

SCHEERS' PRAYER UPDATE – APRIL 2011 – RWANDA

Window into life

In some countries funerals are huge money-swallowing events. Here in Rwanda they are very low-key. Usually within an hour and a half of leaving the home where the body has been washed, dressed and placed in the casket by the family, the service is over and people are at the gravesite.

By then some young men have just finished digging the grave by hand. After a brief word, a song or two and prayer, the basic wooden coffin is lowered into the grave with ropes handled by those same strong young men. Everyone takes a hand at shoveling the dirt back into the grave. Women place on the grave flowers they've picked along the way. A rough wooden cross is stuck into the loose dirt of the grave. At one funeral a man was using his ball-point pen to try to write the name and dates of the deceased on the rough wood of the cross.



The Team math – from 3 to 7 = rebuilding



For the last 5 years Laurie and I have been heading up a team of 3 career WorldVenture missionary families. We are in the process of going from 3 to 7 families:

The Finleys

Greg, Tori and Will have just arrived from Dallas, TX to help with the discipleship of church leaders. God has provided them with a house to rent right next to ours. They're starting a new life FROM SCRATCH – what they brought in 6 suitcases! That in itself is overwhelming – pray for them! And when they're done with that they'll begin the 2-year process of learning the language of Kinyarwanda – yes, pray for them!

The Janzens

Dan, Rachel, Drew and Alex are hoping to be here (from Kansas) by the beginning of the school year in August. This depends on the raising their final 25% of support.

The Fergusons and the Raads

Lance, Tiffany, Naserian and Selah **Ferguson** and Luke, Jaymi, Ayden and Judah **Raad** will be going to WorldVenture headquarters in June for appointment to our team here in Rwanda.

If you do the team math you'll understand that when you add more to a team than were originally members the whole dynamic will change and lots of effort and time will need to be expended to rebuild the team and keep it healthy. That will be Laurie and my task over these next years. As you rejoice with us in this exciting growth, pray for us and our team that it will stay healthy and be even more effective than before.

Our team retreat

Yearly we have a team retreat whose purpose is just this kind of team building. We have a day of prayer, of fun and of meeting. Here are some photos of our time at Moriah Hill on Lake Kivu this last week.



CLIR – the first concrete steps!

We've been talking about CLIR for 4 years! All the planning is finally resulting in action steps towards the goal:

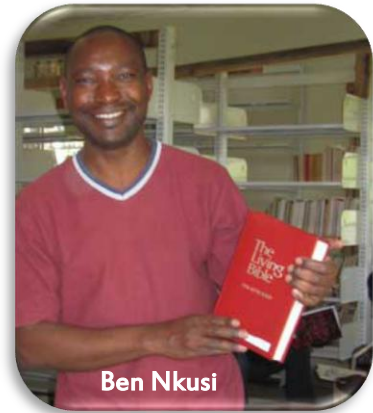
- On Monday, March 28, we signed the contract with the first Rwandese staff member of CLIR, Benjamin Nkusi. He will be Tim Brubaker's right-hand man in getting CLIR registered and started.



- The 13,000 library books that have been sitting in a container are finally coming out! Though we set them up in temporary quarters (a former staff house on the NCM site) we have put them on the shelves so the accreditation committee can see what we have.

- The first of piles of documents are nearly completed. We want to have all the necessary papers submitted by the end of May. We must receive provisional registration with the Rwandan authorities before we can begin. The timely obtaining of this registration will be a huge sign of the Lord's hand in this start-up.

- On May 2 we will begin a special English class to help raise the English capacity of the future CLIR students. Because English has become an official language of Rwanda just recently, there are not that many that have a university-level proficiency.



Pray for all these steps and let me add a big additional request:

We've been talking for some time with **Doug Porterfield** from Glenwood Springs, CO (his website -- <http://dpaglobaldesign.com/>; then click link called "For volunteers needed for upcoming projects"). He is an architect who donates his services to design facilities for buildings like ours all over the world. The first step must be a survey trip to our NCM site here in Rwanda by a team made up a **Civil Engineer, a Surveyor, a Structural Engineer, a Mechanical Engineer and an Electrical Engineer**. We have tried to schedule this trip twice now, but have never gotten the necessary team members to volunteer. If you have one of these skills or know some who might be able to join Doug's team please pray about it and let us know. We need to get this project going soon!

Wisdom from Rwanda

Ntawubuza inyombya kuyomba.

No one can keep a robinchat from singing.

The white-browed robinchat rises early in the morning and sings a beautiful but LOUD song. ([CLICK HERE](#) to listen to his song.) Its name, inyombya in Kinyarwanda, comes from a word "kuyomba" that means "to bother and distract people with noise". To sing loudly is the robinchat's nature – you can't do anything about it.

Likewise, in the nature of this world there will always be people who "kuyomba". They will make a lot of noise to bother and distract you from your task. You've got to accept it as the way it is, not let it bother you, and just get on with it!

A recent case in point: someone maliciously started a rumor that my partner Tim, had come out to Rwanda a few years ago with all the resources to start a university. Unfortunately he met up with me, and I led him to "eat" the money. Now the donors of the money are looking for results. The rumor says that this is the reason we in NCM approached another school about merging, so that we could have something to show the donors!

No one can keep a robinchat from singing – so we just push on with the task!

Partners in Him,

Gary and Laurie Scheer

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

www.ncmrwanda.org



You thought the mystery picture was:
Gary dreaming about his retirement gift from WorldVenture;
Getting eye surgery for Christmas!