

SCHEERS' PRAYER UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2010 – RWANDA

Window into life



Here's what Laurie and I are like: Between weekend church visits in Yuma, AZ, Laurie and I went to San Diego (actually Cardiff-by-the-Sea) for some R and R. San Diego – you know what's in San Diego and nearby LA? Everything a tourist could want! – Sea World, San Diego Zoo, museums and amusement parks galore, with Disneyland just up the highway. You know what we did? NOTHING! – nothing but walk beaches, sit for hours watching waves, and sky and pelicans soaring over the waves, seals and their newborn pups, dolphins and whales way out in the ocean swells. We found interesting places to eat, saw the sunset from the hot-tub in the rooftop garden, and read good books.

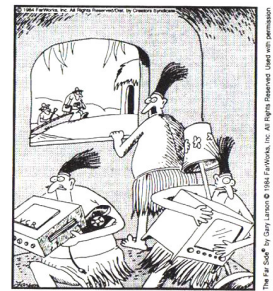
Why WORLDVENTURE®?

Today a number of missionaries are choosing to by-pass a mission organization, like WorldVenture, and be sent and overseen by their home church. At the same time churches are asking, "Why mission organizations? Let's just send out our people ourselves!" I'm sure that has its advantages, but we have chosen WorldVenture – and here's why we're glad we did:

1—Our bosses have lived our lives

No offense to you pastors out there, but if I had my choice of having as my boss, advisor and accountability guy, a pastor from a church in the States and the veteran missionaries at WorldVenture, I'd choose the veterans of WorldVenture. My boss and accountability guy, actually it's a husband-wife team (another plus), is Glenn and Kathy Kendall. They are veterans of 15 years of life and work in Rwanda and another 20 overseeing WorldVenture's work in Africa. He can help us with the **tricky issues of working cross-culturally** like no one who's based in the States and never worked in Africa can. That's all he does; to be our advisor is his full-time job. That's great!

THE FAR SIDE® By GARY LARSON



Anthropologists!



2—Right there in a crisis

When our family **evacuated from Rwanda in 1994** WorldVenture had the means, the personnel and the expertise to care for us right there, at the right time in Africa. And then they followed us up over the next months, so that the emotional wounds of that time would not keep us from going back to the field. It's the rare church that has the means and personnel and expertise to care for a family in crisis in the middle of Africa. And in this day in missions, crisis happens!

3—Recruiting and publicity

When we in Rwanda need more teachers for our leadership training program we're not out there beating the bushes by ourselves in our very limited circles of contacts. **WorldVenture has connections** to thousands of churches and scores of schools around the country with a team of people dedicated to finding people to meet the needs for workers in our fields. That's a plus few churches can provide for us I can't think of a church that could do that for us. Plus, they provide for us **all sorts of materials to promote the work we do** – like prayer cards, personal and ministry profiles, prayer letters, a web-site, and more. That's one reason we now have 4 young families with sights set on joining us in Rwanda.



4—Networks of support



We're not out there alone! When our missionaries in neighboring Congo are in crisis, they have a WorldVenture team in Rwanda that **can lend a hand**. When we had a crisis in Rwanda, the WorldVenture team in Kenya **leant us a hand**. Field leaders from Africa get together twice a year to support each other and help each other sort out sticky issues they may be facing. It's the rare church that has that kind of network in Africa.

5—Financial accountability and organization

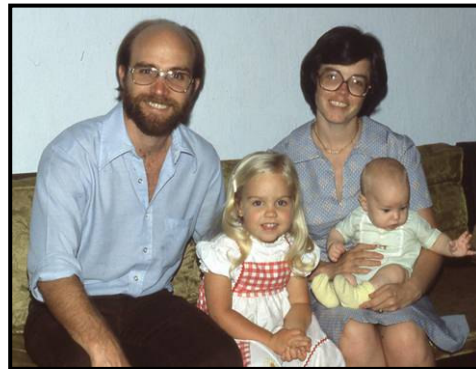


This is huge! WorldVenture has some of the best financial accountability and organization in the missions business. They manage for us all the thousands of donations that come in for our work every year. Handling funds overseas and dealing with foreign banks is old-hat to them. The way they've carefully thought through the unique financial needs of the missionary and organized it **all into one unified support package** is amazing – everything from excellent health care, to retirement, to our kids' education, to the **extra-ordinary financial demands** of

home assignment, you name it, it's been carefully thought out and organized. I haven't found a church yet that does as good a job.

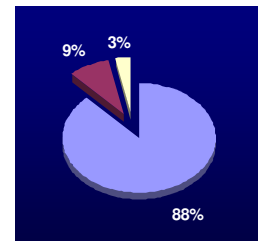
6—Longevity

We've been in Rwanda over 30 years. There's not one of our churches that's had the same staff or missions committee all that time. As pastors change and missions committees change so do their policies and their relative effectiveness in relating to their missionaries. In all those 30 years WorldVenture, too, has gone through changes, but it has not only maintained, but **improved their work on behalf of us missionaries on the field**. This is their job – that's what they're there to do!



7—Low overhead

All of this has a price – you don't get something for nothing. But WorldVenture has one of the lowest percentages of overhead of any mission organization. Overall only 12% of money contributed stays with the Stateside office. And a significant portion of that directly benefits the missionaries themselves (like the printing of their prayer letters mentioned above). Taking that into account, the amount of money that goes to **administration of the home office drops to 9%** of the total money contributed by donors to our work. I think that's great!



Hey, can you tell **we love WorldVenture**? We could go on about how they supported our family when our daughter went through a three-year period of elective mutism, how they encouraged us during those hard years when we were on the field by ourselves after Rwanda and the ministry had been torn apart, and...

Wisdom from Rwanda

Ubwenge buza ubujiji buhise.

Wisdom comes when ignorance passes.

Often a person comes to consider the wise thing after wasting his effort on what he thought was good at the time. We've had numbers of missionaries in Rwanda, when they see how WorldVenture operates say, "I wish our mission worked like that!" If you have people interested in long-term missionary service (the kind where you go out to learn the language and culture of the people and to live among them for years), have them consider WorldVenture. Long-term service is what WorldVenture does best; they're masters at it. No need to waste time – start out with the best.

Partners in Him,

Gary and Laurie Scheer