

Scheer's January Update -- 2006

Dear Friends,

SOMETHING TO WRITE HOME ABOUT

One of the special things we do over the holidays is go to Kumbya. Kumbya is a small peninsula on Lake Kivu that is the only bit of shoreline on the huge lake (big enough to show up on your world map) that still has the natural vegetation. It is a sanctuary for birds and for God's people looking for a place away. We stay in a very rustic cabin -- no electricity or water (except in the lake). Steep hills and mountains rise up all around the lake which makes for amazing electrical storms at night. We have stood on the point looking out over the lake with the constant rumble of thunder -- another thunder cracks before the previous one has rumbled away. Though it's night the bright flashes of lightning light up the hills as with a giant camera flash so that you can see all the colors and details around you in the split second of the flash, then another, and another and another, sometimes for an hour or more. Wish you could stand there with us and experience the awe of it.



GOOD HAPPENINGS OF PRAISE

1. The absolute biggest news for us is Gary Bennett's engagement. On Christmas Gary asked Barbara Gish to marry him and she joyfully accepted! They say the wedding may be in April. What a great answer to prayer. Many of you know Gary's wife passed away in 2001 leaving Gary with Megan and Melissa (7 and 9 years old now). Barbara is spoken of highly by all who know her. She's just finishing up a teaching ministry in Japan. We all see it as truly a match made in heaven!



2. With us these days is Audrey Sorensen. Audrey grew up as the daughter of WorldVenture missionaries in Uganda. She's in the process of discovering support to come work with us in Rwanda! She's on a visit to her parents and is spending a few days with us. She's just finished college, has lots of energy, good ideas and experience in Africa. She'll be developing a ministry to children, and hopes to be out here this summer.

TAKE THESE TO THE THRONE:

1. We had a **BIG** set-back to our hopes and plans for NCM. We had sent a man named John to school in Kenya with the expectation that he would come back this summer of 2006 as a staff member of NCM. He is an extremely gifted and energenic man who we had hoped would lead NCM into a big future. In December he accepted a position as the head of one of the church groups here in Rwanda.

This is a huge personal disappointment for me and we wonder what to do about staffing now. This is the second time this has happened to us. NCM is a unique ministry with a unique philosophy -- to find qualified people with the heart of NCM has proven to be most difficult. Our approach, therefore, was to take our own top-quality people, train them and bring them back to be the leaders and staff we need. Pray for us in the deep sense of loss we as a team feel, for what direction to take now in finding staff, and for someone to fill that leadership need.

2. Once again in March we will be accepting a new class of pastors into the Pastoral Training School (PTS). Pray that again the Lord may choose out of the thousands of pastors in Rwanda who have no training at all 25 to 30 who will most benefit from the discipleship they'll receive in the PTS.

KEEP LIFTING THESE UP

Last UPDATE I mentioned praying for missionaries we hope to recruit to come out and join our team. Here are the jobs we'd like them to do:

Leadership Trainer -- discipling pastors and lay-leaders of the Rwandan churches

Trainer in family health and development -- working through the churches to help parents better provide for their families using the resources they have

Develop a votech school -- giving young Rwandans a salable skill, while at the same time discipling them so that they might be assets to their communities, families, and churches

Administrator of educational programs -- leading NCM into quality education with a discipleship purpose in new and creative ways

NCM promoter and fund-raiser -- a stateside person to help NCM with it's on-going funding needs

MK teacher -- meeting the education needs of the kids of our missionary team

Pray with us that God would bring quality people to our team to meet these needs.

WISDOM OF RWANDA

Ak'umuntu karaguma.

A little possession comes hard.

To get something that is yours, that you really possess, does not come easy and is therefore valued the more because of it. Though it may be small or just a little, don't despise it. Think twice before giving it up for something unsure. This proverb has particular weight in this culture where personal possessions are few, and the obligations of family and friends make it difficult to hang on to what you have. This proverb can be used similar to ours "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush".

It might make us reflect on what thing we really possess, that cannot be taken away. It leads me to the now famous saying of Jim Elliott, "He is no fool who gives what he can never keep to gain what he can never lose."

Partners in Him,
Gary and Laurie Scheer