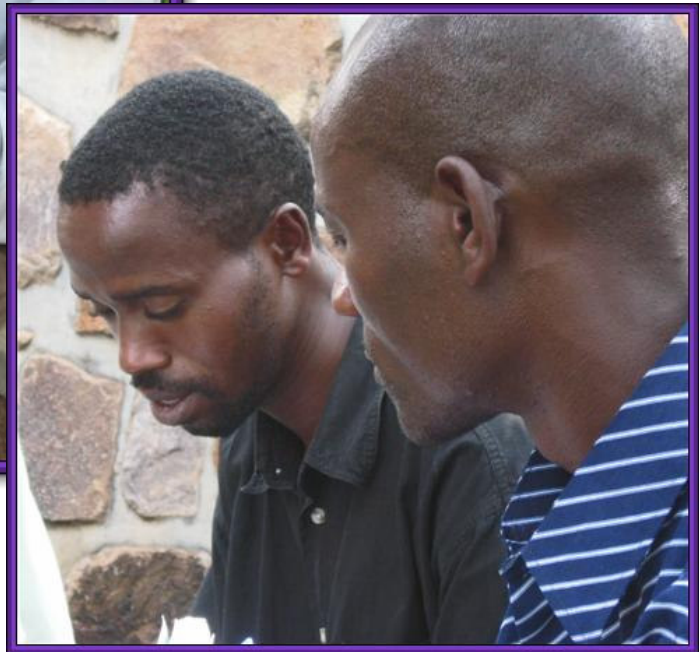
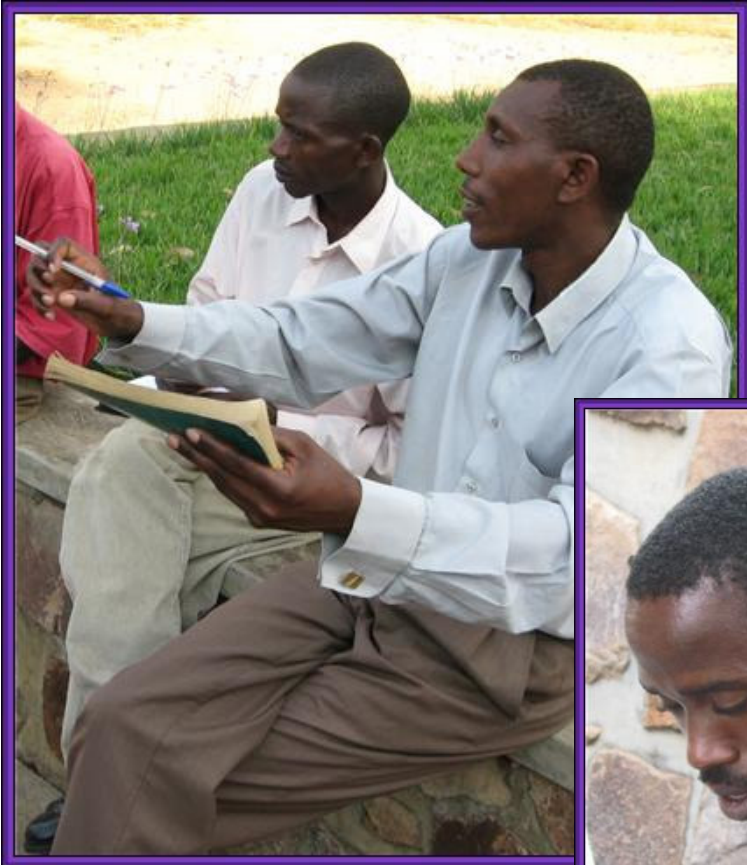


