

SCHEERS' SEPTEMBER UPDATE

The news of Gary's mother

Exactly one month after landing in Kigali we hopped on a plane to head back to the States. We went to be with the family as Gary's mother fights a hard battle against cancer. We arrived on Friday, the 7th of September, to find mother in the hospital. Complications after her first chemo session had nearly done her in. But by the time we arrived she was about to be discharged from the hospital.

Since then she has made a remarkable recovery. Apparently, as hard on her as the chemo treatment was, it really hit the cancer hard, too. This has given us hope that the chemo treatments will send the cancer into remission.

Mother has her second chemo treatment on Tuesday, the 25th. They're going to give her smaller doses more often to try to minimize the bad side-effects. It's going to be a long 20 weeks of treatments ahead for dad and mom. Pray for peace, courage, and strength for them both, and for the cancer to be sent packing.

The news of Gary and Laurie

A side-blessing in this tirp is that our daughter, Jamie, and granddaughter, Kaylie, flew out for this last weekend. Kaylie especially brought joy to us all in this tense situation.

It was really important to the family that we be with them during this time, even though we can't stay on. On Sunday, the 23rd, we hop on the plane again to head back to Rwanda -- again! We arrive in Rwanda on Tuesday morning, the 25th. So again, the transition has to be made back to Rwanda

The news from Rwanda

It's raining in Rwanda -- 18 people are reported dead from flooding in northwest Rwanda.

It's raining in New Creation Ministries in Rwanda -- NCM is being hit with a number of serious situations:

- You already know about the 19-year prison sentence of Laurent Katabirora.
- The wife of the vice-president of our board has been jailed. The head of the organization she worked for is accusing her of embezzlement. But it looks like this man is casting the blame on her to cover his own tracks.
- The government has called for the re-registering of all non-profit organizations in Rwanda. Every time we go into the office to submit the requested papers, they hit us with another paper we need, and another, and another. Each time he threatens to shut the organization down if the papers aren't presented. The man receiving these papers is trying to wear us down so we pay a bribe in fear and frustration to get it done.
- One of our NCM board members (who was our first NCM board president) just found out that a teacher at the boarding school where his daughter goes to highschool has violated her and she is now pregnant.
- A man who was the prime candidate (only candidate for that matter!) for our next Rwandese staff member (replacing Laurent) has just taken a job with another organization. So it's back to square one.
- Another board member (who also graduated from NCM's Lay Training Institute), his wife just died. She was poisoned by a woman, follower of the traditional spirits of the Rwandese, who is boasting that her power is greater than that of God. Our devastated board member is saying that he wants nothing to do with God anymore.

How do you feel after reading about this rain? That's how we feel as we head back. Enough said -- pray!

Looking ahead

1) On October 1, just 5 days after we get back to Rwanda, our son, Andy, will come to visit us for 8 days! He's just finished building a church in Sudan, had the joy of the task well-done and the day of celebration as they dedicated it. Samaritan's Purse is giving him a break to come visit us.

2) We have begun putting out the word for the gathering in of a new batch of students to start the Pastoral Training School (PTS) in January. Pray that we get a good bunch of them, and that we get some from new churches that have never sent us students before.

Along with this, pray for staff! We cannot handle a new class of students unless we find the replacement for Laurent!

Wisdom from Rwanda

-- *Imisozi yose ni Nyarusange.* --
-- All hills are called Nyarusange. --

Nyarusange is the name of a hill in Rwanda (in fact, there are many hills throughout Rwanda with this name). It means something like "the place of the usual or common". So the proverb could be translated, "All hills are called Common."

"Hills" refer to problems -- and so the meaning is starting to become clear. The Rwandese recognize that the problems you may be facing are not unique to you. All problems are common, shared or experienced by many people on this earth.

The proverb, then, can be an encouragement, that the problems we're facing are not overwhelming; they're not beyond what others have experienced. It can also be an antidote to feeling sorry for ourselves, thinking that it's only us who have ever had such difficulties!

Partners in Him,
Gary and Laurie Scheer