

Scheer's August Update – 2004

Dear Friends,

LET ME TAKE YOU TO RWANDA:

Last UPDATE we had just squeezed into Claude's 10' livingroom for our small group meeting. The first thing Rwandese Christians do when they receive visitors is pray, thanking God for the visitors and asking God to bless the time together. So Claude prays and leads us in singing a song. As we engage in small talk (remember it's all in Kinyarwanda) Claude excuses himself, steps outside and calls over a young neighbor boy. He hands him some money and sends him to the little shop down the block to buy 12 sodas, two for each of us. A Rwandese must serve his guests something to drink; and one drink is not enough, two sodas is minimal, three would be best. But Claude is poor so he sends for two each. Once Claude comes back in we begin our meeting. We pray again and I bring out the question for today's discussion: A Christian family has a sick daughter. They take her to the doctor and nothing he does helps the girl, rather, she gets worse. They think she could die. The family's relatives and friends are urging them strongly to take the girl to the witchdoctor or shaman. "Are you just going to let the girl die?!" they ask. What advice would you give to this family? We'll see what the consensus was in the next UPDATE.

GOOD HAPPENINGS OF PRAISE:

- 1) We've received just over \$19,000 towards our goal of \$60,000 for Phase 2 of our Training Center Building Project! We've visited 23 of our 25 supporting churches! We've added over 150 people to receive this email UPDATE!
- 2) Katey Wildish -- We asked you to pray for her in the last UPDATE. Since that time she's received 100% of the support she needs to go to Rwanda -- she plans to arrive mid-September. Her family that had refused to talk to her since her decision to go to Rwanda has had a change of heart and their relationship has been restored!

TAKE THESE TO THE THRONE:

- 1) At this very time the Pastoral Training Program (PTP) is going on. Pray:
 - that all of the 18 students would have good health and strength during the entire 3-week intensive session.
 - that Laurence would have the ability and strength to both teach well and handle all the logistics of the session
 - that all the teaching and discussion would go deep into the students' hearts, causing them to be better people and pastors
- 2) Today I am working on a letter to the missions committees of all our supporting churches. It is a final challenge to them to help us go back to Rwanda in October with all the money for the Training Center in hand. Pray that each church will take the challenge to heart and give with a true sense of partnership in ministry. I will be following up the letter with a phone call later in September.

KEEP LIFTING THESE UP:

- 1) Keep praying Tim and Jessica Brubaker on their way. These days they are packing a shipping container with their personal belongings and other items we're ordering for the field in Rwanda. It is a lot of details to oversee to make sure nothing is forgotten, all is packed well, and the paperwork is well taken care of so there will be no snags as the container leaves Chicago and makes its long way by truck and boat and truck again to Rwanda.
- 2) Keep praying for our son, Matt. He's had a disappointing summer job-wise. Some weeks the job he nailed down has only used him a couple days. On the other hand, he received a 1/2 tuition grant for his studies at the Moody Aviation School in Spokane. Nevertheless, He will need to get a real good job during the school year if he's going to make through this next year, the second of three in the program.

PROVERBIAL WISDOM OF RWANDA:

-- "Ntacyo bitwara" irabanza, "icyo nakoze..." igaheruka. --
You begin with "Nothing will happen!" but later, "What have I done?!"

This is a proverb for the flippant. The Rwandese recognize that often we enter into something known to be dangerous or to have deleterious effects, saying to ourselves, "I'll be OK. Nothing will happen to ME." When it does happen we say with regret and remorse, "What have I done?!" The student cheating on her exam, the husband engaging in his little sexual escapade on a business trip, the single who ends up with a sexually transmitted disease....

"Now when Judas saw that Jesus had been condemned, he was seized with remorse and said, "What have I done?"

Partners in Him,
Gary and Laurie Scheer
CBI -- Rwanda