SCHEER'S PRAYER UPDATE – JANUARY 2008

Dear Friends,

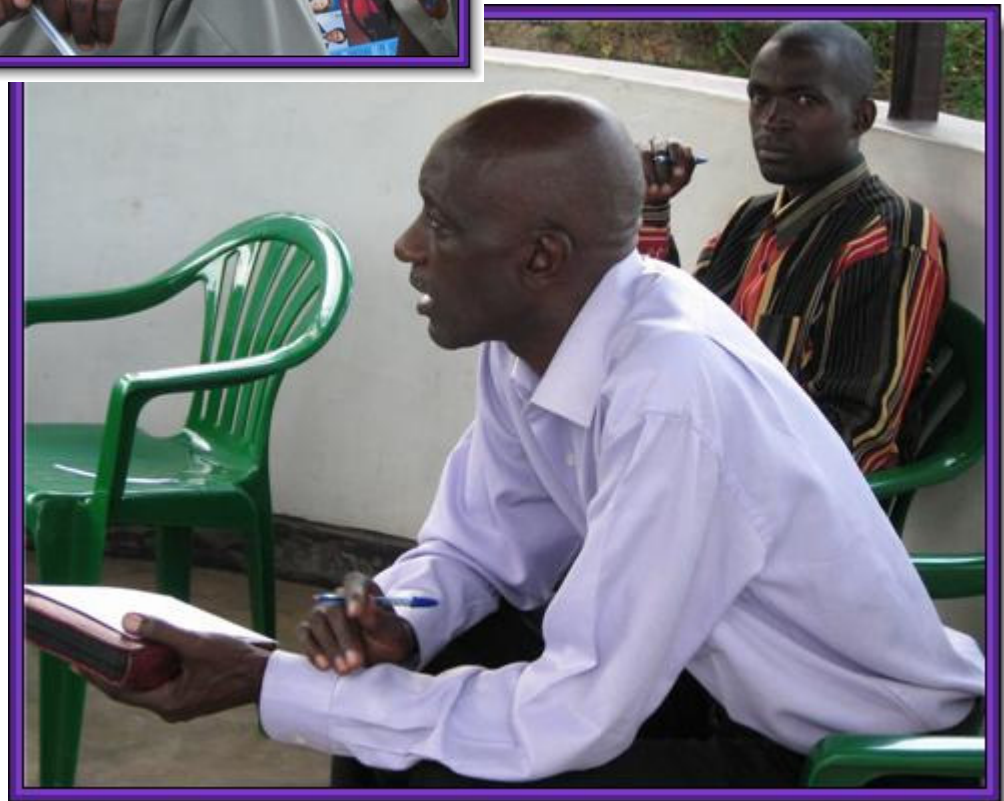
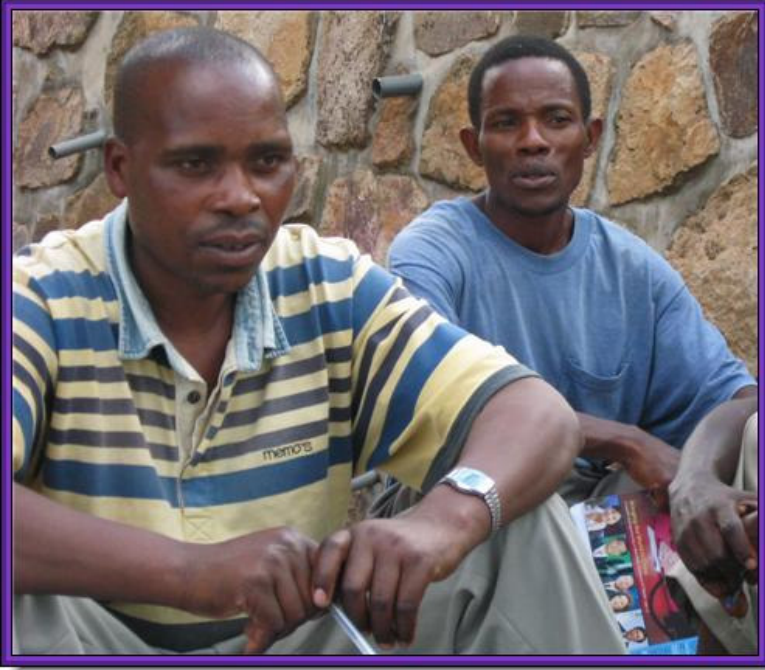
Why We Are Here

