

Scheer's July Update

Dear Friends,

SOMETHING TO WRITE HOME ABOUT

Laurie and I were waiting for our plane in the international airport here in Kigali. Suddenly the four men sitting down the row from us all keeled over backwards, landing with their heads and shoulders in the laps of those sitting in the row behind them! The seats had come detached from their base and the whole row toppled backward.

What was very interesting to us was the reaction of both those who fell and those into whose laps they landed -- it had to have hurt some on both accounts. They all laughed, all of them! And laughed hard. The whole waiting area was smiling and laughing at the situation. There wasn't one angry, irate, indignant person in the batch! It's hard for me to imagine four men in business suits toppling over in an American airport and laughing!

It's a parable of life here. Somehow these people for whom life is so much more difficult and serious laugh better and harder than we can manage in the States.

GOOD HAPPENINGS OF PRAISE (lots this month)

1. Laurie's home after 2 months in the States!
2. Matthew passed his airplane mechanics certification test with flying colors! Now to get a mechanic's job -- pray for him.
3. The video team came and went -- they were great guys and in the short 10 days we were together they got all the shots they needed for the NCM DVDs we want to produce. Now they go home to put it all together.
4. Tim Brubaker taught for 3 full hours last Saturday in Kinyarwanda. He came home, and before his mind melted away to mush, told his wife, "This is great! This is what I want to do the rest of my life!"
5. The first year PTS students are back -- and brought back great reports of change in their churches after just studying 1 term with us! Just one juicy example: Phineas took to his leaders the teaching on the Basic Gospel we'd studied together last term. The next week they went out and used it and 23 people came to Christ!

BUT at the same time, in teaching the Basic Gospel they found that these truths that in the States a Sunday school primary child knows were new to a lot of their people. NCM is so needed in Rwanda!

6. Greatest praise -- We had told you that Laurent's 9-year-old son was in the hospital with a bone infection for 1 year and 7 months. He was released from the hospital last Thursday! Here he is with his dad (my partner) and little brother the day after he came home.



TAKE THESE TO THE THRONE:

1. Marc Bitiriki, our NCM administrator has two serious requests. First, his wife, Elizabeth, has recently had what seems to be slight heart attacks. Please join with us in praying that this dear woman would be healed and kept strong for many years to come for the sake of Marc and his family.

Second, Marc and Elizabeth must move out of their rental house in two months. They desperately want to get out of renting and buy their own house. Though what they need is less than \$10,000, that's a lot here and it's very difficult to get a loan from the banks. We'd really like to see them in their own place.

2. We are preparing for a visit from my brother-in-law's church in Bountiful, Utah. They'll be bringing out 10 from the church for a 2 1/2 week Let's Get in Touch (LGIT) trip, July 21 to August 8. It takes a lot of work on their side and ours to set up and execute such a trip. Pray that all the pieces come together well and it's a meaningful, worthwhile visit for them.

KEEP LIFTING THESE UP

1. We are still working at building up a solid foundation of ongoing funding for the expenses of NCM. This is a key concern for the NCM leadership at this time.
2. We're already starting to nail down specific dates for our Home Assignment from February to July 2007. Keep praying that all the prep that's starting already goes well (scheduling, preparing presentations, wrapping up work here, preparing work to be carried on by others while we're gone). Pray that we can find some decent priced tickets. Prices have gone up several hundred dollars since the last ones we bought.

WISDOM OF RWANDA

Akamenyero karaza inkwari mu mutego.
Routine caused the francolin to spend the night in the trap.

The francolin (a type of wild fowl) is a ground bird that often runs around through the grass and bush following the same paths day after day. The hunter will set his trap along one of these late in the day and most likely find one in the trap next morning.

So the proverb can be used in two ways. Laurie has often said, "Where are you going?!" when we're driving to visit someone and I turn off the wrong way because I'm mindlessly taking the road that I daily take to work! In Rwanda she could laugh and say "Routine caused the francolin to spend the night in the trap!"

It can also be used when our set ways cause us to miss either opportunities to do good or warnings of bad. True, the set paths of the francolin keep him from having to constantly battle his way through the grass and bush -- that's the value of routine. But beware of its trap. I find I need this warning more and more as the days go by.

Partners in Him,
Gary and Laurie Scheer