

Scheer's September Update -- 2005

Dear Friends,

SOMETHING TO WRITE HOME ABOUT

One thing we live with here is daily power outages. Sometimes the power's off a few minutes, sometimes 6 hours. The power went off one night about bed-time and didn't come on the whole next day. That afternoon when I was out running I saw a couple guys working on the cable by the side of the road. They said it would be fixed soon. I asked what the problem had been. They said that last night when the power went off, some guys came and stole 10 meters of the electric cable -- just cut out the section and made off with it! Such is life in Rwanda.

GOOD HAPPENINGS OF PRAISE

1. Laurie's back again! After Matt and Ellie's wedding Laurie stayed on another 3 weeks to again visit her recently widowed mother. She was very helpful to her mom during this time of sorrow, transition, and difficult decisions. But it's also great to have her back with me here in Rwanda! BUT, her carryon bag was taken in Nairobi and checked in (along with most wheeled carryon bags). We have not seen it since and it's been two weeks!
2. Our daughter Jamie and her husband Eric are expecting their first baby in April -- and our first grandchild!! Jamie has had a lot of sickness -- tough when she's teaching 3rd graders every day.
3. Speciose, the wife of the president of the NCM board, is cleared of cancer! We helped her get medical care at a good hospital in Kenya. After doing all the tests they could they told her she had no cancer. She could have been healed, or it could have been that the wrong diagnosis came out of the poor medical care given here in Rwanda. Praise the Lord they didn't do the mastectomy here that they said she needed!!

TAKE THESE TO THE THRONE:

1. We in NCM have to make a hard decision in the next few weeks. Here's the deal -- Our plan is to accept new students into the Pastoral Training Program (PTP) every 2 years. That is what we can handle staff and facility wise. We started a new class this year, 2005. There is such a high demand for our training that people are crying for us to start another new class right away in 2006.

We could start a new class in 2006 and be fine for that year but then we wouldn't be able to accept the next class until 2009 -- that's when the class that started this year will be graduated.

So should we stick to our program and wait until 2007 to start a new class? Or bow to the demand (or catch the momentum) and start a new class in 2006 -- realizing that it would then be 2009 before we could start another class?

This Sunday, September 25, we have an Executive Committee meeting and October 1 we have our annual board meeting where the decision will be made -- pray for wisdom.

2. Our son Matt and his new wife, Ellie, have made a decision. He is going to sit out this year of flight school. The pressure of finances and time at school and jobs is making it difficult on their new marriage. Plus, Ellie's job is very stressful -- she'd like to find a different one (she's a nurse).

KEEP LIFTING THESE UP

1. Keep praying for the ongoing needs for NCM funding -- both ongoing operating expenses and building funds we'll need for Phase 3.
2. Keep praying for the husband of our worker who is not getting any better. His mental illness is causing great fear and chaos in the family. No one knows what to do for him in this place of limited resources. And keep praying for my partner's son, Alexi. It looks like his leg is getting better. But it's going on a year that he's been in the hospital. Here in Rwanda, a family member has to stay with the patient all the time to feed and take care of him. The home life for the rest of the family has been chaos this year.

WISDOM OF RWANDA

Ibyara impfizi yicungura amarago.

The cow that bears a strong bull, redeems itself from the knives.

Amarago are the knives used to cut the vein of the cattle to draw its blood. Traditionally they would draw blood from the cattle for cooking or mixing with milk for drinking. They would draw it from the stoniest stoutest cattle. If a cow bears a strong bull that will grow big one day, eventually they will stop drawing blood from the cow and start drawing it from the bull she bore.

Meaning that in Rwandese culture the children are to grow strong, producing, taking the load of producing off the parent's back. Not just by becoming self-sufficient, but by providing for the parents. Children are the parents' social security.

Partners in Him,
Gary and Laurie Scheer