1) Just last week we received a new class of 36 students -- all pastors from 6 different denominations. I asked them how many read the Bible at least 5 minutes a day. Only 10 hands went up. I said, "OK, now how about at least 10 minutes a day?" Only 4 hands stayed up! Only 3 of them had read the whole Bible. These are men who teach and preach the Bible every week. They are pastors, not kids or lazy laymen.



2) We had a big discussion with these guys yesterday because most of them thought that if a person doesn't give his tithe (10% of his goods) to the Lord, he'll go to hell.

3) Next day we were talking about how God takes a person and changes him or her into a child of God. We used the example of a pig, as an animal that is obnoxious and repulsive to most people. No one would want to sit down at the table with a pig to have a nice dinner and conversation. God takes such a one and changes him or her, by His power, into a child of God. One of the pastors raised his hand and asked, "How does this change happen? What can one do to be so changed?" Isn't this what pastors are supposed to know? This is, as I understand it, a pastor's job -- to bring people to faith in Christ who changes lives. He didn't know!



4) But this one takes the cake. Tim Brubaker was teaching a course called "The True Gospel". We start with this course because most pastors are not teaching and preaching the true Gospel. He was talking about Jesus as the atonement for our sins, how his unique nature as man and God qualified him and him alone to be that sacrifice for the sins of the world. One of the pastors raised his hand and confessed, "I always thought that Jesus died on the cross because the Israelites had run out of animals and so they needed a sacrifice and Jesus agreed to do it." This man is a pastor overseeing the spiritual life of a church!



"This Is Exactly What Needs to Be Done!"

The other day Tim was really tired -- I could see it in his face and hear it in his voice. It's really demanding teaching these 3-week intensive sessions. It's physically and mentally draining to teach in-depth in a second language. But as he left my office after discussing some of these issues he turned and said, "I LOVE what we're doing! I just love it. It's exactly what needs to be done here in Rwanda!"

A few days later Tim again came into my office during a brief stretch break in his teaching. He said, "I've got to tell you this. You know how you used the example of the pig? One of the pastors stood up and said, 'I am still a pig. I've never really known what it is to be accept Christ and have his power change me into a son of God. I thought it was about going to church and trying to be good. And,' he said, 'I don't think I'm the only one among us.'"

"At that point," Tim went on, "twenty-two pastors out of 36 stood up! None of them had ever realized that to become a son of God and so receive his salvation was to turn to Jesus in repentance and faith. So we prayed for them right then and there!"

This is exactly what needs to be done in Rwanda!

We're still open to more people who want to join the 600 Club and have a part in this venture. Let us know if you're up for it.

Wisdom from Rwanda

-- Kami ka Muntu ni umutima we. --
-- The heart is each man's little king. --

This saying can take two turns:

First, the kings of Rwanda were known for their "amabanga" or secrets. Some would not even be shared with their closest advisors. Thus, each person knows his own purposes and plans and directions. They're in his heart unknown to others. Just as a king has his secrets/amabanga.

Second, you can only go so far to direct, lead, give advice to another. Each person makes up his or her own mind no matter how much you try to influence them. We're doing everything we can to influence people to decide for Jesus, but each one makes up his or her own mind. What a great day when the 22 pastors made their decision.

If a man who has been pastoring a church for 10 years can realize he's never really known Jesus, all he's known is religion, never known God's power in his life, just a lot of trying to do good, then it wouldn't surprise me if some of you might be in the same boat. We know it's up to "the little king", but we'd like to direct you to Jesus and the new life he gives!

Partners in Him,
Gary and Laurie Scheer

[Please use Scheer's email address to respond to this UPDATE: scheer@ncmrwanda.org.]