

SCHEER'S APRIL UPDATE

The other side of ministry

One evening when our friend, Ndagijimana, who works for us as a night watchman came to work I asked him how it was going. He was discouraged. That weekend he had gone to visit his family out in rural Rwanda and found that his sister had been locked up. In the very sensitive political climate of Rwanda she had said something to a neighbor that was not "politically correct". The neighbor, having some clout with the local authorities, had her locked up. The angry neighbor wanted her to just rot in the jail, but fortunately the local judge ruled that she could be let out with a fine of 70,000FRW, which was at that time nearly 2 months wages for Ndagijimana. The sister's family had no money, being subsistent level farmers. We paid the fine for her -- jails are nasty things in Rwanda. That's the other side of ministry in Rwanda.

Good happenings of praise

1) Our youngest, Andrew, graduates from Stanford in June with a degree in civil engineering. Not only is that a great milestone for him, but it means that last week we sent our last check to Stanford and have successfully gotten all three kids through university -- and top notch ones at that!

Andy's been accepted by Samaritan's Purse for a 5 month internship to be served in Sudan. He leaves the day after graduation. We'll be flying out to see him graduate. He's the only one of the three kids whose graduation we've been able to attend. A great praise but let's continue to pray that he finishes well.

2) We just had a week with Jamie, Eric and Kaylie and Andy. They all came here to Littleton to celebrate Kaylie's first birthday! What a great time we had playing games, talking, going to the zoo, walks, and just being together!



Take these to the throne

1) We're half way through this 6-month home assignment. There's still a lot to do in these remaining months. Pray that we CONNECT with each church and individual we're with; and that we stay fresh right to the end.

2) We're getting great reports from Rwanda:



Tim has successfully taught his first full 3-week course in Kinyarwanda. Wow -- congrats, Tim! He's also doing a great job of keeping things going in the Pastoral Training School. But he's got a great load for a first timer -- let's pray for Tim and Jessica and their family.

Gary Bennett is beginning work on building a house for one of our NCM Rwandese staff. Barbara is in the thick of adjustments and language learning.

Audrey is making fast progress in learning Kinyarwanda, with her agile young mind and years of life growing up in the context of African languages in Uganda. She'll soon begin investigating what is going on in the way of children's ministries among the churches and groups in Rwanda.

While we're here in the States, let's not forget to pray for these great colleagues!

3) Here's a challenge for some men or women out there to get involved in a fun and important project for us (we got the idea from Rotary International which has raised money to build Kigali's first public library). NCM needs a first-class library. Is there a Christian business-men's group out there, or a similar women's group that would like to take this on as a project? When we're on the ground floor of things like this we have the potential for making it the finest study library for Christian leaders in Rwanda. The primary need is for books -- buildings can follow as stage 2 maybe (we have a building to start in and buildings are easier to build than it is to get books in Rwanda!). I could see getting the books in 3 ways: people donating money to buy books; people donating the books themselves (but not garage-sale books, rather quality books worthy of a university level library); people who can follow up contacts with publishers and book sellers to have them donate or discount books. We haven't fleshed this out yet, but if we get some bites, we'll run with it and see where it takes us! Any takers?

Keep lifting these up

The \$600 Club is gaining momentum! We are looking for a team of people who will regularly commit \$600 per year (\$50 per month) to subsidize the training of one pastor in Rwanda. So far over 20 commitment cards have been

taken from the board -- 17 people have actually sent them in. That leaves 10 to 13 to reach our goal of 30 commitments by the time we return to Rwanda in August! Let us know if you'd like the chance to help in this strategic work. We've said it over and over again as we've visited churches -- training Christian leadership is the most strategic thing we can do spiritually for Rwanda today!

And finally a personal request for advice or recommendations

Before we go back to Rwanda I'd like to take Laurie for a couple nights or so to a bed and breakfast. I was looking on the web and found it's tough to judge by what you see on a website -- their website might say "by a river" and you look closer at the directions and map and see that "by a river" means that 3/4 of a mile down the hill and across a highway is a river! So I thought maybe some of you in Colorado might have some recommendations -- mountain setting, preferably by a river, stream or lake, not on a highway! We're open to suggestions!

Wisdom from Rwanda

Ihene yireba ubwiza bukira idatoye akatsi.

The goat looks at his own beauty, and comes to the end of the day having not plucked a blade of grass.

Obviously this proverb has first to do with vanity and pride. But it can go deeper than that. We can spend our time on our personal pursuits, what makes us better, more beautiful, more comfortable, and come to the end to find we've lived totally fruitless lives. Jesus was getting at something similar when he said, "What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his own life." Jesus said that a life lived for Him will be richly rewarded -- let's go for it!

Partners in Him,
Gary and Laurie Scheer