



Coffee With Karen August/September 2009

Karen's Ministry



Karen Jacobsen is a Food for the Hungry Missionary based in Gitarama, Rwanda. Working with the Child Development Program she is partnering with Rwandan churches in FH communities to share God's Truth with children.

Pray for Rwandan Friends

- *Pray for Pastor Martin - He pastors a church in the community of Jikomero and has a large children's Sunday School Program. I look forward to partnering with their church in the months ahead. Pray for continued growth in their ministry.
*Pray for Leticia my CDP co-worker. She and her husband are expecting their second child any day now! Pray for a safe delivery and healthy baby and mama!
*Pray for Olivier a neighborhood young man that I have become acquainted with. He struggles to meet his daily needs: food and school fees. Pray that God gives me wisdom to best know how to help him.
*Pray for Solange, a young girl in my neighborhood. As I first got to know her, she was a delightful and

Dear Friends,

I remember when I was a child my parents and grandparents saying, "Time Flies." I didn't believe them then, but now as I am reaching my three month "anniversary" in Rwanda I completely believe them! The past three months have gone so quickly and have been chock full of changes, challenges and children!



I thank you for your prayers over the past three months of adjustment. They have definitely made the difference! I appreciate your continued prayers as I get more and more involved in the job that God has called me here to do.

Blessings,

Karen Jacobsen
Food for the Hungry

Changes

Karen Announces Friends in Christ Sunday School Exchange

Imagine if you were a Sunday School teacher who regularly teaches a Bible lesson to 100 or more children having only one Bible and no other supplies! That is the challenge faced by Sunday School teachers all over Rwanda.



A big change in my work is a new program I have started. I am happy to unveil the Friends in Christ Sunday School Exchange Program. This program allows Sunday School children in the US and Rwanda to study the same curriculum at the same time for one teaching quarter (13 weeks) and share greetings, pictures and videos with each other while learning about each others' cultures and praising and glorifying God together. I am writing the first curriculum in the series about the Names of God. Names are very important in Rwanda, so learning about God's names and his character will be relevant to childrens' lives here. My hope is that children in the US and Rwanda will come to know and grow closer to our great

friendly pre-teen. Recently her demeanor has greatly changed. Pray that I am able to have a ministry to her and find out what's troubling her.

*Pray for Marie and John Paul. Marie is a single mother in our neighborhood and John Paul is her ten month old son. Marie struggles to meet their needs. Pray that my roommate Becky and I are able to continue developing a friendship with her and that God gives us wisdom to know how we can best help her.

*Pray for Jean-Pierre, our favorite neighborhood boy. He has been indispensable with "crowd control" at our front gate. Pray that I am able to reach out to him and build into his life. I have never seen him with an adult and am unable to find out what his story is yet.

Keep Current with Karen

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Rwandan Fun Facts

*There are many different noun classes in Kinyarwanda. That means if you want to describe a noun with an adjective you have to change the way you say the adjective based on the noun you want to describe. If I go to the store and want to get one of something there are at least 8 different ways I could say the word "one."

*In a dowry giving ceremony in Rwanda wit and humor are important. A man may come to a woman's family seeking her hand in marriage and be jokingly given the

God by learning about his character.

This is also a valuable program for Rwandan and US Sunday School teachers. It is a chance for Rwandan Sunday School teachers to receive much needed Sunday School curriculum translated into Kinyarwanda. Along with the curriculum, the teachers would also receive training. It also gives US Sunday School teachers the chance to experience what it is like to teach with the barest minimum of resources and supplies while still having lots of fun and sharing God's Word with their children.

Please drop me a line to let me know if your church in the US would be interested in participating in this program. It would be a great "mission" project for one or more of your Sunday School classes to take part in. I'd love to share more with you about how you can become involved!

Challenges for Prayer

I must admit the past months have not been the easiest! I am still adjusting to life here. Living without running water for eight weeks because it is the dry season is a challenge. But praise God, the rains have begun and now our water has come back! Please pray that I am able to take the challenges of daily life here in stride and with a positive attitude.



I also experienced some respiratory challenges last month that were frustrating. I spent about two weeks up coughing for several hours a night. Thank God my lungs have adjusted to the dusty climate and I am again able to sleep through the night without coughing! Please pray for continued health for me.

Language also continues to be a challenge! My teammate Christi assures me that I am progressing very well, but it is a challenge to not be able to communicate what and as much as I would like. Kinyarwanda is not an easy language....ask me more about the noun classes if you want to know just how difficult it is! Please pray that God would give me the ability to remember what I'm learning and the courage to practice it in the community.

I am in a new position for FH Rwanda and Food for the Hungry US as a whole. It's challenging sometimes to know what direction to go in and how to proceed. Please pray that God gives me wisdom to know how to best help churches reach out to children. Also pray that I am able to make more good church and ministry contacts this month. I am praising God for being able to start the Friends in Christ program. Please pray that God uses it as a way to reach Rwandan children for Him.

Children

God has blessed me with a wonderful neighborhood to live in! I have enjoyed building relationships with the children and their families in the past two months. Almost daily Becky and I have children knocking at our gate to come out and play! Playing with the children gives me great opportunities to practice



wrong woman or misinformation. A family will judge a future husband more favorably if his responses are as witty as their own.

Kinyarwanda and form relationships in the neighborhood. I have recently been able to find a Bible Story book in Kinyarwanda that I hope to start reading to the kids...maybe a "Saturday Morning Story Hour" of sorts.

It's also been a continual joy to attend church at Urukundu Home for children. Hearing the childrens' sermons and prayer requests has given me a lot of insight into the challenges that children face in Rwanda. To hear a child praise God each week that God brought them through the week and they are still alive reminds me how tenuous life is for children here. Adequate food, shelter and school fees are not a given for most children in Rwanda. It makes me thankful for ministries like Food for the Hungry, Urukundo and countless others who are impacting the physical and spiritual lives of children here and helping to provide for their needs.

