

# SCHEERS' PRAYER UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2009 – RWANDA

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## Window into life

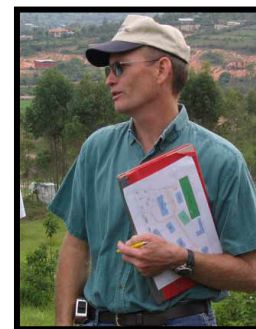


Audrey Sorensen, our team-mate working in the kid's ministry, had a minor accident in her car. We were thankful that all that was damaged was the front bumper. She took her little car in to get it fixed, the bumper, mind you; and while they were at it they fixed some rust problems underneath, and now:

- The heater doesn't work
- The headlight had to be replaced
- The doors don't close
- The electric windows don't work
- It dies when it idles!

I don't know – you tell me!

That is why we cringe and let out a big, "Oh, no!" whenever something needs to be fixed on one of our cars. That's life here. AND that's why we are SO THANKFUL for our colleague, Gary Bennett, who helps oversee car maintenance – none of us would have running vehicles without him! Audrey's problem came when Gary B is in the States – **come back quickly, Gary!**



## Good items of praise

On Saturday, December 5, we had the 3<sup>rd</sup> graduation of the Pastoral Training School (PTS). Twelve pastors finished the course. During a time of sharing what the PTS has done for them:

- Four pastors said that it was in the PTS that they began to truly understand what salvation is – if that's all we do for these guys, that's a LOT!
- One pastor said he learned how to take time to sit down with his wife and each of his kids and listen to them.
- Another said before he came to the PTS he was scared whenever he was asked to teach or preach in a seminar,



"Because I knew that one teaching session exhausted my repertoire! But now I can teach today, and the next and the next – as long as you want me to teach and I'll have new and solid things each time."



And here's just a taste of the great time Laurie and I had in Uganda at a little place called Kingfisher Lodge, at the Queen Elizabeth Game Park. It was a combination of birthday presents and anniversary presents to each other for this year.

### ***Take these to the throne:***

JB (Jean Baptiste) is leaving our staff! No hard feelings, he just feels called to a different ministry. He's agreed to continue as a board member of NCM and teach as we need him. But he leaves a big hole in the Staff. To find someone with his combination of sharp mind, passionate heart, excellent teaching skills, and closeness to the students will be really hard. Pray for as we seek his replacement.

Home Assignment 2010 is upon us! Laurie is already in the States visiting each of our kids and grandkids. I leave on December 8 to join her. We'll base, as usual, in Littleton, CO. All the crazy prep to move out of our life in Rwanda and re-engage in life in the States will probably be done by the time you get this, but all I can say is – I hate these transitions! Pray that our time in the States results in strengthening our ties to those have a part in making all this possible here in Rwanda.



### ***Keep lifting these up***

Pastors applying for the new PTS class of January 2010 have already topped 50 – and we'll only accept 30! The PTS is more sought after than ever. Pray that we get a great crop of students who will really take what we give them to heart and change their worlds.

We continue to take steps towards the start of the bachelor's level training program. Tim Brubaker, who is heading up this effort, will be the only long-term WorldVenture staffer in Rwanda until next June. He's got a LOT to do, working towards the acceptance of the first students in January of 2011. God has given him a key contact in the Rwandan Ministry of Education who is being extremely helpful. Tim's going to need a lot of really helpful people to make it happen in 2011. Pray for him!

### ***Wisdom from Rwanda***



**Ntawurasira isaandi mu rusaku.  
*You can't be noisy and bag a weaver!***

Isaandi is a little yellow noisy weaver bird. It's fine for them to make noise. But if YOU make noise, they will all fly off.

This is one of those proverbs that says a lot about the culture here. The meaning is this: If you have something you want to accomplish, a project you're working on, keep it secret; don't make a lot of noise about it. Why? Because if you do, jealous people will come and try to steal it from you or defeat it. It will fly away like the little weaver bird. It really happens that way here, too.

When we face hard cultural realities like this one we have to both work within the reality of the system, but also seek to be a challenge to that system in our own spheres of influence. Not an easy thing to do – so Jesus said, "Be wise as serpents, but harmless as doves."

Partners in Him,

*Gary and Laurie Scheer*