

Scheer's December Update – 2003

Dear Friends,

PEOPLE WE KNOW:

Furaha means joy in Swahili. Furaha was just a teenage girl back in 1980 when she first worked for us -- it was her first job!

And a joy she was. She was not only a good worker, but she's the one that helped Jamie know Kinyarwanda such that she could play outside the window and the Rwandese inside who heard her talking thought it was a Rwandese child out there.

She's now married and has 4 children. AND she's the one that's working at Gary Bennett's helping him with housework AND teaching Melissa and Megan Kinyarwanda as she taught Jamie! AND she's still a woman that shines joy.

GOOD HAPPENINGS OF PRAISE:

1) What a good trip home. South Africa gave us good weather, beautiful scenery -- from deserted beaches to rugged mountains. We saw whales and dolphins cavorting less than 100 yards from shore; ate food from Russia, Greece, and South Africa itself; were helped by many friendly helpful people. And back here in the States we've already been able to spend a little time with two of the families that support us, the Jesters in Texas, and the Hubbards in Kansas.

2) Jamie's husband, Eric, has a job -- finally after a year of not having anything definite. And we're looking forward to Jamie and Eric, and Matt and Andy all being here for Christmas!

TAKE THESE TO THE THRONE:

1) We're here in the States for Home Assignment (HA). We're living two blocks from the CBI office in Littleton, Colorado. In these weeks before Christmas we're going to be working and praying through what God would have us share with our supporters. There is tons that we could share -- what to shave it down to fit the brief times we'll have at each church.

2) I just got off the phone with Tim Brubaker. Tim and Jessica (and baby Thomas) have been appointed to Rwanda to help us with the NCM training program. They have just over 50% of their support raised. We're praying with them that they'll be able to come out to Rwanda in December of 2004 or January of 2005. They're already so excited I don't know how it will be when it comes time to actually go.

KEEP LIFTING THESE UP:

1) The problem with getting utilities to the building site -- water is there! Electricity looks like it's on its way -- keep praying it out there. Gary Bennett is encouraged. He and Melissa and Megan will be coming to the States mid-December to be with family and to take in the CBI conference in Littleton in January. We're still praying for a finish date by the end of March.

2) Continue to pray for Laurent Katabirora, my colleague, who's carrying on the training ministry while we're gone. They just had a successful seminar for the wives of the Pastoral Training Program (PTP) students.

PROVERBIAL WISDOM OF RWANDA:

-- Aho imfura zizezeraniwe ni ho zihurira. Aho imfura ihatanze indi irahanambira. --

"Where first-borns make a promise, that's where they meet. Where one arrives first, there he shrivels up."

"Imfura" means first-born, but is also used of a person of noble character and integrity. The picture is of two men promising each other that they will meet here at a certain time. One arrives first and waits for the other until he shrivels up like a sweet-potato left in the ground. So the first sentence means that people of integrity keep their promises. The second sentence says that a person of integrity will fulfill his side of the promise even if the second one does not. Quite a noble ideal of the Rwandese.

Partners in Him,
Gary -- for the SCHEERS
CBI - Rwanda