

Two more days. That is how long we have left until we leave Bukavu, DR Congo. We will be in Kigali, Rwanda overnight on Monday and then fly out on Tuesday night. We visit the dentist while there and hopefully get some rest before the long, long flights home to Terre Haute, IN. I am torn in two about leaving. We will only be gone from here about 3 months but the people we work with are very sad that we are going. I think they are afraid we will not come back. But God willing, we will return and continue the work he has for us here.

The Tracy's Heart Center is a busy place these days. We have two goats in a fenced in area where they can graze without getting into the garden. We have two different gardens planted. By the time Ed and I leave on Monday morning there should be a chicken coup and a few chickens. On Tuesday and Friday mornings the 8 women in the rape survivor program come to work in the gardens. The first planting is almost ready for them to begin picking so they can take some vegetables home to their children. The women will also help with the chickens. They will take some eggs home as well. When we have more vegetables and eggs than our families can use we will begin selling some. Any profits will be put into an account and then used in the program. Hopefully next month after some business training each woman will be given a loan of \$100 to begin a micro business. These businesses will be monitored and at the end of 6 months the loan will be repaid. Each time we have \$100 repaid we will add another woman to the micro business program. These 8 women in the rape survivor program have a total of 47 children. One woman has 11.

On Wednesday and Saturday mornings 12 -18 women come to learn basket making and sewing. All these women are without husbands to support them. Some of them are widows and others have just been abandoned. All of them are barely able to survive and keep their children alive. They will be in the training program for 3 months. If the funds are available we will give them each a small business loan and help them get started in a business. That will depend on how the Lord provides. The women in the rape survivor program will have the opportunity to learn basket making and sewing as well. Some of them may not be good at these jobs so we will look for other business opportunities for them.

Six of the rape survivors, Byabecca, our new teacher, and me.





Marie Jean, one of the orphans
in Tracy's Heart Program

We are now helping 4 orphans of rape victims. We have a sponsor for one of them but are still looking for sponsors for the other 3. It takes \$25 a month to sponsor an orphan. This provides them with food and clothing or school fees. Two of the orphans have someone to provide school fees. The other two have someone to provide food and a place to sleep but not school fees. So we are partnering with the people here to provide all four with a home, food, clothing, and school fees. If you feel you can help one of these orphans or know someone who might be interested please let me know.

Each day the women meet at Tracy's Heart Center we have a time of prayer and Bible teaching. Along with that we make sure Bible principles are used throughout the program. We strongly believe that no matter how much we help a woman if she does not know Jesus as her Savior we are not accomplishing anything. But if by providing a way for a woman to care for herself and her children we are showing her God's love and grace she will have the chance to know God for eternity.

With God's help and yours Tracy's Heart Center is now helping at least 20 women, 47 plus children, and 4 orphans. I have not gotten a count of the children in the families of the women in the basket making and sewing training program. We do not know if we will have 12 or 18 women or some number in between. The next few weeks should show us how many will continue to come and really become involved. We are directly helping 4 children but are helping many more by helping the mamas.

As you can see there has been a lot happening at Tracy's Heart Center in the last few weeks. God is blessing the program. Thank you so much for your financial support and prayer support. Please join us at Tracy's Heart in praying for the program every Wednesday morning. God bless each of you. Brenda Buell