

Scheer's November Update – 2005

Dear Friends,

SOMETHING TO WRITE HOME ABOUT

When you go out to eat in Rwanda you don't plan on fast food, or even medium food – you plan on really slow food! Expectations! If you know it and expect it you go out with friends and plan on relaxing and talking while waiting the hour to hour and a half for your dinner to come. That's what we did on Laurie's birthday. I took her out to The Republika for a good steak dinner. We met David and Debbie Thomas, good friends with the Evangelical Friends Mission. Good food and good conversation in the cool night air out on the balcony of the restaurant.

One more thing to write home about. We turned off the main road onto our dirt road about 10PM on our way home after our evening out. In the headlights we saw a line of 6 Rwandese soldiers, complete with camouflage and machine guns, walking down the left side of the road. Such neighborhood patrols are probably one of the reasons Kigali has the reputation of being the most secure city in this region of Africa.

GOOD HAPPENINGS OF PRAISE



1. The first graduation of the Pastoral Training Program (PTP)! It was our largest event yet – 320 people, all of whom Laurie was in charge of feeding. It was a beautiful event, and significant. I picture the 17 graduating pastors as now full-grown trees planted throughout Rwanda whose fruit will nourish many, and whose seeds will be scattered far and wide producing more fruit!



2. We just finished our yearly Rwanda Team meetings with our "bosses", Glenn and Kathy Kendall. What a great Team we have. And our day of prayer was an encouraging time of drawing close to God. Glenn, who knows missionary teams throughout Africa, told us that we have an unusual closeness as a team -- we really enjoy each other! We thank God for this.

TAKE THESE TO THE THRONE:

Monday, the 28th, the 31 first-year students in the PTP will return for their 4th and final term this year. Laurent will teach them the first course in the New Testament series. Adjunct teacher, Nicodemus Basebya, will teach Spiritual Warfare. Laurie will be teaching English. I'll be helping with small groups but will sit out the teaching to focus on other pressing year-end work.

Why pray for this session? What to pray for these guys? New Creation Ministries -- we want these pastors to be different! New! Like no other pastors in Rwanda in their depth of understanding and in their exemplary, solid gold, lives. We want these pastors to revive their churches and turn the place upside down for Jesus!

KEEP LIFTING THESE UP

1. Keep praying for the ongoing needs for NCM staff and funding. We often mention our need for Rwandese staff, but we're also looking for missionaries to come help. In our next UPDATE I'll spell these requests out for you.

2. Keep praying for Laurie's mother. She's moved to Denver, Colorado. She's found a house she likes in a retirement community. But it's hard to be in Colorado (even though there is supportive family nearby) when California is where she's loved living most of her life.

WISDOM OF RWANDA

Iminsi y'umujuru ni mirongwine!

The days of a thief are forty!

This proverb expresses the belief that sooner or later a thief will be caught. The 40 days are proverbial. And the proverb is used of any type of law-breaker. When a thief is caught they might say, "Ah, his 40 days are over!"

In this life evil doers are not always brought to account. We're happy when that evil-doer that's not caught is us! Sad when the one who has done us wrong escapes justice!

But we know that there will come a time when everyone will give account to the Judge of All. Our 40 days will come to an end -- all of us! BUT while we are still in our 40 days of grace, there is mercy and forgiveness to be had at the Cross of Jesus.

Partners in Him,
Gary and Laurie Scheer