

## SCHEERS' JULY UPDATE

### The other side of ministry

We get a lot of wedding invitations in Rwanda. You probably do, too. Have you ever received a list of items needed for the wedding, an estimated cost of each one, and a check box to the left of each? This is how some people fund their weddings in Rwanda! One list even included the cost of 3 suits for the groom! The paper instructed us to check which items we would take care of. Because of this people will send out invitations to as many people as they can think of -- the more people, the more donations to the cause. So we get invites from so-and-so's second cousin's brother's uncle who've we never knew existed.

Now not everyone sends out a list for donations, but everyone expects the recipient of an invitation to make a contribution towards the wedding -- this is not the gift. That donation is in addition to the gift that is given at the wedding itself. We break with expectation at this point and only contribute to people we know and have a relationship with. Even so, we've helped fund a lot of weddings in our life!

### Good happenings of praise

1) BIG praise for our NCM Library Project -- one of our long-time supporters wants to contribute \$20,000 to the project from an inheritance they've received! We're making progress on getting a list of basic books. With this contribution, as soon as we get our basic list we can begin to acquire the books! In addition, a church in Illinois wants to take the NCM Library on as a whole church project. God is moving things along!

2) We're spending this weekend with our kids. Jamie, Eric and Kaylie flew in Thursday from San Jose; Matt and Ellie came in from Spokane -- a great treat before we head back to Rwanda! By the time we send out our next UPDATE, we'll be in Rwanda -- we're down to our last 2 weeks in the States.

### Take these to the throne

1) We had a family crisis this last weekend. Gary's mom, Shirley Scheer, found out just over a week ago that she has cancer. They immediately scheduled surgery for last Monday and she's now home from the hospital. They found that, indeed, she has cancer. But it seems to be only in the peritoneal (the lining around the abdominal organs). That's a great praise. Ahead is 18 weeks of chemo therapy which has an 80% chance of putting the cancer into remission. So that's the prayer request -- the hard road of chemo therapy for Shirley and that it knocks out the cancer.



2) Here's the latest on Laurent Katabirora, my partner in teaching who was jailed with a 30-year sentence. They requested an appeal. The appeal was granted. Two weeks ago witnesses from both sides were heard in a 7-hour trial in which Laurent stood outside in the hot sun for 7 1/2 hours without water or break! This last Thursday the verdict of the judges was given. They decided that Laurent is guilty, but reduced his sentence to 19 years. We do not feel justice has been served in this case.

So please pray:

1. For Laurent's family. We will be working with them in the next weeks to make sure they have some kind of provision for their future.
2. For New Creation Ministries as we seek a teacher to fill the big gap left by Laurent.

### **Keep lifting these up**

1) Our son Andy is now in the middle of Sudan. He's in a remote station without modern conveniences -- no email. Pray for him to be an asset to the work there (rebuilding churches destroyed in the years of war in southern Sudan), for growth, for health and peace.

Here's an excerpt from his last email from Sudan before leaving for this isolated assignment:

*Today I finally got a chance to get out on my own and do some work. They are extending one of the welding workshops and I went out there to oversee the pouring of the foundation. It was a lot of fun, the Kenyan workers are great. They all know what they are doing, they just need someone there with some geometry skills and a tape measure to make sure that things are straight and level. I made a little rebar cage to reinforce the concrete in the foundation. The cage was all crooked and wobbly, but I took a picture of it; the first product of my Stanford engineering degree, not exactly high-tech. I also got a chance to work on some of the cars, trying to combine parts from two broken winches to get one working winch; it works now, if you give it a good kick every once in a while.*

2) The \$600 Club (subsidizing the studies of a pastor for one year) -- we're up to 45 commitments, with 35 having already sent in! We're shooting for 50 by the end of the year!

No bites on someone to help jazz up our New Creation Ministries' logo.

We're still promoting our website -- [www.ncmrwanda.org](http://www.ncmrwanda.org). Check it out.

### **Wisdom from Rwanda**

-- *Umubiri ubyara udahatse.* --

-- The body gives birth without being pregnant. --

That sounds pretty crazy! Here's the deal -- the Rwandese have two words for being pregnant (at least). One is used for people, another for livestock. The word used in this proverb for "to be pregnant" is normally used for the pregnancy of livestock, not used of people. So, indeed, a human body does give birth without being "pregnant in a livestock way"!

But what does this mean? It simply means that the body will get sick, cause you pain or problems, without any warning. I immediately thought of this proverb when my mother, in great health, was suddenly diagnosed with cancer and 5 days later was in the hospital for major surgery! And that reminds me of Wisdom from the Bible. We say tomorrow we'll do this and that -- we don't know what will happen tomorrow! We should say, "If it's God's will, we'll do this and that."

Partners in Him,  
Gary and Laurie Scheer