

Dear Family and Friends,

There is so much to say in this update that I am having a hard time knowing where to begin. First I will say that my kitten Hershey had to be given away. After our interns left and the Bairds moved into their own home he followed me around all day just crying in a terrible sounding meow. He wanted to be held all the time and he wanted meat to eat. So I asked a friend if any of his kittens were left. His mama cat had three adorable kittens. Only one was left and they were planning on keeping it. I said that was a good idea and I would keep looking. Well at the end of the week a friend of my friend, also a friend of ours, showed up with the gray and white kitten tied in a sack. I was really surprised and was afraid they gave up their kitten for me. However, their mama cat was expecting another litter and the kids decided they would just keep one of them. So now I had two kittens. Our temporary day guard really loved Hershey so I asked if his family would like to take him. He was very happy to do it and said that they had a big problem with the rats running over their three small girls during the night. He ended up taking Hershey to his house which is just at the end of our road. I did not go to see how he was doing for 3 weeks because I did not want him trying to come home. When I did go to check on him he was happy to see me but not the least bit interested in following me home. He loved being held and carried around all day by the girls and sleeping with them at night. I was told that he caught all the rats and now they had no problem with them. They feed him avocados to supplement his diet of rats and he was extremely happy there. Sadly though I was just told that someone stole Hershey away from them and they are all sad about it. They have gotten a puppy though so I think that will help the girls get over their sadness. I don't know how the puppy will be about catching rats though. Our dog, Condi, does so maybe this one will too.

My new kitten's name is Kit Kat. Ed suggested it because Hershey had the name of a candy bar so why not this one. I call him Kit a lot and he comes to that since it is so close to Kitty. He sometimes comes to Kit Kat though and the name just seems to fit. His cry is not so irritating but he is into a lot of trouble a lot of the time. Ed was tempted to sell him just the other day!

A piece of good news is that we are getting a new gate. Many of the houses here have big iron gates blocking the driveways. Ours was in terrible shape and just about to fall down. The church here has paid for the gate to be made and we are paying for it to be welded into place and the brick pillars built around the iron posts. It will be great to have it in place. Right now we have tarps covering the opening to the driveway. Anyone that comes has to kneel down to go under the tarps. Ed told them that everyone has to bend his knee and pray before entering the yard of the missionary. They think that is extremely funny and everyone enters in and goes out laughing. I guess it won't be so enjoyable to just walk through the gate in a normal way after this!

We are thankful to have the water tank installed. Most of the day we do not have city water but can get it from the tank. Right now all the water is pumped in but Ed hopes to get a system set up with barrels in the attic. We can pump water up to the barrels when we have electricity or by using the generator. Then gravity will cause it to flow through the pipes into the house. Or something like that. All I know is that when it is all finished I should have water coming out of the faucets and into the toilets without using buckets. Won't that be something?

Dry season has started. The dust is thick on most roads. We did get a bit of rain on Saturday night but it could well be the last time for awhile. It makes it easier to travel to the different churches without worrying about the mud but it makes it harder to breathe and to keep the dust out of the house. Since there is no air conditioning in the houses here our windows are open all day. It has been cool enough to

close them most nights though so that helps. If we need to we can run the one fan that we were able to buy here. We usually just run it at night since that is when we have power. Most weeks now we actually have electricity on Tuesday, Thursday, and sometimes Saturday or Sunday. Once in a while we have it on both Saturday and Sunday but not usually.

Ed and I had to make a trip to Kigali, Rwanda last week. It is about 6 hours from Bukavu. We had to go to the dentist since both of us have broken off parts of a tooth from getting a rock in our rice or some other undesirable and uneatable thing. We did find a good dentist and will have to return on August 15 to get the permanent crowns put on our teeth. While we were there Ed visited a dermatologist to have two suspicious spots removed from his arm and hand. He goes back to see him on August 17 so we will be making the trip to Kigali once again. There are a lot of things and different foods to buy there but most of it is very expensive. Prices have gotten very high in Kigali. We found a place to stay for \$17 a night. It was called the Kigali Guest House. The rooms were basic but clean. The bathroom was not much to write home about but it did have cold water. There was a shower stall as well. In order to get a hot shower we had to take the bucket provided down to the big wood burning water heater and get hot water out of the faucet on the water heater. Then Ed carried it to our room upstairs where we added enough cold water to make it comfortable. Then we took turns standing in the shower stall and pouring cups of water over our heads. You can get as clean that way as from a regular shower but it is not as relaxing! We sometimes have to take showers like that here, or at least we did before we got the water tank. The pressure is pretty good with the pump and the water tank.

There is a lot happening with Tracy's Heart, the program for the rape victims and their children, but I will begin another update just about that and send it out. Please be praying for us as we have far more people coming to the gate (or tarp right now) than we can help. Pray for discernment to be able to know which stories are truthful and which are just scams. Pray for discernment to know who to help first or at all. It is a very difficult part of living here. I pray each of you is well. If you have any sicknesses or other prayer needs please send them on to us so we can join you in praying. Without prayer we can accomplish nothing but with prayer God will do mighty things. God bless each of you as you continue to live for and serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Love, Brenda