

Scheer's April Update -- 2005

Dear Friends,

SOMETHING TO WRITE HOME ABOUT

A few weeks ago I went to visit Pastor Celestin. In our Pastoral Training Program (PTP) our goal is to visit each student twice in his home and church during the 4 years of the program. Sunday afternoon we got into the truck to leave, when Celestin said, "Wait a moment, I have something I want you to take to Kigali." So we got out of the car and waited 5 minutes or so. Finally Celestin came with a turkey under his arm -- not the plucked frozen kind, the LIVE kind! It was a gift of appreciation for us -- and a very significant one. We put it in the back of the truck, careful to tie it in the back corner away from the luggage so he wouldn't do his thing all over our luggage. It's being fattened up for the next feast day.

GOOD HAPPENINGS:

- 1) In March we began 27 new pastors in the PTP. They come from a number of denominations, some of them new upstarts with strange doctrines and practices. Those are the guys we want, so we can build into them foundation of solid knowledge and wisdom from the Word.
- 2) We just hired our second full-time Rwandese staff person. He is Marc Bitiriki, serving as business administrator and translator. He will work closely with Gary Bennett -- our goal is to have each missionary work in partnership with a Rwandese staff person.

TAKE THESE TO THE THRONE:

- 1) Gary Bennett is coming down to his last 3 months here in Rwanda before his next Home Assignment (HA). Pray for him that he might finish well the current phase of our building project. He's also working through the details of getting a HA vehicle, scheduling visits to his supporting churches, working out presentations. He's also orienting Marc to his new job. Marc will be a great help to us when Gary Bennett leaves, taking up a lot of the administrative work Gary does for us.
- 2) As Phase 2 of the NCM Center building project comes to a close, we're already thinking about Phase 3. We want to build a staff house for our Rwandese staff, and a rental house. The rental house will be a strategic way to get local money flowing into the ongoing expense budget of NCM. The staff house will save our on-going budget the expense of rent.

We have submitted plans for these houses to the authorities. We need to raise funds for them now. The goal again is to raise \$60,000 from our Stateside churches and contacts. We would like to raise this money during this coming year, so that when Gary Bennett returns from his HA we can immediately begin building.

KEEP LIFTING THESE BEFORE THE THRONE:

- 1) Continue to pray for more Rwandese staff. Our next staff will a teacher/discipler.
- 2) We have some great testimonies regarding our 4th year PTP students. One district leader told us that they were about to shut down the church of Gaetan, one of our 4th year students. But now, after 3 1/2 years of PTP training, Gaetan has a good solid church going. The district leader also told us about Emmanuel, also one of our 4th year students. His church was a small limp along kind of church. After 3 1/2 years of PTP training Emmanuel has the strongest church in the district. AND his district leader said Emmanuel himself is a different person, having grown into a confident, capable, shepherd of his flock. Now that district leader has joined the new class of students!

This is what NCM is all about -- taking leaders and churches and helping them to be NEW in Christ. Keep praying for us.

PROVERBIAL WISDOM OF RWANDA:

- Akanyoni katagurutse ntikamenya iyo bweze. --
- If the little bird had not flown, he would not have known that the sorghum was ripe --

The birds love to eat the heads of grain of the ripe sorghum. But the heads of grain are at the top of a 10' to 15' high stalk. If the little bird stays on the ground, he'll never know that his favorite food is above him.

A person who stays within his or her own little world will miss good opportunities. You've got to get out and look around, do some investigation, expose yourself to new ideas, new situations, new places. Good word for us all who love to get into comfortable ruts!

Partners in Him,
Gary and Laurie Scheer