

SCHEER'S JUNE UPDATE

The other side of ministry

Remember Ugirashebuja (Ugira for short; accent on --gi--) we talked about last week -- his mental incapacity incapacitates the family as well. Ugira has a wife, Beatrice, and 4 children. Beatrice, like Ugira, cannot read or write. She has no marketable skills. What do we do, watch them starve? See their kids one by one drop out of school because of lack of fees and school supplies or weakness? We pay the fees for school and buy the supplies so they can study; we hired Beatrice to come and watch our place every once in a while when we're gone during the day (most people hire professional guards; we like to hire local people who we know and trust and have a need of a job). For that we give the family a small stipend to keep food on the table. We hate to establish such long-term dependency, but we have to do it -- it's the other side of ministry in Rwanda.

Good happenings of praise

1) Hey, check out our website! It's www.ncmrwanda.org. Follow the link to us and our family. We've got the basics on the site. Slowly but surely we'll add more info. Of IMPORTANCE TO MISSIONS COMMITTEES is the link to "Supporting Churches". You will find there a document that is an amalgamation of all the questionnaires churches send us to fill out. The answers are all there! BEFORE YOU SEND US ANOTHER QUESTIONNAIRE check it out. There is also a digital picture of Laurie and I that churches often ask us for -- it can be downloaded.

2) Our youngest graduated with a B.S. in civil engineering from Stanford University, California, on Sunday! Four years ago we were kind of saying "well, here goes!" as Andy left the Christian boarding school surroundings of Rift Valley Academy, Kenya, for the liberal atmosphere of Stanford, California! In these last 4 years we've seen some admirable things:
-- Andy was not ashamed of his background as a missionary kid from the middle of Africa in the trendy milieu of Palo Alto, California -- some of his friends called him "Kenya".
-- He had the great ability to enjoy his roommates in the dorm without being pulled into their lifestyle
-- He stood firm in his faith in and commitment to Christ, not in a desperately clinging way, but with a growing conviction that Jesus is indeed the Way, the Truth and the Life.
-- He's finished with a desire to use his life to make a difference in this world for God and for good.
-- Not to mention finishing well at one of the premier universities in the country.

These are all answers to our prayers. Right now Andy's going through a week of orientation with Samaritan's Purse before he leaves for a 5-month assignment in Sudan.

Take these to the throne

Here's a HUGE request from our work in Rwanda. We've talked about my partner in teaching, Laurent Katabirora. He was called before the community court, called GaCHACHA, on June 7. Two men accused him of having some kind of role in the genocide of 1994. He was immediately thrown into prison with a sentence of 30 years! He was given 15 days to appeal -- which he has applied for.

Here are the 3 key foci for your prayers:

1. Laurent himself. We have no idea what kind of truth or partial truth or lies or betrayal are behind this. His trial and sentencing in no way gave him the opportunity to defend himself. Pray that in spite of the weaknesses of the justice system of Rwanda, that truth and justice would come out.
2. Laurent's family. This is a crisis for the family. Not only are his wife and children left suddenly alone, but in the Rwandese prison system, the inmates are not fed enough, so the wife must go to the jail every day, if she can, to bring food for her husband. This is no hop-in-the-car-and-drop-off-some-food type of deal! It is a matter of getting a bus, walking, waiting in line for who knows how long, and coming back -- every day.
- 3) New Creation Ministries. Laurent and I shared the burden of teaching 50-50. We were planning on adding a 3rd class in 2008 (we have just had 2 to this point). Tim Brubaker, who is just coming on line for full time teaching now, will be leaving for home assignment in 2008. We've been asking you to pray for staff -- pray for staff!

Keep lifting these up

1) The \$600 Club -- we have 29 who have said they will subsidize the study of a student in the Pastoral Training School! One commitment to reach our goal of 30 by August! We don't know yet if all who expressed the desire to contribute will actually be able to -- we'll be checking our statements from the mission shortly. But that's great!

We'll press on to get the 50 by the end of the year!

2) We've got one more trip ahead of us -- to CrossRoads church of Aspen on Thursday. We're tired with all the travelling. But we can hang in there for one more! Pray that we'll be at our best for the folks in Aspen -- it's one of our best and most supportive churches.

One more special request

This is our New Creation Ministries' logo. It was fine for the line-drawing days of letterhead -- but it looks kind of dull on a web page! Is there a graphic artist out there who would like to take this basic logo and jazz it up with color and design that would look good on our web site? Let us know!

Wisdom from Rwanda

-- *Umusonga w'undi ntukubuza gusinzira.* --

-- The pain of another does not keep you from sleeping. --

"Umusonga" is a kind of aching or throbbing pain. I've had it in my arm recently from tendonitis. It does wake me from sleep. My wife knows about it and feels for me, but my aching arm doesn't keep her awake!

The idea is that no one feels your pain like you do. And not only the pain but the results or implications of the painful situation. The "pain" may be literal or emotional like anxiety, fear, or loneliness. It's true. Yet we thank you who read these UDPATES and take what we say to heart and pray for us.

Partners in Him,
Gary and Laurie Scheer