

SCHEERS' PRAYER UPDATE – MAY 2008

Dear Friends,

Other Side of Life

This is kind of funny but also gives insight into the worldviews of our students. As these rural pastors come into the "big city" of Kigali they are prey for burglars and shysters around the bus station downtown. When they see these bewildered guys stepping off the bus they know they've got a catch. One of our guys was jostled by some of the shysters and later reached into his pocket for his cell-phone and found a rock instead (I was one of the last people here to get a cell-phone. Everyone has one!). When he shared this at school one of the students said, "If demons can turn a phone into a rock, we can pray and have Jesus turn it back into a phone!" So after classes that night they prayed over this rock -- it's still a rock! Most accepted the fact that this was just a trick by the burglars, but there are still a few who would like another chance at praying over that rock!

Good Happenings of Praise

Over a cup of cappuccino plans took shape yesterday that could make that meeting at the coffee house with Tim Brubaker one of the most significant events in NCM history. We been talking about starting the university level Christian leadership program of NCM for months. We've prayed about, talking about it as a team, talked about it with our board, talked about it with our supervisor. Last week Tim took two days of seclusion to try to make sense out of all the talk and see if it could all come together into a creative model that will really work. Yesterday Tim and I looked it over -- it's creative, not your run-of-the-mill Bible school -- and looked at each other and said -- "This will work!" We're on the way. Tomorrow we will be presenting the idea to a group of well educated Rwandese Christian leaders to get their feedback. Pray us through!

And then there's the NCM Library -- what a beautiful coordination of efforts God is putting together: Durango, Colorado -- a significant gift of money
Prescott, Arizona -- a woman who has worked as the book orderer for OM who has all the right contacts for us
Chicago, Illinois -- a church that is handling all the logistics of gathering, packing and getting the books to us
LA, California -- a church that is bringing hundreds of books free of charge in the luggage of their huge short-term teams coming to Rwanda
Grand Rapids, Michigan -- a man and his warehouse offering to gather and ship up to 10,000 books to us
IT'S HAPPENING!

How exciting to see our new young colleague, Audrey Sorensen, taking her first big step into ministry. And what a huge step it is! She's a young single woman, fresh out of studying the language -- she'll be standing in front of 15 Rwandese pastors for over 2 hours a day teaching them about how to establish a children's program in their churches. We met yesterday to talk about her material -- it looks good and she's excited. Pray for her from May 23 to 30.

Inside -- A strong spiritual challenge from the prayers of Jeremiah.



Outside -- Amazing refreshment for heart and body from God's amazing creation



Special gift -- our son, Andy, was with us on break from his work in Sudan.



This conference is done once every 3 years for all WorldVenture missionaries in eastern and southern Africa. Seventy of us were together for 4 days on the Kenya coast. We were hanging out with and had meals with colleagues from Sudan, Congo, South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, sharing life and stories. What a great time.

Take These to the Throne

Along with praying the good happenings above -- add these:

Laurie is in the States now awaiting the birth of our second grandchild (to be born to Jamie and Eric). I'll be joining them on May 25th. Pray for all the travel -- I (Gary) alone have 11 flights in the trip! And more importantly that the baby would be born safely and healthily. We'll keep you posted!

And while your in the family domain, pray for Matt and Ellie who have to have a plan soon for what they will do after finishing Moody Aviation's school in Spokane. Time is passing and nothing definite is shaping up for them yet.

These two girls helping me decorate last Christmas, Megan and Melissa Bennett, need a teacher.



So pray and think if there might be someone in your friends or in your church, who could come out for this next school year to spend a year or two and teach in what they call the African Jungle Christian School House! There will be up to 12 kids in various primary grades and another teacher to share the load -- not that there's that many kids but that there are that many grades!

Keep Lifting These Up

I just checked figures on the 600 Club for the first quarter of 2008. It's looking good for us to make our budget for 2008 if giving continues. Thank you faithful people! We didn't know how many who gave last year were intending one-time gifts and how many are making it an on-going project. We appreciate the one-timers, but are also glad that there are enough on-goers to make the budget this year.

We're still looking for more members. We'd like to add another 20 on-goers by the end of the year. That would enable us to add a staff member and give a good increase in salaries as prices are going sky-high here.

What is a member? A member contributes \$600 per year to subsidize the study of a pastor in the Pastoral Training School of NCM. Our students are poor rural pastors who can in no way pay school fees that totally support the program. They give some, but to make it possible for them to study we need another roughly \$600 per student. Each member makes it possible for a pastor to study. Let us know if you'd like to join us.

Wisdom from Rwanda

-- Ntizibana zidakubitana amahembe. --

-- They do not live together who don't knock horns. --

What or who are the "they"? Obviously some kind of horned animals -- in this Rwandan society it's got to be COWS -- like this one!



Look at those horns! So the proverb pictures a herd of these guys milling around, and those big old horns are going to get knocked.

So it is with people living together -- you can't live with others without getting knocked, bumped, bruised. Why do we get so upset when it happens? It's part of life. AND as we're getting knocked, we're also knocking others. Can we have a little acceptance of the fact and less getting all bent out of shape at each knock and bump? That's not an excuse to stick out our horns as far and big as we can so we can do as much knocking as possible! But the alternatives are to always be in a huff because of some horn that knocked us, OR to go off and live by ourselves.

Partners in Him,
Gary and Laurie Scheer