

Scheer's October Update -- 2005

Dear Friends,

SOMETHING TO WRITE HOME ABOUT

In the rainy season it rains at least 3 days of the week -- usually in the afternoon. Some years ago Andy and I headed out on one of our favorite routes, with blue sky, bright sun above us. It was a beautiful ride through the rolling hills just outside of Kigali town. At the furthest point out on our route the sky darkened, the wind started blowing, and the rain came down! In rural Rwanda when it rains you just pull up to the nearest house and ask to come in out of the rain. Just to the right of the small dirt road we were following we saw an adobe house -- probably about as big as most American living rooms. The woman and her small son invited us in out of the rain. We sat on the only two chairs in the tiny living room. I took my cap off and set it on the edge of the rough table in the middle of the room. When the rain really began pounding down, so loud on the tin roof you could hardly hear each other talk, the family goat nosed the door open and trotted into the room. In the bright eager way of goats, he looked around, sized us up, saw the cap on the table, took two steps over and started nibbling on it! I quickly snatched it out of his mouth and we all had a good laugh. Though that was years ago I'll bet that small boy still remembers the day the two muzungus (white men) sat out the rain in his house and the goat tried to eat the muzungu's hat!

GOOD HAPPENINGS OF PRAISE

1. Here's the latest on Speciose, the wife of our NCM president. Last UPDATE we told you she'd been cleared of cancer. However, shortly after that she was taken to the hospital in critical condition -- tetanus! Why is this praise? It appears she contracted the tetanus back in July at a minor surgical procedure here in a hospital in Rwanda. If the tetanus attack had hit her while here in Rwanda with it's poor medical care, she could have died. But she was in Nairobi because of the cancer scare. They effectively treated the tetanus and she's home here in Rwanda! Romans 8:28 says all things work together for good for those who love God. It's very evident God used the cancer scare to get her to Nairobi where she could get the treatment she'd need for the then unknown tetanus that was working in her body!

2. We just returned from a great conference in Mombasa, Kenya, with all the WorldVenture team from East Africa. What quality people we have on this team! Mornings we laughed and cried, were challenged and renewed under the great teaching of Rene Schlaepfer, Pastor of Twin Lakes Church in Santa Cruz, California. Afternoons and evenings were free to enjoy the amazing beauty of the Indian Ocean, talk, share and pray together, snorkel on the reef, body surf in the waves, walk and run on the beach. Some got to ride a camel!

TAKE THESE TO THE THRONE:

1. We've made the decision -- we ARE going to accept a new class into the Pastoral Training Program in 2006. So now pray for God to bring us another crop of great students -- the ones that began this last year are the most enthusiastic I've ever taught! Pray for funding -- at this point we don't have the funds to do it. Pray that we will by the time the class is ready to start in February.
2. Tuesday, the 25th, we begin another PTP session -- this is the final session for this class of 17. They will graduate on November 19 -- our first PTP graduation! Pray that as Laurie and I and Laurent teach, that it will be a great final term for them.

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. There is improvement for Laurent's son, Alexi. They operated this week again on his bone infection. The doctors are pleased with his improvement. He MAY be able to go home soon.

WISDOM OF RWANDA

Ivumbikiweho irasa umuhanga.

Only an expert can shoot the animal that suddenly jumps out of the bush.

I like this one because of the picture it brings to mind. The traditional hunter with his bow and arrows is looking for game. Suddenly, as he stalks through the bush there's a flash out of the corner of his eye, and a small dikdik, an antelope about the size of a German shepherd, shoots out of hiding in the bush and darts off. It's only the expert hunter who could turn, get set and get any kind of a shot at the dikdik before it again disappears into the bush.

The meaning -- It's hard to handle something that's come upon you suddenly, from a sudden change in schedule, to a sudden life change. Most of us do not handle such things well -- this proverb says that we shouldn't be surprised at that or get down on ourselves.

Partners in Him,
Gary and Laurie Scheer