



April 2018

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you so much for your prayers and support over the last month. At this point, we still don't have much information about what is happening in Rwanda. We did finally get the land papers for the land we purchased. This has taken a lot longer than it should have, but now it is official. Unfortunately, we could not put it in the name of the mission since the mission still does not have official approval. We put it in the name of our national leader in Rwanda and will transfer it once the paperwork is approved. This could happen any time, but we are still waiting.

We have asked specific questions about how to proceed with our ministry, but few answers have been given. We are allowed to continue with our teaching time, but it will be expensive since we need to rent an approved building to do it. Even if we just rent it a week at a time, it will dramatically increase our expenses. Since we still do not have answers about the requirements that pastors need to be licensed preachers, we have decided to postpone our teaching time for April until either June or July. The church is still meeting, but they should be shut down any time. The only reason they are continuing is because no one knows they are there. Right now we really need clarity to understand what the government's expectations are.

Since we still don't have answers on Rwanda, we are making plans to move to Kabale. Kabale is located in Uganda about 15 minutes from the border of Rwanda and will provide a nice location for ministry. It will also save me at least four hours of travel each way when I go to Rwanda. There is also no independent Baptist church in Kabale so we may look to start something if we move. Right now we are looking at houses, so please pray that God will give us the right one that we can use not only for our family, but also for ministry. Because of the expense of teaching in Rwanda, we may bring all our men from Rwanda to Uganda so we can teach them there. The cost would be much less and there is no concern of interference from the government. The right house would really help with that.

In other news, this weekend, we will be going to Mbarara to attend a wedding. Ntare Rodgers is a guy we met when we first came to Uganda. He was our language teacher for a while and stayed on our property when we lived in Mbarara. Several months ago, he told me he was getting married and asked me to perform the ceremony. We are really excited for him, and our kids love weddings! Part of getting married involves him needing a place to stay. The pastor that we left at the Ruti church has gone on to another ministry and that church now does not have an acting pastor who is trained. Ntare is a graduate of the Bible institute in Mbarara and is an ideal candidate to take the position of pastor in Ruti. I am excited about this opportunity and am looking forward to seeing how God will grow that ministry in the future.

We also thank the Lord for His protection of our family last time I went to Rwanda. Our Ugandan friend Israel killed a very large puff adder that was in our yard attempting to enter our house under the garage door. The puff adder is responsible for 60% of the snake deaths in Uganda. Thank you for praying for us.

In Christ,

David, Talia, Hope, Joy, Josiah, and Abigail Ruley



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