



Introducing a little bit more about Brad & Chelsea Carpenter

(Sarai, Gideon, and Ian)

serve with Evangelical Friends Mission in Rwanda, Africa.
Brad began with EFM in 2006, and after getting married, the two of them returned to Rwanda in 2009.



MAJOR MINISTRIES: The Carpenter family is called to work with and support the leaders of the Evangelical Friends Church of Rwanda. Their focus is on discipleship that seeks to bring relationship with Jesus, and His Lordship, into every aspect of life (spiritual, physical, and relational). They have seen the Lord do some amazing, deep transformation in the lives of individuals and communities and they are praying that He will grow this disciple-making movement throughout Rwanda and beyond! Brad is focusing his time primarily in the whole-life discipleship ministry (Discipling for Development) by working with Rwandan colleagues in visiting communities, preparing lessons, and coaching Rwandans as they disciple others. Brad will also be a part of casting vision and helping EFC-R move towards being a mission-sending church. Chelsea's focus is on home and family, as well as supporting Brad and the missionary team in various tasks. Their children are enjoying growing and learning in the beautiful "country of a thousand hills".

BACKGROUND: Both were both born in Wichita, Kansas and are members Northridge Friends Church (Birthdays: Brad - September 7th, Chelsea - November 25th). Brad's parents are Bruce and Donnetta Carpenter. Chelsea's parents are Dale and Karen Roberts. Both grew up in wonderful homes where they learned to love the Lord and were surrounded by immediate and extended family members who were wonderful examples as disciples and servants of Jesus.

FAMILY: They grew up together in the same church family, but only began "noticing each other" in their final years at Barclay College. The Lord led them toward Himself and toward each other, giving them great love for each other and calling them to serve together. They were married August 23, 2008 and have three children: a daughter, Sarai Akimana (November 14, 2012), and sons Gideon Mahoro (September 8, 2015) and Ian Tuyishime (March 16, 2020).

CALLING: The Lord began giving **Brad** a heart for missions when he was three or four years old. In 7th grade a visiting missionary, spoke the truth that "God is still calling people to be missionaries" along with the challenge "If He calls you to be a missionary, you need to be obedient." As Brad heard those words he felt as if they were speaking to him directly. During several short-term and extended mission trips he spent time seeking and receiving confirmation from the Lord on His call to be a missionary and started serving with EFM in 2005. When **Chelsea** was in high school, she asked the Lord to show her what He had created her to do, and she sensed that the Lord said, "Be a missionary." Ultimately the Lord revealed through several scriptures and a few experiences, that she was called to be like Sarai (from the Bible) when Abram was called to go to the land God would show him. Sarai was called to go with Abram, as his wife, wherever he went. And so, Chelsea went to Rwanda as Brad's missionary wife, and will go wherever God calls them together.

DEPUTATION MINISTRY FOCUS: The Carpenters will be happy to share in a Sunday morning worship service, with adult Sunday School Classes, and with small groups of all sorts on other days as well. Our desire is to connect with you and hear about what God is doing in your own lives, to share about what God is doing in Rwanda, Burundi and Congo, and to invite you to continue to partner with us in this exciting vision of God expanding whole-life discipleship into other countries in Africa. As this ministry expands the need for intentional prayer support is greater. They will be inviting people to enter into some new ways of partnering in prayer. The finances needed in the coming years have increased, so they are also seeking the ones the Lord is calling to make a new commitment to giving monthly to the ministry, as well as contacting existing supporters to express gratitude and confirm their desire to continue. They are also raising funds for a bigger vehicle due to increased family size and need. At time of writing, they have raised \$22,500 out of the \$32,000 vehicle goal!

DEPUTATION LOGISTICS

Virtual Deputation: We love seeing all of our friends and supporters in person, but it will probably not be possible for us to do so very much this year (due to COVID). We look forward to interacting through phone, computer, email, etc. and are praising God for the technology to do so. The considerations written below apply to the possibility that we might travel and stay in some homes. We hope that possibility increases more and more as time goes on!

Young Family: Because the Carpenter children are quite young, Chelsea and the kids won't always be able to travel with Brad. When they do travel, they may need special breaks, rest, and family time.

Housing: The Carpenters will bring a portable crib for the baby. Sarai and Gideon are fine sleeping in another room as long as it's not too far from their parents. We will have sleeping bags with us for Sarai and Gideon so they can sleep on the floor easily.

Meals: We like all kinds of foods. When we are in the USA we love eating fresher/lighter meals like salads, soups, and sandwiches. Our kids like fresh fruit, raw carrot sticks, chicken, meatballs, pizza, and many other foods. Casseroles are harder for the kids to enjoy because they are suspicious of the ingredients they can't see, and they are not fans of onions 😊 But please know that we love all foods and the kids will try anything!

Breakfast: We enjoy everything, especially toast, scrambled eggs, fruit, or oatmeal. If you give our kids sausage or bacon they might never want to leave your home!

Drinks: Mostly water, Hot coffee and tea at times, the kids enjoy juice and milk. We try to avoid soda most of the time.

Allergies: Brad is allergic to cats. We have no food allergies or food intolerances, but there may be times Brad needs to skip some meals altogether due to some ongoing stomach issues.