

Scheer's February Update

Dear Friends,

We've just begun our Home Assignment – 6 months in the States visiting our supporters and churches. We'll be heading back to Rwanda at the end of July.



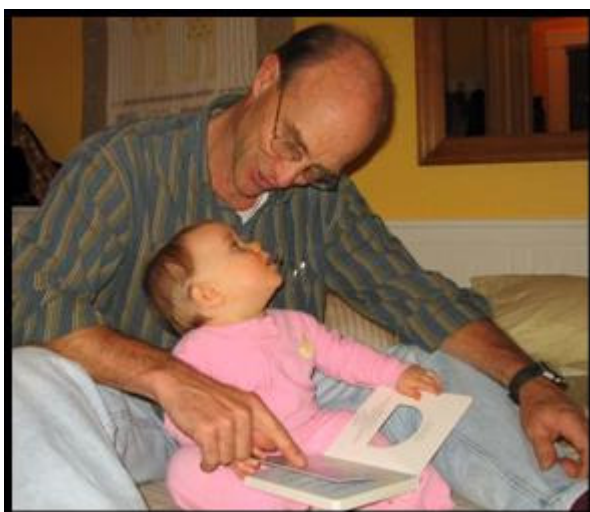
Our two worlds in these pictures:

The Saturday before Christmas was my last ministry day in Rwanda. It was spent with these 9 university students and recent grads in our Lay Training Institute.

We started with a seriously heart-challenging study in Philippians – what does it mean when we see people kicking Paul when he's down, yet he says, "It means nothing to me, so long as Jesus is made known."

We ended with Cesar getting out my guitar, we all singing and the ladies dancing to songs of praise to Jesus.

These people will be sitting in the seats of influence in Rwanda, and we're having a chance to shape their lives.



Then another world:

My (Gary's) first time to see Kaley, our grand-daughter – 10 months old now. The two weeks with her and Jamie and Eric were great but came too quickly to an end.

Besides our brief Christmas greeting this is the first real UPDATE since November. These past months have been busy with leaving Rwanda, traveling, visiting family, meetings at WorldVenture, getting set-up in the States, preparing all the odds and ends that have to come together in order to hit the road to visit supporters.

Pray for us as we hit the road:

- 1) We've still got a ton to do to be ready to travel to Arizona next Saturday for three weeks:
 - finalizing the rest of our Home Assignment (HA) schedule
 - printing materials to give to churches and supporters
 - sharpening up our presentations and messages

2) One goal this HA is to recruit 50 people or churches that will make a commitment of \$50 per month (\$600 per year) to the ongoing work of NCM. This is not personal support. This is for keeping the NCM Training Center going and expanding. We know there are 50 people out there, at least, who know the strategic opportunities we have in Rwanda and want to have a hand in them (if you're one of them, let us know). We want to go back to Rwanda in August with these 50 people backing us.

WISDOM FROM RWANDA (have you missed it?)

Umushyitsi uhire akurisha imbuto.
The special guest makes you eat seeds.

The “seeds” are the beans or corn or sorghum (staples of the Rwandese diet) you've kept for the next planting – you normally keep that and don't eat it. Your future depends on it. BUT for a special guest, you will dig into that planting seed, risking the next planting season, so you can have something to serve him. You MUST have something to serve him. This is, indeed, the high value the Rwandese place on guests. The passages in the Old Testament where a special guest shows up and they go and slaughter a cow on the spot, I used to think, “Yeah right! Who does that?” The Rwandese do!

But it's beyond eating. It means that for a special guest or friend, you will sacrifice that which you are banking on for the future. Reminds me of the story of the widows mite in the Gospels, and it challenges my Western heart of “hang on to what I have”.

Partners in Him,
Gary and Laurie Scheer