

# SCHEER'S OCTOBER UPDATE

## Other Side of Life

Today one of our pastoral students delivered a letter to me in my office. I opened it after he left. It was from the student himself. He was asking us to loan him money to help replace his cell-phone. Later on I saw the man and asked him what had happened to his phone that it needed replacing. He said he had put it into his shirt pocket when he went into the pit-toilet (the usual type of toilet here in Rwanda). He bent over a bit too far and, whoops, down the hole it went! He thought maybe he could fish it out, but it sunk down too far into the muck. That's the first time I've gotten a request like that.

## Good Happenings of Praise

1) We wrote in our last update a series of serious issues that came rolling down on us like a flood. Clementine, the wife of the vice-president of our board, has been released from jail! Her case is still pending (I'm not clear on the nature of it), but at least she's home!

2) We told you that our registration status was being held up by an administrator who seemed to be looking for a bribe, and causing us problems because we wouldn't pay one! That man has been fired! We don't know what kind of man his replacement might be, and the change might delay things a bit. But the man that was causing us problems is out of there!

3) We reported that the man we had been looking to hire took a job with another organization. We found that the job is not permanent and that he does not see it as a long-term commitment. So he's still "fair game"! We will be talking to him next week!. Pray that if God wants him with us, NCM, He will move this guy's heart towards us, and that any issues that may arise, like salary level, etc, may be reasonably negotiated. We hope to report in the next update that we have our man.

## Take These to the Throne

1) In the process of hiring a new staff member, we've been struggling with the budget for the ministry. Prices of food and goods have skyrocketed in the last year. To give one clear example, dried beans, the staple protein in the Rwandese diet ("if you haven't eaten beans, you haven't eaten" is what the Rwandese say) have gone from about 50 cents per kilo last year this time to nearly a dollar. Housing has become scarce as the population of the city grows driving up rents. Consequently we're discussing whether we need to seriously increase our wage scale. Plus, in the next year we want to add another full-time Rwandese staff member. Pray for us in these difficult discussions.

It all means more money that has to be raised, and there's none of us on the field that enjoy fund-raising! But our churches and friends have been amazingly responsive and gracious. We ended last year 2006 with a \$10,000 deficit in operating expenses for the ministry -- we were scared! But as of today we have made up that deficit and have at least that amount in the fund to take us into the months ahead! That has come through people joining the \$600 Club. We're greatly encouraged!

## Keep Lifting These Up

1) Keep praying for the goal of 50 partners by the end of the year in the \$600 Club. Last count we still needed 14 more. Also pray that many of these partners would decide to make it an on-going commitment that would give a solid on-going source of funding for the years to come.

For those of you new to this UPDATE, the \$600 Club is the people who have committed to giving \$600 per year to the Pastoral Training School here. This amount subsidizes the amount it takes for one pastor to study in the program for one year (the pastor also pays school fees each term amounting to about \$70/year). If you'd like to join the way is to send a contribution to WorldVenture, 1501 W. Mineral Ave., Littleton, CO 80120, designated to RWANDA SPECIAL PROJECT #926.

2) Keep praying for our mothers.

Gary's mom is going through a series of 6 chemo treatments that will end in January 2008. It's a long hard road! Laurie and I went to the States to be with mom and dad for 2 weeks in September when she had a downturn crisis. But we left after the two weeks with her doing much better and with all of us having much more hope!

Laurie's mom will probably be moving out of her own home into an assisted-living apartment in the next few months. She herself has decided it is time -- what a blessing not having to try to push her into this necessary step. BUT it is going to be a very difficult adjustment in her life. Let's be lifting her up in prayer.

### **Wisdom from Rwanda**

-- Imbeba iyo iriye umuhini iba yototera isuka yose --  
-- If the rat eats handle, it's nibbled away the whole hoe --

The prime tool for a Rwandese farmer is the hoe. It's not the garden hoe we're used to. It's got a big heavy metal head and a long heavy wooden handle.

Now a rat could not eat the metal head. But it can nibble away at the handle -- and without the handle the head is worthless. So you get the picture the proverb is painting.

It can be applied in at least two ways. Someone, for example, may steal a log from the stock pile, later another, later another. If you let it go on without doing anything about it, eventually the whole stock will be gone.

The second meaning of the proverb is that if someone wants to get at the head guy, that's tough, like trying to chew the metal head of the hoe itself. So you go after the underlings, the wood handle. You undermine them, maybe win their loyalty, maybe stir up strife among them, and you've made the big guy as useless as a hoe head without a handle, no matter how tough he may be!

It shows, too, that a "big man" is made big by the size of his following. A "boss man" type in Kinyarwanda is often called an "umunyamaboko", a man with many arms. To be a big man, you seek a loyal following; to take down a big man, you take down his following. It could be said that money and authority here are secondary, tools to help a man get what really makes him big, a big following.

Partners in Him,  
Gary and Laurie Scheer  
Rwanda