieve” himself. He proudly stood in front of the students and parents, and emptied his bladder. Paul just patted him on the head and waited for the laughter to die down so he could give his speech!

Part of the last day of school celebration included handing out Bibles that were donated by African Transformation Network, a U.S. based nonprofit group. They

gave us 100 English Bibles to give to our 4th – 6th grade students. We love the generosity of Americans!!



The school staff celebrated the last day with a meal at a restaurant (a rare treat for them!), and a Secret-Pal party. Paul got 3 guinea pigs from his secret pal!



While the festivities were going on, Jake and I were at the hospital/clinic. He spent 5 days there, on IV antibiotics, for pneumonia. I stayed with him because the nurses don't care for the patients, other than administer the medication. We even had to bring him food and water. He was a very good sport! The Dr. is from California and kept apologizing to Jake that the accommodations weren't like the States! It was a Seventh Day Adventist clinic and we were blessed by the prayers from the staff each morning, and the music from the nearby church. We had peace in the midst of the storm!



Thank you for reading our update. We appreciate all of your prayers and financial support. You are a blessing to us, and we continue to ask God to bless you in return!

We are thankful for:

- You – our supporters!
- That Jake has recovered completely!
- The school year ended strong. The Colorado-based nonprofit group, Think Compassion (see thinkcompassion.com to watch a video about our school, Good Shepherd) began the year with 42 sponsors, and ended the year with over 100!

- We are praising God that Paul's parents and sister, Linda, are coming to visit next week! Please pray for travel safety and fun family times while they are here for 3 weeks. We look forward to spending time with them!
- Sunday school is going well. We have about 50-60 children each week. They are working hard memorizing the books of the Old Testament and Joshua 1:9, in English.

Please pray for:

- Safety! Our night guard chased 6 guys with machetes out of our yard. They were trying to steal his bike, Matt's bike and our patio chairs! They got away with a gas can, and dropped everything else. They got into the house above us (where a family from Texas moved in 2 weeks before) and they stole their computer, TV, and iPad.
- The new headmaster who will replace Paul. Our plan is to leave in May or June, so we are praying for quality time for Paul and the new headmaster to work together. We need him to understand the role of Think Compassion at the school, and have a heart for the mission of the school: *"to be a Christian School that is dedicated to offering high quality education to the poor and orphaned children in the surrounding neighborhoods"*.
- Paul and Gorette are working a few days a week at the school office during the break. They are a bit overwhelmed with the number of new families coming to register for next year. Please pray that we have wisdom to know how to handle the growth.
- We are running short on funds, and are praying for enough money to live on for the next 6 months, and purchase plane tickets to return home in May/June!

Thank you!

Imana iguhe umugisha, (May God give you a blessing)
Paul, Jennifer, Kyle, Jake and Matt Woods

Giving Information:

Harvest Foundation
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