

the KOONCE family e-news

SERVING WITH THE PEOPLE OF RWANDA



LIKE CHRISTMAS IN APRIL

Finally, after six weeks of praying and jumping through hoops, we have received our belongings. There were many days when we wondered if we should have come to Rwanda with only our suitcases, but now that our house looks like Koonces live in it, we are relieved. It was a bright sunny Saturday morning that we got the approval to get our things and the sun held out long enough to get it all inside before the skies opened up for a refreshing shower.

We would be remiss if we didn't give credit also to our teammate Murphy Crowson, who did all that hoop jumping on our behalf. What a blessing to have a partner like him!

STITCHES IN TIME -

Did you know that Louise has always loved to sew? Thanks to her sweet mother, she learned at a young age how to match patterns and finish seams. Having been given four boys, she was at a loss for who to pass on this talent to. A little over a year ago, God planted a desire in her heart to share this gift with some girls in Rwanda one day. In preparation for that day, God has blessed Louise with a wonderful learning opportunity. Nancy Shewmaker had begun a pilot quilting program with ATN (African Transformation Network). So, Louise has been given the chance to help Nancy with the class and is learning so much from her knowledge. (At right - Mama Sophie with Nancy Shewmaker during prayer time at the beginning of class.)



GOING THE EXTRA MILE -

Xtra Mile Ministry is the brain child of Charles Kabeza. A genocide orphan himself, Charles has a heart for those left behind. The program focuses on encouraging,



supporting and educating young people that have no family to fill that role. Frequently, and especially during the month of April (the yearly time of remembrance of the genocide), Charles takes a group of encouragers out to the villages to celebrate the lives of the kids. They rejoice with them for making good marks in school and reward those that have made special achievements. They offer teaching

and counsel for those struggling. They pray and worship together. Marty was honored to be invited to drive the bus for some Xtra Mile Events in April. Charles further blessed Marty by asking him to speak to the groups. It was a deep learning experience to hear the tragedy these young adults have endured. Even more astounding was witnessing the beautiful way that Christ is being victorious through Charles and how he is fostering that overcomer's spirit in others. (Charles is pictured above in blue with some of the Xtra Mile blessing recipients.) If you would like to know more about Extra Mile Ministries visit www.xtramiles.org

PRAYER POINTS

- Praise for the delivery of our household goods
- Provision and continued direction for Charles and Xtra Miles Ministry
- Blessings for the sewing project
- Continued progress with language learning
- Approval of work visas with the government
- Pray for the Robinson family as they prepare to join us in August

Family Spotlight



One of the highlights for Tucker this year was getting to play on a real basketball team. With a 0-5 record, the most he had to show for the season was two new front teeth!