

SCHEERS' AUGUST UPDATE

The other side of life

On our way back here to Rwanda the plane landed in Nairobi, Kenya, for a brief layover. The plane pulled up to the jetway. But when we stepped out the open door we were not in the jetway but at the top of stairs that went down to the tarmac. We went down the stairs, walked 40 feet and went up some more stairs up into the jetway and on into the terminal! Laurie and I looked at each other, laughed, and said, "We're back in Africa!" -- where life is sometimes a little different.

THEN, we landed in Kigali. Kigali has a small airport. The plane landed and we could look out the window and see the entrance up into the terminal -- one walkway, one doorway, not a long concourse like at big airports. There is no need for jetways; you walk down the stairs across about 50' of tarmac and you walk into the main terminal area.

THIS TIME, we walked down the stairs out of the plane. Before us was a bus, one of those big, standing-only buses that big airports use when the plane has to park out far from the terminal. We all waited as the plane emptied into the bus. When it was full it pulled out, drove 30 feet, and let us out before the door to the terminal! Again, Lor and I looked at each other and smiled -- I guess this was just to make us sure of where we were! (My guess is that somebody donated this bus and they felt like they had to use this cool piece of machinery that the BIG airports use!)

Good happenings of praise

1) So we made it back safe and sound, with all our luggage! Thank you all who prayed for our trip and transition. The transition is the hard thing, shutting down one world and opening another. There is a tearing, a wrenching, each time we move from world to the other that does not seem to get easier as the years go by. People have asked if we're excited to be back, or relieved or... We're just here. This is where we are for this part of our lives -- and that because we have a job to do here given to us by God.

2) We were reunited with our great missionary team, the Bennetts, the Brubakers and Audrey Sorensen. Laurie and I are in the process of having dinners with each family and Audrey personally to catch up on life and news and ministry with each one.

Take these to the throne

1) We have two things we're working on in these days. First, I'm contacting the university students with whom we were meeting weekly before we left last year. Pray Gary as he works out how to move ahead in our desire to help them develop into solid Christian leaders.



2) Second, we need to replace Laurent Katabirora. Though we are praying and hoping that he might still be released, that won't happen tomorrow -- most likely it will be a long drawn-out process. But the Pastoral Training School goes on -- students are here in session now. So pray with us as we seek to find a quality teacher for the PTS.

Keep lifting these up

1) Keep praying for our son, Andy, in the middle of Sudan. He's been given his own project, to rebuild a church that was leveled to the ground. He was sick for a while, but is better now. Sickness is a concern because he's way out in the middle of nowhere. If you want to see first-hand what that really means take a mind-bending trip to see some of the photos Andy took at <http://picasaweb.google.co.uk/bwanascheer/Sudan>. Here's a sample of one of his commutes to a work site:



2) Keep praying for Gary's mom. Though her initial operation went well, she is having continued weakness and problems that are not only discouraging to her, but delaying the start of the necessary chemo treatments. Pray for encouragement and strength for her and my dad.

Wisdom from Rwanda

-- *Aho umugabo aguye, undi aterera aho utwatsi.* --
-- Where a man falls, there another throws grass. --

The picture is of a warrior falling on the battle field. One of his fellow soldiers sees he's fallen. Checks him out and finds he's dead. With the battle raging around him there is not much he can do; he certainly can't bury him. But he can at least cover the body quickly with some grass and brush that is handily nearby.

The meaning is this. When you see someone in need, you help, even though you can't do all that you would like or all that would be good; you at least do a little something. In reality it might work like this for the Rwandese. A neighbors house is damaged by a flood. You can't rebuild his house. You may not even be able to afford one bag of cement towards the cause. But you can go for half a day and help carry rocks from the hillside to the house so they can repair the foundation.

This is noble wisdom from Rwanda by which we can all be challenged.

Partners in Him,
Gary and Laurie Scheer