

SCHEERS' PRAYER UPDATE – DECEMBER 2008 -- RWANDA



Dear Friends,

This will not look like a typical Christmas letter but it does bring you greetings and thanks all the way from Rwanda, Africa. We have followed the news in America these days and are praying for all of you as you deal with the economic downturn there. For

some of you it has had great impact and we pray that your needs will be provided for and that you will not fear but that He would give you the “peace that passes all understanding.” You may experience the same discouragement we do every time you go to the store or fill your gas tank. Prices in Rwanda are rising like the rest of the world – most food items have at least doubled, gas has gone from \$4 a gallon to almost \$7 a gallon, utilities have gone way up, etc.



We have also followed the news of the elections there (our absentee ballots never arrived). Of course Rwandans are quite excited that there will be an African American President – they think it means more money for Africa!



As “rich” Americans we can still make many choices but we are deeply concerned for our Rwandese friends. Pray for them as so many already live on the edge of hunger. Some children have not been able to continue in school because all of the money the family has goes for food and shelter. In Kigali the poor are literally being pushed further out of the city, their houses torn down. They are being paid low prices for their land as the rich (some are even “investors” from America) buy up this property and resell it to make big money. Huge houses are being built in the city and new rules come out regularly which make it more difficult for poor people to live in the city. They have actually been told that they are not wanted in the “new, modern Kigali.” Pray for these displaced people.

On a brighter note, we have just had our second graduation from the Pastoral Training School. Twelve pastors graduated on December 6. Their churches are stronger, their families are stronger, and their walk with the Lord is deeper. Other students have just finished their third year and 32 others have just finished their first year. Pray for these men as they lead their churches and teach against what many others are teaching (particularly the prosperity gospel).





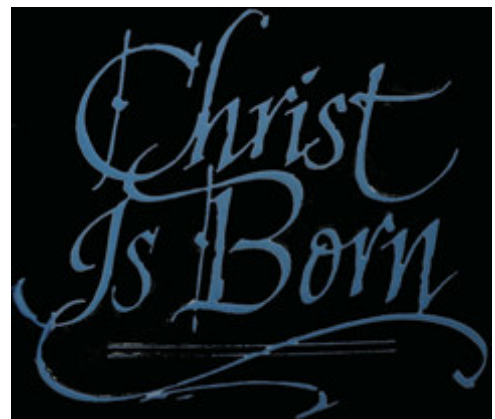
On the home front we are doing well and noticing the passing of years as our energy is less and recovery time is greater when we get tired. Both of us generally enjoy good health. Our children continue to desire to serve the Lord and we are thankful for that. We welcomed a new grandson this year, Zachary Daniel Montoya. We were both there for his birth and time with the kids and our granddaughter Kaylie. That was such a special privilege for us and well worth the money it took! Separation from grandchildren is so hard.

Matthew graduated from Moody flight school and is now working at the school and is raising support with Proclaim Aviation. He needs more flight hours before he can go with an overseas mission organization. He and Ellie are expecting their first child in May and are very excited about that. I'm not sure if we will get to go this time, but Ellie's folks live 4 hours away and will be on their doorstep to help. Andy finished 8 months in Sudan with Samaritan's Purse and did some traveling in Asia before coming here for Christmas. In fact, he was stuck in Thailand for 12 days, waiting to get a flight out, along with thousands of others. But he's here now!! Pray that God will show him the next steps for his life. He hopes to have that in mind before returning to the states in January.



My (Laurie's) mother has recently recovered from an infection which landed her in the hospital. She's back in her assisted-living home now. I am so thankful for the wonderful woman who visited her when she got home and prayed with my non-Christian mother. Be praying for my family and for me as we continue to process the death of my brother, David.

We pray for you this Christmas Season that the love of Jesus will touch your hearts in a new way. Without Him this life is a weary journey that ends too soon. With Him is true life now and eternal joy in the life to come. Yes, Christmas is so much more than people trying to get you to buy more of what you don't need; it is God Himself coming to us to give us what we most need – life that is true life indeed!



Blessed Christmas and New Years,

Laurie and Gary